

INSIDE



Yuguda returns to PDP on Tuesday

Bauchi State Governor Isa Yuguda will formally return to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) on Tuesday, ending months of seculations about his plan to jilt the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP), his aide said yesterday.

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British police chief quits over blunder

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Beheaded corpse dumped in Abuja

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2011: Senators, Northern Union back Yar'adua

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DAILY TRUST STOCK INDEX

As at Thursday, April 9

TOP GAINERS

Symbol	Price(N)	Gain
Nestle	147.00	+6.98
AP	84.98	+1.47
BCC	22.84	+1.08

TOP LOSERS

Symbol	Price(N)	Loss
Guinness	88.90	-1.00
J/Berger	22.00	-0.80
FirstBank	14.40	-0.65

Cap: N4, 504, 968, 468, 663.18

NIRA EXCHANGE RATE

	Selling	Buying
EURO	212	210
POUND	240	238
DOLLAR	181	179

Source: B.A.T Bureau de Change, Lagos

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'Why North is searching for black gold'

- PAGE 26



Atiku: Yar'adua is witch-hunting me

•It's a lie — Adeniyi

By AbdulFattah Olajide & Muideen Olaniyi

Former Vice President Atiku Abubakar yesterday accused President Umaru Musa Yar'adua of ordering the authorities of the Nigeria Police to withdraw his security escort. He linked the action to his recent criticism of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's handling of electoral reforms and what he called "the near absence of governance in the country". But Yar'adua denied having any hand in the withdrawal of the police escorts attached to Atiku, saying the former vice president "still enjoys all the police orderlies he is entitled to by law" as he does not fall within the category of those whose orderlies were ordered to be withdrawn by the Federal Executive Council.

Reacting to the allegation from the Atiku camp yesterday in Abuja, the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Mr. Olusegun Adeniyi said the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Mike Okiro, was in

Cont. on Pg. 5



Wife of the Borno State governor Mrs Fatima Sheriff (right) with Minister of Women Affairs Mrs. Salamatu Suleiman at the opening of a 3-day workshop on maternal mortality in Maiduguri recently.

Photo: Isa Umar Gusau

Beninois invaders sack Kebbi village

About 1,500 people of Tungal Kwangi village in Kebbi State are now taking refuge at a primary school in neighbouring Lolo village after their own village was attacked by people alleged to have come from neighboring Benin

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

Republic. The entire village was razed to the ground, although no life was lost.

The Tungal Kwangi villagers al-

leged that about 2,000 people from five Benin villages of Madikalai, Ilwa, Dorowa, Tungal Babako, and Waina carried out the attack.

Daily Trust could not immediately ascertain the real cause of the attack but our correspondent learnt that

there had been an old dispute between Tungal Kwangi people and their Beninois neighbours, who claim that the former ought to be in Benin and not Nigeria.

Speaking at their refuge camp

Cont. on Pg. 5

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NEWS

Yuguda rejoins PDP Tuesday

Governor Isa Yuguda of Bauchi will next Tuesday formally cross back to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) which he joined in 2007, *Daily Trust* reports.

Yuguda ditched the PDP following the differences he had with the former Governor Adamu Muazu, which led to his being denied the governorship ticket. The ANPP gave him the ticket and he went ahead to win the election.

Special Adviser on Political Affairs of Yuguda, Kundak Abdulmumin, told our reporter yesterday that Governor Yuguda would formally re-join the PDP

By Abbas Jimoh

during a short ceremony at the party's state secretariat in Bauchi.

"His Excellency, Mallam Isa Yuguda, the Executive Governor of Bauchi would be formally joining the PDP on Tuesday at the state's party secretariat and Alhaji Muhammed Lele Reva would be leading the crop of the supporters for the declaration," Abdulmumin said.

He said that Yuguda's action is in the interest of the state.

He last week said that Yuguda is making final consultation with relevant stakeholders to finalised his move to the PDP.



Governor Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State (right) with the new Housing commissioner Arch. Shettima Mohammed Saleh, during the swearing in ceremony of new commissioners and special advisers at the August 27th Stadium, Damaturu yesterday. Pic: Yobe Govt House

Yar'adua dissolves NDDC Board

The Board of the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) was yesterday dissolved by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua. The dissolution takes effect from April 12, 2009.

A statement issued yesterday by the Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Mr. Olusegun Adeniyi said "in the new Board to be reconstituted, Bayelsa State will produce the Chairman, while Rivers State will produce the Managing Director. The Executive Directors (Finance and Administration) and (Projects) will be produced by Delta and Akwa Ibom States, respectively."

"Similarly, in line with Section 2(1) of the Act, the North-West, North-East and North-Central Zones will produce three representatives of the non-oil producing States on the Board, while oil Producing Companies will nominate a representative to the Board in accordance with Section 2(d) of the NDCC Act, 2000", he added.

Adeniyi said the NDCC Board was dissolved in fulfilment of the Section 3(1) of the NDCC Act, 2000 which provides a four-year tenure for members of the Board, other than ex-officio members, from the date of appointment at the first instance. The current Board was inaugurated on April 12, 2005.

Prior to the statement from the Presidency, there had been controversy over which of the oil producing states should produce the next NDCC managing director. While Akwa Ibom State is claiming the right to do so, Bayelsa indigenes whose state has been given the right to produce the NDCC managing director are disputing over who should be presented.

If the Act establishing the NDCC is anything to go by, Akwa Ibom should produce

By AbdulFattah Olajide & Hamisu Muhammad

the next managing director. According to Section 12 of the

Act, "there shall be for the Commission a managing director, and two executive directors who shall be indigenes of the oil producing

areas starting with the member states of the Commission with the highest production quantum of oil and shall rotate amongst member states in the

order of production."

An investigation by *Daily Trust* on the oil quantum of the states for the first 6 months of 2008 shows that Awka Ibom

has the highest production figure with 92 million barrels, follow by Rivers and Delta with 84 million and 80 million barrels respectively.

2011: Senate, NU root for Yar'adua

The Senate yesterday maintained that President Umaru Musa Yar'adua is entitled to an automatic ticket to run for second term.

Addressing a press conference Chairman Senate Committee on Information and Media, Senator Ayogu Eze

By Uthman Abubakar, Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

(PDP, Enugu North) said the president reserves the option of first rejection in the race for the PDP presidential ticket in 2011.

According to Senator Eze,

"And I also need to say that if we work with the trend in democracy all over the world the option of first rejection belongs to the incumbent. The American system that we copy when there is Presidential primary the option of first rejection belongs to the incumbent."

