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WAEC/NECO candidates in Abia to pay N10,000 levy



Page 2

'1,747 pregnant women living with HIV/AIDS in Niger'



Page 6

Inside Today's Daily Trust

Business

Petroleum prices may hit N68.25 if the recommendation by FERMA gets government's nod **25**



News Extra

Why is there just one African coach, Algeria's Rabah Saadane, at the World Cup in South Africa? **37**

Politics

Senator Suleiman Makanjuola Ajadi says he did not move to PDP for appointment **49**

Digest

Married men may have longer lives because their wives nag them to see their doctor, research shows **34**

Ministerial screening:

Usman skipped, Aliyu dropped

PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE



MINISTERIAL nominee Adamu Maina Waziri (left) adjusting the cap for fellow nominee Dr Shamsudeen Usman shortly before the ministerial screening by the Senate at the National Assembly, Abuja yesterday. Indications were that Usman has now been dropped.

By Abdulrahman Abubakar, Turaki A. Hassan & Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE screening of ministerial nominees and their likely conformation by the Senate today encountered a hitch yesterday when two of the nominees were apparently dropped due to high-stakes political games between the Presidency and some power brokers.

Former Minister of National Planning Dr. Shamsudeen Usman, who was billed for screen-

ing by the Senate yesterday, had his name skipped by Senate President David Mark and sources later told *Daily Trust* that he had been dropped from the list. However, Usman's special assistant Malam Ujjudud Sheriff said last night that they expect the former minister to be screened this morning. Similarly, *Daily Trust* learnt that the ministerial nominee from Taraba State, Alhaji Umaru Aliyu, had been dropped in favour of Dr. Obadijah Ando. Also yesterday, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan nominated former Minister

of State Health Dr. Aliyu Idi Hong to serve again as minister from Adamawa State.

Dr. Shamsudeen Usman was the only renominated minister who was not screened yesterday, even though Senate President Mark announced on Monday that the returning ministers would be screened first. Reliable sources at the Senate later told *Daily Trust* that Dr. Usman, the nominee from Kano State, was dropped from the list by the Acting President in response to protest from the camp of

Continued on page 5

Atiku begins move to PDP

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

FORMER Vice President Atiku Abubakar yesterday began a journey back to his former party, the

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), by commencing a nation-wide exercise to "consult" his supporters as to the move. Atiku's move also signaled the failure of top opposition politi-

cians to form a broad based political party to challenge the PDP in 2011.

A meeting of 50 of his top political associates in Abuja on Monday night expressed dissatisfaction that

efforts to set up a strong opposition party had not succeeded "as a result of serial acts of betrayal." It then reviewed the circumstances that led

Continued on page 5

WAEC/NECO candidates in Abia to pay N10,000 as govt levy

CANDIDATES sitting for the Senior School Certificate Examination (SSCE) in private schools in Abia are to pay 10,000 levy to the state government. An investigation by newsmen in Umuahia showed that the development levy was imposed by the state government to shore up its internally generated revenue.

It is also meant to check the influx of SSCE candidates to private study centres, popularly

called 'miracle centres'. An operator of one of the study centres in Umuahia, who pleaded anonymity, told newsmen that ministry officials negotiated with the extra-moral study centres in the state for their candidates to pay the said sum. This is because the existence of such centres had depleted the number of students in the public schools, he added.

"Ministry officials said if we are ready to pay such amount of

money, we are free to take our students to any examination centre of our choice. They forced us to pay annual levies for operating such centres.

Our study centres are duly registered with the Agency for Mass Literacy in the state and the ministry also said we must pay them their own levy," he said.

Mr Peter Nwosu, whose ward is at one of the study centres, said he got information of the newly

introduced levy with a broken heart.

"I have already paid N25,000 for my son to sit for the SSCE and now they requested us to bring additional N10,000," he cried out.

Nwosu said that he withdrew his son from public school and registered him in a study centre "because the public school system in Abia has failed us".

"It is the rot in public schools that encouraged the establishment

of the miracle centres."

The Commissioner for Education, Mrs Rose Ekeleme, when contacted for her reaction on the issue, referred newsmen to the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the ministry, Mrs Ngozi Abel.

Reacting, Abel said the levy imposed on the centres and the private schools was to discourage the existence of the study centres because the centres promote examination malpractice. (NAN)

Boko Haram suspect gets bail

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

FORTY-SEVEN year old Alhaji Bukar Gaji of Kumshe Ward, in Maiduguri, Borno State, who was arraigned before a Maiduguri High Court over his involvement in the Boko Haram crisis was yesterday granted bail, following a bail application filed by his defense counsel, Barrister Haruna Yusuf Mshelia.

The bail was granted by Justice Abdullahi Yerima Sanya of High Court 9 in Maiduguri. It would be recalled that the judge had earlier promised to grant bail to the accused persons, following the inability of the prosecutor and the investigating police officers who took the statements of suspects as well as the witnesses to give adequate reasons why he should not

be granted bail. But the application filed by Barrister Mshelia on behalf of Danazumi Danladi and Nuhu Samaila, two other suspects, could not be granted because they are residents of Jalingo, Taraba State. Their bail application was rejected because their appearance in court for the next hearing could not be guaranteed. Over 100 suspected members of the sect have

been arraigned in various High Courts in the state on charges of homicide, punishable by death as provided for in Section 221 of the Penal Code, as well as arson, punishable by life imprisonment. The case of Danladi and Samaila is to continue on April 13, 2010, while that of Alhaji Bukar Gaji, who was granted bail is to continue on April 20, 2010.

Plateau Assembly passes Achaba bill

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Plateau State Assembly has passed the bill on the Prohibition and Regulation of Commercial Motorcycle Operation in Jos and Bukuru metropolis.

The bill was passed yesterday at the Assembly's plenary sitting presided over by the Speaker of the House Mr. Istifanus Mwansat, after the House Committee on Works submitted its five page report. Chairman of the House committee, Mr. Nanpon T. Bongden, said the committee observed many issues and made some recommendations to the House which were approved. While voting on the bill, four members voted that the report be studied from page to page, six voted for that the report be considered based on its recommendations while nine members voted for the adoption of the entire report. The voting was in favour of those who said the entire report should be adopted. The bill as passed, prohibits the operation of motorcycle operations and the regulation of private motorcycles in Jos and Bukuru metropolis.



Chairman/Chief Executive Officer Media Trust Limited, Malam Kabiru Yusuf (left) presenting a souvenir to Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu of Niger State in Minna yesterday.

Gov Aliyu cautions media against speculation

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

GOVERNOR of Niger State Dr Muazu Babangida Aliyu yesterday cautioned the media against speculation, saying it would be good if issues were thoroughly investigated before they are reported. The governor said this yesterday in Minna, when the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of *Media Trust*, Alhaji Kabiru Yusuf paid him a visit. He

commended *Media Trust*, saying its publications were objective, timely and detailed. He added that the paper was truly a national paper.

"*Daily Trust* is contributing to the political culture in Nigeria with its quality of publication which embraces all angles in the most objective manner. I am a strong supporter of *Daily Trust* and have since pledged my loyalty to the paper," he said.

Aliyu urged the paper to avoid speculating on the health of the president, adding that the recent media trend suggesting that he is coming to take charge was not only misleading, but capable of causing confusing in the polity.

"Only recently, there was a publication that the president would be in the mosque and many Nigerians went to catch a glimpse of him, but were disap-

pointed when he did not show up," he said.

He said once the president gets better, he would continue with his duties as president, adding that it was wrong for people to exploit his present situation for political gains.

"All I know is that Nigeria is one and the nation must come before any individual. If you are a governor who knows your onions, then you must be ready

to associate yourself with the good and the bad in the interest of the country," he said.

Speaking earlier, Yusuf said the Trust titles were modelled to contribute meaningfully to the entrenchment of vibrant democracy in Nigeria.

He said they were in Minna to thank the governor for his support towards the actualization of the objectives of the paper, urging him not to relent.

Profiles of latest ministerial nominees

A list of five more ministerial nominees was presented to the Senate on Tuesday, while one additional name was announced yesterday. Below are profiles of the nominees.

MR. Sam Odeh (Benue)

MR. Sam Odeh, born in 1968, hails from Otukpo LGA of Benue State. He has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Abuja, a Bachelor's Degree in Theatre Arts from the University of Jos and a Diploma in Law from the Benue Polytechnic, Ugbokolo.

He was pioneer state secretary of the National Democratic Party (NDP) before moving to the PDP. Odeh was special assistant to the then Governor George Akume in 2005, caretaker Chairman of Otukpo LGA, and later Governor Gabriel



Suswam's special adviser on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs.

MR. John Odey (Cross River)

HE was born November 1, 1959, and holds a B.Sc in Banking and Finance from the University of Calabar. Between 2003 and 2005, Odey was Commissioner of Agriculture in Cross River State, and then became the National Publicity Secretary of the PDP.

He was first appointed into the federal cabinet in 2007 as Minister of Information, and was moved to the Environment Ministry in 2008.



DR. Aliyu Idi Hong (Adamawa)

DR. Aliyu Idi Hong was Minister of State for Health in the recently dissolved federal cabinet. He was born on December 31, 1967 in Hong, Adamawa State. Dr. Hong has an MBBS degree from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, and is pursuing an MBA and a Master's degree in Rural Development at the Federal University of Technology, Yola.

He was medical officer at the Giwa Specialist Hospital, Kaduna; part-time medical officer with the Federal University of Technology Clinic, Yola; senior legislative aide at the National Assembly;



and secretary of PDP in Adamawa State. Hong was Minister of State for Tourism from 2007 to 2008, when he was redeployed to the health ministry.

DR. Aderemi Babalola (Oyo)

DR. Aderemi Babalola was appointed Minister of State for Finance in 2007, and later combined that with the position of acting Minister of FCT in late 2008.

Babalola, born September 8, 1964, holds a B.Sc in Agricultural Economics from the University of Ibadan and Master of Banking and Finance degree from the University in Lagos.

He was general manager at Zenith Bank and executive director at First Bank, a posi-



tion he held until his appointment as minister in 2007.

ALHAJI Ibrahim Bio (Kwara)

THE former speaker of the Kwara State House of Assembly was born April 24, 1957 in Baruten LGA of the state, and became Minister of Transportation in 2008. He has a degree in Pharmacy from the Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria and an MBA from the Ogun State University.

He was Kwara State Commissioner of Health, and member of the House of Representatives (1999-2003) on ANPP's platform before moving to the PDP, the party through which he became member of the state assembly.



MR. Humphrey Abbah (Kogi)

MR. Humphrey Abbah hails from Kogi State and would be on the soon-to-be-constituted cabinet as a representative of the North-central.

He was appointed Minister of State for Commerce in 2008, a position he held till the cabinet was dissolved two weeks ago.



NLC, others, stage protest on electoral reforms today

By Francis Okeke

NIGERIA Labour Congress (NLC) and civil society organisations will this morning in Abuja lead a protest march to the National Assembly to demand for the full adoption of Justice Mohammed Uwais report on electoral reform.

The protesters will also call for the removal of INEC Chairman Professor Maurice Iwu, Mr Yakubu Denja, NLC's Assistant Secretary, Industrial Relations said yesterday at a press briefing.

NLC, the Trade Union Congress (TUC) and others have consistently maintained that Nigeria can only get it right when elections are conducted freely and fairly, and the right leaders are allowed to emerge.

They explained that removing Iwu from INEC will make for the emergence of someone with enough integrity and com-

petence to conduct free, fair and credible elections.

Speaking for the civil society organisations in the same press briefing, General Secretary of Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE) Emma Ezeazu regretted that INEC under Iwu had been unable to produce a credible election despite the huge amounts spent over the years on elections.

"These problems started from 2006 when he was compiling his so called electronic data capturing machine where he said he had imported 33, 000 machines and we started the registration with about 200 machines and the 200 machines were in bad shapes that they were snapping palm trees and other things. He has not accounted for that.

"That is the reason why we have the problems we have today with the voters' register. This is also a person who couldn't number voting cards. The voting cards that were used for presidential elections were not numbered by the

INEC chairperson, but this is the norm in other countries of the world.

Ezeazu said that lack of serial numbers on ballot papers in other countries is enough not only to sack heads of election bodies but also cancel elections.

"Immediately after the 2007 general elections, he said that the voters' register was not good enough to conduct the local government elections but before that time he had said that he had produced the most wonderful voters' register in the world.

"For five years since May 2005 when he was appointed as INEC Chairperson, he has not been able to produce a credible voters' register. The Anambra elections testify clearly to this. About 85% of registered voters in that state could not vote."

The coalition urged the Federal Government to appoint someone with integrity as Iwu's tenure ends on June 13th, 2010.

Sokoto NBA tackles Akerele over comment on CJN

By Muideen Olaniyi

SOKOTO branch of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) has dissociated itself from the call by its National President Oluwarotimi Akerele for judicial independence.

In a letter dated March 27, 2010 and jointly signed by the branch's Vice Chairman and Secretary; Al-Mustapha Y. Abubakar and L.S Wali respectively, they said Akerele's comments were unwarranted and subjudice, and called for a retraction.

The letter titled 'Re:NBA seeks judiciary independence' read: "The attention of NBA Sokoto branch is drawn to a publication on the above underlined attributed to you, Mr Oluwarotimi Akerele, in the capacity of the president of our noble Association published in various newspapers and web-

sites. In the light of which at the monthly General Meeting of the branch held on the 27th March, 2010, the branch considered it necessary and proper to deliberate on same in view of the fact that the matter based on which the comments were made is subjudice and some of the comments attributed to you in the said publications are unwarranted.

"We are therefore (if they are actually made by you) constrained to formally dissociate ourselves from your statements on the on-going litigations over the 2007 Governorship Elections which have been published as the position of the NBA rather than your personal sentiments. Your comments on the purported limitations of the administrative agencies in the judiciary have no justifiable basis and are at variance with the relevant laws defining the functions and powers of the agencies under reference. Moreover, the affected organs of the judi-

ary have duly complied with the directives issued to them by the administrative agencies because the instructions are legal, valid and totally within the powers and functions of the agencies concerned.

"We however wish to stress that if the above views are your personal views, which you are entitled to hold in view of your constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of speech and expression, you should therefore properly express them as such. But to proffer such unsavoury comments in an innuendo indicting the highest echelons of justice in the country in the name of the vast members of the respectful Bar, we believe that you could not be speaking the mind of members.

"In view of the aforesaid, we seek your clarification as to whether any or all aspects of the publications are actually made by you; and if they are, we humbly request that they be retracted."

PIC: NAN



MARCH past of the 2010 batch 'A' Corps members at the passing out ceremony at Kubwa Orientation Camp, Abuja, yesterday.

Jos crisis: Jang says leaders must be sincere

Mohammed S. Shehu

PLATEAU State Governor Jonah Jang said for peace to prevail in the state, political leaders must be sincere and say the truth on Jos crisis.

He said if "its Plateau State today, it could be somewhere else again. But I don't pray so."

Jang stated this yesterday shortly after meeting with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan along with seven of his colleagues in neighbouring states and the Chief Solomon Lar-led 15-member presidential advisory committee on Jos crisis at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

The committee's interim report submitted to Jonathan last week recommended series of meetings

with Jonathan, Jang and his colleagues in neighbouring states as well as with the Sultan of Sokoto in order to work out a solution to the protracted communal crises in the state.

He said, "It's good that we sit down, until we have peace in the North it will be difficult for investors to come and do business. Nobody will like to come and set up a business and tomorrow, it will be set on fire. I believe that if we are sincere, the leadership of this nation is on our shoulders and we owe it a duty to future generations to ensure that there is harmony, there is religious tolerance and understanding." Lar said the meeting was part of the peace process to enable neighbouring states provide

their inputs into the crisis because of its character and nature.

"I want to inform you that we had a wonderful discussion with the neighbouring governors and very soon by the grace of God, peace will return to Jos.

"It is very important because the character and the nature of the problem has taken a new dimension in the sense that those who are affected don't live in one place they are all over the neighbouring states. After this discussion, we will go back and take necessary action to implement what we have discussed." Lar said.

Governors present at yesterday's meeting were Namadi Sambo of Kaduna, Aliyu Akwe Doma of Nasarawa, Jonah Jang of

Plateau, Sule Lamido of Jigawa and Danbaba Suntai of Taraba. Isa Yuguda of Bauchi, Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano and Murtala Nyako of Adamawa were represented by their deputies Alhaji Babayo Garba Gamawa, Engineer Abdullahi Gwarzo and Bala Ngilari respectively.

Jonathan set up the committee in February during a consultative meeting at the State House, Abuja following the January 17 sectarian violence in Jos that left over 300 hundred dead.

The committee was directed to examine the issues surrounding the recurrent violence in the state and work out ways towards a lasting solution to the recurrent Jos crisis.

Obama says in support of Jonathan's reform

THE United State President Barack Obama says he is in support of the ongoing reform by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to strengthen democracy, improve the economy and restore peace and security in Nigeria.

Obama expressed his support on Monday in Washington D.C. when he received the letters of credence of Nigeria's new Ambassador to the U.S., Prof. Ade Adefuye.

Obama, who said the prolonged absence of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua had triggered much uncertainty in the country, said he was confident of the present administration's ability to restore confidence in the polity.

"In this difficult time, we applaud Nigeria for taking steps to restore confidence in the country's political system while adhering to democratic principles. "We are encouraged by Act-

ing President Jonathan's public promises to strengthen democratic reforms, improve the economic environment and address the ongoing violence and impunity seen in the Niger Delta and Jos. "We look forward to supporting these efforts to improve the lives of all Nigeria's citizens," he said. The U.S. President pledged his commitment to continue collaborating with Nigeria in the fight against "terrorism and violent extremism". He said the fight against terrorism must be continued to make West African region a safe place, while ensuring peace and prosperity for citizens in the region.

Obama noted that Nigeria had an important role as a regional and global leader and lauded the country's contribution to peace-keeping efforts on the continent. Earlier while presenting his credentials, Adefuye highlighted the December 25 incident, where a Nigerian was allegedly caught on a Detroit-bound plane with a bomb. (NAN)

Navy intensifies security operations, says Director

THE Director of Information, Nigerian Navy (NN), Commodore David Nabaida, said in Lagos yesterday that the Navy had intensified internal security operations.

Nabaida told the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* that the operations were currently going on in the coastal areas that posed security threats.

These include Operation Restore Hope in Delta and Bayelsa States, MESA in Lagos and Cross River States, FLUSH-OUT 111 in Rivers State and Operation Aduma in Akwa-Ibom State.

He said that in Lagos, the Nigerian Navy was in the forefront of the Federal Government Task Force set up to clear the Apapa Port access routes.

Nabaida added that the NN participation in the 2009 joint operations exercise code-named "Ologun Meta" at Orioko Iwamimo in Ilaje Local Government Area of Ondo was commendable.

Nabaida said additional gesture from the government would boost the NN's operational capabilities in 2010.

Budget: Reps make u-turn on special fund account

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives yesterday withdrew its decision to expunge a clause in the 2010 budget which directed the Accountant General of the Federation to create a special account in the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for special funds impounded by the Executive Order of the President.

The House last week during the consideration of the budget deleted the clause, as according to the members all monies accruing to the nation should be put into the consolidated revenue account.

The decision of the lawmakers was at variance with that of the Senators who adopted the clause.

But at yesterday's plenary session, Rep Ita Enang (PDP, Akwa Ibom State) moved a motion for the House to withdraw its decision and include the clause into the past budget.

According to him, the request was to avoid harmonisation process with the Senate as it also passed the same with the House, with the exception of the clause.

Also yesterday, the House directed one of the oil companies, AGIP Nigeria to suspend its planned retrenchment of 100 staff pending the completion of investigation by its committee on petroleum. The House gave the directive after it unanimously adopted a motion of urgent national importance sponsored by Rep Igo Aguma (PDP, Rivers State)

Okebukola faults NECO on failure

By Francis Okeke

FORMER Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC) Professor Peter Okebukola yesterday faulted claims by National Examination Council (NECO) that the reason for the mass failure in its last examination was because it was written by workers who didn't have time to read.

Okebukola made the assertion in Abuja at the public presentation of four books on repositioning the civil service for optimum efficiency and productivity by Dr. Tunji Olaopa, a director in the Bureau of Public Service Reforms.

NECO's Registrar Prof. Promise Okpala had last week attributed the 98% failure recorded by candidates in the council's November/December examination to it being written by workers who did not prepare well. But Okebukola said that was a poor excuse stressing that the same exercise had been going on for close to 10 years without such dismal results and that a huge percentage of the examination is written by students in schools.

Usman skipped, Aliyu dropped

Continued from page 1

former governor Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso, which nominated Kwankwaso's former deputy governor Dr. Abdullahi Umar Ganduje as a replacement. Their argument was that Usman is a technocrat and not a politician and is not in touch with the PDP structure in Kano state.

Daily Trust also learnt last night that the ministerial nominee from Taraba State, Alhaji Aliyu Umar, was dropped at the insistence of Lt General T. Y. Danjuma, chairman of Jonathan's Presidential Advisory Council. Umar, a director in the National Boundary Commission who hails from Jalingo Local Government area of Taraba State, was nominated by Governor Danbaba Suntai, but Danjuma and his supporters said he is from the northern zone of Taraba state, and not from the Southern zone where former Science and Technology minister Dr. Hassan Bako Zaku hails from.

Aliyu has been replaced by Dr. Obadiah Ando, a former PDP governorship aspirant from the Southern part of Taraba state. Ando sought to fly the PDP's flag in the 2007 governorship polls but lost at the primaries.

Although no official explanation was given for Umar's replacement, a source said Danjuma was unhappy over Governor Suntai's nomination of Umar after promis-

ing him that he would field Danjuma's preferred candidate. The source told *Daily Trust* that following the spate of protests, Governor Suntai was forced to make retreat by replacing Umar with the new nominee, Obadiah Ando who is Danjuma's political godson.

Chief Press Secretary to Governor Suntai Malam Hassan Mijinyawa, when contacted last night, said that there were "issues raised over" Umar's nomination. He promised to call back after consulting with his boss, but did not do so.

Meanwhile, the Senate will today confirm new ministers after concluding the screening of all 39 nominees so far sent to it by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, Senate spokesman Senator Simon Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) told *Daily Trust* last night.

Twenty six nominees have so far been screened while the remaining 13 nominees are to face Senate today, after which consideration and confirmation or rejection of each of the nominees will be done.

Senate screened 23 nominees yesterday, including nephew of ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, Alhaji Murtala Yar'adua and nine reappointed ministers in the recently dissolved cabinet.

Before commencement of the screening exercise, Senate went into an hour's closed door session where it was agreed that only three senators are allowed to put ques-

tions to each nominee in order to fast track the process.

Daily Trust gathered that the Acting President had through Senate President David Mark pleaded with senators to fast track the exercise to enable him swear-in the new ministers tomorrow.

Speaking when he appeared before the Senate, former minister of state for petroleum Odein Ajumogobia said deregulation of the downstream petroleum sector has become inevitable in view of global economic realities.

He said, "Today we are exporting crude oil in its primary state and import refined products when the value has been added. Therefore we are exporting jobs. I think that is the most important aspect of the deregulation argument. Unless we deregulate, we will not be able to attract the investment necessary. Since we started talking of deregulation and since I became in charge at the end of last year, at DPR, we had numerous applications for refineries because they believe that government is going to deregulate. I think that is the greatest justification apart from the fact that we can't afford it, government can't afford to spend N687 billion as we spent in 2009.

As long as new refineries are not built, we will find that the subsidy will keep increasing because our consumption keeps increasing and our capacity will decrease. The next will be that one day we will be

faced with a situation where we don't have anything to spend."

While answering questions put to him by senators, Murtala Yar'adua said he is bringing youthful agility to the cabinet, saying "The energy of youth is very important. Around the world, a lot of industrialists and senior people running conglomerates are actually our age mates. A lot of our friends and colleagues are in private industry and I believe that I can draw a lot of experience and advice and new ways of doing old things. There is nothing wrong with the way things have been done; I think energy is what we need."

He commended the ongoing banking reforms saying "I think we have been very lucky with the emergence of the new CBN Governor. I believe the situation was caught quite early, I believe if the CBN hadn't come to intervene we would have been in a worse, situation. The global meltdown has affected us; there were a lot of bad investments by the executive managers of the banks. The boards and regulators had failed the shareholders, basically. The AMC which the legislature has passed is going to be very helpful. This will release a lot funds to the banks."

On his part, former minister of state power, Arc. Nuhu Somo Wya (Kaduna) explained the factors that worked against attainment of 6000 megawatts of electricity

promised by the Yar'adua administration last year.

"I am not trying to put blame to anybody; I am just trying to say that we did rehabilitate our plants and got up to 5200mw available generation capacity as at the end of December, last year. But we had stranded facility of 1500 megawatts due to inadequacy of gas. This inadequacy of gas cannot be blamed on a single source. We know the challenges we went through, they are challenges of security, vandalism, challenges of inadequate funding contributed to some of the issues that militated against our achievement of 6000 megawatts," Somo Wya said.

Other nominees that faced the Senate yesterday include former national planning minister, Senator Mohammed Sanusi Daggash who apologised to his former colleagues for the frosty relationship between his ministry and the Senate when he was in the cabinet.

Former minister of state for finance, Aderemi Babalola (Oyo), former minister of transport, Ibrahim Isa Bio (Kwara), former minister of mines and steel, Diezani Allison-Madueke (Bayelsa), former minister of state for Commerce and Industry, Humphrey Abbah, former minister of youths development, Senator Akinlabi Olanunmi and former minister of environment, John Ogar Odey were among those screened yesterday.

Atiku begins move to PDP

Continued from page 1

Atiku and his associates to leave the PDP during the regime of former President Olusegun Obasanjo even as it noted "the fact that a great deal of change has occurred within the party [PDP]."

Already, three committees have been set up by the meeting to "carry out robust consultations" with supporters of the former Vice President across the country in order to arrive at a "final decision on where to go".

A statement from Atiku's media aide yesterday said "one of the committees is particularly charged with assessing the political situation in each state of the federation so as to be able to take into account the peculiar interests and the well-being of leaders and followers in taking a final decision when and where to go and the modalities for any such movement."

The development came ahead of the meeting of the National Democratic Movement (NDM) fixed for today at the Sheraton Hotel in Abuja. The meeting is expected to adopt a modified version of the AC as the mega party on whose platform Atiku, General Muhammadu Buhari, Alhaji

Attahiru Bafarawa and former Lagos State governor Ahmed Bola Tinubu would challenge the PDP in the coming general election.

But the alliance began to show signs of collapse when the AC vehemently resisted the changes proposed which required it to lose all its identity but the logo, which is the broom. Buhari had also announced that he was fully registered with the Congress for Progressive Change on whose platform he intends to contest the next election.

It is not clear whether Atiku will attend today's meeting of the NDM even though a source said some of his associates like Dr. Usman Bugaje may attend the meeting. A source at the secretariat of the NDM who spoke to *Daily Trust* yesterday also expressed disappointment with the way the movement has been going in recent weeks. At its last meeting at the Sheraton Hotel last week, Atiku briefly attended while the other three principal actors in the movement sent excuses.

"If what we are hearing about Atiku is true then it is unfortunate. We will not tolerate personal ambition which will override the very essence of our objective," the source who does not want to

be named said, stressing that the PDP is at its lowest at the moment but an opportunity to get it off the scene is being wasted.

Atiku's statement read in part: "Over 50 political associates of former Vice President Atiku Abubakar met for five hours Monday night in Abuja with a decision to hold further consultations with their teeming supporters nationwide on the political future of the group.

"The meeting began with Atiku briefing those present about the journey so far with the Mega Party Summit Movement, MSM; the National Democratic Movement, NDM; the Action Congress (AC) and the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP. He also spoke about his efforts to form a mega opposition party with like minds to strengthen Nigeria's young democracy.

"The meeting expressed dissatisfaction that efforts to set up a strong opposition party had not succeeded as a result of serial acts of betrayal.

"The meeting also took stock of the reasons that led to the parting of ways between a majority of the members and the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP such as their exclusion from its re-registration exercises, the Third Term Plot of

former President Olusegun Obasanjo and the persecution of the Vice President, Atiku Abubakar and the fact that a great deal of change has occurred within the party."

Those who attended the meeting include Atiku's running mate in the 2007 presidential polls Senator Ben Obi, Dr. Iyorchia Ayu, Chief Tom Ikimi, Princess Funke Adedoyin, Bashir Yusuf, Alhaji Yahaya Kwande, Senator Suleiman Nazif, Barrister Omar Shittien, Hon. Dubem Onyia, Chief Dapo Sarumi, Chief Ejiofor Onyia, Alhaji Umar Kareto and Prince Tonye Princewill.

Also at the meeting were Alhaji Saleh Shehu, Alhaji Hassan Zurmi, Chief Bode Ojewole, Prof. Sayed Malik, Chief Peter Okocha, Mr. Greg Agu, Sen. Abba Ali, Dr. Abdul, Alh. Alli Oyedeji, Ambassador Bayo Yusuf, Mr. Jai K. Audu, Alh. Sani Ango, Mr. Albert Atirwurchi, Kashim M. Jidda, Chief Lynn Nathan, Alh. Yahaya Sa'ad, Chief James Iniyama, Chief Titi Ajanaku, Mr. O.O. Aro - Lambo, Prince Kayode Olowu, Alh. Yahaya Abubakar, Col. Musa Mohammed (rtd), Gen. Lawal Ja'afaru Isa (rtd), Chief (Dr) Davies Ibiyami Ikanya and Mr. Martins Babale.

Intrigues as Ebonyi delays ministerial nominee

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

DISAGREEMENT within the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Ebonyi state may have stalled nomination of a ministerial nominee from the state, *Daily Trust* learnt.

The state is the only remaining one that is yet to have a nominee in the list of ministers sent to the Senate by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

But Senator Elder Anyim Ude (PDP, Ebonyi) told *Daily Trust* last night that the state Governor Martin Elechi has submitted three names to the Acting President to select a ministerial nominee.

He said "There is no problem. You know we had some problems due to the closure of Enugu airport and there was bad weather last week so the governor lost some days in presenting the names. I can tell you that there is no problem."

There are also two ministerial positions for north east and south-south zones to be filled by the Acting President, in addition to the nominee from Ebonyi to take the number to 42 ministers.

US embassy stops Abuja road project - Engineer

THE US Embassy in Nigeria has asked the Engineering Services Department of the FCDA to discontinue work on the construction of a

road in Area D in Asokoro District of Abuja. Mrs Elizabeth Oricha, the Chief Resident Engineer of the project, said this in Abuja yesterday

while briefing members of the FCDA Board, who were on tour of facilities in the territory. "The US Embassy asked the contractor handling the

project to discontinue work on the portion of the road passing by its rented properties or in the alternative divert the road," Oricha said. (NAN)

'1,747 pregnant women are living with HIV/AIDS in Niger'

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Niger State Commissioner for Health Pharmacist Muhammed Sani Adamu has said that results of test carried out in 2009 show that over 1,747 pregnant women in Niger State are

living with HIV/AIDS. The commissioner who was represented by Pharmacist Baba Adamu, the Director General Agency for the Control of HIV/AIDS at a two day workshop on capacity building for people living with HIV/AIDS yesterday said this.

He said over 304,000 people

were tested for the virus across the country and that of the total number of people tested, 17,909 were living with the virus while only 11,109 are receiving the anti retroviral drugs.

He said the state government had put in place 11 comprehensive treatment sites in 11 local govern-

ments out of the 25 local government areas in the state, saying the move was to realize the state government's dream of becoming one of the top three developed states in the country by the year 2020 through a robust human capital development. Speaking earlier, the Head of Public Private Part-

nership in the National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA) Dr Emmanuel Alhassan, who represented the Director of NACA, said Nigeria had attained 96 per cent awareness on HIV/AIDS. According to Alhassan, the level of awareness on the virus among Nigerians had helped to save lives.



From left: Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuwade, Governor of Ogun State Otunba Ghenga Daniel, Awujale of Ijebu and Oba Sikiru Adetona, Governor of Ekiti State Engineer Segun Oni and his Ogun State counterpart, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola, at the June 12 Cultural Centre during the ceremony in honour of Chief E. Herbert Ogunda, shortly before the meeting of the South-West Governors' Council in Abeokuta yesterday

NUJ threatens to resist unpopular policies

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) has said that it would resist any attempt by the government to impose unpopular policies on the people. The National President of NUJ Mohammed Garba said this yesterday at a one-day national conference on 'Contemporary Nigeria' in Ikeja, Lagos. Garba blamed the problems in the country on the insincerity of those in power.

The Lagos State Council Chairman of the NUJ, Wahaab Oba, said Nigeria journalists had always borne the brunt of bad governance in the country. He said journalists in Nigeria would be happy to work in a decent democratic environment that would not only enhance their work, but benefit the society.

He added that NUJ was concerned about the level of insecurity in the country. "We have had restiveness, religious and political thuggery and international terrorism in our polity. Our political and economic landscape is replete with cases of one crisis after another. From Boko Haram to Jos mayhem, electricity has been epileptic for God knows how long. Corruption has graduated from being endemic to pandemic," he said.

Plateau to prioritise road construction

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Plateau State government says it would give priority to the construction of urban and township roads in the 2010 budget. The state Commissioner for Finance Mrs Clara Gyang Tyokura said this yesterday in Jos while giving a breakdown of the 2010 budget.

She said government would construct 30 roads in different parts of the state under the Ministry of Works and Housing at the cost of over 11 billion naira. Mrs Gyang said government would construct additional five kilometer roads in 12 zones of the state including drainages.

She added that government had earmarked over 3 billion for agriculture, water and rural development.

Court dismisses Ladoja's application to quash charges

From Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Lagos

A Federal High Court in Lagos yesterday dismissed an application brought before it by the former Governor of Oyo State Senator Rashidi Ladoja asking that corruption charges against him by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) be quashed. In his ruling, the trial judge, Justice Ahmed Mohammed said the failure of the former governor to raise objection against the EFCC's power to prosecute him under the Money Laundering Act, 2000, was very critical to his case.

Senator Ladoja, it would be recalled had filed an application

seeking the nullification of the corruption charges filed against him by the anti-graft agency. Ladoja's counsel, Chief Wole Olanipekun (SAN) had argued that EFCC had no power to prosecute the former governor under Section 14(1) of the Money Laundering Act, upon which his client was charged to court, saying the section only talked about offences relating to narcotic drugs and other substances.

But Justice Mohammed said, "I am of the view that it is rather late in the day to raise any objection to the charge now. The objection should have been raised immediately the charge was read to the accused person and not after. It is the duty of a defense counsel to

immediately raise any complaint against a charge before pleas are taken. They are not entitled to raise any complaint after plea has been taken".

Justice Mohammed held that since the defense failed to raise the objections which is very fundamental to their case at the appropriate time, it was unnecessary for the court to consider other prayers in the application and then dismissed the application and adjourned the case till May 13, 2010 to commence the trial.

The EFCC had on March 25, 2009 re-arraigned Ladoja and one of his aides, Waheed Akanbi, following the amendment of the earlier charge in which the name of his Commissioner of Finance,

Chief Adewale Atanda was removed from the charge. The former governor in the application had argued that all the allegations against him were vague and did not link him with the commission of any crime to warrant his arraignment and that the charge as framed had not been brought under any written law. He also contended that the proof of evidence placed before the court by the prosecution had no nexus with the charge and that it did not disclose any prima facie case against him.

Ladoja further maintained that the EFCC had no power, jurisdiction or authority to prefer or prosecute any charge against him.

North-east worst hit by meningitis

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has said that the North-East region of the country recorded the highest number of deaths from Cerebrospinal Meningitis

The Director General of NEMA retired Air Vice Marshal Muhammad Abdu Bida, who was represented by the North-east zonal Coordinator of NEMA, Aliyu Sambo, said this yesterday in Gombe during an awareness campaign on Cerebro Spinal Meningitis (CSM) He said the zone had recorded 75 deaths this year, indicating the highest causality in the country. He added that the zone had recorded 456 cases of the

disease with Bauchi State recording the highest number of the lives lost with 26 deaths while Taraba State had the highest number of reported cases in the zone.

He said last year, the disease killed about 156 people across the country.

Gombe State Governor Danjuma Goje said in recent times, the world had witnessed an increase in the occurrence of natural disasters that required a decisive action. He called for concerted efforts to fight the spread of the disease. He added that the campaign embarked upon by NEMA was timely, considering the number of deaths and casualties that had been recorded.

Igbeke petitions Jonathan over certificate of return

By Abbas Jimoh

THE declared winner of the Anambra North Senatorial District, Chief Alphonsus Ubaniessie Igbeke of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) yesterday called on Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to prevail on the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Maurice Iwu, to release his certificate of return.

Addressing newsmen at the INEC headquarters yesterday in Abuja, Igbeke, who for the second day running was denied the certificate of return by INEC, accused INEC

accused and his opponent, Senator Joy Emodi of frustrating his bid to be sworn in the senate.

The Court of Appeal, Enugu Division in a ruling by Justice Kayode Ariwoola last week Thursday sacked Emodi who was representing Anambra North Senatorial District and declared Igbeke as the winner of the April 28, 2007 elections.

Igbeke was sighted at the commission by 10am yesterday, waiting for Iwu, who arrived at the commission at 12.40pm and was joined by officers of the legal departments who met behind closed doors for hours.

Igbeke went to the chairman's office afterwards, waiting for the certificate but it was not given to him and he left late in the evening.

"This government is a government that believes in the rule of law. I will therefore urge the Acting President to use his good office to prevail on the INEC Chairman to do what they are suppose to do and not to hide under a game to enable the other side to subvert justice. I know something is going on. But they cannot continue like that forever. I believe that Nigerians should not fold their hands and watch this kind of delay tactics," he said.

Women pray for Patience Jonathan

By Mohammed S. Shehu

A group of women on the platform of Nigerian Women Pray yesterday organised an interdenominational prayer session for the wife of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, Patience Jonathan in Abuja.

The event, which took place at the Maitama Amusement Park, attracted women from different parts of the country.

Leader of the group and People's Democratic Party governorship aspirant in Bayelsa State, Charity Vedelago, said the prayer was for divine intervention in the affairs of the country and strength for Patience to support her husband.

She said over a million women were expected to partake in the prayer programme organised in all the states of the federation.

"What you see here is Nige-

rian women from all works of life coming together to pray. They are praying for Patience Jonathan. We want to pray for her at a time like this especially considering the responsibilities before her now as the wife of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan. We know it is not easy, so, we want to pray for her for God to give her the strength and wisdom to be able to support the husband and even support First lady Turai Yar'adua.

She said the group is a non-governmental organization and non-denominational that is interested in peace and progress of the country.

"We have people from all over the country, from every state. So putting everything together we should be looking at a million women praying for the nation. Right now our first lady, Turai Yar'adua needs all the support and Patience is the next person to give her that support," she said.

Defence Ministry to host world congress on medicine

THE Ministry of Defence yesterday said it has inaugurated the Ministerial Planning Committee for the hosting of the 39th World Congress on Military Medicine.

The 14-member committee comprises the Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Dr Ezekiel Oyemomi as the Chairman, the Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Paul Dike, the three Service Chiefs, Director, Joint Service and Director Planning Research and Statistics.

