

Complementary Copy
NOT FOR SALE

LIBRARY

DAILY TRUST

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2010

SAFAR 26, 1431 A.H.

TRUST IS A BURDEN

www.dailytrust.com VOL. 23 No 63 N150

Business

Nigeria loses \$325m yearly to evasion of customs duty and VAT on smuggled textiles **25**

Politics

Ex-Governor of Anambra State Chukuemeka Ezeife says INEC's integrity is still in doubt **49**

Digest

A new study has shown that taller football players are more likely to fall foul of the referee **35**

Man to die for killing ex-wife's husband

Page 6



How National Assembly made him Acting President

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar, Nasidi A. Yahaya & Turaki A. Hassan

A unanimous resolution by the National Assembly set the stage yesterday for Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to take charge as Acting President. The two chambers, apparently trying to break the political stalemate over President Umaru Yar'adua's ill health, asked Jonathan to assume full presidential powers pending the president's return.

Hours before Jonathan's nationwide broadcast, in which he announced tak-

“The two chambers, asked Jonathan to assume full presidential powers pending the president's return

ing over powers as acting president, the Senate and the House of Representatives in separate unanimous resolutions asked him to assume office because the president is on medical leave.

The Senate resolution came after a motion on the state of the nation was moved by the Senate leader Teslim Folarin (PDP, Oyo Central), who argued that section 145 of the 1999 constitution which requires the president to transmit a letter to the National Assembly notifying it of his medical leave has been complied with since the president had on January 12 confirmed

Continued on page 5

Jonathan takes charge



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

By Abdulfattah Olajide

VICE President Goodluck Jonathan assumed office as acting president yesterday, following a National Assembly resolution asking him to take charge pending the return of President Umaru Yar'adua from medical trip to Saudi Arabia.

“The circumstances in which I find myself assuming office today as Acting President of our country are uncommon, sober and reflective,” Jonathan said in an address on national television, urging Nigerians to pray for Yar'adua's recovery and return.

He said the leadership and members of the National Assembly have shown “great courage, statesmanship and patriotism” by empowering him through their resolutions.

While acknowledging that the absence

“The leadership and members of the National Assembly have shown “great courage, statesmanship and patriotism”

of Yar'adua, who left for Saudi Arabia on medical trip 79 days ago, has heated up the polity, Jonathan said “the events of the recent past have put to the test our collective resolve as a democratic nation.”

According to him, “today affords us time to reconnect with ourselves and overcome any suspicions, hurts and doubts, which had occurred. In all these, there are no winners and no losers, because by the grace of God we have once again succeeded in moving our country forward. We have all shown that our unity as a people, our love for this country, and our hope for its great future cannot be shaken.”

He commended the nation's military

Continued on page 5



DEPUTY Speaker, House of Representatives Usman Bayero Nafada (left) with Anambra State Governor Peter Obi at the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

Communal clash leaves hundreds homeless

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

ABOUT 1,000 people have been rendered homeless following a communal clash between the Tangale and Dadia communities in Gombe state. One of the victims of the skirmish, Dabo Bulus, told our correspondent yesterday that three Tangale communities were burnt to ashes following an attack by the Dadians on the Tangale communities. He said the attack was first launched Sunday around 5 pm. He added that most of the villagers lost all their belongings, including the stock of this year's harvest and livestock worth several millions of naira.

"I lost 20 bags of beans and several bags of maize, Guinea corn and millet, not to mention several other belongings" he said.

The Red Cross Divisional Secretary of Kaltungo Division Mr. Nestron Jonah Galidima said three persons sustained gunshot injuries and were rushed to the Kaltungo General Hospital. He added that the communal clash escalated because the Tangale communities carried out a reprisal on the people of Dadia, burning down their houses.

According to him, as at yesterday, there was no intervention for the victims from either the government or private organizations and appealed to all concerned for aid, including food items, medicine, water and blankets.

The Public Relations Officer of the state Police Command DSP Abdullahi Kamba confirmed the incident, but added that the situation had since been brought under control, saying a detachment of mobile police men had been deployed to the area.

Police hold 7 over cult clash

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

POLICE in Rivers State have arrested and are interrogating seven persons suspected to be members of the Degbam and Dewell cult groups in Port Harcourt over an inter-cult clash Monday night.

The clash was said to have led to the death of one person. According to a witness, the two groups engaged each other in a fight at a Railway Station in the city. The state Police Public Relations Officer Mrs. Rita Abbey who confirmed the incident said, "It is true that there was a clash between some members of the Degbam and Dewell cult groups. One person died and another person was injured. We have arrested seven persons and they are being interrogated."

She said the police were yet to ascertain the cause of the fight.

Northern govs yet to redeem pledges to Sarduana Foundation

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

MONTHS after the launch of the Sir Ahmadu Bello Memorial Foundation N20 billion appeal fund, only the Kogi State government has redeemed its pledge of N 200 million. The remaining 18 northern state governments are yet to redeem theirs.

At the launch on October 17, 2009, about N5.5 billion was realised with the 19 northern govern-

ments making pledges. The Kano State government made a pledge of N250 million and 100 hectares of land as site for the Foundation. Sokoto, Niger, Taraba and Adamawa States pledged N250 million each while Yobe State pledged N210 million.

Nassararwa, Kogi, Kwara, Plateau, Gombe, Benue and Katsina States pledged N200 million each while Zamfara, Kebbi, Bauchi

and Jigawa States pledged N170 million each. Borno pledged N150 million. Other states also made pledges with Bayelsa and Edo States pledging N20 million each.

Speaking at an emergency meeting of the Northern Governors' Forum (NGF) yesterday, its Chairman and Governor of Niger State Dr Babangida Aliyu said only the Kogi State government had fully redeemed its pledge,

urging his colleagues to redeem theirs.

"Now that we have had a successful launch, the litmus test for us is to demonstrate that we are the leading disciples of the late Sarduana, both in words and in actions by redeeming our pledges at the appeal fund launch and by being upright in our private and public lives. We all know that the Sarduana was a promise keeper and an exemplary leader," he said.

Plateau fingers Bauchi in crises

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE Plateau State government has pointed fingers at Bauchi State over the frequent crises in the state, saying those responsible for the crises often ran to Bauchi for safety.

The state government also said it believed that religion was at the center of the various crises.

Plateau State Commissioner

for Information Gregory Yenlong who said this at a news conference in Jos yesterday said Bauchi's interference in Plateau issues was unsettling and that Bauchi should know that it could not manage Plateau as an annexed territory even if it had such intentions.

The commissioner said the Plateau State government was surprised that even when it had it on record that 75 percent of the Bauchi elite went to school

and lived in Plateau with a sizeable number of them still trading in Jos, they were not doing much to protect their business interests. Yenlong added that it was highly appalling and uncharitable for the Bauchi House of Assembly to pass a "Draconian resolution" calling for the expulsion of Plateau indigenes from the state, adding that since the House made that pronouncement, about 10 families of Plateau origin had returned to the

state as they were not sure of their safety there any more.

The commissioner said the Plateau government was waiting to see what the Bauchi government would do to guarantee the safety of its indigenes residing there.

The commissioner said the recent crisis was brought under control the day it began, but that it was the involvement of fake soldiers that ignited the crisis.

ALGON opposes removal of LG bosses

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

DISTURBED by the spate of impeachments sweeping across local governments in Adamawa State, the state chapter of the Association of Local Government Chairmen of Nigeria (ALGON) has asked all three recently impeached council chairmen to remain in their offices, describing their impeachment by councillors as "null and void."

While fielding questions from newsmen yesterday, the

state president of ALGON who is also the Chairman, Demsa Local Government Area, Mr Felix Tangwami, said though the local legislative council may perform constituted roles, ALGON did not find the spate of impeachments as pleasing.

Mr Felix Tangwami said allegations against the impeached chairmen were not only shallow but according to him lacked merit to warrant impeachment.

He noted that most of the allegations basically administrative and products of a break

down in communications while the issues of financial misconduct were not reasonable charges worthy of impeaching the chairmen.

The ALGON President said most of the impeachments and their processes were faulty because according to him, councillors are not judicial officers or policemen or accountants, therefore for any allegation filed against a chairman to be substantiated an independent body must verify such allegations.

He explained that where

such procedures were not duly followed, a chairman of a council cannot be deemed to be liable for impeachment on the basis of allegations not substantiated or verified by an independent body appointed by the chief judge of the state.

While threatening to take action against defiant councillors by initiating the recall process, Tangwami asked all the impeached chairmen to remain in office as ALGON was working assiduously to repeal the impeachments.

Why we were called Super Perm Secs, by Ahmed Joda

By Suleiman M. Bisalla & Muideen Olaniyi

ELDER statesman and veteran civil servant Alhaji Ahmed Joda has said that the reference to some Permanent Secretaries shortly after Nigeria's independence as 'Super-Perm-Secretaries' was not an official recognition but an appellation coined to disparage those referred to as such for their seeming overbearing influence in the then military government.

Alhaji Joda, the Board Chairman of the National Communication Commission (NCC), stated this in an interview with Daily Trust on the occasion of his 80th

birthday which was marked in Abuja, on Sunday.

He said the role of some of them played as mouthpiece of the Federal Government within and outside Nigeria and their strong influence in the formulation of government's policies were part of factors that gave rise to the appellation, Super Permanent Secretaries.

"Let me say that there was no time that I was officially, or a set of people were officially called Super Permanent Secretaries. All permanent secretaries were virtually equal. They were only different by the dates of their appointments and the dates of their promotions, and Super Permanent Secretary really

may be a complimentary appellation.

"Those who invented it never meant it to be so. I think it was meant to disparage the persons that originally were targeted. But as time went on, I think those who invented it lost their vision and then they identified three or four people of whom I happened to be one and called us Super Permanent Secretaries," Alhaji Joda said.

The octogenarian recalled that the position he and 'Super Permanent Secretaries' held as well as the ministries they served during the civil war made them more exposed than other colleagues, thus attracting to them vast attention.

According to him, after leaving office, he reviewed those events and concluded that he and the others so branded were perhaps exercising power and authority beyond what was prescribed in their duties and responsibilities as permanent secretaries.

"I was in the Federal Ministry of Information. I was involved in having to speak for Nigeria at that time. If you remember, it was military era, there were no politicians and we found ourselves making statements in different capitals of the world and also in Nigeria.

"We became a focal point... We got involved to the extent of going to war theatre to see where the war

was being fought; taking people there, organizing for the troop and getting beyond what we were supposed to be doing.

"Of course, we got involved in the formulation of policies, writing the Head of State speeches and managing many different tasks. So it became not an official title but perception of critics. That time personally I did not feel that I was a super anything. I did not feel that I was exercising power or authority beyond the definition of the DG or the responsibility of the permanent secretary," Alhaji Joda said.

(This story appeared yesterday on Page 3 with a wrong headline. We regret the error)



VICE President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan (right) welcomes the US Assistant Secretary for Africa Jonnie Carson to his office, yesterday.

FG pledges credible polls in 2011

By AbdulFattah Olajide

THE Federal Government will ensure that the 2011 general elections are free and fair in order to foster good governance in the country, Vice President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan said yesterday.

Speaking while receiving the United States Assistant Secretary of State Mr. Johnnie Carson at the State House in Abuja, the vice president said "We are determined to have free and fair general elections in 2011, under the supervision of local and international observers. We will ensure that the votes of our citizens count in 2011."

Jonathan said he has directed the Inspector General of Police and the Independent Electoral Commission, INEC to immediately prosecute persons arrested for various electoral offences during last weekend's election in Ahambra State.

He said government would pursue ongoing electoral reforms to a logical conclusion and ensure speedy passage of electoral bills before the National Assembly.

He urged the US Government to reconsider its stand and de-list Nigeria from its watch list of "countries of interest" in the international war against terrorism following the alleged botched attempt to bomb a US airliner by Umar Farouk Abdumutallab on Christmas day.

Responding, Carson said the US government would work towards a speedy review of Nigeria's listing as a country of interest in the war against terrorism. "We know that 99.9% of Nigerians are law-abiding. It is however important that we work together to protect ourselves globally," he added.

Tsaragi people accuse Kwara of persecution

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

TSARAGI Emirate Development Association (TEDA) has accused the Kwara State government of curtailing Northern Nigerian boundaries by transferring 16 villages from Edu local government area to Ifelodun local government of the state.

The association also accused the state government of marginal-

ising its people in all government affairs especially in appointment and upgrading of traditional rulers. Led by its chairman Alhaji Haruna N. Suleiman, the association said at press conference in Kaduna that the Kwara State government was "is directly or indirectly pursuing an Afenifere agenda."

Edu local government is populated by the Nupe speaking people of Kwara State while the Ifelodun is dominated by the Yoruba speaking people of Igbomina.

Suleiman said the transfer of the villages from Edu to Ifelodun through a letter from the office of Surveyor General of Kwara State was done in bad faith and in pursuance of the move to shorten the boundary of the North, which would have a lifelong negative impact on their people.

He said the transfer was against the 1976 Justice Mam-

man Nasir Boundary Adjustment Commission that treated all the party involved in the land dispute fairly. It is also against the Kwara State gazette on the judicial commission of inquiry led by Justice Mahmud Gafar on the Share/Tsaragi boundary dispute.

"Let there be immediate proper land demarcation based on the existing gazettes both federal and states. No more, no less," he said.

FEC tables Akunyili's memo today

By AbdulFattah Olajide

THE controversial memo by the Minister of Information and Communications, Professor Dora Akunyili asking ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to present

a letter of medical vacation to the Senate as required by section 145 of the 1999 constitution will be discussed today at the Federal Executive Council meeting.

The memo which was rejected during last week's FEC meeting

because it was not submitted to other ministers in advance in line with FEC's policy, however seems to have been rendered irrelevant by yesterday's resolutions by the two arms of the National Assembly which mandated Jonathan to

assume power as Acting President. The Senate and the House of Representatives said President Yaradua's interview on BBC where he acknowledged his indisposition suffices as a medical vacation letter.

As Senate declares Goodluck Jonathan Acting President...

Lawyers differ on Senate resolution

From Jbraheem Musa, Kaduna, Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos & Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Abuja

LEGAL Practitioners yesterday expressed divergent views on the resolution of the Senate declaring Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President pending the return of ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Barrister Yahaya Mahmood, a Kaduna-based legal practitioner, said the Senate resolution, even without letter from ailing President Umaru Yar'adua, is the right decision in the current state of emergency that Nigeria finds itself.

Mahmood said under the circumstances which the president left the country, it was impossible for him to write the National Assembly, adding that in that situation, a stalemate loomed in the

political horizon because the Senate had threatened not to accept any correspondence from the presidency, so long as Jonathan is not made acting president.

The lawyer said that the resolution did not violate any section of the constitution because the constitution empowers the Senate to make laws and pass resolutions for good governance, adding that the law makers acted within that context.

Chief Mike Ozekhome, Lagos-based constitutional lawyer, said members of the Upper Legislative Chambers acted appropriately in the present circumstance as, according to him: "A desperate disease requires a desperate remedy".

While urging members of the House of Representatives to tow the line of the Senate, Ozekhome said, President Yar'adua made it

clear in his BBC interview which was heard across the world that until his doctors certify him fit, he remains in the Saudi Arabian hospital.

"What other written declaration does the Senate want again? This resolution of the Senate ought to have come long time ago but in any case it is a decision that will save the country from breaking up", he stated.

Barrister Max Ogar, an Abuja based lawyer, applauded the Senate, saying if the upper legislative chamber had not taken the resolution, there would have been the tendency of break-down of security in the country and that what the Senate did was to avert such thing. However, other legal practitioners who spoke with Daily Trust disagreed, saying the motion seems to depart from the

constitution's provision for dealing with a presidential absence.

President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Rotimi Akerodolu, which has petitioned the courts to force a handover of interim powers, said the resolution of the Senate is not backed by the constitution, adding that "At this point in our democracy we should try as much as possible to stick to procedure."

He said the NBA would meet next week Thursday to take decision on the new development.

Another Kaduna-based lawyer and one-time Solicitor General of Kaduna State Barrister Aliyu Umaru dismissed the Senate resolution, arguing that it is not backed by the constitution. He said Section 145 is very clear and the resolution did not comply with it.

Umaru said that the section states that whenever the president transmits to the National Assembly, a written declaration that he is proceeding on leave or otherwise unable to discharge the functions of his office, until he transmit a written declaration to the contrary, such functions shall be discharged by the vice president as acting president.

He said although Section 5 of the constitution confers the powers of the federation on the president and he can exercise these powers through his ministers or aides, Yar'adua has to write the letter himself and he cannot delegate the responsibility that Section 145 places on him. Barrister Umaru also said that the only way out is for Yar'adua to sign the letter, since he can sign the supplementary budget.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

Yakassai's new group picks holes in resolution

By Muideen Otaniji

THE Forum for the Defence of Democracy and Rule of Law (FODRUL) yesterday faulted the Senate resolution that empowered Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President.

The new group is chaired by First and Second Republic politician Alhaji Tanko Yakassai who withdrew his membership of the board of Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) last week over its stance on Yar'adua's absence.

Speaking at a press conference that heralded the formation of the group, former Minister of Power Alhaji Bashir Dalhatu said the only two Constitutional means for Jonathan to be Acting President are the transmission of vacation letter to the National Assembly by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua or the resolution of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) in that regard.

Adebite expresses concern over resolution

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

SECRETARY-GENERAL of the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) Dr. Lateef Adebite has expressed concern over the resolution passed by the Senate declaring Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President.

Speaking with *Daily Trust* yesterday in Abeokuta, Ogun State, Adebite said the best the members of the National Assembly could have done was to allow the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to report on the state of the President, since the President could not do so.

He said "relying on the BBC statement to act on the matter is unconstitutional."



CROSS section of senators coming out of the Senate chambers after the declaration, yesterday, in Abuja.

Ex-lawmaker to sue over resolution

Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

FORMER minority leader in the House of Representatives Faruk Adamu Aliyu yesterday said that the resolution by the National Assembly declaring Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President was illegitimate.

Aliyu, who had earlier gone to court seeking the application of Section 145 of the constitution to make Vice president Jonathan acting president, vowed to challenge the decision in the court of law.

He told the BBC Hausa service that the lawmakers' decision was a 'democratic coup', adding that the legislature was not empowered to make Jonathan acting president.

He said: "If the lawmakers are serious they should have impeach the president what the constitution authorized them to do or to advice the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to ascertain the incapacitation of the president by constituting a medical team."

Muslim lawyers fault Senate

By Usman A. Bello

PRESIDENT of Muslim Lawyers Association of Nigeria (MULAN) Mustapha Adekola yesterday said the resolution by the Senate empowering Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to act as president was unnecessary since a court had earlier ruled that the VP could act without a formal letter from the President this while speaking with journalists in Abuja.

"The oath in the constitution is for the President and the Vice President, and there is no separate oath for Acting President. It means that the Vice President is already an acting President even without any letters. The Senate is just been political and going out of constitutionalism," he said.

CNPP: Senate playing to the gallery

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) yesterday accused the Senate of playing to gallery over its motion to the effect that Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan should assume executive power as Acting President.

CNPP Chairman Alhaji Balarabe Musa and the Secretary-General Willy Ezugwu said yesterday in Abuja that the lawmakers lack the powers to simply ask the VP to begin exercising presidential powers.

The group said the Senate should have directed the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to declare the president incapacitated temporarily and forward same to the National Assembly for necessary action to be taken to direct the Vice President to act as President.

CNPP said the VP can only act if the president transmits a letter to the National Assembly informing them of his absence from office for whatever reason and that the Vice would act for him, if the president resigns, if the Federal Executive Council declares him unfit or when the National Assembly impeaches the president.

HOS redeploys top presidency civil servants

By Francis Okeke

THE Head of Service of the Federation (HOS), Mr. Steve Orasanye has redeployed 13 top Federal civil servants including six officers previously serving in the State House, Abuja.

According to a circular with reference number HCSF/CMO/AOD/002/S1/T3/55, dated February 3, this year and signed by the Permanent Secretary in the HOS' office, Dr. B.I.N. Olorunfemi, the redeployment which affected administration and professional cadre officers from grade level 12 to 17, took immediate effect.

The five officers affected in the State House include A. Badamasi who was redeployed to the HOS office, Gambo Diori, now posted to the Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and National Orientation, Odidimu Abeola, redeployed to the Police Service Commission, Abubakar Yusuf Abdullahi, moved to the Ministry of Defence, Abubakar Shehu, transferred to the Ministry of Mines and Steel, and Suleiman Musa, moved to the National Sports Commission.

Other officers redeployed include Dada Philips posted to the State House from the National Sports Commission, W.O. Bello moved from defence ministry to the State House, N. A. Moneke redeployed to State House from the Ministry of Mines and Steel, and A. L. Mohammed moved from Police Service Commission to the State House.



SOME houses destroyed during a communal clash in Kola-Korok village in Kaltungo Local Government Area of Gombe State.

Jonathan takes charge

Continued from page 1

for not disrupting the current democratic dispensation "during this trying period."

"Our security services also deserve our special commendation for their loyalty and devotion to duty during this trying period," he said.

The Acting President said the Federal Government would take necessary steps to consolidate the gains of amnesty in the Niger Delta region and execute the promised post-amnesty programmes.

He therefore appealed to all stakeholders in the region to be patient, saying "there can be no meaningful development without peace and security."

He said government would find a lasting solution to the recurring crisis in Plateau State, saying culprits in the recent killings would face the full weight of the law.

Lack of formal transfer of power had led to doubts over who was ruling the country, and prompted arguments about whether there was need to make Jonathan acting president.

Although the Federal Executive Council has previously opposed any formal transfer of powers, Minister of Justice Michael Aondoakaa yesterday said Jonathan had the government's full support—suggesting that the council would not obstruct him from acting as president, *Reuters* news agency reported.

"The cabinet has already, since the president left, recognised the vice president as the leader of the country pending when Mr. President returns," *Reuters* quoted Aondoakaa as

saying, in reacting to the vice president's declaration.

Yar'adua, 58, has been receiving treatment for a heart ailment in a Saudi hospital. His aides had at different times said he was recovering and would soon return to Nigeria.

Earlier on there were rumours that his health had deteriorated. On January 12, he spoke to the *BBC* radio, saying he was getting better but did not give a specific return date.

Read Jonathan's full speech on Page 10

How N/Assembly made him Acting President

Continued from page 1

on the radio that he was ill and receiving medical attention in Saudi Arabia.

"On the 12th of January, 2010, His Excellency President Umaru Musa Yar'adua transmitted to the whole world through the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), a declaration that he is receiving medical treatment in Saudi Arabia and consequently will be unable to discharge the functions of his office until his doctors certify him fit to return to Nigeria to assume duties. The president of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives read the president's declaration transmitted through the BBC and further published in several print media," he said.

However, Senator Garba Yakubu Lado (PDP, Katsina South) raised a constitutional

point of order, reminding his colleagues that the president's *BBC* interview was not independently authenticated and that some senators had earlier questioned authenticity of the voice in the interview. He said the interview should not be relied upon as a basis for the resolution.

Seconding the motion Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu said section 145 of the 1999 constitution did not in any way prescribe the manner and form in which the president is to transmit the letter of medical vacation to the National Assembly especially with the advancement in information technology.

Senate resolved thus: "The vice president Goodluck Jonathan shall henceforth discharge the functions of the office of the president, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

"That, the Vice President shall cease to discharge the functions of the office of the president when the president pursuant to section 145 of the 1999 constitution transmits to the president of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Representatives in writing that he has returned from his medical vacation."

Briefing newsmen shortly after the yesterday's session, vice chairman of the Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Anthony Manzo (PDP, Taraba) said the vice president does not need to take an oath of office as acting president.

The House, after two consecutive closed door sessions, characterized by hot political debate and near-fisticuffs, also resolved that Jonathan should act as president pending Yar'adua's return.

Lawmakers, who were to consider a motion on the mat-

ter, failed to do so and instead went into a closed door session at 12:16pm. They emerged after about 30 minutes without a unanimous decision, prompting Speaker Dimeji Bankole to order for another session.

When the House resumed plenary at 1:04pm, House Leader Tunde Akogun (PDP, Edo State) read the resolution: "For peace, order and good governance of the federation, and consistent with the judgments of the courts, the vice president, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCON shall assume full presidential powers, pending the return of the president, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR."

After this, Bankole put the question and members unanimously replied "aye!"

Also yesterday, state governors under the auspices of the Governors' Forum, led by Kwara State Governor Bukola Saraki,

visited the House of Representatives to express their resolution to back Vice President Goodluck Jonathan.

In his response, Bankole said the House made its decision in the interest of the country.

He said: "Today, is another day where this House recorded democratic structure whereby the all country has come together: civil societies, elected officials and non elected officials to come to the sole agreement to rescue our nation problem."

But the decision of the National Assembly is not contemplated in the constitution, lawyers said yesterday.

Yar'adua, who has suffered from kidney ailments, left for Saudi Arabia on November 23 and was admitted to a hospital there for what his physician says is acute pericarditis, an inflammation of the sac surrounding the heart.

Plateau House divided over Okada bill

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

AFTER almost two hours of deliberation, the Plateau State House Assembly was yesterday divided on the bill prohibiting commercial motorcycle riders from operating within Jos and Bukuru metropolis.

The sitting, which was presided over by the Speaker of the House, Istifanus Mwansat, entertained various views from members.

The state government had last week submitted a bill praying for the prohibition and regulation of commercial motorcycle and motorcycle operation respectively.

In their submissions, members

who supported the bill argued that the operation of commercial motorcycles within Jos and Bukuru had constituted more harm than good, stressing that the bill was long overdue considering the level of insecurity they constitute. They cited similar actions in many states of the federation, saying the case of Plateau was not going to be out of place if the bill was passed. The said a strong mechanism should be put in place to ensure the enforcement of the law if passed.

They further argued that the step taken by state government through the suspension of their (commercial motorcyclists) activities was a welcome development, adding that it is the sole responsi-

bility of the government to protect lives and property.

Members of the House who spoke against the bill argued that the ban would cause more social problems, adding that the teeming youths who use the business as their only means of livelihood would end up being unemployed, thereby becoming a threat to the society.

They also opined that the passing of the bill would put other people such as spare parts dealers and engine oil sellers out of business, adding that commuters too would suffer.

According to them, the House should focus more on finding an alternative solution before passing the bill, stressing that the

commercial motorcyclists should be given at least six months notice before the ban.

In his submission, the Deputy Speaker who represents Jos North-North constituency, Ibrahim Baba Hassan, spoke against the bill, arguing that the prohibition of commercial motorcycle operation would make many areas in the state capital inaccessible. He said many people, especially children, would be denied the opportunity to attend schools. He added that most of the Okada riders who are said to be operating without proper knowledge of the town are people who come from neighbouring local government areas of the state. Baba Hassan further maintained that the pallia-

tive measures put in place by the state government to alleviate the suffering of commuters through the operation of Plateau Riders' vehicles has not reached his constituency.

One point that was however agreed by both parties was the need to as a matter of urgency, provide a cushioning effect to alleviate the suffering caused by the ban where some of the members suggested the introduction of tricycles.

The deliberation was subsequently put to rest when the House agreed to forward the bill to the Works and Transport committee which was given until February 25, 2010 to submit its report to the House.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Ogun State Governor Gbenga Daniel, House of Representatives member Gbenga Oduaye and Chairman, Senate Committee on Media and Public Affairs, Eyibo Esemé after the governor's visit to the National Assembly, Abuja.

Man to die for killing ex-wife's husband

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

EIGHT years after raping his biological daughter and fleeing from his residence in Giwa Malgwi Musa village, Askira-Uba Local Government Area of Borno State, a 42-year-old man is to die by hanging after he was found guilty of killing the husband of his former wife.

Agwana Kwada alias John was sentenced by a High Court in Maiduguri, court papers obtained yesterday have shown.

Relations of the man thought he was dead when he disappeared after committing incest eight years ago. Some thought he committed suicide or died and because of that presumption, his properties were shared among relatives, court officials told our correspondent. Kwada however suddenly appeared, confirming to his relations that he was still alive. It was learnt that he went on self imposed exile and stayed in Lokuma village in Maiga Local Government Area of

Adamawa State for the period.

The police First Information Report noted that Kwada, acting alongside two accomplices, Ijeda Kwada (who shares same surname with him) and Buba Agwada, both at large, killed one Hassan Zidban on May 17, 2003 by stabbing. The incident took place in Musa village, the police said. Zidban, court papers showed, was married to Aisha Abirakura, an ex-wife of the convicted man. The former wife, Aisha Abirakura, was said to have filed a divorce suit against him after she suspected him of raping his own daughter before moving on to marry Hassan Zidban. Aisha told the court that she never set eyes on the convict since he fled eight years ago until he stormed their house and killed her new husband.

The police charged Kwada with homicide punishable with death under Section 221(b) of the penal code. He pleaded guilty as charged.

He however told the court that he

attacked Zidban because he believed he was having an affair with his wife, Aisha Abirakura, as to the best of his (the convict's) knowledge he was still legally married to her despite being on exile for eight years and that he was not aware she filed any divorce suit in his absence. He said he wasn't aware that Zidban was married to Aisha since two men cannot marry one woman at the same time.

The convict also told the court that he didn't use any sharp object to kill Zidban as claimed by the police but that he hit him with a firewood following which Zidban died around a river where the attack was carried out and not in the house where the deceased lived with Aisha as claimed by witnesses and Aisha in her testimony to the court.

After years of litigation, the Borno State High Court number 9 presided over by Justice Abdullahi Yerima Sanya on January 12, 2010 sentenced Agwana Kwada to death by hanging.

Court ejects NDLEA commandant from house

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

A rent tribunal in Maiduguri has ejected the Borno State Commandant of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Dr. Wale Ige along with other officials of the agency from a house over non payment of rent. The officials occupy four flats along Damboa road in Maiduguri. The court also impounded a 406-saloon car from the quarters.

According to the court papers obtained yester-

day, a magistrate, Aishatu Muhammed, had earlier given consent judgement where the agency agreed to pay the plaintiff, Hamsat and Sons Nigeria Limited N174, 000 being one year rent owed the property owner, which the agency promised paying as at December 31, 2009.

Principal Registrar of the Tribunal Mustapha Alkali said it decided to eject the agency officials because they failed to fulfil their promise as earlier agreed with Magistrate Mohammed.

Batta chiefdom gets new ruler

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

FOUR weeks after the former paramount ruler of Batta Chiefdom in Demsa area of Adamawa State, Hamma Batta Saul Jerom Swade, passed on after a brief illness, a new Hamma Batta has been announced.

He is Mr Alhamdu Gladstone Teneke, a retired Assistant Comptroller of Immigration.

A statement from the Secretary to the State Government Mr Kobis Ari Thinamu said following the deliberation and advice by the state council of emirs and chiefs and other relevant organs, the state government announced the selection of 63 year old Teneke as the new Hamma Batta.

Other contenders to the exalted royal stool included the PDP faction leader in the state, Chief Medan Teneke as well as an Abuja based businessman

and older brother of the deceased Hamma Batta, retired Col. Hilkih Swade who was the only candidate from the Madon ruling clan.

Though the process that produced the new Hamma Batta, a first class chief, took a longer period than it had ever happened in the past, keen observers of affairs in the emirate attributed the delay to the vested interest said to have been exhibited by the different camps that contended for the post.

During a thank you visit to Governor Murtala Nyako shortly after the announcement, the new Hamma Batta expressed gratitude to government for the opportunity to serve his people. He assured the governor that all policies and programmes of the state government would be supported in his domain as he would carry his co-contenders along.

Nigeria, US to counter terrorism

By Aisha Umar

NIGERIA and the United States have expressed desire to jointly work out a road map for increased cooperation as strategic partners in bilateral, regional and global issues including counter terrorism.

Foreign ministry spokesman Ozo Nwobu said this was the outcome of a meeting yesterday which took place behind closed doors by diplomats from the two countries and dwelt extensively on how to strengthen and deepen bilateral cooperation between them.

He said Foreign Affairs Minister Ojo Maduekwe led other officials of the ministry to host the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Mr. Johnnie Carson, who is on a two day visit to Nigeria.

Other officials of the ministry that received the visiting US envoy are the Minister of State I for Foreign Affairs Alhaji Jibril Maigari and senior officials of the Ministry.

Mr Nwobu said the US Ambassador in Nigeria, Ambassador Robin Rene Sanders, accompanied the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Mr Carson to the meeting.

US commends Anambara election

By Aisha Umar

THE February 6 gubernatorial election in Anambra State was credible despite the poor organization evident at some polling stations, the U.S. Mission election observers said.

The observers said in a statement from US embassy that congratulating the winner by some of the candidates that lost was commendable.

"However, we agree with those officials from the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) who stated that further progress is required to improve Nigeria's elections," the statement added.

It said that the U.S. Mission election observers in Anambra State reported significant problems with the voter registration lists and the timely delivery of election materials to polling stations.

"We urge INEC to take effective action to correct these deficiencies and to work with all stakeholders in doing so. The United States encourages Nigeria to remain committed to the democratic process, its constitution, and the rule of law," it stated.



A cross section of medical equipment ready for distribution to General Hospitals in Kaduna.

Boni, others plead not guilty to EFCC charges

By Atika Balal

EX-GOVERNOR Boni Haruna of Adamawa State and two other accused persons have pleaded not guilty in a suit filed against them by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) before an Abuja Federal High Court.

Haruna and his former aide, Mohammed Inuwa Bassi, were initially arraigned alongside Minority Leader in the Adamawa State House of Assembly John Babani Elias who is now at large and Al-Akim Investment Nigeria

Limited on a 21 count charge of money laundering and embezzlement of state funds.

The EFCC however filed an amended 28 count charge yesterday which counsel to the accused persons challenged the jurisdiction of the court to entertain at the last sitting.

Insisting that the amended charges should not be read, O. Jolawo said in an application before the court that the proof of evidence does not disclose any prima facie case, thus urged the court to quash the charges.

In ruling yesterday however,

Justice Adamu Bello held that the court had the jurisdiction to entertain the matter.

While applying that the 1st and 2nd accused persons be admitted to bail on the terms and conditions earlier granted by the court, counsel to all accused persons Regina Okotie Eboh filed a motion on notice in respect of the 3rd accused person's bail.

Prosecutor Chile Okoroma however objected, saying the motion isn't ripe for hearing and he intends to file a counter affidavit in respect of the 3rd accused person.

Justice Bello ordered that bail of the 1st and 2nd accused persons should continue on the same terms and with the same sureties unless they are unwilling. He however ordered that the 3rd accused be remanded in prison custody until the issue of bail is determined.

The court had granted the 1st and 2nd accused persons bail last year in the sum of N100 million.

The case has been adjourned till February 12 for adoption of addresses on for and against the motion for bail.

Main One submarine cable inches near Nigeria

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Main One Cable Company has announced the commencement of the final laying of its high capacity fibre optic cable from Seixal in Portugal through the West African coast to Ghana and Nigeria.

According to the company, the cable which goes live in June 2010

is expected to bring international capacity to the region whose growth in tele-density in recent years is blighted by sub-optimal global connectivity.