He also canvassed for automatic ticket for other elective office holders in the country saying, "Even in America today no Senator goes for primary election I stand to be contradicted. Once an election come the man who is fielded is the incumbent Senator and that is why they

have long terms. The only time Senators go for primary election is if an incumbent is defeated by an opponent the next election will now require the party to conduct a primary election. Otherwise the option of first rejection belongs to the incumbent."

The Senate also passed a vote of confidence on the Yar'adua administration as Senator Eze said so far it has performed satisfactorily and has met the expectations of senators.

"So far we are impressed with the articulation of the vision of the President; we are impressed with the structures that are being put in place by the President to push through some of the issues in the seven point agenda. I think that the President had had composure to explain that it took him time to program these things so that when it takes off it will go on smoothly.. So to that extend we are impressed.

Also yesterday, the Northern Union (NU) endorsed President Umaru Musa Yar'adua for a second term in office. It said in a press briefing in Abuja, yesterday that it is not supporting any candidate other than him, and it will not do so before the elections.

Chief Adaba said when the Union, which undertook a tour of the North-West geopolitical zone of the country recently, went out to that region, "we emphatically and unambiguously told our must be listeners that yes, the ccDAC tests, cases took the time of food production present government, the cases are over, and we believe things should move faster than before."

Hassan Adamu heads NDIC board

Former minister of commerce and industry and Wakilin Adamawa, Alhaji Hassan Adamu was yesterday named the board chairman of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) in the new appointments announced for some parastatal boards by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

A statement issued by the Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the president, Mr. Olusegun Adeniyi said other members of the NDIC board include Chief David Oghene, Chief Oyeibisi L. Ilaka and Lawan Z. Gana.

The National Insurance Commission board will be chaired by Hajiya Inna Ciroma, with Aminu Ahmed Yapeco, Sen. Ben Collins Ndu and Oluwatayo Boye as members. Chief Tony N. Ezebuio is chairman of the Rural Electrification Agency. Members are Engr. Yinka J. Adigun, Abokie Galadima, Mr. Victor Bala, Chief Damishi Sango, Engr. John Akhayere and Chief Stephen Igere.

The National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) has Lawal Idi Bagiwa as chairman. Members are

By AbdulFattah Olajide

Alh. Abdullahi Kuda, Chief Peter Nwaboshi, Doyin Ogungbe, Ibrahim Ibo Dukku, Chief Patrick Adaba, Alhaji Tajudeen Oladipo, Hon. Akhere Ugbesia and Mr. Mike Mku. The chairman of the Voice of Nigeria is Dr. Stella Attoe, while members are Komolafe O. Ajibola, Mainasara U. Illo, Nsima Udo Ekere and Usman Ibrahim Yammawa.

Ambassador Greg Mbadiwe is chairman of the National Bureau of Statistics, while Alh. Ali Badala Gumel, Alh. Sule Majidadi, Alh. Raimi Ayo Raji, Chief Franklin Edonkumoh and Capt. Joe Agada are members. The National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has Chief Linus Okon as chairman, while Mrs. Folarin Kusamotu Adewale, Dr. Bappa Mahmud and Abubakar Aminu Musa are members.

Mr. Abiodun Oyebanji is chairman of the Citizenshi and Leadership Training Centre. Members are Mr. Anthony Ogulla, Mr. Mustapha Habib, Brig. Gen. Mohammed Nata'ala Umar, Hakeem Lawal and Mr. Chiiioke Adindu.

The board of the National Centre for Women Development will be chaired by Hajia Habiba Saidu-Belgore. Members are Mrs. Kolajo, Mrs. Bilkisu Salihijo Ahmed, Hajia Falmata Ali, Mrs. T. Giwa Amu, L.K. Iliyasu, Joseph Tanwa, Hajia Fatima Mohammed and Hon. Tayo Ajilo. Others are Chief Josephine Nnoohan, Patricia Okeke Ojiaku, Hajia Mariya Abdullahi, Idris Ozi Shuaibu, Mr. Dare Gbolahan and Lawal Abdu Kanleare. The National Institute for Sports has Maj. Gen. Lawrence Onoja as chairman, with Mr. Kayode Oni, Augustine Katakata and Cynthia Boro as members.

Chief E.Y. Columbus is chairman of the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Enugu, while Barr. Okenwa Agubuzor and Elder Sam Eyiogwe are members; National Orthopaedic Hospital, Kano has Alh. Mohammed Hassan Santana as chairman, with Comrade Sani Bello and Suleiman Abdullahi as members; the National Orthopaedic Hospital, Igbobi board will be chaired by Mr. J. Oyemade, with Hon. Kamal O. Olorunjoje and Mrs. Rhoda Fiberesima

as members.

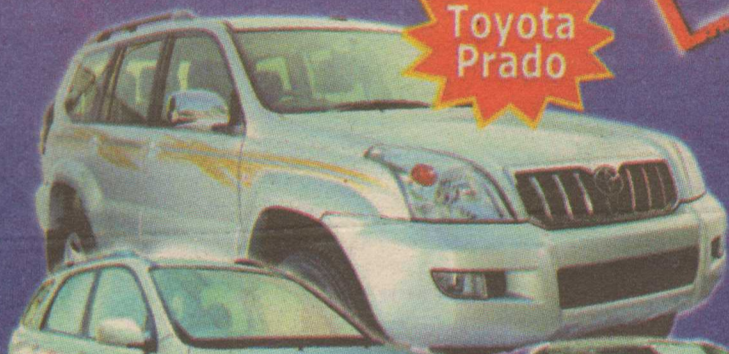
The eight Psychiatric Hospitals have the following board members: Abeokuta: Chief (Mrs.) Iyabo Apampa is chairman, Chief Abiola Ogundokun and Chief Kayode Odunsi are members; Calabar: Gen. Bassey Asuquo is chairman, Chief Terry Noah and Mrs. Filia Henshaw Etim are members; Benin: Dr. Abieyuwa Osemwenkha is chairman, Barr. Adedeji Akenzua and Usaini M. Dogo Machina are members; Enugu: Chief Osita Nwaneri is chairman, with Barr. Oliver Udeh and Chief Cornelius Nnaji as members; Kaduna: Alh. Ramalan Yero is chairman, Alh. Muntari A. Maimaje and Hawwa Musa Kida are members; Maiduguri: Alh. Sule Doguwa is chairman, Alh. Abdallah Hashim and Mr. Samson Dibal are members; Kware, Sokoto: Amb. A. Shehu Wurno is chairman, members are Alh. Nura Musa Gusau and Alh. Mohammed Aliyu Gada; and Yaba: chairman is Dr. Adesola M. Taiwo with Hon. Femi Orimole and Dr. Shamsideen Giwa are members.