Others are Commander Army Medical Services, Director of Medical Service Navy, Director of Medical Services Air Force and Secretary Pan African Committee on Military Medicine.

The committee also include Chairman, Emergency Planning Implementation Committee and Acting Chief Medical Director in the ministry as Secretary.

Speaking while inaugurating the committee, Oye-

moni said the International Committee on Military Medicine (ICMM) Conference would hold in 2011.

He said the term of reference of the committee included establishing the relevant sub-committee required to effectively organise a successful congress and co-opting relevant individuals or groups or corporate organisations to assist in actualising set objectives.

Navy Commander Chukwuemeka Ugwadu, Secretary General of ICMM, said the committee started in Belgium in 1921 following the coming together of two military surgeons in 1920 after their experience during World War I.

Responding on behalf of his colleagues, Brig.-Gen. Hilary Agada, the Vice Chairman of ICMM and a representative of the Chief of Army Staff, thanked the ministry for giving them the opportunity to serve. (NAN)



PROCESSION of principal and academic staff of the Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, in Adamawa State at the 27th matriculation ceremony yesterday.

Sylva lifts embargo on employment

By Muideen Olaniyi

BAYELSA State Governor Chief Timipre Sylva has lifted embargo on employment as part of a comprehensive economic stimulus package.

Sylva made the announcement while speaking at the inauguration of the Bayelsa State Stimulus Implementation Committee (BSSIC).

A statement by his Chief Press Secretary Doife Ola yesterday said the governor explained that with the impact and attendant challenges of the global economic downspin, it became imperative to re-examine the structure of state's economy and implement long-lasting strategies to cushion its effect on the citizens.

The governor, who promised that government would create 10,000 jobs in the next 12 months, noted that employment

generation was a veritable tool for poverty alleviation.

The stimulus package, Sylva noted, would involve some quick-win projects, which would gulp about N6.4 billion pointing out that this has been provided for in the 2010 Budget.

According to the governor, the stimulus package will focus on business promotion through micro-credit scheme, for which N1 billion has been earmarked and food security that is expected to gulp another N1 billion.

Sylva further disclosed that the sum of N3 billion has been set aside for civil servants welfare scheme just as N1.5 billion has been earmarked of the post-amnesty capacity-building programme expected to train some 5,000 youths in various skills.

In his remarks, the Chairman of the committee and the state Commissioner of Finance and Budget, Dr. Silva Opuala-Charles, assured that the committee would do its best to implement the package to the overall benefit of the citizens.

Easter: FRSC stipulates new speed limits

By Misbabu Bashir

THE Federal Road Safety Commission authorities in Abuja have stipulated new speed limits for motorists during the Easter holidays.

The FRSC Sector Commander in Abuja, Nseobong Akpabio, said the commission has anticipated increase in road traffic during the forthcoming Easter holidays between April 2 and 5 and has stipulated new speed limits to avert clashes. He said motorists must adhere strictly to the new limits.

"All drivers of functional private cars must limit their

speeds to 50 kilometres per hour within build up areas, 80 kilometres on Zuba -Gwagwalada- Abaji- Lokoja highways and not more than 100 kilometres

per hour on Zuba-Kaduna and Nyanya-Keffi expressways. Taxis and buses must maintain 50 kilometres speed limit on build up areas and 80 kilometres on highways and not more than 90 kilometres on expressways.

Tankers, trailers and trucks must strictly maintain 45 kilometres in build up areas, 50 kilometres on the highways and not more than 60 kilometres per hour on the expressways," he said.

Jos: 707 corps members redeployed

By Mahmud Lalo, Jos

SEVEN hundred and seven National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) members of the 1016 mobilized for the Batch 'A' orientation in Plateau State have been redeployed to other states.

Only 309 persons from the batch are left in the state. The

corps members were according to officials of the NYSC given the alternative of choosing to serve in the state or seek re-deployment.

Plateau State Governor David Jang speaking at the end of the orientation camp urged the corps members to remain focused and steadfast in their commitment

to the cause of building a virile nation.

"Let me use this medium to reassure you of efforts and determination of the government and good people of Plateau to put an end to crises in the state", he said.

He also enjoined the corps members to resist any attempt to be used as agents of destruction

and destabilization, urging them to hold firm to their vows to lift the nation high.

On his part, the state Coordinator of the NYSC, Mr. Tunde N. Baba Ahmed, who congratulated the members for the successful completion of the three week course said he was convinced that the corps members

were in a better frame of mind to respond appropriately to the opportunities and challenges ahead of them.

"I want to reassure you once again, that your security and well being will be accorded top priority at all times, anywhere you are posted to for your primary assignment", he added.

Professional hired killers' arrested in Lagos

By Seun Joseph, Lagos

TWO men, who claimed to be professional hired-killers have been arrested in Lagos for writing an anonymous letter to a young man, threatening to kill him if he did not give them N2 million. The suspects identified as Promise Oboyi and Godspower were alleged to have written a letter, in which they claimed to have been offered N3.5 million by enemies of the man to kill him, but that they were ready to collect N2 million in exchange for his life. The suspects told the man in the letter that they knew everything about him and that he must not inform the police, but should pay the money in seven days.

The man, one Mr. Stanley Adubuko, when he received the letter from his security guard according to the police, quickly called the contact number on the letter, begging his assailants to spare his life.

The police said the men later reduced the amount to N200,000.

Superintendent Frank Mba, the Public Relations Officer of the Lagos State Police Command while briefing the press on how the supposed hired-killers were arrested said the policemen from the FESTAC Division told the victim to play along with them while they laid an ambush. He said the suspects were arrested while they were about to collect the money. The suspects said they were lured into the business because of poverty. One of them claimed that he was lured into the act because he wanted to use the money to bury his mother.

Mba said the suspect would be charged to court for attempted kidnap, threat to life and blackmail.



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan (right) with Chairman, Committee on Jos Crisis, Chief Solomon Lar, and Vice Chairman of the committee Yahaya Kwande, during their visit to State House, Abuja, yesterday.

Namadi approves N22m for school feeding

By Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

GOVERNOR Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State has approved the release of N22.7 million for the feeding of students in the 14 science and technical schools in the state. A statement by the Special Adviser on Media and Public Affairs to the Governor, Alhaji Umar Sani, said the support was intended to reduce the burden on the parents. The governor has also approved 13.4 million for the 2009/2010 external examination registration of the state indigenes.

He said a total of 1,210 Kaduna State indigenes would register for NECO in the six science secondary schools under the Science & Technical Schools Management Board while 1,320 will register for NABTEB (NTC/NBC) examination. "The registration fees per candidate for the NECO is N5,850 while that of NABTEB is N4,850 for each student, excluding administrative charges. This is in line with the commitment of the state towards ensuring that education is given a boost," he added.

Borno judiciary workers begin warning strike

By Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

ACTIVITIES at the Borno State Ministry of Justice have been paralysed as workers of the ministry yesterday embarked on three day warning strike. The workers are asking for the harmonization of their salaries with that of their counterparts in the state judiciary service. In a letter to the Commissioner for Justice Barrister Zanna Mallam Gana dated March 19 and signed by all officials of the ministry, the workers had called on the state government to as a matter of urgency harmonize their salaries and conditions of service with workers in the state judi-

ciary service, adding that they would boycott court sitting if the salaries were not harmonized. The workers also gave government a 21 day ultimatum to harmonize the salaries or they would embark on indefinite strike.

One of the workers who spoke on condition of anonymity said the Federal Government in 2005 approved the harmonization of salaries of law officers in the Ministry of Justice and those in the judiciary service, saying the state was yet to approve the new salary scale and their counterparts in the judiciary service had been enjoying the new salary scale since February this year.

Hajj accommodation: Saudi landlords to bid

By Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

THE National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has introduced a system where providers of houses and bed spaces for pilgrims in Saudi Arabia must bid before

they can be selected to accommodate Nigerian pilgrims during the 2010 hajj exercise.

The Executive Secretary of the Borno State Pilgrims Welfare Board Alhaji Ali Makinta, told Daily Trust yesterday that he was part of a com-

mittee, which is made up of hajj officials from the six geopolitical zones, NAHCON, the Nigerian embassy amongst others constituted to come up with reforms on pilgrims accommodation. Makinta, who represented the North-

east zone said the commission had placed three adverts in Saudi newspapers, calling for bids from eligible accommodation providers to demonstrate their competence before they are allowed to provide bed spaces for pilgrims. He said

the bidders were required to obtain forms at no cost and give verifiable information on proof of availability of licensed houses, experience in accommodating pilgrims, types of houses: hygiene, location, sizes and facilities.

Customs boss wants court to jail Keyamo

By Atika Balal

COMPTROLLER General of Nigerian Customs Service, Abdullahi Inde Dikko has filed an application before an Abuja High Court demanding that Lagos lawyer, Festus Keyamo be sent to prison for contempt of court.

A notice of consequences of disobedience to court order dated October 9, 2009 said unless Keyamo obeys the directives contained in the order he will be guilty of contempt of court and will be liable to be committed to prison.

In a matter before an Abuja High Court, Dikko is being

accused of forging his West African Examination Council (WAEC) certificate and that of the Nigerian Institute of Management.

Last year, Justice Abubakar Talba had restrained Keyamo and his agents from publishing any libelous statement concerning Dikko pending the determination of the motion on notice before the court.

But Keyamo allegedly ignored this warning and circulated a damaging report through his column in a one of the national dailies titled "Update on Dikko Saga".

He also wrote a personal letter to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan dated March 23, 2010 availing him

with details of the said certificate forgery scandal against Dikko.

In the letter titled, "Forgery of certificates by the Comptroller General of Customs, Alh. Abdullahi Inde Dikko: the grand cover-up", Keyamo asked Jonathan to investigate the allegation and take appropriate action.

Meanwhile both Keyamo's letter and Dikko's letter have been copied to National Security Adviser, the State Security Service, Minister of Finance, Inspector General of Police and Attorney General of the Federation.

Justice Abubakar Talba has fixed June 6 for hearing of the substantive suit and the contempt proceedings.

Board challenges staff on pilgrims' welfare

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

STAFF of the FCT Muslim Pilgrims Welfare Board has been urged to be more committed to the welfare of the pilgrims before the hajj and while in the holy land.

The challenge was part of the resolution contained in the 2009 hajj report presented yesterday before the management of the FCT pilgrims' board.

Presenting the report, the Chairman of the Committee set up to review FCT last year's hajj operation, the Chief Imam, Fouad Lababidi Central mosque, Shiekh Tajuddin Muhammad Bello urged that staff should be committed to their responsibilities in taking good care of their pilgrims and not to let them be stranded at any time.

He reminded the staff of the board to respect all intending pilgrims and treat them as esteem customers during hajj operations.

"Staff of the board should redouble their effort and work for the sake of Allah and above all, fear Allah while discharging their duties." He said.

Receiving the report, the executive secretary of the board, Dr. Shu'aibu Yakubu Kurfi, warned that the board would not tolerate any act of indiscipline and what he called "laxity to work from any staff."

Expressing satisfaction with the report, Kurfi said the board's has set a challenge for the improvement of its service in future hajj operations and build on success it recorded so far.

Nigeria lacks policy on waste management -Experts

By Aisha Umar Agaie

MANAGING Director, Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA), Ola Oresanya, has attributed lack of practicable action and poor administrative structure on waste management as the major challenge of climate change in Nigeria.

He made the statement yesterday at a policy dialogue seminar on waste management organised by the British Council for heads of waste management boards in 18 states across Nigeria as part of its strategy to raise awareness of Climate Change and to promote behaviours and actions that will help mitigate it.

He said, "There are a lot of laws and policies that guide waste management in Nigeria but most of the laws and policies are very

defective because they are not evidenced based. They cannot be benched marked with national interests the reason why they don't work."

He described waste management as a major tool for social reform, advised sector heads to brand the process in their states in such a way that politicians and investors alike would see the relevance of waste management to their personal agendas.

Professor Abdul A. Audu from the department of Chemistry, Bayero University Kano said climate change resulted from waste, and waste is by-product that results from human activities which is actually not desired.

Dr. Olunrunfemi Felix from Nigeria Institute of Social and Economic Research, Ibadan said Nigeria does not have consistent policy on waste management.

Court fixes May 12 for adoption of addresses in suit against UBEC officials

By Atika Balal

AN Abuja Federal High Court has fixed May 12 for adoption of addresses in a suit filed against directors of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and an American contractor by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Molka Manasseh Mutfwang, Michael Mtonga Aule, Andrew Ekpunobi, Intermarkets USA LLC, Alexander John Cozma and Professor Bridget Sokan are facing trial over allegations of defrauding the Federal Government of about N850 million.

The accused persons, who are facing a 64 count charge of advanced fee fraud, are alleged to have conspired amongst themselves to induce and deceive UBEC into awarding a contract amounting to over N787 to Intermarkets USA LLC and Alex Cozma out of which about N636 million was expended.

But four separate applications have been filed before the court by the accused persons seeking the charges to be quashed.

While adjourning, Justice Adamu Bello said the accused persons, who are already on EFCC bail should continue to enjoy same.

NEMA insists on market insurance against fire disaster

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

AFTER its assessment of the recent market fire disaster in Kano and some other states across the country, the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said market insurance is now a must.

NEMA Zonal Coordinator, North-West Alhaji Mustafa Suleiman who

made the comment in a telephone call with Daily Trust said NEMA had sent its report containing recommendations that it was now time for both state government and traders to insure the market and properties in their domain.

According to him NEMA has been advocating for market insurance but only Kaduna had responded noting that traders had proved difficult to convince.

Group faults Senate on cross carpeting

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Electoral Reform Network (ERN) yesterday in Abuja urged the Senate to reconsider its stand on some of the provisions of the amendment of the 1999 constitution particularly cross carpeting of elected officials from one political party to another.

The group's vice chairman Lanre Arogundade, made this known at the second National Civil Society-Legislative Forum where they had gone to submit their positions on the constitutional amendment to the Senate Committee on Electoral Reform.

"We disagree with amendments made to sec-

tion 68 relating to tenure of members and giving elected officials blank cheque to cross carpet at any time. We disagree with the deletion of section 68(1) (g). It is our responsibility to strengthen the regime of party democracy and prevent person from abusing the trust reposed in them by electorates. The mandate in issue belongs to the party and the electorate and not individuals," Arogundade said.

Other areas which the group wants Senate to revisit include the deletion of sections on Judicial Commissions on Inquiry and Tribunals adding that it would aid corruption; paragraph 14 of the third

schedule concerning the appointment of National Commissioners of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and sections on nomination of Resident Electoral Commissioners (RECs) whom in Uwais report should be redesignated as Directors of Elections and must be career officers among others.

But Arogundade, commended the Senate on the amendments of other sections that are in line with the Nigerians aspiration and wishes.

He urged the National Assembly to keep its door open to Nigerians to receive inputs on electoral reforms and constitutional frameworks.

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Kebbi Assembly summons Perm Sec, AG over e-payment

Isma'il Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

Kebbi State House of Assembly yesterday summoned the state's Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Alhaji Rabi'u Koko, and the Accountant General Alhaji Abubakar Kangiwa over complaints that have trailed the e-payment exercise in the state since its commencement. The Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Garba M. Bena, who stood in for the Speaker said the House had received several complaints from civil servants and workers' unions in the state on the

e-payment. Bena said though, the exercise was designed to ensure sanity and effective management in payment of salaries, the House was worried about the way the exercise was being handled by the Ministry of Finance and the consultants in charge of the exercise.

"This exercise is no doubt for the good of our state, but we are worried about the complaints we have received concerning it. Some workers are complaining that they are being degraded, some said their salaries were slashed while some complained of non payment of their salaries for over 3

months", he said.

Responding, the state Accountant General Alhaji Kangiwa said they were not unaware of the challenges that had trailed the e-payment exercise, saying necessary measures had been put in place to address the challenges.

He added that despite the challenges, the ministry had recorded a huge success with the exercise and that in a few weeks, every worker in the state would have cause to smile.

The Permanent Secretary in the ministry, Alhaji Koko, told the House that some

of the problems encountered in the exercise had to do with the non compliance by some of the workers to the directives and guidelines of the exercise. He maintained that the ministry and its consultants had taken note of the problems and that they would be addressed.

"We have set up a committee which includes the representatives of the workers, NLC and NUT to address all the concerns raised by the people," he said.

The House then resolved to work with the committee set up to address the challenges and complaints.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



FROM right: Producer/Writer/Director of Helenard Pictures, Beverly Hills California, USA, Ms. Carol Mayes, Executive Director Del York Hollywood actress, Stephanie Okereke, CEO Ovation Magazine International, Mr. Dele Momodu, MD/CEO I-York International, Mr. Linus Idahosa and some of the 400 Niger Delta youths who are on two months film training during a tour in Abuja yesterday.

Beware of sycophants, emir cautions sole administrators

From Isma'il Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

THE Emir of Gwandu Gen. Muhammad Ilyasu Bashar has cautioned the newly appointed local government sole administrators in Kebbi State to be wary of sycophants.

The emir while receiving the sole administrators of Jega, Alhaji Aminu Abba and his Takari counterpart, Alhaji Abubakar Yahaya, in Birnin Kebbi, lamented that some politicians divert the resources meant for the people for their personal benefits. He said if the present crop of sole admin-

istrators in the state must meet the needs and aspirations of the people of their councils, they must distance themselves from unpatriotic practices which according to him had become the essence of seeking election into public offices by some politicians in the country.

The emir enjoined the sole administrators to shun people, who give out their daughters in marriage just so that they could request for financial assistance. He said the essence of creating additional 27 Development Areas in the state was to give the grass root good governance.

Bauchi students urge govt against relocation of campus

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Student Union Government of the Abubakar Tari Ali Polytechnic, Bauchi State has appealed to the Emir of Bauchi Alhaji Suleiman Adamu, the State Assembly and other stakeholders in the state to stop the state government from its planned relocation of two campuses of the

institution to Wunti Dada and Kangere.

Wuntin Dada is along the Bauchi-Jos road while Kangere is along the Bauchi-Gombe road and both of them are some kilometers away from the city center.

Speaking to newsmen Monday in Bauchi, the SUG President in the institution, Umar Adamu Jibrin, said the state gov-

ernment had concluded plans to relocate the School of Management Studies situated at the Ran Road, Bauchi and the School of Agriculture to Kangere, a development which according to him will affect learning. The union leader said some students may also drop-out due to the distance and lack of accommodation in Kangere.

He added that if the campuses were relocated to the new sites, the state government may find it difficult to provide them with enough facilities.

The Special Assistant to the state Governor on Media Affairs, Sanusi Muhammad, said the two campuses were being relocated because the new sites were more peaceful and conducive for learning.

Jos crisis: Fulanis demand compensation

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE Fulanis in Plateau State are demanding that they be compensated for the losses they suffered in the last crisis in Plateau State, saying many of their people were killed and their property lost. The demand for compensation by the Fulanis is among 13 other demands they are set to present to the committee on Jos crises headed by Chief Solomon Lar.

Other demands made by the Fulanis, our correspondent learnt include allowing their cattle to graze freely on internationally recognized grazing routes within the state without hindrance. They also want their security guaranteed. The Fulanis also expressed concerns over the recent accusation of attacks in some villages and expressed their desire to live in peace with other people in the state if their demands are met.

Deregulation will legitimize robbery - ASUU

From John Kennedy Owerri

THE President of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) Prof. Uka Ukwu Awuzie yesterday Owerri condemned the planned deregulation of the petroleum downstream sector, saying it would legitimise robbery. Awuzie flayed the ongoing attempt to get Nigerians to accept the deregulation of the petroleum sector, commenting that the crisis in the Nigerian economy had created a fertile ground for

social and political conflicts to flourish. He said most public services and social infrastructure had collapsed and unemployment was flourishing in the land. He said the present situation in the land contradicts claims that the economy is growing, adding that the reality on ground was that things were getting worse.

"The collapse of the manufacturing sector and industries are clear indicators that the Nigerian economy has stopped growing", he said.

Zamfara govt donates to victims of Jos crises

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE Zamfara State government has donated N20 million and 600 bags of assorted grains to victims of the Jos crises. Displaying the cheques and food items yesterday, the state's Commissioner for Religious Affairs Alhaji Tukur Sani Jangebe said the donations were from the Ministries for Religious Affairs, Local Governments and Chieftaincy Affairs. Jangebe said there was also a donation of

N205,870 and textile materials from Islamic organizations, Jumu'at mosques and emirate councils in the state. He said the donations would have been delivered earlier, but for the re-occurrence of crises in the state.

He said the emir of Anka and Chairman of the Zamfara Council of Emirs, Alhaji Mohammed Attahiru, is expected to lead the team to Jos, where the donations would be delivered to the Jama'atu Nasrul Islam, Plateau State branch.

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N/Assembly can't probe Jos crisis

IT is true that the National Assembly has no jurisdiction in the affairs of state or local governments for the fact that it is Federal. The Nigerian Army as well as its personnel draw powers from the center as such all its actions or inactions is expected to be at the behest of the government at the center. This means the calls for the sack of the GOC by partisan groups in Jos is ill-informed and malignant.

Sani Tukur
stbd26@yahoo.com

Atiku, 28 others meet to decide return to PDP

THEY always belong where the soup is sweeter! Very few believed in the so-called 'Mega Party' knowing the antecedents of our self-serving politicians. The masses belong to the Buhari camp and hope he will never get dissuaded by the action of political jobbers.

Haro
haroismail@yahoo.com

Those condemning Atiku are political illiterates. There is no difference between the parties in Nigeria. If Atiku stands a chance to realize his dreams in PDP, we wish him the best of luck.

Ben Ugochukwu
benjoe@gmail.com

PDP has become a ghost party with the absence of conscientious politicians like Atiku, Audu Ogbah, Iyorchia Ayu and Ben Obi. Their return with Atiku will help the party and Nigeria so it is a welcome development.

Ismaila Funtua
funtuasmaila@gmail.com

It is obvious that Atiku Abubakar is an over ambitious politician. He has absolutely no vision for the country, yet he wants power by all means, perhaps to satisfy his personal greed.

Marcell Duru
mnduru@yahoo.com

The return of Atiku to PDP shows how desperate our politicians are and their desperation to get into power at all cost. It also shows that our politicians are self seeking individuals that will stop at nothing to satisfy their selfish interests. We Nigerians owe it to ourselves to ensure that only credible politicians that have the country at heart emerge in 2011.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi
elkutigi@gmail.com

May God save this country from these shenanigans going on. Nigeria has a long way to go in developing a political culture. To say our elites are bereft of political ideology and moral decorum is to say the least.

Sunusi Musa
ityando22@yahoo.com

At Senate ministerial screening ...Kanti to Akunyili: 'You cooked food for Turai' ...Akunyili: 'No, I didn't'



PROF. Dora Akunyili, former Minister of Information

I am disappointed at what Senator Eng. Kanti Bello did. It did not sound intelligent or patriotic. And for that matter what has Dora done to warrant this? She did not for once attack the person of the president or the first family. She just straightforwardly voiced her opinion and in a democracy everyone is entitled to his. Yes, the people managing Yar'adua caused this heightened political situation by making everything about the president's health secret. There wouldn't have been any "cabal" issue. Please leave her alone. Our loyalty should not

be blind and not to an individual whoever he is. It should be to the nation. In real democracies, people look up to their presidents and tell them the truth and nothing happens but not here. Is she competent to do the job?

Nasiru Ilallah
dr_mnas@yahoo.com

Cooking of food in a Ministerial screening? These guys are not serious. They are only toying with us.

Mahmod Lawal
mahlawal@gmail.com

Scaling the screening is not a problem if she deserves another chance. The question is, based on merit, does she deserve another chance?

Bello Ibrahim
belloibrahim@yahoo.com

While I agree with the Senate on the screening of prospective ministers as to ascertain their suitability for ministerial job, I would think that the basic thing on the minds of senators is to question candidates of what they intend to do. However, it is sad that a senator who should have a constructive ques-

tion should reduce himself to what we all witnessed yesterday. Your question in the first place was too puerile. Your action denied others the opportunity of asking genuine and meaningful questions.

John
amatujohn@yahoo.co.uk

It is a big shame that a senator of the Federal republic of Nigeria could be asking such lame questions.

Tyga
tigerwoome@yahoo.com

It is noteworthy to listen to what transpired in the screening session of would- or would not be- Ministers of the Federal Republic. There are those who said, on Feb. 2nd, 2010, that President Umaru Yaradua was fine. The same people came up at the end of that month to say a different thing and that a cabal was ruling Nigeria. These are the same people who were screening others yesterday. This is the highest form of insincerity which the Senate in particular, and the Nation in general should pay attention to if we are to save Nigeria.

Prof. M. Garba

magakatagum@yahoo.com

Imagine our lawmakers. What is the essence of all these kind of questions? As a senior legislative House they have every right to disqualify any person based on reason and they have the right to tell the president to submit other names instead of exchanging insults. Just consider her competence and capability of carrying out her responsibilities if given. I don't see any reason for asking such questions as "you cooked food for madam". It is degeneration on their part.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

Senator Bello has made a mess of the situation. I was appalled watching him on live TV flexing his muscles and making a seemingly primitive accusation like "You cook for Madam". Well I am not a seer but I can without fear of contradiction say that Dora will scale the screening thanks to the poor strategy of people like Kanti Bello

Abdulfattah Muhammad
abdulfattahmuhammad@yahoo.com

Gaddafi: Split Nigeria along ethnic lines

MOAMMAR Ghaddafi's call for the compartmentalization of Nigeria along religious affiliation was considered baseless and some even called him mad for his utterances, but the man still insists on his assertion of dismantling this country. I say, what type of man is this? The man has an interest in dismantling this country, either personal or political. He is trying to spread enmity through his ignorance.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

It's incredible and we must thank Gaddafi for his proposal. Scientifically when somebody brings a solution to a problem, that solution remains valid except proven wrong or an alternate solution is brought. Nigeria is truly a disunited nation since the June 12 saga and since then our leaders have failed to solve the problem that caused the division.

By the way I don't know who is senseless and irresponsible between Gaddafi and Nigerian elites because Gaddafi is at least able to cater for his people's medical, food, shelter and energy needs and he doesn't travel overseas for medication. What about our leaders?

Usman Ahmed Danbaba



LIBYAN Leader Muammar Gaddafi

danbaba1986@yahoo.com

The comparison of Nigeria to the former Yugoslavia, which collapsed after the end of the Soviet Union and split into several independent states, sparking conflicts in Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina and then Kosovo, is what Enahoro, Soyinka, Asari (Niger Delta Militants), have been being advocating for. So why the silence? The Ethiopians dealt with the threat of secession by including a clause in their constitution, and since then, no one is talking about it again. But Nigerians are waiting for miracle.

Abdullah Muhammad

amuhinab@yahoo.co.uk

How sad that a once respected African leader and a crusader of unity (Arab unity) has now turned into a champion of divisive politics and anti-freedom. Remember a few months ago he supported a military takeover in an African country. For me the bottom line of Gaddafi's unsolicited advice is the fear of a stronger Nigeria. He knows somehow, someday we are going to put our acts together and do the right thing.

As an elder African statesman, he should have maintained sealed lips or encouraged unity in our country. This however calls for a serious diplomatic action by the Nigerian government. Gaddafi has already declared his enmity to our country.

AbdulRahman Sani
rahmansani130@yahoo.com

Gaddafi has provided good education and health care for his people and Libyans are respected all over the world. Our leaders treat the people as slaves and have not only failed to provide these services, but have spoiled the ones they met. Pray...who is mad between both?

Sina
sinajagbenro@yahoo.com

FG charges suspects of Jos crises with terrorism

MAY I draw the attention of Bar. Akissa that his statement in this suit can cause another crisis. This is because Shafiu Dan Malam, 48 and six others were charged on conspiracy and carrying out terrorist acts while on the other hand Mr Yakubu Isah and seven others were charged on conspiracy and agreement to cause breach of peace. These are two similar acts but the former is 'Act of Terrorism' while the latter is 'Agreement to cause breach of peace'.

MUHAMMAD Aliyu Gombe
maliyumaliyu@aol.com

...And when America put Nigeria on its terror watch list we cried foul, saying we are not a nation of terrorists. What an irony!

Pita
justpita@yahoo.co.uk

What some of us are interested is the prosecution of all suspect in the Jos crises starting from the one of November, 2008 plus subsequent ones but it appeared government are only interested in prosecuting the crises of Dogo-Nahauwa, Riyom. Please try and avoid selective justice.

Ismail Hassan
hassan31ng@yahoo.com

For goodness sake, what of their sponsors?

Bassey Inyang
basseyinyang@halliburton.com



By Haruna Manu Isah

Lar committee: Migration, citizenship and the Jos crises

"The world is changing and any one who thinks he can live alone is sleeping through a revolution....we must learn to live as brothers or we perish together as fools".
-- Dr. ML King jnr.

As the Solomon Lar committee settles down to its business of finding causes and proffering lasting solutions to the crisis on the plateau, a reprisal attack was launched by purported Fulani pastoralist on the 6-7 of March. The nature of reprisal attacks was widely expected, because of the perception that the perpetrators of previous crisis were never brought to book. It is clear that the crisis on the Jos Plateau is far from being purely religious. It is largely due to cultural, social, economic, political and tribal struggles among the various tribes that make up the Plateau. The struggle for the control of Jos North local council between the Birom tribe and other they consider "settlers" has been a constant source of the problem. Incidentally, this local government area is dominated by the Hausa/Fulani and other tribes, hence, the continued effort by the ethnic community to dislodge any tribe or group, just to get control of the metropolitan local government area. This is the crux of the Jos crisis. Unfor-

The primary victims of the series of the Jos ethnic cleansing must be involved

tunately, this equally leads to the sharp dichotomy between the so called "indigene" and "settlers". It is quite noticeable how the state government became very vociferous after the 7th March reprisal attack on some parts of Jos south local government. But curiously, such zeal and vigour were absent during the horrendous January episode at Kuru Karama.

The government claimed that over 300 died, although, the state police commissioner told us to disregard the figures as they were fabricated for only God knows why. The police insisted that the figure were not more than 109.

History tells us that all the people of Plateau state-by whatever tribe you call them were all settlers; hence, none has any superior right of occupancy over any other tribe or group. According to the most authoritative historical accounts of the Jos Plateau was the one by Capt. C.G Ames (1934) that, the Pengiji, ron were emigrants from Gobir. Angas, N'gizim, N'gasai, Ngajim, Bebbe were from Bornu. Mama tribes and the inhabitant of modern day Kanam were from Cross River and the Birom tribe, known even in those days for their belligerent conduct, came from the forests of Wukari, probably due to 'pressure from Jukun Empire'. Equally, the Jerawa, Ba tribe and the Rukuba were of "semi-Bantu origin". This historical summary tells those who care to know that the totality of Jos Pla-

teau has been a product of emigration and shall continue to be so. Migration is an integral social process.

This writer has never been a fan of the former president Olusegun Obasanjo, but his bold and courageous stand over the Jos crisis in 2004, which culminated to the imposition of state of emergency on that troubled state, was exemplary. One wonders why state of emergency was not imposed on that state immediately after the January 17, 2010 carnage, which would have probably foreclosed a reprisal attack. And for the period of the state of emergency, Governor Jonah Jang would have visited other ethnically diverse but peaceful states like Kaduna, Adamawa, Taraba etc, to learn the rudiments of political management of culturally and religiously heterogynous states. The period would have equally availed the retired air force officer, ample time to purge himself of any combat predilections.

The state of emergency would have been the right time for the governor to read thoroughly history books and appreciate the origin of the diverse population of Plateau state. More importantly, it is only by imposing state of emergency that the Lar committee can have unfettered access to information without any official hindrance.

It is disheartening that Jos crisis is becoming an intractable cancer that is threatening the cooperate existence of the country. Fallout of the January crisis was the call by the CAN Northern elders that the trio of Chief of Army Staff, Lt Gen. AB Danbazau, the G.O.C Jos 3rd Army division, Maj. Gen. Sale Maina and the CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido, should be sacked. This call was unbecoming of Elders!

The peace conference organized and chaired by former Head of State, Gen Yakubu Gowon and attended by eminent Nigerians in a bid to finding a lasting solution to the crisis on the Plateau, is a right step in the desired direction. But it is not encouraging that the ordinary people of Jos Plateau were not involved in the peace conference. Reports had it that most of those who attended the conference were either not residents of the Plateau or were never affected directly by the crisis. The primary victims of the series of the Jos ethnic cleansing must be involved.

Another thorny issue is that of citizenship. The government and people of Plateau must desist from acting in conflict with the stipulation of 1999 constitution. A situation whereby the government of Plateau state treats some citizen of the state as second-class citizens must be stopped, if true reconciliation is to be achieved. It is an open secret over time that indigene ship certificate is being denied to adherents of a particular religion and tribe in the metropolitan Jos, simply because the government in its wisdom deemed them as "non-indigene" of the state. If I am to have my way, the concept of "indigene ship certificate" in Nigeria would be substituted with "Citizenship Certificate". It is this idea of "indigene ship" that bred the word "settler ship" in our dear country.

Isah wrote from No 1, Kwaru Ajilo Close, off-Majalisa, Badarawa, Kaduna harunamanu@ymail.com



By Abubakar Musa, Jnr.

Gaddafi's utterances and the Nigerian elite

"Language is a process of free creation; its laws and principles are fixed, but the manner in which the principles of generation are used is free and infinitely varied. Even the interpretation and use of words involves a process of free creation."
-- Noam Chomsky, American activist

No doubt Nigeria's unity in the face of many challenges is sort of a resentment to other nations, Nigeria's standing as the most populous black nation in the continent with huge and abundant mineral resources, multilingual nation with immense cultural heritage, home more than 150 million people of course Nigeria is blessed with talented and intellectuals in every portion of life with their two most populous religious Islam and Christianity.

What is at stake is not Muammar Gaddafi's utterances neither his radicalism and volatile suggestion, it is Nigeria's problem, with no much adore the Libyan leader utterances were disgusting to most Nigerians plus our elites, it has however reached to a certain stage where he is been called 'mad man or a former mad-man' or even recalling Nigeria's ambassador to Libya back home and even some of our elites went ahead to expose some

Gaddafi had sent a message to overwhelming Nigerians it is left for us to rethink about his utterances at the right time

of his acts against Nigeria and lack of diplomatic approach to some issues and his inadequate knowledge to the Nigeria regional history, if Gaddafi goofed should our elites follow him on the erring line?

At this point in time, our elites need to see this suggestion of Muammar Gaddafi with no sense of prejudice but wisdom and justice, should they use their intellectual brain to ascertain through the message while not minding the messenger. In my opinion I don't think Gaddafi strictly means what he said, they should stopped throwing blames in blasphemy, Napoleon Hill once said "Think twice before you speak, because your words and influence will plant the seed of either success or failure in the mind of another"

Why would Gaddafi and company campaign for Africa's unity and at same time make this ridiculous statement as seen by most Nigerians? Why the called for the disintegration of the giant country in the continent via religious affiliation? These are the questions our elites should ask themselves, it is because Nigerians are so religious but have no tolerance to their neighbors, our religious differences always brings conflict in our polity, which lead to destruction of live and properties,

religious sentiment some times lead to corruption, nepotism and inhumanity to ourselves, our religious sentiment holds this nation to ransom with no meaningful development, I will however join the overwhelming Nigerians in total condemnation of what the Libyan Leader suggested because I know that his suggestion wont solve the problems rather ignite more conflicts which will be unresolved.

Things that hold this country to ransom apart of religious sentiment, were regional sentiment 'North/South dichotomy', our elites use tribal, religious or regional sentiment to achieve their selfish desire either political or economical.

Look at the present situation of Plateau state, it was due to this the lingering skirmishes, conflict that lead to this unwarranted called for this integration, if hard it been the elites were serious in solving our national problems no leader or nation will suggest or predict for our disintegration, I see this suggestion as one of the failure of our elites in solving national problems, many innocent Nigerians both Muslim and Christian were killed, thousands were displace and billions of Naira were destroyed, our elites fails us woefully they should bury themselves in shame.

Even in our political institutions ethnic, religious and regional sentiment plays crucial role, we fails to understand that our ethnic, regional and religious different should be one of the most priorities that unite us unbreakably as united entity due love, passion, respect and tolerance we should have for each other that will lead to peaceful co-existence, societal growth, political and economic transformation in our nation.

Gaddafi had sent a message to overwhelming Nigerians it is left for us to rethink about his utterances at the right time. In almost every situation like this our leaders united themselves and go against anybody whoever is he after all they may say 'Is he God?' it is something to be proud of, I respect and adore Nigeria's elite when it comes to endless and meaningless speeches, they unite themselves irrespective of their tribal, regional, religious or political differences to against anybody and/or if they may finally benefit from their action, the recent one is about the issue Nigeria been in terror watch list and Gaddafi comes into their way now!

To this extend, our elites should be reminded that other countries are aware of the enormous, volatile circumstances of Nigeria and do they sympathize with us? Even though they call us 'big for nothing' we don't have much time to face this challenges the time is now and something must be done about insensitivity, madness and intolerance in the country and the responsibilities is bestow in on all of us, we must play our individual role to mortified those that predict and suggest for our disintegration by putting national interest before our ethnic, regional and religious sentiments by been just, balanced, fair and patriotic in all our endeavors.

Musa, Jnr.wrote from JMH Jos, Nodelay2mail@yahoo.com



Your Letters

Send your letters to dailytrust.com

Government of the few for the few?

Nigeria is blessed with both human and material resources, having abundant fertile land for agricultural production, with enough minerals deposit across the nation, and over 85% of its population lies within the active age-group and ranked the fifth supplier of petroleum in the world. But despite all these resource, over 90% of Nigerians live in abject poverty. Nigerian is said to have the poorest set of people on earth, due to high rate of corruption in both public and private sector organizations.

Most sectors and organizations involve in bribery and corruption for some kind of service(s), accepting money or other reward for awarding contracts, violation of due process to advance personal interests, including kick-backs from developmental programs or multinational corporations; payoff for legislative supports; and

diversion of public resources to private use. Corruption has been identified as the major problem the government of Nigeria faces today.

The major impact on the economy is that companies are unable to achieve the best production output, because the people that are capable are not mostly those that are performing the job, and being rejected for inability to bribe employer's leading to personal desperation and decline in self-esteem.

Desperation is a major reason why many Nigerian graduates turn to armed robbery just to meet end needs. When a sizeable proportion of a society's citizenry perceives that government is incapacitated in providing positive and desirable outcomes through honest efforts. The result is either passivity or excessive cynicism, in either case, the society is headed toward reaching maximum entropy with its competitors in all field of human endeavours.

Poverty in Nigeria today has divided Nigerians into two classes: the rich and the poor, it has consequently caused inequality. Because the rich is getting richer and the

poor always seems to be getting poorer. The economic and power resources are concentrated in the hands of few individuals and groups that form a cabal, due to act of dishonesty. the decisions on what is to be spend on public expenditure depends on the amount of money they can deviate to private use with little or no regards for the good of the country or its people. Social and economic development is badly affected.

The Nigerian government is not known for paying a decent salary to its workers.