"We are pleased to achieve this major milestone within project timeline," said Fola Adeola, chairman of the company, adding that "We remain focused on delivering the project on schedule."

"Now that the 7,000 kilometre trunk of the cable is being installed, we are pleased that our efforts over the last 18 months are coming to fruition," said Funke Opeke, the CEO of the company.

In November 2009, the company completed installation of the shore ends of the cable in Lagos, Nigeria; Accra, Ghana; and Seixal in Portugal.

The Main One Cable Company is wholly owned by African Investors - African Finance Corporation, Nigeria; Pan African Infrastructure Development Fund, South Africa; FBN Capital, Nigeria; Skye Bank, Nigeria; Nigeria and Main Street Technologies, Nigeria, which is the project sponsor.

Hajj commission wants states to train pilgrims

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) has called on Muslims Pilgrims' Welfare Boards across all the states to establish pilgrims training centre for this year's Hajj operation.

NAHCON Chairman Muhammad Bello made the call in Osun state yesterday, adding that the commission would provide the states with all the necessary technical assistance to achieve this objective.

He said the commission is hoping that all the training centres would be built before the commencement of this year's hajj operations.

The centre, he said, would serve as a training ground for practical and theoretical enlightenments of all intending pilgrims on the Islamic Knowledge particularly in the area of does and don'ts during the hajj while in the holy land.

He said most pilgrims lack basic knowledge of hajj operation.

"To achieve this, we shall appreciate your state partnership in the Hajj Saving Scheme and

the establishment of Pilgrims Training Centre. We want to make the training and orientation of Nigerian pilgrims an all year affair. We want the pilgrims to be well schooled on all the Hajj rights, universal brotherhood if Islam and love for all," he said.

He therefore called for the states to engage in public enlightenment of their pilgrims against the denting of Nigeria's name through demonstrations while in the holy land or by allowing pregnant women and disabled persons engage into pilgrimage.

No vacuum in government - Aliero

By Nasir Imam

AMID clamour for President for Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to assume power as acting President, the FCT Minister has said that there is no vacuum in government in Nigeria.

The minister, who was responding to questions at a National Min-

isterial Briefing in Abuja yesterday, said the absence of President Yar'adua has not brought any change in governance in Abuja as Vice President is in full control of the affairs of governance.

Among the achievements of his administration, the FCT Minister said 10KW transmitters have been procured for Aso Radio and Televi-

sion and the completion of the Karu General Hospital, which according to him, will soon be handed over to the Health and Human Services Secretariat.

Sen. A'amu Aliero said the 13 abandoned projects inherited from the previous administration have been revived by his administration and also said that the Task

Force on sanitizing Abuja is not an alternative to the development Control Department but to complement its work.

The minister called on land allottees to take advantage of the recent downward review of land charges and pay up, because, according to him, anyone who pays completely at once gets a

10% discount, and for the next six months is 5%.

He warned Area Councils to always clean up their areas as failure to do so will entail Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) to do their job for them and recover the cost through deductions from their monthly statutory allocations.

Police seek information from public

Misbahu Bashir

MEMBERS of the public have been asked to provide the police with information and operational materials.

FCT commissioner of Police Mr John Haruna made the appeal yesterday while receiving the donation of a new pick up patrol vehicle from one Kabiru Haruna in Abuja.

He said police always appreciate and make use of information and working materials voluntarily given to them by members of the public. He said the vehicle will be judiciously utilized and maintained by the police.

The Community policing programme implemented in some states and the FCT entails collaboration between the police and the community in managing crime and violence.

Kabiru who also provided office accommodation for the Police Outpost in Sahara Housing Estate in Apo Abuja said the vehicle would help the police in monitoring activities.

NUJ, NPC to tackle quack journalists

By Atika Balal

THE Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) said it is collaborating with the Nigerian Press Council (NPC) to check the activities of quack journalists in the Federal Capital territory.

A statement made available to *Daily Trust* said a task force appointed by NUJ Abuja Council will immediately commence a sensitization from Abuja.

Members of the task force will visit media houses in Abuja as part of the public education drive and also to enable them work out new guidelines for journalists covering assignments within the FCT.

The statement calls on members of the public to help towards eliminating impostors who denigrate the profession.



FROM left: Governor Gabriel Suswam of Benue State, Governor Danjuma Goje of Gombe State and Senate President David Mark during the Governors' Forum visit to the National Assembly in Abuja yesterday.

Yar'adua absence: Court to rule on questions Feb 22

By Atika Balal

A Federal High Court in Abuja has fixed February 22 to rule on an application seeking reference to the Court of Appeal questions of law formulated by the plaintiff for interpretation in a suit between Femi Falana and the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF).

Falana through his counsel, Kayode Ajulo is asking the court for a reference to the higher court for interpretation of questions but

counsel to AGF, A. O Mbamali asked the court to refuse the application as it amounts to an abuse of court process.

She argued that the issues raised by Falana have already been dealt with by Justice Dan Abutu of the Federal High Court in two similar suits and it excludes the jurisdiction of the court from making reference to a higher court on the same issues.

Falana, in the initial suit filed before Federal High Court 1 asked that decisions reached

by the Executive Council of the Federation during President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's absence be annulled.

He also asked the defendant in the matter 'Attorney General of the Federation' to answer whether the resolution of the Executive Council of the Federation adopted at its meeting of December 2, 2009 to the effect that President Yar'adua is capable of discharging the functions of his office based on any medical report.

Counsel to Falana argued that the reliefs sought in the earlier suits decided by the court are not the same with the instant suit, thus he urged the court to dismiss the defendants submission.

It will be recalled that Falana had requested that the case be transferred to another court following the court's ruling which said Vice President Goodluck Jonathan can exercise the executive powers vested in the President by virtue of section 5 of the 1999 constitution.

Anambra: CSOs tasks INEC on future elections

By Abbas Jimoh, just back from Awka

THE Independent National Electoral Commission will need to be more proactive in future elections in the country to prevent some of the irregularities observed in last Saturday gubernatorial election.

Members of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) gave the advice yesterday in a communiqué issued and signed by the 33 CSOs accredited by the INEC to observe the election.

According to the communiqué, all CSOs reported a systemic and structural disenfranchisement of some voters because many could not find their names on the voters' register or could not meet the deadline for the closure of voting when they eventually located the unit in which their names were in the voters' register.

They also lauded the Nigerian police, the State Security Service, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corp, the Nigerian

Immigration Service and the Federal Road Safety Commission, the Nigerian army for providing the security for the peaceful conduct of the poll.

They observed that "generally the election was remarkably peaceful and orderly with few isolated and political actors induced skirmishes here and there but we commend the citizens and voters of Anambra State for their peaceful and matured conduct throughout the period."

They however commended INEC for series of stakeholders meetings and determination that contributed to the success of the election.

Meanwhile, the Anambra Election Observation and Monitoring Board (AEOMB) established by INEC to primarily advise on the Anambra election in a press briefing in Awka immediately the result was announced commended the voters for conducting themselves peacefully during the election.

Speakers to find solution to Jos crises

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

SPEAKERS of the 36 state Houses of Assembly have pledged to work together to find a lasting solution to recurrent

crises in Jos.

Leader of the Council of Speakers who is the Speaker of Taraba State House Assembly Mr Istifanus Haruna made their position known yesterday in Jos

when he visited Governor Jonah Jang to sympathise with him over the recent Jos crisis.

The Speaker commended the government for the steps taken to restore peace and advised the

people of the state to settle their differences and work together for the development of the state and country.

Responding, Governor Jonah Jang said the state was faced with

many challenges, especially from people who were bent on tarnishing the image of the state and advised politicians and leaders to work towards ensuring peace in the state..

Uniben ASUU demands release of panel White Paper

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE University of Benin branch of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has called on the Minister of Education Dr Sam Egwu to release the white paper on the presidential visitation panel to the university.

It would be recalled that in response to calls from stakeholders, the Federal Government set up a visitation panel headed by Professor Peter Okebukola to probe the administration of the former Vice Chancellor of the institution, Professor Emmanuel Nwanze. In a statement jointly signed by ASUU Chairman Emmanuel Irabor and Secretary Henry Akinnibosun, the union said being an important stakeholder which submitted a memorandum and also appeared before the panel, it considered it right to know government's position on the issues presented before the panel.

NIPSS inaugurates 66 participants for SEC 32

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru in Plateau State, has inaugurated 66 participants for the one year Senior Executive Course, 32. Fifty seven of the 66 participants took the oath during the inauguration ceremony while the remaining nine are expected to take their oath when they arrive. Inaugurating the participants yesterday, Vice President Good Luck Jonathan advised them to show a high sense of responsibility through objective dialogue and to develop a policy that would ensure good governance. Represented by the Secretary to the Federal Government Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, Vice President Jonathan told the participants to compose themselves and work assiduously.

Governor David Jonah Jang of Plateau State who was represented by the Secretary to the Plateau State Government Mr Samson Jidauna Dimka, enjoined the participants to find a lasting solution to crises not only in Plateau, but in the entire country.

The Director General of the Institute Professor Ahmed Danfulani said the NIPSS was committed to meeting the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerians by ensuring good governance in the country. Some of the participants told newsmen that they were committed to contributing their quota to the development of the country.

“Governor David Jonah Jang of Plateau State who was represented by the Secretary to the Plateau State Government Mr Samson Jidauna Dimka, enjoined the participants to find a lasting solution to crises not only in Plateau, but in the entire country.”



THE Burj Khalifa, the world's tallest building, in Dubai, opened just a month ago, has been closed for repairs Monday.

Amaechi to build road as 'birthday gift' to PDP chairman

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State governor says he would construct the Ahoada-Omoku-Egbema Road up to its boundary with Imo State as a birthday present to Chief Godpower Ake, the state Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Governor Chibuike Amaechi said yesterday this at a reception marking the 70th birthday of Chief Ake at Erema in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of the state.

The governor said there would be no better birthday present to Chief Ake than to construct the road which he personally requested for, adding that the state government would approach the Federal Government for permis-

sion to embark on the project as the road belonged to the Federal Government. He appealed to the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) to construct the Erema road and urged the Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Council chairman to name the road after Chief Ake in recognition of his contributions to the development of the area.

Governor Amaechi said he would remain grateful to Chief Ake for the role he played in his life, including supporting his governorship ambition. The National Chairman of the PDP Chief Vincent Ogbulafor described Chief Godpower Ake as a worthy officer of the party. Chief Ogbulafor who was the Chairman of the occasion said all that the celebrant needed at 70,

was to register his achievements so that he would be remembered when he is no more. He prayed God to grant him more years.

Responding, the celebrant, Chief Godpower Ake, said one thing that endeared him to Governor Amaechi was his objectivity.

“When people complain that Governor Amaechi is too erratic and proud, I tell them that they do not understand the type of person he is, because he is a man who does not know how to hide his feelings”, he said. Chief Ake who said he started life as a bricklayer, said he never knew that God was using that challenge to prepare him for greater challenges.

'Why I accept to be Acting President'

BELOW is the full text of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan's address to the nation last night.

Fellow Nigerians, AS we all know, our dear President, His Excellency, Umaru Musa Yar'adua, has been receiving treatment in Saudi Arabia for some time now. Naturally, his absence from the country has generated considerable interest and a heated national debate.

Today, the National Assembly passed a resolution mandating me to act as President, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. In following the extant provisions of the 1999 constitution to arrive at this decision, the leadership and members of the National Assembly have shown great courage, statesmanship and patriotism. I salute them all.

In the same vein, I will like to commend all the other political actors and national leaders, particularly the former Heads of State, Elder Statesmen, Governors of the 36 States and other leaders of political groups, civil society organizations, the media, and indeed all Nigerians, for their invaluable contributions and counsel. Our security services also deserve our special commendation for their loyalty and devotion to duty during this trying period.

The circumstances in which I find myself assuming office today as Acting President of our country are uncommon, sober and reflective. More than ever therefore, I urge all Nigerians as a people of faith in God, to pray fervently for the full recovery of our dear President and his early return.

The events of the recent past have put to the test, our collective resolve as a democratic nation. I am delighted to note that our nation has demonstrated resilience and unity of purpose. Today affords us time to reconnect with ourselves and overcome any suspicions, hurts and doubts, which had occurred. In all these, there are no winners and no losers, because by the Grace of God we have once

“ The events of the recent past have put to the test, our collective resolve as a democratic nation. I am delighted to note that our nation has demonstrated resilience and unity of purpose.

again succeeded in moving our country forward. We have all shown that our unity as a people, our love for this country, and our hope for its great future cannot be shaken.

It is now time for us to move on in a more determined manner to tackle the various challenges which we face as a nation. Our march towards Vision 20-2020 is irreversible. Therefore, we see a need to prioritise on a few of the most critical areas which continue to plague our effort at engendering meaningful economic growth and development. Some of these critical sectors include power, infrastructure, security, generation of employment and business opportunities for our teeming young men and women.

Fellow Nigerians, The Federal Government will take every step necessary to consolidate the gains of Amnesty in the Niger Delta and execute the post-Amnesty programme. I therefore appeal to all concerned to be patient, as there can be no meaningful development without peace and security.

As regards the Jos crisis, government will endeavour to sustain the peace and find a lasting solution to the recurring crisis in Plateau State. In the meantime, culprits of the heinous crimes committed in the recent incident will face the full weight of the law. I want to restate that government will not tolerate the culture of impunity that is fast becoming an unwelcome part of our socio-political life.

Our commitment to ensuring the security of lives and property in all parts of the country will also be pursued with renewed zeal. The Nigeria Police and other security services would be given new impetus to perform their duties, even while respecting the human rights of Nigerians. They are fully expected to produce corresponding results. There shall be



ACTING President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

no excuses for failure. Nigerians deserve to be fully protected at all times nationwide.

Fellow Nigerians,

One of the cardinal commitments of this administration is our commitment to Good Governance, Accountability and Transparency. We shall continue to pursue these policy objectives with all the seriousness they deserve. In particular, the war against corruption will be prosecuted more robustly. We will therefore strengthen the capacity of the anti-corruption agencies and give them a free hand to prosecute the anti corruption war.

Let me once again commend the people of Anambra State, for the successful conduct of the recent gubernatorial election. This has shown that Nigerians can conduct free, fair and credible elections. The Anambra Election has however exposed some weaknesses in our electoral system, and government is determined to plug these loop holes as we approach the next General Elections in 2011. I want to reassure all Nigerians and our friends around the world, that our determination to ensure that

the sanctity of the electoral rights of our people shall not be compromised.

Let me on behalf of the Nigerian people appreciate the international community for their goodwill and understanding in our efforts at national development and consolidation of our democracy. Nigeria will continue to play a deserving role in regional and

global affairs.

On a personal note, I am deeply humbled and honoured by this great call to duty. I am fully aware of the responsibilities reposed in me, and I want to reassure all Nigerians that this is a sacred trust, which I shall discharge to my fullest abilities.

Thank you and may God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

“ As regards the Jos crisis, government will endeavour to sustain the peace and find a lasting solution to the recurring crisis in Plateau State. In the meantime, culprits of the heinous crimes committed in the recent incident will face the full weight of the law.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Soludo: 'There was administrative rigging'

MR. Banker, Anambra people won't allow you to treat them like our banks. The power of incumbency has worked. Peter Obi, well done.

S. K.
sqlminna@hotmail.com

No Sir, I disagree. Your alleged 'administrative rigging' is a case of your party (PDP) being beaten at its own game. The act was deliberately created by INEC abinitio to favour your party. But it backfired. I however admire your ability to accept defeat. Well done. On Dr. Ngige, he missed the point. You cannot eat your cake and have it Doctor.

Adzu Midlu
adzumails@yahoo.com

Anambra State must move forward for the good of our children. Ngige and Uba please accept the result of the election and allow Obi to concentrate on the development of our dear state. Let see ourselves as brothers and sisters with a common goal of a better Anambra. Soludo has shown that he has the interest of Anambra State at heart by accepting the result of the election. Kindly emulate him. God bless our dear state.

Patrick
patrickekunife@yahoo.com

"Administrative rigging" This is serious. PDP has a name for everything. The fact that Soludo rigged and someone rigged better makes it 'Administrative rigging' PDP, please think again.

Abdulkadir Ali Bage
alizaki001@yahoo.com

Northern govs congratulate Obi, urge politicians to emulate Soludo

GOVERNOR Muazu Babangida Aliyu's comments on all matters of national importance show a high level of wisdom, patriotism, broad mindedness, courage and sincerity. He has what it takes to be the president of the federal republic.

Frank
f_ngene@yahoo.co.uk

Yar'adua: Senate mulls impeachment

I think it is wrong for the upper legislative chamber to impeach an ailing president, especially when he is not around to defend himself. The senators are the architects of this constitutional dilemma. How can they explain their earlier resolution.

Ibrahim Auwalu
ibrauwal@yahoo.com

Ninety nine percent of these governors do not represent anyone, but themselves. The governors should back off. The Senate should insist on what is in the Nigerian Constitution. A motion cannot make a vice president, an acting president. It is either Yar'adua sends a letter or he is impeached.

Joke
hafsatbida@gmail.com

We need a unity government, comprising of all political parties. The president and vice president should also be elected by the members of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

J. Smith
joh5smith@yahoo.com

VP locks out two ministers for late coming

I am happy with the Jonathan's decision. Who should be there first, the VP or ministers, they want to make him toothless, hope he will sack them. They are bad examples.

Ogunbiyi Victor
vicky4real@yahoo.com

So power has moved to the South-South. May Almighty Allah keep us united.

Aminu Kankia Bashir
abk2005laugh1@yahoo.com

Distinguish senators, whatever you intend to do, make sure it is within the provisions of the Constitution to avoid setting a bad precedence. The Constitution has made enough provisions to take care of our present problem.

Babangida Dangora
babangidadangora@yahoo.com

The Senate should follow the Constitution in resolving the political impasse. A motion is not a law. There are a number of provisions in the Constitution which the Senate can invoke. Also, the Governors Forum got it wrong. The Senate cannot pass a motion asking the vice president to act. Such an action would be unconstitutional, null and void.

Abubakar Yahaya
gumelson1984@yahoo.com

I just love this TV series called NIGERIA. It's entertaining.

Mahdi Ahmed
mahdiam@hotmail.com

It is about time the Senate did something. Nigeria is greater than any individual or group. If it was in other countries, the president



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

would have resigned.

Kapnan Grant
kaposkilala@yahoo.com

Without a letter from the president, nothing can be done. Let us pray for the president to allow his vice to act.

Surajo Abdullahi
sirajaaj@yahoo.com

The PDP is responsible for the current problem being faced by the nation. I think the Senate should commence impeachment process of the president and allow Mr. Good luck to fully take charge of the country. Besides he seems more vibrant than his master

Ismail Hassan
hassan31ng@yahoo.com

Reps to back Jonathan

WHICH section of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 empowers the National Assembly to pass a resolution for the VP to act as president and under what circumstances can this happen? And if such a provision exists, why was it not used before now? Why did we have to wait until now?

Pita
justpita@yahoo.co.uk

Please there should unity in what the legislature and

the executive arms of govt are doing, not one taking a decision and the other, another. This state of indecision may increase the political tension and create a bad reputation for them.

Gambo Y
skolar4real@yahoo.com

Going to see the president is not the solution to Nigeria's leadership problem.

Musa Yohanna Sunama
youny4real2006@yahoo.com



VICE President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan

Speaker advocates unlimited tenure for govs

YES, I think that clause in the constitution needs to be expunged in order to allow unlimited tenure for performing governors. However, that should be done with caution, because even none performing officials may use that opportunity to perpetually remain in power, especially in developing countries like Nigeria. The political reform and electoral reform must first be endorsed to make such that only genuine winners are declared winners.

Lamara Garba Azare

lamaragarba@yahoo.com

Nobody with good intentions would advocate for unlimited tenure in the 21st century. Without thinking about what would happen after he has left office. Whatever a public servant is not able to do within a tenure, could be done by another elected leader.

Silver
achugamonyec@yahoo.com

Which of our governors will

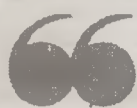
even get a second term if we have free and fair election in Nigeria? None! Because of the powers they have in their states and local government areas, they would do everything to get a second term, not because they merit it. You are a direct beneficiary, that is why you are saying governors should have unlimited terms. If someone cannot achieve anything meaningful in 8 years, then he has no right to desire extra years.

Aji Isuwa Suleiman

suleimanaji@yahoo.com

Mr. Speaker, as an educated person we do not expect such from you. As a governor, he should have made plans which he intends to execute within his years in office. How about the millions of graduates that are out there looking for jobs? Other people can also perform if given the chance.

Abdulkadir s.Daura
dauraas@hotmail.com



By Yushau A. Shuaib

Online propaganda and social media

The battle ground has shifted. In advanced society conflict is no longer resolved through the use of bows and arrows. This crude method of conflict resolution can only be found in archaic societies, for instance the Jos crisis in Northern Nigeria where victims were cut down with machetes. Wars have also gone beyond the deployment of guns, missiles and weapon of mass destruction (WMDs)

The new war is fought without shedding blood. The social media is the battle ground for the interested parties where online propaganda plays prominent roles. Social media is used for advocacy and mobilisation for noble causes and on the other hand to blackmail and destroy individual and institutional reputations. One can read, listen and video live happening across the globe provided, not only by the media but the ordinary persons on the street and shared on the internet.

The emergence of the internet has brought about a range of auxiliaries to enhance communication amongst individuals and groups from the development of website, email and instant messaging. The great innovation of the decade is the social media network which has elevated human communication and activities to

“As the traditional providers of those services are already in real economic recession

an exciting and scary level. The major applications and tools for social media include online forums, blogs, microblogs, social networks, bookmarking sites, online videos, podcasting and Instant Messages. The popular brands of those tools include Facebook, Myspace, Youtube, Twitter, Delicious, Digg, Stumbleupon and various others.

The technology has revolutionized the way we communicate, interact and play - without the need for third parties except the gadgets. One does not need to expend too much resources to read newspapers, watch TV, listen to radio, play games and with spontaneous platforms for online reactions. Business transactions, like online shopping and banking are conducted round the clock without stepping out our homes. Most of the developers of these technologies actually transform their ideas to reality from the comfort of their homes.

The success of Obama's election was largely associated with effective use of social media technology, likewise the massive global supports received by victims of Haitian earthquake. Access to computers and mobile devices has indeed made the world a global village.

As exciting as these new media applications are, their impact on our lives as users, the economic improvements in the lives of the technology developers and technicians, it still calls for great concerns to humanity. The rate of divorce is increasing due to cheating on social media as unfaithful partners

are easily tracked, just as professional hackers are having field day discrediting security systems of established institutions, while fraudsters milk their victims dry through tempting baits on the internet. Frustrated souls too, especially amongst youngsters now find the convenience of committing suicide through advisory from some social websites.

While social media encourages human laziness and physical social interactions, a new finding in Britain reports that the negative effect of video game and social networking websites which is blamed for the shocking rise in rickets amongst children. A freely distributed Metro newspaper, reports that spending hours in front of a computer means youngsters do not stay outdoors enough, hence, they suffer lack of vitamin D which can lead to rickets that was once associated with poverty. Kids now stay indoors more these days and play their computers instead of enjoying the natural fresh air.

As the traditional providers of those services are already in real economic recession, a massive job cut has become the order of the day as the computer provides all manner of service that were once provided by man.

The real bad news is that the next World War will not be fought with conventional armaments, but through the social media. The social media has uplifted propaganda, another tool of public relations to another level. Even in Nigeria, a country notorious for sectional infighting, parties in conflicts are using online platform to promote themselves and destroyed their opponents with malicious and some libellous campaigns, yet backed with evidences. A video of arbitrary execution of innocent citizens where uploaded on the website, with each sectional claiming to be the victims of the assault.

The Chinese government recently through its authoritative and Independent newspaper, People's Daily raises a concern about the manipulation of social media for propaganda by other countries that pretend to promote freedom of information. The Editorial of the paper accused America for using "cyber army" to engage in online warfare, by fomenting civil unrest in the Islamic Republic of Iran after the June 12 election in that country last year. The paper said: "America was exploiting social media such as Twitter and YouTube to generate protests against the Iranian regime.

It went further to say that "Behind what America calls free speech is naked political scheming. How did the unrest after the Iranian elections come about? It was because of online warfare launched by America, via YouTube video and Twitter, microblogging, spread rumours, created splits, stirred up, and sowed discord between the followers of conservative reformist factions."

The Asian publication also raised the fear being expressed by other countries on what constitute freedom of information and democratisation by stating that: "We're afraid that in the eyes of American politicians.

To be concluded.

Shuaib wrote from University of Westminster, Harrow Campus (yashuaib@yashuaib.com)



By Tunde Asaju

Season of ultimatum

It is the season of ultimatums and every Nigerian of voting age knows a thing or two about ultimatums. Soldiers, our ex-rulers are best at giving it. They want anything done with immediate effect and they are equipped with the gun, the jackboots and the *koboko* to get it done. If you think am lying, fly past Mogadishu Barracks without using the pedestrian bridge and without a military uniform and you will know the truth. So it is little wonder that persuasion hardly gets anything done, issue an ultimatum if you have the mandate and see how quick things change.

Only last week, our sleeping petroleum minister woke from his slumber, rode to the penthouse of NNPC Towers, gave an ultimatum and phew, an eastern wind blew off the long queues ensnaring foreign paparazzi for weeks since Christmas. The aftershock was felt in Lagos and to those of you think that just because pilgrims pass through your airport, you can call it international, you better think twice. As far as petroleum products are concerned if it works in Lagos and Abuja, the rest of the country can blame their crown heads.

A wicked friend of mine says that Rilwanu Lukman did that just to escape the impending Jonathan shake-up and make Nigeria keep paying for his flight ticket to his lucrative consultancy jobs in Vienna and other parts of the world.

“The problem with ultimatums is that you need the coercive force of a soldier or a Lukman. It is said that Barkindo

To a man who did not get a share, the booty is called *haram*! Rilwanu, carry go! The problem with ultimatums is that you need the coercive force of a soldier or a Lukman. It is said that Barkindo, the NNPC fat cat (no pun intended) is the man's right hand man.

For instance, if residents of the FCT have the force, they would have given Aliero an ultimatum - to ask the contractor building the overhead bridge to nowhere along Mogadishu Barracks to shift down a little and save residents of Kugbo from the danger of being overrun by speeding cars as they cross the road. Kugbo has real residents but Sunrise Hills belongs so far to rats and snakes. In real democracies, residents vote governments to deal with the rats...under PDP, I can't vouch for that order of things.

And that is not the only ultimatum we would have given. Take for instance, an ultimatum to the same Aliero to remove the car-wreckers he and the management of Oceanic

Bank have erected on public highways in Abuja; or the traffic lights that have turned driving into a nightmare every 500 metres. But we do not have power to give such ultimatum and so, we clap and shout when he told us that the illegal fee he has been charging us since July is now reversed. What we do not know is whether we could sue him for making us lose plots and money etc etc during the period.

Before you accuse me of picking

“What we do not know is whether we could sue him for making us lose plots and money etc etc during the period

on Aliero, wouldn't you rather that you had power to issue an ultimatum on Rilwan Babalola not to appear either on tv or in any medium until he can at least guarantee electricity to Nigerians four days out of seven, for starters? I mean, the gangling young man is as reliable as NEPA/PHCN. Even when Umoru gave him an ultimatum to generate 6000 megawatts, he gave the impression that he had complied, but now he is telling us that he has only 2000 megawatts left.

The rest has been stolen by the Emir of Borgu! Doesn't that make you wish you had an ultimatum to give to pericarditis? I mean, we would have ultimately asked Umoru to return from Saudi and at least change the faces of the non-performing ministers that have been littering the political space since he last changed them? I mean, not that we should expect real change, but at least maybe they can change the faces so that somebody else's brother or sister can be called honourable before the true meaning of honour.

I love ultimatums. I mean, we could have given an ultimatum to Michael Aondoakaa to pack up and go until he has seen a legal dentist. Now I hear that a group from the south have given a seven-day ultimatum to David Mark to either make sure that their son is made acting President or...Well, I didn't truly know what they would have done in the event that their ultimatum is not met. But heh, doesn't it just make you love Nigeria? I mean, I woke up this morning and warned my wife to make sure that I have a steaming plate of pounded yam with *egusi* soup and *bushmeat* every other day even if she is suffering from acute fever. Now, that is an ultimatum I can enforce, except that who knows, the NCWS or any other NGO may be out there reading this. Shall we also give an ultimatum to Dr. Goodluck be a performing acting President or else...

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)



Your Letters

Shame on state governors

The State governors have been playing hide-and-seek game with the nation's precarious situation until almost everybody, including international communities and well-meaning Nigeri-

ans, forced them to rethink. Now they have compulsorily gone to pledge their support, belatedly though, for Jonathan to be made an acting President.

Many see this as an afterthought and would not rely on it. The governors have also been self-seeking in the matter, before this time. And even at that, not all of them that went in support of Jonathan made it willingly. Jonathan is not a fool and he knows them, but he should carry on with his new mandate.

Even with the knowledge that

their positions were at risks should the military incursion occur, the governors still hold out till now that the realized that superior arguments are increasing by the day just like Prof Dora Akunyili and other Ministers in the Yar'adua's government. Though a word of advice for Akunyili: She should not continue with the rebranding as she was propagating before. Her present stand concerning the ailing President and Nigeria is the real rebranding.

Mr. Yinka Aderemi, 3 Fasheun Close, Ibadan.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Fr. Kukah a revisionist?

IT'S wrong for a person of Rev Kuka's calibre to openly trace the root of present hatred, hostility and animosity to the jihad of Danfodio. It's really untimely.

YUSUF Nuhu, ATBU, 08036924729.

Lawmakers or law-breakers?

THE senate is wrong in adopting a resolution handing over power to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan. The move is illegal. Constitution is open and clear on what is required in the circumstances, but they opted to discard it to satisfy certain interests; it is unfortunate.

SANI, Kano, 08065418826.

Foreign coach will make no difference

FOREIGN coach will never solve

our problem; we should emulate Ghana by dissolving the National Team; shun *godfatherism*. NFA/NFF should go and pick players from our local teams and form a solid Eagles Squad.

EMAIKWU Gabriel, Minna, 08038010881.

Sudoku puzzle

YOU made an apparent mistake on Sudoku puzzle of the Monday 8 February, 2010.

FAUZY, 08069469666.

Another puzzle

WHO is going to maintain the office of the first lady when the power shifts to acting president? Is it Mrs. Yar'adua or Mrs. Jonathan, acting as first lady?

AY Gumel, Kano, 08036904422.

More puzzle

WHY is it that amidst all the rag-

ing debate, Vice President Goodluck Jonathan is not speaking up for himself? Why must Dora Akuyili rebrand presidency? Leave the attorney general of the federation alone.

KYUKA Roger, Makurdi, 08082269257.

Not in DT character

SANUSI Abubakar's piece on Jigawa ((Tuesday Column, February 8) is un-*Daily Trust*, because no facts and figures were presented. Is he sure he is an economist?

HASAN Bayero, Abuja, 08062121885.

Skulduggery

HE comes the night of the long knives! It's there in the senate, in the cabinet, etc. Et tu Brute? (then fall Caesar). My heart is there in Saudi Arabia with Yar'adua.

AHMAD, Abuja, 08034524539.



By Adamu M Fika

Dantata was right: The wealth of colonial-era North developed Nigeria (II)

Cont'd from yesterday.

In recognition of the soundness of the policy of encouraging Native Administration "to do their work for themselves" and his conviction that the 50 percent of the tax proceeds allowed them was insufficient to execute meaningful development projects, in 1926, sir Graeme Thompson, successor to Sir Hugh Clifford, increased the share retained by each "fully organised" Native Administration from 50 percent to 70 percent. There was no clear definition of "fully organised Native Administration" which was used for the first time in 1916 for the purpose of giving greater responsibility to those of them that appeared to be better organised. As was expected, the beneficiary administrations were enabled to shoulder greater financial responsibilities and execution of development projects such as road construction, sanitation, forestry, agriculture, education and provision of local amenities. The negative influence of the new arrangement affected the poorer Native Administration profoundly and, its implementation created undesirable gaps and inequality of economic, social and political development between neighbouring Native Administrations. In consequence the policy was reviewed, this time placing emphasis on helping the poorer Native Administrations. The distinction between fully organised and partially organised Native Administration was abandoned and a new set of principles was adopted as follows:

- (i) That the demands of the poorer Native Administrations should receive prior considerations over the demands of the richer Native Administrations;
- (ii) That the decision as to whether a new project should be undertaken by Native Administration must depend not only upon the capacity of the Native Treasury but upon the Nigerian Treasury;
- (iii) That the Government must retain the right to reduce the level of tax to be retained by Native Administrations.

Under the new policy the pattern of provincial contributions and the pattern of expenditure on provincial services are as shown in schedule II:

Schedule II

Actual provincial revenue contributions to the central Fund and Government expenditure on Provincial Services 1926-27 to 1938-39

YEAR	ACTUAL	NORTHERN	SOUTHERN
TOTAL			
1926-27	Revenue 608,660	121,030	729,690
	Expenditure 361,102	708,752	1,069,854
1927-28	Revenue 645,800	143,850	789,650
	Expenditure 366,340	564,139	930,479
1928-29	Revenue 452,000	264,070	716,070
	Expenditure 349,057	629,904	978,961
1929-30	Revenue 499,295	327,166	826,461
	Expenditure 365,798	829,009	1,194,807
1930-31	Revenue 481,126	329,294	810,420
	Expenditure 377,056	587,100	964,156
1931-32	Revenue 461,781	277,163	738,944
	Expenditure 36,879	142,265	179,144
1932-33	Revenue 489,710	279,400	769,110
	Expenditure 34,223	140,171	174,394
1933-34	Revenue 551,328	287,020	838,348
	Expenditure 30,246	131,250	161,496
1934-35	Revenue 531,940	272,900	804,840
	Expenditure 26,445	116,379	142,824
1935-36	Revenue 518,325	272,300	790,625
	Expenditure 27,049	116,477	143,526
1936-37	Revenue 523,795	279,930	803,725
	Expenditure 140,411	304,345	444,756
1937-38	Revenue 579,100	291,050	870,150
	Expenditure N/A	N/A	
1938-39	Revenue 586,960	269,220	856,180
	Expenditure N/A	N/A	
Total Revenue	6,929,820	3,414,393	10,344,213
Total Expenditure	2,114,606	4,269,791	6,384,397

In the financial year 1937-38, the British Government created a fund—the Colonial Development and Welfare—for the purpose of financing development projects in its colonies, including Nigeria, and became another source of fund. From that year the classification of expenditure on provincial basis was discontinued. The following year, the Protectorate of Southern Provinces was split into the Protectorate of Eastern Provinces and the Protectorate of Western Provinces with head quarters at Enugu and Ibadan respectively.

To be cont'd.