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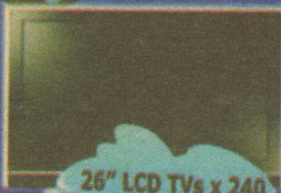
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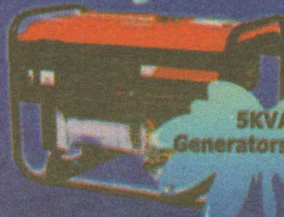
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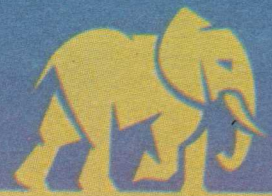
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NEWS

Police officer kills colleague in Ilorin

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

A police Sergeant yesterday along Afon junction in Ilorin, Kwara State shot and killed another police officer during a joint patrol between the Police and Federal Road Safety Commission. The deceased, identified as Sergeant John Giwa was serving under the Kwara State Police Command High Way Patrol section. *Daily Trust* learnt that late John Giwa was approaching when Sergeant Jimoh Ogunlowo of the Operation Section opened fire on him. Speaking with our correspondent, a source disclosed that when the deceased was stopped by the joint patrol team, he did not stop but the police officer in an attempt to stop him opened fire. The incident, *Daily Trust*, gathered drew attention of people around the scene, and would have led to a serious crisis but people quickly realised that the deceased was also a police officer. Sergeant Jimoh Ogunlowo is presently in the custody of the state Criminal Investigation Department (CID) at the state Police Command while the corpse of late Sergeant John Giwa has been deposited at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UIITH) mortuary. The Force Public Relations Officer, ASP Alao Abdulazeez confirmed the incident and said that investigation was going on.

Gombe spends N426m on health facilities

The Gombe State Government has spent N426.1 million on the provision of health facilities in Gombe-North Senatorial District. The Commissioner for Health, Dr Mohammad Isa, made this known in Dukku yesterday when Governor Mohammed Goje visited Dukku Local Government Area (LGA) to inspect some projects. He said the money was spent on the construction and renovation of hospitals as well as on the provision of equipment and drugs. Isa said that a cottage hospital constructed at Bojude village had been inaugurated, while N81.7 million was used to procure equipment, an ambulance and a generating set for the hospital. The Commissioner also said that N344 million was spent on renovating and equipping the General Hospital in Dukku. He said the money was spent on purchasing medical equipment and renovating the hospital's wards, offices and staff quarters. The governor also inspected other projects in Hashidu and Malala villages in Dukku LGA. (NAN)

Lightning kills 20 cows in Kwara

Lightning on Tuesday struck and killed about twenty cows at Idofin-Igbana in Oke-Ero Local Government Area of Kwara. According to an eye witness, the lightning followed the Tuesday evening downpour that was accompanied by thunderstorms. Confirming the incident, the leader of Gaa-Okeola Fulani settlement in Idofin Igbana, Alhaji Eleyin Gold expressed sadness over the occurrence. According to him, such a sad incident has never happened in the area before. Speaking with the affected Fulanis, the traditional ruler in the area, Oba Samuel Fabiyi appealed to the people to remain calm and peaceful. He said the community would bring the incident to the notice of the authorities so that they can assist the cattle rearers. Fabiyi enjoined them to see the incident as an act of God and prayed Him to avert a recurrence of similar incidents. The chairman of the Oke-Ero Local Government, Elder James Olaniyan urged the affected cow owners to be calm, saying that the council would inform the state government of their plight. He called for the immediate mass burial of the dead cows in order to forestall an outbreak of epidemic in the town. (NAN)

Open free heart surgery beneficiary commends govt

One of the beneficiaries of the Lagos State free open heart surgery, Mr Soji Biobaku, has commended the government for the life-saving programme for the less-privileged. Seven heart defect patients are scheduled to benefit from the fifth round of the exercise which is holding between April 7 and April 10 at the LASUTH. Two of the patients were operated on when the programme started on Wednesday while another one was operated on yesterday. Biobaku, a 32-year-old media consultant, spoke with newsmen at the LASUTH yesterday where he was waiting to be operated on for Mitral Stenosis, a heart defect. He said he was diagnosed of the disease in August 2008 after a partial stroke, which affected all parts of his body and had since been on drugs. Mitral Stenosis is the narrowing of the mitral valve opening that increases resistance to flow of blood from the left atrium to the left ventricle. "Everything is still a surprise to me; my gratitude will forever go to the Gov. Babatunde Fashola and his team for giving me my life back. "It baffles me that this type of healthcare delivery exists in Lagos; I never thought it existed even in the whole of Nigeria," he said. Biobaku, who looked lively on his bed, noted that he was advised by his consultant to apply for the free surgery about a month ago. (NAN)



Fire fighters removing the charred remains of a car at Bolingo junction in Abuja on Wednesday night

Pic: NAN

NTI gets 5 committees to strengthen teacher training

The National Teachers Institute (NTI) yesterday constituted five committees to develop strategies to facilitate the realisation of its five-point agenda aimed at strengthening teacher training programmes.

The new NTI Director-General, Dr Aminu Ladan-

Sharehu, said at the inaugural meeting of the institute's Governing Council in Kaduna that the five-point agenda was aimed at raising the standard of teacher training programme from the present NCE to Bachelor of Education and Master of Education Degrees.

He attributed the low enrolment in the training programme to non appreciation of the opportunities provided by the institute's Bachelor of Education and Master of Education Degrees programmes.

Ladan-Sharehu said the lack of funds had limited the

capacity of the institute to employ quality staff, noting that it was operating the public service salary scale, "which makes the institute unattractive to job seekers". He said the condition of the institute's zonal offices was pathetic, as there were no operational vehicles.

The Director-General however expressed optimism that the institute's targets would be achieved, "especially with the calibre of the current council members and the management team".

The Chairman of the Governing Council, Alhaji Adamu Ibrahim-Gumba, said the council would organise a retreat for its members, management staff, Zonal and state Coordinators, to strategise on the way forward. He said the retreat would assess the number of teachers needed in the country at all levels of NTI's mandate. (NAN)

Police issue strike warning over allowances

The Police in Bauchi State from the rank of Constable to Inspectors have given the command three weeks to address their grievances which include lack of payment of allowances or face a strike action.

Spokesman of the aggrieved policemen who spoke to newsmen on condition of anonymity said they had given the command three weeks after which they would begin a strike from the first of May, 2009.