Nigerians should stop believing that there is anything like religious crisis. We have been leaving together, everybody practicing his/her religion. Why wasn't crisis before now? Because this is to the detriment of democracy. The attributing factors are poor leadership, poverty, corruption and unemployment.

The president (acting), governors, minister or any government official need not to waste great amount of time, energy and resources travelling abroad looking for what they call 'investors'.

Dauda Bello Abubakar, Yola
(bellodaud@hotmail.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Gaddafi (again)

THE Libyan leader's comment is a sign of failed leadership in Nigeria. Otherwise, how can someone not a Nigerian, a leader of his own country, be telling you what and how to do in your own motherland, why? We were really disappointed by our leaders; only prayer can save us.

AMINU Alkasim Tsakuwa,
D.K.D Kano, 08136362435.

Minimum wage, maximum mess

IT is true that the Nigerian worker is the most poorly paid worker in the world. But it is production that determines wages. And the Nigerian worker is the poorest in terms of out put. And for the government, if you expect the best from your employees, you have to

consider their own interests first. Balanced labour mathematics! Otherwise wages should be seen as social welfare package, not salaries!

UBALE Bompai, Rano, Kano,
08033246464.

Why work?

IF the jobless will be paid 25,000 naira, then even those that are working will quit and join the unemployment queue.

FATIMA Idris, Bauchi
08035922669.

Why crucify Akunyili?

ALL those pointing accusing fingers are demanding blind loyalty. I feel Dora is a woman of integrity and principle who wishes Nigeria good. Let's put aside sentiments

and act right when there are changes in issues. She believes we need to move forward as a country.

ROSE Ayidu, Abuja,
08061311386.

Was she good at cooking?

SO the fire-spitting, patriotic Prof Akunyili was after all a cook for the First Lady, and always sat on the cold floor whenever she visited Madam? That must be another aspect of rebranding, of course!

08075848190.

Gov Shekarau should watch it

WATCH your comments because they may come back to haunt you. Only time will tell whether Buhari's exit is good riddance.

MUSA Saleh, 08035819225.



By Tunde Asaju

Le plus ca change, le plus c'est pire

I have read the first authentic list of ministerial nominees and compared it with the *gbeleko* (speculative) list published by the media and I have come to the conclusion that the media does not wish this nation well. Much later, I reasoned that the disparity must have been as a result of the fact that while papers go to bed, politicians stay awake to change figures. Anyim Pius Anyim and Ghali Umar Na'Abba would know what I am talking about. At one time under their watch, the National Assembly used the cover of darkness to change a law passed by parliament to favour Obasanjo. It's all PDP.

Before I forget, let me on behalf of His Excellency, the Acting President of the fender republic; the unseen eye that ever checkmates the Cabal, the *Sinnate*, the state governors, emirs, chiefs and obi's who recycle tired bones in government to preserve the status quo and sometimes recruit greenhorns to balance the equation that your names and mine were conspicuously missing from both lists. I have personally sent a letter of apology to those who have held positions in the past and who were not consulted before the new list was passed to the *sinnate*. Apologies to ex-heads of states that have turned themselves into praying mantis instead of true beacons behind the throne and to reassure them that no matter how much time they spend praying, we would never give them the title of Commander of the Faithful. That title is the exclusive preserve of the Sultan of Sokoto and the very many eminences, bishops, general overseers and president founder of churches sandwiched between every two buildings in major cities of Nigeria.

The rest of us must forgive our ancestors and not disturb their sleep by hiring necromancers. It is now evident that to be anything in Nigeria, your father must either be a PDP, or an ex-this, ex-that. Our country is forever under the vice grip of about 20 families with occasional admittance into the inner caucus of what is called the ruling class. If you are not affiliated with those names, please don't blame your ancestors for not featuring on the ruling list. Future rulers must come from homes where ancestors are better than hewers of wood and drawers of water. Ex-governors stand better chances, as well as ex-ministers; so do military big wigs who have staged coups in the past. Those like me whose ancestors were warriors who defended clannish boundaries have had their reward with their usual harem of women and a litter of children as evidence of their virility. Let their good end there. Today's gladiators are those who have roiled politics.

But like in most contests there are real prizes and there are consolation prizes. So, those whose ancestries do not qualify them for ministerial appointment can get something else. If they are party loyalists, theirs is the kingdom of board membership of juicy boards. And for the rest of us, well, there are consolation prizes too. For instance, by lucky dip, they could end up as heads of parastatals, or as special advisers, or special assistants or any of the other prizes available at all tiers of governance. And if your name still doesn't ring political bells, like mine, your consolation prize could be in remnant form, as in, being appointed special adviser to special advisers; secretary to the permanent secretary or special assistant to the special assistant etc. In case you earned a good grade in school and think that makes you a potential round peg suited for a round hole, I have news for you. Square begs have been found to sit better in round holes with the help of stone and cement.

Some say they are disappointed by the list the acting president sent to the *sinnate*, to which I ask, who appointed you? Those qualified to be disappointed are remnants of the ex-42 who would not have to answer cooking questions in the red chamber. But if you are complaining of recycling, well, it means that you do not know much about what goes on in carpenters' shops and are totally ignorant of global environmental issues. Otherwise, you would know that all over the world, emphasis is on recycling. Recycling dead woods would save our forests from extinction. Besides, those who think that dead woods are useless do not know the composition of the plywood.

Some of you are also complaining that why should the Acting President dissolve the cabinet if he found some of them useful to be reappointed? Well, I've got news for you. The former minister swore to an oath to be loyal to an invincible president, they need to now swear to another oath so that their acts would be visible to all. Loyalty is important if you ask Akunyili and women know a bit about being loyal to two men if you pardon my drift. As for me, I have been taking French lessons, and this is what my little French tells me about the list - *le plus ca change, le plus c'est pire!* The more it changes, the worse it becomes!

(tundejasaju@yahoo.co.uk)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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INEC's 2011 election timetable

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) recently released what it said was provisional timetable for the forthcoming general elections. According to the schedule, the electoral body provided January next year as probable date for the polls to take place, or in the alternative, they should be conducted the following April. Chairman of INEC, Professor Maurice Iwu, who made the timetable public at a stakeholders' meeting, also disclosed that a national voter registry and two electronic data back-up centres had been established by the commission to enhance the processing and maintenance of critical electronic information for the purpose of achieving the goal of conducting credible elections in the country. To enable early preparation for the very important exercise, voter registration would be held between April and July 2010, according to Professor Iwu.

A firm timetable, whether for those elections to be held in January next year or in April, depends on the outcome of deliberations on the reform of the electoral system currently in the National Assembly. It is vital that such preparations are begun early enough, if the elections are to be successful. This is why we believe that INEC was being proactive in presenting the timetable at this time.

We however are not so sure about the wisdom of deploying the electronic voting machines in the conduct of the forthcoming elections. We concur with the reservations, expressed by some senators, that their deployment be delayed until the electorate is confident in the integrity of the machines' usage.

Electronic voting is not foolproof, as has been variously demonstrated in far more sophisticated environments, such as in the United States and India. In our technologically-challenged environment, where power supply is never steady and transport system very unreliable, using the electronic voting system now in nationwide elections would present formidable obstacles that could ultimately compromise the process entirely.

INEC has not demonstrated that the system works, and that it can address the many shortcomings in our electoral process that have been recurrent. The way to go is for the commission to test the machines in local government elections on a small pilot scale in a number of states. The results of that can then be evaluated, and the system deployed in an incremental way until a measure of confidence in their integrity can be achieved, in order for it to be deployed widely. This is how the system is being applied in India. We recommend that approach for INEC.

Moreover, the board of INEC has not been reconstituted since a majority of its members left office. It is open to question therefore who took the responsibility of drawing a timetable for such a huge programme in the absence of a full board. This issue is important, given the fact under the electoral reforms proposals submitted by the Lawal Uwais Committee to the government, and which is before the National Assembly for consideration and approval, the whole process of appointing INEC board members, particularly its chairman, was modified, vastly diminishing the role of the Presidency in its constitution.

The presently depleted membership of the INEC board therefore lacked the power, because it has no quorum, to have approved the current timetable. The National Assembly must therefore act quickly to deliberate on and approve the proposed electoral reforms on which success of the forthcoming elections depend. The new INEC that may emerge from the reforms would need to address the credibility deficit that has hung over the commission for so long. The onus is on the National Assembly to pass the electoral law for the process towards credible election to begin.

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Jonathan's cabinet of good luck

Timawus Mathias

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So far, over 33 ministerial nominees are knocking at the door of the National Assembly, seeking entry into the Federal Executive Council. With lobbying powers profusely knocking at the Acting President's door for hearing and consideration of change or addition to the choices, the number could swell to anything between 60 and 65. In 1983, President Shehu Shagari succumbed to such extraneous pressures and ended up with 3 ministers to a ministry in some cases - Minister, Minister of, and Minister for. This effort to pacify all appointment aspirations sent the unwanted message of profligacy and the military cited it as one of the reasons to upset the civilian political appellation in 1983 (after my verdict). The Acting President would do well to resist the pressure. A few good ministers serves better than a crowd of sycophants.

You can not fail to notice that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan has reappointed mainly South-South Ministers from the Yar'adua team, except for Arch. Nuhu Sumo Wya, from Kaduna, Kaduna State, and later Shamsuddeen Usman, from Kano. It was a clean sweep of the Yar'adua Turks. It is clear that merit or a track record of achievement through service delivery was not the criteria used, just as the nominations are based more on primordial factors in the main. As I predicted in my treat a few week ago on Akunyili, the Professor nearly did not get reappointment as reward for her "patriotic" effort at the dislodgement of what she called the Yar'adua "cabal". Even though she has been nominated in the second batch, the albatross has really just been shifted to the National Assembly for the legislature to bear the brunt.

Rewarded it seems however, are national legislators where Acting President Jonathan appears to have based his political romance for now. Most new nominees are closer to the law makers than to the State Governors, and hence the flurry of appointments between the Governors and the Acting President in search of amendments. Again I had said in my two treats on Jonathan

needing more than good luck, that given choice between the Party (PDP), Governors and Legislators, the Acting President was better off going with the National Assembly because that is where his era and powers derived from. Goodluck Jonathan has shown the adroitness behind his placid facade.

He would cross only the bridges he has reached and for the moment, riding out the rest of the Yar'adua tenure is the issue at hand. There is enough to do in this crossing. Therefore 2011 and all attached permutations, like heaven, can wait while there is life for the living.

“Even though she has been nominated in the second batch, the albatross has really just been shifted to the National Assembly for the legislature to bear the brunt

His deft moves such as shifting erstwhile Justice Minister Michael Aondokaa, and releasing excess crude funds to pacify the Governors, the setting up of the TY Danjuma-led Presidential Advisory Committee, swearing-in of permanent secretaries, removal of National Security Adviser Sarki Mukhtar and his replacement with Aliyu Gusau, all portray Goodluck Jonathan as a man capable of facing the challenge of running Nigeria.

The inclusion of Murtala, General Yar'adua's son and nephew to President Yar'adua in the proposed cabinet was not just being tongue-in-cheek. Seen as meant to weaken the already deflated Yar'adua camp, it is a statement that Umaru Musa Yar'adua's rise to power had impetus from the name and legacy of General Shehu Musa

Yar'adua. Katsina's face is half smile half frown.

All that apart, the nominations appear deliberately thought out and of a high academic calibre; enough to cause a disregard of the little political exposure of many of the nominees.

One hopes that none of the nominee- Ministers including the recalled ones has need to settle any scores from the past, which is good for the polity, and if Goodluck Jonathan puts the pegs in the appropriate holes when he distributes portfolios, all the nominees are good enough to hit the ground running with the vision. Nigerians are full of expectation but are confident that impact can be made in the crucial change areas such as power supply, crime and national security, electoral reforms, and budget

implementation.

I also said in my treats that the old order of the type of Rilwanu Lukman and Shettima Mustapha were unlikely to be returned. They have not featured, and it does appear as their age group are out of place in the new dispensation.

The Senate began screening on Monday and from all indications, the business will be brusque, without rigorously establishing moral platform and performance in office for the returnees and competence, character and appropriateness for all. Thus if anything at all, the rush would to put the spectre of Yar'adua behind Jonathan, even as there are red herrings being flown about his "improving" condition, gaffes that Yar'adua's handlers have continued to add to their mis-handling of the President's tragic incapacitation.

These diversionary goings-on should not slow the process of change as the eventuality of Yar'adua's full recovery and return to work, which is hoped and prayed for can be faced according to the dictates of the constitution if and when the need to do so arises. This and other challenges Nigeria is currently facing are all part of the process of development of a viable democracy, and should be taken in stride.

“As I predicted in my treat a few week ago on Akunyili, the Professor nearly did not get reappointment as reward for her "patriotic" effort at the dislodgement of what she called the Yar'adua "cabal"

INVITATION TO TURBANNING



HRH. ALH. USMAN BILYAMINU OTHMAN II

The Dass Emirate Council, Bauchi State cordially invites the general public to the official presentation of Staff of Office to His Royal Highness, Alh. Usman Bilyaminu Othman II as the 8TH Emir of Dass.

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Former Hon. Minister Police Affairs

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Alh. Usman I. Dankade
Interim Chairman, Dass L.G.A.

Date: Sat. 3rd April, 2010

Time: 10:00am

Venue: Dass Proposed Mini Stadium, Dass

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A wonderful world

INTERNATIONAL

AU hails Guinea-Bissau's efforts towards stability

THE African Union yesterday praised Guinea-Bissau for its efforts to return to constitutional order following the assassination of the country's president last year.

The AU's Peace and Security

Council "welcomes the encouraging developments in Guinea-Bissau and the progress made since the holding of early presidential elections in July 2009," it said in a statement.

"The Council notes the meas-

ures taken... regarding good governance, the fight against impunity and drug trafficking... and the creation of conditions conducive to the restoration of lasting peace, security and political stability," it added.

Guinea-Bissau held elections in July last year after disgruntled soldiers killed then President Joao Bernardo Vieira in apparent revenge for the death of army chief General Batista Tagme Na Waie in a bomb attack.

The Addis Ababa-based bloc "urged the need to accelerate the process of a credible investigation to shed light on the political assassinations... and to bring to justice the perpetrators of those dastardly acts."

New LRA attacks leave 26 dead in Central Africa



AN armed fighter of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) stands guard in Ri-Kwamba, southern Sudan.

NEW attacks by the Ugandan Lord's Resistance Army in Central Africa have killed 26 fighters and civilians, including a woman burnt alive, and at least 40 people were abducted, officials said yesterday.

The attacks were revealed after Human Rights Watch claimed Sunday the rebel group massacred 321 people in December in a previously unreported incident in neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo.

The DR Congo's Justice Minister Lessa Bambi Luzolo disputed the charge yesterday saying that civilian victims totalled "no more than 25".

In Central Africa the fighters stormed three villages near the southeastern border with the DR

Congo between March 21 and 28, Central African officials said on condition of anonymity. They struck the village of Agoumar on March 21, a military source told AFP from the southeastern border city of Bangassou.

The attack on Agoumar led to the deaths of 11 people -- 10 civilians including a woman who was burnt alive by the rebels, and an element from the LRA who was killed by the villagers who organised to defend themselves," he said.

In the village of Dembia, attacked on March 28, "LRA elements were chased by the Ugandan army, which killed at least 15 rebels," the source added.

Karmadar village was attacked on March 25 but did not

suffer any casualties.

In each case the rebels used "the same process of going door to door, taking hostages from the population, and taking away items of value, as well as provisions," he said.

More than 40 people were abducted from the three villages, said another official in Bangassou, where about 400 people had taken refuge from the fighting.

Residents of the city demonstrated yesterday to demand the authorities force out the Ugandan rebels, who have been operating in the Central Africa since June 2009.

They alleged the Ugandan army was working with the LRA because the rebels attacked villages soon after Ugandan soldiers

had been to them."

A senior Central African military official dismissed the allegations, telling AFP on condition of anonymity that "without the presence of our (Ugandan) brothers who are helping us, the damage would be even more serious."

The officer said President Francois Bozize had on March 7 ordered a battalion of soldiers be sent to the area but "only 15 men, under-equipped, could be deployed. And that annoys the people."

The LRA took up arms in 1988 in northern Uganda and has acquired a reputation for brutality with its leaders wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes.

Chad, UN disagree over size of peacekeeping force

NEGOTIATIONS have stalled between Chad and a UN team on the future size of the UN peacekeeping mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), a Chadian official said yesterday.

"We proposed to the UN to reduce the number of elements in MINURCAT to 400, which is largely sufficient to guard installations and civilian personnel, but the United Nations wants to keep 1,000 men," said a diplomatic source who asked not to be named.

The source was speaking after talks between the head of the UN delegation Tunisian Youssef Mahmoud, who has been in Chad since March 22, and General Oki Dagache, special representative of Chad's president Idriss Deby Itno at the UN mission.

Deby's government, which wants the UN troops and police to withdraw rapidly, considers that MINURCAT has served its purpose and has gone so far as to call it "a failure."

"The United Nations has given us a memo containing its proposals and Chadian experts are studying this memo, eventually to give their replies," the source told AFP.

MINURCAT's mandate was renewed until May 15 by the UN Security Council this month to allow time for talks on the future of the force, which is tasked with protecting scores of thousands of displaced people and refugees and with facilitating aid work.

The diplomatic source said Tuesday that Chad and the UN team had agreed on the "mission to be carried out by civilian personnel, notably the training of legal staff and the construction of infrastructure," but that there was no agreement on the number of troops set to stay.

International

UAE
president
brother's
body found
in Morocco

RESCUERS yesterday found the body of a brother of the United Arab Emirates president, four days after his ultralight aircraft crashed into a Moroccan lake, investigators said.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Zayed al-Nahayan was the managing director of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, considered the world's largest sovereign wealth fund with assets estimated at more than 600 billion dollars (445 billion euros).

A team of Moroccan and French divers found the body, the investigator said, asking not to be named. The pilot, a Spanish national, survived Friday's crash into the artificial lake created by the Sidi Mohamed Ben Abdellah dam and was taken to hospital, where he was in stable condition.

Sheikh Ahmed was a younger brother of Emirati President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed al-Nahayan, who is also the ruler of Abu Dhabi, although he was not in the immediate line of succession for the throne of the oil-rich emirate.

He has a home in the area where the ultralight crashed near the Moroccan capital Rabat, frequented by members of the family. Dozens of divers from various countries, including Morocco, France, Spain, the UAE and the United States took part in the rescue effort.

A Moroccan source close to the probe said at the weekend that the search had been complicated by recent heavy rain that had left water levels high and swamped surrounding areas.



EGYPTIAN Nobel Peace laureate and former UN nuclear chief, Mohamed ElBaradei, leaves Al-Hussein mosque in Cairo.

ElBaradei takes Egypt reform campaign to the street

EGYPT'S most high-profile dissident, former UN nuclear chief Mohamed ElBaradei, has taken his reformist campaign to the street with a whirlwind of encounters with Muslim worshippers, Christian activists and film stars. ElBaradei also used his Internet page on the social networking group Facebook to urge Egyptians to join his newly formed National Association for Change, which

seeks constitutional amendments and free elections.

"What I am asking of you is to join the association, if you agree with its principles, as soon as possible," said the 67-year-old. In a jam-packed schedule, the former diplomat attended Friday prayers in a historic Cairo mosque and met with Coptic activists and celebrities in events that were highly publicised. "We are build-

ing a consensus for change," said George Ishak, a spokesman for the association.

"We will talk to whoever it takes, lawyers, doctors, students, farmers, old, young, anyone." The former nuclear watchdog chief's critics have accused him of being out of touch after decades spent outside his native Egypt, while others tout him as a man who could awaken the country from a

political slumber.

Last month, ElBaradei, who has said he would be willing to run for president in 2011, returned from Vienna, where he headed the International Atomic Energy Agency until the end of 2009, to a rapturous welcome from supporters.

He spent several days meeting activists at his home, before leaving Egypt again.

Hamas seizes \$270,000 in frozen funds from bank

HAMAS seized \$270,000 from a Gaza bank yesterday that had been frozen by the Palestinian government in the West Bank, sparking new feuding between the Gaza militants and their West-backed rivals.

The seizure, which Hamas said was backed by an order from a Hamas-run court, was the latest power play by the radical Islamic group, which violently took control of the Gaza Strip from forces

loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007.

Since then, Abbas' Palestinian Authority has governed only the West Bank. Efforts to reconcile the two sides have failed. The funds were intended for an association called Friends of the Sick, which has run a medical center in Gaza for over a decade.

The Palestinian Authority, which used to fund the group, froze the money after the organi-

zation elected a Hamas-dominated governing board in July 2009, the group said. "This was based on entirely political considerations that have no relationship to the association's charitable work," the group said in a written statement.

About 10 Hamas police officers entered the Bank of Palestine in Gaza City on Monday and demanded 1 million Israeli shekels — about \$270,000 — bank

employees said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals.

Hamas Interior Ministry spokesman Ehab Ghusein confirmed money was taken and said a court ruled the block on the funds was illegal.

Ten banks have branches in Gaza, though all of their funds are transferred from West Bank branches under the jurisdiction of the Palestinian Monetary

Authority.

The Monetary Authority criticized the Hamas seizure and announced it was closing Gaza's banks yesterday "to protest the vicious attack that one of the banks and its employees were exposed to."

Friends of the Sick board member Omar Farwana said yesterday's seizure was a legal reclaiming of funds from international donors.

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POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS



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Media Trust Limited, publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers take very seriously its responsibility to the public to publish all points of view, including those we do not share. We think this is the function of an independent, liberal newspaper dedicated to the pursuit of the common good. We are also conscious of the fact that it is a shortsighted business policy for a newspaper to shut out a particular point of view for its own reason or due to pressure from powerful institutions and advertisers.

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Caught between our desire to give voice to the concerns of the voiceless and to protect public officers and institutions from unfair and demoralizing attacks, we have been forced to develop a more stringent policy for the placement of advertorials, petitions and other related materials in the pages of our newspapers.

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prepared to accept corrections or alterations made by us but the corrected version would be shown to the author(s), before publishing.

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Finally, we wish to assure our readers that we will not shy away from publishing fair and balanced criticisms of any government or individuals, which is in the nature of free exchange of ideas.

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We thank you for your support and assure you that we will do our best to keep your trust.

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MANAGEMENT

International

Pakistani Supreme Court ups pressure on government

THE Supreme Court threatened to imprison the head of Pakistan's anti-corruption agency yesterday, as the government failed to meet a 24-hour deadline to reopen a slew of graft cases, including several against the president.

Chief Justice Iftikhar Mohammad Chaudhry gave Naveed Ahsan another 24 hours to implement the court's order or be held in contempt. Ahsan responded with a written promise to reopen the cases, including one in which President Asif Ali Zardari is alleged to have stolen \$60 million in the 1990s and deposited the sum in Swiss bank accounts.

"It is your duty to chase this money," Chaudhry told Ahsan, the head of the National Accountability Bureau, during a court hearing. "This money belongs to the nation. This is not anyone's personal property." Zardari promised to return Chaudhry to office once in power, but resisted for six months until he was forced to act by opposition-led protests.



ANTI government protesters cheer during protest in Bangkok yesterday.

Thai Red Shirt protesters give up talks with govt

A protest movement demanding new elections in Thailand has abandoned negotiations with the prime minister and said yesterday it will instead will resume its massive street demonstrations.

Jatuporn Prompan, one of the leaders of the so-called Red

Shirts, said yesterday that two televised face-to-face meetings with Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and aides would not be followed up Thursday "because both sides now have different goals."

"Our demand is for the parliament dissolution to take place

within 15 days," he said. Abhisit had offered Monday to dissolve parliament by the end of the year, prompting new election.

The Red Shirt protesters, formally known as the United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship, have been holding street demonstrations in the

Thai capital for the past two and a half weeks.

On two or three occasions, they have mustered as many as 100,000 people, short of the 1 million that the protest leaders had called for, but among the biggest demonstrations in Thailand in the past few decades.

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A MAN OF HONOUR



Abdullahi Dikko Inde
Comptroller General of Nigeria Customs Service

Outstanding Officers in the Nigerian Forces have been known for their victories and personalities rather than for their interest in aesthetics. This is not a compliment but simply a matter of recognition of their orientation. Despite the fame of great leaders, we have a collection of well deserved young Officers inspired through good kinsmanship and service worthy of appreciation and recognition. Abdullahi Dikko Inde the Comptroller General of Nigeria Customs Service is our candidate, a man who had sacrificed his youthful age in hardwork and commitment to our nation's building. Yes

Abdullahi Dikko Inde is one of the most accomplished triathlete.

As a child, his generosity and honesty signifies his leadership qualities in the future. As an adult his merit of excellence signifies his hardwork and service to humanity for the betterment of the future and the development of this country.

He has served in various states of the federation where his wealth of experience and commitment to the service of this great nation won him numerous awards and merits from various bodies, organizations and institutions. This, indeed a recognition of his honour and integrity.

Indeed, Abdullahi Dikko is a role model. He is happily married with children. His wife, Hajiy Sa'adiya is an Alumna of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria.

In view of this, as Nigeria reaches its Golden Jubilee, there should be a concerted effort to identify and appreciate the eminent contributors to our society. An effort should be made to commend and identify individuals who have made Nigeria proud through handiwork. It is to this end, **Transnational Global Resources Ltd** in collaboration with **Katsinawa Youth Development Association** wish to commend and congratulate our first Katsina Indigene who started as a superintendent cadre in Nigeria customs Service in 1988 and work tediously through the ranks until he became highest ranking officer in the Nigeria Customs Service (Comptroller General of Nigeria Customs Service) in the history of Katsina State with an Award of Excellence and also a public lecture which allows brainstorming on National issues that have direct significance for the nation titled "Customs Reform as Crucial Imperative for Sustaining the Vision 2020".

Our choice of this lecture series is not out of place but giving the recent innovatin of his dynamic leadership has brought to bear on the Nigerian Customs Services (NCS).

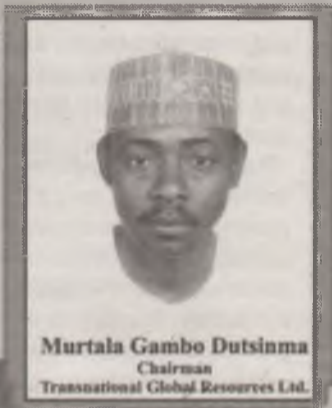
It is our conviction that this young officer and gentleman; Abdullahi Dikko Inde is an exceptional candidate, one that would contribute greatly to the achievements and sustainability of the Vision 2020 or more. If it is to set history in reshaping and reforming our Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) Abdullahi Dikko Inde signifies a new hope for our dear country.

I wholeheartedly recommend and identified with Abdullahi Dikko Inde as man of honour and integrity. I wish him the very best in all his future endeavours.



Signed:

Exploring Resources Around the World
E-mail: transnationalglobalresources@yahoo.com



Murtala Gambo Dutsinma
Chairman
Transnational Global Resources Ltd.

BOOK DEDICATION! BOOK DEDICATION!! BOOK DEDICATION!!!

On behalf of the descendants of **Mallam Umarun Dallaje** (First Amirul Mumineen of Katsina 1807-1835), Engr. Abubakar A. Fari (the 4th Grandson of Dallaje) cordially invites the general public to the dedication of a Book in memory of **Mallam Umarun Dallaje**

Titled:

"REDISCOVERING THE QUR'AN"

(Remembrance of Allah)

Book 3

By

Engr. Abubakar A. Fari

Venue: Katsina Motel

Date: Saturday April 3rd 2010, Rabi'u Thani 18, 1431 A.H.

Time: 11:30am prompt

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR

General Muhammadu Buhari GCFR (Rtd)
Former Head of State & C in C of the Armed Forces

GUEST OF HONOUR

Alhaji Abdulkadri B. Musa
Former Governor of Kaduna State

CHIEF HOST

His Excellency
Barr. Ibrahim Shehu Shema
Executive Governor of Katsina State

CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION

Hon. Justice Umar F. Abdullahi CON (Rtd)
Former President, Court of Appeal
(Walin Hausa)

BOOK REVIEWER

Prof. Tijjani Al-Miskin
Director/Chief Executive
Arabic College, Gamborun Ngala, Borno State

KEY-NOTE ADDRESS

Dr. M.S. Abubakar Alkafawy
Director, Centre for Islamic Legal Studies,
A.B.U. Zaria

ROYAL FATHERS

HRH Alh. Abdul-Mumini Kabiru Usman CFR
(Emir of Katsina)
HRH Alh. Umar Farouk
(Emir of Daura)

Prior to the publication, observations and comments were made by eminent Islamic Scholars and those active in Islamic Da'awah and propagation to include:

- Dr. Sadiq Al-Kafawi** - Director, Center for Islamic Legal Studies, A.B.U. Zaria.
- Dr. Umaru Farouq Ndagi** - Lecturer, University of Abuja, Department of African Languages (Arabic Section) and an Editorial Member, Trust Newspapers.
- Mallam Yunusa Yau** - Director, Research, Planning and Statistics, Bureau for Religious Affairs (Islamic Religion) Kaduna State.
- Mallam Usman Abubakar** - An Islamic Scholar and a Graduate of Geology from King Abdul Azzez University, Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.
- Mallam Sirajo Lawal** - Fellow Student, Diploma in Arabic and Islamic Studies, Ahmad Arabi College of Islamic Education, Kaduna.
- Mallam Sani Isa** - Chief Imam, Waff Road Mosque Forum, Kaduna.
- Engr. Umar Akeel Funtua** - Former Permanent Secretary, Katsina State and a devout Islamic researcher.
- Mallam Muhammadu Isa Talata- Mafara** - Institute of Islamic Sciences, Sokoto..

Signed:

ENGR. ABUBAKAR A. FARI

CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE IN NIGERIA

BY
 THE COALITION FOR JUSTICE UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NETWORK FOR JUSTICE
 (cafjin@gmail.com)
 ON
 THE THREAT TO CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY AND NATIONAL INTEGRITY POSED
 BY ETHNOCENTRIC CONFLICTS AND GENOCIDAL CAMPAIGNS IN NIGERIA WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE
 TO PLATEAU STATE UNDER THE GOVERNORSHIP OF JONAH JANG.

I. Preamble

Nigerians have made a great deal of sacrifices in their efforts to build an independent, united, democratic and developed nation. The few strides made earlier in terms of winning independence for the country in 1960, its proclamation as a Republic in 1963, the reconciliation efforts after civil war of 1967-70 and the modest progress made in economic development since are, unfortunately, being currently frittered away on the altar of corruption, terrorism and dictatorial tendencies anchored in an unveiled disrespect for constitutionalism and the rule of law by the state, dominant political parties and public officials. In fact Nigerians, collectively as well as in their various local communities, have been under siege from corrupt politicians resulting in the widespread state failure, wanton abuse of the law, corruption and civil strife that is currently the lot of the country.

Nigeria has been particularly engulfed in communal conflicts, in the form of violent campaigns, on the basis of supposed ethnic and religious differences especially since the inception of the 4th republic in 1999. Efforts to explain such destructive and divisive conflicts as some form of democratic expression by the ruling regime are clearly not tenable and do not certainly make any sense. *Democracy is all about the peaceful expression, mobilization and assertion of a diverse range of public interests and opinions in a peaceful, constitutional and constructive manner. It is indeed supposed to be an alternative to violent forms of social expression, as well as an avenue for the articulation of common national, social, economic and political interests beyond the dangerous confines of ethnocentrism and religious bigotry.*

The scale, and degree, of communal and state violence being currently unleashed on ordinary Nigerians need to be seen as the expression of increased state failure in the country: at all levels of government as well as in the conduct of affairs in all other sectors of our national life. The recent genocidal campaign in Jos is a grave, and new, development amidst a number of increasing constitutional, political, economic and moral crises engulfing the country. Contrary to the claims that democracy and good governance are being promoted in the country it is clear that corruption, abuse of the rule of law, disregard for the constitutional and human rights of Nigerian citizens, as well as a tendency towards civilian dictatorship, have been the dominant trends in politics since the inception of the 4th Republic.

We associate with the observations, and stance, of many individuals and organizations that the observed tendency to failure of the Nigerian state is a function of the failed nature of its current leadership. All observable facts and trends clearly indicate the failure of the ruling party and government to promote any sense of a national mission, discipline, accountability, transparency, justice and the rule of law, either within its own cadres at the party levels or in the administration of the various states, as well as the Federal Government, under its control in the nation at large.

It is on the basis of the above observations that we, in line with all patriotic Nigerians and foreigners that are sincere friends of Nigeria, hereby do add our voice to the quest for justice, rule of law and constitutional democracy in Nigeria with particular reference to the genocidal campaigns recently witnessed in some parts of Plateau State.

Given the fact that reference is usually made to such issues as "indigenes" and "settlers" in the attempts to explain or justify some of these crises we want it to be clearly understood that the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in chapter I, part I, section I and subsection I, establishes the Supremacy Of The Constitution, as follows:

"This constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on all authorities and persons throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria".

The Constitution further makes it clear (chapter II, paragraph 14) that "sovereignty belongs to the people of Nigeria" in addition to the fact that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". Furthermore the constitution also explains that "the motto of the Federal Republic of Nigeria shall be unity and faith, peace and progress" and "accordingly national integration shall be actively encouraged whilst discrimination on the grounds of place of origin, sex, religion, status, ethnic or linguistic association or ties shall be prohibited".

Further to these very clear provisions of the Nigerian constitution we also want to observe that Plateau province was carved out of Bauchi province as late as 1926. Before then Jos was founded as a settlement under Bauchi emirate even before it was conquered by the British in 1902. Indeed up to the early 1950's the Jos N.A. was largely manned by appointees from Bauchi. It is important to understand that as an urban settlement Jos was defined, and administered, under colonial township laws as a Town Council where the rules defining its urban structure, land ownership and the social composition of the residents, occupying and developing them, were clearly spelt out.

II. Observations on the Nature of the Crises in Jos, Plateau State

We, as patriotic Nigerians, are greatly disturbed that inter-communal conflicts have tended not only to multiply, particularly in north central Nigeria, but to also fester for very long time without any possible solution in sight, with great and destructive consequences for the lives, properties and well being of many ordinary Nigerians.

We further note that most of these crises, that have tended to defy solutions, have occurred with the ferocity and savagery that they have between September 2001 to date, when the Federal government of Nigeria, the state government of Plateau state

and that of Jos North local government are all under the control of the same political party the People's Democratic Party (PDP), at both the executive and legislative levels. This need to also be seen against the backdrop of the fact that in the 1st and 2nd Democratic Republics between 1960-66 and 1979-1983 respectively inter-ethnic conflicts, as distinct from conflicts between or within factions of political parties, were basically unheard of.

Further to the above, and despite the establishment of many commissions of enquiries by the party and its governments at the federal, state and local government levels, as well as its legislative assemblies at the federal and state levels, nothing has so far been done to bring the perpetrators of such criminal violence to book, or provide justice to the victims of such criminal assault in line with the laws of the land.

In addition despite the fact that local conflicts along the colonially inherited lines of indigene/settler abound in Nigeria, and deserve to be totally and seriously addressed by the Nigerian state in favour of the nation's constitution, the crisis in Jos exhibits a very different and dangerous trend from the more general question of indigene settler conflicts.

A number of studies indicate that the ethnocentric campaigns in Jos tend to express a very carefully planned and violent form of virulent tribalism designed to achieve the goals of ethnic cleansing through genocide and some other policy measures which totally, and unconstitutionally, deny any rights to the targeted groups. For a well measured, fair and objective discussion on this we recommend a paper titled "Jonah Jang and the Jasawa: Ethno Religious Conflict in Jos, Nigeria" by Philip Ostien of Muslim-Christian Relations In Africa (www.sharia-in-africanet) as well as other highly rated organizations, such as Human Rights Watch (<http://www.hrw.org/en/news/2008/12/19>) which cannot, in any way be seen as implying support for the Muslim population on account of religious or linguistic affinities.

The scale, organization and direction of the destruction of lives and property in the crisis of November, 2008 and the more recent one of January 2010, under the governorship of Jonah Jang, have led many individuals and organizations, at the local, national and international levels not only to condemn the incidences, especially in the light of the evidence of genocide brought to light by some international news media, but to also demand for independent national and international investigations on the basis of some, or all, of the following observations:

i. That the organized and planned nature of these destructive incidences clearly indicate a certain pattern, and a premeditated objective, of ethnic/cleansing. This is further supported by the fact that nothing is seen to be done against a similar pattern of campaigns directed against isolated pastoral Fulani herdsmen resulting in the murder of many of them as well as the wide spread looting of their cattle.

ii. The deliberate formulation of policies by the Plateau State government which are discriminatory to the Jasawa community generally, particularly the Hausa and Fulani communities, designed to undermine their business interests, subvert their settlements and deny them their constitutional rights.

iii. The scale of destruction of the lives, private property and business establishments of the targeted socio-cultural groups seem clearly designed to dispossess, and expel, such groups from the communities they had founded, built and constructed, some well over one and a half centuries ago.

iv. Evidence of the organized massacre of members of certain ethnic groups clearly indicates genocide aimed at ethnic cleansing. Views indicating a commitment to the pursuit of policies of virulent tribalism are usually expressed by some of the leading state and party officials in support or justification of this.

v. The failure of the political party and its governments, as well as the security officials under their control, to check this development is further supported by the very partial, divisive, as well as belligerent attitudes and unbecoming commentaries of some of the highest ranking officials in the state. This is further evidence of why the crises continue to fester without any end in sight.

vi. Reported incidences of various attempts by some of the most highly placed officials in the state, and their supporters, to expropriate the landed properties and business interests of their victims also abound and greatly deserve to be looked into. This is in addition to the established case of the abduction of 135 Muslim women as well as children and their subjection to forced labour and sexual slavery at Yelwan Shendam since 2005.

vii. The state government under the influence of governor Jonah Jang has also initiated the practice of identifying, and deporting, certain Nigerians, from Plateau to other states. This is not only unconstitutional but dangerous, because it is a practice which poses a very serious threat to the most basic right of each and every Nigerian citizen as well as the unity of the nation. It deserves to be investigated, prosecuted and arrested before it spreads to other states, with disturbing consequences.

Based on the above considerations many well-meaning individuals and organizations have come to the conclusion that there is a need for an independent judicial commission of enquiry to urgently look into the causes, nature and conduct of these crimes in order for justice to be done and be seen to be done.

The contentious nature and character of the issues and interests involved in the Jos crisis require that it is transparently, justly and fairly handled if a lasting solution is to be found to it. An impartial investigation of this problem can only be properly handled by those who are not involved, or in any way implicated, in the conduct of their occurrences. That is why in addition to calling for international involvement in the investigations many are also insisting that panels set up to investigate the crises, at both state and federal levels, should be seen to be composed of those who are in no way party to these crises and should also be seen to be

CAMPAIGN FOR JUSTICE IN NIGERIA

independent of subterranean political influences. In this respect we believe that the panels set up by the Federal Government, under the chairmanship of Solomon Lar, whose involvement and biases in the crises are obvious, does not indicate any sensitivity to the need for impartiality and fairness in the conduct and objectives of the investigation. We call on both the Federal and State authorities to demonstrate that they have nothing to hide, and do not certainly seek to deny justice to whom it is due, by allowing independent, transparent, impartial, fair and above board investigations of the crises that could lead to just and lasting solutions.