Malam Adamu, the Waziri of Fika, is a former Head of Service of the Federation.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

Obasanjo's confession

Any election in a truly democratic environment must start with the individual. He nurses the dream and begins to take the steps necessary to realize it. He prepares himself, he acquires the relevant education, he acquires the requisite experience, he establishes contacts that may be helpful and then he begins to organize to be acceptable and electable by the electorate.

If it is to be the President of Nigeria that a man sets his sights on, then in addition to these steps, he must register with a political party, explain within and outside his party what his mission and vision are. If he emerges as the candidate of his party then he campaigns on the basis of his vision and the manifesto of his party alongside the candidates of other parties.

Supervised by an electoral body that is independent and impartial, the winner of the contest is the person who truly wins the hearts and minds of a majority of the electorate expressed as is required by law.

In Nigeria, since 2007 when Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua was declared by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as winner of the presidential election that pitted him against other contenders, it has been the contention of some of those who lost and in fact many Nigerian and foreign observers, that the election of 2007 was hugely flawed.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has dismissed any suggestion that its victory at the presidential poll was tainted. INEC with its chairman, Prof. Maurice Iwu as spearhead, has also pushed the argument that the election was a reflection of the choice of the electorate.

The point that the election was tainted by irregularities, which was canvassed at the Supreme Court and dismissed, appears now to have some element of truth after all. That in our view is the major part of the statement made by former President Olusegun Obasanjo last month at the Congress Hall of the Hilton Hotel, Abuja when he chaired the 7th Annual Trust Dialogue: the admission of the role he, by his own admission, played in determining the outcome of the Presidential election of 2007.

Obasanjo's advice to ailing President Yar'Adua to take the path of honour and morality if his health status begins to affect negatively his capacity to govern cannot be impugned even if the point is made that there is a touch of opportunism in the timing of his intervention and his decision to make public his advice.

We are however shocked more by Obasanjo's admission that he was the one who singlehandedly imposed his successor as President on his party and on the people of Nigeria. He, and not the voter, decided what part of the country his successor would come from. He and not his party or, for that matter the 1999 Constitution, drew the criteria that his successor must meet. He, and not his party, chose the candidate for the party. By this apparent confession, Obasanjo has not only exposed INEC to public ridicule, he has also admitted his role in the wilful violation of the fundamental norms of a democratic order.

The dire consequences of Obasanjo's impositions are everywhere around us today, in the examples of insensitive and unaccountable power that permeate the country. The most positive reaction to Obasanjo's statement is a determination by all Nigerians to reclaim their God-given rights to choose who presides over their affairs as legislators, governors and president. When that happens, then the interests and well being of the people can begin to count in the actions of the leaders.

(Editor's note: A production glitch caused the omission of a portion of this editorial, first printed yesterday.)

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

e-mail: opinion@dailytrust.com

Akunyili: Conscience as open wound

“Conscience is an open wound; only truth can heal it.” This fundamental nugget of wisdom from Sheikh Uthman Dan Fodio was what came to mind when I watched the latest twist in Nigeria's politico-farcical comedy called ‘Getting Rid of Yar’adua’.

The thrilling twist I am referring to is the effort last week, by Information and Communications Minister Prof. Dora Akunyili, to withdraw from being party to the overwhelming declaration of the Federal Executive Council that Yar’adua though absent and officially unheard from for over 70 days is fit to rule the country. Although her memo could not be taken according to reports, what is said to be the substance of it got into the newspapers and became public property. And what a twist! Even after suffering the set back in having the memo presented in council, Dora Akunyili publicly owned up to the matter and in bold remarks said taking the stand had lifted a heavy heart burden. Overnight, Dora Akunyili rebranded to heroine for some and villain for others. Tempers flew at FEC circles with a livid Attorney General Michael Aondoakaa resorting to tell-tell tales in open intimidation of his colleague.

Even as the Senate rose yesterday with a resolution that could break the logjam, it is clear that Dora Akunyili turned on the screw on us all.

It was coming. As Information Minister, she took it upon herself to rebrand Nigeria to say that this country, with all that is bad about it, is a good country. She was going uphill and backfiring, having to justify developments she knew Nigerians did not believe, and much less, appreciate. Nigeria confronts you each passing day with shameful contradictions.

Here is a rich country whose people are deplorably poor, whose world class academia waste and only masquerade about National Matters, whose Legislature costs the treasury N1.3 trillion per annum, and for doing what, whose constitution can not be interpreted over a simple matter without the endless jawboning, a country which tells America it has no terrorists, only to charge over a hundred to an Abuja court? You can not defend such a country without lying. And I think with time, Professor Akunyili who had endeared herself to Nigerians with her diligence as head of NAFDAC became less credible as Information and communications minister and in fact, eventually represented the awkwardness of the Nigerian nation. On a few projects and policies, Dora did not tell the nation the truth as she knew it. In the Information ministry, one saw Dora battling with her conscience as the devils in the details of Government Policy she was promoting and defending stared her in the face.

But her sincerity is cast in great doubt when memories return on how she made Minister in the cabinet, allegedly genuflecting to Lamidi Adedibu, and how she went along with her colleagues on the President's fitness, only to jump ship

Timawus Mathias

timmathias@yahoo.com

at this crucial time.

With the latest happening, methinks Dora had found it necessary to seek healing for her mortally wounded conscience. If the President is indeed incapacitated, it is not in the national interest for a small cabal to hide the fact and run the country under Yar’adua's ghost. That would be a heinous crime. And to know so and acquiesce, makes you an accomplice. It is also most unfair to “simple man” Goodluck Jonathan, who under the circumstances has performed remarkably well so far, with glaring indifference to these trying and testing times, and without betraying any inking

time, the pro Yar’adua group find themselves openly vulnerable. It would seem all Democracy Institutions in the country, including the Governors of the 36 states have supported a Goodluck Jonathan Acting Presidency - the Governors, only after Prof. Dora Akunyili!

It is interesting that Dora harped on the absence of presidential powers as they affect Government action on many events including the ominous Jos Crisis which, for instance, required a Presidential appraisal and direction, and it is now clear that Goodluck Jonathan may have been ignored or bypassed but saw to the militarization of the crisis.

This type of situation and many others have worrisome implications and Dora Akunyili must have buckled under the pain and pressure on her conscience and the uncertainties of the future when we shall know the truth of all the events of the past 70

“It is interesting that Dora harped on the absence of presidential powers as they affect Government action on many events including the ominous Jos Crisis which

as to the thoughts in his mind about so much going on around him. Or did Dora know more about the president's health than her colleagues at the Council?

Many Nigerians have been quick to salute Dora Akunyili for her seeming courage. Many of the men in the FEC, they say, think like her, but dared not act like she has done. Ask whose body language it was that Dora was depicting, they point fingers at a man in Ota. Time will reveal her coaxers, team players and of course, what she hoped to achieve by this backstabbing.

In this thrilling farce and sometimes comedy, we have seen the many different groups that gave counsel on the way forward to the National Assembly, and how each group had one of the many “best” ways this impasse could be resolved? Sad that resolving the issue around the President's absence due to illness was not as straight forward as should have been, and took all the rigmarole to finally see what the constitution provided for this eventuality.

My stand on the sickness of Yar’adua (sounds like the title of Cyprian Ekwensi novel) has been that going by our constitution, he did nothing wrong in falling sick. He also did nothing wrong in not transmitting to the National Assembly that he was going abroad for treatment. There is nothing to be gained from ceremoniously accepting that VP Jonathan was indeed Acting President. He is acting President! Even for the sake of the nation, even after considering the national interest, I felt that President Yar’adua deserved our prayers for recovery until the will of God is fulfilled that he recovers or proceeds to return to his creator. There is no giving up on the awesome power of God to heal the man one morning.

But Akunyili's volte face and her memo has opened eyes to clearly dangerous realities, and for the first

days and Dora sees a need to protect how she would be recorded in history's inevitable inquest. She has had to tell first herself the truth, then her colleagues in the Federal Executive Council that enough is enough. No matter how strongly you feel about it, it must hurt for Yar’adua to lie prostrate and sick listening to the debate as to whether he should be written off or not. Many in his position would as soon as possible, sign such a letter to the National Assembly, as is being demanded now and get on with life. Majority of Nigerians must have drawn conclusions by now that in deed Yar’adua is incapacitated, reasoning that he must be, to fail to even attempt to disabuse the minds of those who wish to write him off through one of many ways?

The collapse of this house should be blamed on Yar’adua's handlers and the suspicious secrecy with which they handled the nature of the President's illness. The people needed to know the nature of the ailment and its extent, and would have shown sympathy and understanding. The secrecy belittled nationalist intents if any and underlined only clandestine motives.

This week's Federal Executive Council meeting if it holds would have an interesting outcome. There are hints of the sack of Dora, but by whose signature? The body language I am reading suggests to me that the Federal Executive Council would split into two, with the South-South members rallying behind a Yar’adua “ouster”, joined by the elderly Northerners on the cabinet, especially with the Governor's new stand on the impasse. The Yar’adua inner circle would be on their own and unless they manage a dramatic entry into the Executive Council Chambers by President Yar’adua, we may be witnesses to the beginning of the Jonathan Presidency.



12
month
NOKIA
warranty
CARE LINE:
01 4666542

NOKIA
Connecting People

Share quality time in a Romantic Getaway
with Nokia this Valentine Season.



© Nokia 2010
Nokia 6760 Nokia 5130 Nokia 5030 Nokia 2700c Nokia 2330c Nokia 2220 Slide

- Buy any of the featured phones at selected Nokia Partner Retailer Outlets.
- Register at mail.ovi.com.
- Send an e-mail from your ovi mail account created e.g. gloryada@ovi.com with your Name, IMEI Number & Phone Number to noklavaleentine@ovi.com or send SMS to 08134342662
- E.g. Glory Ada, 1234567890123456, 08098765432
- Win a Romantic Trip to Ghana or a Special candle-lit dinner for two.
- Win Romantic instant gifts in a lucky dip with every purchase.
- Offer starts January 25 and ends February 28, 2010.

* Trip and Dinner winners must present purchased phones when claiming their rewards.

* Multiple entries will be disqualified.



Stand up for your Rights!

Oando PLC

Rights Issue

of

301,694,876

ordinary shares of 50k each at

₦70.00 per share

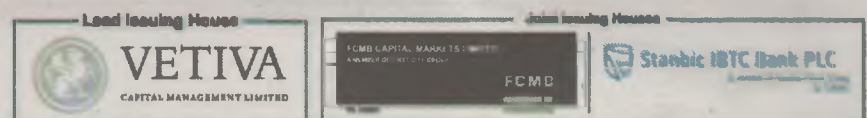
On the basis of one (1) new ordinary share for every three (3) ordinary shares of 50 Kobo each held as at the close of business on Friday, 18 December 2009 for those shareholders in Nigeria whose names appear on the Register of Members and transfer books of the Company and shareholders in South Africa whose names appear on the Register of Members and transfer books as at the close of business on the Friday¹ prior to the offer opening date².

Payable in full on acceptance

ACCEPTANCE LIST OPENS: MONDAY, 25 JANUARY 2010

ACCEPTANCE LIST CLOSES: FRIDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2010

COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO ANY OF THE RECEIVING AGENTS LISTED IN THE RIGHTS CIRCULAR



Please read the Rights circular and where in doubt, consult your stockbroker, accountant, banker, solicitor or any other professional adviser for guidance before subscribing.

It's your Right. Take it or Trade it!

1. Friday, 29 January 2010

2. Acceptance List Opens in South Africa on Monday, 01 February 2010 and Closes on Friday, 19 February 2010

www.oandopl.com



Oando ...the future is here

INTERNATIONAL

Zimbabwe public servants vow to intensify strike

MOST of Zimbabwe's 230,000 civil servants have heeded a strike call, their union said yesterday, vowing to intensify the protest if the government fails to meet their demand for a five-fold pay hike. "I think the majority is on strike," said Tendai Chikowore, who heads a council gathering the public servants' unions.

"We would like to see a response from the government. If not, we will enforce the strike on the ground." On Friday, government workers launched an open-ended strike, demanding that their wages be increased to at least 630 US dollars, from 150 dollars a month.

They say their pay does not cover basic living expenses, in a country recovering from an economic crisis that saw the collapse of the local currency, abandoned one year ago in favour of the US dollar.

"The government must realise that public servants are workers, not slaves," said Takavafira Zhou, president of Progressive Teachers Union.

"Unless the government meets the workers' demand, the strike will continue. By the end of the week, we should have 100 percent of workers on stay away," added Zhou.



DOCTORS and nurses demonstrate against poor working conditions and unavailability of drugs in Harare.



SUDANESE President Omar al-Bashir (left) and his Chadian counterpart Idriss Deby review the guard of honour upon the latter's arrival at Khartoum.

Sudan ready for normal relations with Chad

SUDANESE President Omar al-Bashir said yesterday that Sudan had "completely turned the page" in its conflict with Chad and was ready to fully normalise relations with its neighbour.

"I say to our people in Sudan and in Chad, we have completely turned the page on problems between us," Bashir said, as Chadian President Idriss Deby Itno made his first visit to Sudan since 2004. "This visit has put an end to the problems between Chad and Sudan," he further added during a joint news conference with Deby. "We have agreed to work together to achieve peace and stability," he said.

Chad and Sudan have had strained ties over the past five

years, with Chad accusing Sudan of supporting rebels seeking to oust its government and Khartoum charging Ndjamena with backing ethnic minority rebels in western Darfur.

But in mid-January, Sudan and Chad agreed to deploy a joint force on their border, in order to end the presence of rebels on each other's territory and halt their activities as part of normalisation efforts.

"When we were told that President Deby was coming to Khartoum it was a surprise, but a pleasant surprise," Bashir said. The Sudanese leader has accepted an invitation to visit Ndjamena, but no date has yet been set, Sudanese officials said.

Guinea union leader to head transition council

GUINEA'S interim president has named a union leader to head a council charged with managing a transition from military to civilian rule, a decree read on state radio and television said.

"Rabiatou Serah Diallo, secretary general of Guinea's National Workers Confederation, has been

named president of the National Transition Council," the decree signed by interim leader General Sekouba Konate declared.

The body will be composed of 101 Guineans from civil society, political parties, religious groups as well as members of the ruling junta's council.

Zambia police seal off university after protest

RIOT police stormed the University of Zambia campus yesterday to break up a protest by 500 students who stoned vehicles and blocked a main road to demand authorities pay them overdue meal allowances.

The protesters used logs and stones to block a main road, and threw rocks and other objects at passing cars.

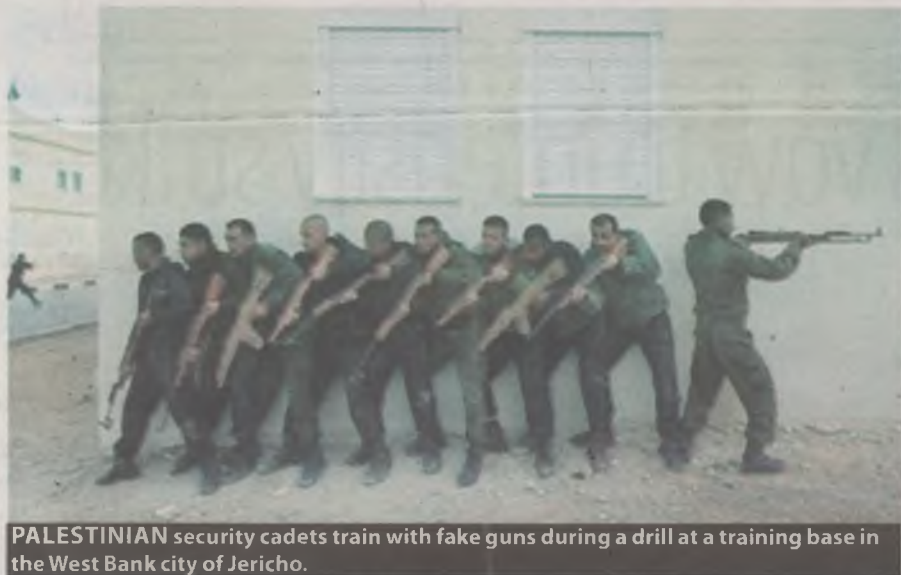
Riot police used batons to break up the protest and then sealed off the main entrance to campus.

"We have taken control at the university and I can confirm to you that the students were throwing all sorts of objects at motorists," Lusaka provincial commanding officer Greenwell Ng'uni said.

"We are however in full control and the situation should soon be brought back to normal," he told AFP. No arrests were made, he said.

Students are entitled to an allowance of 450,000 kwacha (96 dollars) per month to pay for their meals, but they say they have not received their money since classes began in January.

International



PALESTINIAN security cadets train with fake guns during a drill at a training base in the West Bank city of Jericho.

Palestinian force makes gains in West Bank

THE security men brandished their weapons and ordered the suspicious car to halt, forcing the occupants to get out and put their hands in their air.

The suspects were quickly handcuffed, frisked and made to kneel on the ground as the vehicle was swept for explosives.

The crackdown, carried out by elite Palestinian

forces at a training base on the outskirts of this dusty West Bank town, was only a simulation for a small group of visitors. But the men carrying out this show of force — the result of months of US-sponsored training — are already at the vanguard of Palestinian attempts to lay the groundwork for an independent state.

Maj. Gen. Diab el-Ali, commander of the National Security Forces, said the roughly 8,000 men under his command have helped restore law and order in an area that just a few years ago was overrun by armed vigilantes and bloody fighting with Israel.

Although his men suffer from a dire lack of weapons and equipment and are hobbled by Israel's military occupation, he insisted his forces could maintain peace in the West Bank if Israel withdrew from the area tomorrow. "I guarantee it," he said in a rare meeting with foreign journalists.

The National Security Forces are one of six Palestinian security agencies policing the West Bank under the command of President Mahmoud Abbas.

It operates checkpoints, performs crowd control and is on the front lines with Israel, coordinating its movements in an uneasy working relationship with

the Israeli army. Issues like police work, civil defense and intelligence gathering are left to other agencies.

The performance of the force is being closely watched and could have important implications for peacemaking.

Its members, unlike their counterparts in other agencies, receive training from police in neighboring Jordan under a US-funded program supervised by the American Lt. Gen. Keith Dayton.

More than 2,600 Palestinians have participated in the four- and five-month courses, which include training in such areas as riot control, controlling civil disturbances and respect for human rights.

Success could gain the confidence of the Israelis, who remain hesitant about yielding security responsibilities to the Palestinians after years of violence. The initial signs are positive.

The force has assumed security control over five towns and cities, and a sixth battalion is being trained in Jordan. The criminal gangs that once roamed Palestinian streets have disappeared, and the economy has begun to recover.

El-Ali said that in the past two years, there have been no cases of Palestinian security men attacking Israeli targets.

BRITISH COUNCIL

Education UK

The right track to success

Join us at the Education UK Exhibition 2010

"You won't just see great places, this will ensure you are seen in great places." That's the platform an international education experience offers you.

Now give your career that much needed boost by participating in the Education UK Exhibition 2010. It's your opportunity to meet representatives from over 50 UK institutions and get first hand accurate information about:

- * Courses and career advice
- * Application processes and procedures
- * Studying and living in the UK

- * Top tips on the UK student visa application process
- * Financing options available
- * **Over 120 scholarship opportunities available**

ABUJA: 22 - 23 February
Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

LAGOS: 25 - 26 February
Expo Centre of the Eko Hotel, VI, Lagos.

Time: 10:00am - 5:00pm each day.

Tickets available at any British Council office or the exhibition venues for N2,000 only.

www.britishcouncil.org/nigeria-educationuk

aerial view

Yemen vows to keep striking al-Qaeda 'around the clock'

THE Yemeni government yesterday dismissed Al-Qaeda threats and said it will strike the militants "around the clock," after the group's local affiliate called for attacks on US interests worldwide.

Yemen "will not be intimidated by Al-Qaeda threats," the interior ministry said in a statement. "Security forces will continue to combat any violation of the law and will strike terrorist hideouts wherever they are found."

On Monday, Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's (AQAP) Number Two, Said al-Shihri, called for attacks on "American and Crusader interests" around the globe.

Shihri also said his militants aim to seize control of the strategic Bab al-Mandab strait connect-

ing the Gulf of Aden to the Red Sea, and called for cooperation between AQAP and the Somali militant group Al-Shebab.

Al-Qaeda threats "do not frighten the security forces" and the threats "reflect the isolation and despair of terrorist elements in Yemen," the interior ministry said.

"There is no truce with the terrorists," it said. Yemen's security forces will "track terrorist elements throughout Yemen, around the clock."

Regional analysts on Tuesday scoffed at AQAP's ability to carry out its threat to control the Red Sea-Gulf of Aden link used by 30 percent of world trade and which also connects the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.

International

Before the war on Yemen

By Charles Onunaiju

AS is too familiar from the pattern in the rush to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the media have jumped on the war bandwagon, and in the days since the Christmas Day plot became public, one could read and hear alarmist phrases such as Yemen being the "Afghanistan of the Arab World", "the next failed state" and, in *The Economist's* ringing, kitschy phrase, "the next biggest worry for the West". Senator Joe Lieberman, never the one to stay behind the changing weathervane of American politics, boasted recently after a trip to Sana'a that Yemen would be the theatre for "tomorrow's war".

The trouble with these ahistoric and utterly reductive generalisations is that they lead to the sort of historical amnesia that gives rise to rampant warmongering. Already such uninformed 'analyses' have led to the occupation and cultural and social destruction of two other Muslim countries, Iraq and Afghanistan.

The mongrel passions that now ignite the bellicose propaganda in favour of US involvement in that country first led one to taking the country and its tortured history more seriously in the immediate aftermath of the September 2001 attacks, unlike the pundits and journalists whose only understanding of Yemen, comes from the fact that a certain bin Laden family once had a Yemeni domicile.

Like Iraq and Afghanistan, Yemen is a country with a past and a unique recent history, which have conspired to place it in the predicament it is in today. Modern equivalents of Augustus and Nero ignore this history only at their own peril, as they are finding out in both the occupied countries today.

Yemen was a chessboard for both Ottoman and British empires in the 19th century, the latter occupying Aden in the south and the former becoming dominant in the north. Prior to this, it had remained one of the oldest ancient undivided states along with Egypt, Persia and China.

After the dismantling of the Ottoman Empire, a feudal anachronistic imamate took hold in the north which ruled with an iron hand sanctioned by the hammer of the Zaidi sect.

The British consolidated their rule in the south of the country using a vicious pacification campaign, which involved the use of mustard gas (no doubt a dress rehearsal for their later atrocities in Iraq). A Free Yemen movement began to take shape in the north in the 1930s demanding an end to the imamate, a more liberal rendition of Islam and a greater opening to the outside world.

The rumblings continued and in 1948, a radical alliance of the



PROTESTERS in Aden, capital of former Socialist Republic of South Yemen

constitutionalist movement and peasants came out on the streets, profiting from the imam's assassination. But the old order quickly reconstituted itself.

The resistance continued, however, and the contradictions between the rulers and the ruled made an old-style classic revolution to displace the Bourbons of Yemen imperative. In a palace revolution that was to shake not only the feudal order in the Arab East buttressed by the al-Sauds in Riyadh but British colonialism in the region, nationalist military officers inspired by Gamal Abdel Nasser overthrew the hated imam in the north in September 1962, thus completing a remarkable hat-trick of revolutions in the Arab world within a decade - Egypt (1952), Iraq (1958) and Yemen.

It was natural that such intransigence against the moribund old order in Sana'a would not go unpunished, especially after the revolutionary contagion in the north infected the south, where a full-scale guerilla war - with one section of the revolutionaries loyal to the Nasserists and the other, more radical Marxist-Leninist wing, inspired by the Cuban, Chinese and Palestinian struggles - erupted in 1963, complemented by a militant trade union movement.

Those who would hurriedly dismiss Yemen as a stronghold of beards and burqas would do well to study this revolutionary upheaval in the heart of feudal Arabia which shattered all previous stereotypes about desert societies floating on a sea of oil

with passive and benighted citizenries bought off by decades of oil largesse.

In a counter-revolutionary aggression reminiscent of the tripartite aggression by Britain, France and Israel against Nasser in 1956, the Yemeni revolutionaries were ranged against another foreign alliance comprising monarchical Saudi Arabia, Iran and Britain and, initially, Zionist Israel.

That Nasser, who had by then become a veteran of Zionist and British conspiracies to unseat him, supported the guerrilla struggle in South Yemen with a commitment of 70,000 troops (until his own forces were called away and then defeated in the catastrophic 1967 Arab-Israeli war) did much to bolster this most radical of Arab revolutionary forces.

The popularity of the people's wars in the south and the north led to the British withdrawal from the south in November 1967 and victory for the republican forces in the north in July 1970. At one stroke, one of the oldest feudal orders in the Arab East had been dismantled, alerting pasha, emir and colonel to the need for vigilance if they were not to lose their own caps and crowns.

While the north soon reverted to a military-populist regime typical of other radical Arab regimes and in confrontation with socialist guerillas opposed to them, it was in the south that the revolution was really consolidated, first by the newly victorious guerillas of the National Liberation Front and, from 1978, by the Yemeni

Socialist Party (YSP).

However, because it was a popular regime rather than a populist-military one like its Arab counterparts, the radical reforms of the South Yemeni revolutionary regime were quarantined and checked from one side by harsh opposition from the counter-revolutionary north and conservative Saudi Arabia on the one hand and its dependence on the Soviet Union on the other.

Added to that, the consistent ideological and personal battles between the leadership of the YSP and the leaders in power in Aden ate away whatever revolutionary gains had been made in this tiny Arab revolutionary outpost.

By the 1990s there was no real ideological difference between the regimes in power in Sana'a and Aden, and this difference reflected the general turn in the Arab world towards family dictatorships or monarchies in thrall to Washington and tamed by Tel Aviv.

Still the threat of a communist Arab state amidst a sea of dictators and autocrats alarmed the Saudis, especially in the aftermath of another revolutionary upheaval in Tehran in 1979. Therefore, with Saudi money and blessings, the unification of Yemen was brought about in 1990.

Although this snuffed out the only real revolutionary alternative in the post-1967 Arab world, it was hoped that the new democratic state would enable a hitherto passive citizenry in the petrol stations of the Gulf to put pressure on their own autocrats.

But it was not to be. Since the unification, Yemen itself has become a byword for the same malaise afflicting the Arab world that the revolution and then the unification were intended to solve - a personalistic family-owned dictatorship under President Ali Abdullah Saleh. An attempted secession of a disgruntled south in 1994 was dealt with an iron hand.

This is a legacy of the ugly compromises the Saleh kleptocracy made with the religious Islah Party in order to keep the YSP out of the power structure. What is really happening in Yemen today is the unfolding of the unfinished historical baggage from Yemeni unification.

The Houthi uprising in the north is led by former allies of Saleh who were used as mercenaries in the re-conquest of the south in 1994 and have now fallen out with the ruling elite.

The mood in the south remains especially militant. A couple of months ago, reports had it that thousands of people came out in the streets of Aden to commemorate the anniversary of the British withdrawal, which quickly became a protest against the misery of the present.

The rebellions in both the north and the south are thus a continuation of the old revolutionary movements of the 1950s and 1960s which shook the British empire and the forces of reaction; and like the struggles of old, they have no truck with religion.

Only a jaundiced vision would fail to see them as such and ascribe to them the views of a fanatical minority.

International



TWO women pray outside the National Cathedral in Port-au-Prince, yesterday.

UN slams Haitian hospitals for charging patients

THE United Nations has warned that it will cut off shipments of free medicine beginning immediately to any Haitian hospitals that it finds are charging patients.

When the catastrophic earthquake struck Jan. 12, authorities immediately decided to make all medical care free. More than 200 international medical relief groups have sent in teams to help, and millions of dollars of donated medicine has been flown in.

U.N. officials told The Associated Press that about a dozen hospitals — both

public and private — have begun charging patients for medicine. The officials said they could not immediately provide the names of the hospitals but said they were in several parts of the country, including Port-au-Prince.

Haiti now has about 90 hospitals, including public and private hospitals and field hospitals set up in the quake's aftermath. A member of the Haitian government commission created to deal with the medical crisis, Dr. Jean Hugues Henry, said he had no knowledge of any hospitals charging for services or medicine.



**INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION
AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA**



IE/GEN/59

20th January, 2010.

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO FULL-TIME AND PART-TIME DIPLOMA PROGRAMMES: 2009/2010 ACADEMIC SESSION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the under-mentioned full-time and part-time programmes of the Institute of Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria for the 2009/2010 academic session.

Each candidate is advised to read this section carefully and to be sure that he/she is qualified for the intended course before completing the application form. Each candidate can confirm by referring to the details for each course that follow.

A. REGULAR (FULL-TIME) PROGRAMMES

1. Diploma in Adult Education and Community Development (ACD)
2. Diploma in Arabic Language Education (ALE)
3. Diploma in Christian Religious Education (CRE)
4. Diploma in Guidance and Counselling Education (GCE)
5. Higher Diploma in Mathematics Education (HME)
6. Diploma in Islamic Education (IED)
7. Diploma in Integrated Science Education (ISE)
8. Diploma in Library and Information Science (LIS)
9. Diploma in Mathematics Education (MED)
10. Diploma in Physics Education (PED)
11. Diploma in Physical and Health Education (PHE)
12. Diploma in Hausa Education (HED)

B. PART-TIME (LONG VACATION) PROGRAMMES

13. Professional Diploma in Education (PDE) [Weekend Programme]
14. Advanced Diploma in Educational Planning, Administration and Supervision (ADP)
15. Higher Diploma in Guidance and Counselling Education (HGC)
16. Diploma in Library and Information Science (LIS)

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

A. REGULAR (FULL-TIME) PROGRAMMES

1. DIPLOMA IN ADULT EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (ACD)

- Candidates for ACD must have any of the following:
- a) At least four (4) credit passes at SSCE/GCE 'O' level in subjects including English Language. OR
 - b) Grade Two Teachers' Certificate with at least Merit passes in four (4) subjects, including English Language.
- Duration: 4 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N25,000.00 per session

2. DIPLOMA IN ARABIC LANGUAGE EDUCATION (ALE)

- Candidates for ALE must have obtained:
- a) Grade II Teachers' Certificate with at least four (4) merit passes in subjects including Arabic and English Language. OR
 - b) S.I.S Certificate with four (4) credit passes in subjects including Arabic and English Language. OR
 - c) SSCE/GCE 'O' level with four (4) credit passes in subjects including Arabic and English Language.
- Duration: 4 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N25,000.00 per session

3. DIPLOMA IN CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (CRE)

- Candidates must have:
- a) At least four (4) credit passes in subjects including Christian Religious Studies and English Language, in SSCE or GCE. OR
 - b) At least four (4) merit passes in Teachers' Grade II Certificate, including Christian Religious Studies and English Language.
- Duration: 4 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N25,000.00 per session

4. DIPLOMA IN GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING EDUCATION (GCE)

- Candidates must possess:
- a) At least four (4) credit passes in subjects including English Language, in SSCE/GCE certificates OR

- b) At least four (4) merit passes in Teachers' Grade II Certificate including English Language.
- Duration: 4 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N25,000.00 per session

5. HIGHER DIPLOMA IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION (HME)

- Candidates must have obtained:
- a) At least a pass in Mathematics at the IJMB, and NCE or 'A' Level. OR
 - b) Pass at Merit level with at least one year teaching experience or Pass level with at least 3 years post qualification experience, in Diploma in Mathematics Education or Physics Education.
- Duration: 2 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N27,000.00 per session

6. DIPLOMA IN ISLAMIC EDUCATION (DIE)

- Candidates for DIE must possess any of the following: -
- a) Grade II Teachers' Certificate with at least four (4) merit passes in subjects including Islamic Studies and English Language. OR
 - b) S.I.S.C.E. with at least four (4) credit passes in subjects including Islamic Studies and English Language. OR
 - c) SSCE/GCE Certificates with four (4) credit passes in subjects including Islamic Studies and English Language.
- Duration: 4 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N25,000.00 per session

7. DIPLOMA IN INTEGRATED SCIENCE EDUCATION (ISE)

- Candidates for ISE must have
- a) Credit in English Language and Mathematics.
 - b) Grade II Teachers' Certificate with at least five (5) merit passes. OR
 - c) SSCE/WASC/GCE 'O' Level with at least five (5) credit passes.
 - d) The Merit/Credit passes must include at least 3 of the basic science subjects: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Health Science, General Science, Integrated Science.
- Duration: 4 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N25,000.00 per session

8. DIPLOMA IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (LIS)

- Applicants with any of the following qualifications may be considered for admission into the Diploma in Library and Information Science programme:
- a) At least four credit passes at SSCE/GCE 'O' level in subjects including English Language and a minimum of pass in Mathematics obtained at not more than two sittings. OR
 - b) Grade II Teachers' Certificate with at least Merit passes in four subjects including English Language and a minimum of pass in Mathematics/ Arithmetic.
- Duration: 4 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N25,000.00 per session

9. DIPLOMA IN MATHEMATICS EDUCATION (DME)

- Candidates for DME must have G.C.E. 'O' level or SSCE/WASC with credit passes in at least 4 subjects, which must include Mathematics and English.
- Duration: 4 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N25,000.00 per session

10. DIPLOMA IN PHYSICS EDUCATION (PED)

- Candidates must possess at least five (5) credit passes in SSCE (WAEC/NECO) / GCE 'O' level which must include Physics, Mathematics, English Language and any other science subjects.
- Duration: 4 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N25,000.00 per session

11. DIPLOMA IN PHYSICAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (PHE)

- Candidates must possess:
- a) Proven ability and achievement in Physical and Health Education
 - b) G.C.E. 'O' Level, WASC/SSCE with at least four (4) credit passes, one of which must be in a Science subject. OR
 - c) Grade II Teachers' Certificate with a minimum of four (4) merit passes, including at least one Science subject.
 - d) The subjects must include English Language and Mathematics.

- e) All candidates for admission will be subjected to motor skills and fitness examination.
- Duration: 4 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N25,000.00 per session

12. DIPLOMA IN HAUSA EDUCATION (HED)

- Candidates for HED must have obtained:
- (a) Grade II Teachers' Certificate with at least four (4) merit passes in subjects including Hausa and English Language. OR
 - (b) SSCE/GCE 'O' Level with four (4) credit passes in subjects including Hausa and English Language.
- Duration: 4 Semesters**
Tuition fees: N25,000.00 per session

B. PART-TIME (LONG VACATION) PROGRAMMES

13. PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION (PDE) [WEEKEND PROGRAMME]

- Candidates for PDE must possess:
- (a) Ordinary National Diploma (OND) / National Diploma (ND). OR
 - (b) Higher National Diploma (HND). OR
 - (c) Degree(s) recognized by the University.
- Areas of specialization on offer include Primary, Secondary, Technical and University Education.
- Duration: One Calendar Year**
Tuition fees: N29,000.00 per session

14. ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN EDUCATIONAL PLANNING, ADMINISTRATION AND SUPERVISION (ADP)

- Candidates for this programme must possess:
- a) the Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE), with a minimum of two Merit passes in the Major subjects, which must include Education, and
 - b) at least three years post-qualification cognate experience.
 - c) Candidates who are already working in supervisory capacity will have an added advantage.
- Duration: 3 Contact Sessions**
Tuition fees: N29,000.00 per session

15. HIGHER DIPLOMA IN GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING EDUCATION (HGC)

- Candidates for HGC must possess any of the following:
- a) Diploma. OR
 - b) The Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE). OR
 - c) A first degree.
- Duration: 2 Contact Sessions**
Tuition fees: N29,000.00 per session

16. DIPLOMA IN LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE (LIS - PT)

- Candidates for this programme must possess any of the following:
- (a) The Nigeria Certificate in Education (NCE). OR
 - (b) A first degree recognized by the University.
- Duration: 3 Contact Sessions**
Tuition fees: N27,000.00 per session

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application forms are obtainable from branches of Unity Bank (formerly Bank of the North). Each form costs two thousand, two hundred naira only (N2,200.00). Completed application forms must be returned together with photocopies of candidates' credentials and the bank tellers to the Secretary, Institute of Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria to reach him not later than 19th February, 2010.