The spokesman alleged that the command did not pay them their disturbance allowances as well as course allowances among others, saying their seniors always preferred to send their favored ones or girl friends to "juicy areas".

He also alleged that their promotions were not being effected as at when due while there was partiality in the selection of those to be promoted and that they were being forced against their will to subscribe to the force publication.

"We are going on strike from May 1st if the command refuses to address our grievances. Illegal deductions are being made into our salaries every month while our allowances are being withheld.

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

Our Ogas prefer to send their girlfriends to profitable places like courses and if we are ultimately sent we are not paid our allowances."

Responding to the allegations, the state's Acting Commissioner of Police, DC Abdulkadir Muhammad Indabawa dismissed the allegations as baseless, saying the deductions being made were legal.

"These deductions

were made as part of their contributions to the pension fund while some are members of cooperative societies and have taken loans while others have been given motorcycles loans and the loans are being deducted."

The DC who denied any favoritism in promotions and other benefits in the command called on the affected officers to be conversant with the state of their finances to avoid apportioning blame on the wrong quarters.

Joint military taskforce to take over security in Edo

Governor Adams Oshiomhole of Edo said that a joint taskforce, comprising the military, police and the State Security Service, has been constituted to check the rising crime wave in the state.

The governor, who disclosed this yesterday at an interactive session with journalists in Benin, said that the taskforce would start work next week.

Oshiomhole said that everything would be done to curb crime in the state, especially kidnapping which, he

noted, had recently been on the increase. He said that the government was worried about the situation and pleaded with the people to give useful information on the crime to the security agencies since they could not do much without such information. He said that the payment of ransom to secure the release of those kidnapped was counterproductive to efforts to stamp out the crime.

Oshiomhole stressed that the government was ready to pay N1 million to

anyone who could give useful information that would lead to arrest of those involved in kidnapping.

Besides, the governor said that with the passage of the state budget by the House of Assembly, work would soon start in efforts to deliver the dividends of democracy to the people.

Oshiomhole, who promised to sign the appropriation bill into law on Tuesday, commended those who helped in ensuring its passage. (NAN)

NEWS

Beninois invaders sack Kebbi village

Continued from Page 1

in Lolo, village head of Tungar Kwangi Malam Maigari Zanzani claimed there was no disagreement between them and the Benin people. He said, "They just hate us because we are Nigerians, we did not do them anything, they just burnt our village".

Also speaking the Imam of Tungar Kwangi, Liman Abdullahi debunked allegations that Tungar Kwangi people killed a Beninois man. He said their attackers came with guns and other weapons. Alhaji Abdullahi appealed to government to assist them in rebuilding their houses, saying the raining season is approaching.

The Kebbi State Police commissioner Mukhtari Ibrahim was not available for comments while the Police Public Relations Officer, Kebbi state Command Dawud Nguru said he could not speak on the matter until the police commissioner is around.

The acting Governor of Kebbi State Alhaji Ibrahim K. Aliyu visited the village yesterday and donated relief materials to the victims. He calmed the villagers down and commended the victims for not taking laws into their hands.

The acting governor's spokesman Malam Aminu Kamba said quoted his boss as saying that the state government would look into the crisis and get Benin Republic to compensate the victims. He urged the people to remain calm and maintain peace saying "What Nigeria wants is peace, but we cannot sacrifice our territory."

Yar'adua signs N159bn FCT budget into law

By Nasir Imam

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua has signed the Federal Capital Territory Administration 2009 Statutory Budget of N159,521,990,849:00 into law.

The FCT Minister, Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero announced this yesterday. He said the budget comprises of N24.596 bn for Personnel Cost, N16,321,165,871 for Overhead and N118.6 bn for Capital Expenditure.

The Minister said N8.983 bn has been approved for the development of the transport sector, out of which N7.500 bn is earmarked for design and development of 60.67 kilometre of standard gauge rail track and the provision of other essential auxiliary facilities.

He stated that N10.115 bn will cater for the expansion and construction of new Primary and secondary schools as well as the provision of facilities for vocational education. Senator Aliero revealed that the Health sub-sector gets N15,351,699,224:00 of which the sum of N9 bn is set aside for the completion of Karu Hospital, Zuba Cottage Hospital, construction of Utako District 220 bed Hospital and the provide equipment and facilities in the existing public Hospital.

The Minister said N40 bn has been dedicated to provide infrastructure to three new districts, water supply facilities, and other services within the FCT.

"The sum of N17 bn has been earmarked to provide engineering infrastructure to Kubwa, Karshi and Bwari Satellite Towns in order to attract people from the Abuja metropolis thereby reducing pressure on city facilities that are overstretched". Senator Aliero said the Agriculture sector gets N2,957 bn out of which the sum of N1 billion is for the procurement and distribution of assorted fertilizer, while the sum of N187 million is provided for Agriculture Development Projects.

"The sum of N1 bn is earmarked for settlement of outstanding liabilities, while the sum of N1.593 bn for the rehabilitation and maintenance of booster stations as well as water pipe lines," he said.

PDP Special Convention under threat

The April 20 Special Convention of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) may be endangered if the court grants prayers of a group of four individuals wishing to stop it. PDP's National Executive Committee (NEC) meeting last week endorsed the date for the party's convention where the PDP constitution is expected to be reverted to its 1998 constitution.

The plaintiffs/applicants are Patrick Nwabueze, Mr. Bode

Atiku: Yar'adua is witch-hunting me

Continued from Page 1

a better position to set the record straight as to what transpired. A statement yesterday by the former Vice President said an order was issued to the Police on Wednesday directing the immediate recall to the Police Headquarters of his Police Aide-de-Camp (ADC) and orderly.

The Turakin Adamawa said the policemen posted to guard his two homes in Abuja had also been recalled while the escorts covering his movement were physically taken away from him and dumped at the State Police Headquarters in Yola, Adamawa State.

He further said that the policemen were later instructed to report at the Force Headquarters (FHQ) by 7 am yesterday, Thursday. He added that two of the policemen attached to him who were recently promoted, had earlier on been requested to report at the FHQ for "confirmation" of their new rank of Inspector, but they did not return to their duty post.

Atiku said when the withdrawal order came at about 4 pm on Wednesday, he made an enquiry at the FHQ and was told that this was a directive by the Presidency in line with a decision of the Federal Executive Council.

He said the Presidency had requested him to submit his security requirements, which he did and which were promptly approved after he left office.

The withdrawal of Atiku's escorts came barely three days after the ruling Peoples

Democratic Party (PDP) came down heavily on the former Vice President, describing him as a hopeless, drowning and unreliable politician.