Clearly the development of this so-called ethnic crises in Jos betrays special traits which significantly differentiate it from other forms of communal conflicts in the country and which mark it as, potentially, the most destructive and dangerous occurrence so far. Its extremely jaundiced character is informed by a peculiar attempt to deny the Hausa, and Muslim, communities in Jos the right to choose, even by way of popular democratic votes, their own representatives and leaders. There is rather a determination to impose on them those chosen by the authorities on the pretext of indigene/settler differences. Nowhere in the history of Nigeria has this ever happened anywhere. In the first and second Republics a number of non-indigenes contested and won elections in their areas of residence such as in Enugu and Sabon Garin Kano respectively. A foreigner who studied the dimensions of the crises in Jos noted this, and specifically draws attention to the fact that "the present extension of claimed indigene rights to political control of LGA's by fraud or by force if necessary should be curtailed".

It is of equal significance to note that no one, so far, has ever contested the rights of so-called "non-indigenes" to the ownership of their homes and settlements in the various GRAs, Sabon-Garis, Tudun Wadas and other such related wards in our various urban centres or, indeed, the lawful ownership of property in any other form in any part of such states in contradistinction to the current stand the authorities in Plateau tend to adopt against certain ethnic and religious groups.

We are fully concerned that this effort to deny Nigerian's the right to elect their own representatives, and run their legitimate businesses, through a series of orchestrated civil disturbances, terrorism, genocide and ethnic cleansing constitutes a most grievous assault on basic citizenship rights enshrined in the Nigerian constitution as well as its efforts to build a democratic and united nation, in addition to its international commitments in respect of human rights and the war against terrorism. Reports on the genocidal campaigns at Kuru Karama, Dorawa Karama and other towns in Jos North and Jos South Local Government Areas deserve to be urgently looked into.

III. Demand for Independent, Impartial, National and International, Investigations of the Jos Crises.

The crisis threatens constitutional democracy in the country, precisely because it violates all the constitutional provisions on the rights of Nigerian citizens as well as the provisions on legislative and judicial checks on executive power. It calls into question the conduct of the state security system and also exposes the total, and persistent, executive incapacity of the chief security officer of the state, Governor Jonah Jang to protect the lives, properties and well being of citizens in the state, in compliance with his oath of office. In addition it makes a mockery of all forms of international human rights conventions to which Nigeria is a signatory. Furthermore it highlights the failure of the Nigerian state at its gravest level, in terms of its inability to protect the lives, properties and well being of its citizens. Despite being a signatory to the so-called war on terrorism its own innocent and defenseless citizens, at home, are left at the mercy of criminal thugs and genocidal maniacs. This trend must be arrested in favour of just and democratic governance under the rule of law.

These trends have not only continued but escalated because the government in power has not been able to bring to book the perpetrators of such evil deeds in various parts of the country. On the contrary, and in violation of the law, there has only been a tendency to shield such criminals rather than prosecute them.

As a result of this situation many ordinary Nigerians, in the hundreds of thousands, have lost their lives without any positive and prohibitive action from the authorities concerned. Similarly millions more have lost limbs, relatives and property as a result of such mayhems without any hope for justice whatsoever. Many more have become orphaned, widowed and rendered homeless as well as destitute on account of the failure of the authorities to guarantee their security as lawful and rightful citizens of Nigeria.

It is gratifying to see the overwhelming and positive reaction of many concerned men of God, patriots and humanists from within, as well as outside, Nigeria in favour of moving Nigeria in the direction of peace, justice and constitutional democracy. Religious leaders at various levels, and through a number of interfaith councils, have openly condemned such incidences and dissociated them from the noble teachings of our great religions - Christianity and Islam, as well as our local cultures founded on the principle of being our

brothers keepers. It is time that Nigerians stand up to ensure that the name of God is invoked only in promoting good and Godly endeavours towards peace and harmony rather than the perpetration of evil and devilish acts of murder, arson, robbery, rape etc. It is also time that we as Nigerians stand up for building the country as abode for the rule of law, peace and basic rights for all its citizens. These are necessary if we are to contribute, rather than subtract, from the march of humanity to greater progress based on respect for the lives, rights and liberties of all human beings.

It is in the light of this that we urge all Nigerians to continue to rally around the following basic objectives in order to ensure peace, justice and progress in the country and hence we call upon the Federal Government of Nigeria to:

1. **Relieve the failed Plateau State government of its responsibilities in favour of a more competent and purposeful administration that will be able to steer the development of the state towards peace, security, constitutionalism and the over all prosperity of its peoples in line with the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.**
2. **Enforce the provisions of the constitution in respect of citizenship rights along with the required democratic reforms that should ensure accountability through separation of powers at the level of political parties as well as between the executive, legislative and judicial organs, in order to contain dictatorial tendencies and the abuse of the issue of indigene/settler syndromes for political purposes.**
3. **Establish a credible, non-partisan, non-hired and impartial national panel to investigate and bring to book the perpetrators of the recent and past crises in Jos. A similar process should also be initiated in all other cases of such mayhems in the country, which have been left unattended to so far.**
4. **Ensure that justice is done through the provision of full compensation and protection to the victims of such conflicts.**
5. **Enforce the laws against hate-mongering, incitement to violence and discrimination on the basis of creed, race, gender or ethnicity.**
6. **Facilitate the immediate International and independent Investigations of such hate crimes by the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN) and other relevant international organizations in the light of the need to prosecute suspects charged with crimes against humanity.**
7. **As a matter of responsibility all Nigerians should actively participate in the affairs of their political parties with a view to ensuring that they are operated towards the achievement of professed party goals and our constitutional national objectives, rather than reduced to instruments for the pursuit of selfish interests and antinational agendas.**
8. **Ensure effective provision of aid and various support services to cater for the victims of these disasters who are currently in distress and state of total shock and confusion.**

In conclusion it is our firm conviction that only transparent, just and constitutional approach to violent crises could lead to the provision of lasting solutions to these problems. In turn only such credible and durable inclinations could provide the foundations for effective national unity, as well as sovereign and popular democracy in the country. We therefore further emphasize on the need for the relevant authorities in the country to fully address the issues raised above.

Just before going to press with this position paper a reprisal attack by aggrieved Fulani herdsmen/pastoralists on three Birom villages of Dogo Nahauwa, Ramsat and Kamang led to the death of hundreds of people. This is a most graphic illustration of the kind of descent into anarchy that the failure of the government, in the provision of security and justice, could breed. This crisis must not be reduced into a meaningless blame-game between inchoate, indeterminable and inculpable ethno-religious groups but treated rather as the orchestrated outcome of the criminal conduct of certain culpable individuals and organizations, as well as the dereliction of responsibilities by specific agents and agencies in the manner specifically defined by the laws of the country. To prevent criminal activities and deal with them in accordance with the laws whenever, wherever and by whosoever they are perpetrated is the only way to contain the situation. Selective justice occasioned by ethnocentrism, religious bigotry or cheap political scheming is not an option if justice, national unity, integrity and development are our primary objectives.

For: The Coalition For Justice Under The Auspices Of The Network For Justice

Mallam Bala Abdullahi Hadejia
Secretary

Dr. Sule Bello
Chairman

Organization

1. Network for Justice
2. Rights Based Coalition (RIBAC)
3. Jos Stakeholders Forum
4. Jasawa Development Association
5. Nigerian National Advancement Forum
6. Youth Global Vision for Peace in Africa
7. Bukuru Development Association

Name

- Prof. Ibrahim N. Sada
Bar. Mustapha Idris
Bala Muhammad Inuwa
Garba Shehu
Mu'azu Yusuf
Abdulmajid B. Sa'ad
Isa Muhammad Borodo



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER

ADDENDUM TO ADVERTISEMENTS

The Federal Ministry of Power had, in its recent advertisements published in the Federal Tenders Journal, This Day, Daily Trust Newspapers and The Economist Magazine on the 8th, 19th and 22nd March 2010 for the projects listed in table below, **inadvertently omitted a statutory requirement.**

2. Consequently and in compliance with provisions of the Pension Reform Act 2004, the following additional information are required to be submitted for all pre-qualification, Expression of Interest and Tender submissions by Nigerian Firms and Joint Ventures:

- i) Evidence of Employees open Retirement Savings Accounts (RSA) with a Pension Fund Administrator of their choice;
- ii) Evidence of Remittance of both employer and employee pension contributions to the appropriate Pension Fund Custodian not later than 7 days from the date of payment of salaries and
- iii) Evidence of transfer of all Pension Funds and Assets prior to the commencement of the Pension Reform Act to licensed pension operators.

S/No	ADVERT PROJECT TITLE	DATES OF PUBLICATION/ CLOSE OF SUBMISSION	MEDIA
i.	Pre-qualification/Tender for the Supply of IT Infrastructure, Networking and Software Development and Provision of Associated Office Equipment;	8 th March 2010 - 20 th April 2010	Federal Tenders Journal, This Day and Daily Trust Newspapers
ii.	Request for Expressions of Interest from interested Consultancy Firms for Feasibility studies, Engineering Designs and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); (i) Small and medium Hydropower plants (1500MW) (ii) Provision of Synthetic Natural Gas to Egbin Power Station (iii) Crude/Gas Fired Plant 250-300MW (iv) Development and Construction Coal Power Plants at different locations Nationwide;	22 nd March 2010 - 5 th April 2010	Federal Tenders Journal for item (i) only This Day and Daily Trust Newspapers for items (i-iv); and The Economist Magazine for items (ii-iv) only
iii.	Request for Expression of Interest by Consultancy firms for the Preparation of Long Term Support/ Maintenance Services Agreements for Power Plants.	22 nd March 2010 - 5 th April 2010 -	This Day, Daily Trust Newspapers and The Economist Magazine

3. Following these amendments, the submission dates for the documents have been extended by one (1) week, from 20th to 27th and from 5th to 13th April 2010, respectively.

Signed
I.B SALI
Permanent Secretary



FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
National Programme for Food Security (NPFS/ FAO)
(Islamic Development Bank support to NPFS Loan no. NGR (UNI-0031)
National Programme for Agriculture and Food Security (NPAFS)
Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources

IFB N: NPFS/IsDB/NCB/02/10

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE

1. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the Islamic

Development Bank (IsDB) in various currencies towards the cost of National Programme for Food Security Programme. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the Procurement of Farm Tools, Leguminous seeds (cowpea, groundnut and soya beans), fertilizers (NPK 20-10-10, NPK 15-15-15, SSP 0-0-18, Urea, Foliar Micronutrients fertilizer, Organic fertilizer and Ground Phosphate Rock) and Agro-Chemicals.

The National Programme for Food Security Programme now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Procurement of Farm Tools, Leguminous seeds (cowpea, groundnut and soya beans), fertilizers (NPK 20-10-10, NPK 15-15-15, SSP 0-0-18, Urea, Foliar Micronutrients fertilizer, Organic fertilizer and Ground Phosphate Rock) and Agro-Chemicals. Bids will be considered, evaluated and awarded as a whole Lot. Bids for part of a Lot will be considered non responsive.

2. Bidding will be conducted through National Competitive Bidding Procedures specified in the Islamic Development Bank's Guideline: Procurement under Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.

3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the National Programme for Food Security (NPFS) and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 11:00 a.m to 4.00 p.m daily, Mondays to Fridays.

The National Coordinator,
National Programme for Agriculture and Food Security (NPAFS)
127 Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent
Wuse II, Abuja.

Attention: NPFS Procurement Officer
Tel.: 08069551576 or 08055373940

4. A complete set of bidding documents in English Language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee for the sum of Twenty Thousand Naira (N20,000.00) in form of bank draft or cash payable to National Programme for Food Security (NPFS). The document will be sent by courier service or collected by hand.

5. Bids must be delivered to the address in paragraph (5) above at or before 12.00noon on **23rd April, 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than 2.0% of the bid amount. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 12.00noon on **23rd April, 2010** at the Conference Room, National Programme for Agriculture and Food Security (NPAFS) 127 Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent Wuse II, Abuja, F.C.T.

Advert on page 51 respect of Construction Equipping & Consultancy supervision of small scale agro industrial. Factories on Monday edition 29th March 2010 was mistakenly placed. However correct version is hereby placed.

Signed

National Coordinator,
National Programme for
Agriculture and Food Security (NPAFS)
127 Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent
Wuse II, Abuja.

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi receiving a gift from his Malaysian counterpart Dr. Zeti Akhtar Aziz on his recent visit to Malaysia

CBN to learn from Malaysian central bank

By Idris Ahmed

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Bank of Malaysia as the bedrock for the success of its own going banking reforms.

Bank Negara Malaysia (Central Bank of Malaysia) has had an effective financial stability framework since the Asian financial crisis in the 1990s. Malaysia is a developing country that has achieved economic success over time.

CBN embarked on banking reforms last year where it injected N620 billion into eight troubled banks. The second phase of the reform will be the removal of universal banking structure and the emergence of regional and specialized banks.

The two banks will share expertise and exchange relevant information in the areas of Banking Supervision, Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), Microfinance, Islamic Finance, Monetary Policy, Development Finance Institutions and External Reserve Management.

Other areas of interest for CBN include; Institutional arrangement for financial crisis management and resolution, Foreign Exchange Administration, Performance Management and Corporate Strategy, Leadership Development and Talent Management.

Tax: Fuel prices may hit N68.25kobo ifas toll gates return soon

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

PETROLEUM prices may go up by N3.25 kobo to peak at N68.25kobo if the recommendation by the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) gets government approval.

The Chairman, governing board of FERMA Engineer Abdulkadir Kure told newsmen in Lagos that except five percent fuel tax is introduced into the fuel pricing regime in Nigeria for road maintenance, Nigeria may as well forget good roads.

He said FERMA has had consultations with the relevant stakeholders including labour unions and they have all consented to the proposed 5 percent tax regime which FERMA is proposing. "When our board was inaugurated, our first priority was to meet with stakeholders. We met with members of Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), Trade Union Congress (TUC), National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), National Association of Transport Owners (NATO), Luxurious Bus Owners association, and the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory agency (PPPRA). We laid our cards before them clearly and they saw reasons," he said.

He said: "The agency hopes to establish a sustainable funding for its activities through this source (5% road user charge on the pump price of petrol and diesel). It is estimated that the agency stands to generate a total of about N30 billion being 40 percent

of the total sum envisaged. The remaining 60 percent will be shared and utilised by established states road maintenance agencies."

Kure noted that the figures were obtained from Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory agency (PPPRA) based on a daily consumption of petrol at 32 million litres and 12 million litres daily consumption of diesel."

He said when realised, this will assist the agency to have more funds for monitoring and maintaining federal roads nationwide.

He explained that: "The total roads in Nigeria are 220 and just 35 belong to the federal government, the rest belongs to the states and local governments. The 35 roads are about 35000 kilometres and 65 percent of the roads have failed beyond repair. Repairing them will be waste of resources and building one kilometre road in Nigeria will cost at least N35 million on the average. When you multiply that with the total kilometres of bad roads, then you appreciate the resources needed."

He explained further that when the cost of building one kilometre road is multiplied by all the federal roads in Nigeria, the agency will require some N1 trillion. "For us in the past two years, the maximum we have received in funding is N30 billion. If you divide the N30 billion into the N1 trillion, you will require about 35 years to be able to fix all our roads. if you consider other factors, and since we are not reconstructing the roads, we are rehabilitating, we may have to repeat the exercises after two or three years, there is no way that in the next 50 years, we will come out of the

type of problem we have currently, if we don't take drastic actions and if this level of funding persists."

"If the organised labour and the private sector can evolve a transparent collecting and remitting mechanism, we will accept. We will also accept to allow them monitor how the funds are deployed and utilised. All we want is that FERMA should be in the position to carry out its function. We also believe that there should be a separate body, handling road funds and it will disburse to FERMA" he said.

The press briefing attending by all the board members, one representing each geopolitical zone in Nigeria, also said toll gates will return on the national highways.

"The agency intends to reintroduce toll collection on major federal roads and bridges in-order to generate funds for road maintenance. The management of the facility will be different from the former arrangement where only pittance came to the public coffer. Stakeholders in the transportation sector have agreed with the introduction of tolls on our highways once assurance can be given that the proceeds will be used for maintaining the roads" he said. Other sources of revenue to the FERMA, he said include, international vehicles transit charge. The agency also hopes to generate about N7.765 billion for road maintenance from nine of the country's borders and the agency is collaborating with stakeholders on that.

Stock Market Index

Date:	Tuesday, March 30, 2010
Index:	25,836.29
Deals:	10,034
Volume:	497,129,475
Value:	N 4,200,178,471.34
Cap.:	N 6,249,163,559,600.95

Trust Index

Inflation	→	12.3%
GDP	→	6.90%
Budget	→	N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→	\$41bn
Excess Crude Acct	→	\$3.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→	6%
Banks	→	24
Oil Price	→	\$81 a barrel
Power Supply	→	2, 500MW
Oil output per day	→	2.5mbd
Broad Money Supply	→	N10,796,734.5m
Credit to Private Sector	→	N10,018,035.3m
Inter-Bank Rate	→	1.1600%
Treasury Bills	→	2.02%
Deposit Rate	→	12.28%
Prime Lending Rate	→	18.38%

CBN	CBN EXCHANGE RATES			BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)		
CFA	0.2805	0.2905	0.3005	DOLLAR.....N150	
DANISH KRONER	26.6996	26.7901	26.8806	EURO.....N204	
EURO	198.7845	199.4583	200.1321	POUNDS.....N230	
POUNDS STERLING	221.0585	221.8078	222.5571		
RIYAL	39.336	39.4694	39.6027		
SDR	224.0382	224.7976	225.557		
SWISS FRANC	138.7415	139.2118	139.6821	DOLLAR.....N151	
US DOLLAR	147.51	148.01	148.51	EURO.....N206	
WAUA	222.5223	223.2766	224.0308	POUNDS.....N232	
YEN	1.5932	1.5986	1.604	Source: S&J Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.	

NORTHERN BUSINESS

Water melon business as a money spinner in Bauchi

BARA is a road side community in Bauchi State where growing and selling of watermelon is a common place. In spite of the challenges of infrastructure and use of crude farming system, the people are not deterred as shown in this report.

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

ANY passerby along Bauchi-Gombe road will not fail to see watermelons (*Citrus Lanatus*) displayed by the road side in shades at a village called Bara in Kirfi local government area of Bauchi State. The name of the village is becoming synonymous with watermelons. Watermelons are to the average resident of Bara a major source of income.

It is widely grown in the Northern part of Nigeria perhaps due to the average rain fall there.

Watermelon is believed to have originated in the Kalahari Desert of Africa. The first recorded watermelon harvest occurred nearly 5,000 years ago in Egypt and is depicted in Egyptian hieroglyphics on walls of their ancient buildings. Watermelons were often placed in the burial tombs of kings to nourish them in the afterlife.

From there, watermelons spread throughout countries along the Mediterranean Sea by way of merchant ships. By the 10th century, watermelon found its way to China, which is now the world's number one producer of watermelons.

According to the Secretary of Watermelons Farmers and Sellers Association of Bara, 54-year-old Alhaji Mustapha Aliyu Bara, ever since the people of the area discovered that the commodity can be harvested in commercial quantity, watermelons have become their source of livelihood next to other food crops like maize, rice, etc.

This realisation was about 10 years ago. Ever ready market especially in urban centers is available across the country.

"We discovered that watermelons grow very well here as against other cash crops like beans,

groundnuts and cotton. Though, I farm other food crops like rice and maize but after harvest, I plant watermelons as a cash crop.

One of my watermelon farms is 10 hectares and I can get as much as two trailer loads of the commodity during a good harvest from the farm. Our youth here engage in farming watermelons and this has provided them employment to a reasonable extent," Mustapha said.

Daily Trust learnt that on the average, about five trailers are loaded and transported to other urban centres like Port Harcourt, Lagos, Abuja and Kano from Bara daily.

A trailer load of watermelons can cost as much as N2.4 million when the market is good, between November and December, but drops to as little as less than half of that when the market falls.

The highly nutritive fruit is planted around August. 'You first plough your land very well before planting the seeds. You don't need ridges. It is somehow capital intensive because it needs fertilizers which you will have to apply at the beginning and after the crop has started growing,' Alhaji Mustapha told *Daily Trust*.

We need government to support us so that the business can grow. Last season, I spent over N80, 000 just to plough my 10-hectare land alone apart from purchase of fertilizers and other miscellaneous expenses, Mustapha said.

Malam Bala Idris is a 35-year-old resident of Bara, who told *Daily Trust* that he had been engaged in watermelons business for 10 years and it has been his source of livelihood.

He said: "I have two wives. In fact, I was able to marry my second wife in 2005 when I realized a lot from the business. I have seven



ALHAJI Mustapha Aliyu Bara, Secretary, Watermelon Farmers and Sellers Association, Bara with a heap of the product waiting to be transported to Jos, Plateau State.

children. The eldest is in Secondary school while I have four in Primary school and another one in nursery school. I thank God for this business."

He detailed their challenged thus: "We need government to support us so that we can expand the business. We want government to link us up with banks so that we can receive loans. We will also need a processing company nearby so that we can have a ready market for our product. Our other problem is multiple taxation. We pay our local government and state tax on our produce but we are still made to pay to other local governments and states we pass through. It is discouraging."

Another watermelon farmer and seller, Muhammad Ali, 45, married to two wives and a father of 13 children. He said he had been depending on the business for his lively hood and that of the members of his family for the past ten years. He said non availability of fertilisers and insect attacks on their crops were among their

major challenges.

Our correspondent thought to hear from the state commissioner of Agriculture, Alhaji Tanko Dutse, but after visiting his office twice and speaking to him on phone the commissioner said he was not in town.

However investigations revealed that apart from providing a plot of land for the sellers to serve as their market place by the host local government council, nothing appears to be done to boost the multi-million naira business which also appears to have potentials to attract foreign investment.

Other farmers interviewed said they were particularly disturbed by crop diseases infesting their produce. Perhaps officials in the state ministry of agriculture will need to pay more attention to the only source of livelihood of this 'water melon-community.

A competent source at the ministry however told our correspondent on condition of anonymity that the state govern-

ment has no definite plan for the booming watermelon market in the state.

"How can you even think of that when other more important sectors in the Agric ministry are abandoned? These politicians do not care about such things. They are just busy politicking."

Several researches have reported an association between dietary lycopene consumption and lower incidence in diseases such as prostate and oral cancers. Lycopene may also help reduce risks of cardiovascular disease.

Watermelon seeds are excellent sources of protein- both essential and non-essential amino acids) and oil. The seed is about 35% protein, 50% oil, and 5% dietary fiber.

It is also rich in micro- and macro-nutrients such as magnesium, calcium, potassium, iron, phosphorous, zinc etc. Besides, the red flesh, in the Arab world, salted and roasted watermelon seeds are also consumed as a snack.



A trailer load of watermelons can cost as much as N2.4 million when the market is good, between November and December, but drops to as little as half of that when the market falls.



BUSINESS/LABOUR

The agony of casual labourers

By Zainab Mohammed

FOR Timiebi Aligbali, a casual staff with the Kubwa Unit of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), Abuja, February 11, 2010 was just another day on the job.

The News Agency of Nigeria reports that he had done the same job for 11 years since he was engaged as a casual worker for the PHCN after completing a Diploma course in electrical engineering. But the day turned out to be his final on the job as he was electrocuted when he climbed an electric pole to do some repairs.

Expectedly, his death was greeted with some protest by other casual workers of the Kubwa unit of the PHCN. Some of the protesters, who spoke with journalists, said they were angry that the management of the PHCN did not comply with the rules which forbade casual workers from climbing poles. The casual workers, by the rule guiding their engagement, are also forbidden from engaging in other life-threatening activities of the power company.

But for Aligbali's wife and little daughter, the loss of their bread winner was particularly devastating because casual staffs are not entitled to anything from their employers.

"The situation is particularly bad because the casual worker is not entitled to even a funeral grant," laments Sylvestre Aligbali, the late PHCN worker's uncle.

Records from the PHCN shows that the company has thousands of casual labourers across the nation, especially in the main cities. Incidentally, it is not only PHCN that is host to so

many casual labourers. Statistics from the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) show that bulks of workers in the Telecommunication, Oil and Gas sectors are casual labourers.

Other sectors with thousands of casual labourers include Mining, steel, banking and insurance.

A recent report by the Campaign for Democratic and Workers' Rights in Nigeria, an NGO dealing with labour issues, said recently that 45 per cent of Nigeria's labour force is made up of casual workers.

The report expressed the fear that the situation would only worsen as employers seek out ways to reduce cost of doing business. Chief Olumide Adeyemi, a legal practitioner, who specialises in Labour law describes 'casualisation' as a working arrangement that is not permanent in nature.

"It does not fall within the traditional standard employment relationship," he said.

According to him, workers in this arrangement do not have a permanent job status and do not get

the same pay and benefits as their regular permanent coun-



terparts doing the same job and working the same hours.

Adeyemi said that the continued engagement of casual labourers was at variance with provisions of section 17 (a) of the Constitution, which guarantees "equal pay for equal work".

"The section frowns against discrimination on account of sex, or any other ground whatsoever and so the discrimination in pay between permanent and casual employees should not exist," he said.

He lamented that many casual employees do not have letters of employment while many companies do not have records of their casual employees in order to evade the law.

Tracing the history of casualisation of workers in Nigeria, Mr Chinedu Alozie, a senior lecturer in the Department of Industrial Relations, University of Lagos, said that it became a feature of the Nigerian labour market in the late 1980s. "It became prominent when the country adopted the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in line with the neo-liberal policies prescribed by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank."

According to Alozie, one of the effects of this policy was the retrenchment of workers in the public sector, which created large scale unemployment.

"The private sector, which was to be strengthened by government policies to absorb these workers, could not absorb all the retrenched workers from the public sector.

"Because of that, many of the workers were employed as casual and contract workers with low remuneration, limited benefits

and lack of right to organize," he said.

To protect the contract workers, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in 1998 declared in Philadelphia that its member must "respect, promote and safeguard the principles concerning the fundamental rights at work".

The Declaration, although not binding in international law, suggests that member countries have an obligation to respect and promote the fundamental principles involved, whether or not they have ratified the relevant ILO Conventions.

Incidentally, Nigeria has ratified the ILO Convention and is thus obliged to uphold it.

Again, the African Charter, which has been enacted as an Act of Nigeria's National Assembly, provides in Article 15 that, "every individual shall have the right to work under equitable and satisfactory conditions". The Act also says that all Nigerians must receive "equal pay for equal work".

Specifically, the Act states that there should not be any form of discrimination in employment between standard workers and their nonstandard counterparts.

In Nigeria, the campaign against casual labour was intensified by the Nigerian trade unions in 2000, when they embarked on picketing activities on companies believed to be guilty of the offence. But picketing has not yielded the desired result, as the incidence of temporary staffing continues.

For the casual workers, the situation is only worsened by the fact that they are not part of any trade union as they are not fully employed.

Although there has not been

much struggle against casual staffing, the NLC says it has not yet relented in its effort to fight against the use of casual staff.

NLC General Secretary, John Odah, while defending the lull in the union's fight against temporary staffing, dismissed insinuations that the NLC has lost the fight against casualisation.

"On the contrary, the fight against casual or contract staffing by employers in the country is still on and we are planning to take it up as a big issue soon," he said.

Odah, however, accused government of being indifferent to the plight of such category of workers. "That indeed compounds the problem," he said.

He argued that it was the responsibility of the Ministry of Labour and Productivity to see to the welfare of Nigerian workers and ensure that they are treated fairly and justly.

He lamented that government agencies, which should aid labour activities in the country, have joined employers to violate labour laws.

"The Ministry has been empowered by the constitution to safeguard workers, but unfortunately, they have not been doing their job," he said.

Adeyemi, the legal practitioner, agrees with Odah and blames government for not creating adequate policies that will regulate labour relations.

Adeyemi identified food, steel, beverage and engineering outfits as the worst culprits, saying that the unions have tried in vain to end the trend. But government said recently that it was doing its best to check the trend by applying the right laws. According to the immediate past Minister of Labour and

Productivity Aдетokunbo Kayode, the Federal Government has advocated an "effective law" as a means of eliminating the casualisation of staff.

"The moment a law is enacted, everything will be in place, and the idea of casualisation will be eliminated," he said.

For Mr Dimeji Bankole, Speaker, House of Representatives, the trend is "a very unfriendly labour practice". "Casualisation undermines the productivity and efficiency of Nigeria workers," he told members of the House recently.

He said it was in a bid to forestall such practice that the new labour bill was being carefully studied in the House.

But Mr Peter Akpatason, immediate past President, National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG), believes that government must go beyond pronouncements and to the right thing to check the trend. He described casualisation as "one evil that has for long remained the bane of the oil industry".

"NUPENG has made lots of efforts to tackle the problem of casualisation in the oil and gas sector by seeking to convert all contract workers to permanent employees.

"The advent of this global inhuman staffing strategy, which only takes cognisance of cost reductions for investors, has resulted in a gradual drift from decent work to the most precarious work relationship.

"It constitutes the single largest and most contentious challenge to unions worldwide and needs to be quickly addressed by government," he said.

Star Feature

Fake white man': Plight of 60,000 Albinos

Albinos are a highly marginalized group in Nigeria, as well as in other parts of Africa. They are regularly mocked and heckled, have become the subject of ridiculous legends, and often lose out in love and the search for jobs. There are 1.3 million Albinos in Nigeria. Out of this number 60,000 are suffering from skin diseases.

thaniel Jonah

His presence at the Oncology ward of the National Hospital, Abuja drew stares from not a few persons. The big cotton wool which sits prominently on his fair skinned face draws your attention to him. 34 year old Jude Amino's story has been a struggle against skin cancer that has ravaged his frame. Although the illness has claimed his right eye, he still hangs on to life even when his 58 year old father could not. His father is said to have slumped and died on the spot right there at the National Hospital, when he saw how his son has been ravaged by the scourge of skin cancer. The grotesque picture of his son was simply too much for him to bear, hence he simply gave up the ghost. But Jude did not. Having undergone a total of 15 surgical operations at the National Hospital, the Delta state born albino

simply hangs onto life.

While expressing his dilemma, Jude said "the pain was unbearable. I could not sleep without pills, could not move or even eat. I was frustrated and stressed, and spent better part of the day crying. I am emotionally stressed, psychologically traumatized and struggling to keep sane. I was watching myself die."

Tracing the beginning of his ordeal, Jake Epelle, the founder and CEO of "the Albino foundation", a non government organization of fulfilling the vision of enhancing and transforming the lives of albinos in Nigeria told *Daily Trust* "Jude's initial diagnosis and treatment in private hospitals did not improve his situation, until he ended up at the Gwagwalada Specialist hospital, where diagnosis showed that he had skin cancer in 2006."

If Jude's predicament is traumatic, then the case of 36 year Lil-



THERE are 1.3 million Albinos in Nigeria today

lian Anyian, also an albino is even more pathetic. Lillian, a caterer who resides in Nyanya, Abuja first noticed the symptoms of skin cancer on the exposed part of her body in 2006, in the form of boils on her skin. When the boils did not heal, she approached the National Hospital where she was diagnosed of skin cancer. She was told by dermatologists that the cancer cells accumulated in her skin during her teen years, as a result of over exposure to the sun, and that the cancerous cells had eaten deep into her system and had begun to manifest. "I could not believe I was going to live with skin cancer all my life. It was a very hard pill to swallow. Where am I going to get all the money for the six month check ups, she asked rather rhetorically.

Jude and Lillian's travails are further replicated in Barau Philip, a 30 year old albino who lives in Mararaba, a suburb of Nasarawa state. He first noticed the symptoms of skin cancer on his chest, head and back in 1998, which he mistook for boil but after a diagnosis at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital, Zaria, he was told that he had skin cancer.

Speaking further on the challenges of skin cancer on albinos, Jake Epelle, stated "The chief causes of skin cancer are undue exposure to the sun. No Albino is born with skin freckles. For a typical Albino who doesn't take care of his skin, their skin is hard such that you cannot touch it.

Skin cancer creates a sore on a particular part of the skin that is unduly exposed to the sun. It will create a sore and that causes skin cancer and because many of them don't know what it is, they start treating another thing. Unfortunately, most Nigerian doctors do not know anything about albinism. That is why they treat skin cancer as another ailment"

According to Epelle, Over 60,000 albinos are living with severe skin cancer and only 29 albinos have been treated for free at the National Hospital. 90 percent of albinos in Nigeria never knew anything about

“When I approached a lady for a date, she looked at me with a spirit, an incomplete human being. I really felt insulted.



MEMBERS of the Albino foundation



nated against. This things start from yourself. I live a normal life and never allowed albinism to deter me. My Albino friends can't relate with the opposite sex ,but I did everything that a normal person can do. In fact, I do not consider people living with Albinism, as abnormal because we were all created by God."

Speaking on the plight of albinos and the need for acceptance among the public, Danladi Tukur, a civil servant who resides in Lugbe, Abuja told *Daily Trust* "It is wrong and sinful to discriminate against Albinos. I have come across albinos that are extraordinarily intelligent. They should be tolerated and understood as not being responsible for their plight. An insight I have often heard about though not proven scientifically, is that people with this condition should avoid taking salt in their meals, to improve their pigmentation level."

While dispelling the myth surrounding Albinos in Nigeria, Epelle explained further "The myths are just mere superstitions. They say don't eat salt, it's not true, it's not founded. Albinism came as a result of a woman who made love during menstruation, it's not true, it has no foundation. The body parts of albinos can make money, it's not true. They say we see at night, we don't see in the day, it's not true. In fact, we are as blind as the bat in the day. That albinism genes can cure HIV it's not true, and that's why in southern Africa, they rape albinos, hereby infecting them with the disease. Albinos have suffered untold hardship and discrimination. We are called different names by people. For instance, the Yoruba people call us *afin* which is derogatory. The Ibos call us *Anyari*, the Akwa Ibom people call us *Mbakara*, the Edos call us *Ebo*. The Hausas call us *fake white man*."

On the medical conditions responsible for Albinism, Epelle

said "Albinism is simple. It is not a disease. It is not a taboo. It is not a curse. It is simply a lack of pigment called melanin which in most cases is not present among Albinos , and in most cases you find just minor quantity among them. Melanin is the pigment that is responsible for colouration. A black man has a lot of melanin in him, that is why he is black. That melanin is also a protective agent which protects you against the sun and radiation that comes from the sunlight. In the whole of our office, we don't have a fluorescent tube, because it generates the same amount of radiation that you have from the sun. When that happens, the effect is that the person becomes pale in air, eyes and skin."

While disagreeing with the view that Albinism is as a result of genetic disorder, Tope Fabayo, an albino who lives in Suleja, explained "My parents are not Albinos and neither are my children. I don't want to argue with the scientists that Albinism is a kind of hereditary condition which they have attributed to the lack of pigmentation in our skin. But I can tell you that God has a purpose for creating Albinos, and He has not made any mistake about that. Being an Albino is divinely orchestrated. I stand on what God says that he has created all things beautiful and wonderful. There are many issues now that are proving scientists wrong. For instance, they say that albinism is a disorder, forgetting that God has something in mind for creating albinos. If they say albinism is a disorder, what happens with people that start losing pigmentation, not at birth, but as they are growing? These are people with white spots. Scientists don't know why this happens. There is albinism in plants, mammals, snakes, and others. So, when people say lack of pigmentation in Albinos' skin is a disorder, they are simply saying that God made a mistake."

Corroborating Epelle's explanation, Dr. Suleiman Garba, a medical doctor in Abuja said that "In albinism, there are two categories. There is what is called ocular albinism and oculacutaneous albinism. The ocular albinism has to do with somebody who is able to generate the melanin, but his eyes are only affected. You discover that some of the black people you see who have half past four eyes , suffer from this type of albinism. Within the category of oculacutaneous albinism, you will find six different types of albinism like the ones that is called OCA1, OCA2 TO OCA6. So within that category, you are OCA1 or 6 based on the region you are born. Most Africans fall between 3, 4 or 5.



JAKE Epelle, CEO of the Albino foundation

skin cancer until now. Parents are always shy to tell people about their albino children, because they go through a lot of trauma.

One of the greatest challenges confronting albinos in Nigeria is the risk of skin cancer as a result of exposure to sun rays. "if for instance, it will take about one hour thirty minutes for a black man to contact skin cancer as a result of exposure to sun rays, I would be infected in less than ten minutes." Says Afam Kassimauwunam, also an albino who resides in Abuja.

Aside from the grim reality of skin cancer, albinos in Nigeria contend with discrimination from members of the society who see them as abnormal.

30 years old Donald Tampi from plateau state told *Daily Trust* "Albinos have been discriminated against all over the place. Personally, I was discriminated against when I applied for the inspector cadet post at the Nigerian police force. The authorities complained about my skin and said they cannot employ me. Even my parents had to suggest that I quit in 2004. I feel bad and frustrated most times, and ask why God created me as an albino. My parents encouraged me a lot. That I should come out of the inferiority complex , and help myself to succeed. I try to do a few things to survive with which I was able to pay my school fees. My fellow albinos too suffer discrimination in their work places too. I suffered a lot of discrimination back in my school days , because of my bad eyesight. My classmates made mockery of me and abused me. When I approached a lady for marriage, she told me I am a spirit, an incomplete human being therefore, she cannot marry me. I really felt insulted."

Taking a different viewpoint from Tampi, Afam Kassimauwunam, explained to this medium that he refused to be intimidated by other members of the society because of his skin colour. In his words, "If you agree to discrimination, then you will be discrimi-

marriage, she told me I am a
being therefore, she cannot marry

“The Ibos call us
Anyari, the Akwa
Ibom people call
us Mbakara, the
Edos call us Ebo.”

BUSINESS

Customs to get 100 per cent salary increment

By Sunday Williams

MEN and officers of the Nigerian Customs Service will soon smile as the Comptroller General of the service Dikko Abdullahi Inde has secured the nod of the Federal Government to increase the salaries of its men and officers.

A press release signed by the Public Relations Officer FCT Area Command, Abuja Mr. Eke Chukwuma attributes the statement to Customs Area Controller in charge of Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja Command, Comptroller Usman Kankara Bello, who said that the Comptroller General is concerned that staff of the Customs Service are the least paid, among revenue earning agencies of government, such as the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation [NNPC] and Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), among others.

Comptroller Bello said the CG has made significant achievement



Comptroller General of the Nigeria Customs Service Dikko Abdullahi Inde

within the short time he assumed office.

One of his achievements, he said, "He has successfully conducted promotional exercise

twice, which witnessed a massive promotion of officers from the rank of Comptroller down the ladder.

"The era of stagnation, whereby officers remain in one rank for over 10 years is a thing of a past. For now, "the delay associated with the released of promotions, after examinations and interview is now history".

Our reporter says previously, promotions after examinations and interviews were often released after one year of sitting for the examination.

Furthermore, he disclosed that the CG has embarked on massive construction of barracks across all the Area Commands in the federation, adding that he has also secured approval of over N4billion from the Federal Government to purchase 120 new housing units in Kuje Area of Abuja to accommodate all officers serving in the Customs in the Headquarters in

Abuja and FCT Area Command.