N.B. Each candidate is required to have passed both 'O' Level English Language and Mathematics at credit level before graduating from the diploma programme.

(Signed)
John S. Amlabu
Institute Secretary



NIGERIAN BAR ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

TAKE NOTICE that there will be a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Nigerian Bar Association, date and venue as stated hereunder:

DATE: Thursday 18th to Friday 19th February 2010

VENUE: MODERN BANQUET HALL, GOVERNMENT HOUSE
YOLA, ADAMAWA STATE

TIME: 9: 00am

AGENDA

1. NEC Prayers
2. Minutes of last meeting
3. President's Speech
4. Matters arising from the Minutes
 - (a) Conference Planning Committee
 - (b) Legislative Advocacy Working Group
 - (c) Secretariat Staff Training Retreat
 - (d) MCLE Budget (Supplementary Budget)
 - (e) Committee on Inclusion (Zoning)
 - (f) Abolition of rank of SAN
 - (g) Building Committee Report/ Abuja Property Acquisition.
5. Sections, Committees and Work Groups Report
6. State of the Nation
7. Any Other Business

Please note that:

1. Every NEC member must attend with their NEC membership identification tags as it confers on members' right of audience.
2. For accommodation purposes members can contact the
 - NBA Welfare Officer Mr. Ganiyu Ajape - 08023351721
 - B.R. Esthon, Esq. - Chairman Yola Branch - 08034361638
 - E.O. Odo, Esq. - Secretary Yola Branch - 08053472123
3. Flight Information:
 - IRS Airline (Lagos - Yola) - Mon - Fri. 9:45am
 - (Abuja - Yola) - Mon - Fri. 12:30pm
 - Mon - Fri. 5:45pm
 - Arik Airlines (Lagos - Yola) - Sun - Fri. 4:50pm
 - (Abuja - Yola) - Sun - Fri. 6:45pm

IBRAHIM EDDY MARK
General Secretary

THE CHALLENGE OF NATION BUILDING

The events of the past few weeks, in our view, demonstrate the need for enlightened leadership in Nigeria and reflect the challenge of nation-building in a young and fragile democracy. They also demonstrate the urgent need for us to strengthen our political and democratic institutions.

Implementation of Electoral Reform

As a first step and from a practical point of view, this can best be achieved through effective electoral reform. We therefore urge the Government, particularly the National Assembly, to take the appropriate steps to have the recommendations contained in the Report of the Uwais Committee on Electoral Reform passed into law by the National Assembly.

Free and Fair Elections

The President commissioned the Report shortly after assuming office, as a matter of the highest priority, to look into our electoral system and make recommendations for electoral reform to address endemic and widespread abuses of the electoral process. We believe that enacting such laws would be a concrete and positive step towards strengthening those very institutions upon which our successful future as a representative and constitutional democracy depend.

A True Connection between the People and their Government

The legal arguments have been extensively canvassed but it is arguable that the roots of the present controversy over the constitutionality of the "handing over arrangements" can be traced to the lack of a proper nexus between the leadership and the led under the present system. This leadership gap or disconnection is further aggravated by weak institutional capacity and poor governance habits. The Constitution is not just a series of legal clauses; it embodies the spirit of democratic government. It should infuse the behaviour and attitude of both the government and the people. In the words of Professor Francis Fukuyama, the well-known political theorist in his book entitled "State-Building": "Well functioning public institutions require certain habits of mind and operate in complex ways." For the people to connect with their government the electoral system is key. A flawed electoral system thwarts the very basis of democracy and negates the representational element in governance. It gives room for the type of controversy we are witnessing over otherwise, non-controversial constitutional and administrative arrangements to ensure the seamless exercise of power should the President be unavoidably absent or otherwise incapacitated. How is this so? Let us attempt to explain.

Although the key issue here is about governance, representative democracy and the rule of law, it rears its head in the polity in different forms from time to time. So what we are seeing now is the symptom of the malaise and not the disease itself.

Constitutional Process and Good Governance

The way in which it has manifested itself recently is over the question of whether adequate arrangements were put in place, in line with the Constitution, to ensure the proper functioning of Government in the President's absence. Presumably, this is a legitimate question to ask in a constitutional democracy posited on the rule of law. Given that the Constitution is our supreme law, the solution to the problem ought to be straightforward. Instead, the search for a satisfactory answer has taken our country in intriguing and often perplexing directions in the past weeks...

As things stand, more than 70 days have elapsed since the President's departure to Saudi Arabia for medical treatment. It is still not clear when he will be able to return to Nigeria to resume his official duties. In the meantime, very little information has been disclosed to the public about his state of health. 140 million Nigerians have been kept in the dark about the condition of their leader. This virtual silence, save for vague reassurances from time to time, that the President is responding to treatment, have left room for speculation and for the proliferation of rumours about his illness and its implications for his ability to carry out his official duties as President.

To date, the President has not been seen or shown in person. Nigerians had not heard from him at all until the recent telephone interview broadcast by BBC Radio. It may well be that his medical condition did not permit any such communication previously. We simply do not know. Our full sympathy and sincere prayers for the President's good health and rapid return continue but the controversy for the country remains...

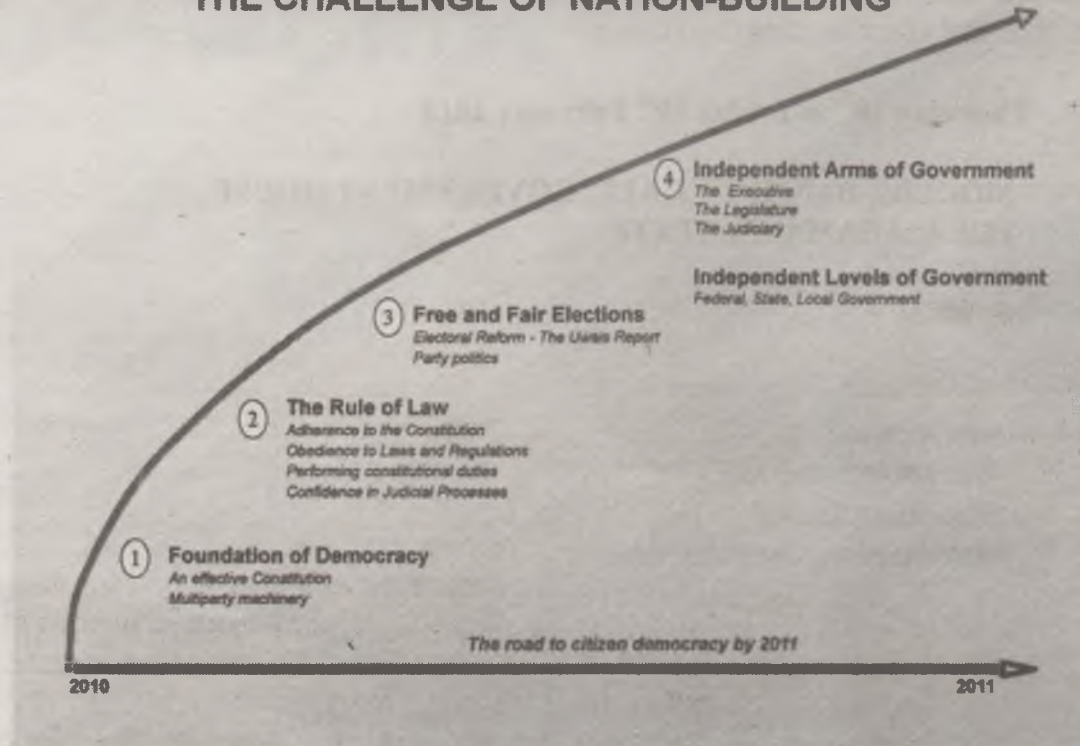
Would it not have been easier for the President to clearly and unambiguously hand over power to the Vice-President under the provisions of Section 145 of the Constitution? Perhaps the circumstances of his falling ill were sudden and so did not permit the transmission of the necessary letter to the National Assembly before his departure. We simply do not know. Perhaps, at some point after his departure, he recovered sufficiently to transmit the necessary

letter and perhaps not. We simply do not know.

Accountability to the People and Communication on Matters of National Interest
Beyond the legal and constitutional arguments, the manner in which this matter has been handled and the way it has unnecessarily been allowed to escalate into a public and political controversy raises serious questions about the nature of our democracy. It calls for profound reflection on the nature and responsibilities of both the leadership and followership in a young democratic system such as ours. It focuses our minds on those urgent steps, such as electoral reform, that we need to take to strengthen our constitutional and democratic institutions. It calls into question the present arrangements regarding access to the President at all times under a constitutional democracy and the need for the government to keep the public properly informed about matters of public importance such as the state of health of the occupant of that exalted office. It touches on the need for the government to maintain an effective machinery for communicating openly and transparently with the public on matters of national interest. It raises serious questions about the quality of advice being given and followed at the highest echelons of government. It also raises questions about the duty of government in a constitutional democracy to adhere to the Constitution and to be clearly seen and understood by those it governs to adhere to the Constitution.

At this critical stage of our history, the country requires enlightened leadership that truly reflects the values and aspirations of its over 140 million citizens.

THE CHALLENGE OF NATION-BUILDING



The Need for Statesmanship and the Overriding Importance of the Rule of Law

In a speech made in Cambridge in May 2001, President Nelson Mandela, as he then was, referred to two instances in which the courts had reined him in over the exercise of his powers. It was a critical time for the new South Africa trying to establish itself as a democratic nation under the rule of law. As we have come to expect, President Mandela was not found wanting. He rose to the challenge and speaking of the matter, he said:

"The President is not above the law, the law is above the President."

This was not just a comment on the overriding importance of the rule of law or a reminder that the power of all public authorities is subordinated to the law. It was an act of statesmanship.

The Executive, Council of the Federation (ECF) and the National Assembly should equally rise to the challenge of statesmanship. In the interest of the polity, the ECF should send an appropriate bill containing the recommendations of the Uwais Committee to the National Assembly. The National Assembly should pass it into law.

Nation-Building - Our roles as Leaders and Citizens

As 2011 approaches, we Nigerians must keep our eye on the ball and continue to address our minds and efforts to the kind of nation we are building for future generations. Free and fair elections are essential to representative and participatory government. They are the key to good governance and accountability. The first step towards ensuring free and fair elections would be to pass the recommendations of the Uwais Committee Report on Electoral Reform into law and establish an environment in which the provisions of the law are strictly observed by all.

Nation-building is a massive and complex task that transcends partisan politics and narrow sectional interests. It involves building institutions and strengthening those existing institutions that foster good governance, enshrine our values and preserve our rights. It involves subjugating our personal ambitions and desires to the greater good of the country. It requires subordinating narrow and selfish interests to the national interest and the overall good of the country. It requires leaders and politicians that think not just of the next election but of the next generation. Nation-building is not the sole preserve of those who hold political office. It is the duty of every Nigerian.

It is for this reason that we urge the National Assembly to take steps to ensure the passage of the recommendations of the Uwais Committee Report on Electoral Reform into law, in particular those provisions of the Report designed to guarantee and protect the independence of INEC. How will history judge us if we remain silent and fail to act, now that we have the opportunity? This is the time to disregard sectional interests and to set aside party political games. It is time to think of the long-term interest of Nigeria and all Nigerians. We must all join hands to build a good society responsive to the real needs of the nation's citizens such as power, transportation, education, healthcare, economic empowerment, infrastructural development and good governance. Our very future and that of our children is at stake. This is the time to act.

ENLIGHTENED LEADERSHIP FORUM *

enlightenedleadershipforum@yahoo.com

Fabiau Ajogwu Soji Apampa Ibukun Awosika Multar Bakare Habiba Balogun Orode Doherty John Enelamah Okey Enelamah Funmi Iyanda Toyosi Kolawole Nuruddeen Lemu Olufemi Lijadu Bashir Yusuf Mundi Franklyn Nlerum Obi Nwogugu Sandra Obiagbo Ifeoma Fafunwa Segun Olujobi Uwa Osa-Obob Adebayo Oyewole Sally Udoma
on behalf of the Enlightened Leadership Forum.

* The Enlightened Leadership Forum is a non-political, non-partisan forum for the discussion and promotion of nation-building through enlightened and value-based leadership at all levels of society.

YAR'ADUA AND THE REST OF US (V)

Between the Constitution and the Courts

"Uphold the Constitution!"

That has been the anguished battle-cry of those who desperately want to supplant President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. Yes, the President has been ill and has been away for some days for treatment in Saudi Arabia. But to be ill is not a violation of the Constitution. And neither is going abroad for treatment.

But for those who have accorded themselves the sole prerogative for determining the content and the intent of our Constitution, the President has violated the Constitution. They have unsuccessfully invoked sections 148, 144 and 145 of the 1999 Constitution to press their political and personal case against the President.

For the avoidance of doubt, Section 148 is about the delegation of Presidential Powers; Section 144 is about the process for declaring the President or the Vice President permanently incapable of carrying out the functions of their office; and Section 145 is about the process for having an Acting President during the President's temporary absence.

Even when sometimes clumsily worded, the three sections are clear enough to those not blinded by naked political ambition or personal ill-will. Section 148 grants the President the prerogative to delegate his executive powers; Section 144 specifies that the process of declaring the President and Vice President permanently incapable of continuing in office must be initiated by the Executive Council of the Federation; and Section 145 grants the President the discretion to transmit a letter to the Senate President and the Speaker to inform them he would be going on vacation or be otherwise unable to discharge the functions of his office.

All these are plain enough to anyone with elementary understanding of English Language. But then, it is also in order for concerned citizens to seek official clarifications on the Constitution instead of resorting to self-interpretations or self-help. And the ONE and ONLY

place to seek clarification is the courts.

The Federal High Court in Abuja has on separate occasions ruled on the three sections. On Section 148, the court ruled that the VP can exercise the powers delegated to him by the President; on Section 144, the court asked the cabinet to decide within two weeks if the President is still capable of continuing in office, an order that has been complied with; and on Section 145, the court ruled that the President cannot be compelled to transmit a vacation letter to the National Assembly. With these rulings, the court has established without doubt that the President violated the Constitution.

But those desperate to play politics with the President's situation keep screaming: "Uphold the Constitution!" This is a mischievous ploy deliberately designed to hoodwink the unsuspecting, to force the issue in their favour or just to heat up the polity. Some questions are in order for these desperados: which Constitution are they talking about? Do they have the right to usurp the powers of the courts in interpreting the Constitution? Is it right to claim that the Constitution is being violated just because you can't get your preferred outcome? Is that the way democrats behave? And when they talk about the spirit of the Constitution and about the right and the moral thing to do, who gave them authority to adjudicate on the spirit of the law and on the right and moral thing to do for the rest of us? Can they oblige us a common dictionary of the spirit of the law and of the right and moral thing to do so that we can be on the same page?

Ordinarily smart people are selling themselves short because they allow politics, emotion and ambition to get the better of them. What they want to do to their reputation is their prerogative. But dragging the country towards anarchy for the purpose of a self-serving agenda is not a right and must be resisted. We must tell them that taking liberty with the Constitution and undermining the courts they way they are doing is dangerous and unacceptable. We must also not forget to tell them: **enough is enough.**

THE MAY 29TH GROUP

OAU Quarters, Abuja



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

In furtherance of the transparency and full disclosure stance of the Central bank of Nigeria, the Monetary Policy Committee has decided that henceforth the lending rates obtainable in all Deposit Money Banks (DMBs) be made public to guide business decisions. Consequently, find below the applicable rates for each of the DMBs as at 5/02/2010. The rates will be published every Wednesday in some selected national Newspapers, The rates will also be available on the website of the Central Bank of Nigeria.

Average Deposit and Lending Rates as at 5-02-2010

S/N	NAME OF BANK	Deposit			Lending Rate									
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Time Deposit	Agriculture		Mining & Quarrying		Oil & Gas		Manufacturing		Real Estate & Const	
		Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.
1	Access Bank	0-2	3-5	8-11	17.00	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.50	24.00	17.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
2	Afribank Nigeria	0.67	3.00	13.00	18.00	23.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.65	3.00	13.00	14.00	19.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	3.00	13.00	n/a	n/a	18.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	14.00	20.00	18.00	21.50
5	Equitorial Trust Bank	2.00	6.00	15.50	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
6	Fidelity Bank	2.00	4.00	13.50	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00
7	First Bank of Nigeria	-	3.00	10.51	8.00	22.00	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	23.25
8	FCMB	0.11	2.22	12.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	23.50	17.00	23.50	17.00	22.50	17.00	23.00
9	FINBANK	0.25	3.00	13.50	14.00	24.75	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.50
10	Guaranty Trust Bank	-	3.50	12.23	16.00	17.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
11	Stanbic IBTC Bank	0.98	2.19	12.77	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
12	Intercontinental Bank	-	0.50	12.24	22.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	-	-	22.00	25.00
13	Citi Bank Nigeria	0.75	1.50	10.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
14	Oceanic Bank	0.25	3.00	3.75-16.75	21.00	27.00	21.00	27.00	21.00	27.00	16.50	27.00	20.00	27.00
15	Bank PHB	0.60	1.50	10.20	4.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
16	Skye Bank	2.00	3.00	13.36	14.00	14.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
17	Spring Bank	-	3.00	10.80	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	0.5	3	8.25	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00
19	Sterling Bank	1.31	4.67	15.27	19.00	22.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	23.00	20.00	24.00
20	Union Bank	n/a	n/a	2 -13.75	17.00	19.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.77	2.31	13.16	8.00	22.00	21.00	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00
22	Unity Bank	1.00	4-5	3-15.75	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
23	Wema Bank	2.00	3.00	12.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-9	0-9	14.00	18.75	22.00	15.00	22.00	15.00	22.00	16.00	22.00	13.00	22.00

S/N	NAME OF BANK	Deposit			Lending Rate									
		Demand Deposit	Savings Deposit	Time Deposit	General Comm.		Mortgage		Transp. & Comm.		Fin. & Ins.		Govt.	
		Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Ave.Int Rate	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.	Prime	Max.
1	Access Bank	0-2	3-5	8-11	18.00	24.00	14.00	24.00	18.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
2	Afribank Nigeria	0.67	3.00	13.00	19.00	25.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	25.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
3	Diamond Bank	0.65	3.00	13.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00
4	Ecobank Nigeria	0.01	3.00	13.00	18.00	25.00	16.00	22.00	18.00	25.00	16.00	22.00	18.00	20.00
5	Equitorial Trust Bank	2.00	6.00	15.50	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00	18.00	25.00
6	Fidelity Bank	2.00	4.00	13.50	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00	19.00	23.00
7	First Bank of Nigeria	-	3.00	10.51	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	24.25	22.00	23.25
8	FCMB	0.11	2.22	12.00	17.00	26.50	17.00	22.50	17.00	22.00	17.00	23.00	17.00	23.00
9	FINBANK	0.25	3.00	13.50	21.00	28.00	21.00	24.00	21.00	24.00	18.00	25.00	21.00	25.00
10	Guaranty Trust Bank	-	3.50	12.23	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	20.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
11	Stanbic IBTC Bank	0.98	2.19	12.77	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00	17.00	22.00
12	Intercontinental Bank	-	0.50	12.24	22.00	28.00	9.50	9.50	18.00	25.00	22.00	28.00	22.00	25.00
13	Citi Bank Nigeria	0.75	1.50	10.00	18.00	22.00	-	-	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00	-	-
14	Oceanic Bank	0.25	3.00	3.75-16.75	18.00	27.00	17.00	24.00	16.35	27.00	21.00	30.00	21.00	27.00
15	Bank PHB	0.60	1.50	10.20	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00	19.00	24.00
16	Skye Bank	2.00	3.00	13.36	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
17	Spring Bank	-	3.00	10.80	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00	19.00	22.00
18	Standard Chartered Bank	0.5	3	8.25	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00	17.00	21.00
19	Sterling Bank	1.31	4.67	15.27	20.00	25.00	20.00	25.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	22.00
20	Union Bank	n/a	n/a	2 -13.75	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00	20.00	24.00
21	United Bank for Africa	0.77	2.31	13.16	21.00	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	15.50	22.00	21.00	22.00
22	Unity Bank	1.00	4-5	3-15.75	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00	22.00	24.00
23	Wema Bank	2.00	3.00	12.00	18.00	23.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	23.00	18.00	22.00	18.00	22.00
24	Zenith Bank	0-9	0-9	14.00	19.00	22.00	17.50	22.00	17.00	22.00	12.00	20.00	19.00	22.00

These are the interest rates banks charge the public on loans and advances. It reflects the cost of borrowings and also includes all charges and commissions levied by banks.

(Signed)
Management

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

For helicopter Flights to Anywhere in Nigeria call:

OAS HELICOPTERS

Nnamdi Azikwe Airport, Abuja

GSM: +234 803 446 3432
+234 705 666 9020

Web: www.oas-helicopters.com
E-mail: contact@oas-helicopters.com

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



HOUSE of Representatives Leader Tunde Akpugun (right) and Minister of Finance Mansur Muktar, during the public hearing on new Inland Revenue bill, in Abuja yesterday.

BRIEF

IFDC commits \$5.5m to train agro-dealers

By Tina A. Hassan

THE International Fertilizer Development Center (IFDC) said it has budgeted about \$5.5 million to train more than 10,000 agro-dealers in Nigeria on agro-chemical safety over a three year period.

Country Representative of IFDC, Scot Wallace disclosed this in yesterday in Abuja at the opening ceremony of its two-day Agro Dealer Certification Training on Crop protection Products (CPPs).

Mr. Wallace said the center chose to train agro dealers because of the close contact they have with the local farmers and are expected to teach the farmers what to do to avoid food poisoning by chemicals used on crops for preservation or crop improvement.

He said: "We have over 10,000 agro dealers and we are looking at a long term partnership with stakeholders like the National Agency for Food, Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), the Alliance for Green revolution in Africa and Crop life Nigeria among others."

He explained that certificates of competency and attendance would be given to participants at the end of the training which would make them eligible to distribute chemicals in Nigeria through NAFDAC.

The Director General of NAFDAC Dr. Paul Orhii insisted that only those that have received the training and the certificates would be allowed to practice agro dealing in Nigeria as part of measures of safeguarding the health and lives of Nigerians and to avoid repeated cases of food poisoning especially in beans.

Nigeria loses \$325m to smuggled textiles

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

NIGERIA loses \$325 million annually on account of evasion of customs duty and Value Added Tax (VAT) on smuggled textile materials into the country, Chairman of Nigerian Textile Manufacturers Association (NTMA), Mr Abiodun Ogunkoya has said.

He said this yesterday at a news conference in Lagos. He said about 85 percent of smuggled goods brought into the country worth \$1.4 billion.

He said: "About 85 percent of the textiles being sold in our markets (especially printed textiles) are smuggled into the country.

"Wax print fabrics produced in China bear counterfeit trade marks of Nigeria manufacturers and fake SON markings printed on the labels and selvedge of the fabric. These fake products are found in all our major markets in Kano, Lagos, Onitsha and Ibadan."

According to him, in order to stop

the practice of smuggling of textiles into the country, the federal government must design an effective system to protect the local industry.

Lauding the Federal government over N100 billion revival funds for the textile industry, the Chairman said N20 billion out of the fund had been released to the Bank of Industry (BOI) as at the end of January.

The Chairman, who was optimistic that the whole N100 billion earmarked for the textile sector would be released to the Bank of Industry before the end of this year, also stressed that the fund would empower textile manufacturers in terms of retooling and providing for working capital.

He however said the sector is still beset with infrastructural problems like power and road, which will compromise the fund if necessary attention is not taken to address it.

He said it takes 20kwh to provide power in Nigeria which is far higher than India, Pakistan, China and Turkey.

Also speaking at the conference, Direc-

tor General of Nigerian Textile Manufacturers Association Chief Jaiyeola Olarenwaju said the escalating cost of petroleum products in the country has unsettled most textile manufacturers.

He said: "The prices of both LPFO and gas increase by the day. While the price of LPFO had gone up astronomically, it is not available because the refineries are down. Increase in the price of gas had generated a lot of controversy.

"Now, it is a source of agitation between the marketers and users. This had attracted the attention of Minister of State for Petroleum Resources and Senate Committee on gas. This issue is yet to be solved."

Specifically, Jaiyeola advocated 50 percent cost reduction in the manufacturer's consumption of petroleum products.

He further urged governments' parastatals and agencies to give voice to the on going campaign for patronage of made-in-Nigeria products.

Trust Index

Inflation	→	12%
GDP	→	6.90%
Budget	→	N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→	\$42bn
Excess Crude Acct	→	\$6.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→	54.4%
Interest Ratio	→	6%
Banks	→	24
Oil Price	→	\$72 a barrel
Power Supply	→	2,700MW
Oil output per day	→	1.9mbd

CBN EXCHANGE RATES				BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)	BUYING	
CFA	0.2976	0.3076	0.3176	DOLLAR	N151
DANISH KRONER	27.1445	27.2362	27.3279	EURO	N210
EURO	292.16	292.8433	293.5265	POUNDS	N243
POUNDS STERLING	230.4313	231.2101	231.9889	SELLING	
RIYAL	39.4507	39.584	39.7173	DOLLAR	N153
SDR	228.0495	228.8203	229.591	EURO	N213
SWISS FRANC	137.7852	138.2509	138.7166	POUNDS	N246
US DOLLAR	147.94	148.44	148.94	Source: S&P Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.	
WAUA	229.9588	230.736	231.5132		
YEN	1.6559	1.6615	1.6671		

Stock Market Index

Date:	Tuesday, February 9, 2010
Index:	22,863.51
Deals:	7,233
Volume:	580,275,624
Value:	N 3,713,399,984.28
Cap.:	N 5,506,278,543,160.72

Business/Commerce

Importers of bad products face de-marketing – Abah

Saddened with the infiltration of sub-standard products into the Nigerian markets, the minister of state for Commerce and Industry, Humphrey Abah in collaboration with Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) recently summoned a meeting with service providers, importers of cars and generators where the minister read a riot act to those indulging in the act. He spoke to journalists after the meetings. Our reporter was there.

By Sunday Williams

WHAT is this meeting with the service providers, importers of cars and generators all about?

We are disturbed about the infiltration of sub-standard products into our economy, but we believe we can all join hands to drive away this monster. Most of the vehicles that come into this country do not have SONCAP certification and the reason they are running away from SONCAP certification is because they are not keeping to the emission safety standard requirements. On the contrary, the auto manufacturers who are operating within the country meet this mandatory requirement so why should people bring us rubbish from outside the country in the name of importation of FBU (Fully Build Unit of cars). We have that problem with cars, generators, television sets and air conditioners. In the past we got better products. If you come to my sitting room, the window air conditioner I'm using was bought in 1991 from cash and carry in Marina, Lagos and as big as my sitting room is, it chills the room. Today you don't have the same but what we have are take away air conditioners which does not last.

We need to begin to tell ourselves some truth and tell these people who are importing these items that they are not helping our people. You buy something that cannot last four years whereas its counterpart in Europe last ten, fifteen and twenty years.

When they show it on television that this man bought this car 25 years ago and is still going well without breakdown and we get surprise. Why can't we have such standard here?

This is all we are crying about and want to enforce. For the time I

will be in this ministry by the grace of God, I will ensure that is done and I have told the Standard Organisation of Nigeria (SON) if any of them is compromising, they have to stop because we will not take it kindly with anybody we catch along the line.

We have also told the service providers to do us official report in writing and we will deal with it accordingly and bring the persons to book according to the law.

Every day you read about accidents in the news papers, fifty, twenty people die and so on. It is not in all cases that the drivers are in error. More often it is system failure due to low standardisation of the parts and we want to tackle it.

They are all running away from attending this meeting because we wanted to confront them head on but since they are running away, we know where to check them.

We will go to the Ports and stop them from coming in. So do not be surprised that in a few months to come some of them might not be able to bring in their vehicles and when they begin to call us names, you will know why they are calling us names.

We are not going to ask them for a dime by the grace of God. What government is giving me is enough to sustain me. Before I came here I was not a beggar and I was sustaining myself and my family. I don't need any of their sustenance to move on so we will do what we need to do.

We will stop them. If you are bringing a substandard product you will be our enemy but if you are bringing the right product you will be our friend. We will help to advertise your products and market you but if you are bringing a bad product for our people we will de-market you. We will tell our people your product is bad. Let us exposed



HUMPHREY Abah

this evil and get our system back.

The second thing that we in the ministry of commerce and industry have taken upon ourselves to champion is the issue of internal production. Today we have this man in Nnewi, Innocent, he is assembling buses there and has close to 30 percent local content because the whole of the body is locally fabricated.

Those are the kind of things we are looking for. The boys who are doing the body are employed. If all people importing cars have people to even do the assembly, most of our graduates will be gainfully employed.

It is not good for us to earn foreign exchange and then export the whole of it in paying for vehicles that are manufactured in the moon to be shift to Nigeria.

If we continue like that, a time will come where there will be no foreign exchange to pay for those imports. We cannot afford to get to that level. We will not die if we enforce this system so I want us to be confident that we can pull through if the will is there.

If we sustain the campaign we will not die. I'm sure you have been reading in the papers how Dubai became heaven in 10 years, the place was a desert in 1990, today everybody in Nigeria wants to go

to Dubai.

We can make Nigeria more beautiful than Dubai. It only takes the will of all of us. That is what we must do. We have no option because the President has said we must be one of the 20th largest economies by the year 2020. How far is 2020 from now, 10 years, if we don't begin the journey now, we are not going to get there?

If this place becomes a huge manufacturing entity you and I will be better off for it because it will give employment and the safety of lives and property.

We are not going to allow some selfish individuals to run us aground, it cannot continue.

When are you going to start the enforcement exercise?

I have asked the Director General of SON to give us a design and implementation framework that we can use to assess the importation of second hand vehicles.

I don't want to name names but if you go to some neighbouring countries you don't see a smoking second hand vehicle on their roads and it is not that these countries are richer than Nigeria. Infact, they are not half as wealthy as we are in Nigeria but you don't find rickety vehicles on their roads.

Why is it that we are turning

into a huge dumping ground? You go to the seaport, they are clearing a vehicle and they are using a toying van to pull it because the engine is not there or it has knocked or when it kicks in the afternoon, the whole of the place turns dark because of smoke. We are not going to continue to tolerate these things, we must move forward.

On the generator issue, we are going to do the road inspection and I will lead the team. We will be there to inspect and if it is bad, we will announce it so that you can tell Nigerians that we have inspected this generator and is bad and so don't buy it.

That is what I mean that we will de-market those that are doing bad business and send them out of their shops until they turn a good leaf and be good Nigerians and do it correctly.

That is one way of starting it. We will do those things that are within our capacities to do before we begin to look at the extras that are enormous. For instance, policing the vast borders that we have.

Again in that we need to appeal to the conscience of our young men and women, that look when you engage in smuggling, you will earn a little sum, the major money goes to your principal but the little sum you are earning, you are paying for your own destruction.

Smuggling destroys a system, it is in your own interest as a youth, as a hard working person not to allow yourself to be used to smuggle. You drive a car from Cotonou all the way to Niger Republic and down into Nigeria, you are destroying yourself.

You talk about knowing them (perpetrators). Why not just swoop at them?

We are no longer waiting. We are taking the fight to their door steps. You see, we have an intelligence report and we want to do hard core evidence.

If you tell me that this man is selling substandard telephone sets and we have a system of checking telephone sets, if I get to his shop and discover that yes truly they are substandard sets, I will now have the ground to tell the world that this man truly is selling substandard sets.

Lucozade Boost kicks off Valentine Promo

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

GLAXOSMITHKLINE Consumer Nigeria Plc, maker of Lucozade Boost in conjunction with Sweet Sensation and Crunchies Quick Restaurant have rolled out Valentine Promo in Lagos and the Eastern part of the country.

The promo will run in all the twenty-two Sweet Sensation out-

lets in Lagos from February 3 to 28 and March 7 to 15 in major Crunchies outlets in Onitsha, Awka, Enugu, Umuahia, Aba, Owerri, Calabar, Uyo, Abakaliki and Yenagoa.

Consumers who make purchases worth N1,000 and N2,000 meal with a pack of 1litre of Lucozade Boost Apple each will have a chance to make a lucky dip to win

instant prizes such as free drinks, key rings, wrist watches, memory sticks, t-shirts and face caps.

Speaking to newsmen on the promo, the Marketing Director of GSK Consumer, Mrs. Hannah Oyebanjo, said that Lucozade Boost in keeping with GlaxoSmithKline's vision of improving the quality of human life by enabling people do more, feel better

and live longer, is energizing the Nation with high quality energy drinks.

"Nigerians are hardworking and fun-loving people.

Therefore, there is a big tie between Lucozade Boost and Nigerians on one hand and the valentine season on the other. We are determined to continue to energize consumers across

Nigeria to enable them actualize their potentials," she said.

The Marketing Manager, Outdoor Brands, Mrs. Chika Adibo said, "the Valentine Promo is an integral part of the 'energizing the nation campaign' that was flagged off last year, as the brand is totally committed to refreshing Nigerians at every occasion."

Business

Lack of patronage retards automobile growth

By Sunday Williams

LACK of patronage of locally manufactured automotive products is one of the greatest obstacles to the survival and development of automotive industry in Nigeria, the Director General of the National Automotive Council (NAC), Engineer Aminu Jalal has said.

He said that the Auto sector will be revived if the Federal Government take the lead in the patronage of the local automotive products by directing the Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) to ensure that local auto products are given priority in all government vehicular purchases.

He said: "If the auto industry knows that they

can sell what they produce, they can take money from the banks even at 20 per cent interest rate. In the early 80's when Peugeot were producing 55,000 vehicles, there was no government funding. The problem we have is the environment and the conditions of doing business."

He said that some of the auto manufacturers were given funds with good interest rates but they rejected it because they were not sure of sales after production.

"Dunlop were given about 1million dollars ECOWAS funds in Lome to do some retooling that will enable them produce higher rim of tires but they return the fund because of the environment," he said.