The PDP's hard knock followed Atiku's critical views on what he saw as government's luck-lustre approach to the yearnings of Nigerians for electoral reforms, especially after the 2007 general elections. Atiku had told airport correspondents in Lagos at the weekend that the PDP lacked the capacity to drive the electoral reform process.

However, in his reaction to PDP's onslaught, Atiku said he would not be cowed by the PDP and its government. He said he would continue to speak out against the "visionless and unpopular" PDP administration in the country. He said that he believed that a desperate government can resort to desperate measures, including the physical elimination of opponents.

"We are all stakeholders in the Nigerian Project. It is our constitutional right to raise concern over the way the PDP government has been running the affairs of this country. We will not be intimidated by the actions of a few desperate people in power to rattle us."

It would be recalled that former President Olusegun Obasanjo also stripped the former Vice President of his security escorts without notification when their relationship became soured prior to the 2007 general elections.

Meanwhile, the Action

Congress (AC) yesterday kicked against the withdrawal of security aides and policemen attached to the former Vice President Atiku Abubakar by the Inspector General of Police, Mike Okiro.

The party's condemnation was voiced by AC's National Director of Youth, Timi Frank while addressing journalists in Abuja.

Frank warned that the Federal Government, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Inspector General of Police must be held responsible if any thing goes wrong with Alhaji Atiku Abubakar.

According to him, "We condemn in totality the withdrawal of security aides of former Vice President Atiku Abubakar who has served this country very well and with this we want to say that his life is being threatened. It means they have plans for Atiku, the Federal government; the presidency has a hand in it. It is illegal, unconstitutional and the Police, the Federal government must be held responsible if anything funny happens to Atiku".

Reacting to the allegation from the Atiku camp in Abuja, Special Adviser to the President on Media and Publicity, Mr. Olusegun Adeniyi said the Inspector-General of Police, Mr. Mike Okiro, was in a better position to set the record straight as to what transpired. Adeniyi said, "It is unfortunate that the name of the president would be dragged into who guards or does not guard the house of anybody, even if such a person is a

former vice president", he stated, insisting that Atiku "still enjoys all the police orderlies he is entitled to by law".

He said the withdrawal of police orderlies from some categories of people was recommended by the Police Reform Committee headed by former Inspector-General of Police, Mr. M.D Yusuf.

"That committee specifically recommended that policemen should be withdrawn from people who are not entitled to such protection. This decision was ratified by the Federal Executive Council and the Council of State which had in attendance former heads of state and former chief justices of the federation as well as serving governors", he said.

The presidential spokesman explained that the Federal Executive Council meeting which ratified the recommendation two weeks ago, was chaired by Vice President Goodluck Jonathan because "that was the day the elder sister of the president was buried in Katsina and we had to travel. I will want to appeal to the media handlers of former Vice President Atiku Abubakar that this recourse to cheap propaganda is very unhelpful, even for the man whose cause they think they are promoting".

Force Police Public Relations Officer Emmanuel Ojukwu, who reacted afterwards, said he could not confirm whether policemen attached to the former Vice President had been withdrawn or not.

5 Nigerian hospitals for stem cell transplant

By Hamisu Muhammad

Stem Cell Transplantation Technology in Nigeria (NACRASTIN).

The centres are UCH, Ibadan, University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH), University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH) Enugu, University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH), Ahmadu bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH) Zaria and Usman Danfodio University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH) Sokoto.

According to the resolu-

tion, these teaching Hospitals which are representative of the six geo-political zones of the country have good facilities of international standard, noting that that it would be easier for the committee to monitor the success or failure rate of the patients.

The benefits, of applications of Stem cell transplantation are numerous, especially in the treatment of incurable and untreatable diseases.

Members agreed that the establishment of such centers in Nigeria would create

opportunity for Nigerian medical doctors to acquire the technology faster, and that Nigerians stood the chance of receiving better treatment at home instead of traveling abroad.

As regards the training of medical practitioners, for the project, the resolution stated that efforts are being made to ensure that all medical personnel pencilled down for the project would undergo various foreign training through a special arrangement involving Public/ Private Partnerships.

By Muideen Olaniyi

Oriade, Apostle Felix Ugwu and Ms Udom who have dragged the party under the chairmanship of Dr. Ahmadu Ali to Federal High Court Abuja following the 2008 national convention.

They are now praying the court for five reliefs in a motion dated April 7, 2009 including an interim injunction restraining the party from holding the special convention.

They equally want an order restraining the defendants/respondents from changing the constitution of the party during the proposed special convention or any other time pending the determination of the substantive suit before the court.

They are also demanding for an order restraining the party officers who were purportedly elected in the 2008 national convention which is the subject matter of the suit before the court pending the hearing and determination of the said suit.

NEWS

JAMB to release UME results April 14

By Ruby Rabiu

Results of the Universities Matriculation Examination (UME) taken throughout the country and five foreign countries on Saturday, April 4, 2009 will be released to the public by April 14 2009 barely 10 days after the examinations were taken. Registrar and Chief Executive of JAMB, Prof. 'Dibu Ojerinde who made the announcement said the results would have been released earlier on Thursday April 9, but had to be shifted till Tuesday next week due to the two-day Public Holiday on Friday 10th and Monday 13th April, declared by Federal Government to celebrate Easter. About 1.187million candidates sat for this year's UME conducted by JAMB in 2,338 centres within the country and five foreign nations. According to him the processing of candidates' scripts will be completed by Tuesday and details of the best fifteen (15) candidates in the examination determined. Prof. Ojerinde revealed that some cases of examination malpractice have been identified and results involved would be delayed till they were cleared by Examination Committee and the Governing Board of JAMB. His words, 'The Examination Committee and the Governing Council of the Board would meet later to consider those cases and determine whether to cancel or release the results depending on the level of malpractice. Other details of the candidates' level of performances have also been collated and would be made public next week.

CBN orders banks to remove ATM from public places

By Idris Ahmed

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has directed banks to remove all their ATM machines in public places back to their respective premises on or before June 30. The apex bank said the directive was necessary as banks are now competing with ATM consortium in deploying ATMs to places like airports and hotels, thereby causing congestion. One of the policies guiding the operations of ATMs consortium (ATMC) is that the ATMC shall have the sole mandate to deploy ATMs at public places while the banks shall deploy ATMs only within their premises. In a directive posted to its website yesterday, the bank said: "The CBN has observed with concern that the banks are competing with the ATMC in the deployment of ATMs in public places. A worrisome trend is the number of ATMs at the airports and hotel lobbies, which if unchecked would soon, congest these public places. Against this backdrop, the CBN hereby directs that banks should forthwith restrict the deployment of the ATMs to their premises. Banks are further advised to re-deploy all existing ATMs in public places to their premises on or before June 30, 2009." CBN also said that in line with its policy on shared payments infrastructure by the banking industry and the need to effectively respond to the rising demand for ATM services by the public, additional ATM consortium would be licensed soon. This will bring the total number of ATM consortia in the economy to two. "The two consortia shall be solely responsible for the deployment of ATMs in public places in line with this policy and best practices", CBN said.