This, he said will to a large extent solve the perennial accommodation problems faced by officers, serving in Abuja.

"When one considers the exorbitant rent charged by Abuja land lords, one cannot help but hail the CG's prompt intervention in this area." Comptroller Bello emphasized.

Operationally, Bello pointed out that the CG has replaced the rifles used by officers on patrol from G3 to AK 47 Assault rifles, bearing in mind that, the G3 rifles have become insolate, thereby making it possible for the Customs patrol officers to fall victim to dare devil smugglers, who are armed with more sophisticated weapons.

Also, he explained that the CG has cleared all the outstanding allowances owed officers, especially transfer and leave grants, which has in no small measure

motivated the officers to greater productivity, as previously officers on transfers across the nation were not paid their due allowances to enable them settle down in their new area of posting.

Since the new CG's assumption of duty, Bello stated, more revenue for government has been collected and duly accounted for, while more seizures of contraband goods were made in a concerted efforts to checkmate smuggling activities nation-wide.

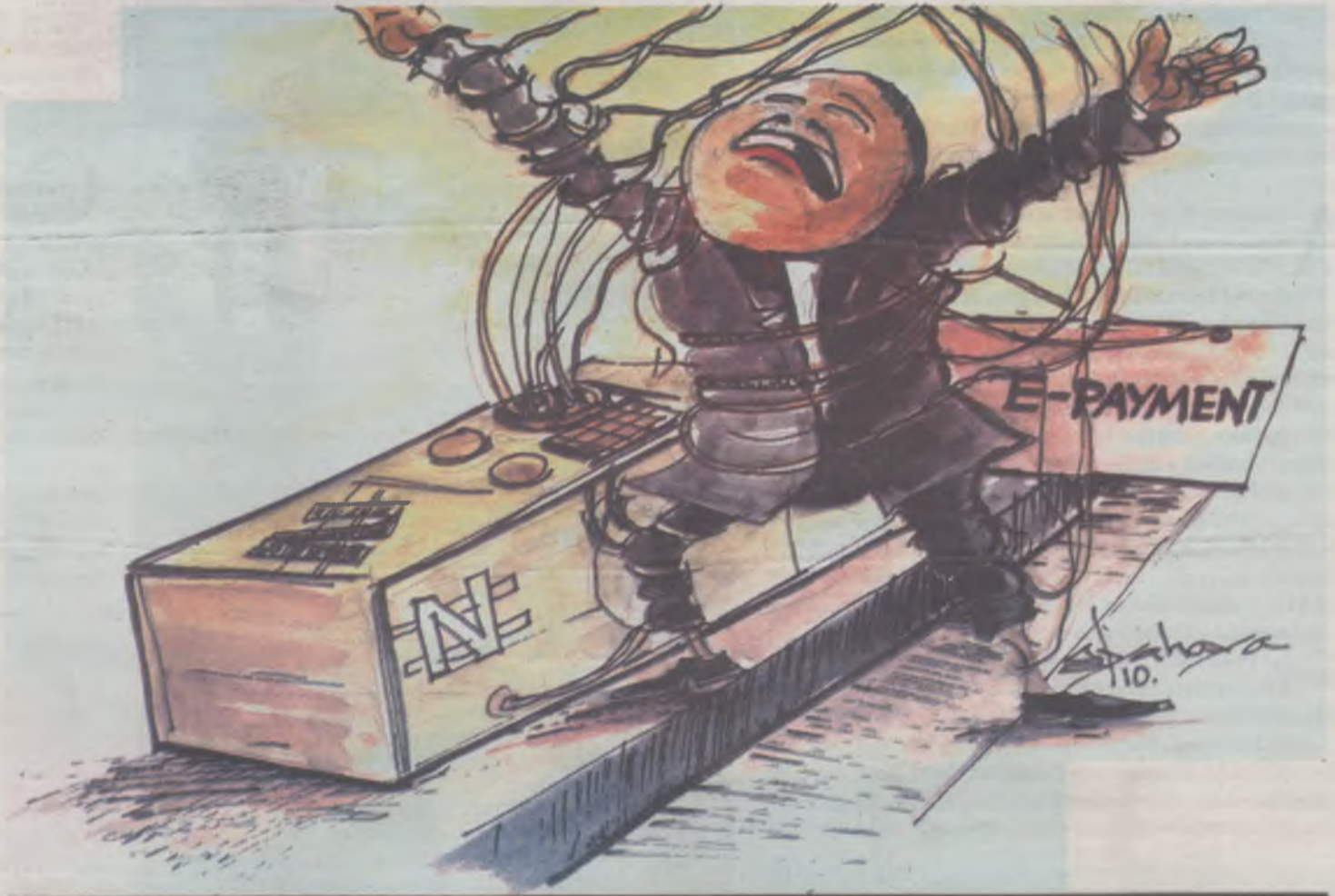
Following the CG's numerous and spectacular achievements, Comptroller Bello therefore urged the two newly promoted controllers, alongside 44 others and indeed all officers of the Customs Service to reciprocate the CG's good gesture by giving him their maximum support and co-operation to enable him take the service to a higher level, "saying that the Customs has never had it so good".

AERO offers N3, 000 on domestic routes

AERO Airline is offering a N3, 000 Naija Fare on all domestic routes to support the Naija TV reality show on HiTV. The promo tagged "Naija Fare" covers the Economy Class Cabin of the airline's fleet and is already on sale until 13th of April for flights from 23rd April to 30th June, 2010. The offer gives enormous savings option and is available online for passengers who book ahead and pay online. The Reality show with Eighteen contestants from the six geo-political zones in Nigeria would be aired daily on HiTV for eight (8) weeks.

Oracle Insurance gets boost

AN analyst organization that provides insight on markets, operations and technology to financial services and insurance executives- Oracle Insurance Claims Solution-has received a boost. A statement said: "The report highlights the solution's extensive feature set, citing that "not only is Oracle Insurance Claims Solution bursting with robust end-to-end core functionality that demonstrates a thorough knowledge of claims, it delivers some unique features that stand out from the crowd.



E-payment slows down government businesses, accountants have said.

Qatar Airways arrives Bengaluru

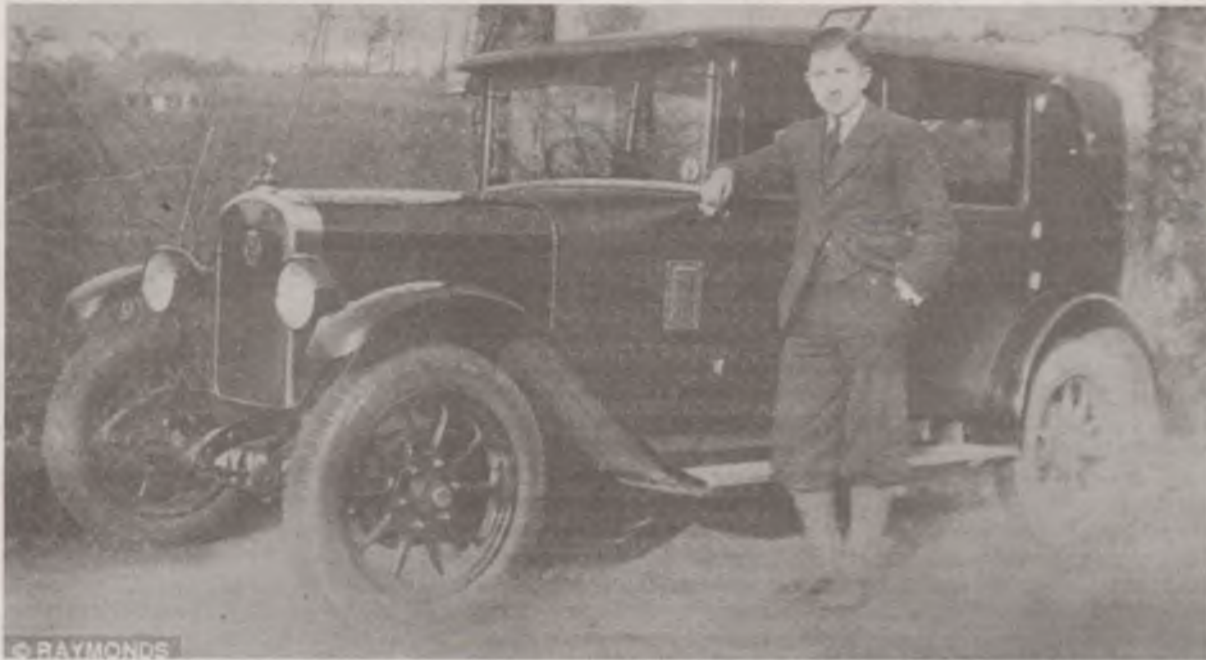
QATAR Airways has embarked on its 2010 global expansion programme with the launch of scheduled flights to the southern Indian city of Bengaluru (Bangalore), a statement said.

"FLIGHT QR226 arrived in the country's IT capital city - dubbed India's Silicon Valley - in the early hours of this morning following its maiden non-stop overnight journey from the airline's hub of Doha, capital of the

State of Qatar," it said. Bengaluru, the State capital of Karnataka, becomes the first of several new route launches being planned by Qatar Airways during 2010, it added. It said scheduled flights are set to be introduced to Copenhagen on March 30; Ankara on April 5; Tokyo on April 26; Barcelona on June 7 and Sydney at a date to be confirmed, together with a raft of capacity increases on many other routes worldwide.

BUSINESS / MOTORING

81 yr-old car kicks after 50 yrs in garage



GLORY days: The Austin with its current owner's father Leslie Bulled

IT may have been built during the dark days of the 1929 Wall Street Crash, but back then the British knew how to make cars that lasted.

The tatty Austin 12/4 had been languishing in a garage for almost five decades when Roger Bulled decided to take a look at the old family jalopy.

He thought after standing still for so long the rare fabric bodied motor his dad had driven since it was all shiny and new would have seized up, but how wrong he was.

The 81-year-old vehicle with just one very careful owner had not moved an inch under its own steam since his father Leslie parked her up for the last time.

But in an incredible tribute to 1920s British engineering the Austin's engine turned over despite the car being off the road since 1961.

Retired Roger, 63, from

Metheringham, Lincolnshire, said he could not believe it when he discovered the old car - which had been locked away in his father Leslie's garage since 1973 - was still in working order.

'I pumped up the tyres and they stayed up,' Mr Bulled said.

'The rubber is cracked but the inner tubes are obviously still intact, which is remarkable really.'

'And the engine turned over when we tried it with the starter handle, but I didn't try to start her up in case I did any damage but I'm sure it would go.'

'I've never seen another fabric bodied saloon, even in a museum.'

The car, which was built at the company's Longbridge factory in Birmingham, comes complete with an Austin 12 handbook, the licence belonging to its only

driver, and a black and white photograph showing the car in its prime.

Mr Bulled explained: 'My grandparents bought it in 1929 for my father to drive them around in. We lived in Barnet in North London and used to go on holiday to Cornwall or Devon.'

'We used to set off very early in the morning, so I used to sleep on the floor in the back, there was no transmission tube so it was flat, and my sister laid on the back seat.'

'It had none of the safety features you get today, there was no seatbelts and it wasn't a high performance car.'

'I was taken off the road in 1961, that's the last time it was taxed and it's never had an MOT.'

Roger's father passed away in 2008 at the age of 95, but he had been driving up until 12 months before his death.

The Austin 12/4 was introduced in 1921 - the second of Herbert Austin's post-First World War models. It was built right up until 1940 - the last off the production line was sent to the War Department - but fabric bodies were phased out in 1931.

Mr Bulled added: 'My dad retired when he was 62 and kept saying he was going to do it up, but he never got round to it.'

'I used to build kit cars but I was never into vintage cars, and my son was never interested either, even though he's a mechanic, but it's something we would love to see restored.'

'I'm going to the sale because I would be interested to know who buys

it, hopefully someone who cherishes it.'

The car is expected to attract nationwide interest when it goes under the hammer at Unique Auctions in Lincoln on April 5.

Auctioneer Terry Woodcock said he was amazed when he saw the car for the first time. 'I can't believe it is complete and standing square,' he added. 'The suspension hasn't even sagged.'

'I'm told six months ago they were considering putting it in a skip. But the wheels alone are worth £100 each - it's incredible.'

'Restored it will cost a fortune, but for someone it will be a labour of love, and it will be lovely because you

don't see vintage cars around anymore.' (Daily Mail).



STILL running: The functioning 1929 Austin 12/4 was last moved in 1961

PAN gets new Managing Director, COO



ALHAJI Shehu Sani Dauda, Managing Director PAN

By Sunday Williams

THE Board of Directors of Peugeot Automobile of Nigeria (PAN) has approved the appointment of Alhaji Shehu Sani Dauda and Mr. Pradyumna Gupta as the Managing Director and Chief operating officer designate respectively.

This is in line with keeping to the well laid out succession plans of the organization, a statement from PAN said.

It said: 'Alhaji Shehu Sani Dauda succeeds Dr. Haroun Ibrahim Aliyu, a turn-around expert who in the last two years has spearheaded the repositioning of the foremost automobile company and is credited with originating market driven futuristic plans and strategies, which cornerstone is diversification of core business areas in response to key post privatization challenges. Under his watch, PAN became the first company north of the Niger to implement the System Application Product (SAP), universally adjudged software for best business practices.'

The outgoing MD describes the broad based succession plan he had instituted in the company as a 'commitment to the adherence of corporate governance of which transparency in succession among all cadre is a cardinal element'. He added: 'I am therefore pleased as I bow out that I am being succeeded in accordance with the tenets and spirit of a new PAN that is anchored on continuity and growth.'

The statement said Alhaji Shehu Dauda, who assumes office in April, holds a Master's degree in Marketing from the University of Salford, UK; a Bachelor's degree in business studies.

He has deep understudy of the company's operations having served as Manager, Logistics and Supply, Executive Director, Management Services Directorate and subsequently Deputy Managing Director.

He is a Council Member of the Kaduna Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (KADCCIMA) and holds membership of the Rotary Club, Batta, United Kingdom. Alhaji Shehu Dauda is married with a child, loves football, driving and spending quality time with his family.

Mr. Pradyumna Gupta, an Indian, is a chartered accountant with immeasurable experience in electrical and automobile Industries brings in over 20 years of international and top management experience as the Chief Operating Officer. He was until his current appointment the Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Mecaplast India, an automotive component manufacturing company.

PAN Nigeria also announces the temporary relocation of its Lagos Commercial Operations office to its distribution center located in Ojoo area of Lagos. This temporary location is pending the completion of its permanent Lagos commercial office under construction.

BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL

Innovative financial tools put Kenya on growth path

INCREASED access to finance, and the development of new and innovative financial instruments for Kenya's micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, is key to achieving Vision 2030.

Finance is an important driver of economic growth, and access to finance for individuals and smaller businesses is a crucial indicator of economic development.

There have been significant improvements in access to finance since 2006. Between 2006 and 2009, the number of Kenyan adults with access to formal or semi-formal financial services increased from 26.4 per cent to 40.5 per cent.

This is an enormous achievement and it is largely due to the success of M-PESA, the money transfer system introduced by Safaricom in 2007. In just three years, M-PESA grew from a start-up mobile transfer service to a financial network with more than eight million customers, 13,000 agents and more daily transactions than Kenya's entire banking system--though only some customers are currently using these services to save money.

Growth in the microfinance sector, which doubled its market share over 2006-09, also contributed to this achievement, though it still represents a mere 3.4 per cent of the financial services market.

Formal banking has also grown in Kenya recently, with access rising from 18.9 per cent in 2006 to 22.6 per cent in 2009. We have all seen the huge increase in the number of ATMs nationwide (there were less than 200 in 2002 and more than 1,400 today), but there have also been changes that we cannot see so easily. *africa-investor.com*



MWAI Kibaki of Kenya



Zimbabwe's industrial growth slows down

ZIMBABWE'S industry, which experienced a fair growth last year, could slow down due to increasing external competition, capital constraints and lower remuneration, a Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries senior official has said.

CZI public relations manager Mr Kudakwashe Matare said high production costs, poor infrastructure and low disposable incomes were some of the constraints that could slow economic growth.

"It is our view that while 2009 experienced a rapid growth in industry performance from about 10 per cent to about 33 per cent capacity utilisation, the rate of growth may slow down," said Mr Matare.

"The major cause being regional and international competition impacting on local industry, lack of long-term finance to expand from the current levels of production, high production costs

inclusive of remuneration levels, low consumer demand and poor performance of infrastructure."

He was speaking at the official launch of a four-day Career Fair organised by local human resource consultants, Placement Plus, yesterday.

The fair provides companies with an opportunity to showcase the different career paths with their respective organisations to final year students at universities,

technical colleges and high schools across the country.

It will also help students to realise that Zimbabwe companies still have a lot to offer in terms of career opportunities.

Speaking at the same function, Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara said as Government moves towards value addition of natural resources, Zimbabwe would require different skills. *africa-investor.com*

Foreign interest in Libya bank license

STANDARD Chartered, HSBC, UniCredit and Banco Espirito Santo are among the foreign banks that have applied for a Libyan banking license, Libya's central bank chief said.

"There are many banks which have applied for a license, including HSBC, Standard Chartered, UniCredit and Espirito Santo," the bank's Governor Farhat Benghdara said, adding a decision on the first license will be made in July.

Benghdara also said the central bank was putting 20 billion Libyan dinars from its reserves into a fund,

designed to promote diversification of the economy, from which foreign and local investors will be able to draw loans.

"This is a small part of the resources through which we seek to ... participate in the diversification and the development of the Libyan economy," Benghdara told the Libya Business and Investment Summit in Tripoli on Tuesday.

Libya nationalised all privately owned banks, whether owned by foreigners or locals, early in 1970s after Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi took over in a bloodless

military coup.

During the past few years, since Gaddafi renounced banned weapons programmes and international sanctions were lifted, Libya has been liberalising its laws to attract foreign investment, including in the archaic banking sector.

Libya sold 19 per cent stakes in two state-owned banks to two foreign banks in 2007 and 2008, and this year it announced that for the first time in 40 years that foreigners could apply for licenses to open new banks, provided they had a Libyan partner. *(Reuters)*



MUAMMAR Gaddafi of Libya

African farmland deals need rules, grass-roots warn

LARGE-SCALE foreign leases of African farmland risk driving conflict and fuelling corruption in the region without regulation, regional experts told a conference on agricultural development.

If rules for responsible foreign land investment can be drafted and followed, leases could provide a much-needed

cash infusion for African agriculture, which has struggled to find investment elsewhere.

"What's missing is that it has not been done responsibly enough," said Kanayo Nwanze, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). "Food security is a global issue and global partner-

ship can contribute."

Rattled by the 2008 food crisis, when falling supplies and surging prices sparked unrest in several poor countries, and by the prospect of climate change denting farm output at home, countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar have paid millions of dollars for long-term farmland leases

across Africa.

Investors looking for higher returns have also jumped into the market, and countries like China have locked up African land not just for food but for biofuel production.

Altogether close to 20 countries have leased tens of millions of acres of land in Sudan, Ethio-

pia, Congo, Nigeria and other African countries, agricultural experts say.

The deals have provoked international criticism, not least because opponents fear the proceeds may end up in the hands of politicians rather than small farmers who could be pushed off their land. *(Reuters)*

BUSINESS / FINANCE

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	21	0.54	2,961,253	1,599,076.62
SECTOR Totals	21		2,961,253	1,599,076.62
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	20	1.07	1,186,881	1,269,962.67
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	30	0.75	1,484,981	1,106,533.91
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC	3	6.21	43,100	267,279.00
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	1	21.62	960	19,718.40
PRESCO PLC	14	6.13	572,518	3,501,904.64
SECTOR Totals	68		3,288,440	6,165,398.62
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERV. & LOGIST. PLC	15	2.99	282,590	844,944.10
NIG/AVIAT. HAND. COY PLC	106	12.12	1,025,499	12,429,047.88
SECTOR Totals	121		1,308,089	13,273,991.98
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	5	0.50	62,388	31,194.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	50	6.68	2,357,365	15,747,198.20
SECTOR Totals	55		2,419,753	15,778,392.20
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	187	10.68	10,310,199	108,600,696.48
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	98	2.70	7,507,455	21,084,995.94
DIAMOND BANK PLC	141	9.50	13,383,610	129,429,838.13
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	108	7.02	3,575,233	25,931,083.36
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	97	8.95	5,314,816	47,851,833.40
FIDELITY BANK PLC	322	3.50	47,780,767	170,494,964.62
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	1,005	16.39	24,739,239	398,813,361.49
FINBANK PLC	82	0.70	5,998,910	4,257,933.68
GTBANK PLC	388	21.98	29,274,494	643,453,378.12
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	81	11.50	2,861,264	32,776,385.11
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	86	2.07	2,533,504	5,242,972.38
OCEANIC BANK INTERN. PLC	169	2.10	6,977,157	14,582,077.18
BANK PHB PLC	121	1.68	5,436,783	9,263,859.48
SKYE BANK PLC.	224	8.20	15,724,560	132,049,783.53
SPRING BANK PLC	20	0.96	513,293	476,659.33
STERLING BANK PLC	51	2.67	3,565,979	9,521,163.93
UNT. BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	331	15.20	18,157,250	277,910,741.86
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	193	6.05	5,836,428	35,501,920.14
UNITYBANK PLC	43	1.02	6,984,665	7,197,511.00
WEMA BANK PLC	77	1.05	5,088,898	5,421,938.57
ZENITH BANK PLC	373	19.96	24,162,695	482,287,392.20
SECTOR Totals	4,197		245,727,199	2,562,150,489.93
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	113	19.89	2,820,690	55,443,634.28
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	59	64.00	796,090	49,744,201.70
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	24	20.94	661,104	13,843,517.76
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	53	35.49	989,448	34,558,974.63
SECTOR Totals	249		5,267,332	153,590,328.37
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	7	5.67	111,928	634,631.76
CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC	2	29.67	1,416	42,030.00
DN MEYER PLC	3	3.40	5,500	18,700.00
SECTOR Totals	12		118,844	695,361.76
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	10	3.81	108,310	412,641.10
CHELLARAMS PLC	2	14.13	7,000	94,010.00
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	53	33.00	506,345	16,540,788.71
TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	73	0.51	9,294,428	4,795,101.51
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	93	53.00	1,557,351	82,051,729.88
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	174	29.51	2,456,900	72,679,655.45
SECTOR Totals	405		13,930,334	176,573,926.65
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	40	6.12	1,164,007	7,123,722.84
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	59	33.08	2,780,416	91,976,161.28
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	2	0.50	725,000	362,500.00
SECTOR Totals	101		4,669,423	99,462,384.12
ENGINEERING TECH.				
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	13	0.55	726,711	401,003.05
SECTOR Totals	13		726,711	401,003.05
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOB.				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	13	32.13	10,637	358,786.01
BIG TREAT PLC	22	0.94	2,183,040	2,052,057.60
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	91	19.75	2,587,362	50,087,318.10
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	319	19.50	9,177,885	173,954,904.98
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	145	19.61	4,489,184	90,368,432.36
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	79	64.27	445,031	28,602,142.37
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	65	9.01	2,433,520	22,097,663.43
NATIONAL SALT COY NIG. PLC	35	8.98	1,689,087	15,168,001.26
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY PLC	21	34.31	192,537	6,605,944.47
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	41	270.00	89,453	24,243,334.79
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	6	29.33	21,491	627,694.00
TANTALIZERS PLC	19	1.26	3,472,424	4,375,254.24
UNION DICON SALT PLC	6	4.91	147,500	724,225.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	21	0.69	671,191	460,088.19
SECTOR Totals	883		27,610,342	419,725,846.81
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	9	1.26	7,974,737	10,048,168.62
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	93	3.70	8,022,223	29,957,891.00
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	18	28.50	386,845	11,312,752.15
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	12	5.56	978,726	5,441,716.56

What is income stock?

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

Google.com

NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	12	1.77	337,000	596,490.00
PHARMA-DEKO PLC	1	4.97	1,000	4,730.00
UNION DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	53	0.73	5,871,096	4,285,900.08
SECTOR Totals	198		23,571,627	61,647,648.81
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	10	3.37	361,064	1,216,305.68
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	7	2.07	124,500	257,715.00
SECTOR Totals	17		485,564	1,474,020.68
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	6	9.35	13,536	132,788.16
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG.A PLC	4	0.53	131,000	68,530.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	20	5.87	200,400	1,173,061.80
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	4	0.58	101,667	59,169.18
SECTOR Totals	34		446,603	1,433,549.14
INF. & COMM. TECHNOLOGY				
CHAMS PLC	30	0.73	6,221,079	4,541,387.67
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	2	0.50	474,174	237,087.00
STARCOMMS PLC	37	2.46	5,955,846	14,646,281.16
SECTOR Totals	69		12,651,099	19,424,755.83
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INS. PLC	7	0.50	11,750,200	5,875,100.00
AICO INSURANCE PLC.	1,245	1.22	24,018,326	29,283,017.25
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	9	0.98	5,950,000	5,777,000.00
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC.	22	0.55	3,253,800	1,809,005.05
CUST. & ALLIED INS. PLC	35	3.89	3,584,117	13,969,127.95
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	7	0.50	236,400	118,200.00
G/NIGERIA INS. COY PLC	2	0.50	50,000	25,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	18	0.76	631,226	479,731.76
GUARANTY TRUST ASS. PLC	84	3.50	13,096,346	45,678,812.31
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	4	0.50	105,000	52,500.00
CONS. HALLM. INS. PLC	10	0.50	399,300	199,650.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	38	0.53	2,117,334	1,139,684.28
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	42	0.50	4,471,657	2,235,828.50
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	43	0.56	9,711,971	5,228,245.21
MUTUAL BEN. ASS. PLC	112	0.56	8,911,200	4,866,822.50
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	30	0.58	4,176,086	2,422,129.88
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	16	0.78	1,383,200	1,066,423.50
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	3	1.02	175,626	179,138.52
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	5	3.26	45,286	151,833.62
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	7	0.50	6,811,000	3,405,500.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC	2	0.50	9,760	4,880.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	15	0.50	1,050,000	525,000.00
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	8	0.50	390,800	195,400.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	40	0.85	7,077,433	5,857,594.49
UNITY KAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	8	0.56	570,000	319,200.00
UNIVERSAL INS. COY PLC	10	0.50	397,835	198,917.50
INT. WAPIC INSURANCE PLC	23	0.96	2,295,370	2,200,745.13
SECTOR Totals	1,845		112,669,273	133,264,487.45
MARITIME				
JAP/OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC	82	1.62	4,573,097	7,408,417.14
SECTOR Totals	82		4,573,097	7,408,417.14
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS & LOAND PLC	57	0.67	5,472,167	3,679,020.34
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	3	0.50	2,200,000	1,100,000.00
U/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC	45	0.95	1,121,293	1,088,055.45
SECTOR Totals	105		8,793,460	5,867,075.79
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	14	0.95	1,505,152	1,432,500.75
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	26	0.58	759,563	465,600.86
SECTOR Totals	40		2,264,715	1,898,101.61
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MAN. COY PLC	729	3.72	4,046,520	15,053,054.40
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	12	13.00	338,651	4,384,652.12
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	1	6.99	20	133.00
SECTOR Totals	742		4,385,191	19,437,839.52
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	38	40.98	185,265	7,592,159.70
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	18	1.84	778,093	1,324,646.24
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	15	69.79	8,675	629,899.61
CONOIL PLC	27	44.00	32,531	1,438,262.76
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	32	8.59	211,842	1,819,704.18
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	6	107.64	3,251	332,447.26
OANDO PLC	137	81.00	2,870,791	230,089,882.03
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	6	149.62	2,210	347,191.00
SECTOR Totals	279		4,092,658	243,574,192.78
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
ACADEMY PRESS PLC.	1	6.51	2,240	13,865.60
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	3	8.22	20,529	176,544.11
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	28	7.02	1,618,175	11,349,490.40
SECTOR Totals	32		1,640,944	11,539,904.11
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	52	23.30	3,472,991	79,820,859.80
SECTOR Totals	52		3,472,991	79,820,859.80
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOC. BUS COY PLC	15	1.04	1,068,981	

DIGEST

Junk food 'as addictive as heroin and smoking'

BINGEING on junk food is as addictive as smoking or taking drugs and could cause compulsive eating and obesity, a study has found.

American researchers found burgers, chips and sausages programmed a human brain into craving even more sugar, salt and fat laden food.

Scientists at the Scripps Research Institute in Florida found laboratory rats became addicted on a bad diet just like people who became dependent on cocaine and heroin.

While the findings cannot be directly transferred to human obesity, it found that overconsumption of high-calorie food triggered addiction-like responses in the brain.

But the study, published online in *Nature Neuroscience*, suggests for the first time that our brains may react in the same way to junk food as it does to drugs.

Dr Paul Kenny, a neuroscientist who led the research, said the study, which took nearly three years to complete, confirmed the "addictive" properties of junk food.

"Obesity may be a form of compulsive eating," he said.

"Other treatments in development for other forms of compulsion, for example drug addiction, may be very useful for the treat-

ment of obesity.

"The new study explains what happens in the brain of these animals when they have easy access to high-calorie, high-fat food."

He added: "It presents the most thorough and compelling evidence that drug addiction and obesity are based on the same underlying neurobiological mechanisms."

In the study, the research team divided the animals into three groups.

One got normal amounts of healthy food to eat, another was given restricted amounts of junk food and the third had unlimited amounts of cheesecake, fatty meat products, cheap sponge cakes and chocolate snacks.

There were no adverse effects on the first two groups. But the rats which ate as much junk food as they wanted quickly became very fat and started bingeing.

When researchers electronically stimulated the part of the brain that feels pleasure, they found the rats on unlimited junk food needed even more stimulation to register the same level of pleasure as the animals on healthier diets.

"They always went for the worst types of food and as a result, they took in twice the calories as the control rats," said Dr Kenny.

"When we removed the junk



THE study suggests for the first time that our brains may react in the same way to junk food as they do to drugs

food and tried to put them on a nutritious diet – what we called the 'salad bar option' – they simply refused to eat.

"The change in their diet preference was so great that they basically starved themselves for two weeks after they were cut off from junk food," Dr Kenny said the research supported what obese patients have been saying for years that, like addiction to other substances, junk food bingeing is

extremely difficult to stop.

In the rats, the development of obesity coincided with a progressively deteriorating chemical balance in the circuitry of the brain responsible for reward.

As these pleasure centres become less and less responsive the animals quickly develop compulsive overeating habits, consuming larger quantities of high-calorie, high-fat foods until they become obese.

The very same changes occur in the brains of rats that overconsume cocaine or heroin, and are thought to play an important role in the development of compulsive drug use.

The scientists fed the rats a diet modelled after the type that contributes to human obesity easy to obtain high-calorie, high-fat foods. Soon after the experiments began, the animals began to bloat.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Married men live longer ...



Nagging: Wives encourage their husbands to visit the GP

MARRIED men may have longer lives because their wives nag them to see their doctor, research shows. And both men and women in committed relationships are more likely to do regular exercise, adding years to their life, researchers say.

The study, to be presented

at the Royal Economic Society's annual conference at the University of Surrey, sheds new light on the benefits of marriage.

Social scientists found married men were 6 per cent more likely to go to the doctor than single men who had no one to tell them they needed a check-up.

They found women were 34 per cent more likely to keep fit through regular exercise in a relationship, and men were 20 per cent more likely to go out for a run once a week if they were married.

But women were just as likely to go to the doctor if they were single or married. Researchers argue that the findings suggest health authorities should target campaigns towards single men aiming at getting them to visit their GP.

Hendrik Schmitz, of Germany's Ruhr Graduate School in Economics, who conducted the study, said the findings showed the wide range of benefits of being in a long-term relationship.

Mr Schmitz said: "If a woman goes to the doctor, the likelihood of her partner also visiting the doctor increases by 6 percentage points."

"But if the man visits the doctor, this does not seem to affect the woman's behaviour. An individual who is in a relationship usually wants the partner in good health because they care for them."

Rise in mouth cancer may be due to sexually transmitted infection

A sharp rise in a type of mouth cancer may be due to a sexually transmitted infection that also causes cervical cancer, researchers have suggested. There has been a 50 per cent rise in cases of a type of mouth cancer in the last twenty years and the increase appears to be in those linked to the human papilloma virus (HPV), the experts said.

HPV also causes 80 per cent of cervical cancer cases and schoolgirls as young as 12 are currently being vaccinated against the virus in order to prevent the disease. The authors of today's study, published in the *British Medical Journal*, said transmission of HPV through oral sex might be the reason for the increase in cases of mouth cancer.

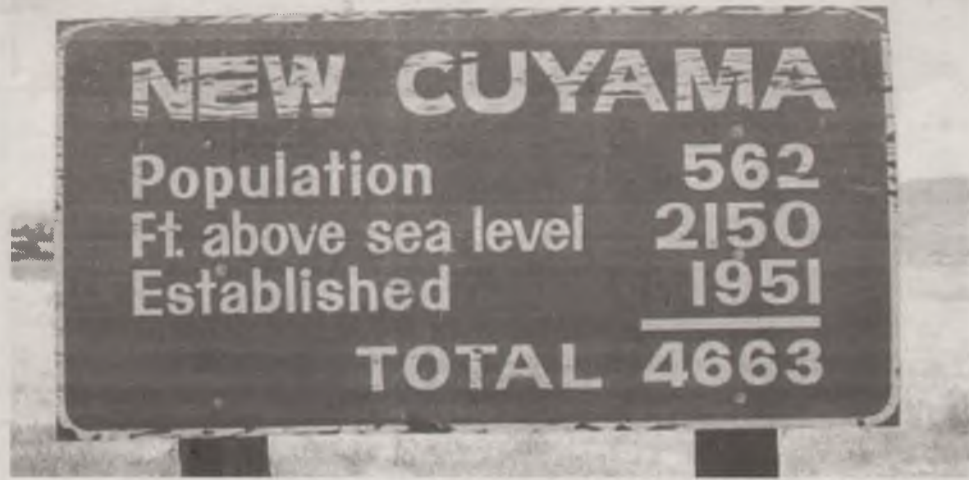
They said consideration should now be given to extending the HPV vaccination programme to boys. Lead author Hisham Mehanna, from the Institute of Head and Neck Studies and Education, University Hospital, Coventry, said HPV-related mouth cancer seemed to be a relatively new disease that was different from non-HPV related cancers in the mouth. Mouth and throat cancers are normally associated with excessive smoking and drinking and they usually strike older people, killing around a third of sufferers within two years. However, HPV-related cases have fairly good survival rate with around eight in ten still alive two years after diagnosis or higher depending on how advanced the cancer was when found.

There are around 1,000 cases of oropharyngeal cancer, which is a type of mouth cancer where the tumour is in the back of the mouth where it joins the throat.

The authors suggested sexual transmission of HPV through oral sex as a possible reason for the increase in those cases linked to the virus. They highlighted research showing that the risk of developing oropharyngeal cancer was increased by 25 per cent in those who had a history of six or more sexual partners. There had been a threefold increase in people with a history of four or more oral sex partners, they said.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Aimless arithmetic
Photo location: California, by Ernie Glenesk
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS 21

ACROSS

1. Firmament sooner
10. Yellow-green
18. Frustrating expression: 3 wds.
21. Lunch option
23. Far from straight-forward
22. Speculates
23. The Gang day
34. Sibling
25. Producers' nightmares
30. From source
27. Behaves foolishly
29. Took time out
31. Violin part

34. Make one out of two?
35. Solid-bar ladder
38. Strike back, perhaps
41. Crumpled: 2 wds.
43. Audacious
44. Wrap around
45. Cuts back
46. Lays of justice?
47. Creaky guy
48. Irritate
49. Thin layers
50. Itty bit
51. Powerful response
52. Go (for)

53. Modern music component
54. Hoops target
55. Had a little lamb?
57. Western artists' colony
60. Like supermodel
63. Waiter's employer
64. Vacation keepsake?
62. Dangerous toy: 2 wds.
63. Spring herald
64. Massage
65. Alternatives to 77-Down
66. Silver cloner?
67. Marsh plant

68. Tree trunks
69. Sward
70. Motorist's challenge
71. Plants a certain kind
72. Forces to go
75. See 26-Across
79. Rate
80. Fizzle
81. Ends
85. Prescribed practice
87. Affected
89. Needs for opera
90. Sports overestimator: 2 wds.
91. Inaptly
92. Jived nastily

DOWN

9. Eight dry quarts
10. Long
3. Way to the ore
4. Needing attention
5. Furniture material
6. Hi + fy!
7. Ex: 51-across
8. They clash the wds.

9. Sharp blow
16. Slight vagueness
17. Brain food?
18. Drying appliance
24. Acknowledges
28. Gathers again
30. Mogul's side
31. They're braided: 2 wds.
32. Delight

33. Sparkled
35. Hospital offering
37. Part's preparation
38. Splendid
39. Removes the 16-Down from

40. What Jacob was explored
42. From band's acronymy

43. Group of people
44. Prospected, in a way
45. Etiquette subject: 4 wds.
47. Defraud
49. Designers' love
50. Locking

53. Conditions
56. 800 number usually
59. Mountain pass
61. Select
62. Rebel's quality
63. Barbarous
65. Curia
66. Missing part
68. Pats top

69. Bare hills
72. Volatile again
73. World capital
74. Royal resident
75. Marketing issue
76. Preliminary swimmer
77. Seat substitute
78. Strands of yarn

79. Support
82. Yehudi's fiddle
85. Angela Lansbury star
84. Thing with reason
86. Society page word
88. Pantry staple

Solution to Easy Crosswords

S	H	O	P		D	I	A	N	A		W	H	O	M	
P	A	P	A		O	R	B	I	T		H	O	P	E	
A	L	E	G		W	A	I	S	T		L	I	N	E	S
C	O	R	O	N	A	T	E		A	U	G	E	R	S	
		A	D	A	G	E		A	C	T		S	A	Y	
O	C	T	A	N	E		P	I	K	E	R				
P	O	I		A	R	M	O	R		S	A	B	O	T	
A	L	O	T		S	O	L	E	S		P	A	G	E	
L	A	N	E	S		N	A	D	I	R		N	R	A	
				T	A	P	E	R		P	O	R	K	E	R
C	A	M		L	A	Y		S	H	O	E	R			
O	R	A	T	E	S		R	H	O	M	B	O	I	D	
P	E	D	E	S	T	R	I	A	N		A	L	T	O	
E	N	A	S		E	A	G	L	E		S	L	I	M	
R	A	M	S		S	C	A	L	D		E	S	S	O	

20

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.