He said the only way to attract foreign direct investment into Nigeria's auto industry is for the federal government to give some grants to the sector operators as it is being done in United States of America.

The National Automotive Council in a joint communiqué with the House Committee on Industry recently Urged government to inject N750 billion as counterpart funding to attract foreign Direct Investments in the auto industry so that it can join the global supply chain for parts and components.

Engineer Jalal said that the United States Government has committed 70 billion dollars into its automotive industry.



VICE President of European Investment Bank (EIB) Plutarshos Sakellaris (L) with CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi at a press briefing on Monday in Abuja.

Oceanic migrates accounts to suit customer needs

By Idris Ahmed

OCEANIC Bank International plc has commenced migration of existing customer accounts to new product platforms that will generate additional value for existing and prospective customers.

The migration is in keeping with the resolve of the bank's management to constantly seek ways of enhancing its service delivery to suit the needs of all classes of customers.

The new products include Platinum

Accounts, Gold Accounts, Silver Accounts and Easy Savings.

A statement from the bank said that at each level, the customer is offered financial and non financial benefits which increase in value, such as balance linked interest and commission rates.

The bank said there will be number of free transactions in each month, loans and overdrafts, best value health, life and professional indemnity insurance and discounts at merchant partners, among others.

HYUNDAI H-1



The journey of discovery begins here

The H-1 Wagon is in its element in whatever circumstances, so easy to get into and out of. With a superb interior for nine, and ample cargo space - an assurance your journey will be successful.



HYUNDAI www.hyundai-nigeria.com

HYUNDAI MOTORS NIGERIA LTD

NO 1. SELLING KOREAN AUTOMOBILE IN THE WORLD AND IN NIGERIA

SALES HOTLINE: 8520006, 8520009, 8529777, 8520774/5, 8520407, 8520012, 07028472742, 8520406, 07029660731, 07029660730

FINANCE HOTLINE: 08055550422, 01-8520002, 01-8520012, 01-8741005

VICTORIA ISLAND: 270-AJOSE ADEOGUN STREET: 07029660730, 08023332237, 07030244980, 08034024987, 07035920806, 1114, ADEOLA ODEKU: 8520012, 08033198007, 08055450508, 07028472742, 07029660731
LAGOS-KEJA: MOBOLAJI BANK ANTHONY: 8520003, 8741005, 08033574418. LAGOS-KOFO: 100 KOFO ABAYOMI, V.I.: 07028472793, 01-8528183.
LAGOS-GBAGADA: 1-A, GBAGADA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE APAPA-OSHODI EXPRESSWAY: 07028022821, 8741033, 8741046. PORT HARCOURT: 08054299998, 08035635726, 07028028812, 07028028809, 09023174440
CALABAR: 08059765000, 08033817050. KANO: 07029185929, 08054399999, 07028344952. ABUJA: 08034099999, 08037243314, 08053333231, 08036008742, IBADAN: 01-8520403, 08039765001, 08055550477

SALES ■ FINANCE ■ SERVICE ■ SPARES ■ BODY SHOP E-mail: hyundalesale@hyundainigeria.com | hyundaiservice@hyundainigeria.com

FINANCE AVAILABLE UP TO 60 MONTHS

Star Feature

An unfriendly

Life is tough if you have a physical disability and live in Nigeria. Such persons now see the country as an unfriendly world. The architecture of banks, streets, public buildings, schools, hospitals, for instance, betrays an appalling lack of feeling for this group of, sometimes, quite talented citizens.

By Akor Ojoma

THEY came for the event which interestingly was meant for them—the celebration of the International Day of persons with disabilities, but had to struggle to enter the building, and couldn't move conveniently to their seats. The seats were too narrow to ease the mobility of any one with a disability. Those on wheel chairs had to be carried, despite having movable wheel chairs which they would have easily ridden themselves, were it not for the design of the building. The ones who had no wheel chairs had to go through excruciating pains crawling, climbing with their clutches to move around the building. Of course there was nothing written in Braille for the blind. Only the deaf and dumb seemed fortunate to have someone interpreting the activities of the day's event with sign language.

In most academic institutions in the country, classrooms, lecture halls and hostels are built without consideration for people living with disabilities, a sharp contrast with what is obtainable in many other countries of the world. Persons with disabilities in the country are unanimously crying for a disabled friendly environment in Nigeria.

President of the Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) Barrister Danlami Basharu said that there are still prejudices, discrimination and marginalization against persons with disabili-

ties. "Depending on what part of the country, one finds himself or herself, there are several pockets of ill-feeling towards persons with disabilities. Given the kind of society we have in the country, surrounded with myths and superstitions about the onset of disability, persons with disabilities have to put up with some rather unwholesome attitudes towards them. In the area of employment and socialization, for instance, a person with disabilities, even though he or she merits employment, may be put aside, just for the fact of his or her disability. Persons with disabilities are not necessarily readily accepted in many communities, because people still fear disability based on stigma. Very little consideration is given in the area of accessibility for persons with disabilities, and in other provisions that are of general interest. Persons with disabilities, in most cases, tend to be considered as an afterthought, rather than right."

He said most public transport systems are inaccessible for wheel chair users, because of steps to climb and they find it difficult to get in and out of public vehicles easily. "In fact, public transporters tend to charge excessively when they have to convey wheel chair users. Very little consideration is given by other passengers when going in and out of buses, particularly in bustling cities like Lagos, where pushing and shoving is the order of the day to get in and out of vehicles. Hearing impaired persons have their own peculiar problems with

transportation, in that public vehicles lack signage for them to see where buses are going to. There are no trained persons in public vehicles to tell them when to get in and off buses, so that sometimes they might miss their bus stops. Those persons with disabilities who can drive their own vehicles, lack suitable parking places, like obtains in developed countries, to park without disturbance."

He said buildings are not constructed with persons with disabilities in mind, especially wheel chair users. "Banking has recently become a difficult area for wheel chair users to access. Because of the new "revolutionary" doors which banks have put in place, wheel chair users are barred from getting into the banks. They are sometimes subjected to embarrassing situations of having to be told to wait outside to be attended to, when banking should be a private affair between the client and the cashier. It is a shame that banks are always quick off-the-mark to collect your money, but can never find solutions to problems that people with certain special needs require. Pregnant women with disabilities are often confronted with embarrassing questions such as "how you do am?" as a person with disability, demeaning their dignity and worth as human beings. With regard to information, deaf persons are highly marginalized in the area of receiving information. There are only one or two TV stations in the country that have sign language interpretation on



MRS Fatima Yusuf interpreting with sign language

their news items, which is something that should be available at the national level. Information of national importance and important national gatherings should have sign language interpreters to convey the information to the deaf."

On the problems encountered specifically by the visually impaired, he said commercial transporters sometimes deny blind persons passage in their vehicles. "This happens sometimes on airlines and long-distance buses. Independent mobility can be hazardous for a blind person who has learned to use his or her guide cane, because streets and sidewalks are often strewn with obstacles, including gutters, wrongly-parked vehicles, overhanging signposts, etc. The blind also have the problem of not receiving information as easily as possible. A lot of information in print is denied the blind in Braille. In the area of employment, most employers tend to stereotype blind persons as only being able to work in the telephone room and deny them employment based on merit "he explained.

Another visually impaired respondent Mallam Mustapha Adamu, said the blind have problem with the Nigerian Currency as there is no sign on it for them to distinguish the various denominations. "We cannot distinguish N20 from N100 or N1000 etc, our only news source are foreign magazines, and newspapers in Braille from overseas as there are none locally. We cannot also access ATM machines here. Education for us is too expensive. The text book an able person buys at 500 naira, we buy for 3000 naira because of producing it in Braille as government does not help in subsidizing them for us. After struggling to have the expensive education, we come back to square one with no job."

world



MRS Ekaete Judith Umoh National Women's Coordinator, Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities.

She said: "The problems encountered by PWDs in respect to architectural design of public builds are the same all over, whether in banks, hospital, vehicle, shops, market etc. The principal issue here is accessibility. These public buildings are not accessible. PWDs experience various levels of barriers trying to access these buildings. For a wheelchair user, the stairs to the 2nd, 3rd or 4th floor of the building could be a great barrier if there is no lift in the building. On the other hand, the blind could be denied access to the bank because the security guard would see his guide cane as a risk, and therefore bars him from accessing the bank. If by chance a wheelchair user is able to gain access to the bank, the banking hall again is very inaccessible, as all wheelchair users are not able to do financial transactions across counters, like every other person. This is because the structure and systems did not incorporate the needs of wheelchair users into their original design. The same goes for hospitals. Although there are ramps at most hospitals, the equipment and instruments are not accessible. For example the examination table is usually too high for any wheelchair users. I can go on and on."

tion but human rights.

Mrs Ekaete Judith Umoh, Executive Director, Family-Centred Initiative for Challenged Persons (FACICP) who is also the National Women's Coordinator, Joint National Association of Persons with Disabilities (JONAPWD) says Nigerian environment is very disability unfriendly, and there are lots of architectural barriers which deny people with disabilities access to public buildings, and therefore interfere with their daily activities as citizens of the country. She said the issue of giving consideration to people with disabilities (PWDs) when constructing buildings or making other provisions for people, shouldn't be about considera-

According to her "Disability issues are all about rights. PWDs are natural part of the community and are entitled to whatever rights every other citizens has, like right to access public buildings. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the government to see that PWDs enjoy all rights by removing any barrier that might hinder them from enjoying those rights, such as making sure that public buildings are accessible to people with disability. So it should not be an after-thought or consideration. The needs and rights of people with disabilities should be incorporated into the construction of every building right from the design stage."

Mr Bala Bello, Executive director of the Deaf Rehabilitation Foundation said on their part, persons with hearing impairment have encountered problems, because of lack of sign language interpreters to ease their communication. "If we go to most public buildings, our problems start at the reception and sometimes even at the gate from the security post. This is because there is nobody with sign language to give directions when we are lost or need them. The same applies when you are travelling and are in motor parks. There is no one to direct you and help with your communication."

He also said there are a lot of graduates with hearing impairment in the country today, but when they go for employment and

they discover they have hearing impairment, they reject them regardless of their intelligence and ability to work effectively. "In fact if they discover you are deaf they will order you to go outside. How many lecturers are disabled in Nigeria? Or in particular, deaf? In the entire federation there is only one deaf permanent secretary and that is in Zamfara state. The deaf in this country are only allowed into the police force as tailors or as casual laborers and no any other educative and important posts. Those who became deaf as a result of the Lagos bomb blast some years back, were retired, believing they have lost their usefulness which is gross discrimination. There are times where the police arrest some of us and because there is no means of communication provided between the hearing impaired and them, the person is presumed guilty. The courts too have no interpreters of sign language to help us, so the journey continues till the person is thrown in jail. Even the oath taking process in court does not consider the deaf and dumb. If other African countries like Ghana and Cameroun have policies taking care of the deaf, why can't we have in Nigeria? I will like to point out here that the problem of the disabled friendly environment is not caused by government alone, but by the disabled themselves because of the internal wrangling amongst them. They have given people the misconception that all people living with disabilities are the physically disabled like the cripples, completely forgetting the deaf and those with mental disabilities. Thus making them focus on their own needs and issues, and leaving the others sidelined."

When asked why consideration is not given to people with disabilities when con-

structing public buildings in the country, architect Joseph Toluh of The Nigerian Society of Engineers, said it is because of lack of an enforcement regime in our national life.

He said: "Right from the international year of the disabled, it has been an internationally accepted requirement that public buildings should be designed and built with a consideration for access for the disabled, better put the physically challenged. Now it is there in the National building Code which was launched January 25, 2007. Public buildings and places for public assembly like cinemas, theatres and generally any place of gathering, where at least 50 are expected to be gathered, is a place classified as a building for public assembly, and is expected to have a ramp access or a lift guaranteed uninterrupted power. This is for the development control department to enforce. Places that were in existence before this regime of requirement could be exempted, even though encouraged to upgrade their standards but new buildings coming after should be required to comply. But like many codes and laws in our country, enforcement is the issue," he explained

Barrister Danlami Basharu, JONAPWD president speaking on the way forward, said first and foremost there must be an attitudinal change from the public. "People must learn to change their negative ideas and stereotype attitudes towards persons with disabilities, and accept persons with disabilities as human beings and an integral part of the society. Secondly, there is a serious need for the creation of disability desks in all public corporations such as banks, hospitals, etc. to attend to the needs of especially, the deaf, where such support per-

sonnel, such as sign language interpreters should be available. Thirdly, policy and legislation are required to back the demands and rights of persons with disabilities, just like in the case of countries like Uganda, South Africa and several other African countries in the south and east of the African continent. The ultimate demand of persons with disabilities is the creation of a ministry on disability affairs without which persons with disabilities will continue to be seen as third-class citizens, as people who must live always on charity and handouts from society and the authorities. It is often noted that disability, in many discussions, tends to come up as an afterthought which is the same for us at the national or Federal Executive Council level, where there is no voice for persons with disabilities."

Mrs Umoh said Legislation is the answer. "Presently we do not have laws in Nigeria to protect the rights of citizens with disabilities. Because of this there have been gross abuse of their human rights, and sometimes when they try to seek redress in court, those cases are not justiciable, because there are no legal grounds they can sue. So the offender or abuser goes unpunished. But if we have laws protecting the rights of PWDs in Nigeria, all these above mentioned problems would be taken care of by the law. For me the only way out is legislation (Disability Act). When we now have an Act in place we can begin to talk about the implementation which is a different matter all together. I would like to specially thank both houses of reps and Senate for passing the disability Bill. However we do know that we still have some few more steps to go. This is the Presidential assent which is needed before it can become law in the country."

In the entire federation there is only one deaf permanent secretary and that is in Zamfara state. The deaf in this country are only allowed into the police force as tailors or as casual laborers and no any other educative and important posts. Those who became deaf as a result of the Lagos bomb blast some years back, were retired, believing they have lost their usefulness which is gross discrimination.

ATLANTIC



SHRIMPERS LTD.

AN ISO 9001:2008 CERTIFIED COMPANY

THE FISH SHOP

Your Reliable Source for
Fresh Frozen Quality Seafood products

NOW ALSO AT ABUJA!!



HEAD-ON PRAWNS



HEADLESS PRAWNS



PEELED SHRIMPS



CALAMARI



SEAFOOD SKEWERS



SEAFOOD MIX



WHOLE FISH



FISH FINGERS



LOBSTER & CRAB



FISH STEAKS



CROAKER FISH & FILLETS

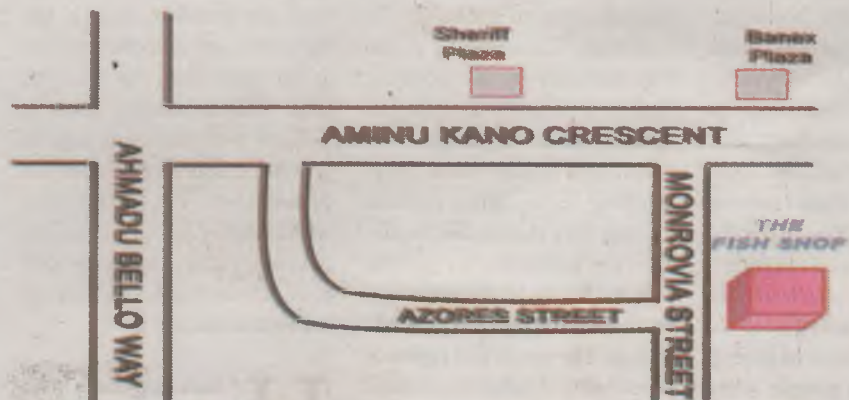


SOLE FISH & FILLETS

THE FISH SHOP:

No.40, Monrovia Street,
Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja.
Tel: 0709 800 8474, 0813 953 7167

Mon-Sat: 10:00am to 7:00pm, Sun : 11:00am to 3:00pm



PRIMSTARTM ... world renowned brand of seafood products!

www.primstar.com :: fishshop@primstar.com

Business

CBN orders banks to remit VAT daily

By Idris Ahmed

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has directed that henceforth banks should remit Value Added Tax and custom duties collected on behalf of the federal government on daily basis.

The directive was contained in a document titled "Monetary, Credit, Foreign Trade and Exchange Policy Guidelines for Fiscal Years 2010/2011" posted on the CBN website yesterday.

Before now, banks had seven days to remit VAT and customs duties to the central bank.

The directive which was signed by Governor Sanusi Lam-

ido Sanusi said that banks that keep such collections beyond the stipulated period shall pay interest as may be determined by the CBN.

CBN said that such collection not remitted within the stipulated period, shall form part of the banks' deposit base for the purpose of computing both their cash reverse ratio and lending rate.

The document also said that Board Chairman and Managing Director of any bank that fail to publish its financial statements four months after the end of its financial year risked suspension from participation in Bankers' Committee.

The foreign exchange dealership license of the bank will also be suspended and its name sent to the Nigerian Stock Exchange in the case of a public quoted company.

The Chairman and Managing Director of the bank may be removed from office if the accounts remain unpublished twelve (12) months after the end

of the bank's financial year, CBN said.

Reviewing its 2009 economic stance, CBN said that the estimated Federal Government retained revenue and aggregate expenditure for the year stood at N2.6 trillion and N3.3 trillion, showing increases of 18.2 per cent and 2.0 per cent, respectively, over the levels in 2008.

"Consequently, the fiscal operations of the Federal Government resulted in a lower than estimated deficit of N690.5 billion, compared with the budgeted deficit of N836.6 billion for the 2009 fiscal year", CBN said.

It said that the growth in monetary aggregates moderated considerably in 2009.

The apex bank said that relative to the end of December 2008, the money in circulation rose by 17.06 per cent to N10.7 trillion at the end of December 2009, compared with the growth of 57.78 per cent at the end of the corresponding period of 2008 and the indicative target of 20.8 per cent for 2009 fiscal year.

Firm seeks NIPC support to promote investment in states

By Sunday Williams

A Nigerian firm, African Business Databank Ltd in partnership with a South African firm, JOOM, has sought for the support of the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) in its project that aims to coordinate investment profile of all the states of the Federation.

The project Coordinator, African Business Databank Ltd, Mrs Ify Momife made the remarks in Abuja when she led their South African partners on a visit to the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC).

The project which will help project to the entire world the investments potentials in the various states of the country, will further deepen the National Investment promotion drive which is a key interest of NIPC.

She said: "We want to gain the support of NIPC in driving this project because we believe that an approval from them will further deepened interest and buying from all the states in the fed-

eration in promoting their investment opportunities."

She said the objectives of the project is to inform local and foreign investors, financial institutions, donor agencies and governments on business, trade and investment opportunities that exist in each state of the federation.

She said the project is also to draw the attention of investors to efforts being made at improving the investment climate in the states and deepening confidence in the Nigerian economy.

Speaking, the Executive Secretary of NIPC, Engineer Muatafa Bello said the states will welcome the project as it will give them the global outreach in terms of their business potentials.

"If you can distribute information on your country and people take that material as authentic, reliable and credible, obviously you get a lot of good product from that. That is the complementary role this project will play in terms of what we do at NIPC", he said.

It said that the growth in monetary aggregates moderated considerably in 2009.



To contact us about your Oceanic Card Transactions

Please call: **CARDSUPPORT**

01-2806047, 2806048, 2806049, 2705056, 2705057

or email: cardsupportcentre@oceanicbank.com, atmhelpdesk@oceanicbank.com

For more info:

CONTACT STAFF	Cell no.	E-MAIL ADDRESSES
Adegbenke Adeola	0805 764 4469	adegbenke.adeola@oceanicbank.com
Oluwakemi Ahmed	0703 252 6893	oluwakemi.ahmed@oceanicbank.com

Address:
18A, Ozumba Mbadiwe Street
Victoria Island, Lagos



www.oceanicbank.com

experience peace...

Business/Aviation



L-R: Managing Director, Overseas Airways Capt. Edward Boye, Director General, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) Dr. Harold Demuren and Technical Assistant on World Bank Project Mr. Mike Smith at a 2 Day Workshop on the new Nigeria Civil Aviation Regulations 2009 Organised by NCAA for aviation stakeholders held in Lagos, yesterday.

NCAA recovers 22,627 missing baggage

THE Consumer Protection Unit (CPU) of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) said it has recovered 22,627 baggage of passengers mishandled by various airlines for both local and international operators.

According to the information available to Daily Trust, the unit issued certificates to 19 helipads across the country with the approval of another 20 heli-decks certificate last year.

The unit under the regulatory body pulled down illegal structures at the four major international airports to address the issue of obstruction in the air as high mast which could constitute threat to the flight operations was removed.

CPU's achievements so far may be linked to the overall conduct of the operational activities of NCAA as industry regulator.

Last year NCAA carried out financial audit of domestic airlines to guarantee their cash strength for safe operations. This is part of its oversight functions.

The audit later gingered federal government to set up a committee to look into how FG can assist the ailing airlines.

The unit which became a Consumer Protection Directorate (CPD) last year became fully operational and was empowered to resolve issues on passengers' baggage, flight delay or cancellation as well as other matters affecting passengers comfort and conveniences.

NCAA to sanction operators who flout regulations

Stories from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has charged all the industry operators to strictly comply with the country's aviation regulations or face stringent sanctions.

Director General of NCAA Dr. Harold Demuren said this at the opening of a three-day workshop on the New Nigerian Civil Aviation Regulations (NCARs) 2009 which began in Lagos on Monday.

He said: "If there is anything like violation, there is going to be

a very strict penalty. The consequences are very grave. You may get your licenses suspended, withdrawn or revoked. If we are sure that an airline is no longer in a position to carry out a safe operation, we will revoke the AOC of that airline."

The programme was targeted at all airline operators, parastatals in the industry and other stakeholders to acquaint them with the rationale behind the revised NCARs such as the general policies, procedures and definitions of aspects of the new regulations.

At the end of the conference,

the entire industry will be aware exactly what the new regulations are as regards compliance and enforcement.

The DG explained that the new regulations covers among others general licensing requirements, ATC license, flight crew licensing, aero medical, cabin crew licensing, approved training organisations (ATOs), aircraft registration and marking, approved maintenance organisation (AMO), operations and air operator certification and administration among others.

According to him, "Avia-

tion is changing everyday and the requirements for safety have become paramount to all of us. As we move higher to achieve our safety standard and make sure we can have a safe operation, we need enduring safety regulations.

"This safety regulation is asking for 100 percent compliance. Things have changed in the industry. In the last two years now, you find out that we have not actually failed. That is the way to do it and that is the way we are going to meet up. We will be looking at various regulations. You must train your people do maintenance."

Qatar Airways to launch new routes

AS parts of its strategy for aggressive route expansion programme, the Doha based airline, Qatar Airways, has unveiled the launch date of four recently announced new routes for 2010.

Qatar, according to its country media consultant, ST&T Communications Limited, flights lurch to Copenhagen, Ankara, Tokyo and Barcelona comes during a busy five months for the award-winning airline.

The airline had earlier announced plans for the year 2010 which include introduction of four additional networks and daily non-stop services between Doha and Bengaluru, formerly known as Bangalore, from February 22, making its Indian destination 11.

By March 30 this year, Qatar Airways will add Copenhagen to its European network with four flights a week, non-stop from the airline's operational hub in Doha.

After Stockholm, the Danish capital becomes the second Scandinavian destination served by Qatar Airways.

Concessionaire remits N11.3bn to FAAN

MEAVIS Nigeria Limited, the concessionaire handling the Murtala Muhammed International Airport (MMIA) auto-

Shittu explained that money collected on behalf of the agency was based on aircraft landing, parking, passenger service charge and avio bridge.

mated system said it generated N11.3 billion to the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) last year.

Head of finance of Meavis Alhaji Fatai Shittu said the revenue was generated from aeronautical and non-aeronautical operations at MMIA on five areas handled by the company.

Shittu explained that money collected on behalf of the agency was based on aircraft landing, parking, passenger service charge and avio bridge.

He said it was necessary for the company to react to allegation by the aviation unions that

the company had not been remitting money to FAAN.

The National Union of Air Transport Employees (NUATE) and the Air Transport Services Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (ATSSSAN) had on Thursday last week given FAAN 21 day ultimatum to revoke Meavis contract.

According to a statement signed by Secretary General of ATSSSAN Mr Frank Aiyede and the General Secretary NUATE Mr Gideon Ogbuji both alleged that concessionaires have defaulted in remitting revenues as at when due to FAAN.

Head of finance of Meavis noted that since the company took over the MMIA revenue collection in Aug 2008, FAAN revenue collection has increased.

His words "When we started in August 1, 2008, we know what FAAN was generating; there are records to that and records of what we are also generating. These are reports from FAAN and not from Meavis."

Shittu stressed further that the company's record revealed that a minimum of 45 to 50 per cent monthly revenue collection was generated for FAAN compare to what the authority use to realize from its monthly invoice.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Tuesday, February 9, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	3	0.52	84,000	43,000.00
SECTOR TOTALS	3		84,000	43,000.00
AGRICULTURE				
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC	2	0.86	5,000	4,300.00
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	69	0.94	4,771,228	4,309,276.81
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	8	0.76	50,727	37,030.71
PRESCO PLC	18	4.78	93,020	453,046.00
SECTOR TOTALS	97		4,919,975	4,803,653.52
AIR SERVICES				
AIRLINE SERVICES & LOGISTICS PLC	9	2.90	172,443	504,847.25
NIG. AVIATION HANDLING COY PLC	177	8.59	1,332,728	11,022,772.75
SECTOR TOTALS	186		1,505,171	11,527,620.00
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC	6	0.50	2,159,344	1,079,672.00
INCAR NIGERIA PLC	2	2.07	107,004	221,498.28
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	24	5.38	114,024	624,483.33
SECTOR TOTALS	32		2,380,372	1,925,653.61
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	289	8.80	51,594,948	444,546,469.54
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	96	3.22	4,354,813	13,833,937.64
DIAMOND BANK PLC	193	8.38	30,698,170	258,315,297.62
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	10	6.08	340,331	2,069,212.48
F/CITY MON. BANK PLC	109	9.50	31,791,117	293,667,408.97
FIDELITY BANK PLC	154	2.55	8,528,829	21,793,469.83
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	930	15.00	15,520,143	232,891,892.16
FINBANK PLC	150	0.78	14,232,870	11,020,034.87
GT BANK PLC	433	18.30	7,027,259	128,190,277.57
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	73	8.70	1,357,073	11,687,886.25
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	95	2.20	1,263,666	2,767,570.76
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	107	2.28	4,724,171	10,770,673.88
BANK PHB PLC	78	1.95	3,176,667	6,380,879.97
SKYE BANK PLC	244	7.58	19,138,196	140,700,918.94
SPRING BANK PLC	6	1.30	104,837	136,288.10
STERLING BANK PLC	52	1.61	1,086,181	1,760,231.90
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	441	13.30	16,331,481	210,601,929.61
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	162	6.10	3,892,615	23,498,922.07
UNITY BANK PLC	36	1.00	3,981,258	4,002,759.50
WEMA BANK PLC	65	1.40	2,730,832	3,768,399.30
ZENITH BANK PLC	291	15.88	5,508,346	86,931,283.84
SECTOR TOTALS	4,014		227,383,803	1,909,335,744.80
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	82	15.73	2,246,973	34,580,984.36
BENUUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	53	50.99	5,768,902	288,805,040.54
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	38	15.12	2,192,570	32,709,050.56
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	40	34.05	872,107	29,724,992.88
SECTOR TOTALS	213		11,080,552	85,820,068.34
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	4	3.36	4,862	17,114.24
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	4	28.00	50,500	1,343,350.00
DN MEYER PLC	5	4.64	112,010,000	519,726,400.00
NIG.-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC	1	15.04	20,250	289,372.50
SECTOR TOTALS	14		112,085,612	521,376,236.74
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES				
AFROMEDIA PLC	3	0.60	109,000	65,400.00
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	10	0.50	10,150,000	5,075,000.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	14	2.64	143,226	370,825.18
SECTOR TOTALS	27		10,402,226	5,511,225.18
COMP & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	5	8.13	10,077	82,089.55
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	5	0.63	73,000	43,800.00
TRIPPLEGE AND COY PLC	2	4.60	5,799	25,341.63
WIGGINS TEAPE NIGERIA PLC	1	2.92	150	417.00
SECTOR TOTALS	13		89,026	151,648.18
CONGLOMERATES				
A.G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	13	3.01	221,032	665,738.56
CHELLARAMS PLC	1	14.13	500	6,715.00
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	37	26.00	401,279	10,343,211.24
TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	17	0.50	1,873,614	936,807.00
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	65	40.00	4,828,473	196,349,996.17
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	86	25.00	1,222,011	30,511,628.25
SECTOR TOTALS	219		8,546,909	238,814,096.22
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	87	5.67	2,064,681	11,740,306.00
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	12	28.00	79,312	2,156,910.32
MULTIUSER RESOURCES PLC	5	0.50	250,498	125,249.00
SECTOR TOTALS	104		2,394,491	14,022,465.32
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	8	30.60	24,686	778,371.35
BIG TREAT PLC	25	0.80	1,846,493	1,493,471.00
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	75	13.99	871,899	12,012,668.84
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	193	12.74	3,853,170	49,184,188.29
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	113	15.00	7,692,873	116,045,695.35
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	53	38.43	272,707	10,413,111.15
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	11	6.35	66,300	417,130.00
NATIONAL SALT COY NIG. PLC	89	6.32	3,207,607	19,891,483.32
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	18	28.40	135,181	3,807,403.23
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	44	270.00	417,667	41,473,502.85
NORTH. NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	3	21.80	18,216	378,872.55
TANTALIZERS PLC	23	0.86	1,639,000	1,449,742.00
UNION DICON SALT PLC	1	5.71	5,000	27,150.00

UTC NIGERIA PLC	3	0.82	26,000	20,280.00
SECTOR TOTALS	659		19,816,799	257,393,069.93
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	5	1.11	527,000	588,740.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	22	2.19	596,310	1,300,064.00
GLAXOSM CONS. NIG. PLC	10	26.50	79,390	2,099,740.00
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	10	5.23	50,161	250,794.95
NEIMETH INTERN. PHARM. PLC	4	1.64	29,000	45,240.00
UN/DIAG. & CLIN SERV PLC	22	0.70	1,359,208	916,526.28
SECTOR TOTALS	73		2,641,069	5,201,105.23
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	4	2.30	120,000	273,920.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	3	1.18	83,700	98,766.00
TOURIST COY OF NIGERIA PLC	1	5.28	100	502.00
SECTOR TOTALS	8		203,800	373,188.00
IND./DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
B.O.C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	9	12.81	150,250	1,924,702.50
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	4	0.50	141,049	70,524.50
VITAFI NIGERIA PLC	19	4.99	1,021,419	5,078,783.33
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	4	0.63	16,000	9,750.00
SECTOR TOTALS	36		1,328,718	7,083,760.33
INF. & COMM. TECHNOLOGY				
CHAMS PLC	31	0.70	3,786,300	2,668,411.00
MASSTELECOM INNOV. NIG. PLC	4	0.50	34,890	17,445.00
STARCOMMS PLC	45	2.14	20,131,033	43,105,776.40
SECTOR TOTALS	80		38,952,223	45,791,632.40
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	1	0.67	100,000	67,000.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC	88	1.11	3,927,386	4,259,580.84
CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	31	0.98	9,404,124	8,987,231.52
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC	17	0.54	908,050	488,192.50
CUSTODIAN AND ALLIED INSURANCE PLC	34	2.75	1,727,356	4,706,481.81
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	18	0.59	771,250	450,887.50
GUARANTY TRUST ASSURANCE PLC	50	2.27	9,701,727	21,925,929.75
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	205,000	102,500.00
CONS HALLMARK INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	16,100	8,050.00
INTENERGY INSURANCE COY PLC	43	0.56	3,176,853	1,818,885.26
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	77	0.52	12,524,753	6,682,467.04
LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC	20	0.60	7,634,393	4,858,934.38
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.64	22,371	14,317.44
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG.) PLC	42	0.54	5,225,500	2,869,821.39
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	17	0.72	851,237	622,968.64
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	13	0.50	9,144,000	4,572,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	1	0.83	205,000	170,150.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	8	0.65	108,000	66,960.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	10	0.80	1,415,350	1,130,784.00
UNITY CAPITAL ASSURANCE PLC	3	1.40	2,150,000	3,010,000.00
UNIVERSAL INSURANCE COY PLC	4	0.50	313,718	156,859.00
INTERCONT. WAPIC INSURANCE PLC	15	0.90	190,848	175,492.36
SECTOR TOTALS	499		69,733,016	67,150,493.43
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	15	0.72	235,500	166,203.00
SECTOR TOTALS	15		235,500	166,203.00
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	38	0.65	13,614,754	8,351,437.39
RESORT SAV. & LOANS PLC	7	0.50	4,164,700	2,082,350.00
UN/HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	37	1.03	5,597,510	5,890,238.16
SECTOR TOTALS	82		23,376,964	16,324,025.55
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	37	1.01	43,286,360	42,798,529.20
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	23	0.58	1,396,778	809,995.22
SECTOR TOTALS	60		44,683,138	43,608,524.42
PACKAGING				
AVON CROWN & CONTAINERS PLC	1	7.65	600	4,362.00
NIG. BAG MANUF. COY PLC	243	1.98	957,282	1,841,440.36
SECTOR TOTALS	244		957,882	1,845,802.36
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	51	39.37	264,879	10,083,864.43
BECO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	6	2.07	17,312	34,104.64
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	4	69.79	2,268	160,019.72
CONOIL PLC	21	31.00	35,620	1,082,582.80
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	32	6.30	801,721	4,887,347.29
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	7	97.51	1,768	164,506.40
OANDO PLC	12	93.99	50,513	4,747,716.87
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	13	150.00	70,500	10,086,250.00
SECTOR TOTALS	146		1,244,581	31,246,892.15
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
ACADEMY PRESS PLC	1	7.21	500	3,425.00
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	4	9.76	3,000	29,280.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	6	4.89	33,910	165,890.44
SECTOR TOTALS	11		37,410	198,595.44
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPDEVEL. CO. PLC	9	20.14	159,900	3,221,160.00
SECTOR TOTALS	9		159,900	3,221,160.00
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	5	1.10	27,000	28,350.00
SECTOR TOTALS	5		27,000	28,350.00
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP	32	15.75	1,755,722	27,121,337.55
SECTOR Totals	32		1,755,722	27,121,337.55
OVERALL Totals	7,233		580,275,624	3,713,399,984.28

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.

GAINERS

FLOURMILL	1.83
NBC	1.32
BCC	0.99
NB	0.70

LOSERS

UAC-PROP	1.06
BOCGAS	0.67
DIAMONDBNK	0.43
CADBURY	0.37



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

PUBLIC NOTICE

1ST USA – NIGERIA BUSINESS FORUM

The Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry announces the Postponement of the 1st USA – Nigeria Business Forum earlier scheduled for 15th – 23rd February 2010. The event is now being re-scheduled to hold in April 2010.

The change in date is due to some logistic reasons and the unfavourable weather condition in some of the cities slated for the event.