FG supports operational researches on HIV/AIDS

By Ruby Rabiu

The Federal Government says it will always support any credible evidence-based decision making and operational research on HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and cure aimed at enlightening the public on the disease. "One of President Umaru Yar'adua's priorities is tackling the Nigerian HIV/AIDS epidemic; thereby contributing positively to the attainment of health related Millennium Development Goals (MDG)." Speaking at the Central Dissemination Workshop on Findings of the 2007 National HIV/AIDS and Reproductive Health Survey (NARHS) in Abuja, the minister said "I present the comprehensive 2007 NARHS to stakeholders, development partners and the general populace to inform programmes planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and policy direction." He said the report of the survey is revealing and emphasized, "Government is taking every step to integrate the findings for better policy and decision making and more efficient programmatic interventions."

Akunyili urges public, private sector to support re-branding

Minister of Information and Communications, Prof. Dora Akunyili, has called on Nigerians especially the private and public sector to buy into the national re-branding campaign in interest of the development of the country.

Akunyili made the call yesterday in Abuja at the public presentation of a compendium on Nigerian Media

By Abbas Jimoh & Atika Balal

and Entertainment Industry Report titled, "The next Frontier, Making Steady Progress".

She said that Nigeria remains a formidable market for the media and entertainment industry and that with a population of about 120 million people, a growing middle



From left: Sokoto State Governor Aliyu Wamakko, one the beneficiaries, Mrs. Rashida Hassan, Minister of Health Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin and Sultan of Sokoto Sa'ad Abubakar, at the official flag-off of Sokoto State National Health Insurance Scheme, in Sokoto yesterday.

Court bars police from arresting Kenny Martins

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

An Abuja Chief Magistrate Court yesterday ordered the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr. Mike Okiro not to arrest the Chairman of the Police Equipment Foundation (PEF), Chief Kenny Martins over allegation of a USA contract fraud amounting to \$97.8 million.

The order stopping the arrest of the PEF chairman subsists till April 28, 2009 being the next adjourned date fixed by the court for the IGP to reply Kenny Martins on points of law regarding a preliminary objection he (Okiro) raised against a motion filed by Martins seeking to stop the execution of arrest warrant slammed on him by the police.

Chief Magistrate Sunday Ochimana in his ruling said the police should not arrest Chief Kenny Martins pending the adjournment date of April 28, 2009 saying that executing the IGP's bench warrant would amount to "infringement of an existing court order".

Earlier before the ruling, counsel to Kenny Martins, Chief Mike Ozekhome had asked the court to discount-

enance what he called 'sketchy solution' canvassed by the counsel to the IGP Prisca Oguamalam, pointing out that she never showed the court 'how' and 'why' the court lacks jurisdiction to entertain the matter.

According to him, "The notice of preliminary objection is unbelievable and cannot be sustained. It is bereft of any integrity or credibility or believability. The motion is simply gold digging because it is calculated to

prevent the court from giving judicial protection to the applicant and therefore should be dismissed with substantial cost".

He drew the attention of the court to subsisting court order made on March 5, 2009 which barred Festus Keyamo and his chambers from prosecuting Kenny Martins on the account that he has shown biased and would likely persecute the accused instead of prosecuting him and that for the police to hinge their affidavit on an information gotten from

Keyamo or any of his lawyers would not be acceptable to the court.

Earlier in her reply, counsel to the IGP, Prisca Oguamalam while challenging Martins' motion, submitted that the warrant of arrest was issued by a court and not the IGP himself.

She told Chief Magistrate Sunday Ochimana that his notice of preliminary objection dated 20th of January 2009 and served same date is asking for an order striking out Martins' motion dated April 8th, 2009.

PTDF revokes N2bn contracts

By Hamisu Muhammad

The Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) has applied for the revocation of 15 major contracts worth N2 billion awarded by the Fund as part of its strategic intervention in the oil and gas industry.

Some of the affected contracts include Special upgrade projects at the Petroleum Training Institute, Effurun Delta State, the construction of Federal Polytechnic of Oil and Gas, Ekowe in Bayelsa State and the development of primary and secondary schools in Oporoza and Okerenkoko in Delta State.

The Executive Secretary of the Fund, Engr. Muttaqha Rabe Darma who disclosed this at the end of an extraordinary meeting of the Fund's Management yesterday listed the revoked projects to include construction of two hostel blocks and some renovation works at the Petro-

leum Training Institute, awarded between August 2006 and November 2007 with completion periods of between 16 weeks and 45 weeks; contracts for the installation of computer and digital laboratories and glass blowing workshop, also awarded between 2006 and 2007 as part of the Petroleum Training Institute (PTI) upgrade projects were also revoked.

Also revoked are contracts for the construction of a secondary school and primary school at Okerenkoko and Oporoza awarded in March 2007 and worth two hundred and fourteen million naira. Eight (8) contracts for the development of hostels, lecture halls, water supply, renovation and ancillary works for the establishment of the Federal Polytechnic Ekowe, Bayelsa State were also revoked. Most of the

contracts which were also awarded in 2007 had recorded between 10% and 15% performance levels by the contractors.

The projects awarded at an estimated N2 billion were revoked due to non performance by the contractors and failure to complete or show positive signs of completion within the grace period of three months which ended in March, 2009.

The Executive Secretary said the Fund had no option than to revoke the contracts after it became apparent that the contractors were no longer capable of completing the projects even if granted further extension of time. However, seven (7) contractors who exhibited positive signs of completing their projects will be issued last warning letters by the Fund, to complete the jobs before the end of the current quarter or have them revoked.