117

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

Solution to Sudoku 116

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



NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF TECHNOLOGISTS IN ENGINEERING



SECRETARIAT: PLOT 479/480 Ajose Adeogun Street, 3rd Floor,
Peace Mass Transit Motor Park, Utako District, Abuja.
LIAISON OFFICE: PLOT 4, Limca Way, Small Scale Industrial
Estate, Isolo, Lagos State

Email: nate88engr@yahoo.com Website: www.nate-ng.org

Nigerian Association of Technologists in Engineering announces her 1st 2010 Nationwide Membership Interview scheduled to hold on Saturday 10th April, 2010 by 10:00am prompt at various Centres Geographically spread across the Nation as outlined below:

1. NATE LIAISON OFFICE
Plot 4, Limca Way, Small Scale Industrial Estate, Isolo, Lagos State
2. METEOROLOGICAL TRAINING INSTITUTE
Onitsha, Anambra State
3. FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC
Damaturu, Yobe State
4. AJAOKUTA STEEL COMPANY
Ajaokuta, Kogi State
5. DUTSE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SECRETARIAT
Jigawa State
6. NATE AKWA IBOM BRANCH SECRETARIAT
No. 35, Uyo Nong Udoo Road, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State

Intending Member are expected to report at the venue of the Interview by 9:00am for Verification, Clearance and Update of records.

For enquiries please contact:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| 1) James Irek | Membership Secretary | 0803-7088-016 |
| 2) Engr. Ayo Odukomaia | Executive Secretary | 0802-3118-805 |
| 3) Engr. I. O. Omopariola | South West | 0802-3393-287 |
| 4) Engr. Ewelu A. Ewelu | South South | 0803-2738-448 |
| 5) Aja Kingsley O. | South East | 0803-5527-660 |
| 6) Mahmud Hussaini | North East | 0805-7850-860 |
| 7) Yabagi M. Ahmad | North Central | 0805-2256-404 |
| 8) Lucky O. Okonkwo | North West | 0803-7866-809 |
| 9) I. B. Ukaegbu | Lagos | 0802-3381-271 |
| 10) Ranti Ajamolaya | Anambra | 0803-3372-378 |
| 11) D. C. Mkpulumu | Kogi | 0803-6778-900 |
| 12) Udofot Ibanga | Akwa Ibom | 0808-0545-757 |
| 13) Chris Nnandi | Kano | 0703-9034-151 |

Membership Form are obtainable on the website or at the Interview Centres. Completed Form can also be returned at the centre any of the above contact with the payment of N13, 000.00.

However, Membership is open to holders of HND; BTECH; BSC and equivalent in Engineering with a minimum of three years Practical Experience.

Engr. A. O. Adeniyi PRIMATE (08023033425).
Hon. Gen. Secretary



ZAMFARA STATE FADAMA 111 COODINATION OFFICE,
FADAMA HOUSE OPPOSITE STATE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE,
ZARIA ROAD, GUSAU
ZAMFARA STATE.

ADDENDUM

RE- INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR THE SUPPLY OF MOTOR
VEHICLE AND MOTORCYCLE - ZFCO/NCB/01/2010

Further to the advertisement on the above subject matter which appeared in the Daily Trust and New Nigerian News papers of 1st March, 2010.

I wish to inform all those who purchased the bidding document and the general public that due to the declaration of Monday 5th April, 2010 as public holiday, the date for opening of the bids earlier scheduled for that day at **Zamfara state Fadama 111 Coordination Office, Fadama House Opposite State Ministry of Agriculture, Zaria road, Samaru Gusau, Zamfara State**, has been shifted to Wednesday 14th April, 2010 at 12:00 pm Noon at the same venue.

Signed
Aliyu Altine Shinkafi
State Project Coordinator

IN THE HIGH COURT OF
SOKOTO STATE OF NIGERIA
IN THE SOKOTO JUDICIAL DIVISION
SOKOTO

BEFORE:
PROBATE REGISTRAR

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO APPLY FOR GRANT OF PROBATE (WITH WILL ATTACHED)

After 14 days from today an application for a grant of Probate of the Will dated 12 December 1996 of Mrs. Eudora Frances Stiles late of Flat 17 Ferndown, Minnis Road, Birchington in the county of Kent, UNITED KINGDOM and 8 Bakura Road, Mabera Layout, Sokoto, NIGERIA, deceased, will be made by MRS. MARYAM MUKHTAR SHAGARI and AMINU USMAN to the High Court of Sokoto State at Sokoto.

You may object to the grant by lodging a caveat with the Probate Registrar, High Court of Sokoto State.

Any creditor or other person who has a claim on the estate of the deceased is required to send particulars of that claim to the solicitors named below within 6 weeks of the date of this notice.
Date of Death: 16th January 2010.

ALL persons indebted to or having claims against the estate of Mrs. Eudora Frances Stiles late of Flat 17 Ferndown, Minnis Road, Birchington in the county of Kent, UNITED KINGDOM and 8 Bakura Road, Mabera Layout, Sokoto, NIGERIA, deceased, are requested to make the same known to:

Mrs. Maryam Mukhtar Shagari,
M.B. Kangiwa & Associates,
Solicitors, Advocates & Notaries Public,
Fanaha Business Suites, Behind AP Plaza, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent,
Wuse II, Abuja.
NIGERIA.

Aminu Usman,
Aminu Associates, Solicitors,
12 Alexandria Crescent, Off Aminu Kano Crescent,
Wuse II, Abuja, NIGERIA.
aminkingamar@yahoo.co.uk 0808 314 7373

Or
Mrs. Kulu Mamman Stiles,
8 Bakura Road, Mabera Layout
Sokoto, NIGERIA.

The application for grant of probate will be submitted under the provisions of the High Court Law and Order 49 Rule 16 of the High Court (Civil Procedure) Rules 1987.

If you would like additional information concerning this application, you may contact Probate Registrar, High Court of Sokoto State. If you would like to comment on this application, you may contact the Probate Registrar, High Court of Sokoto State.

Signed
Aminu Usman
Solicitor

News Extra



CARLOS Parriera-South Africa



PAUL le Guen-Cameroon



LARS Lagerback-Nigeria



MILOVAN Rajevac-Ghana



SVEN-GORAN Eriksson-Cote d'Ivoire

Why is there just one African coach at the World Cup?

By Piers Edwards

Ever since South Africa was awarded the 2010 World Cup, the organisers' oft-repeated desire has been for a pan-African World Cup.

On the coaching front, they are going to be disappointed because Algerian Rabah Saadane will stick out like a sore thumb in June as the only African coach among the continent's six finalists.

It would have been two but Nigeria's Shaibu Amodu was forced out after the Nations Cup earlier this year. We can also safely predict that the Ivory Coast's new coach won't be African, with Mark Hughes, Sven-Goran Eriksson and Bernd Schuster apparently the three main contenders.

A look at Africa's World Cup history, not to mention tradition, should have prepared us for such a reality.

Algeria's Rabah Saadane will be the only African coach at the World Cup.

Of the 34 African teams that will have contested the World Cup come June, 24 will have been led by a foreigner.

If you want to break that down, nine sides will have been led by a Frenchman, five by a Yugoslav-born coach, two apiece by a German and a Brazilian and the rest by a Scot, Dutchman, Russian, Franco-Pole and Swede.

The 24th looks like being either a Welshman, Swede or German.

With no African having ever taken his nation into the World Cup second round, these foreign appointments look set to continue - even if Saadane achieves the unexpected against Slovenia, England and the United States in



ALGERIA'S Rabah Saadane will be the only African coach at the World Cup

Group C.

Saadane almost helped create history back in the early 1980s. The experienced 63-year-old, who led Algeria at their last finals in 1986, worked as an assistant to both Mahieddine Khalef and Rachid Mekloufi in 1982, which is when Africa's coaching dreams received a heavy blow.

Had the infamous 'Shame of Gijon' match between Austria and West Germany been played differently, an African coaching team may have led their nation out of the group stages for the one and so far only time.

Whether that would have changed anything is a moot point, especially since local coaches have been fighting for recognition ever since football was introduced to

“And, tongue-firmly-in-cheek, has anyone ever told them that no country has won the World Cup with an expatriate coach?”

Africa by European missionaries, servicemen and the like.

“The missionaries in Nigeria

weren't coaches or players themselves, but they became experts because they knew the game in England,” says Nigeria's Segun Odegbami, who won the 1980 Nations Cup, albeit under a Brazilian coach. “We depended on them. Later, a Father Slattery, though just a low-standard referee back home, became Nigeria coach.”

In time, more professional coaches arrived, and Scotland's James McRea, a player with West Ham and Manchester United, unwittingly set the tone for Africa's World Cup outings when leading Egypt at the continent's maiden finals in 1934.

Fans had to wait another 44 years for Africa's first World Cup coach, with Abdelmajid Chetali

leading Tunisia to the continent's first finals win - a 3-1 defeat of Mexico.

While North African federations have handed the reins to a compatriot on more than half their 13 World Cup visits, those in sub-Saharan Africa have proved mightily reluctant. It wasn't until 2002 that a sub-Saharan nation first travelled to the finals with their own coach, as two buses came along at once - Festus Onigbinde driving Nigeria, Jomo Sono at the helm for South Africa.

It didn't help that, while Nigeria and South Africa floundered, little-fancied Senegal, guided by Frenchman Bruno Metsu, became the second African nation to reach the quarter-finals.

Cameroon's Roger Milla-led side had been the first in 1990, under the tutelage of little-known Russian Valery Nepomniachi, and to this day the Indomitable Lions have never been led by a Cameroonian at the World Cup.

This is despite winning the 2000 Olympics with a local man, Jean-Paul Akono guiding his team to success over a Spain side boasting Xavi, Carles Puyol et al in Sydney.

“We've won world titles at U17, U20 and U23 level under local coaches but that's not being recognised,” laments former South Africa coach Trott Moloto. “Having one African coach here for the World Cup indicates the lack of confidence our people have in our own people - it's very negative.”

Especially when considering that five of Africa's six U17 or U20 World Cup wins were won by African coaches (only

Cont'd on page 38

News Extra

Hugo Chávez extends Easter holiday to save electricity

President Hugo Chávez is adding three days to Venezuela's Easter holiday to bolster his government's efforts to reduce electricity consumption, as the country struggles with a severe energy crisis.

Chávez announced yesterday that he had designated the three days after Easter Sunday as extra days off. As Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are already holidays, Venezuelans will now have an entire week off work from 1 April (today).

"It's not about lethargy, but saving energy," the president said.

The socialist leader's announcement irked the business community. Chamber groups said the decision would disrupt industrial production, interfere with tax deadlines and possibly cause shortages of foods that are already scarce.

Noel Alvarez, the head of an electricity committee for Venezuela's largest business chamber, Fedecamaras, said the measure would not significantly curb power consumption and businesses would have to scramble to pay taxes by the 1 April deadline.

The vice-president, Elias Jaua, said the decree would not affect food producers, restaurants, hotels, pharmacies and banks, where businesses and

citizens file their taxes.

But Carlos Larrazabal, the president of Venezuela's industry chamber, said businesses like food producers would suffer, as they needed relatively continuous production activity. Food distributors could be hard-pressed to reach retailers before the week-long holiday began,



PRESIDENT Hugo Chavez

and many supermarkets usually didn't keep inventories that lasted more than a week, he said.

Many Venezuelans usually take the whole week off over Easter while schools are closed, flocking to the country's Carib-



PEOPLE gather outside their homes during the daily two-hour blackout in Venezuela's western city of Maracaibo.

As Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are already holidays, Venezuelans will now have an entire week off work from 1 April (today).

bean coast to relax.

Chávez blames the energy shortages on a drought that has caused the level of Venezuela's main hydroelectric dam to drop. Critics, including many business leaders, argue the govern-

ment failed to invest enough in the electrical sector amid rising demand over the past decade.

Chávez's administration has imposed a series of measures aimed at reducing electricity consumption, including rolling

blackouts in some parts of the country, limited office hours at state institutions and hefty surcharges levied on businesses that use what officials consider excessive energy.

Culled from guardian.co.uk

Why is there just one African coach at the World Cup?

Cont'd from page 37

two of whom ever graduated to a full-time senior role), while Sellas Tetteh's reward for making Ghana U20 world champions last year is a post with Rwanda, which is all well and good but he was probably expecting more.

As recently witnessed in Nigeria, a local's path to the top is incredibly fraught with disappointment. Despite achieving his set targets of World Cup qualification and the 2010 Nations Cup semi-finals, Amodu was still dismissed for the unconvincing

nature of his performances.

In his place came a man who has never coached in Africa, who has yet to meet his players but upon whom a great deal is expected - if only for five months before either Lars Lagerback cuts his losses or the Nigerian federation does.

What the Swede does have though is top-level European experience - and that's what many African federations are after, believing that superior innovations, tactics and discipline

lie outside the continent (don't mention Berti Vogts to Nigerian fans).

So too, we're often told, a perceived imperviousness to any tribal or shady influences (e.g. putting players in a national team simply so as to inflate their transfer fee).

In truth, it's a massive topic with many pros and cons, one which polarises opinion and one which will always be fiercely debated across the continent.

But one certainty is that various African coaches will watch with envy as Serbia's Milovan

Rajevac leads Ghana, Frenchman Paul Le Guen, who led Lyon to three straight titles, handles Cameroon and Brazil's 1994 World Cup-winning coach Carlos Alberto Parreira guides hosts South Africa.

South Africa's FA has promised that once the World Cup is over, a local man will take over - with SuperSport Utd coach Gavin Hunt heavily tipped for the job - but that's only after the finals of course.

"African administrators believe local coaches are only

good for a Nations Cup, not the World Cup," adds Moloto.

Like so many African federations, South Africa wanted a man with international experience to lead them in June but this is a classic chicken-and-egg case, for how can these coaches gain such experience or show their worth when so few are given the chance (or indeed the right support)?

And, tongue-firmly-in-cheek, has anyone ever told them that no country has won the World Cup with an expatriate coach?

Culled from bbc.co.uk

News Extra

Why are Ghanaians loved more dead than alive?

Ghanaian writer **Elizabeth Ohene** considers her country's obsession with death.

I have been attending a lot of funerals recently and this has brought back to the fore my morbid fascination with funerals.

Even though in the Ghanaian context, "morbid" is hardly the word to use for funerals.

We love funerals here and they are a veritable spectacle better experienced than described.

The attitude towards the dead and funerals would seem to indicate that a dead Ghanaian is worth far more than a live one.

For example, a man is admitted to hospital and he recovers from his ailment. He is discharged but is forced to remain in the hospital because he has no family to pay his hospital bills.

After two weeks the doctor sends a message out the man has died.

The very next day a group of mourners arrive at the hospital, suitably clad in the obligatory black and red clothes, they are the family, they are ready to pay all the bills and arrange for the body to be put in the morgue until burial.

There is no question about there being no money to pay the hospital bills once the man has died.

Thriving business

In another case, a man dies who has lived all his life in a house that is crumbling around him.

His body is kept in the morgue until the house is rehabilitated, a new roof fixed and a fresh coat of paint is put on it.

In nine cases out of 10 when you see a house being painted, it means there is a death in the family. A live Ghanaian can live in a dilapidated and filthy house, but his dead body can only be laid out in a freshly painted and clean house.

All this takes time and that means the death business is one of the most thriving industries in the country.

Keeping a body in the morgue for three months is not cheap.

The funeral announcements are elaborate affairs and the newspapers and radio and television stations make fortunes.

Take a lonely old lady who has been almost abandoned in the village for the past how many years and been called a witch and often gone hungry. Her death would merit a full-page colour advertisement in the newspapers.

The reality of modern Ghanaian life means that in every family, there are people living in the four



THE axiom not to speak evil of the dead is carried to absurd lengths



“ A much-loved mother is buried in a coffin shaped like a mother hen, a rich man in a coffin shaped like a Mercedes Benz ”

corners of the world.

A death would mean a gathering of the clan and would mean intricate negotiations by Ghanaians around the world to get time off from work and to arrange flights.

Foreigners do not understand that we Ghanaians must have a minimum of two weeks to "give a befitting burial" to our dearly departed ones.

You are allowed and indeed, expected to borrow money for funerals but you would not make much headway trying to borrow money to feed your household.

Laptop coffin?

For this is the nation that gave the world the phenomenon of the exotic coffins: a much-loved mother is buried in a coffin shaped like a mother hen, a cocoa farmer is buried in a cocoa pod-

shaped coffin, a rich man in a coffin shaped like a Mercedes Benz car.

Every Ghanaian is a royal once dead

I had thought an old broadcaster would be buried in a microphone shaped coffin until I saw a hip-hop singer buried in one such.

The fact that someone went to bed hungry in the last year of his life does not stop the family from organising a huge feast for mourners when that someone dies.

You might not have many clothes in your life but that does not stop the family getting the most exquisite lace for your shroud.

The textile companies do a roaring trade in specially designed

funeral cloths for families.

I am ashamed to admit that funeral cloths currently constitute the larger part of my wardrobe.

A mother would find money to buy a funeral cloth whilst keeping a child out of school for lack of money. Keeping a child in school does not earn you as much status as organising a mega funeral.

In death it would seem every Ghanaian is a royal; just listen to our dirges and when it comes to tributes, in death, all the mean spirited, lazy, spouse abusing people are transformed into the most generous, loving human beings.

We do carry the axiom not to speak evil of the dead to absurd lengths.

So much so, you might yet find this old broadcaster one day being sent off in a laptop-shaped coffin and being spoken of as never having offended anybody in her life.

If that happens, believe me, I will rise from the dead.

Culled from bbc.co.uk



AN unrepentant heavy drinker has chosen to be buried inside a beer bottle



A shoemaker wants to embark on his final journey in a polished black shoe

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Board flays FCDA over projects

By Nasir Imam

ALL is not well between the board of Directors of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) and the Department of Engineering Services of Federal Capital Territory Administration over the handling of major multi-billion naira projects in the city.

The bone of contention is the dual role played by contractors of most of the projects where they serve as contractors and consultants for projects they are handling.

Speaking with journalists in Abuja yesterday at the end of inspecting some ongoing projects in the city, a board member, Senator Paul Wampana, who led other board members on the tour, said that such arrangement would never allow government to get value for its money.

He insisted that there should be an independent consultant who he noted who should be satisfied with the work of the contractors and issued a certificate of satisfaction and ask the FCDA to pay the contractors.

Senator Wampana, who is also the National Vice Chairman of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in charge of six North East states, further stressed that it would be difficult for a contractor who double as a consultant to do a fair job and fair assessment of the same job for payment from the client.

He was particularly worried about the construction work of roundabout and two flyover bridges at Inner Southern Expressway popularly known as AYA where FCDA serves as the client, and Dantata and Sawoe as contractor.

"It is very difficult for me to make recommendation about myself and get paid. And I questioned the fact the contractors are not the best to be the consultants. The consultants are supposed to be the go-between the clients and the contractors" he said.

Adding, the Board member said "the point I'm making is that the consultants are supposed to issue contractors a satisfactory certificate and recommend payment to the client. All I'm saying is there should be an independent

consultant who should be satisfied with the work of the contractors and issued a certificate of satisfaction and ask the FCDA to pay the contractors".

He however expressed satisfaction over most projects inspected noting that the level of progress was 75 per cent.

"Development is going on, they are substantially very good but actually there are small lapses here and there and that is why we will go back, analyse them and make recommendations" he said.

But in a swift reaction, the Director FCT Department of Engineering Services, Engineer Sylvester Ugonabo carpeted the board member over his observation.

He said "the honourable member got it wrong; we have FCDA staff as the engineers on site. We are more or less the consultant that is doing the work. We are checking the contractors. In some contracts we have consultants still working with us, we work hand in hand with them but in some projects we don't have because we have not procure them".



THE newly built corporate headquarters of Silver Bird 94.7FM radio station Central Area, Abuja

Expert wants loans for property sector

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

A property expert and Head, Consultant, PR Distinction, Mrs. Alero Edu, has called on banks in the country to assist players in the property sector with loans to boost their productivity.

She maintained that the sector would do well if they enjoyed constant facilities from banks.

She disclosed this in Lagos at the 10th edition of the Home & Office Exhibition organised by her company and NTA Properties Investment Company Ltd a subsidiary of NTA.

According to her, "If Nigeria is to achieve her dream of providing housing for all in the near future, the Primary Mortgage Institutions require the support of banks, as they cannot deal with this challenge alone".

Mrs. Alero Edu, said that the exhibition was evidence of the growing sophistication of Nigeria for the very high quality décor, a manifestation of the need for a medium where professionals in the industry and dealers and manufacturers of home and office furniture and related businesses could converge to showcase their goods and services.

At the event Lucky Fibres Plc, makers of Nobel premium brand of carpets and rugs, dazzles visitors with the arrays of its special brands of rugs and carpets thereby recording the highest number of visitor to a stand at the exhibition

Speaking, Rohit Lonkar, General Manager, Nobel Carpets, said visitors were attracted to Nobel Carpet stand due to the display of the various locally

made premium brand of carpets and rugs available.

According to him, majority of the visitors were mainly women who took time to pick the various sizes and design of carpets and rugs for household purposes.

Lonkar further explained that Nobel Carpets is ready to partner with any private organisation that is willing to promote the agenda of local creativity, and commended the Lagos State Government for the transformation happening in the metropolis and recommended the Lagos example to the entire nation.

He said that the exhibition would stimulate creative ingenuity of Nigerians using locally available materials, noting that the expo came at the right time.

Private sector to partner govt on water conservation

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

KEY industries in Nigeria with high volume of water usage are partnering on how they can collectively conserve water resources in Nigeria.

The industries who met at the Diageo-Africa water for life, water business round table in Lagos resolved that rather than individual companies making efforts to conserve water, the companies should rather join resources together for maximum impact. They also resolved to provide examples of responsible corporate engagements on water policy and introduce new pathways to accelerate the delivery of water to Nigeria. Stakeholders at the meeting include Coca Cola, Unilever, Guinness, Diageo, and other companies in Nigeria.

The Managing Director, Guinness Nigeria, Devlin Hainsworth also told newsmen that, it is the first time the organised private sector will cooperate on water issues in Nigeria.

He said water is very critical to their business and humanity and water is under intense pressure in Nigeria following climate change thus, they have come together to identify business challenges and concerns about water, and how the challenges can be reduced. Stakeholders at the meeting also agreed that, it was the synergy will help Nigeria attain the millennium development goal on adequate water supply. In a paper titled 'overview of national water issues, regulatory structures, policy goals and engagement opportunities for business in Nigeria, Dr. Olumide Abimbola Ajayi, director, business school Netherlands international, Nigeria enumerated challenges confronting water issues in Nigeria.

Katsina govt establishes agency for W/Bank projects

THE Katsina State Government has established an agency to oversee the activities of the Community and Social Development Projects (CSDP) of the World Bank.

Known as "Community and Social Development Agency (CSDA), it was established to facilitate the implementation of CSDP programme in the state's 25 local government areas. The General Manager of the agency, Alhaji Salisu Yar'Adua, said on Monday in Katsina that it would be more active in areas that had not participated in the Local Empowerment and Environmental Management Project (LEEMP).

He said the agency was established in Katsina, being one of the 28 states participating in the CSDP, and financed by the World Bank to the tune of \$200 million nationwide.

"Ideally, the agency is to continue with the projects started under LEEMP, which had closed down in June last year," he added. Yar'Adua said the projects, which were also being co-financed by the state government to the tune of N100 million yearly, were in the areas of water supply, education, health, electrification, environment and natural resources.

He promised that necessary arrangements had been concluded for the take-off of the programme once all the staff deployed to the agency had assumed office. (NAN)

Property



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EYE ON ABUJA

WITH Umar Shuaibu
umarshuaibu1@yahoo.com



Abuja entry points traffic bottlenecks

AMONG the beautiful aspects of the Abuja city planning is the attempt to attract and drain traffic through an articulate transport network emphasized by a system of expressways, parkways, transitways, ring roads and civic spine roads at different hierarchical order. Some of the specific objectives of the city transportation system are the maximization of using public transport for those without cars and the provision of multiple highway paths between development sectors thereby avoiding network bottlenecks.

The expressways bound the entire development corridors of the city and define their outer limits; they link to the trunk routes of the capital territory for access to other parts of the country. The two major expressways that commence in between the foot of the Aso Rock and the three arms zone, and connect the central area via arterial roads leading to the three arms zone are the outer northern expressway (ONEX), that terminates at the Zuba road junction as a trunk route. The other one is the outer southern expressway (OSEX), also expected to terminate farther down the A-2 after Gwagwalada as a trunk route. They have a design speed of 100kph. They allow unobstructed traffic from the outskirts to the city centre for those who arrive Abuja from any part of the country to freely carry-out their transactions and to possibly return to their destinations within the same day.

The prevailing bottlenecks at the entry points of Zuba and Mararraba/Nyanya despite the availability of the dual carriage ways calls for the fast tracking the construction of the uncompleted sections of the OSEX, in order to unburden the overused ONEX as the major existing link with the trunk routes, or on the other hand the reassessment of the entire concept of the city's link to the other parts of the country, as it has definitely portrayed their inadequacies to meet future demands. This

is more emphasized at the eastern gateway to the city at Mararraba, especially during the peak hours. The existing road side massive developments at that section make any future expansion impossible. The only option left is an alternative bye-pass that shall direct the through traffic away from the congested centre.

There is recourse to re-planning while confronting realities, as plans and realities could differ. Also plans are only meant to address future needs based on projections and anticipated directions of demands. Projections may be accurate to some extent but could differ with the direction of needs. In essence what we observe is that the proposal for only three major entry/departure routes to and from the city on the A-2 trunk route via the ONEX, civic spine airport road and OSEX converted to trunk routes at Zuba, Giri and beyond Gwagwalada shall not be adequate without further upgrading the A-2 trunk road of Kaduna-Lokoja road wider than the present on-going dualization, stretching from Suleja to Kwali. Otherwise, the future challenges shall be very momentous, when the surrounding and congested border towns as anticipated become fully developed along the Lokoja-Kaduna road similar to what is now obtained at Mararraba, while the ten lanes ONEX, the OSEX and the civic spine airport road emptied its traffic along the same trunk route that is only a dual carriageway.

Passenger to and from the Abuja are distributed on the basis of gravity-model formulation, which postulates that the magnitude of travel between particular origin and destination varies directly with the population of the origin and the population of the destination, and inversely between the travel time between the origin and destination. This is more so, as observed by the master plan that the largest inter-city movements are going to be between Abuja and

the more populous states of Niger and Kaduna adjoining the FCT. Next in order of magnitude are movements from other adjoining states of Nassarawa and Kogi with fewer concentration of population. However, more than 30 years after the production of the plan a lot of water has really gone under the bridge, because the product obtained from the gravity model formula used has now been grossly affected by the changes in the total populations of the origin and destinations, and the emergence of new centers as origins not necessarily the state capitals used as reference points. The total of 9852 passenger car equivalent daily trips to Abuja from all the states can now be less than those from the FCT border states of Niger and Nasarawa states alone, and separately, not combined. Thus the inadequacy of the sizes of the entry and departure routes to and from Abuja as determined from the earlier calculation cannot be overemphasized.

A special note is the prevailing traffic congestion at the Zuba road junction a major entry/departure point from the FCT. This is by virtue of the available intercity motor park and also its strategic location at the FCT boarder with the adjoining Niger state that accommodates substantial Federal Capital City working population in the Suleja urban area. Recently the intercity motor park transport workers abandoned the park for on street sourcing of passengers traveling to the other parts of the country, right on the Zuba road junction. This coupled with the activities of the on-street hawkers creates pandemonium during the evening rush hours. There is an urgent need to enforce the return of these road transport workers back to the motor park to arrest the activities now taking place along the road, otherwise it shall be tantamount to creation of a cul-de-sac at that important point. The relevant agency is thus urged to act and swiftly.

Osun govt to make land accessible

MR Ayo Akinsomi, Osun Commissioner for Land and Physical Planning, said the state government would make land more accessible to the people for their housing needs.

Akinsomi, said in Osogbo on Monday, said it was the right of the people to have land and erect buildings of their choice.

"We will make sure that more virgin lands are acquired, cleared and processed according to the laid down rules and regulations.

"The acquisition of more lands in line with the necessary procedures would make it possible to have a large expanse of land that could be allocated to applicants," the commissioner said.

He said Gov. Olagunsoye Oyinlola had put machinery in place to facilitate the opening of more areas of land and the for-

malities necessary for processing them.

While assuring that he would work towards the aspiration of the governor to provide shelter to the people, he called on residents to support government's efforts.

"It will be easy to provide for the people only if they also contribute their own quota by supporting the efforts of government towards the realisation of its goals," he said.

Akinsomi vowed to put an end to the activities of the people encroaching on Government Reserved Areas (GRA), and appealed to residents to be law-abiding.

He expressed appreciation for his re-appointment, and pledged his continued loyalty and the resolve to justify the gesture.

Akinsomi was one of the 14 commissioners sworn-in on Friday by the governor as members of the reconstituted State Executive Council. (NAN)



CHAIRMAN Governing Board Federal Maintenance Agency Engr. Abdulkadir Kure (middle) Akin Arikawe, board member (right) and Chief Ike Ndeokwelu, board member during a briefing in Lagos on Monday

Kwara, Aso savings to fund new GRA

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State Government and Aso Saving and Loan Investment Ltd have put in place over 1.7 billion naira towards the provision of infrastructural facilities of the new Government Reservation Area (GRA) located at Tanke, Ilorin, the state capital

Speaking to *Daily Trust* yesterday, the Director of Bureau of land, Alhaji Kalmadeen Ajibade explained that the project will be jointly financed by the state and a private organization.

"The project is a Private Public Partnership Initiative of the state government with Aso Saving and Loan Investment Ltd."

Aso will fund the provision of essential infrastructure like water, electricity, road, drainages among other with a sum of N1.6 billion."

According to him, the state government will contribute a sum of N149 million, while N79 million has already been released for the project.

Ajibade explained that the project will be executed in four phases, with

407 plots of land to be sold in the first phase of the project.

The Director noted that profit from the project will be shared jointly by the government and the company coordinating the project.

He said that the Bureau of Land has commenced the sales of form at a cost of N50, 000 for corporate organization and N25, 000 for private individual.

Ajibade explained that the administration of Gov. Bukola saraki was committed to its housing all programme.

Property



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Enugu allocates 300 hectares of land to FHA

By Mustapha Suleiman

ENUGU State Governor, Mr. Sullivan Chime has approved the allocation of 300 hectares of land to the Federal Housing Authority (FHA) for the development of a housing estate in the state capital.

Chime gave the approval in Enugu while receiving an FHA delegation led by its Managing Director, Arc. Terver Gemade.

He directed that the allocation be made to the Authority in the New City being developed by the state government on the outskirts of the state capital.

The governor expressed delight that the FHA was coming at a time the government was seeking partners to join it in actualising its dream for the development of the state.

He also acceded to the FHA Managing Director's request for the state government to partner with the Authority to facilitate housing development in the state.

However, rather than receive the number of houses commensurate with its equity participation through the funding of the development of infrastructure, Chime said the state preferred to take its own share of the profit on the completion of the houses.

He also counselled the FHA to ensure that the houses to be built would be affordable to the people of the state.

Earlier, Gemade said his team was in Enugu as part of the Authority's on-going land acquisition drive across the country.

He said the FHA had promised to deliver 106,000 housing units by 2013 and that it was determined that Nigerians in all parts of the country should benefit from the housing programme.

To ensure faithful delivery on that promise, the FHA boss said the Authority had devised eight models including direct construction, public-private partnership, public-public partnership, rental housing, co-operative housing, regeneration and new town development.

He said the Authority had delivered over 1,000 housing units in the past nine months which he said was a good improvement over the record in its 36 years of existence. With three partnership agreements already signed and work commenced in one of the sites, he said the delivery of over 12,000 additional houses was well underway.

'Africa farmland deals need rules'

LARGE-SCALE foreign leases of African farmland risk driving conflict and fuelling corruption in the region without regulation, regional experts told a conference on agricultural development.

If rules for responsible foreign land investment can be drafted and followed, leases could provide a much-needed cash infusion for African agriculture, which has struggled to find investment elsewhere.

"What's missing is that it has not been done responsibly enough," said Kanayo Nwanze, president of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

"Food security is a global issue and global partnership can contribute." Rattled by the 2008 food crisis, when falling supplies and surging prices sparked unrest in several poor countries, and by the prospect of climate change denting farm output at home, countries such as Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Qatar have paid millions of dollars for long-term farmland leases across Africa.

Investors looking for higher returns have also jumped into the market, and countries like China have locked up African land not just for food but for biofuel production.

Altogether close to 20 countries have leased tens of millions of acres of land in Sudan, Ethiopia, Congo, Nigeria and other African countries, agricultural experts say.

The deals have provoked international criticism, not least because

opponents fear the proceeds may end up in the hands of politicians rather than small farmers who could be pushed off their land.

"The real issue in Africa is that a lot of these deals are done in secret," said Namanga Ngongi, president of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa, a project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

"The small-holder farmers who stand to lose their land are not consulted.

No one is sure the amount of money declared is the real amount," he added.

"Increased foreign investment is what everyone has been crying for, for years," he said, adding though that on a continent already struggling with widespread hunger, investment that did not build food security at home did not make sense.

Regulating new investments, however, could help ensure Africans, notably farmers, get some benefit, IFAD's Nwanze said.

The IFAD and others are trying to create a new international framework on responsible land investment, which would set out guidelines on how local people must benefit from such deals.

That could require investors to hire local farmers already on the land rather than bringing in their own workers.

Land investors cannot be forced to sign such rules, Nwanze said. (Reuters/NAN)



THE National Headquarters of Jama'atu Nasril Islam at Kawo, Kaduna

Architects urged to take new scale of fees seriously

MR Ben Eboh, the immediate past Chairman, Nigerian Institute of Architects (NIA), on Tuesday urged architects to take their new scale of fees seriously to succeed in their profession.

Eboh said on Tuesday in Lagos that the new scale of fees for architects was just a guide and they were not expected to charge below it.

"They can negotiate to get higher fees, especially with the private projects. The problem has always been architects tak-

ing lower fees than prescribed," he said.

The Association of Consulting Architects of Nigeria (ACAN) recently unveiled a new scale of fees for the architects and it was introduced in September 2009.

The ACAN scale had the architect fee starting at 4.75 per cent for a project of N250 million and sliding thereafter as against starting band of N5 million as prescribed in the 1996 scale.

Eboh said it was always pain-

ful for the architects to spend two years to three years supervising a project and earn a small proportion of the total cost of the project.

He said that foreign architects engaged to work in Nigeria earned far more than what the 1996 scale prescribed.

According to him, it is in the interest of the ordinary architects to use the scale to ask for their fees.

Eboh said architects while earning the new fees should

ensure that contractors understood their designs.

He said details of the designs were necessary for the clients to appreciate their value and pay the fees.

The former chairman said they should specify the minute details and not allow other professions to do that for them.

He said the old scale of fees for public project had become outdated in view of the present economic realities, technology and inflation. (NAN)

Part of Nero's palace collapses in Rome

PART of the ceiling of ancient Roman Emperor Nero's Golden Palace collapsed on Tuesday, rekindling fears that site is unsafe for the hordes of tourists who come to see it every year.

Nero's Golden Palace or Domus Aurea, which lies on a hill overlooking the Colosseum, was

built in the first century A.D. and has been plagued with structural problems since it was opened to the public in 1999.

Workers were undertaking repairs when part of the roof collapsed, causing a section of the garden above it to fall into the palace over an area of some 100 sq metres,

officials said.

No injuries were reported.

Nero built his palace after the great fire of Rome in 64 A.D. as a party villa rather than a residence.

Covered in part by gold leaf, it also had walls decorated with semi-precious stones and frescoes.

Experts at the site said the part

of the roof that collapsed was a segment constructed after Nero's palace, known as Trajan's gallery, and not normally open to the public.

Emperor Trajan ruled from 98-117 A.D. and built the Trajan baths on top of the Domus Aurea.

However, Tuesday's collapse is set to rekindle the debate about

the sorry state of Rome's eroding archaeological sites.

The Domus Aurea, which attracts on average 1,000 visitors a day, was closed in late 2005 for more than a year after the culture ministry said it could not guarantee the safety of visitors and staff. (Reuters/NAN)



NIGERIAN NAVY

NOTICE TO SUCCESSFUL CANDIDATES FOR THE SELECTION BOARD: DIRECT SHORT SERVICE COMMISSION - COURSE 19

1. Names of candidates that were successful at the aptitude test conducted by the Nigerian Navy on the 23 January 2010 for the Direct Short Service Commission are published on the website: www.service.nigeriannavy.gov.ng or <http://service.nigeriannavy.gov.ng>.

2. Shortlisted candidates are to appear before the Selection Board holding at the Nigerian Navy Secondary School, Borokiri, Port -Harcourt, from 6 -17 April 2010. Candidates are required to report for the interview with the following:

a. Originals and Photocopies of:

- (1) Educational/Professional Certificates.
- (2) Birth Certificates/Declaration of age.
- (3) Parent/Guardian Consent form Printed online.
- (4) Attestation of LGA printed online.
- (5) NYSC Discharge Certificate.

b. A pair of physical training dress with white top and gym (canvas) shoes.

c. Toiletries.

3. Candidates are to note that accommodation and feeding will be provided at the Nigerian Navy Secondary School, Borokiri, Port-Harcourt, for the duration of the interview only. Candidates are to assemble at the venue not later than pm on 5 April 2010.

For further information please call
09-8708475,09-8704817

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Gunmen besiege general's home

By Abubakar Yakubu

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

THE wife of Major-General Suraj Alao Abdurrahman in the early hours of Monday escaped an attack by armed men, who invaded her residence at Nigeria Army Post Service Housing Scheme Estates at Kurudu, along the Jikwoyi-Orozo road in the FCT.

Major-General Abdurrahman, a Nigerian, is presently the Chief of Defence Staff in Liberia and stays in Moronvia.

While narrating her ordeal, Mariam Wuraola Abdurrahman said she decided to pass the night in her neighbour's house because of loneliness, when at 2 am, a big stone was used to break the window protector of her friend's bedroom and three armed men entered inside the room.

"I immediately got under the bed to hide, while my female friend was weeping and begging them not to harm her baby but they kept insisting that they wanted to see her husband or me," the general's wife said.

She said after attacking the friend, the armed men forced their way into her apartment and turned the place upside down, before removing some documents.

Mrs Abdurrahman also disclosed that the attackers invaded her tenant's apartment and stole her belongings, adding that a report was made to the army authority, who promised to intensify patrol around the place.

The neighbour to the general's wife, who was a victim, said the stone used to break the window protector landed near the head of her sleeping baby.



MARIAM Wuraola Abdurrahman showing where the armed men gained entrance to her house on Monday morning.

"I thank God that the stone did not land on her head and they did not see my husband or friend where they were hiding," she said.

The victim said the armed men told her not to cry that the

economic situation in the country led them to become who they are.

A tenant in the general wife's residence said the armed men were shouting continuously for

the house owner and carried sophisticated guns and called themselves 'Ara'.

Residents around the area told our reporter that army personnel normally patrol round the estate

at night and were sighted at 1:30 am on the day of the incident.

"It is quite surprising that 30 minutes after their patrol van left here, the armed men invaded houses here," a neighbour said.

Court orders reinstatement of sacked FCDA staff

By Nasir Imam

A Federal High Court in Abuja has ordered the FCT Administration to reinstate 135 Federal Capital Development Authority staff that was sacked by the Nasir el-Rufai's administration in August 2004.

Justice A. M. Talba in his ruling on March 11, stated that the purported retirements of the civil servants from service breached the provisions of the Public Serv-

ice Rules and declared the action null, void and of no effect whatsoever.