The Ministry regrets any inconveniences this postponement must have caused Stakeholders and prospective participants.

A new date will be communicated very soon.

DR. A. K. MUHAMMAD
PERMANENT SECRETARY



MARIE STOPES
Nigeria

2nd Floor Erisco Bonpet Plaza;
36, Douala Street, off Herbert Macaulay Way
Wuse Zone 5, Abuja
F.C.T
www.mariestopes.org

MARIE STOPES NIGERIA (MSN) TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR 2009 AUDIT

Marie Stopes Nigeria is seeking to engage a well qualified, reputable and international audit company to undertake its 2009 audit.

MISSION & SCOPE OF WORK

The purpose of the audit is to provide an independent, objective evaluation and consulting service to add value and improve MSN's operations in the sphere of finance, purchasing, stores and transport.

The chosen auditor will provide a systemic and disciplined approach to the evaluation of all relevant systems – certifying that MSN is financially and logistically in line with Marie Stopes International (MSI) policies and procedures as well as with Nigerian law.

The scope of work will determine whether or not MSN's finance, administration and operational systems are able to ensure that:-

1. Financial, managerial and operating information is accurate, reliable and timely
2. Resources and assets are acquired economically, used efficiently, adequately protected and properly reported/recorded.
3. Significant legislative or regulatory issues impacting MSN are recognised and addressed appropriately.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The auditor will:

- i. Report back to the Senior Management Team of MSN.
- ii. Provide an assessment on the adequacy and effectiveness of MSN processes
- iii. Report significant issues relating to MSN processes and provide detailed potential improvement to those processes.
- iv. Demonstrate a high standard of conduct and ethics as well as appropriate judgement, independence and discretion.

Interested parties should send their quotation and schedule to mariestopes51@yahoo.com latest by Wednesday February 17, 2010.

Please note that the chosen audit firm is expected to commence work by Monday February 22, 2010 and all audit completed on or before March 22, 2010.



PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND

Plot 672, Port Harcourt Crescent, Off Gimbiya Street, Off Ahmadu Bello way, Area 11, Garki, Abuja.
P.O Box 9899, Area 10, Garki, Abuja.
Website: www.ptdf.gov.ng

LIST OF PRE-QUALIFIED COMPANIES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF OIL AND GAS SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING CENTRE PORT-HARCOURT

The Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) wishes to inform the general public especially Companies that responded to the invitation for pre-qualification of prospective Contractors for the establishment of Oil and Gas Skills Development and Training centre, Port-Harcourt published in Federal Tenders Journal and other National Newspapers between August 10, and August 23, 2009, that the list of pre-qualified companies in respect of the contract has been published on PTDF Website www.ptdf.gov.ng. All companies that responded to the invitation are therefore requested to visit the PTDF website to check the list.

2.0 NOTE

Pre-qualified Contractors are to pick up tender documents at Multi Systems Consultant, Suite S13, Febson Mall, Herbert Macaulay Way, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja from Monday February 15, 2010 to Friday, February 26, 2010 upon payment of a non-refundable fee of N100,000.00 in form of a bank draft in favour of Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF).

Completed tender documents should be properly sealed in an envelope marked with the relevant tender Lot on the left hand corner of the envelope and addressed to:-

**THE SECRETARY,
TENDERS BOARD,
PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND,
PLOT 672, PORT HARCOURT CRESCENT, OFF GIMBIYA STREET
AREA 11, GARKI, ABUJA**

To reach him before 12:00 noon on Monday, March 1, 2010. The tenders will be opened by 2:00pm the same day at a venue to be announced later.

All enquiries on tender are to be directed to THE SECRETARY, PTDF TENDERS BOARD.

This invitation to tender is restricted to the companies that have been pre-qualified in the various categories. PTDF is not committed to award any form of contract based on this invitation.

Signed
MANAGEMENT
PETROLEUM TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT FUND

DIGEST

The pill that could banish snores for good



A pill that combats snoring could be the secret to a good night's sleep for millions of couples.

The once-a-day pill slashed snoring rates by almost 70 per cent in a small U.S. trial. Now, larger studies are planned to see if the drug could be a breakthrough in the treatment of sleep apnoea, the snoring-related condition that affects an estimated three million people in Britain.

Initial results from a six-month study involving 45 patients suggest

the new drug could be the first pill to tackle snoring.

If so, it may also help to reduce the risks of high blood pressure and heart disease linked with sleep apnoea. Between 10 and 30 per cent of adults have sleep-related breathing disorders.

Obstructive sleep apnoea is one of the most common, estimated to affect 4 per cent of men and 2 per cent of women. It is most common in the over-40s, though it can affect all ages, including children.

The condition occurs as a result of the narrowing of the airways. As sleep begins, the muscles in the airway relax. For most people this does not pose a problem, but for those with sleep apnoea it leads to a complete collapse that shuts off breathing for at least ten seconds.

Once the brain realises breathing has stopped, it sends out a signal for the airway muscles to contract again. This opens the airway and the sufferer normally wakes with a jolt and a snore.

In mild sleep apnoea, this happens about once every ten minutes. If it's severe, sleep can be disturbed every couple of minutes. Very few people remember waking up at all because they fall asleep again within seconds.

Yet the cumulative effect is that they - and their partners - feel exhausted during the day, putting them at increased risk of accidents.

Sleep apnoea is particularly common in middle-aged men who are overweight, as excess fat around the neck puts pressure on the upper airways during sleep.

Treatment normally begins with trying to lose weight. But many patients end up needing a therapy called nasal Continuous Positive Airway Pressure, or CPAP. This involves wearing a mask over the nose and mouth during sleep.

The mask is attached to a machine that increases the pressure of the air being inhaled. This prevents the airway from collapsing, improves sleep quality and leads to better concentration during the day. The treatment is very effective. But some people find the mask cumbersome. And since it does not actually cure the condition, it must be worn every night.

Other devices include special dental splints, which are worn at night in much the same way as a mouth-guard. These work by pulling the lower jaw forward so that the airway cannot collapse.

A pill is regarded by some experts as the holy grail of snoring

therapy.

The new drug, called Qnexa, was developed as a weightloss medicine. It contains a mixture of a stimulant drug called phentermine and an anti-epilepsy drug called topiramate.

Researchers noticed an added benefit when they tested volunteers to measure the effects on sleep apnoea.

Over the course of the trial, which involved men and women aged 30 to 65, the number of times their sleep was disrupted by snoring-related problems dropped from an average of 46 times an hour to just 14.

At the same time, they lost an average of 10 per cent of their body weight and saw a significant drop in blood pressure. Vivus Inc, the California drug firm that developed Qnexa, says it hopes to get it licensed to treat sleep apnoea.

Professor Jim Horne, a specialist in sleep medicine at Loughborough University, said: 'Around 50 per cent of obese people suffer sleep apnoea to some degree,' he says.

'When they lie down in bed, their muscles relax and then the fat around their neck compresses the airway even further. It's possible this drug helps by triggering weight loss.

'Or it might be that it somehow makes the throat muscles a bit more taut.

'We won't know whether it is any use to habitual snorers who are not overweight until more research has been carried out.'

Why taller football players are more likely to fall foul of the ref

AS England's manager Fabio Capello weighs up the pros and cons of his World Cup football team, he may want to take their height into consideration.

A new study has found that referees are more likely to rule against taller players, like Tottenham striker Peter Crouch, when judging ambiguous fouls.

Researchers from the Rotterdam School of Management at Erasmus University decided to see if their insights from decision making in business also worked in the sports arena.

They chose football, because the referee must often rely on their instincts to make a quick call.

Dr Niels van Quaquebeke and Dr Steffen Giessner studied 123,844 fouls from seven Champions League and German Bundesliga seasons, along with the last three World Cups.

Dr Giessner said: 'We found

that on average the player who committed the foul is taller than the one who was the victim.'

To support their initial finding, they carried out experiments by showing a group of football fans drawings of two players involved in a tackle - one taller than the other.

The fans picked out the taller player as the one who committed the foul.

The researchers believe the reason for this bias has its roots in human nature.

'Humans throughout evolution needed to be more afraid of bigger animals because bigger animals usually have more potential to harm us,' Dr Van Quaquebeke said.

Height is not the only factor influencing referees' decisions, though. Earlier research has suggested that even the color of a player's shirt could have an effect.

'We are human beings, we are not objective information processors,' Dr Van Quaquebeke said.

'We are very subjective, especially if we don't have all the information available. We've got to make the best guess.'

They said such behaviour could be a big advantage to diminutive players such as Germany's Philipp Lahm, who at 5ft 7" is the same height as England striker Jermain Defoe.

While the findings could bolster the case for using video replay to help soccer officials, the researchers said they agreed these reviews would slow down the game and take away its human element.

Instead, they suggest better training to help referees overcome such subjective decisions.

The research is published in this month's edition of the Journal of Sport & Exercise Psychology.



ENGLAND'S Peter Crouch is shown a yellow card by the referee during a match against Paraguay in 2006. New research suggests that taller players are more likely to be booked

Sign Language



Cor blimey, is it a lost cat or dog?

Photo location: Sonoma County, California, by Rebecca Renzas

Culled from www.signspotting.com

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.

83

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

EASY CROSSWORDS

- ACROSS**
- Lingerie brand
 - Fore's opposite
 - Measure (out)
 - Basketball center Yao
 - Pep squad's word
 - Between
 - "Old Cowhand" (2 wds.)
 - Sable pelt
 - Brazilian soccer legend
 - Post-shower wrap
 - Grassy field
 - "___ and Slimpy"
 - Flowering
 - vine
 - Taxing agcy.
 - Tarzan's ward
 - Husbands
 - Salad vegetable
 - Caresa
 - Sra. Peron
 - Hawaiian souvenir
 - Former fast jet (abbr.)
 - Spinal column's segment
 - Caustic cleanser
 - Thankgiving treat
 - "___ Gay" (famed plane)
 - Frontiersman Wyatt
 - Linoleum cleaner
 - Stupid person
 - Family ___
 - London's land (abbr.)
 - Old Testament book
 - "Just You ___" (2 wds.)
 - Social Security Administration (abbr.)
 - Pre-Easter fast
 - the doghouse
 - imperfect
 - Trio's number
 - Hammond product
 - Green gems
 - Backsplash piece
 - Adam's abode
 - Book-lined room
 - Piece of bedroom furniture
 - Tofu bean
 - 007 creator Fleming
 - Chill
 - Gun an engine
 - Broken into splinters
 - City railways
 - Ensemble
 - Summer, in Paris
 - Black History mo.
 - Sour fruits
 - Makes gentle
 - Cherub
 - "___ Smile Be Your Umbrella" (2 wds.)
 - Crocheter's purchase
 - Seep
 - Abandoned
 - Medical course (abbr.)
 - Canadian prov.
 - Nicklaus's gp.

71

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19		20		21		22
				23		24		25		
26	27	28		29				30		31
32				33				34		
35				36				37		38
				39				40		41
42	43			44				45		46
47				48				49		50
51				52				53		
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

Solution to Easy Crosswords

70

H	O	P		A	R	I	S		P	O	T	S	
A	T	O		M	O	N	A		A	N	N	S	
S	T	E	P	P	I	N	G		T	A	T	E	
H	O	T	E	L			E	S					
				P	E	A	S		T	I	M	I	D
A	T	M	S		L	U	L		M	T	A		
C	H	R	I	S	T	I	A	N	D	I	O	R	
E	E	E		T	O	T	S		R	I	N	K	
D	A	D	D	Y		S	H	E	A				
				A	X	E			S	W	E	A	R
A	B	U	T		L	O	I	S	L	A	N	E	
P	I	N	E		I	D	L	E		R	A	F	
O	D	O	R		E	D	E	N		S	T	S	

Solution to Sudoku 82

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

News Extra

'It was murder', say Michael Jackson's family as doctor pleads not guilty

- Jackson family brand singer's personal physician a 'murderer' • Father claims 'other people' were also involved in his son's death
- Coroner's report sets out cocktail of drugs found in singer's system • 'Healthy' Jackson was given enough anaesthetic for 'major surgery'

Michael Jackson's doctor Monday night pleaded not guilty to causing the pop star's death at a brief hearing that had all the trappings of another sensational celebrity courtroom drama.

Dr Conrad Murray was accused of giving Jackson a fatal dose of an anesthetic to help him sleep as the singer's father Joe, mother Katherine, and siblings LaToya, Jermaine, Tito, Jackie and Randy watched from courtroom seats behind prosecutors.

Neither Murray nor the Jacksons showed any emotion as the plea was entered by his lawyer Ed Chernoff, but as he emerged from court, Joe Jackson declared: 'My son was murdered.'

'We need justice,' he added before leaving with family members in a fleet of SUVs.

On Monday night, Joe Jackson told CNN's Larry King that he doesn't believe Murray is the only person responsible for his son's death.

'To me, he's just the fall guy. There's other people I think involved with this whole thing,' Joe Jackson claimed, without elaborating.

Joe Jackson also told King his son believed his life was in danger. 'Michael said it himself that he would be killed,' he said. 'He even told his kids that he would be murdered.'

Immediately after the hearing, LaToya Jackson, issued a statement saying she believed her brother had been murdered and that others besides Murray were involved in his death.

'I will continue to fight until all of the proper individuals are brought forth and justice is served,' she said.

Earlier, several people shouted 'murderer' as Murray walked past a crowd of hundreds of reporters and Jackson fans on his way to a courthouse adjacent to Los Angeles International Airport. Others held signs urging 'Justice For Michael.'

Murray, 56, a Houston cardiologist who was with Jackson when he died on June 25, entered his plea just hours after he was charged.

Superior Court Judge Keith L. Schwartz set bail at \$75,000 (£48,000), three times more than the amount people normally face after being charged with involuntary manslaughter.

Murray posted it about two hours later and was released.



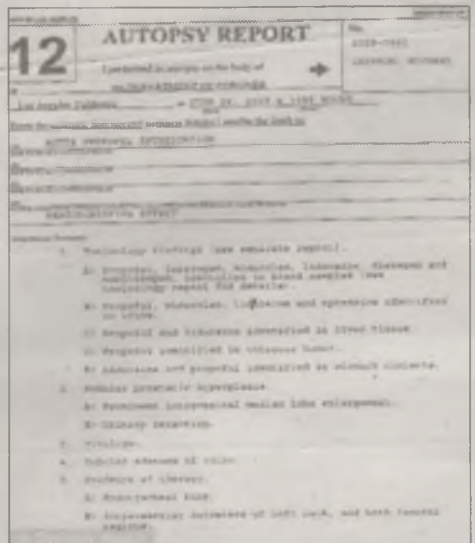
DR. Conrad Murray faces arraignment in the Los Angeles County Superior Airport Court-house Monday night



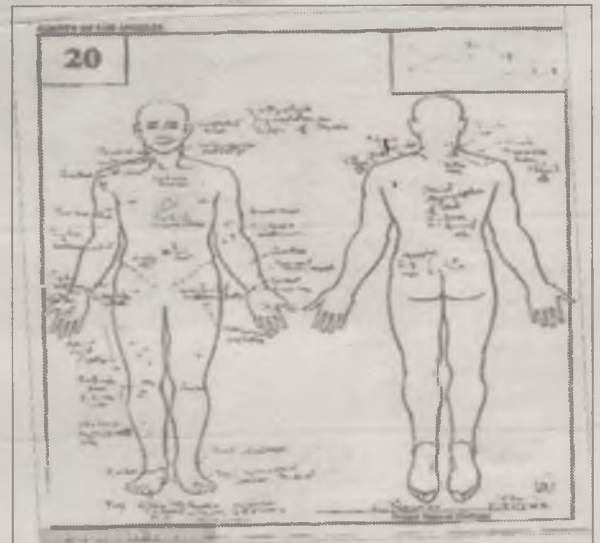
MICHAEL Jackson announces his comeback at a press conference at the O2 arena in London in 2009



RIGHT, the matriarch of the Jackson family, Katherine, who is now legal guardian to the pop superstar's children



THE full coroner's report was released after Dr Murray was charged. Left, page five of the report lists the cocktail of prescription drugs that were discovered in the singer's system.



Right, the medical examiner description of Jackson's body - there were intravascular catheters in the neck and near his femurs

Outside court, Chernoff said that Murray plans to return to practicing medicine in Nevada and Texas while he awaits trial.

The judge ordered him to return to court on April 5 for a preliminary hearing.

He also warned Murray not to use general anesthesia on anyone while he is free on bail.

Deputy state Attorney General Trina Bell also told the judge the state Medical Board is planning to seek the suspension of Murray's medical licence. But the action would only affect his ability to practice medicine in California.

It appeared authorities were taking extra steps to ensure the arraignment did not become a media circus.



MICHAEL Jackson fans protest outside the courthouse. People had begun to gather outside the building hours before the accused medic arrived

Contd on page 40

News Extra



NELSON Mandela spent 27 years incarcerated as a political prisoner

What links John Lennon and Nelson Mandela?

By Farai Sevenzo

It's strange, isn't it, to be of a certain generation and be watching your teenage children studying the days of your political awakening as history lessons?

The Cold War, apartheid - have all moved effortlessly into the history syllabus of many schools around the world and those of us who were young, dumb and full of political slogans then may bore our kids now with the details of obscure anti-apartheid movements.

The pop songs, the T-shirts of our age, the great concerts fuelled by teen spirit and young love, the jazz, the shock, the awe at the sight of a tall man leaving Victor-Verster Prison to lead a country too long steeped in the stupidity of colour politics.

And this being a year with a zero at the end of it, do we Africans join the endless navel-gazing at what happened this time 10, 20, 30 or 40 years ago just to be sure we don't miss the chance to remember, that we take the opportunity to reflect? Of course we do.

We have already had 40 years of the Brother Leader's Libyan Revolution, marked 15 years of Rwanda's genocide, and on 25 January 2011 Ugandans may recall four decades since the ascent to power of a Field Marshall born near Koboko called Idi Amin Dada.

But why stop there?

Come April we may all feel the urge to mark the peerless survival instincts of Zimbabwe's first Prime Minister, Robert Mugabe, as we mark 30 years of independence for that southern African



MANDELA'S release encompassed many unsung anti-apartheid fighters.

country.

As long as we have time and calendars, we shall have anniversaries.

And over the next few days we may read and hear the phrase

bloodshed and not a watershed of change, when the aura of a man, fashioned from royal birth and captivity, steered a nation to hope and forgiveness, when some people's terrorist became everyone's freedom fighter.

John Lennon's cool protest

Of course before that moment on that February afternoon, our African leaders had held up the savagery of Pretoria's governance as our last great hurdle.

And so obvious was the injustice of apartheid, the whole world was behind Nelson Mandela's short walk from Victor-Verster Prison.

There were marches and boycotts arguments and prayers, tear-gas and toil and a few more shocking assassinations.

On 11 February 1970, 20 years before the man walked free, a pop star called John Lennon paid £1,344 in fines for 96 people who had been arrested for protesting at the South African rugby team playing in Scotland.

And imagine - 20 years later Mandela walked free, 25 years after Lennon's cool protest, Mandela lifted the Rugby World Cup with his victorious national team.

History is all numbers if you like adding things up, and nothing stays the same.

But this particular anniversary is about more than numbers isn't it?

A man may come out alive out of the rubble of an earthquake after 11 days and we cheer - another human being has beaten the odds. But 27 years in an apartheid jail?

And to emerge with your dignity intact, your humanity enhanced?

We look back on Mandela's walk out of prison because it was the last great individual survival story of our age.

South Africa has many heroes, many iconic images of a great struggle, many unsung forgotten names who were surely all encompassed in an old man's steps on the tarmac.

The analyst will tell you that apartheid was never about people's skins, but about their minds; that for every Nelson Mandela we need a FW de Klerk; that the thousands of words you will read from embittered old crocodiles who chose exile from South Africa after that moment are the ideas Mandela killed with every step of that walk, that singing "Free Nelson Mandela" was the last kick of a libertine native world and nothing much has changed; that the money is still with the few; that the revolution is on pause.

But at the back of our collective head is the dreaded feeling that the sun is setting on a great

And over the next few days we may read and hear the phrase "Where were you when Mandela was released?"

African life.

And when the children read history lessons, they will learn of a nation of great music and sport, of Nobel laureates for peace and literature, and they would do well to take in a little Shakespeare too:

"The oldest hath borne most: we that are young

Shall never see so much, nor live so long."

And remember some days not every 20 years, but as the beginning of their lives.

Culled from bbc.co.uk



NIGERIAN METEOROLOGICAL AGENCY



OF FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AVIATION

The Director - General, Nigerian Meteorological Agency,
Dr. Anthony C. Anuforom invites Stakeholders in the
**Aviation; Agriculture and Water Resources; Environment;
Oil & Gas; Transportation Sectors. Etc.**



To
**THE PUBLIC PRESENTATION
OF THE 2010 SEASONAL
RAINFALL PREDICTION
(SRP)**

By The Honourable Minister of Aviation
Mr. Babatunde Omotoba FCA

• *NIMET... Providing
Weather, Climate &
Water Information for
Sustainable
Development
& Safety...*

DATE: Thursday 11th February 2010

VENUE: Nicon Luxury Hotels, Area 11 Garki - Abuja.

TIME: 11:00am Prompt

News Extra

He's giving away his N621m fortune

An Austrian millionaire is giving away his fortune and all his personal possessions because 'they never made me happy.'

Karl Rebeder, 47, from Linz, claims he will use the money from his household accessory business - worth N621million - to fund orphanages and other help-the-poor projects in South America.

'I had the idea on holiday in Hawaii some years ago,' he said.

'My cars and plane have already gone and the rest follows very soon. I can't wait to be free of them.'

'Since the sale of my company in 2004 I have been supporting several orphanage projects in central and South America.'

'From this developed, less than a year ago, a greenhouse project which gives orphans the possibility to have agricultural training, to take up a small loan in order to make themselves independent vegetable growers.'

'I set up a new non-profit micro-credit organisation to distribute these small loans to help these poor but industrious people.'

He told Austrian TV viewers of his plan to raffle his luxury Tyrol villa by lots - with all money going to the mymicrocredit.com foundation he started late last year - and shedding his fortune on the Stoeckl am Samstag chat-show programme, presented by Barbara Stoeckl, in an interview due

... Because 'they never made me happy'



KARL Rebeder is giving away his fortune



REBEDER is raffling off his luxury Tyrol villa

to be broadcast in May.

The blurb for her show says: 'One of the central topics of the programme is relief actions, which portrays people who are actively involved in the humanitarian sector.'

'Karl Rebeder is one of them and was therefore invited by Barbara Stoeckl to talk about his current and future plans in her show on May 16th.'

The luxury villa with breathtaking views over 'Sound of Music' countryside is being raffled for N299 million.

Rebeder claims he is happy living in a small flat and surviving on the equivalent of N184,000 a month.

'My then-wife and I were on the plane together coming back from Hawaii in 2004 and I realised

that I was dying through consumerism,' he recalled.

'It has taken me until now to realise that I don't need money and possessions.'

'I learned as a child the value of money and how to get by without it.' Rebeder's father was a painter, his mother an office worker.

He founded his first company in 1986 and soon became rich, adding: 'I thought the more

money I had the happier I would become, but it was not the case.'

He now lives in a two-room flat in Innsbruck, is divorced and added: 'The worst that can happen to me is that I have to take a small job to get by.'

It is unclear how his immediate family feels about his philanthropy.

'It was murder', say Michael Jackson's family

Contd from page 37

Lines were formed to gain admission to the courtroom, and the Jackson family was escorted in separately and seated before anyone else arrived.

Despite the precautions, the trial promises to be the focus of widespread attention, especially if the Jackson family continues to take a high-profile role.

Jackson, 50, hired Murray in May to be his personal physician as he prepared for a strenuous series of comeback performances.

Officials said the singer died in Los Angeles after Murray administered the powerful general anesthetic propofol and two other sedatives to get the chronic insomniac to sleep.

Murray is accused of the single felony count in a five-page complaint that said he 'did unlawfully, and without malice, kill Michael Joseph Jackson' by acting 'without due caution and circumspection.'

The complaint contains no

details on Jackson's death, but authorities have said the singer died after Murray administered the anesthetic and other drugs.

If convicted, the doctor could face up to four years in prison.

Known as 'milk of amnesia,' propofol is only supposed to be administered by an anesthesia professional in a medical setting because it depresses breathing and heart rate while lowering blood pressure.

Los Angeles investigators were methodical in building a case against Murray, wary of making mistakes that have plagued some other high-profile celebrity cases, most notably against former American football star O.J. Simpson.

When prosecutors filed their criminal complaint on Monday the coroner's office released its post mortem report on Jackson.

The document found the singer was in relatively good health and died from acute propofol intoxication.

Dr. Selma Calmes, an anesthesiologist who reviewed

the autopsy report at the coroner's request, said the level of



MICHAEL Jackson fans make their opinion clear outside the LA Airport courthouse. There were cries of 'murderer' as Dr Murray was escorted into the building by police

propofol in Jackson's body was akin to what would be given for major surgery.

After such a dose, a patient normally would have a tube inserted in the airway to help with breathing and be ventilated by an anesthesiologist.

'The standard of care for administering propofol was not met,' she wrote.

Court documents state Murray told police he administered propofol just before 11am then stepped out of the room to go to the bathroom.

There is some dispute about what happened next. According to court filings, Murray told police that upon his return from the bathroom, he saw Jackson was not breathing and began trying to revive him.

But an ambulance was not called until 12.21pm and Murray spent much of the intervening time making non-emergency cell phone calls, police say.

The nature of the calls, which

lasted 47 minutes, is not known

Murray's lawyer has said investigators got confused about what Murray had told them, and that the doctor found his patient unresponsive around noon.

A large number of witnesses have been interviewed by police, including those who were present during Jackson's last days, those who worked with him in preparation for his series of comeback concerts, 'This Is It,' and members of his personal entourage, including his security guard and personal assistant.

The comeback concerts sold out in anticipation of Jackson's return as the 'King of Pop' after years of odd behavior and a lengthy molestation trial that had overshadowed a lifetime in music.

Despite years of self-imposed exile, he retained a huge, loyal following of fans overjoyed at the prospect of seeing him reclaim the glory he'd attained with albums like 'Thriller' and songs like 'Beat It' and 'Billie Jean.'

THE COMFORT ZONE—REINVIGORATED

From the outside, it's impossible to ignore its cutting-edge aerodynamics. From the inside, a sporty, digital instrument panel offers quick reads so you can stay focussed on the road ahead.

Starting At: ₦2,995,000

THE NEW HONDA **CIVIC**

HONDA
The Power of Dreams

13A, Adesola Akhille/Akhi Adesola Street, VI, Lagos
0702 8442088, 0803 3284526, 0805 7788888,
01-8525040, 8520004, 8520005

VICTORIA ISLAND
01-8083298, 01-8741047, 0702-8022472

APAPA
01-8520222, 01-8524444, 0805-7761008

IKEJA
01-8520003, 01-8741006,
0805 4798996, 01-8522062,
0702 8008117, 0805 8149983,
0702 8005924, 07028022371

LEKKI
01-852 0001, 0803 9765 001

ABUJA
0805 4099999,
09-2348007, 2348034,
08034099999, 08042133888

PORT HARCOURT
0805 4277777, 084-238317,
0803 4277777, 0803 4289988

YADINA
Tel/Fax: 082-237810, 211289,
08037040138

KANO
0805-4399990, 0803-3264552,
064-840862, 0803 9765 000,
0805 9765 000, 0803 3617050

MADUGURI:
07028024365,
08052222324

IBADAN
08055550477,
08039785001

IMPHLEWET:
SALES / SERVICE
01-8520010, 01-8520011, 01-8524444,
01-8520778, 01-8525040.

01-8520202, 01-8520222, 01-8520207,
01-8520203

Honda Finance:
07028442088, 07028759613, 8520011,
8525040, 8520004, 8520005

E-mail:
hondasales@stalliongroup.com
hondaservice@stalliongroup.com
hondacare@stalliongroup.com

Website:
www.honda.com.ng

Honda Care 3 Years Warranty
3 Service Free

SALES, SERVICE, FINANCE, SPARES & BODY SHOP

Comex

aan/0140

FinBank

Electronic Card Help Desk

For HELP/COMPLAINTS/ENQUIRIES on all your Electronic Card Transactions at ATM, POS and on Web, contact our Help Desk as detailed below:

Name	GSM	e-Mail
Ugonwa	08079990000	ugonwa.arch@finbank.com.ng
Bayo	08079990001	olubayode.adeyemo@finbank.com.ng
Peter	08079990002	peter.erondu@finbank.com.ng
Simeon	08079990003	simeon.ubong@finbank.com.ng
Kehinde	08079990111	kehinde.seweje@finbank.com.ng
Taofeek	08079990222	taofeek.aderoju@finbank.com.ng
Wasiu	08079990333	wasiu.popoola@finbank.com.ng
Niyi	08079990444	niyi.ojewole@finbank.com.ng

www.Finbank.com.ng

We listen, we understand, we deliver.

9javaganza enjoy free weekend calls



get
50% of
airtime
spent*

it's your time to talk!

From now till March 31, simply make as many calls as you wish to any network on weekdays and get 50% of the amount you spent to make FREE weekend calls to any etisalat line! And you get this week after week after week!

So pick up your 0809ja phone and start calling! It's your time to talk!

* Offer open to all new and existing easy starter and easy cliq subscribers.

For more information, please visit www.etisalat.com.ng or call our customer care hotline on 08090000200

Terms and conditions apply



etisalat
now you're talking

PROPERTY

property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Jos: Victims want NVRI relocated

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

VICTIMS of the recent Jos crisis who are in the employ of the National Veterinary Research Institute NVRI Vom in Jos South local government area of Plateau state are advocating for the relocation of the institute to safer place following the killings of some Muslim employees of the institution.

Speaking on behalf of the victims in an

interview yesterday in Jos Umar Dansuleiman described the crisis which also affected the entire Kaduna Vom (K- Vom) as regrettable and sad alleging that "our security could not be assured and one cannot dismiss conspiracy because there are ample evidence of internal connivance during the period of the crisis leading to the attack on our lives and properties at government quarters".

He further alleged that the internal secu-

rity of the institution has helped in perpetrating of the violence stressing that "the institute security officers were courageous to send us out instead of giving us the much needed protection, and this was done in the presence of the internal security".

Dansuleiman further alleged "about 500 metres away from my house two of our staff Garba Audi an Agric field attendant and Ibrahim Zakari a livestock attendant were killed

an burnt instantly at Anguwan Gara quarters of Dogon Layi inside NVRI, also a student of medical laboratory Haruna was killed as well as a casual staff of the College of animal health was also killed along Chacha campus of the college"

"We specially appeal to federal government to as matter of national importance relocate the federal colleges to any part of the country for the safety of its staff and students."

Residents decry lack of drainages

RESIDENTS of Mile 12, a Lagos suburb, on Sunday appealed to the relevant authorities to construct a drainage system in the area to prevent flooding during the rainy season.

Some of the residents, who spoke on Sunday, said flood could sack them from their homes if drainages were not constructed fast.

They said they experienced flooding every rainy season and suffered excessive mosquito bites because of lack of a drainage system.

A resident of Hammad Street, Mr Tunde Adedayo, said: "Apart from flooding, one cannot live in this area without buying insecticides, you know the economic hardship in the country."

Mrs Bose Liadi, a resident of Afinjuomo Street, said that she spent N300 weekly to buy insecticides to prevent mosquito bites.

"I trade to enable me to assist my husband financially but the mosquitoes in this place is eating on my money," she said.

Mrs. Toyin Oluwale, a resident of Ibikule Street, said it was sad that the residents suffered flooding during the rainy season and encountered mosquitoes during the dry season.

"Last year, we made an effort to construct drainages to prevent flooding and mosquitoes but the effort yielded no results," she said.

Mr. Innocent Emeka, who resides at Bosere Street, appealed to the Lagos State Government to come to the aid of the residents. (NAN)



MINISTER of Information Prof Dora Akunyili with FCT Minister Adamu Aliero of the FCTA National Ministerial briefing in Abuja, yesterday.

Works minister wants Mararaba- Jos road to be completed Novem-

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Hassan Muhammad Lawal on Thursday commended the contractors handling Section II of the Mararaba - Pambeguwa - Saminaka - Jos road (Pambeguwa - Saminaka - Jos) in Kaduna and Plateau States, Messrs P. W. Nigeria Limited for the high quality of their work, as well as the pace and speed of work.

Dr. Lawal appealed to them to complete the project earlier than November, 2010 when the contractor promised to deliver the completed road project. He noted that the prevailing dry season from now to April should be optimized by the contractor so that by June, when the rains are expected to start, the job would have been completed. He reassured that funds were available to pay for any works done before March 30th 2010, and urged the contractor to take

advantage of the generous terms currently availed contractors by the Federal Government to increase the pace of his work. He noted that the earlier the contractor finished the job, the better for him, as it would stand him in good stead for consideration for the award of other jobs.

He urged the contractor handling Section I of the project from Mararaba in the outskirts of Kaduna township to Pambeguwa, Messrs Arab Contractors (Nig.) Limited to increase their pace and speed of work, while maintaining their present high standard quality of work.

The Minister stated that at the end of this administration's tenure, Nigerians will see a difference between the situation when they came on board, and the time they will be leaving. He noted that this administration had been proactive, and insistent on inspection and supervision of projects, in addition to making

generous budgetary provisions for roads construction. He stated that the situation on the ground will speak for itself at the end of the day. He stated that Nigerians will at the end of the day give President Umaru Yar'Adua a pass mark as far as roads construction is concerned.

Work on Section II of the road by Messrs P. W. Nigeria Limited commended on 28th May 2009 at a total contract sum of N3,627,414,510.72, while work on Section I of the road by Messrs Arab Contractors (Nig.) Limited commenced on 28th May 2009 in the sum of N5,286,922,048.49.

According to the Minister, the works involved a combination of a total reconstruction, rehabilitation and palliatives at various portions of the entire stretch from Mararaba to Jos. He said the road would link the North West with the North East through the North Central Zone.

FCDA trains 36 staff on Geographic Information System

By Nasir Imam

THIRTY-SIX staff of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) were last Friday presented with certificates after the completion of a training course on the Geographic Information System (GIS).

Making the presentation, Executive Secretary, FCDA, Engr. Sani Alhassan, said the GIS, which came through the financial assistance of a German company, CUTECH Institut GmbH, is a modern technique of processing data for use more easily with only the touch of a button.

He said GIS is the in thing in any infrastructural development, and called on the newly trained staff to make proper use of the knowledge acquired during the training, as, according to him, knowledge is useful only when it used after acquisition.

Leader of the German delega-

tion, Engr. T. I. Onyeché, in his remarks at the occasion, said the GIS is a big challenge to FCDA engineers because with the over 8,000 square meter of land in the FCT, the processing of data cannot be done effectively without the GIS. He said without GIS, Abuja cannot be anywhere among

the top 20 cities by the year 2020.