NEWS

Sherrif gives houses to workers

From Mustapha Isah Kwaru, Maiduguri

Governor Ali Sheriff of Borno State yesterday commissioned the 505 Abba Gana Terab housing estate built by his administration and handed over keys and certificates of occupancy to beneficiaries. Sheriff who was represented by his Chief of Staff, Talba Alkali at a ceremony in Maiduguri said his administration had redeemed the promise of providing accommodation to civil servants and people of the state. Sheriff appealed to those yet to benefit from the scheme to exercise patience as the ongoing 1000 housing project along Maiduguri-Damaturu road would soon be completed for onward distribution. He advised the beneficiaries to keep a good sanitary condition of the environment and avoid indiscriminate dumping of refuse in the vicinity, adding that the buildings still remained the property of government. According to him, 30 percent of the beneficiaries are civil servants, while the remaining 70 percents are private individuals.

NSCDC prosecutes offenders

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

The Adamawa State Command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defense Corps (NSCDC) has started prosecuting offenders in line with its cardinal objective of reducing crime in the society, the state Commandant of the Corps, Dr. Goodluck Asibi has said. Speaking to newsmen in Yola yesterday, the Commandant said already, three persons had so far been prosecuted on different charges which include criminal offences but he was quick to state that there was harmonious relationship between the Command and the Police. He said, "we know our bounds and we don't intrude into police work, we are working with the police hand-in-hand to prosecute law offenders, even the state Attorney General has promised to assist us in prosecuting offenders". Dr. Asibi said in Adamawa State, the rate of crime had reduced drastically following the introduction of joint patrols by the state government, saying the corps was undertaking routine patrols along pipeline areas to forestall any possible vandalization. He said all was set for the historic event as the corps was alive to its duties and appealed for support from the state government.

Islamic forum condemns use of pills, condoms to reduce population

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

The Islamic Forum of Nigeria has condemned the recent hosting of the United Nations Population Fund conference in Sokoto where Muslim women were advised to use pills and condoms for family planning and prevention of HIV Aids. In a statement signed by Sokoto Forum chairman, Malam Usman I. Musa, the Forum called on all Muslim women to distance themselves from the declaration and recommendations of the conference, saying the methods which it promotes in family planning are injurious to the health of women. The statement said use of condoms and pills by Muslim women which the conference advocated as a family planning and HIV prevention strategy destroys morality and promotes sexual promiscuity. The Forum warned that any Muslim leader who allows the use of mosque to promote sex education to girls in the community and as a distribution centre for pills and condoms should know that he is working against Islam. The Forum called on traditional and political leaders where such conference was organized by UNPF, the Network of African Islamic Organization on Population and Development to reject it, saying it was "a clandestine design to bring the Trojan horse to unsuspecting Muslims."

LG budgets N956 m for 2009

Hajia Aminat Ishola, Chairman of Ilorin East Local Government in Kwara State, says the council will rely less on federal allocations to meet its commitments. Ishola disclosed this yesterday while presenting the council's 2009 budget, totalling N956 million to the legislative arm of the council. She said the council would modernise and improve existing markets while new ones would also be built to boost internally generated revenue. "We have proposed to modernise and improve some of our markets and establish new ones. To achieve this, we have earmarked N164 million to agriculture and rural development. "Also livestock production, forestry development, fisheries, manufacturing, pottery and craft are also inclusive," Ishola said. A breakdown of the budget showed that N12.395 million is to be realised from internally generated revenue while N615 million and N24 million are expected from federal allocation and state government respectively. Ishola said the council was expecting N200 million and N165 million from value added tax and special funds (excess crude oil) respectively. She said that the budget, which is tagged 'Budget of Re-engineering', was aimed at consolidating, multiplying and entrenching the past achievements. (NAN)

Jigawa commits N19.6bn to road construction

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

The Jigawa State government has committed N19.6 to the execution of 18 major roads projects, the state's Commissioner for Finance, Alhaji Hannafi Yakubu has disclosed.

Speaking at the 2009 budget breakdown yesterday, the commissioner said the allocation was part of the 2009 budgetary funds set aside for the provision of quality roads across the state.

Alhaji Hannafi noted that some of the ongoing projects to be completed out of the money include Zakirai-Ringim-Gujungu road, Kiyawa-Jahun-Gujungu-Gumel road, tsamiyya-Yalwan Damai-iggi-jibogo-Bimin kudu road, Gadarun Daba-Dandi road, township road in Buji, Garki and Biriwa local government. He further disclosed that new roads to be constructed include Gujungu-Hadeja road, Gwaram Farin Dutse-Fagam road, Tashegu-Guri road, Hantsu-Miga-Dangyatun road, Gumel-Babura-Kafin Fulani-tsangarwa road.

Others include rehabilitation of Gwaram Basirika, state capital road, Dutse-Karnaya-Kazaure road, Taura Garki Danzomo road, Fulani-Sarawa-Gurgun Daho road, Roni-Gwiwa-Agangaro road, and Dakayyawa-Kaugama-Madana road.

The commissioner also stated that government had set aside N20m for feasibility studies on solid mineral resources in the state to pave way for diversification of the state's economy. He noted that funds would be sourced from the N545m earmarked in the 2009 budget for commerce and manufacturing, saying N70m

out of the money was set aside for the promotion of small and medium scale enterprises and tourism.

Other expenditure include N250m for completion of infrastructure development in three major markets namely Maigatari, Sara and Gujungu market and N140 million for the completion of infrastructure development at Maigatari Trade-Free zone and N65 million for recapitalising the state agricultural supply company (JASCO).

8 die in Benin auto crashes

Eight persons were killed in two separate road accidents in Benin on Wednesday. The Zonal FRSC Commander, Mr Zakari Nda, who confirmed the accidents to newsmen said the bodies of the victims had been deposited at the morgue of the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH).

The first accident which claimed two lives involved a Hilux van with registration number EW 437 LND belonging to

National Life newspaper and a Mercedes Benz 190 with registration number CZ 04 ABJ.

The accident occurred on the Benin-Lagos road near Okada village. The driver of the Hilux van and the driver of the Mercedes Benz 190 died on the spot, while the two injured women, taken to UBTH for medical attention, were currently in a coma at the hospital. In the second accident, a timber lorry with registration number XA 781 SAP ran into a building by the Uselu-

Lagos road, killing six persons.

The lorry, reportedly travelling on the Textile Mill road in Benin, failed to stop as it crossed the Uselu-Lagos road before crashing into the building. Eyewitnesses attributed the accident to brake failure, adding that the driver jumped out of the moving lorry before it crashed into the building. One of them said that the driver was pursued by bystanders who caught him and handed him over to the police. (NAN)



Members of staff of Sunrise International School, Abuja listening to Media Trust printer, Malam Yusuf Mohammed (left) during their courtesy visit to Media Trust Corporate Office, Abuja, yesterday. Pic: Kennedy Egbonedje.