The court also ordered the FCT Administration to pay the workers arrears of salaries, allowances, grants and benefits severally computed on the basis of their respective employment cadres and positions.

While referring to the case of Shitta-Bey Vs FPSC (1981) 1 SC 40, Justice Talba said thus: 'it is also trite to say that a public serv-

ant in the permanent and pensionable cadre of the federal public service has a legal status and a right to remain in service until properly removed in accordance with the Public Service Rules.'

The court also awarded N200,000 as cost against the defendants.

One of the plaintiffs, who spoke to City News, described the ruling as sound and hoped that FCT Administration will obey it.

Husband refuses to appear in divorce case

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A man, Mr Shehu Oyetunde, recently declined to appear before an Abuja Area Court to respond to a divorce petition filed by his wife, Suliat Bello.

The man however spoke to the court's registrar on phone and accented to the divorce.

Suliat in her petition told the court that her husband left their matrimonial home on October 17, 2009 and abandoned her in the house without any reason.

"I don't know where he is staying and his act portrays that the marriage between us has broken down irretrievably," the wife said.

She stated further that her hus-

band has once told her that he is no longer interested in the marriage, adding that she wants the court to confirm their separation by granting her a divorce certificate so that she can continue with life.

Judge Issa Yahaya dissolved the marriage and granted the petitioner a divorce certificate.

Two die in Abaji auto crash

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

TWO persons lost their lives while seven others sustained serious injuries on Monday afternoon in a fatal motor accident that occurred near Bulletin Construction yard, along the Abuja-Lokoja road in Abaji.

An eyewitness said the accident happened when a Daf tanker with registration number XA 501 KKF overtook at a sharp bend and rammed into a Peugeot 505 saloon car with registration number XD 684 SBG, killing one person on the spot.

Our reporter learnt that another of the victims later died at Abaji General Hospital.

Abaji FRSC unit Commander, Mr. Joseph Ojerinde, attributed the accident cause to dangerous driving, adding that the two

corpses have been deposited at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue, while injured victims are at Abaji General Hospital.

In a related development, five people were also injured on the same day in another motor accident that occurred at Yangoji village.

City News learnt that the accident occurred at 3 pm when a Toyota Corolla car with registration number AV 255 BWR had a burst tyre and veered off the road, before crashing into a ditch.

Yangoji FRSC unit Commander, Abdullahi Umar, while confirming the incident attributed the cause to a burst tyre.

He said the injured victims, which consisted of four males and a female were rushed to Kwali General Hospital.



IMPOUNDED motorcycles at DRTS office at Mabushi, Abuja recently.

Estate developer denies cheating pastors

By Hussein Yahaya, Ibraheem A. Fatai & Usman A. Bello

A 48-year-old estate developer recently in court denied cheating two pastors of over N1 million.

The estate developer, Moses Afolayan of no fixed address, was reported to have collected N130,000 from Pastor Felix Olasomisoye of Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministry Church, Abuja, and N1 million from another pastor, Amos Dickson Olusegun.

Prosecutor Mustapha Mohammed had earlier told the court that on March 19, one Pastor Felix Olasomisoye of Mountain of Fire Ministry Church, Gwagwa, Abuja reported that the accused cheated him.

He said the complainant entrusted some documents and the said money in care of the accused with an agreement that he would help him acquire a plot of land.

"The accused also collected some documents and N1.037,000 from Pastor Amos Dickson Olusegun of Mountain of Fire and Miracle Ministry Church,

Utako, Abuja, so that he would help acquire a piece of land from AGIS for their proposed church estate but only used N200,000 for processing the documents of the two plots of land and dishonestly converted the sum of N130,000 from Pastor Felix and N837,000 from Pastor Dickson to his personal use," the prosecutor said.

He said the offences committed by the accused are punishable under Sections 312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

In her ruling, Magistrate Njideka Duru granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with two reliable sureties in like sums, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

She also ruled that one of the sureties must be a civil servant of not below grade level 08, adding that both of them must swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 12 for hearing.

Car dealer in court over N1m bank loan

By Bunmi Omolehin

A 37-year-old car dealer who appeared before an Abuja Upper Area court Monday denied collecting a million naira loan from a microfinance bank.

The police had arraigned the dealer for alleged breach of trust and cheating.

Oluwabunmi Odamo, who resides in Lugbe was accused of going to Consumers Microfinance Bank, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, in November, 2009 to obtain N1,000,000.

Prosecutor Abiola Oyewusi said on January

13, one Kodi Olakali, a manager in the bank complained to the FCT police commissioner that the accused collected the amount as a loan and deposited a Honda Odyssey vehicle as collateral.

The prosecutor said the bank later discovered that the vehicle belongs to one Mrs. Susan K. Dega of Area 11, Abuja and was used as collateral without her consent.

"During police investigations, the accused person confessed to have committed the offences which are punishable under Sections

312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor added.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused person, he denied them and sought for bail, which was opposed by the prosecutor.

Having denied the charges, the prosecutor asked the court for a hearing date to enable the police produce evidence to support its claim.

Judge Umar Kagarko ordered that the accused be remanded in prison custody till April 19 when the case will come up for hearing.

Youth charged with restraining man's movement

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A youth was on Monday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly locking up in his room, one Mr. Jude Nwachukwu, and restraining his movement.

Victor Onye of Federal Housing Authority, Lugbe, was accused of committing the offence on March 26.

Prosecutor Yilkudi Dungji told the court that on March 26, Mr. Jude Nwachukwu of Federal Housing Authority, Lugbe, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused locked him up in his room.

He said the accused intentionally called the complainant to his house under the pretext of wanting to give him some money and to the complainant's surprise,

lock him inside his apartment.

"The accused locked him up in his house, thereby restraining him from going out and when the complainant questioned his action, he was not given any satisfactory answer," the prosecutor narrated.

He said the action of the accused is punishable under Section 256 of the Penal Code Law.

The accused denied the charge and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Bashar Attahiru Alkali granted the bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reputable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to April 29 for hearing.

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Must be efficient in the use of AutoCAD designs and Site Supervision. Hardworking with skills in his profession.
3. **Secretary/PRO:**
Preferably a female graduate of Mass Communication or Public Administration from a recognized institution. Good communication skills. Versatile in the use of Microsoft Word, Power Point, Excel, Corel Draw and Internet Browsing. Not more than 30 years.
4. **Marketing Officers:**
Must possess a minimum of BSc/HND in marketing or Social Sciences, must be aggressive and resourceful, Computer Literate, Not more than 30 years.

Method of Applications:

Interested candidates with the requisite qualifications and experience, should apply within 2 weeks from the date of this publication to:

The Managing Director.

All applications should be sent on line to:
festrutglobalshelternigltd@yahoo.com

Attach a comprehensive CV, a reference letter and 2 passport size photographs. Interested candidates should reside within Abuja metropolis.

Note: Only short listed candidates will be contacted.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

**GARKI II ULTRA MODERN
MARKET, ABUJA**

Now known As

**GARKI INT'L
MARKET, ABUJA**

Tel: 09 8725005, 8725004

Abuja Investment Company Limited (a subsidiary of FCTA) in collaboration with Urban Shelter Limited (the Developer) of Garki II Ultra Modern Market (now known as and called GARKI INTERNATIONAL MARKET ABUJA), hereby call on ALL SHOP OWNERS whose shop numbers appear below to come to the Administrative Block in the market to collect their *Executed Deeds Of Sub Lease (Assignment)* with evidence of payment of PREMIUM (deposit slip) Recall that all sub lessees or shop owners are expected to pay PREMIUM as stipulated under the terms and conditions of sale in the Deed of Assignment at the rate of **N 6,190 per square meter** according to the sizes and category of shops purchased. **NOTE:-** Please note that possession of deed of Assignment consolidates ownership of your shop for 99 years less expired term. Letter of allocation is not enough!

E.G

S/N	SHOP TYPE	SIZE	PREMIUM PAYABLE (#)
1	B & C	9 sqm	# 55,710.00
2	B & C	18 sqm	111,420.00
3	B & C	23 sqm	142,370.00
4	Open stall	4 sqm	24,760.00
5	Meat Shops	4 sqm	24,760.00
6	Chicken shop	4 sqm	24,760.00
7	A-courtyard	16 sqm	99,040.00
8	ditto	8 sqm	49,520.00
9	ditto	19.8 sqm	122,560.00
10	ditto	11.4 sqm	70,566.00
11	ditto	11.2 sqm	69,328.00
12	ditto	21.6 sqm	133,704.00
13	Cold room	15 sqm	92,680.00

14	Coldroom	72 sqm	44,680.00
15	Restaurant	30 sqm	185,700.00
16	Restaurant	42.5 sqm	263,075.00
17	Restaurant	170 sqm	1,052,300.00
18	A-Courtyard	9.6 sqm	59,424.00
19	Warehouse	9 sqm	55,710.00
20	Warehouse	18 sqm	111,420.00
21	Warehouse	36 sqm	222,840.00
22	Warehouse	54 sqm	334,260.00
23	Warehouse	60 sqm	371,400.00
24	Warehouse	21 sqm	129,990.00
25	Luxury shop	44 sqm	272,360.00
26	Duplex shop	98 sqm	606,620.00
27	Banking hall	570 sqm	3,528,300.00
28	Clinic building	210 sqm	1,299,900.00
29	Toilet facility	50 sqm	309,500.00

The amount due for each category as stated above should be paid into:

Bank: First Bank Nigeria PLC (GIMA Branch) In favour of / Account Name:
Abuja Investments Company Ltd Account no. 5392030002295 Sort CODE: 011065399

FIRST BATCH:-

1. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 55
2. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 188
3. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 325
4. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO.10
5. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO 115
6. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 461
7. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 126
8. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO 220
9. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO 203
10. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO 103
11. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO KEC.186- 210, AND 321-445
12. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 335
13. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO 148
14. BLOCK 4, SECT. B, WAREHOUSE NO.2
15. LUXURY, SHOP NO.7 BLK.3 SECT.3
16. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 70
17. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO. 14
18. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO.108
19. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 215
20. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO 94
21. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 425
22. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO 103
23. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 1/2
24. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO 204
25. BLOCK 2, SECT.2, LUXURY SHOP NO.14
26. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO.14
27. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 189
28. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 1
29. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO 11
30. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO. 20
31. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO 284
32. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 457
33. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO266
34. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 395

35. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 309
36. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO 28/29
37. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO 38
38. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO 90
39. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 357
40. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO 33
41. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO 249
42. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 172
43. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO 13
44. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO 116
45. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO 218
46. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO 122
47. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO 57
48. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO 134
49. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO 4/5
50. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO 145/146
51. LUXURY BLK.3 SECT.3, SHOP NO. 3
52. BLK C1, SHOP NO.120
53. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 43
54. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO.198
55. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO.281
56. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO.339
57. BLK C1, SHOP NO. 456
58. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO. 75
59. WAREHOUSE NO. 22 WITHIN C1
60. WAREHOUSE NO. 52 WITHIN C1
61. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 377
62. BLOCK C1 EXTENSION, SHOP NO.2
63. BLK B2. EXTENSION, SHOP NO. 11
64. BLK C1 EXTENSION, SHOP NO.3
65. RESTAURANT NO. 1, BLK 4, BY A-COURTYARD
66. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO.188/119
67. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO.175/176
68. BLK B2, SHOP NO. 267/278

69. BLK B2, SHOP NO. 85
70. BLK B2, SHOP NO. 185/186
71. BLK B2, NO.70
72. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 20/21
73. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO. 146
74. BLK B.2, SHOP NO.3
75. BLK C.2, SHOP NO. 27
76. BLK C.2, SHOP NO. 80
77. BLK B2, SHOP NO. 329/330
78. BLK B.2, SHOP NO. 82/87
79. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 198
80. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 203
81. BLK B.2 SHOP NO. 30
82. BLK C.1, SHOP NO. 74
83. BLK C.1 SHOP NO. 472
84. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 406
85. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 364
86. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 188
87. BLK C.1, SHOP NO. 160
88. BLOCK C.2 SHOP NO. 130
89. BLOCK B.2 SHOP NO. 164/165
90. BLOCK C.2 SHOP NO. 131
91. BLOCK B.1 SHOP NO. 196
92. A- COURTYARD SHOP NO.175
93. DUPLEX SHOP NO. 2 BLK,1 SECT, 1
94. BLOCK C.1 SHOP NO. 462
95. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 153/154
96. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 270
97. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 05
98. A-COURTYARD NO. 204
99. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 265
100. BL SHOP NO. 132
101. BLOCK, 1 CHIKEN SHOP NO. 20
102. BLOCK B.1 SHOP NO. 173

GARKI II INT'L MARKET (CONTINUATION)

103. BLOCK B.1 SHOP NO.58	179. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 379	256. LUXURY SHOP NO. 5 BLK. 1 SECT. 1	330. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO 188
104. BLK B.1, SHOP NO. 135	180. BLOCK C1 SHOP NO. 432	257. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 176	331. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO 174
105. BLK .3 SECT.3 LUXURY, SHOP NO.2	181. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO. 94	258. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 65	332. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 63
106. BLOCK B.2 SHOP NO. 106	182. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO.07	259. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 15	333. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 288
107. BLK B.2 SHOP NO.169	183. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 08	260. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO. 219	334. A- COURTYARD SHOP NO 98
108. BLK B.1 SHOP NO.170	184. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 260	261. BLOCK B2, SHOP NOS. 199/200	335. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 308
109. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 180	185. BLOCK 3, SECTION 3,SHOP NO.7	262. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 12	336. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO 98
110. BLK.1 SECT.1 LUXURY, SHOP NO. 4	186. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO. 154	263. BLOCK 2, SECT. 2, LUXURY SHOP NO. 5	337. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 374
111. BLK 3 SECT.3 LUXURY SHOP NO. 9	187. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO. 229	264. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 56/61	338. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO 213
112. COLD ROOM, BLK. 2 SECT. A NO.3	188. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 196	265. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 284	339. A-COURTYARD SHOP NO 220
113. BLOCK B.2, EXTENSION, SHOP NO. 6	189. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 127	266. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 32	340. A-COURTYARD SHOP NO 205
114. BLK, B.2, SHOP NO. 150	190. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO. 223/224	267. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO. 99	341. WAREHOUSE, SHOP NO 59
115. BLK B.2, SHOP NO. 139	191. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO. 195	268. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 02	342. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO 114
116. BLK B.1, SHOP NO.97	192. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NOS.78/89	269. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 35	343. A- COURTYARD SHOP NO 103
117. OPEN SHOP, BLK B, SHOP NO.129	193. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 164	270. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 285	344. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 179
118. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 165	194. BLOCK 3, SECT. 3, LUXURY SHOP NO.11	271. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO.286	345. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 45
119. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 405	195. BLOCK 3, SECT. B, NO. 4	272. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 39	346. A-COURTYARD SHOP NO 127
120. BLK B.1, SHOP NO. 107	196. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 187	273. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 03	347. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 218
121. BLK B.1, SHOP NO. 78	197. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NOS. 25/26	274. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 117	348. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 41 & 42
122. BLK.B1, SHOP NO. 81	198. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NOS. 172/173	275. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 162	349. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 376
123. OPEN SHOP NO. 63 WITHIN A-COURTYARD	199. BLOCK 1, SECT. 1, LUXURY SHOP NO. 7	276. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 34	350. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 231
124. BLOCK B.2 SHOP NO. 36/37	200. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 82	277. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 183	351. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 147
125. BLK C.1 SHOP NO. 316	201. WAREHOUSE BLOCK 2, SHOP NO. 6	278. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 216	352. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 165
126. BLOCK B.1 SHOP NO.223	202. 18SQM BLOCK C2	279. WAREHOUSE NO.9 WITHIN C1	353. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 100
127. BLOCK C.1 SHOP NO.320	203. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO. 66	280. BLOCK 3, SHOP NO. 12	354. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 74
128. BLOCK C.1 SHOP NO. 332	204. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 168	281. BLOCK C2, NO. 21	355. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 132 / 133
129. BLOCK C.1 SHOP NO. 349	205. WAREHOUSE NO. 10 WITHIN C1	282. BLOCK 1, SECT. 1, LUXURY SHOP NO.3	356. LUXURY NO 3. BLOCK 4 SECT. 4
130. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO.100	206. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 8	283. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 121	357. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 65 / 52
131. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO.331	207. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 10	284. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 200	358. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 229
132. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO. 127	208. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO. 210	285. BLOCK 2, SECTION A, NO. 4	359. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO 87
133. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO.351/352	209. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 207	286. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 06	360. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 71 AND 72
134. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 121	210. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO. 171	287. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 114	361. A- COURTYARD SHOP NO 159
135. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO. 192	211. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 207	288. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 117	362. A- COURTYARD SHOP NO 90
136. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 129	212. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 87	289. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 329	363. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 233
137. BLOCK C2, EXT. SHOP NO. 6	213. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 213	290. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO. 298	364. BLOCK C.1 SHOP NO 154
138. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 64	214. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 211	291. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO. 299	365. DUPLEX NO 7 BLOCK 2 SECT. 2
139. BLOCK B1. SHOP NO. 88	215. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO. 84	292. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 166	366. A-COURTYARD SHOP NO 165
140. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO 219	216. BLOCK B2, SHOP NOS. 148/149	293. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 253	367. A-COURTYARD SHOP NO 48 / 49
141. WAREHOUSE NO. 4 BLK 6, SECT B	217. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 385	294. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 56	368. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 225
142. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 348/349	218. COLD ROOM SHOP NO. 5	295. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO.112	369. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 120
143. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 416	219. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 249/256	296. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 167	370. BLOCK 6 SECT. 6 DUPLEX NO 8
144. SHOP NO. 334	220. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO. 108	297. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO.149	371. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 464
145. BLK C1, SHOP NO. 125	221. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO. 83	298. OPEN SHOP NO. 62, WITHIN A-COURTYARD	372. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 250
146. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 142	222. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 28	299. B2, SHOP NO. 9/10	373. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 203
147. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 168	223. BLOCK 2, SECT. A, COLDROOM NO.9	300. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO. 75	374. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 251
148. WAREHOUSE NO. 12 WITHIN C1	224. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 212	301. DUPLEX SHOP NO. 2, SECT. 3, BLOCK 3	375. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 252
149. WAREHOUSE NO. 14 WITHIN C1	225. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 100/93	302. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO 216	376. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 372
150. BLOCK B1, SHOP NO. 14	226. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 92	303. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 383	377. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 307
151. WAREHOUSE NO. 55 WITHIN C1	227. BLOCK 1, SECT. A, NO. 07	304. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO. 215	378. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 322
152. A-COURTYARD (EXT.), SHOP NO. A5	228. B.1 SHOP NO. 15	305. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO. 105	379. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 64
153. BLOCK B1 EXTENSION, SHOP NO.13	229. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 151/152	306. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 174	380. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 234 AND 235
154. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 246	230. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 220	307. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 54 / 63	381. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 183
155. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 378	231. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 110	308. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 182	382. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 197
156. BLOCK C1 SHOP NO. 387	232. BLOCK 3, SECT.3, SHOP NO. 4	309. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 171	383. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 233 / 236
157. C1 SHOP NO. 99	234. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 79	310. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 90	384. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 104
158. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 155	235. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 407	311. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 452	385. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 132
159. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 281	236. BLOCK C1, SHOP NO. 133	312. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 167 / 168	386. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 136
160. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 249	237. B.1 SHOP NO. 66	313. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 25	387. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 140
161. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO.248	238. BLOCK 3, SECT.3, LUXURY SHOP NO. 1	314. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 172	388. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 392
162. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 21	239. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO. 09	315. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO 52	389. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 235
163. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 107	240. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO. 93	316. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 69	390. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 37
164. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO. 65	241. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 213	317. BLOCK C.1 SHOP NO 342	391. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 166
165. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO. 199	242. A-COURTYARD, NO. 210	318. A- COURTYARD SHOP NO 154	392. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 91 / 102
166. BLOCK 1, SECT. I, LUXURY SHOP NO. 10	243. BLOCK B2, SHOP NO. 145/146	319. A- COURTYARD SHOP NO 178	393. A-COURTYARD SHOP NO 157
167. BLOCK 1, SECT. 1 LUXURY SHOP NO.11	244. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 16	320. BLOCK C.1. SHOP NO 110	394. LUXURY NO 2 SECT. 2, SHOP NO 6
168. BLOCK C1 SHOP NO. 394	245. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 90	321. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 2C2	395. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO 156
169. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 121	246. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 15	322. BLOCK 3 SECT.3, LUXURY SHOP NO 5	396. A-COURTYARD SHOP NO 105
170. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO.7 EXT.	247. BLOCK 3, SECT. 3, LUXURY SHOP NO. 6	323. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 125	397. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO 137
171. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO. 181	248. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 199	324. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 397	398. A- COURTYARD SHOP NO 179
172. BLOCK B1 SHOP NO. 85	249. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 150	325. BLOCK C.2, SHOP NO 170	399. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 111
173. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 59	250. BLOCK I, SECTION A, NO. 2 AND 3	326. BLOCK B.1, SHOP NO 208	400. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 204
174. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 190	251. DUPLEX SHOP NO. 3, BLOCK 2	327. BLOCK 4, SECT.4, LUXURY SHOP NO 4	401. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 11
175. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO. 186	252. BLOCK C.2 SHOP NO. 247	328. BLOCK C.1, SHOP NO 403	
176. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. 20	253. BLOCK C.2 SHOP NO. 38	329. BLOCK B.2, SHOP NO 82 / 87	
177. A-COURTYARD, SHOP NO. A. 2	254. BLOCK C2, SHOP NO.256		
178. BLOCK C, 1, SHOP NO.205	255. BLOCK C.2 SHOP NO. 283		

SIGNED:
MANAGEMENT

NYSC cautions on corps members rejection

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE FCT NYSC Coordinator, Obong Paul Ata, yesterday appealed to employers of labour not to reject corps members posted to serve in their various organisations.

He made this call at the closing ceremony of Batch 'A' corps members orientation exercise at Kubwa Orientation Camp.

The coordinator disclosed that 3,756 corps members participated in the just concluded orientation exercise and will be posted to various places of primary assignments in the six area councils of the FCT.

The NYSC Coordinator urged corps members to engage in com-

munity development services so as to impact positively and practically on the improvement of rural lives by motivating the people towards self-help projects.

"The community service is also aimed at exposing corps members to diverse traditions and customs of their host communities and also instilling in the corps members the spirit of dignity in labour," he said.

In his address, FCT Permanent Secretary, Dr. Goke Adegoroye noted that the primary assignment is the real platform where corps members actualize the aims and objectives of the scheme.

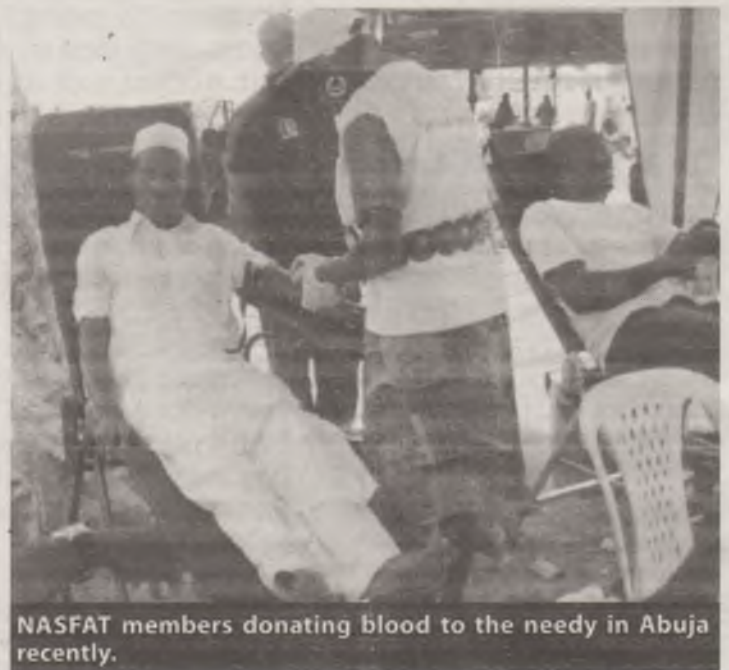
"I advise you to respect the culture, customs, structures, places, special landmarks and taboos of

the host community, as people are generally sensitive and passionate about their culture," he stated.

Also speaking, Secretary/Chairman NYSC Governing Board, Barrister Habiba Sani Kalgo said that the posting procedure of the NYSC scheme is basically rural oriented as instituted by Federal Government in order to carry political and socio-economic development to the doorsteps of the rural dwellers through corps members skilled manpower.

"Therefore, if any of you is posted to a rural community, accept the posting in good faith and take up the challenge to contribute your own quota to the growth and development of the rural area," she added.

PIC: HUSSEIN YAHAYA



NASFAT members donating blood to the needy in Abuja recently.

Council boss promises stable electricity

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE acting Chairman of Kwali Area Council, Mr. Danlami Saleh Yebu, Saturday promised to ensure stable power supply to residents of the council before the week runs out.

Yebu said this when he addressed residents of Kwali central ward during his campaign tour to the area.

He said the epileptic power supply experienced at Kwali central ward was as a result of a step down transformer.

According to him, the step down transformer suddenly developed a fault and the attention of the business manager of Gwagwalada branch of Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) drawn to it, adding that they liaised with the council to replace a new one.

"Sometimes in January, PHCN staff were here to see things for themselves after

which the coil was removed and the council has intensified efforts to ensure there is steady power supply before the end of this week," he said.

The council boss condemned the opposition for criticising his administration for not giving priority to electricity, especially to residents of Kwali central ward.

"On assumption in office, our administration recorded 70 percent success in the area of power supply and the council is now intensifying efforts to ensure contractor's handling electrification in 13 villages are mobilised to sites," he said.

The council boss said arrangements have also been made to provide electricity at Kilankwa ward in order to boost economic activities as well as improve the revenue profile of the council.

Principal tasks parents on girl-child upbringing

By Lucas Istifanus

THE principal of Government Secondary School, Dutsen- Abuja at the week-end called on parents to ensure the proper upbringing of the girl-child.

Mrs. Hafsat Umar gave the advice during the launch of the sixth edition of the school's magazine and fish harvest ceremony.

While launching the magazine called 'The Flash', the principal said the magazine will serve as a forum where students will showcase their talents by engaging in literary activities.

She lectured parents to teach, train and groom

their girl-child into impeccable future mothers and leaders.

Commenting on the fish harvest, the principal disclosed that students are fed fish from the school's fish ponds since the beginning of the term.

"Having the pond activities has saved the school thousands of naira which would have been used in purchasing fishes for students' consumption," she added.

The principal listed some of the students challenges as fencing of the school, need for a higher capacity generating set and a standard clinic with sufficient staff, among others.

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Inside Politics

I didn't move to PDP for appointment – Sen. Ajadi

SENATOR Suleiman Makanjuola Ajadi represented Kwara South in the Senate between 1999 and 2003 on the platform of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP). In 2007, he was governorship candidate of the Action Congress (AC) in the state. Now he has joined the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). In this interview, Ajadi sheds light on his movement to the PDP and other political issues in Kwara. Excerpts:

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE problem of Niger-Delta seems to have defied solutions even as the federal government extended Olive branch to militants. What do you think is the way out?

It has become a past time for the militants to kidnap prominent people in order to demand ransom. Unfortunately, it is not restricted to the Niger-Delta region alone. It has extended to every part of the country and I think it is something that should concern every Nigerian. While the federal government makes effort to get the youths on the right tract, it should also fish out their sponsors. This is because if we don't get to the roots of this problem, there may not be final solution to it. In addition to this, the governments of the Niger-Delta should try to get these youths engaged in veritable ventures because 'an idle mind is the devil's workshop'. Militancy in the region has gone beyond the ordinary; it is now a source of livelihood.

You were in the Senate between 1999 and 2003. How has it been after that?

I thank the almighty Allah for His grace. Since I left the Senate, God has been merciful to me. Don't forget too that I was lecturer/director/management consultant and an entrepreneurship before I was given the opportunity to represent Kwara South in the Senate. I am still a politician and I oversee the small businesses I have as middle scale entrepreneur. To the glory of God, I am not doing bad.

How would you compare the legislature during your tenure and now?

Our time was the period of experiment. The military was just relinquishing powers to pave way for civilian regime and it was hurriedly done. Then, there was no much experience on the part of the then newly elected lawmakers. But now, they are better in a better position to pass more quality legislations because some of them now are 'second timers' or even 'third timers'. Therefore I am of the view that the National Assembly has improved tremendously.

You were the AC governorship candidate in the 2007 elections, but suddenly you decamped to PDP. What informed your change of party?

I decamped from AC to PDP because of the exigency of the moment. I am a grassroots man and majority of my supporters are from the rural areas and consistently need government's attention in the areas of provision of potable water, electricity, schools, and roads and so on. My people have been denied all these facilities at one time or the other just because they are from Ajadi communities. I think I shouldn't be selfish to assume that because I am comfortable, every other person is also comfortable and does not need government's patronage in the areas I have mentioned. As such, I decided that I should move to the ruling party where we can work to bring an end to the sufferings of the people.

In addition, I think one should participation in politics with the objective of developing his people of his constituency in particular and Nigeria in general. In Nigerian politics, you cannot expect good things if you are in the opposition. I therefore took the decision to join the PDP in order to

attract to my people that which I will find difficult to do if I remain in AC.

Have there been any concessions to you while negotiating your entry into the PDP?

We are not office seekers and we did not bargain for any office in our negotiations with the PDP. We only implored the leadership of the PDP to treat our people fairly. We enjoined the old party members to put our people in the mainstream. We want our people to be integrated as much as possible into the party structure so that they will eventually be useful to the party and the government.

But you are said to have been promised juicy appointment and financial benefits...

I have said again and again that I am not a hungry man; it is therefore surprising to me when people impute such things to me. But I want to say here that my supporters and I are not a bunch of hungry people. As such, I can never be party to bargaining for personal benefits or patronage before taking a decision of such nature.

Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara State can attest to what I am saying. I never at any time requested for appointment either from the State government or the federal government. The only we asked for is proper integration into the PDP.

Now that you are in PDP, what is your relationship with political leaders in your area especially Prof. Albert F. Ogunshola?

I don't like to comment on personalities. But with due reference to Prof. Albert Ogunshola, who has been a political leader in the state, we were together in ANPP at the



SENATOR Suleiman Makanjuola Ajadi

beginning of the fourth Republic. He was the state chairman of the party then. He was also a fatherly figure to us. We however parted ways when ANPP became factionalized in Kwara State. I remained in ANPP when he moved into PDP. Remember I was a serving Senator then and carpet crossing of serving legislators was not fashionable then.

You said you won't comment on personalities, does that extend to Waziri of Ilorin, Dr. Olusola Saraki?

I am giving him exception because he is my benefactor. It is very clear he influenced my being selected for the senatorial contest in 1999, among other aspirants.

He was the overall leader of ANPP then. So, everyone had to toe his line. Prof. Ogunshola was the state chairman of the party, while late Alhaji Mohammed Lawal was also ensured that his governorship ticket was secured. I became a Senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria courtesy of Dr. Saraki's influence. But I was edged out because some mischief-makers gave him wrong impression about me and that created a gap between us. At that time it was beyond my power to correct the wrong impression being created. But you know a politician will always fight to survive so I kept struggling on my own. I didn't design it; it was the way God wanted it. I thank God I am now back to his leadership fold.

Plateau 2011: Giwa, Atu divide Dariye group

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

AS the 2011 election approach, the camp of the former governor of Plateau State, Chief Joshua Dariye is divided over who to support in the race for the party's ticket in 2011.

The Dariye camp as well as the others who are vehemently opposed to the return of Governor Jonah Jang to Rayfield in 2011 are determined to support a formidable aspirant that will give the governor a good run for his money in the primaries. So

far efforts to reconcile the governor's camp with those in PDP 2 have failed.

The Dariye camp, according to sources, is locked between the aspiration of Chief Chris Giwa who was an aide of Dariye and Dr. Danladi Atu, who served as the caretaker chairman of Jos North local government in the Dariye administration.

Our correspondent learnt that the development is becoming an issue in the Dariye camp. It is expected that each of the camps in the Plateau PDP would present an aspirant for consideration by the others

before the party primaries.

The arrangement in the other camps opposed to the return of the incumbent governor is to evaluate the strength of the candidates and see how to forge an alliance in order not to allow a division that would serve the interest of the incumbent governor.

Our correspondent learnt that while former governor Dariye prefers Atu, many of his supporters are of the view that Giwa, who hails from Jos South with the incumbent governor, will present a more formi-

dable challenge to Jang since both of them are of the same Berom ethnic group. Atu is an Afizere.

As the negotiations continue, both sides are said to be unwilling to concede to the other as both believe that given the necessary support that they can upstage Jang in the PDP primaries.

When contacted, media consultant to Dariye, Mr. Yakubu Dati, said he is not aware of any rift in the Dariye camp: He said he would not comment further on the race for 2011 because 'it is still far'.

Inside Politics

PDP decries treatment of spokesman at media event

By Muideen Olaniyi

NATIONAL Publicity Secretary of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Professor Rufai Alkali was on Monday 'forcefully' prevented from presenting a goodwill message at the public presentation of the *Peoples Daily* Newspaper, the party said yesterday.

Head of PDP Publicity Department Kenneth Gyado in a release yesterday said Alkali was stopped by the Chairman of the occasion Alhaji Ismaila Isa Funtua.

Gyado said the statement was to explain what transpired during the event where other guests and invitees were allowed to deliver their goodwill messages.

"Our attention has been drawn to misleading reports in a section of the media where an inaccurate account of events at the Public Presentation of the *Peoples Daily* Newspaper was projected. The true state of affairs as it concerns the National Publicity Secretary of the PDP was that

the chairman of the occasion, Alhaji Ismaila Isa Funtua forcefully prevented him from presenting a goodwill message after other guests and invitees had delivered theirs," the statement said.

"While his motive remains unclear, his stated reason was that the public presentation was not a political forum hence there was no need to listen to a representative of a political party," it said.

Daily Trust learnt that chairman of the occasion had earlier overruled the idea of allowing space for political groupings to take the podium in order to avoid turning the event into a political rally of a sort, which was why he stood his ground to prevent the PDP scribe when he (Alkali) was invited to the stage.

However, the PDP said it believed that any forum of the media should be a platform for sharing ideas and opinions and not an outlet for persons to "vent their anger on perceived opponents".



PRINCE Vincent Ogbulafor

Katsina sacks PDP exco

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE state and local government executive committees of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Katsina State have been dissolved. The dissolution, which many observers saw as a move by Governor Ibrahim Shema to take full control of the party, was announced by the party's caucus at the weekend.

Daily Trust reliably gathered that the decision was announced to party members last Sunday by the senator representing Katsina Central, Alhaji

Ibrahim Ida, in a meeting conducted at the government house presidential lodge last weekend.

Former public relations officer of the party Tukur Master Doro who confirmed the dissolution to newsmen said it was the outcome of the party's caucus meeting last Friday.

A source who was at the meeting informed our reporter that the government hinged its decision on the alleged overstay of the present executive committee of the party in the state and local government level, which has been a subject

of controversy within the party in recent times.

The source revealed that at the meeting, the former chairman of the party Alhaji Kabir Maiwada Daudawa had objected to the dissolution and insisted that he still had one more year to go in his tenure.

Governor Ibrahim Shema has reportedly thanked the previous executives for leading the party over the period and assured them of his resolve to carry all the party members along.

Meanwhile the dis-

solution has opened yet another debate amongst some party members on who has the power to dissolve state executives, whether it is the state party caucus or the national executive committee of the party who for years refused to act on the petition over prolonged stay of the party executives.

Daily Trust effort to speak with the former chairman Kabir Maiwada was not successful as he declined to answer repeated calls. Meanwhile, caretaker committees have already been appointed.

Kaita soon to rejoin PDP, say sources

ALHAJI Lawal Kaita, elder statesman and chieftain of the Action Congress (AC) may soon rejoin the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), sources have indicated.

The sources said in Katsina on Tuesday that the move followed recent overtures to the elder statesman by the Katsina Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Shema and other top officials of the PDP.

The officials, among them, Alhaji Ibrahim Sayy-adi, had visited Kaita severally at his residence in Katsina where they were said to have discussed details of the movement.

Kaita, who was pillar of the PDP before his defection to AC, was said to have promised Shema a return to the PDP in no distant future.

Contacted on phone,

Alhaji Lawal Kaita confirmed that he had a meeting with Shema, though 'not on political grounds'.

According to him, the meeting is on the payment of some allowances to past civilian governors of the state.

He denied that monies changed hands during the meeting, pointing out that he had in the past rejected huge sums of money to defect from the party of his conviction.

"I was once offered N500 million to return to PDP but I rejected it. So how much will Shema give me now that can exceed the one I rejected?" he said, as he dispelled reports that he was bribed to go back to the PDP. He described the reports as calculated attempt to dent his image.

(NAN)

Zamfara resident electoral commissioner dies

THE Resident Electoral Commissioner in Zamfara Alhaji Hassan Yahaya is dead.

The Commission's Head of Public Affairs Department, Alhaji Garba Galadima, who announced the demise on Monday, said that Yahaya died at the Federal Medical Centre, Gusau, after a brief illness.

Galadima said in a statement that the commissioner died at the age of 63 and left behind two wives and eight children.

He said that the late

commissioner was buried at his hometown, Kontagora, Niger, in accordance with Islamic rites.

The statement also quoted Zamfara Deputy Governor Mukhtar Ahmad as saying that Yahaya died at a time when the country needed his service most.

"The death of Yahaya is a loss to the country in general," Ahmad said.

He prayed God to grant his family the fortitude to bear the loss and for the repose of his soul. (NAN)

Group backs NBA president over Sokoto guber case

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Sokoto Unity Forum yesterday threw its weight behind the President of the Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) Rotimi Akeredolu (SAN) over his stand on the contentious Sokoto State gubernatorial appeal.

Leader of the group, Barrister Abdullahi Usman DanJabo, said yesterday in Abuja that reports credited to the Human Rights Association of Nigeria

(HURIWA) condemning Akeredolu is a sponsored campaign to tarnish the good name of a reputable organization like NBA.

"It has exposed the weakness of some desperate politicians who are ready to use all medium to bring into ridicule a professional organization like NBA through sponsored lies and accusations by those claiming to be championing the cause of human rights in the country," DanJabo said.

PPA welcomes inclusion of GNU members in cabinet

By Muideen Olaniyi

CONTRARY to reports that the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan may have jettisoned the Government of National Unity (GNU), indications emerged at weekend that the GNU is still on course.

Daily Trust learnt that

the Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA) has re-submitted the name of former Minister of State for FCT, Chief Chuka Odom, and Barrister Chukwuemeka Wogu, as its ministerial nominees.

In the same vein, the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), has one of its

serving senators, Alhaji Bala Mohammed on the list of ministerial nominees. The party is also said to be at the verge of re-submitting the name of the immediate past minister for women affairs, Hajia Salamat Suleiman, as its nominee for Jonathan's consideration.