One of the trainees, Ali, said the training was quite useful as it will enable them carry out their work more efficiently, "it will aid in the billing of billable structures in the FCT and there improve the revenue generating capacity of the FCT Administration."



Abuja traders tasked on friendly market environment for residents

By Nasir Imam

TRADERS in the Federal Capital Territory have been promised of delivering an efficiently managed, shopper friendly safe and market environment for the residents of the FCT.

This call came from the Managing Director Abuja Markets Management Limited, Alh. Abubakar Usman Faruk who spoke at the weekend during a free cancer screening exercise organized by the Federal Ministry of Health in Wuse Market as part of activities for the 2010 World Cancer Day celebration.

Alh. Faruk noted that though the free cancer screening exercise will awaken the consciousness of traders on the need for regular medical checks, there was still the need for Government to fashion out traders'/markets- tailored sensitization and diagnosing programmes in view of traders' busy schedule and limited exposure.

His words: "Most of us especially traders are always too busy to carry out routine health checks and that is why we really appreciate this exercise aimed at delivering health care services to the door step of our dear traders of Wuse Market. This to us, is not a one-off exercise as we hope that it would awaken the consciousness of the traders to the need for regular medical checkup, especially for cancer

Responding, the Minister of Health, Dr. Babatunde Osotimehi granted the request by the MD Abuja Markets Management Limited as he stated that health officer would thenceforth, visit the FCT market on a regular basis to carry out screening exercise.

'Lokoja to get a new master plan soon'

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE new master plan for Lokoja, the Kogi State capital, will soon be completed, the Commissioner for Environment and Physical Development, Architect Muhammed Sule, has said.

The Commissioner, who disclosed this in an interview with our correspondent, said that were it not for certain errors which the

state had asked the consultant to correct, new master plan would have been ready.

"It is just that there are certain errors that we have asked the consultant to correct before the final hand-over to us and the subsequent presentation to the State Executive Council. All these are to be done before it is passed into law. Whatever we are doing now is in line with this master plan

which will be completed very soon," Sule said.

He noted that the need to have new master plan became necessary in order to evolve a proper building guideline for the metropolis.

"The new is just an improvement. For instance, the new master plan identifies that there are certain areas where you cannot build bungalow. So, what-

ever anybody is doing has to be consistent with the new master plan".

He said violators of the new master plan would be prevented by the State Town Planning Board to get the approval from the government.

The new master plan was awarded to AIM Consultant Ltd in December 2005 at a cost of N62,834,000.



MINISTER of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Hassan Lawal, holding microphone while inspecting the Mararaba-Pambeguwa-Saminaka-Jos road, under rehabilitation, recently.

First group targets Nigerians for Dubai property

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

FIRST Group, a Dubai property Investment Company said it has signed on Nigeria's top soccer star, Kanu Nwankwo as a brand ambassador at it opened office in Lagos.

The endorsement agreement which was concluded last week in Dubai, according to the Danny Lubert, Co-Chairman of the First Group would run for two years and aimed at encouraging more Nigerians to own property in oil rich region.

According to Lubert, Kanu's role as an ambassador for The First Group would involve appearing in commercials, attending pro-

motional events with VIP owners, as well as attending charity events. The signing makes Kanu the latest member of a top ranking celebrity list of the company's brand ambassadors - "The First Team".

The First Group, official said currently have eight projects underway in locations including Dubai sport city, Tecom and Ras AlKhaimah. In total the company now responsible for a pipeline of just over 3,400 property unit under construction with majority of these sold to market.

Through their turnkey investment programmes, the First Group makes purchasing, managing, renting and maximising

returns of the property as easy as possible for investors. Currently, Nigerians accounts for 40 per cent of the company's clients through which they have acquired property in Dubai

With its headquarters in Dubai, Lubert said First Group offers outstanding investment opportunity in the United Arab Emirates

The First Group which recently opened shop in Nigeria to meet its high clientele demand, is an internationally acclaimed British-owned global property development company, specialising in emerging and niche markets. The group has a proud history of over 20 years experience

and success, and continues to produce and develop bespoke property investments in some of the world's most desirable locations.

Kanu the striker, who plays for English Premier League side Portsmouth, is also a property owner with the company, having recently invested in The Diamond Hotel Apartments at Dubai Sports City.

"With its expertise in emerging property markets, The First Group has recognised the unparalleled investment opportunities in Africa, particularly those in Nigeria, and is proud to offer clients innovative off-plan properties in sought-after regions as well as unrivalled investment services and pioneering product

Chinese investors to establish granite quarries

A group of investors from China's Shan Dong Province has said that the Shan Dong Province would establish Granite Quarries and Sugar cane plantations in Ekiti State as soon as necessary formalities are completed.

Speaking during a meeting with the State Governor, Engr. Segun Oni over the weekend, leader of the Chinese team, Mr. Zhang Zhi Lin, who said his team was in the State to assess its

business opportunities disclosed that his organisation had already established a mega quarry worth N2 billion in Ibadan, the Oyo State Capital.

Mr. Lin, who noted that the team was impressed with what it has seen, stressed the readiness of the team to join hands with the State Government in its quest to turn the State's economy around.

Chief Press Secretary (CPS) to the governor, Mr. Wale Ojo-

Lanre, said in a statement issued in Ado-Ekiti yesterday that Governor Oni, while speaking with Chinese investors said his administration would continue to provide the necessary incentives for investors wishing to invest in the State.

The governor said his administration was working tirelessly towards making the state a haven for investment through the provision of a good network of roads,

world-class infrastructure, as well as a safe, secure and investment-friendly environment.

He disclosed that apart from taking steps to complete the long-abandoned-132/33 KV substation in Ado-Ekiti, his administration had concluded plans to establish six injection substations as part of steps to boost electricity.

Governor Oni urged the Chinese investors to take advantage

of the abundant human and material resources as well as favourable business climate of the state Governor by investing in the State.

The Governor, who identified Agriculture, Agro-Processing and Granite Processing as lucrative sectors that needed urgent investment said his administration was ready to forge a working relationship with the Chinese Province.

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Widow wants court to allow late husband's ritual

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A middle-aged widow has appealed to an Abuja Customary Court to call her late husband's relations to order so that she can be allowed to perform the rites of breaking kola nuts for the spirit of her late husband to rest.

She said performing the rituals will enable her move on with her life and that of the children.

The widow, Elejo Ali, accused her brother-in-law, Ojonime Ali of

taking over all her late husband's property and entitlement, despite the fact that the deceased left two children behind.

She told the court that she got married to her husband in 1999 under Igala customs and tradition, adding that since he died in 2004, she has been battling with her husband's family to perform the breaking of kola nut tradition as demanded by tradition.

"Presently, I cannot accept money from any man as a widow

to cook for my children because if I do, the children will die," she disclosed.

She said after the burial of her husband, she went to the village for the rite but her in-laws took her children away from her and ordered her to go back to Abuja to bring the deceased person's property. "I told them that I don't have money and they insisted that I must stay there until I have the money to do what I am asked to do," she said.

According to her, "My husband was a police officer before his death and one of his brothers, Ojonime Ali, changed my husband's next of kin name to his own, thereby preventing me and my children from getting my husband's entitlements.

She appealed to the court to help retrieve her children from her in-laws as well as allow her perform the kola nut breaking rite.

Presiding judge, Hauwa Yilwa,

ruled that the court has summoned the respondent thrice and even sent the court's orderly to arrest him but was prevented by an officer in the respondent's office, who said the orderly doesn't have the right to arrest a serving police officer.

The judge then ordered the court's warrant officer to go back and arrest the respondent and adjourned the case to February 15, 2010 for continuation of hearing.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Minister of Special Duties Mr. Ibrahim Kazaure, Minister of Information and Communications Professor Dora Akunyili and FCT Minister Adamu Aliero, during the FCT ministerial press briefing in Abuja yesterday.

AEPB official escapes mob action at Wuse

By Romoke W. Ahmad

AN Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) official yesterday narrowly escaped mob action when he tried to arrest a woman for hawking sachet water at Wuse, Zone 6, Abuja.

The man took to his heels as an angry crowd rushed towards him, while he was dragging the woman.

Our reporter learnt from the official that he warned the woman to leave the area with her wares but she refused, hence he seized them.

"The sachet water hawker rushed at me and began to fight but we were separated by a civil defense official," he said.

According to him, he got angry when the woman continued abusing it and engaged her in another fight before a mob formed around him, which made him run.

The sachet water seller, who gave her name as Blessing, said if not for people around, the AEPB official would have dealt with her.

She lamented that the official threw all her sachet water away and beat her.

"We are only trying to survive because if we start flirting people will condemn us but we are engaged in trading and government is not encouraging us," she added.

Mr. Emmanuel Samson, a witness, advised AEPB to train their staff on human relations since they relate with the public on daily basis.

FCTA to implement urban transport master plan

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Federal Capital Territory Administration (FCTA) has said it is ready to develop an efficient and safe public transport system in the city that will serve as the primary mode of intra city movement for residents.

This was disclosed at the weekend by FCTA's Transport Secretary, Mr Segun Awolowo during a public forum with stakeholders at Kwali.

Mr. Awolowo said the master plan is known as the 'Draft Urban

Transport Policy for FCT', which is a green paper policy that was made in December 2009.

He said the FCTA is determined to take a holistic approach that will permanently resolve some of the challenges facing transportation system in the territory, adding that effective transportation is closely linked to the good economic performance of people.

The secretary stated that stakeholders from government agencies, National Assembly, private sector and civil society will be given the opportunity in the next

two weeks to share their views and provide recommendations on the proposal of the draft policy, which is expected to be made a white paper in April, 2010.

He said the transportation policy will ensure that modern high capacity buses carry large volumes of passengers on main corridors, using lanes to ensure short transit times and act parallel with an affordable rail mass transit system, which will convey commuters cheaply from satellite towns to the city centre.

"We have experienced expo-

mental growth and this is reflected in the territory's population growth and increasing traffic congestion on the city's road, which if left unchecked, will impose greater economic, social and environmental cost on citizens" he said.

The FCTA transport secretary assured residents of Kwali that the transportation infrastructure will be designed in such a way that will encourage convenient interchange between mode, and safe pedestrians infrastructures, which he said is expected to receive high priority.

Driver, conductor jailed six months for fighting

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A driver and his conductor were recently sentenced to six months imprisonment by an Abuja magistrate court for disturbing the peace of people around them and behaving like public nuisances.

The two, Owoicho Audu and Emmanuel Okokon were arrested by the police for fighting in public.

Prosecutor Alli Otijele told the court that policemen arrested the accused persons as they engaged themselves in a public fight, using cutlass, iron rods and stone.

One of the accused persons, Emmanuel, told the court that Owoi-

cho normally smokes Indian hemp in his home when they were working together and he stopped him after they broke-up.

He said Owoicho picked up a quarrel with him but Owoicho while reacting to the allegation denied ever smoking at Emmanuel's apartment, adding that there was a problem on ground when they worked together.

When the charges were read, both accused persons admitted guilt and pleaded for leniency.

Chief Magistrate Usman Ahmaed Shuaib sentenced them to six months imprisonment without fine option.

In another development, the police at Karu has arrested three neighbours

for allegedly constituting themselves into public nuisance by engaging in a fight.

The men, Eze, a security officer, Razaq, a driver and Chukwu engaged in a fight that irritated other neighbours.

A policeman, Stephen Eimoga, said one their neighbours reported the incident and during police investigation the accused persons confirmed they fight as well as constitute themselves into public disturbance.

"Their action is contrary to Section 113 of the Penal Code Law and they will be charged for disturbances of public peace," the policeman said.

Man accused of theft

By Usman A. Bello

THE police have arraigned a middle-aged man, Umar Dandar, before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing a hand set from passengers at Wuse bus stop.

Police prosecutor, Udeh David, told the court that on February 2, 2010, one Angela Asegane and Christian Mban reported to the police that while they were waiting to board a vehicle at Wuse bus stop to their destinations, the accused dipped his hand into their pockets and stole their handsets respectively, adding that the accused passed

the hand sets to his accomplices, who ran away.

The prosecutor told the court that the one count charge is punishable under Section 287 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and begged the court to believe him.

Magistrate Grace Oye-madern granted him bail in the sum of N10,000 with two sureties in like sums.

The magistrate ordered that one of the sureties must be a civil servant living within the court's jurisdiction and adjourned the case to March 3, for hearing.

Katsina indigenes in Abuja pray for Yar'adua

By Misbahu Bashir

INDIGENES of Katsina State in Abuja yesterday joined other Nigerians to pray for ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, so that he resumes duty.

Chairman of Katsina Dakin Kara Association, Bashir Mustapha Chiranchi, said the group wishes Pres-

ident Yar'adua peace in his heart and comfort in his pains.

He praised the policy initiated by the president and said the nation, especially those that wish well for the country misses him.

"The president initiated policies that will improve the wellbeing of Nigerians as well as addressed

youth restiveness in the Niger Delta region, where many foreign companies have now return to business," he added.

The group leader urged political leaders in the country to have faith in the Yar'adua's presidency as they are a lot to benefit from the seven-point agenda.

CORRIGENDUM

This is to inform the general public that the full page black & white advert which was published for the Federal Ministry of Finance Headquarters titled: "Presidential Committee on the Review of the Current tariffs and Fiscal Incentives", in *Daily Trust* of Monday 8th February, 2010, page 37 erroneously stated the name of the Permanent Secretary as **Ochi .C. Achivu**.

The correct name of the Permanent Secretary is **Ochi .C. Achinivu**.

The error is regretted.



UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI TEACHING HOSPITAL

(Office of the Chief Medical Director)

BAMA ROAD, PMB 1414
MAIDUGURI, NIGERIA

UMTH/ADM/TH.9/VOL. III

25th January, 2010

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT CALL FOR TENDERS

This is to inform the general public that the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital is desirous of contracting its Landscaping Services to competent contractors to undertake the work. Therefore, Tenders are invited from registered/competent Contractors for the Landscaping but not limited to the following areas:

- Main Hospital Building
- Fire Fighting Service Unit
- Stores Department
- Centre of Excellence Laboratories
- Pharmacy Complex
- Mortuary
- Kidney Centre
- Interns Quarters
- The Schools Area
- New Virology Laboratory
- Radiotherapy/Nuclear Medicine Centre

2. Interested tenders are advised to contact the Head of Engineering Services Chief Estate Officer for detailed specifications/requirements.

3. Completed tender documents should be submitted to the Secretary, Tenders Board, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital within (4) weeks from the date of this advertisement.

SIGNED
SECRETARY, TENDERS BOARD
FOR: MANAGEMENT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

A private owned Integrated Livestock Farm located on the outskirts of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) has the following vacancies:

Farm Manager

The candidate will be required to possess the following qualifications:

- A very good degree in Agro-related field from a reputable institution
- Versatile and conversant with modern Breeding and Production techniques in Poultry, Fishery, Dairy and Feed Milling Management
- Minimum of 5 years cognate experience in handling day-to-day livestock farm operations.
- Ability to maintain good working relationship and accountability in line with farm management practices
- A person of integrity, creative with ability to work effectively in a closed and tense farm environment
- Be strategic in thinking and implementation as well as possess excellent farm organizational skills
- Readiness to work additional hours at crucial times
- Must be Computer Literate and membership of any professional farming organization as an added advantage
- Must be able to effectively supervise daily farm operations

Accounting / Administrative Officer

The candidate will be required to possess the following qualifications:

- A very good degree in Accounting or Business Studies from a reputable institution
- Some exposure in Economics, Finance, Management, Commerce
- Minimum of 4 years post qualification cognate experience
- Must have personally participated in a number of farm investment ventures.
- Must be computer literate.

Receptionist/Secretary

The candidate must possess a minimum of OND in Public, Business or Secretarial Administration.

Competent in Communication skills and computer applications with at least 3 years cognate experience.

Farm Assistant and Attendants

The candidate must possess a minimum of O'level Certificate and be essentially competent in daily livestock farming operatives with at least 2 years cognate experience.

Method of Application:

Interested candidates should submit their applications with detailed CV and photocopies of credentials to the under mentioned address within 2 weeks of the date of this application.

The Advertiser,

P.M.B.745,

Area 10, Garki, Abuja, FCT

Or email: haamaikhatechnologies@yahoo.com

NYSC to empower 615 corps members

By Abubakar Yakubu

ABOUT 615 corps members are to be empowered in a programme organised by the National Youths Service Corps with the support of the office of the senior special assistant to the president on Millennium Developmental Goals (MDG's).

The corps members, who are shared into two groups in the programme tagged 'War Against Poverty' (WAP), are expected to receive agro-enterprise training.

In her address, NYSC's Director of Community Development Services, Mrs Adimorah Elizabeth, said at the opening ceremony of the training

course yesterday in Abuja that the first stream comprising 277 corps members, who came in on January 26, 2010, have since completed their training and returned to their various states of service.

She said those trained will begin to turn in their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), in preparatory to their empowerment, adding that the remaining corps members numbering 338 are still undergoing training.

Mrs Adimorah noted that all the chosen for the project have been responding well to training as well as demonstrated high level discipline.

She disclosed that in the course of training, the corps members will be exposed to general proficiency training in the management of small and medium scale enterprises, financial planning and management, record keeping and critical business decision-taking.

"In addition, the corps members would be taught in specific agro-enterprises such as bee-keeping, honey production, poultry, fish farming, animal husbandry, grass cutter rearing and plantain/banana sucker multiplication," she informed.

The NYSC director explained further that the programme will be capped with an excursion to

selected practical demonstration farms within the FCT.

Also speaking, NYSC's Director-General, Brig-Gen. M.I. Tsiga, said the WAP programme commenced in October 2009 with the training of 370 corps members in selected agro-enterprise skills.

He said later in November last year, the corps members who completed the requirements of the MOU were given prescribed sums ranging from N150,000 to N250,000 as interest free loans for their agro-businesses.

"From the report of monitors in January this year, I am happy to inform that a significant

number of corps agro-entrepreneurs have settled down and are doing well," he disclosed.

He advised the new participants to shun unnecessary distractions and log into the national network of corps entrepreneurs which is set to achieve the objectives of MDG's, NEEDS, 7-Point Agenda and Vision 20-2020.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on MDG's, who was represented by Imam Umar, advised the corps members that the programme is a complete package as they will all be empowered with various sums to set up their own farms after training.

Minister's wife advises on insecticide treated nets

By Nasir Imam

WIFE of the FCT minister, Hajiya Zainab Adamu Aliero, has appealed to pregnant women in the nation's capital to always employ the use Insecticide treated Nets [ITN] as a protection against the dreaded malaria scourge.

Hajiya Aliero, who spoke yesterday during the flag-off and launching of insecticide treated nets in Bwari, disclosed that malaria contributes indirectly to illness and deaths from other common diseases, stating that the death rates from the disease is higher in rural and remote areas, where patients have restricted access to adequate treatment.

The minister's wife, who was represented by the wife of the FCT minister of State, Mrs Adakwu Chuka Odom, said that about 100 countries of the world were considered as 'malarious' with half in sub-Saharan Africa, including Nigeria.

She advised women in the territory to ensure regular cleaning of their environment and to participate actively in the FCT monthly sanitation exercise.

Earlier in a welcome address, wife of the Bwari Area Council, Mrs Lami Isa Dara said the fight against malaria will lead to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals as well as contribute to saving the lives of pregnant women and children in the territory.

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS IN NIGERIAN INDUSTRY

AFRICAN HYDRO AGRIC CHEMICALS LIMITED

PROUDLY ANNOUNCES
THE COMMENCEMENT OF PRODUCTION OF

ALUMINIUM SULPHATE (ALUM)
(17% - KIBBLED - FINEST GRADE)

THE MOST ECONOMICAL WATER TREATMENT CHEMICAL

SULPHURIC ACID (98.5%)

THE BEST QUALITY ACID - TECHNICAL GRADE,
BATTERY GRADE AND ANALYTICAL GRADE

ALSO AVAILBALE -
POWDER ALUM & LIQUOR ALUM

PACKED IN HIGH QUALITY
50 KGS BAGS

ALUMINIUM SULPHATE (ALUM)
17% KIBBLED - FINEST GRADE

FACTORY:
AFRICAN HYDRO AGRIC CHEMICALS LTD.
PLOT 6,7,20,21, ZONE II
OPIC INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
AGBARA, OGUN STATE

SALES OFFICE:
1ST Floor Gemini Block, Eleganza Plaza
Commercial Road, Apapa Lagos.
Tel: 08076003221, 08062123478
08057741724

email:sales.ahacl@africanindustries.com

AFRICAN HYDRO AGRIC CHEMICALS LTD.
PLOT 6,7,20,21, ZONE II
OPIC INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
AGBARA, OGUN STATE

SECRETARY TENDERS BOARD
FOR: MANAGEMENT

Inside Politics

2011: I'm riding on my father's back – Kogi gov's son

From Isiaka Wakil, Lokoja

MOHAMMED Ibrahim Idris, the son of the Kogi State governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, has confirmed that his father is preparing him for the election into the Federal House of Representatives in 2011.

Mohammed, who visited the Anka-Omalala-Olamaboro Federal Constituency

of the state on Saturday to obtain his membership card of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), said that he was banking on his father's performance as governor of the state to secure the support of the electorate.

The governor's son added that his decision to contest the election followed numerous calls from the people of his con-

stituency to represent them in the Federal House of Representatives in the next legislative dispensation.

A PDP leader from the constituency, Alhaji Ibrahim Linco -Ocheje, had earlier hinted that the governor agreed to support his son after he had approached and intimated him of his plan to contest the election into the Anka-Omalala-Olamaboro

Federal Constituency.

Meanwhile, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Media and Public Affairs, Zakari Adamu, assured that his boss would not renege on his promise to provide a level playing ground for all aspirants and candidates for the next general elections, adding that the governor's son is mature and qualified to contest any election.



GOVERNOR Peter Obi in a handshake with Labour candidate in last Saturday's election, Andy Uba when the latter paid him a congratulatory visit in Awka, Monday.

Why PDP lost Anambra election – Gov Lamido

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

THE Jigawa State governor, Alhaji Sule Lamido yesterday said the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was defeated in last week's governorship election in Anambra State because party leaders in the state failed to eschew their grievances and pursue a common goal.

Governor Lamido, who said this while fielding questions from newsmen at the Government House, Dutse, said that the PDP had produced three different candidates in disguise during the election.

Alhaji Sule Lamido further said that the former CBN Governor, Professor Charles Chukwuma Soludo, Chief Chris Ngige and Chief Andy Uba are all members of the PDP, but because they were aggrieved, Ngige and Uba contested on the platforms of other political parties

leading to the failure of PDP.

"If the three had united themselves, they would add more votes to PDP, but instead they scattered their votes and paved the way for the opposition to win the election... Since the three had divided their votes, there was no way the PDP could win the election," he declared.

Lamido said unless the PDP reconciled its members in Anambra, the party will never win election there.

Governor Sule Lamido appealed to members of the People Democratic Party (PDP) in Anambra State in particular and the nations in general to eschew their grievances and work for the collective interest of the party.

According to the governor, no party can achieve political goals without peace and unity among its members at all levels.

Jigawa SIEC, 7 parties to settle out of court

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

JIGAWA State Independent Electoral Commission and the seven political parties who sued the commission over alleged refusal to include their candidates in the list of contestants for the forthcoming local government election are now to settle out of court.

When the case came up last Monday for hearing at the state High Court in Gumel, counsels to the commission, Dr. Muhammad Isa and Barrister A.G Wakil, prayed the court to allow the two parties to resolve their grievances out of court. The prayer was granted by the presiding Judge, Justice Ahmad Isa Gumel.

Justice Ahmad Isa, however, fixed today for continuation of the case in case a settlement was not reached.

"If you fail to settle yourselves

before Wednesday (today), the court will begin hearing same day," Justice Gumel said.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* yesterday, commission's counsel, Barrister A.G Wakil, said the two parties had resolved over 70 per cent of the problem and that the parties are expected to conclude the reconciliation before the end of the day (Tuesday).

"We will conclude our reconciliation today (Tuesday) and go back to court tomorrow (Wednesday). From all indications, things will be alright because we are having good understanding with the other party. And I am sure we will succeed in this move," said Wakil.

But counsel to the seven political parties, Barrister Baffa Alhassan told *Daily Trust* that his clients may disregard the settlement because the conditions given by the commission

through its counsels was not favourable to the political parties.

Barrister Baffa explained further that although the reconciliation move is not yet over, its outcome may not favour the commission, as according to him his clients have indicated interest in continuing with the case in court.

It would be recalled that the seven political parties led by the Alliance for Democratic had dragged the commission to Court for rejecting the names of their candidates for the election in question.

The political parties are Alliance for Democratic (AD), Congress for Democratic Change (CDC), Labour Party (LP), Mass Movement Party (MMP), National Movement for Progress Party (NMPP), African Liberation Party (ALP) and Peoples Progress Party (PPP).

I'm ready to work with Obi, says Andy Uba

From Beatrice Onuchukwu - Awka

DR. Andy Uba, gubernatorial candidate of the Labour Party in last Saturday's governorship election in Anambra State has signified his readiness to cooperate with Governor Peter Obi in the task of developing the state. Uba stated this Monday when he paid a congratulatory visit to Obi at the Governor's Lodge in Awka.

Responding, Governor Obi commended the manner in which Andy Uba ran his campaign for the election from the beginning to the end.

He said Uba's campaign was devoid of name-calling, name-dropping and the

'I-am-desperate' philosophy that has become the hallmark of Nigerian politicians.

The governor, who said he was making a general evaluation of campaign in Nigeria, invited other politicians to always see campaign as an avenue to tell the people what one planned to do for them and not to castigate one another.

Meanwhile the National Chairman of the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) Chief Victor Umeh has vowed that APGA will take over the remaining South East States which is presently under the leadership of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), saying that is the next target after Obi's victory.

Inside Politics

'Nigerians must be allowed to choose leaders'

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

IS there any special provision for those living with disability in the ongoing electoral reform? What is being done about the local government structure as well as the conduct of elections at that level? These are two critical questions among many that came up during a campaign for grassroots support for electoral reform in Langtang North/South federal constituency of Plateau State.

Indeed the second question on local government elections could not have come at a more auspicious time for the two local governments considering the fraud that attended elections in the two councils in November 2008. The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) led state government had barefacedly snatched victory from the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) in Langtang North and the Action Congress (AC) in Langtang South. But they were later upturned by the courts.

Incidentally, the Justice Muhammed Lawal Uwais Committee on Electoral Reforms has proposed solutions to many grey areas of Nigeria's electoral laws including the questions raised by the participants at the rally which took place in Lantnag, the headquarters of Langtang North Local Government Area last weekend.

Organised by the Civil Society Coordinating Committee (CSCC) on electoral reform and facilitated by United Nations Development Fund and the Joint Donor Basket Fund, the rally was meant to connect with the grassroots and sensitise stakeholders to some of the recommendations of the Uwais panel. Thus with the collaboration of the member representing Langtang North/South in the House of Representatives Rep Beni Lar (Plateau, PDP), daughter of the second republic governor of Plateau State and pioneer chairman of the ruling PDP Chief Solomon Lar the event was, to say the least, a success.

Mr. Emma Azeazu, General Secretary of the Alliance for Credible Elections took turn to highlight some salient aspects of the Uwais recommendations which he noted would introduce some sanity into Nigeria's electoral system. He highlighted five areas includ-



VOTERS in last Saturday's governorship election in Anambra State.

ing the appointment of the board of the country's electoral commission (INEC) and the need for its financial independence as recommended by Uwais.

Azeazu also dwelt into the recommendation that all electoral petitions be dispensed by the courts before elected officials could be sworn in. This recommendation particularly attracted the approval of the rally, obviously because of their recent experience at the local government polls where PDP candidates who stole mandates ran the two local governments illegally. "The thing is that such officers cannot be accountable to you because they know you didn't vote them," Mr. Azeazu told the gathering.

Another area the civil society activist harped on were the need to shift the onus of proof in electoral cases to INEC, something that will certainly make legal practitioners have easier access to electoral materials. At the moment, counsels to petitioners often find it very difficult to get INEC to release materials for inspection and such arguments help in prolonging the time of electoral litigations.

In a lecture titled "Understanding the Electoral Reform Recommendation and their Implications", a Jos based civil society activist Comrade Titus Mann said that the choice of the two Langtangs for Saturday's sensitisation rally could not

have been more apt in view of their recent experience in the local government polls.

"The Uwais committee was set up based on the observation that the laws in place can't give us credible elections," Mann said stressing that "we have to make sure that the next election (in 2011) are credible so that we can hold our leaders accountable."

In his lecture, Mann also regretted that the Uwais report, as comprehensive and promising, has come under serious threat by the very apparatus that conceived the idea. He urged the gathering to push their elected representatives to act fast so that the country's democratic aspirations will be realised.

The chairmen of Langtang North and Langtang South Brian Bintim Dadi and Hitler Dadi respectively who personally attended the rally commended the organisers and particularly, Hon Beni Lar for coming to involve people at the grassroots in the ongoing electoral reform process and promised to collaborate in the effort.

"Nigerians must be allowed to choose their leaders. We will sensitise our people on this matter," Hitler Dadi (AC), chairman of Langtang South who recovered his victory from the PDP most recently at the tribunal said.

In her address at the occasion, Hon. Beni Lar told the gathering

that the National Assembly has done quite a lot concerning the reforms, especially with regard to the 7 bills which President Umaru Yar'adua sent to the National Assembly. She said the national assembly is responsibly working to ensure that the reforms come into effect before the 2011 elections.

The bills she said are as follows:
*A bill for an Act to Amend the Independent National Electoral Commission Act Cap 15 LFN 2004 and other Matters connected thereto;

*A bill for an Act to Alter the Provisions of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and for other matters connected thereto;

*A bill for and Act to establish the Electoral Offences Commission and for other matters connected thereto;

*A bill for an Act to establish the Centre for Democratic Studies and other related matters;

*A bill for an act to further Amend the Police Act 1967 Cap 19 and for matters connected thereto

*A bill for an Act to establish the Political Parties Registration and Regulations Commission.

*A bill for an act to amend the Independent National Electoral Commission act.

She said though some of the bills suffered set backs, tremendous progress have been recorded in some of them.

Lar who earlier led the civil society delegation to the state House of Assembly in Jos emphasised to the lawmakers the need to treat the electoral reform with the seriousness it deserves.

Lar also seized the occasion to appeal for peace in the state following the recent sectarian crisis. "Let's respect the fundamental right of everyone. Everyone has the right to live and nobody has the right to take another person's life," she said stressing that no matter how well the electoral reform is carried out, the people of Plateau State will not enjoy it if peace does not prevail.

Minority Leader John Clerk who received the delegation on behalf of the Speaker promised to partner with the delegation to cover the entire state in the enlightenment programme that is aimed at improving the country's electoral system.

AC cautions Jonathan over Senate's resolution on Yar'adua

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Action Congress (AC) yesterday faulted the resolution of the Senate that empowered Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces.

AC's National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, described the resolution as the height of illegality.

Mohammed also dismissed as untenable the argument by some Senators that the decision was based on the doctrine of necessity, saying the lawmakers were not guided by law, the Constitution or Convention in passing their resolution.

"Section 145 of the Constitution is very clear on how a Vice President can act as President. The Senate cannot empower the VP to act as President by resolution. What has happened today has taken Nigeria closer to the abyss, instead of bringing it back from the brink. All hell has broken loose," he said.

He said the argument that the BBC interview will serve as a notification to the National Assembly that the President is on medical vacation is nonsensical.

AC said the President's inability to write a letter to the National Assembly was the clearest indication that he had become incapacitated.

The party therefore said that Section 144 of the Constitution should be evoked by the Federal Executive Council (FEC), which must immediately declare the President incapacitated and inform the National Assembly to set up a medical panel pursuant to that declaration.

It warned the Vice President not to exercise any power on the basis of the Senate resolution.

Anambra: Ezeife says INEC's integrity still in doubt

By Aisha Umar & Muideen Olaniyi

FORMER governor of Anambra State, Dr Chukwuemeka Ezeife has said that the conduct of Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) at last Saturday's governorship election in Anambra has

raised doubt about effectiveness and integrity of the commission.

He said in a press briefing in Abuja on Monday that there was deliberate attempt to disfranchise Anambra people during the election, because only two out of ten of Anambra voters found their

names on the registration list.

"I, Andy Obi, my wife and many other people's names did not appear on the registration list and even when we shouted at INEC officials, they did not make effort to correct the mistake," he stated.

"The surprising thing is that INEC cannot defend itself. In just one out of 36 states INEC could not set logistics and voting materials in time. INEC officials were not at the polling units as scheduled, voting started five hours late at most of the voting stations," he

siad.

The former governor, however, admitted that Anambra election was a success because despite the small number of people that voted, the votes counted, something he said is an indication that 2011 election will be successful.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

VACANCY

A Medium Size Poultry Farm in Abuja requires the services of a qualified, competent and experienced Poultry Manager.

The person to fill the vacancy should have at least a First Degree or HND in Animal Science with a minimum of 10 years relevant post qualification experience in the rearing of layers and broilers.

Application with contact telephone number can be sent to:

Advertiser
P.O.Box 4403
Garki, Abuja.

MUSLIM LEAGUE FOR ACCOUNTABILITY (MULAC)

This is to inform the general public that the above named organization has applied to the corporate affairs commission, Abuja for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Mallam Nafiu Baba Ahmed Mni
2. Hajiya Bilquis Yusuf Mni
3. Hajiya Maryam Usman
4. Mallam Abubakar Jibrin Esq
5. Mallam Yusuf Yakubu

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To embark upon advocacy for the promotion of good governance transparency and accountability in Nigeria
2. To form and nurture a network that will work for the promotion of Islamic principle of justice, accountability and good governance.
3. To embark on capacity building of both faith based and other civil society organizations on accountability, transparency and good governance.

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 twenty eight (28) days of this application.

Signed: Abdullah Isa.

CHRIST POWER MIRACLE CHAPEL

This is to inform the general public is hereby notified that the above-named ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Evangelist (Dr.) Amos Omoniyi Olanyan
2. Pastor Sunday Oluwabenga Olanyan
3. Deaconess Elizabeth Ibukun
4. Pastor Samuel Sanyaolu
5. Pastor Elijah Oluwatobi Abiodun
6. Deaconess Deborah Oluwabukola Tosin

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

1. To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To set the captive free from the hand of the oppression.
3. To empower all children of God in order to demolish the kingdom of the devil.
4. To reach out to prisons, hospital and give services to the less privileged.
5. To establish christian education for spiritual and moral training of christian ministries.

Any objection(s) to the registration of the church should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Str, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

ASSOCIATION FOR GREATER KANO

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part C of the companies and allied matters decree Act CAP. 59. Laws 1990.