Fashola reacts to U.S. bomb blast alert

Lagos State Governor, Babatunde Fashola yesterday assured residents of safety of lives and property following a U.S. government security alert to her nationals worldwide.

He said the U.S. alert was a matter of national security, adding; "I am sure that the National Security Adviser who is a respected professional is on top of the situation."

"I had spoken to the various security agencies when I picked up that information and we are doing our best in terms of pre-emptive actions to ensure safety of lives and properties," he said.

Speaking on the current global economic melt down, Gov. Fashola said it was a time for a global change. "You will see that from the communiqué issued by the G-20 in London, one of the things that they were looking at was attainment of global financial stability. How it would work is a matter which would be fine tuned over time. They resolved on a package stimulus of over one trillion dollars annually for developing countries. This is a drop in the ocean as far as I am concerned but it is a demonstration of some concerns for African and developing world," the governor said. He said the solution to the economic crisis lies in Africa and most of the developing nations with huge markets that would benefit from capital investment but they were yet to be tapped. (NAN)

Hepatitis scourge rises in Plateau

Cases of Hepatitis, Typhoid and Malaria are on the increase among residents of Jos and its environs, according to a medical laboratory scientist, Mr Julius Maduka. Maduka, who is the Plateau Chairman of Private Medical Laboratory Scientists Association, said the three ailments now ranked higher than HIV/AIDS in their rate of spread.

In an interview with newsmen in Jos yesterday, he attributed the development to unhygienic environmental condition and poverty among the

populace. According to him, "some of those affected by these conditions cannot even afford the cost of undergoing laboratory tests." Maduka said the scarcity of potable water in most urban centres had forced people to drink water obtained from unhygienic sources, thereby making them more vulnerable. He suggested that people should be conscious of the types of food they ate and the sources of water they drank. Maduka also said vaccination against some of the diseases would help to mitigate the effects of attacks when

they occurred.

He said although HIV/AIDS spread was also on the increase, the ongoing public enlightenment campaign on how to curbing the disease and have access to Antiretroviral (ARV) drugs, had reduced the degree of its risk. Maduka appealed to all tiers of government to take up the challenge of providing potable water and other social services much more seriously.

"Once people drink good water and live in environment-friendly habitats, most of the health problems will be reduced," he said. (NAN)

NEWS

1000 BUK students receive vaccines against meningitis

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

As part of preventive measures against the spread of Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis, the medical team at Bayero University Kano (BUK) has vaccinated over 1000 students. According to the university's official bulletin, the institution embarked on a massive vaccination exercise to check spread of the disease to the two campuses and the target is to vaccinate 12,000 students, staff and their dependants. The Director of Health Services Unit, Dr. M. S. Ado said over 1000 students on the Old and New Campuses of the university were vaccinated. He pointed out that recently, there were reported cases of an outbreak of the epidemic in the "so-called meningitis belt", saying over the past three weeks, two cases were recorded on students living on campus and two others were also found on staff dependants living outside the campus. The director expressed the university's determination towards taking pro-active measures against the disease. Revealing that 12,000 doses were required for the targeted people, Dr. Ado praised the commitment and effort of the university management in supporting and facilitating the acquisition of vaccine doses through sources other than government.

Imo legislator donates equipment to hospital

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

A medical ultra sound machine has been donated to the Trinity Hospital, Owerri Nkworji in Nkwerre Local Government Area of Imo State by the legislator representing the constituency in the state House of Assembly, Ugochukwu Nzekwe. Making the donation he said the welfare of his people would continue to enjoy a pride of peace in all his activities. He said while handing over the equipment to the hospital yesterday that the ultra sound machine was brought from Germany to assist mothers on problems associated with pregnancy. Nzekwe pledged to fulfill all his electoral promises to the people of his constituency before the expiration of his second tenure in the House. The lawmaker said he could not be discouraged from doing his work as the representative of the people, promising to extend same gesture to two other hospitals in the area. Imo State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Vin Udokwu who commissioned the equipment through the Director of Administration, Godfrey Ijeoma commended the legislator for his magnanimity. While urging other people in the area to emulate the lawmaker, the commissioner reiterated government's commitment towards qualitative health care delivery in the state. He enjoined staff and management of the hospital to make good use of the equipment.

Akwa Ibom inaugurates family court

Akwa Ibom State government has inaugurated a "Family Court" to give proper interpretation to issues pertaining to the rights of the child in the state. The state's Chief Judge, Justice Idongesit Ntem-Isua, said while inaugurating the new court in Uyo that any act of child abuse such as abandonment on grounds of witchcraft attracted a fine of N500,000 or 10 years imprisonment or both. "I direct the operators of the family court to ensure proper interpretation of issues that will safeguard the rights of the child," Ntem-Isua said. She said the court was set up in line with the implementation of the Child Rights Act in the state, and urged parents to show affection to their children by giving them quality education. The chief judge warned religious organisations against making unnecessary pronouncements that some children were possessed with the spirit of witches and wizards. Ntem-Isua called for the cooperation of members of the police, social workers and society at large, to help in identifying cases of child abuse or any infringement on the rights of the child for appropriate action. (NAN)

Lagos, Egyptian coy to set up transformer factory

Lagos State government and an Egyptian company are to establish a multi-billion naira transformer manufacturing factory in the state this year, Gov. Babatunde Fashola has said. Fashola told newsmen yesterday in Ikeja after a 12-day working tour of Egypt and the U.S., that the factory would be located in Badagry. He said that the project which the government was executing in partnership with Messrs El Swede of Cairo, would produce meters, transformers and other energy components. "The factory will provide job opportunities for Nigerians with a few Egyptians and other Africans providing technical support," he said. The governor announced that the state government was considering generating power from wind turbines. "We discussed generating electricity from wind; this is the future of power generation in Nigeria," he said. (NAN)

Disturbance: Police arrest 48 in Zamfara

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

The Zamfara State police command has arrested 48 suspects over a recent civil disturbance within Gusau metropolis. Police Public Relations Officer, Lawal Abdullahi (ASP) who disclosed this to *Daily Trust* said the suspects were arrested for criminal conspiracy, causing grievous hurt and assault at Tullukawa area in Gusau town. He said the state police commissioner had directed the Divisional Police Officer in charge of the area to carry out investigations into the matter after which the suspects would be charged to court. According to him, a patrol team has been drafted to the area for a 24-hour surveillance. Though the police said the disturbance has no political undertone, investigation by *Daily Trust* revealed that the unrest was caused by political thugs.



From left: Danny Glover, world acclaimed movie star and activist from the United States of America, Bayelsa State Governor, Chief Timipre Sylva and his wife