Reacting to the development, PPA National Publicity Secretary, Ben Onyechere, said Jonathan is favourably disposed to forwarding the names to shame critics who think he is bent on destroying everything about President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LIGHT FOR THE FORSAKEN MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

This is to inform the general public that the above named ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the companies and allied matters Act No 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Pastor Ekow Gordon Abraham | President |
| 2. Robert Ekow Graham | Secretary |
| 3. Mrs. Precious Abraham | |
| 4. Mrs. Lydia Hassan Kaka | |
| 5. Elder Adeleke Ajenipa | |
| 6. Mrs. Becky Ladawus | |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To propagate the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ to the world
- To give dignity and value to human being
- To embark on Evangelical missions and programs throughout Nigeria and part of the world with a view to winning souls for the lord Jesus Christ and preparing Men and Women for second coming of our lord Jesus Christ

Any objection to the registration should be addressed to the Registrar General, Cooperative Affairs Commission 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication

Signed
BARR. BEN CHESSD DANPULLO

CENTER FOR THE MEMORAZATION OF HADITH WEST AFRICA

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Commission for registration under part "C" of the companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The trustees are:

- Alh. Kyari Sandabe
- Sheikh Muhammad Goni Gabchiya
- Sheikh Shuaibu Abubakar
- Mustapha Bulu Ibrahim
- Muhammad Abba Sanda
- Adamu Isa Abadam
- Engr. Mallam Kyari
- Ali Muhammad Sa'id Gamawa
- Ustaz Hudu Muhammad Yusuf
- Mussawa Chambers

The aims and objectives are

- To help educate the public on the authentic Hadith (the sayings of the prophet Muhammad (SAW))
 - To educate people on both western and Islamic education.
- Any objection to the Registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission ploy No. 420 Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed
MUSSAWA CHAMBERS

PEACEWAY MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

This is to inform the general public that the above named ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the companies and allied matters Act No 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Rev. Babatunde Adedokun | President |
| 2. Pastor Joshua Nwokorie | Secretary |
| 3. Bishop Dr. Julius Abiola | |
| 4. Prof. Iyiola Tella | |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To propagate the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ to the world
- To give dignity and value to human being
- To establish Christian oriented Educational Institutions

Any objection to the registration should be addressed to the Registrar General, Cooperative Affairs Commission 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication

Signed
BARR. BEN CHESSD DANPULLO
No 2 Gassol Street, Karewa GRA Adamawa State.

KANO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY

This is to inform the general public that the above named Society has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

TRUSTEES

- Dr. Bale M. Giginju
- Prof. Auwalu M. Bandaws
- Malam Abdu M. Yaro
- Alhaji A.B. Hassan
- Dr. Sadiq M. Gataudu
- Malam Isyaku Isa Mammaga

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To boost horticultural activities in kano state
- To sensitize the populace on the relevance of Horticultural in the economic growth
- To device ways of curtailing wastages in the marketing of perishable horticultural crops
- To produce horticultural Map of kano state
- To provide basic capacity building in the Horticulture for Members
- To create an enabling environment for the exportation of Horticultural crops from kano

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Cooperative Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Certificate of Occupancy belonging to **Crown Estate Limited** with Certificate of Occupancy No. NC 2994, Plot No. 3, Road 'F' on TPO 463 Barnawa Residential Layout, Kaduna South, Kaduna State. All efforts made to trace the missing document proved abortive. If found, return to the nearest Police Station or contact 08033143911.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of the original Certificate of Occupancy to Plot No. 3209, Cadastral Zone A06, Maitama, Abuja with Number 4bduw-13c4z-7149r-e6c8u-10 belonging to **Miss Ajoke Akinjide** of Plot No. 936, Azores Crescent, Wuse II Abuja. All efforts made to trace the said document have proved abortive. The AGIS and general public should take note.

YOUTH DISCUSSION INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, (CAMA) 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|
| 1. Zayyan Tambari Yabo | Chairman |
| 2. Nurudeen Abubakar | Vice Chairman |
| 3. Ibrahim Ahdamu | Secretary |
| 4. Zainab Bello Aliyu | |
| 5. Bashir Aminu Bello S. | |
| 6. Nafise Abubakar Zaki | |
| 7. Abuhuraira Sa'idu | |

Aims and objectives

- To bring together young people of Sokoto state who are development driven and focused.
- To create a platform where contemporary developmental issues are discussed and alternate models canvassed where necessary.
- To organize programmes such as seminars, training workshops, symposiums etc. where various stakeholders in the development of Sokoto state share ideas.
- To create avenues where social cohesion and friendly relationship are created and promoted among the young ones that could be channelled for the development of Sokoto state.

Any objective(s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P. M. B. 198, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

THE VOICE OF RESURRECTION GOSPEL CHURCH

This is to notify the general public that the above named ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1. Pastor Daniel Olumuyiwa | Chairman |
| 2. Rev. Folunsho Matthew | Asst. Chairman |
| 3. Deaconess Yemisi Adesunmi | Member |
| 4. Deacon Matthew Idowu | Member |
| 5. Mrs. Olumuyiwa Olanike Elizerbeth | Secretary |

THE PRINCIPAL AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

- To proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- To liberate the world through the teachings of Christ.
- To build missionary schools and offer scholarships to the less privileged in the society.
- To manifest the resurrection power of our lord.
- To shine as light in the midst of darkness through righteousness.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to The Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days (twenty-eight) of the date of publication.

Signed: Pastor Daniel Olumuyiwa

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to notify the general public of loss of Original Certificate of Occupancy/Offer of terms of Conveyance of approval letter dated 22/11/85 with Ref. No. FCT/ABU/OY.600 in respect of plot no. 530 located at Wuse 1 district, of about 954.18 Sq.m, bearing **CHIEF AKANNI ALUKO** are missing. All effort made to trace the missing documents proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station.

AUCTION! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!!

This is to inform the general public that there will be public auction sales of unserviceable vehicles in Federal Ministry of Education at Daura F.G.C. Correction of omission on the publication of March 5, 2010 on the public auction.

Date: 31 March, 2010.

Venue: Federal Government College, Daura

Signed: Alhaji Abubakar Adamu and Beneth Okeke
08134178838

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Copy of Offer of Statutory Right of Occupancy belonging to **Alhaji Muhktar Shehu Shagari** dated 15/11/2005 with File No. S.O 20000 and original receipt of payment issued to AGIS with respect to the above mentioned property is missing while he was on transit from Katsina to Abuja. All efforts made to trace the document proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly **MISS SARAH DOSHIA BAKO BAKUT**. Now wish to be known as **MRS. SARAH ISHAKU MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. Ministry of Health, Kaduna State and the general public to please note.

I formerly known as **SALIHU UMAR**, now wish to be called **SALEH UMAR BAGOBIRI**. All former documents remain valid. Ministry of Lands and Survey, Damaturu and the general public to take note.

I formerly known as **ABU MUHAMMAD KANI** now wish to be called and addressed as **ZAINAB MUHAMMAD KANI**. All former documents remain valid. National Teachers Institute Abuja and general public should please take note.

I formerly known as **IFEANYI CHUKWJEMKA IBEMERE** now wish to be known as **IFEANYI BETTEL CHUKWUMA**. All former documents remain valid. The General public should take note.

I formerly known and addressed as **AKPAMA OKEYIM LEKO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. WOKEYIM LEKO ENAIFOGHE**. All former documents remained valid. The General Public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **AROMOLARAN BENSERAH OLUSOLA**, now wish to be called **AKOTUNOLA BENSERAH ENITAN**. All former documents remain valid. Civil Service Commission and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS OKEKE HOPE EZINWANNE**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS EZE HOPE EZINWANNE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I FORMERLY **MISS SAMIRA ABDULLAH MUHAMMAD** NOW TO BE **MRS SAMIRA ABDULLAH MUHAMMAD**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. NYSC AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I formerly Known as **MORIN MOTUNRAYO LATEEFAH** now wish to be called and addressed as Mrs **ALATISHE LATEEFAH MOTUNRAYO**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note

I FORMERLY **HABIBA AJEH** NOW WISH TO BE CALLED **HABIBA NUHU**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I, formerly known as **HAWWA'U AHMED SALIHU** now wish to be called **HAWWA'U AHMED TIJJANI ABUBAKAR**. Former documents remain valid. NYSC, UDUS and general public to note.

Formerly known as **OGUEBUE OGECHUKWU EUCHARIA**, now **MRS OFOGBU OGECHUKWU EUCHARIA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS ISHOLA RASHIDAT OLAJUMOKE** now wish to be addressed and called as **MRS BUHARI RASHIDAT OLAJUMOKE**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **ORJIUGO CHIDINMA ONUOHA**, now to be known as **ORJIUGO CHIDINMA JOEL OKAFOR**. Federal Co-operative College Oji River, Enugu, NYSC take note.

I, formerly known as **IKEDI LINDA NWAKAEGO** now to be known as **DANIEL LINDA NWAKAEGO**. DORBEN, Polytechnic Abuja / NYSC take note.

I formerly known as **MISS ANAH CHINENYE NKIRUKA** now wish to be address as **MRS. EZENWANNE CHINENYE NKIRUKA**, general public take note.

I formerly known as **MISS BINTU KARUMI** now wish to be called **MRS BINTU ALHAJI KARUMI**. All former documents remain valid general public take note.

I, **OBET PASCAL**, now wish to be known as **OBED PASCAL**. Former documents remain valid. General public note.

I, **SALEH IDI** now wish to known and address as **ZUBAIRU MAINA**, former documents remain valid, general public note.

I formerly **MISS THERESA OBIAGELI ENUMAH** now wish to be called **MRS THERESA OBIAGELI EZEH**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly **MISS STELLA ENENA OBEYA** now wish to be called **MRS STELLA SALOME E. ALI**. All former documents remain valid. CBSSL, BANK PHB and General public take note.

I, Formerly **MAJIDDA AHMED RILWANU**, now wish to be called as **MAJIDDA ALIYU** All former documents remain valid. BAUCHI L.G.E.A and public should take note

I, formerly **NAOMI .M. AMBI**, now wish to be called as **NAOMI YAKUBU AZI**. All former documents remain valid general public should take note.

Formerly **MISS AMINA MOHAMMED** now **MRS. AMINA MOHAMMED KABIR**. General public to tone.

I, formerly known as **MOHAMMED ABUBAKAR**, now wish to be called **MOHAMMED INUWA ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **DEBO AKANDE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **KAYODE DEBO AKANDE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Certificate of Occupancy belonging to **Crown Estate Limited** with Certificate of Occupancy No. NC 2994, Plot No. 3, Road 'F' on TPO 463 Barnawa Residential Layout, Kaduna South, Kaduna State. All efforts made to trace the missing document proved abortive. If found, return to the nearest Police Station or contact 08033143911.

RHEMA BIBLE TRAINING CENTRE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Centre has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Matthew John Beemer (Chairman)
2. Andrew Osakwe (Secretary).
3. John Frederick Grunewald

Aims and objectives:

1. World Bible outreach.
2. To teach the gospel by focusing on both the practical and spiritual sides of Christian service.
3. Training of both men and women with a Bible based curriculum needed to succeed in every area of ministry.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Andrew Osakwe
Secretary

WETLAND ADVOCACY AND LIVELIHOOD DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mrs. Esther Folashade Okunade
2. Professor Emmanuel Asuquo Obot
3. Mr. Adedayo Sunday Okunade
4. Mr. Fidelis Omeni

Aims and objectives:

1. To create awareness on Wetland management.
2. To protect Wetland ecosystem.
3. Capacity building of communities and stakeholders around the Wetland.
4. Enhancement of livelihood of communities and stakeholders around the Wetland.
5. Advocacy on Wetland management.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Solicitor

NETWORK LEGAL SERVICES

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mrs. Ayo Idaomi
2. Miss Kemi Mosunmade
3. Mrs. Olufemi Awodipe

Aims and objectives:

1. To provide free legal services to indigent Nigerian

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. Dauda Hassan

AGOJEJU PROGRESSIVE UNION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Union has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act no. 1 of 1990

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Paul Onoja
2. Ali Agada
3. Samuel Ekpah

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote unity and understanding among members of the community.
2. To promote development and community relation among people of the community.
3. To integrate rural community development.
4. To mediate between communities in terms of conflict resolutions.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:

Barr. Caroline Abah (Mrs)
Suits A20 Ibro Hotel, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja
0805388236

OSOGBO YOUTH ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA

This is to notify the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Act of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Alhaji Suleman Olaiyiwola
2. Mr. Surajudeen Ishola
3. Mr. Wasiu Ibrahim
4. Mr. Suleman Adesina
5. Mr. T. Bayo
6. Alhaji Muyideen Bello
7. Mr. Abass Badmus

Aims and Objectives:

1. Unity, peace and progress among members.
2. To help the members of the association in time of trouble.
3. To contribute to the development of Nigeria.
4. To assist the less privilege ones in our society.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Mr. Surajudeen Ishola

MOUNTAINTOP EVANGEL CHURCH

This is to notify the general public that the above named Church has apply for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Pastor Kachalla Malgwi
2. Mrs. Henrietta Malgwi
3. Dr. Chuka Ofuani
4. Rev. Niven Yaji Mshelia
5. Pastor Ishos Mairafi
6. Andy Zaana Aken Ova
7. Pastor Frank Ummah Ibe
8. Dr. Felix Apeh Lawani

Aims and Objectives:

1. To preach the Gospel of our Lord Christ in all parts of Nigeria and beyond.
2. To raise a people of integrity and fervency.
3. To equip Believers to do the work of the Church

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Lekan Ipaye & Co.

GAMZAKI DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Acts No. 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Alh. Hussaini Mohammed Central Store- Chairman
2. Mr. Alphansus Duniya - Secretary
3. Alh. Tijani El-Habib - Member
4. Sabatu Auda Peru - Member
5. Haj. Hafsat Isa - Women Leader
6. Mercy Jamila Aliyu - Member
7. Friday Smart Ibrahim - Publicity Secretary
8. Haj. Zanaib Nuhu - Member
9. Haj. Hauwa Umar - Member

Aims and Objectives:

1. To educate the public on health, economic and self dependence.
2. To create political awareness to the general public.
3. To sensitized the public on their civil responsibility.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

CHAPEL OF SOLUTION AND PROPHETIC MINISTRY

The general public is hereby notified that the above named non-governmental organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja, for registration as an Incorporated Trustee under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, Cap C-20 Law of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.

The Trustees are:

1. Pastor Chris Iueze Affah
2. Mrs. Helen Affan
3. Mrs. Favour Tony
4. Mr. Blessing Peter Egujie
5. Mr. Princewill Okim
6. Mr. Philip O.
7. Mrs. Naomi Nuhu

Aims and Objectives:

1. To bring non-believers to faith in Christ both locally and world wide.
2. To train our children by our God given rights in grace and Law of Jesus Christ.
3. Building individual members to full maturity in Christ.
4. To propagate the Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

President.

LOSS OF ORIGINAL LETTER OF ALLOCATION

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original letters of allocation of open market space in Utako Ultra-Modern Int. Market as follows:

1. Letter of Allocation of space No. STB170 issued by AMAC dated 14/07/1997 Ref.No PHID/UUMIM/AMAC/1382 in the name of Vicke Omorusi (Assigned to Alh. M.K. Zubanu)
2. Letter of Allocation of space No. STB338 issued by AMAC dated 14/07/1997 Ref. No. PHID/UUMIM/AMAC/2371 in the name of MICHAEL B. Okokon (Assigned to Alh. M.K. Zubanu)
3. Letter of Allocation of space No. STB181 issued by AMAC dated 14/07/1997 Ref. No. PHID/UUMIM/AMAC/2373 in the name of Umanek Ltd (Assigned to Alh. M.K. Zubanu). All effort to trace the said documents proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest police station or AGIS/AMAC Office Abuja or call telephone No. 08033287226

Signed:

Barr. A. Ahmad

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MISS VICTORIA ORLANDO**, now wish to be called **MRS. VICTORIA JOSEPH UDOH**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **DR. BALOGUN MUTIAT OLASUNMBO**, now wish to be known and addressed as **DR. (MRS) ABDULLAHI MUTIAT OLASUNMBO**. All former documents remain valid. General public and the authority of Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano should please take note.

I, formerly known as **AMAKA PEACE ONWUMERE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **NWAMAKA PEACE POMISE-CHUKWU**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly **BASHIR ABDULLAHI**, now wish to be known as **IBRAHIM ABUBAKAR**. Kaduna South Local Govt. and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS RACHAEL ATIM EKPENYONG**, now wish to be known as **MRS. RACHAEL ATIM IKECHUKWU OBICHIE**. All former documents remain valid. National Hospital and general public to take note.

I, formerly **MISS IJEOMA IMMACULATE ONOMOGBO**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS IJEOMA ONONOGBO EKAEBE**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS TABITHA MAIDODO** now wish to be known as **TABITHA HABILA LEO**. All former documents remain valid. F.M.W.A & S.D and general public take note.

I, **MISS JOY OGECHI NWACHUKWU**, now wish to be known as **MRS JOY OGECHI OBABI**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, UNN and general public take note.

Former **NNAM PROMISE NGOZI** now **MRS NNAMOKO PROMISE NGOZI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, **OLUFUNMILAYO MODUPE AYETAN** now wish to be called **MRS. OMOBOLAJI FUNMILAYO JURADAT**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **CHINENYE JOY** now wish to be addressed as **MRS. ANURI JOY EKEKE**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly **ABIGAIL MOSES** now wish to be known as **ABIGAIL MESEKE**. All former documents remain valid. NAFDAC, general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS. OKPONENWU CYNTHIA NNEKA** wishes to be known as **MRS. AJAELO CYNTHIA NNEKA**. NYSC take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **MISS ANTHONIA CHIDIEBERE ANYADIEGWU**, now wish to be known as **MRS ANTHONIA CHIDIEBERE IHEACHOJE**. All former documents remain valid. C.O.E Minna and general public to note.

I, **MISS AKANDE FUNMILOLA GRACE**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS ADENIYI FUNMILOLA GRACE**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS HADIZA SALMAN SIFAWA** now wish to be called **MRS. HADIZA SALMAN SIFAWA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and the general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS SARAYA YAH I MAINA** now wish to be called **MRS. SARAYA ISHAKU A. GANA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and the general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS OBI OBI NJA** now wish to be addressed as **MRS.OBI NDI FOFON**. All former documents remain valid. NIGERIAN PRISONS SERVICE and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **LINDSAY AMIEHINON OGBEIFUN** now wish to be addressed as **ANITA AIMIEHINON AYUBA SAMUEL**. All former documents remain valid. NYANYA GENERAL HOSPITAL, ABUJA and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **AYUBA MANGA FRANCIS** now wish to be addressed as **SAMUEL AYUBA FRANCIS**. All former documents remain valid. NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, ABUJA and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS SANDRA OSAGBAROGHEM WEN OBAZEE** now wish to be called **MRS SANDRA OSAGBAROGHEM WEN KINGSLEY-OMOGIADE**. All former documents remain valid. AMBROSE ALLI University, NYSC, NOUN and general public take note.

I, formerly **JEGEDE OLUWATOYIN GRACE** now wish to be called **OGUNDUYILE OLUWATOYIN GRACE**. All former documents remain valid. PHCN, University of Abuja and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS DEBORAH ELEGWU CECILIA ONCHE**, now wish to be known as **MRS DEBORAH ELEGWU CECILIA AMANYI**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

SPORT

Ubale confident of Nigerian starlets

Page 54



PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

Nigeria in bright start at AJC

By Orkula Shaagee

THE 33rd edition of the Africa Junior Tennis Championship Warm Up got underway yesterday in Abuja with ten of Nigeria's representatives qualifying for the second round of the event.

Two of the players who through to the second round also told *Trustsports* in an interview yesterday that they are prepared to post excellent results at the championship and lift Nigeria to the zenith of global tennis.

Among the Nigerian players who qualified for the second round of the championship on the first day of hospitalities are South Africa-based Umaru Balami who ousted his Zimbabwean opponent Ronzai Sorombe 4-6, 6-4, 6-1 and David Ayeni who edged past Enrico Craighero of Italy.

Ayeni who ousted Italy's Craighero 6-2, 6-3 to book a second round ticket, will face Marouan Ferchichi of Tunisia today.

Speaking to *Trustsports* after the victory, Ayeni said the victory has boosted his morale and he would not look back until he clinches the top prize at the championship.

He stated that, apart from training hard to win laurels, he would continue to take advantage of the hot weather in the country to beat his opponents who are not favourably disposed to harsh the weather situation in Abuja.

According to him, he is now focused more than ever before to win all matches at the tennis championship.

Meanwhile, matches in the African Junior Tennis Championship would commence on Monday after five days of intensive competitions.



NIGERIA'S David Ayeni serves against Enrico Craighero of Italy in the warm up match at the ongoing African Junior Tennis Championship in Abuja, yesterday.

Don't blame home-based Eagles - Galadima

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

FOLLOWING the abysmal performance of the home-based Super Eagles against the Niger Republic, former NFA Chairman, Alhaji Ibrahim Galadima, has called on Nigerians not shift the whole blame on the players or their handlers.

Galadima, who made this call yesterday in an interview with *Trustsports*, said the failure of the team is a complete reflection of the long time abandonment of developmental football in Nigeria.

He noted with dismay the manner in which Nigerian football administrators focus more attention on winning matches, instead of how to develop Nigerian youths and make them develop through the ranks.

According to the Kano-born football administrator, Nigeria is capable of raising very good teams that can take on any African opposition, maintaining that that if nothing is done about developmental football, Nigeria may continue to struggle on all fronts.

While describing the loss of the Super Eagles Team 'B' to minnow, Niger Republic, in the African Nations Championship qualifier as sad, Galadima noted that the loss is capable of casting doubt on the ability of the home-based Team to play for the Eagles team 'A'.

"The 2-0 loss to Niger in Niamey and goalless draw here in Kano is capable of making some people to think that the home-based players are completely bad for the senior team. But that is not the case. We are blessed with good talents, but how to make good use of them has been our undoing," he said.

Kanu considers fresh Al-Ahli offer

A major career dilemma has come the way of Nwankwo Kanu, as an offer to make a transfer move in the summer to United Arab Emirates has fallen on his lap.

The Middle East deal is considered a stop-gap escape from plummeting fortunes at Pompey, and Papillo could decide on making the move even before the transfer market opens, following permission the English Premier League granted Portsmouth to sell players in order to gain their survival. However, one clog in the wheel for the 33-year-old Kanu is that he could be available for as little as £100,000; a figure most of the Super Eagles skipper's fans believe is an insult on his pedigree and quality.

Nonetheless, Kanu is reportedly weighing up the Middle East offer, but will not rush into any decision or accepting to quit Fratton Park, as he waits to see if other clubs show an interest.



NIGERIA'S Anu Aiyegbusi in action during the ITF Junior Circuit Warm Up match yesterday.



SOUTH Africa's Welma Luus is one of the foreign players participating in the ITF Junior Circuit event in Abuja.

Ubale confident of Nigerian starlets

By David Ngobua

COACH of Team Nigeria at the on going Africa Junior Tennis Championship in Abuja, Coach Ubale Mohammed has said he has absolute confidence in all the players who are representing the country at the cadet tournament which began yesterday in Abuja.

Speaking to *Trustsports* yesterday after the first round of

matches which saw ten out of the of the country's 18 players qualifying for the next round, the coach said he had prepared his players for the challenges ahead and would not like to single out any of them for special mention.

He said having been in camp for at least four weeks, his players have received all the necessary training that they needed to do well at the tournament.

He said: "All my players are good and I believe in each one of them and so let us just see how everything goes. I have no doubt in my mind that those who have qualified for the next round will continue to progress and eventually do the whole nation proud".

He hinged his confidence on the fact that apart from the foreign based players who have since joined the team, all the

home based players were camped for not less than four weeks and those players in camp were drilled to expectations.

"The four weeks were enough for us to prepare the players for the tournament. We were monitoring even those who are based abroad and now that we have come together, we have really concluded our preparations for this tournament", he stated.

Defeat in Ghana has fired me up - Balami

By David Ngobua

NIGERIA'S U-18 representative at the Africa Junior Tennis Championship holding in Abuja, Umaru Balami has said he has been fired up to win the Tournament on home soil because he lost the final match at the zonal qualifiers in Ghana early this year.

Speaking to *Trustsports* at the Abuja National Stadium after winning his first round match against Ronzai Sorombe of Zimbabwe 4-6, 6-4, 6-1, the South African-based junior ten-

nis player said in Ghana, he had everything going for him but in the end, he lost the final match which denied him the opportunity of winning his first tournament for the nation.

He said he would put in everything to ensure that he beat all his opponents to win the Africa U-18 trophy which he said is bigger than what he lost in Ghana.

According to him, between the time he lost in Ghana and now, his game has witnessed tremendous improvement and he will seriously give his best to atone for the loss in Ghana.

His words: "In 2009, I represented Nigeria for like five times but this year, this is my second tournament. I lost in the finals in the zonals. Before you get to this stage, you need to play in the zonals in Ghana before you come here to play in the main Africa Junior Championship. I represented Nigeria in Ghana but I lost in the finals of the U-16.

"In this very tournament, I have to do my best to get to the finals and win the trophy. I will be happy to win at this stage because this is what I know I will have to do to make my coach and

my country to be proud of me," he maintained.

Asked if he will be able to overcome the opposition on his way, the student of Penforest Tennis Academy in South Africa said he knows it is not going to be easy but in the end, he would be able to win in his category.

"I am very confident that I will take this tournament. I know it is not going to be easy but with hard work and support from God, nothing is impossible. I have all the confidence to win but if it does not happen, I will take it in good faith," he stated.



Tasty affair as Arsenal host Barca

ARSENAL host Barcelona tonight fuelled by the belief that they can eliminate the European champions over the course of two legs that promise great entertainment and incredible drama.

The Gunners remain in the race to claim the Premier League crown, though their hopes of dethroning Manchester United and usurping Chelsea took a shot at the weekend as a bad Manuel Almunia error gifted Birmingham City a point on Saturday.

"Barcelona is a different competition and we have a few days to recover and prepare. But it felt like a defeat on Saturday," manager Arsene Wenger told the club's official website, having previously blamed the state of the St. Andrews pitch for his side's failure to register three points.

"It is always hard to pick the players up when you get a result like that. We are on a run that is very difficult, where we know there is no room for error at all, so Saturday was a big disappointment for us."

When Arsenal have been beset with crisis points in this campaign, they've generally responded well. Against the very best — Manchester United and Chelsea — they have failed to score a single league point, yet the Gunners remain a very real contender in the title race, while an embarrassing 2-1 defeat at Porto in the Champions League was brilliantly rescued with a terrific 5-0 response at the Emirates.

Having failed to defeat an elite side this season, questions will be raised over the ability of Wenger's side to defeat la Blaugrana, who

Stuttgart certainly gave Guardiola's men a fright in the last 16.



LIONEL Messi of Barcelona during a training session ahead of their UEFA Champions League quarter final first leg match against Arsenal in London, England, yesterday.

have become known as the best of the best over the last 18 months.

Compared to the all-conquering Barcelona side of last term, this season's Barca have received a remarkable amount of criticism. With the increased competition from Real Madrid, Pep Guardiola's side have been placed in the spotlight, and though they have consistently responded, they have rarely convinced.

Recent results have not seen the Blaugrana sweep away opposition in the manner they achieved last season, while their football has not always been as fluid and eye-catching. Their results, in La

Primera Division at least, have been just as strong, while progress to the quarter-finals of the Champions League has been achieved, albeit with a few scares along the way.

Stuttgart certainly gave Guardiola's men a fright in the last 16. The Bundesliga outfit grabbed the lead in the first leg, though they were ultimately unable to match the power of the Catalans when forced to travel to Catalunya. Lionel Messi, as has been the case so often of late, was Barca's inspiration behind a 4-0 second leg victory, and the little Argentine marvel will be the player Arsenal

most closely need to police over the two legs.

Goalkeeper Victor Valdes has indicated that the Camp Nou outfit are feeling confident going into this fixture. "We are not going to play conservatively at the Emirates. Barcelona are capable of winning anywhere," he asserted to the News of the World.

Only the second team to take anything from Mallorca's ONO Estadi this season, having recorded a 1-0 victory thanks to a predatory Zlatan Ibrahimovic strike on Saturday, Barca can approach this fixture with optimism, despite their naysayers.

Late Olic goal gives Bayern advantage over Man U

STRIKER Ivica Olic scored in stoppage time to give his team a dramatic 2-1 victory against Manchester United in their Champions League quarter-final first leg yesterday.

Olic scored from close range with almost the last kick of the match to hand United their first away loss in the competition this season.

Franck Ribery saw his 20-metre free kick deflected off the wall in the 77th minute for the equaliser to cancel out a second-minute volley from Wayne Rooney.

In front of a sold-out 66,000 crowd, Bayern were largely kept out of the box by a steely United defence in the first half but upped the pressure after the

break and were rewarded with the late winner by the Croatia international.

Similarly, two goals from Lisandro Lopez, defensive blunders by Bordeaux and a fantastic save by goalkeeper Hugo Lloris helped Lyon secure a 3-1 victory over their arch-rivals in Lyon yesterday.

Lopez put Lyon ahead in the

10th minute before Morocco striker Marouane Chamakh equalized for Bordeaux four minutes later with a header.

Brazilian winger Michel Bastos made it 2-1 from a tight angle in the 32nd.

Lopez sealed the victory in the 77th with a penalty, sending goalkeeper Cedric Carrasso the wrong way.

CSKA face Inter in wake of bombing

CSKA Moscow will play for "pride and honor" in the first leg of its Champions League quarterfinal at Inter Milan, with Wednesday's game coming just two days after suicide bombers killed 39 people in Moscow subway stations.

"It's a real tragedy, there's no other way to describe the pain," CSKA manager Leonid Slutsky said on Tuesday. "The city of Moscow has cried and it's a loss for all of Russia. We will do our utmost to honor our country and our football with great pride."

CSKA will likely wear black armbands.

Despite CSKA's emotional state, it was criticized by Inter manager Jose Mourinho on Tuesday for its reputation and past doping offenses.

"I'm expecting an ugly game tomorrow, against a team that will play very defensively, forcing us to play with a lot of focus," Mourinho said. "It would have been better to play the first leg against a team like this in Moscow, especially since the artificial turf there is going to give us problems."

Mourinho also lodged criticism at CSKA for having two players—defenders Sergei Ignashevich and Alexei Berezutsky—suspended for one game each after testing positive for a stimulant found in a cold remedy after a 3-3 draw with Manchester United in November.

CSKA is the first Russian team to reach the quarterfinals since Spartak Moscow in 1996—losing to French side Nantes.

CSKA midfielder Milos Krasic is the joint-leading scorer among players still in the competition with four goals—though Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo remains out in front with seven.

In their Russian league match on Friday, midfielder Keisuke Honda and striker Tomas Necid scored in a 2-1 win for CSKA over Anzhi, giving Slutsky's side seven points from three games in the three-week-old Russian season.

Slutsky rested several key players ahead of the Inter game, and he has no injury worries.

Krasic said CSKA would play a defensive game, relying on counterattacks to score.

"I'm sure we will have our chances," he said. "They key will be to capitalize (on them)."

Inter center back Lucio and midfielder Thiago Motta are suspended. Either Ivan Cordoba or Marco Materazzi should replace the former, while Dejan Stankovic or Goran Pandev may start in midfield.

For the fifth consecutive game, 19-year-old forward Mario Balotelli was left off Inter's squad.

THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Mohammed Haruna

ndajika@yahoo.com

Jonathan, Iwu and 2011 elections

A couple of weeks ago the newspapers reported that the voluble and controversial chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Maurice Iwu, has decided to heed loud and persistent calls for him to leave or be sacked at the end of his first five-year tenure in June. The INEC chairman has been virtually everybody's favourite whipping boy for the disastrous conduct of the 2007 general elections, generally regarded as the worst in Nigeria's history.

Shortly after reports that the man has decided to throw in his towel there were widespread speculations about his replacement. Among those tipped, the newspapers said, were the incorruptible Major-General Ishola Williams (retired) - the story is told of how he once retorted to a gibe by a fellow officer who pointedly said that any general who had no house of his own by the time he achieved the rank was useless by remarking that any general who had a house while still in service was a rogue - and the equally incorruptible but perhaps more flexible Professor Attahiru Jega, a former national president of Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and currently the vice-chancellor of Bayero University, Kano.

Others included former Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, retired Colonel Dangiwa Umar, famous for challenging his superiors over their decision to annul the even more famous June 12, 1993 presidential elections, a challenge which cost him his career, and Dr. Jibo Ibrahim, a brilliant leftist academic and a leading human rights activist.

With a formidable array of possible replacements like this, never mind the credible argument of leading lawyers like Mr. Femi Falana, the president of the West African Bar Association, that the INEC chairman should have left office since August last year, you would think Iwu would stick to his decision to quit office in June.

If you did, it seems you couldn't have been more mistaken; never one to turn the other cheek judging from his bullish response to criticisms of his conduct of the 2007 elections, the man seems to have lately renewed his counter-attack against those who have been calling for his head.

For example, on March 11 and 19 respectively, he initiated visits to the Senate President, David Mark, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole, to brief them on his plans for the 2011 elections. Those visits looked suspiciously like subtle pleas for legislative support for his second term.

As if to confirm such suspicions there has been a spate of newspaper advertisements by dubious looking organizations attempting to exonerate him from his responsibility for the 2007 election debacle. Not only that, the adverts have gone on to argue that a change of leadership at INEC at this time can only make matters worse than in 2007.

INEC under Iwu, said one such advert in the *Daily Trust* of March 19, signed by one, Haruna Abubakar, as the national chairman of an organization calling itself True Democracy Advocacy Network (TRUDAN), "has shown a steel resolve and determination to achieve a free, fair and transparent elections(sic) in 2011 by the deliberate and progressive reforms in the commission initiated by Iwu ..."

To replace the man at this stage, Abubakar said, "will bring more problems than solution in both INEC and the electoral system."

Nine days later an even more disingenuous advert appeared in the *Sunday Independent* signed by one, Ezeemeo Ndu as President, Njiko-Igbo Cultural Organization. Iwu, he said, "did not and could not have conducted the worst election in Nigeria's history." The credit for that, he said, belonged to the 1983 general elections. It was, in any case, unfair, he said, to blame Iwu for the 2007 debacle when the incumbent president, Olusegun Obasanjo, had told the world the election was a "do or die" affair for PDP.

In between the two adverts, on March 24, an apparent rent-a-crowd in support of Iwu led by one, Ikenga Imo Ugochinyere, as chairman of Alliance for the Defence of Democracy, stormed the National Assembly with placards to protest the possible removal of Iwu. Some of the placards read "Political parties support Iwu", "Iwu deserves commendation" and "We need electoral reforms not Iwu's sack."

Of course not all supporters of Iwu look suspiciously mercenary. Some leading and respectable public figures like the Cath-

olic Archbishop of Abuja, John Onaiyekan, Dim Odumegwu Ojukwu, the governor of Imo State, Ikhedu Ohakim and a deputy chairman of the PDP, Dr. Bello Halliru, have spoken in support of the beleaguered INEC chairman. And, not surprisingly for those who were beneficiaries of the flawed 2007 elections, most members of the National Assembly have consistently praised Iwu.

All this means that his departure in June is hardly a foregone conclusion.

Yet there is an almost universal agreement that unless Iwu goes there would be no free and fair elections in 2011. Probably so. However, this position ignores the fact that Iwu was as much a victim of his circumstance as he was a willing tool of those who turned the 2007 elections in to a "do or die" affair, in the sense that he did not do his own bit for a free and fair election.

For example, it was well within INEC's power under his leadership to have provided the country with a credible voters' register ahead of the elections. Nearly four months to the elections he had told the world at the Fourth Annual Trust Dialogue in Abuja, that INEC under him had created a "modern, gold-standard voters register that has the image and bio-data of voters" which will ensure that "only the living and the qualified can vote."

In spite of Iwu's much touting of his Direct Data Capturing Machine, the 2007 elections was the first ever held in the country without a voters' register as the most basic requirement for a free and fair election. Today nearly three years on we still do not have a voters' register of any description. Meantime INEC has spent billions of Naira ostensibly in readiness for 2011.

Again almost on the eve of the 2007 elections INEC did not have the slate of the candidates partly because it busied itself running from one court to another defending President Obasanjo's crude attempt to ban credible opposition candidates, notably his estranged deputy, Atiku Abuabakar, from contesting.

One could go on and on about the things INEC could have done on its own but failed to do. But even these two examples are proof enough that Iwu was more than a willing tool for Obasanjo's "do and die" politics.

Even then the ultimate responsibility for the debacle that was the 2007 elections, as I argued on these pages on March 21, 2007, lied squarely with the former president. As the Igbo would say, the man, as the all-powerful president created by our caricature of American-style presidential democracy, had the knife and he had the yam; what others got depended on how disposed he was to being fair-minded.

In societies with strong institutions individual behaviour is less important than the rules of conduct because the institutions can be relied upon, at least in the long run, to check misconduct. Not so in an infant democracy like Nigeria's where the institutions are weak. In such a democracy attitudes, particularly those of its leaders, are more important than the rules.

This was why I argued on these pages on April 22 last year that if President Yar'adua was to convince a sceptical public that he sincerely wished to conduct a free and fair election in 2011 he should disavow his interest in re-election, more so as he seemed unable to cope with the rigours of his office due largely to his ill-health.

The same argument, I believe, applies to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan even though, indeed precisely because, he is as fit as fiddle. I believe even if we have someone as incorruptible and as self-willed as General Williams replace Iwu, we would still not have a free and fair election in 2007 if particularly the incumbent president is determined to cling on to office, come what may.

This does not necessarily mean that the only solution to our seemingly intractable electoral crises is a one-term limit for all elective offices, especially executive office. After all, the temptation to acquire power by hook or crook is not any weaker than the temptation to hold on to it by all means.

But while we should not impose one-term limit for our elective offices, it will help a great deal if our politicians show they are prepared to sacrifice their personal political ambitions in the greater interest of society. This is asking too much of politicians even in societies where politics is not a do or die affair.

But until Nigeria can produce a Mandella willing to put his country before self, we will never be able to conduct an election that is free and fair.

SPORTS REPORT



CESC Fabregas

Fabregas misses training

Arsenal captain Cesc Fabregas looks like he is a major doubt for the first leg of the Gunners' Champions League quarter final with Barcelona at the Emirates tonight.

The Spain international did not train with the rest of his teammates at London Colney on Tuesday morning.

The 22-year-old sustained a leg injury

in the weekend draw with Birmingham and it appears that he has not managed to shake it off sufficiently to allow him to play.

The midfielder's father Francesc does not feel that the injury is too much to be concerned about however.

"I think Cesc will play. Although he may not be at his best he will do everything he can to be part of it," he said.



DIEGO Maradona

Maradona has facial surgery after dog bite

Argentina's World Cup coach Diego Maradona was bitten on his face by one of his dogs and had surgery at a clinic, local media reported yesterday.

Maradona, taken to Los Arcos clinic during the early hours, was not seriously hurt and was expected to return home later in the day, the broadcast Cronica said.

Witnesses said Maradona was bleeding close to his mouth when he arrived at the clinic with his girlfriend.

The World Cup in South Africa kicks off on June 11.

Argentina are in Group B with Nigeria, Greece and South Korea.