Trustees are:

1. ZAKARI BUBA.
2. ABDULAZIZ MOHAMMED
3. MANSUR ADAMU KURAWA
4. WALIM DALHATU.
5. TIJJANI WAWU MAITABARA

Aims and Objectives:

1. To generate the momentum for sustainable growth and development and ensuring that the people experience the material and moral benefits of a civilian democratic rule.
2. To promote the idea of being a self-reliant and self-sufficient society where economic justice, social stability and prosperity is the goal.
3. To sensitize our people on the importance of community efforts in our quest for happiness and a better life for all.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the registrar General Corporate affairs commission, wuse zone 5 Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Mansura. kurawa
08037875785

LOSS OF LANDS TITLE DOCUMENTS

The General Public is hereby informed of the loss of the following Title Regulation Acknowledgement Letters of these serial plots below; and to date their original Certificates of Occupancies and other related documents are not yet found, viz.

- 1)-FCT/BZTP/LA/AN.609 (NEW FILE No. 52923) Plot C77 Austen Nnamaka
- 2)-FCT/BZTP/LA/AN.601 (NEW FILE No. 52926) Plot C78 Franka Azuka. This advert shall be succeeded with applications for their Certified True Copies (CTCs) and other privileges of same, at the appropriate Authority.

For and on behalf of the Attorneys
Signed: BARR. H. ALBISHIR
Notary Public for Nigeria
08033148236

AUCTION AUCTION AUCTION

Abandoned and Recovered Vehicles for public auction. These are abandoned and recovered vehicle for public auction in the two Divisional headquarters Kaduna State Command, eg. **KATARI DIVISION:** 1. Toyota Jeep LY284ABC Fatal Accident 2. Mercedes Benze 200 AL249 YAM Fatal Accident. 3. GULF 4A 964 serious accident

JERE DIVISION: 1. Peugeot 505 blue No. 2. Peugeot 505 white Reg. No. KA-576 DKA 3. Scrap Honda Prelued No. 4 Scrap Peugeot 505 wagon No. 5 Scrap J5 Bus No. Reg.
Signed: Chief Abroham Olutomole, Tel: 08076238494

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the original acknowledgement letter for re-certification issued by AGIS, Abuja in favour of **SAAB Petroleum Nigeria Limited** with old File No. /FCT/ABU/MISC 9972 and New File No. 54083 plot No. 603 Katampe District, Abuja is missing and all efforts to trace same has proved abortive.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the original acknowledgement letter for re-certification issued by AGIS, Abuja in favour of **M/S FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL** with New File No. MISC 54084 and Plot No. 1113 Cadastral Zone B 11 Kaura is missing and all efforts to trace same has proved abortive.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the original acknowledgement letter for re-certification issued by AGIS, Abuja in favour of **SAGATA Nigeria Limited** with old File No. FCT/ABU/ MISC 11297 and New File No. 54081 plot No. 7 Cadastral Zone B 2 Abuja is missing and all efforts to trace same has proved abortive.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the following land documents registered at the ministry of Lands, Kano is missing. Certificate of Occupancy No. LKN/RES/81/976 Measuring 0.1970 situated at Sharada G.R.A. with Beacons No. KF/1604, KF 1603, KF 1612 and KF 1611 Registered as No. 43 at page 43 in column 7, C of O Lands Registry Office, Kano dated 27th July, 1982 in the name of Aih. Musa Nasiru of No. 411 Koki Quarters, Kano, which was sold to Aih. I.M. Ida. If found, please return to the nearest police station or call 08037877656, 08098888777
Signed: DANJUMA SAMAILA

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public that Certificate of Registration No. 1272 of 21 May 1976, issued to the **REGISTERED TRUSTEES OF THE GOSPEL BAPTIST CONFERENCE OF NIGERIA & OVERSEAS** under the Lands Perpetual Succession Act is missing and all efforts to locate same have failed.

If found please forward to **Femi Oyekola & Co.** Suite 16, Landmark Plaza, Plot 3124, IBB Way, Maitama Abuja.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the General Public that the Certificate of Occupancy in respect of **PLOT 500**, with file No. **BO 10089** (formerly **KG 1268**) Katampe BO7 in the name of **Habu Mohammed** is missing. All effort to trace it proved abortive. Please if found, return to **AGIS** or call **080-502-665-88**.
AGIS and the general public take note.

Geoffrey Semnoe, ESQ 070-254-037-70

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly **SAKIRU OLANREWAJU ALATISE** now **ABDUSH-SHAKOOR OLANREWAJU ALATISE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS USENEKONG EKAETTE ABIGAIL** now known as **MRS AZUKA ABIGAIL EKAETTE**. Formal documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS NWOKENYE ONYEKA DEBORAH** now wish to be known as **MRS IRABOR DEBORAH ONYEKA**. Former documents remain valid. Public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS OBUNADIKE HENRRIETTA NWSINACHI** now wish to be known as **MRS EZEAKU HENRRIETTA NWSINACHI**. All documents remain valid. NYSC, general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS KEFFI KHADIJAT JIBRIL** now wish to be known as **MRS KHADIJAT MURTALA RILWANU**. All former documents remain valid. Nigerian Airspace Management Agency and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS TAIWO TEMITOPE LAWAL**, now wish to be known as **MRS TAIWO OLAWALE-OLUYEMI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS FATUGA, OLUWAKEMI OPEOLU** now wish to be known as **MRS ADESHINA OLUWAKEMI OPEOLU**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **ENVULADU CHARITY YUSUF**, now wish to be known as **MRS ALEX CHARITY MAKU**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MAIRIGA, ONECHOJON ESTHER**, now wish to be known as **MRS ACHIMUGU, ONECHOJON ESTHER**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS PEGGY ANWIRI AMADI**, now wish to be known as **MRS PEGGY ANWIRI JINTE'MIEMA ABIBO**. All former documents remain valid. ABC Transport and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS EZE SCHOLASTICA NKIRUKA IMMACULATA** wish to be known and address as **MRS UGWU SCHOLASTICA NKIRUKA IMMACULATA**. All former documents remain valid. General public and NYSC should take note.

Formerly **MISS CHIDUBEM COMFORT OFFOR** now wish to be known as **MRS CHIDUBEM COMFORT UBA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS CHRISTY OKI INCHIKO** now wish to be known as **MRS CHRISTY OKI ABDULSALAM**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **RUTH OLUWABUKOLA SHOWUNMI** now wish to be known as **MRS RUTH OLUWABUKOLA DADA**. All former documents remain valid. Dorben Polytechnic and general public to take.

I, formerly known as **MISS ENEM BRIDGET NKEMJIKA M** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS NWIDEH BRIDGET NKEMJIKA M.** All former documents remain valid. University of Abuja and general public take note.

Formerly known as **FUNMILAYO AMUNEGA**, wish to be **MRS. FUNMILAYO JUSTICE NGOZI**. Former documents remain valid.

I, formerly known as **RFIAT OGUN** now wish to be known as **IDOWU RODIYAT OLAJIDE**. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ADAMS UREN** now wish to be known as **UREN BEN TANKO**. All former documents remain valid. Concerned Authority to please take note.

I, formerly **BEN DAYO OLORUNSUYI**, now wish to be called **BEN DAYO OLATUNJI**. Former documents remain valid. General public to note.

Formerly **FATIMA ABUBAKAR HUSSAINI** now **FATIMA UMAR**. General public to note.

I formerly known as **AISHA BAKO IDRIS** now wish to be known as **MRS. LIMAN AISHA HARUNA**. all former document remain valid, general public take note.

I **MISS TEMITOPE ABOSEDE ADENIRAN** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **MRS. TEMITOPE ABOSEDE DARAMOLA**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I, **MISS UNEGBU EUNICE IFEYINWA** NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS **MRS. CHRISTOPHER EUNICE IFEYINWA**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

SPORT

Hiddink
ready to
take pay cut

Page 52



Lulu gets impeachment notice

By Ismaila Lere

TEN members of the 12-man Executive Committee of the Nigeria Football Federation, NFF, have served impeachment notice on the president of the federation, Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi over alleged high-handedness and financial impropriety.

The NFF president was served with notice of impeachment on Monday after the Executive Committee spent most of its meeting last Friday to douse the tension that arose from what the members described as the "inhumane treatment" they received from the NFF leadership in Angola during the

“Lulu had a hectic time trying to convince the members to drop the impeachment move

Nations Cup.

Trustsports reliably gathered that Lulu had a hectic time trying to convince the members to drop the impeachment move during yesterday's meeting to discuss the issue of hiring a foreign coach for the Super Eagles.

According to impeccable sources, Lulu's wrong doings which forced his colleagues to move against him include his alleged dictatorial actions and questionable financial transactions.

As at yesterday evening, Lulu was still battling frantically to save his job as there was intensive lobbying and negotiations aimed at arriving at concessions which would pacify the aggrieved parties.

Trustsports can report authoritatively that board members who have signed the impeachment notice include Aminu Maigari, Alili Galadima, Steven Gyegbon, Bola Jegede, Obinna Ogba, Abubakar Eadan, Taiwo Odeunmi, Peter Singabele, Patrick Ekoṅ, Dominic Iorfa and Shehu Adamu.



THE Nigeria Football Federation has added the name of Republic of Ireland coach Giovanni Trapattoni on the list of coaches penciled down for Super Eagles coaching job.

Former AFN boss, Amu, is dead

FORMER President of the Athletic Federation of Nigeria (AFN), Alhaji A.K. Amu, is dead.

Amu, 78, died on Monday and was buried on Tuesday according to Islamic rites. He was a member of the Nigerian athletics team to the 1960 Rome Olympic Games.

In his tribute, Mr Oluyomi Adeyemi-Wilson, also a former AFN president, said the track and field fraternity would miss him.

Adeyemi-Wilson described Amu as "a fine gentleman and an asset to the country."

"He had his style and technique and could run the 100m and 400m."

"We must get our young ones to emulate him. He started from King's College, Lagos, and continued at the University of Ibadan," he said.

Amu retired from the defunct Nigeria Tobacco Company (NTC).

Nigeria's former 400m hurdles champion, Henry Amike, said Amu was technically proficient.

Amike said Amu was his role model and mentor when he was growing up.

"He taught me what I know technically before the computer age. I call him the encyclopaedia of athletics," he said.

He described Amu's death as a great loss to the country and said that steps be taken to immortalise him.

"The country should not forget him" Amike added.

Former AFN coach, Ms Amelia Edet, described Amu as a father and friend, saying the track and field fraternity always looked up to him.

Edet said Amu always told them to take their studies seriously, reminding "us that there was life after sports."

Foreign coach: NFF add Trapattoni to shortlist

By David Ngobua

THE list of foreign coaches that have been shortlisted for the vacant position of Super Eagles Technical Adviser has continued to swell by the day with the Nigeria Football Federation, NFF, yesterday in Abuja adding the name of the current manager of Republic of Ireland, Giovanni Trapattoni on the list of coaches to be screened on February

26 in Abuja.

Last Friday after its emergency meeting in Abuja, the Executive Committee of the NFF made public a list of five coaches namely Louis van Gaal, Guus Hiddink, Radomir Dujkovic, Bruno Metsu, Hassan Shehata and Peter Taylor as foreign technical advisers who have been short listed for the job.

Addressing the press yesterday after its meeting in Abuja, NFF

Executive Committee member, Mr. Taiwo Odeunmi said the committee has unanimously approved the inclusion of Italian coach Giovanni Trapattoni in the list of candidates to be considered for the job.

Asked if the coach and those earlier listed have been contacted by NFF, he said it is really hard to have direct contact with the coaches at the moment but the football federation is making use of agents to get

across to the coaches.

The Executive Committee member said it is for this reason that all the shortlisted coaches would have to come down to Nigeria to enable members of the NFF Executive Committee to make personal contact with them.

"We have not seen the coaches one-on-one. It is for this reason that they will have to come down to Nigeria to make presentations

before the final decision will be taken," he said. He further said none of the coaches had been contacted by the NFF but the agents who have been assigned the duty of convincing the coaches to accept to coach the Super Eagles have been working round the clock to achieve results.

Meanwhile, the Nigeria Football Federation, NFF, said it has closed the list of shortlisted coaches as there would be no more additions.

Hiddink ready to take pay cut

GUUS Hiddink's representative Cees van Nieuwenheizen has said that the Dutch coach would consider a pay cut in order to coach Nigeria, but said any move would only happen with the approval of the Russian Federation.

"Guus is a loyal employee of the Russian Football Federation. He has a contract until July 15 and he never breaks a contract. If, and I say if because we have not been officially contacted by the Nigeria federation.

"If we get such an offer, we will have to discuss with the Russian Federation and if there could be an agreement with the Russian federation, then Guus could consider the situation.

"Currently there is a new president at the Russia Federation and we are talking about the future of after July 15, whether he stays or goes and that might change the situation a bit.

"Already, he has received offers from other countries who want him to take them to the World Cup. One of them is North Korea. Guus did not want to go anywhere because he did not qualify Russia for the World Cup, but now with the new president, things might have changed," van Nieuwenheizen told Kickoffnigeria.com yesterday.

Hiddink currently earns an ear-bursting \$8 million a year with Russia, but van Nieuwenheizen says if an agreement can be reached, Hiddink would countenance a significant reduction in those earnings.

"If there could be the possibility of a cooperation with the Russian Football Federation to release Guus for 2010 World Cup, then if he will go with any country to South Africa, like in this instance Nigeria, then he cannot make the same money he is making in Russia because the financial situation of many federations in Africa is completely different.

"There is no Mr Abramovich in Nigeria, so this is a sporting challenge that Guus would see as a great opportunity to be back on the highest platform of global football with a strong team such as Nigeria. "From that perspective, it could challenge him. Then he would go more for the sporting challenge than the financial challenge."

NFF executive committee member Taiwo Ogunjobi, who is coordinating the head hunt for the Technical Adviser as chairman of the NFF's technical Committee, said all six coaches on the shortlist have been contacted.

But van Nieuwenheizen says the only contact he has received

regarding the Nigeria job was an email last weekend from football agent John Shittu.

"I am now talking to somebody representing the media, I have not been in contact with anybody from the Nigeria Football Federation. We received an email from somebody in London, a Mr John Shittu with a number to call. I do not call the number.

"If there is somebody from the Nigeria Football Federation interested, they should call me, then I will tell them the same story that I am telling you.

"We are not in a position to take any initiative because we have not received any formal contact and Guus is not looking for a job.

"I only want to talk to somebody from the Nigeria federation, if they are interested. Under the circumstances we cannot do anything.

"I do not consider that as an offer. My number is available and they can contact me, same as you did. If they want to talk to Guus, they can call, but I do not call a number of anybody I do not know.

"A lot of people call and claim to be from Nigeria and we cannot talk to anybody. But if somebody calls and says he is the President or the General Secretary, then we can speak to the Russia federation and we can find a solution."



HIDDINK is one of the six coaches shortlisted for Super Eagles coaching job.

Shittu, who also manages Joseph Yobo and John Mikel Obi, admitted to *KickOffNigeria.com* that he did indeed contact the Hiddink camp.

"Yes, we sent him the email and we are representing the Nigeria Football Federation in these negotiations," he said. "We believe that Hiddink is the kind of man who will bring discipline, organisation and the right tactics to the Super Eagles."

It was gathered that Chelsea

owner Roman Abramovich, who finances Hiddink's Russia wages, will not stand in the way of the coach if he decides to make the Nigeria move.

"I don't think we can find a solution in the next few days. The new president came in last week, Guus had one discussion with him and then they went to Poland for the Euro 2012 draws.

"They will speak again, but I do not think it will be possible to find a solution quickly."

TRUST CLASSIFIED

TEMPLE TRUST FOUNDATION

NOTICE is hereby given to the general public that the above named Foundation has applied for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Decree No. 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1) MR. SAMUEL UKPONG
- 2) MRS. OLUWASEUN UKPONG

Aims and Objects:

- a) To cater for the less privileged
- b) To uplift the down trodden in society

Any objection to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama District, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: Femi Oyekola & Co.
Solicitors.

NEW REALM BAPTIST CHURCH, OJO-LAGOS

This is inform members of the public that the above named church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja to effect changes in the composition of the Board of Trustees of the church.

The following Trustees have retired

1. Jackson B. Esi
2. Emmanuel O. Ayewah

The following persons are appointed as Trustees

1. Engineer Gboladale Oyewumi Agunloye
2. Barrister Obafemi Ogundare

The following Trustees are retained:

1. Micheal A. Uwanogho
2. Anthony Akhator Egbeahie
3. Mrs. Esther O. Adeyemi

Any objection to this application should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B 198 Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Obafemi Ogundare Esq.
29, Iga-Idunganran Street
Lagos

GREEN RIGHT AFRICAN INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. PROF BENAYADE - CHAIRMAN
2. DR FRANCIS AYADE - SECRETARY
3. MR KIETH SHERMAN - MEMBER

Aims and Objectives

Creation of environmental awareness campaigns, community development support, skill acquisition, training of youths and rehabilitation programmes.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja, within 28 days of this publication/notice.

Signed

Bar. Martin Odey 08033902007

MOTHER AND CHILD SURVIVAL ENHANCEMENT 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 matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Amb. Kabir Ahmed - Chairman
2. Hajija Hinde Umar Abdullah
3. Alhaji Aminu Jamo
4. Hajija Halima Nuhu Salihu Daura
5. Hajija Nana Babajo
6. Hajija Fatsume Sani Zangon Daura
7. Dr. Mohammed Ahmad Qabasiyu
8. Hajija Amina Maude
9. Alhaji Aminu Ahmed
10. Zulaihatu Nuhu - Secretary

Aims and objectives:

1. To assist the less privileged women and children in the society.
2. To educate and enlighten women and children in the society.

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:
Secretary

I formerly known as MARY AMOS KAIGAMA now wish to be known as MARY JOHN BULUS, all former document remain valid and general public take note.

I formerly known as MISS. ZULFAT OVAIZA SULEIMAN now wish to be addressed as MRS. ZULFAT SULEIMAN. all former document remain valid, general public take note

EL-AMIN ALUMNI 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 matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are: 1. Yusuf Usman. 2. Hajara Ndanusa

3. Hadiza Rasheed. 4. Samira Ibrahim
5. Habeeba Mustapha. 6. Fatima Ahmed
7. Jibabatu Ibrahim. 8. Abba Kalgo
9. Ummi Atiku. 10. Ibrahim Nasko

Aims and objectives:

1. To foster peace, unity, love, harmony and understanding among members.
2. To assist the less privileged in the society.

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:
Secretary

I, MISS OMOTOBOYE OMORINSOLA AJIKE NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AND ADDRESSED AS MRS. OLALERU OMORINSOLA AJIKE. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. NECO, WAEC, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

Formerly, MR. OBADIAH WAEJIM AYIBASAE now wish to be known as MR. AYIBASEE SHANPAM IRASE. Former documents. The general public please note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the General Public that the Certificate of Occupancy in respect of PLOT 844, Gwarimpa District CO2, with File No. PL10547 (formerly KN 3136) in the name of NUHU ALIYU is missing. all efforts to trace it proved abortive.

Please if found, return to AGIS or call 080-502-665-88. AGIS and the general public take note.

Geoffrey Semnoe, ESQ 070-254-037-70

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the original land document in respect of plot No.706 Jahi District Cadastral Zone B08, Abuja issued on 5/12/1997 with file NO. OY10316 is missing. All efforts to trace it proved abortive. If found, kindly return to Mr. Muibat Mustapha 'M' of suite 10, Crown Plaza Utako District Abuja or the nearest Police station

Robinho: In Europe, the coach sends you out to run. Here in Brazil, I play...



In good company... Robinho is welcomed back to Santos by Pele.



Back with a bang... Robinho enjoyed scoring on his second debut for Santos with a beautiful back-heel effort against Sao Paulo.

By Ashley Gray, Daily Mail

SPONSORSHIP across the front of his shirt, the front and back of his shorts and down both arms. The walking advertising board in the Santos No 7 shirt has to pay for his salary somehow.

Until Robinho signed, Santos did not have a shirt sponsor. Now they have three for his first match; this is what Robinho has let himself in for. Not only has the 26-year-old seen his £160,000-a-week wages halved by agreeing a six-month loan from Manchester City's bench to Santos, he will also have his image pawned out to companies bankrolling the extravagant signing of a club with £8.5million debts.

He is not alone. This is the home of Pele and most visitors to the city's central Praca Independencia will find the greatest football

icon of them all pictured above Poupaforma in a yellow and white uniform, looking aghast at the low prices of the medicines inside.

Robinho is home, quitting the cold English winter for the baking Brazilian summer, where youths line the Gonzaga beach to play football at temperatures approaching 40 degrees Celsius.

Right now he would be happy if he never played for Manchester City again. After a rock star's entrance by helicopter last week, hand in hand with Pele, now 69, and soaking up the adulation of thousands of fans, he declared it would be great to stay for four years, giving the prime of his career to a club he left on bad terms five years ago when Real Madrid came calling.

'I came here in search of happiness,' he said after a dream debut that saw him come off the bench

The Brazilian celebrates his goal scoring return.

and score the winning goal at Sao Paulo with an exquisite backheel on Sunday.

'I get depressed when things are not right. I know my responsibilities. On Sunday, I made a lot of people happy. The goal wasn't difficult. It was the only way I could score.'

The only way to wipe the smile from his face is to mention his five years of desperate under-achievement in Europe.

Robinho smarts when he recalls how Madrid tried to use him as part exchange in their bid to sign Cristiano Ronaldo from Manchester United. Robinho thought he was equal to the Portugal star. He wasn't 17 months ago and he certainly isn't today.

In his final season at the Bernabeu, a place on the bench was all too common, which brings him to the naive conclusion that then-manager Fabio Capello does not

like Brazilians.

With the same scenario being played out at Eastlands this season, Robinho admits he does not understand the tactics of another Italian boss, Roberto Mancini.

'He has a different way of thinking,' said Robinho. 'In Brazil, the coach respects the player's characteristics.'

'In Europe, they are used to playing with two lines of four players, and they don't want to know what you can do.'

'There, if you are a forward, the coach sends you on to the pitch just to run. You have to run and that's it.'

Tactics are less rigid in Brazil, where line-ups tend to be picked around the best players.

But for all that he might feel at home (for now), City are not about to simply let go of a player for which they paid a British record £32.5m. And when Robinho takes a harder look around the tatty, 18,000-capacity Vila Belmiro stadium here and the standard of matches he is about to face, he will soon realise that here is not a place he can fulfill his ambition of being the best player in the world.

The 2-1 win against Sao Paulo put Santos top of the Sao Paulo State Championship, a once-great tournament which has become devalued thanks to the expanding national league, which only really kicks off once Robinho is due back at Eastlands.

The so-called San-Sao Clasico was played out in front of just 15,000 fans at the Arena Barueri - a half-built stadium on the outskirts of Sao Paulo surrounded by precarious improvised housing - rather than at the 67,000-capacity Morumbi.

Brazilian football these days is for rising teenage stars and those at the end of their careers like Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos, not for those in their prime. Unless you are Robinho.

'I am preparing mentally and physically to be the best player at the World Cup,' he says. 'I'm at a good age. I have to get flying!'

Pele had won two of his three World Cups by 26, while Robinho is hoping for his first in South Africa.

It was the legend who discovered his apprentice 11 years ago. Training Santos's youngsters, Pele excitedly professed that Robinho would be a great player. He even organised a dentist to sort out the 15-year-old's toothy grin.

But for those who wanted to call Robinho his successor, the clue is in the nicknames. Pele is O Rei - simply The King - a player who had it all and scored more than 1,000 goals for Santos and made countless more. Robinho is O Rei das Pedaladas - King of the Steppers - a player who has all the skill in the world but not enough end-product to show for it.

Ribery opens door to Premier League move

FRANCK Ribery has dropped the strongest hint yet that he will leave Bayern Munich at the end of the season.

Manchester United and Chelsea are known admirers of the France winger but the Premier League's top two are likely to face competition from Spain.

Ribery said: 'Bayern is still a big club. It's one of the biggest in the world but I find that our team is not as strong as other teams, like Barcelona, Real Madrid, Manchester United, Chelsea.'

Maybe we will have trouble competing against these teams. I want to win trophies and to enjoy myself. I'm not 20 any more. I am closer to the end of my career than the beginning.'

The 26-year-old also told RTL radio that he could be persuaded to join international team-mate Thierry Henry at Barcelona.

He added: 'I get on really well with him and I know he would also like to see me there. I know a lot of people would like to see me stay [at Bayern]. Whether I stay or go it won't be an easy decision.'



RIBERY

Milan won't pay €40m for Dzeko

EDIN Dzeko will not join Milan as they cannot afford to pay Wolfsburg the €40 million price.

Tuttomercatoweb.com claims Milan have given up on the Bosnian striker because he costs too much. Dzeko has been tracked by the club since the summer, with reports in January suggesting they were still keen.

But that enthusiasm was lost when directors heard that Wolfsburg had increased Dzeko's evaluation.

Also, Chelsea coach Carlo Ancelotti has reportedly asked for the striker. And, rumours close to the player have already said his future will be decided by April, not in the summer as expected.



FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION



DISCLAIMER FORGED AND FAKE LAND TITLES/DOCUMENTS

1. The Federal Capital Territory Administration, pursuant to on going efforts at sanitizing the FCT land Information System, hereby informs the general public that the purported Rights / Certificates of Occupancy hereunder listed have been discovered to be forged or fake. Accordingly, the purported Right / Certificates of Occupancy are thereby voided and therefore of no proprietary value. They are as follows:

Table with columns: S.No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GRS Size. Lists various land titles and their details.

Table with columns: S.No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GRS Size. Lists various land titles and their details.

Table with columns: S.No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GRS Size. Lists various land titles and their details.

Table with columns: S.No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GRS Size. Lists various land titles and their details.

Table with columns: S.No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GRS Size. Lists various land titles and their details.

Table with columns: S.No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GRS Size. Lists various land titles and their details.

Table with columns: S.No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GRS Size. Lists various land titles and their details.

Table with columns: S.No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GRS Size. Lists various land titles and their details.

Table with columns: S No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GIS Size. Contains land allotment data for various districts including KATAMPE, JAH, and KAD.

Table with columns: S No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GIS Size. Contains land allotment data for various districts including JAH, KAD, and DAKIBIYU.

Table with columns: S No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GIS Size. Contains land allotment data for various districts including KAUWA, DUTSE, and WUBBA.

Table with columns: S No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GIS Size. Contains land allotment data for various districts including KAUWA, DUTSE, and WUBBA.

Table with columns: S No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GIS Size. Contains land allotment data for various districts including KAUWA, DUTSE, and WUBBA.

Table with columns: S No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GIS Size. Contains land allotment data for various districts including KAUWA, DUTSE, and WUBBA.

Table with columns: S No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GIS Size. Contains land allotment data for various districts including KAUWA, DUTSE, and WUBBA.

Table with columns: S No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GIS Size. Contains land allotment data for various districts including KAUWA, DUTSE, and WUBBA.

Table with columns: S No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GIS Size. Contains land allotment data for various districts including KATAMPE EXT, KAUWA, and DUTSE.

Table with columns: S No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GIS Size. Contains land allotment data for various districts including KATAMPE EXT, KAUWA, and DUTSE.

Table with columns: S No, Old File, New File, Plot No, District, Cad, GIS Size. Contains land allotment data for various districts including KATAMPE EXT, KAUWA, and DUTSE.

2. Any person or persons who transact(s), sell(s), transfer(s), mortgage(s) or deal(s) on any of the aforementioned plots does so at his or their own risk. Whatever rights and interest that were assumed have by this publication been extinguished.

3. The FCT Management also seizes this opportunity to warn the PUBLIC to be wary of touts, land speculators, and racketeers with fake/forged Area Council Land Titles, especially those from AMAC, Bwari, Gwagwalada and Kuje Area Councils.

MANAGEMENT

GUEST COLUMNIST

By George Onmony Daniel

Trust's columnists and the Jos crises

"The mind is a fire that must be kindled" -- r tuurch

Even though the *Daily Trust* newspaper is one of my favourite Nigerian dailies, I have come to a conclusion that some of their columnists should not be taken seriously. Apart from being mischief makers, they set out to promote certain questionable agendas capable of disrupting the peace of the nation through their deliberate sensational and extreme views. Their diatribes on the Jos crises have definitely created a divisive furor that shows clearly that the *Daily Trust* is a media organization with the sole aim of representing the interest of Hausa-Fulani Muslims and not the entire northern Nigeria.

During the recent Jos crises, this cabal of *Daily Trust* columnists tried to make everything look like a Christian and Muslim war has erupted in all over Nigeria by heating up an already heated polity with a bedridden president that no one still knows his condition or exactly where he is held at. They did not seem to care if the crises escalate. They tried to fuel the crises with fire and brimstone. In fact their inciting articles was responsible for the fear all over the Northern Nigerian region by non-Muslims that Muslims were planning a major attack on Christians and that Christians were planning to bomb Muslims. Form nowhere one of the columnists dragged the word 'genocide' into the whole imbroglio.

In one of his usual tirade on the back page of the *Daily Trust* of Friday, January 29, 2010, in the Friday Column titled, 'Jos, Jang and Genocide I,' the author Adamu Adamu went all about in his usual propagandist tactics to tell his readers that his colleague Mohammed Haruna's assertion that the crises in Jos and some local governments in Plateau State was a genocide was right. To back up this genocide theory, Adamu Adamu went ahead to claim in paragraph 8 of his article that, "To be sure, there is something about Hausa-Fulani that should be acknowledged even if this will now not be accepted with so much cheer. Because of their history, leadership and command come naturally to them: and while the Fulani have cattle, the Hausa have a knack for creating and managing markets. This is not something that can be taken away by force; and in time it became a ground for envy." I don't know about that and I am not sure if these claims are right or wrong, but I know it has nothing to do with the Jos crises or any other crisis that involved Hausa-Fulani and others. The claim that Hausa-Fulani people are subject to envy because of their entrepreneurship prowess and their innate abilities to be successful in all other endeavours, prominently their ability to lead, command and dominate is ridiculous. Adamu Adamu finally has something in common with the Jewish people of Israel, and learnt their art of propaganda by supporting that claim and claiming the Hausa-Fulani people are target of genocide by other ethnic groups because of their great achievements. Adamu Adamu should be writing script for *Kannywood*. What a story teller he would be!

The immediate cause of the Jos mayhem in 2008 was the election that the PDP (mostly supported by the indigenous people of Jos) won in Jos North and the ANPP (mostly supported by the Hausa-Fulani indigenes of Jos) claimed was rigged. It has nothing to do with religion. Instead of following the normal procedures and processes of seeking redress in the court, politicians from both sides incited their supporters to start the squabble that snowballed into the killings and destruction of properties by bringing back old sentiments and creating that atmosphere of fear, distrust and war. The

Jos indigenous people who are predominantly Christian are of the view that no Fulani person has no right contesting election in Plateau State because of their status as settlers, while on the other hand the Hausa-Fulani indigenes are claiming ownership of Jos because their forefathers settled there first, and they want anyone who wins election in Jos North to be Hausa-Fulani Muslim and not an indigenous Jos person.

If you are an expert on Nigeria, you will know that if there is a crisis between the two groups like the recent Jos riot, it would definitely end up in the burning of churches and mosques. Does that make it a religious crisis? I don't think so. Therefore, the remote cause of the Jos crises is the fight for territory. It does not mean other factors like religion, religious leaders, opinion leaders and politicians did not fuel the hatred and the killings. Of course in a country like Nigeria where leadership has failed in all its ramifications you expect that. Adamu Adamu himself admitted in his article that, "What is happening in Jos has nothing to do with Christianity; it is just the demented agenda of someone able to use ethnic idioms to get his tribesmen, who happen to be Christians, to kill enemies who happen to be Muslims."

In several articles by Mohammed Haruna, Garba Deen Mohammed, Adamu Adamu and several *Daily Trust* columnists (and now convinced contributors who are converts of the *Daily Trust* cabal of columnists) Jonah Jang, the Plateau State governor is responsible for the crises and all other problems of the Hausa-Fulani people of Jos. I am not a fan of Jonah Jang or any other politician in Nigeria, but the portrayal of Mr. Jang as Adolf Hitler whose sole agenda is to wipe out the Hausa-Fulani population in Plateau State as the final solution sound like a script borrowed from World War II.

None of these columnists reported the Jos crises professionally. None of them suggested how to solve the problem and stop future recurrence of such barbaric loss of human empathy and compulsive readiness to kill defenceless people when authorized to do so, which has become an accepted norm in Northern Nigeria. Instead they focused on scapegoat and calling for some people to be punished. I bet you, no politician, rich man or any influential person or their families and friends will be punished in the end. The victims are going to be the poor and their children who were caught in the intricate web of deception that created the kill-or-be-killed conundrum masterminded by a political and elite class who are now benefiting from the crises.

If the *Daily Trust* wants to be taken seriously it must make changes by getting experts and professionals to write for them, and not some bunch masquerading as writers and analysts because they have access to people who own media establishments.

I must however commend Mahmud Jega who writes the Monday Column in *Daily Trust* and the *Weekly Trust* columnist Farouk Kperogi who writes the popular column "Notes from Atlanta" for their educative, unbiased, investigative and critical analyses of issues.

We should strive to make Nigeria a better place for our people; and until we look at issues from a Nigerian perspective and not a tribal perspective we can never get where we ought to be as a country. Journalists must learn to get to the bottom of matters before apportioning blames and coming to a conclusion.

Daniel wrote from 27A, Democracy Lane, Opposite Kogi Court, Gaduwa Estate, Abuja (onmonyageorge@yahoo.com)

(Editor's note: Mohammed Haruna will return next week)

SPORTS REPORT



LOUIS Van Gaal

Dudu-Orumen slams NFF shortlist

As Nigeria Football Federation shops for a world-class foreign technical adviser for the Super Eagles, pundits have branded the body speculative.

Football pundit, Barrister Godwin Dudu-Orumen said in an interview with *brilafm.net* that he is unimpressed with the NFF's search, while insisting that the NFF cannot get Luis Van Gaal or Guus Hiddink and charged them to give evidence of contact with the nominated tacticians.

"You short list coaches of that profile. It has a serious proposition, which NFF officials came out to release in the media briefing. All this doesn't impress me. I am not impressed.

"Let the NFF get serious and give us some more serious proposition. If they go and talk to the coach and come and give us evidence of what they have done, not all this speculation.

"Until they put some seriousness into what they are doing, I won't bother about them," he stated.



RUUD Gullit

Gullit heads Netherlands/Belgium World Cup bid

Former Milan and Holland star Ruud Gullit has been appointed as the president of Holland and Belgium's joint bid to host the 2018 World Cup. The board members of the bid team unanimously decided to appoint Gullit.

"Ruud has a tremendous reputation in football and his background could be a real asset to our bid. It's amazing that he has decided to accept the role as president of the team," said chief executive Harry Been.

Aside from Gullit, legendary Dutchmen such as Johan Cruyff, Marco van Basten and Clarence Seedorf will all be involved in Holland and Belgium's bid, too. The trio have been appointed ambassadors of the project.

"I've always wondered why these kinds of events are never organised by smaller nations. I've been travelling a lot lately and will continue to do so in the future in order to get the support from other nations," said Gullit to *Sporza*.

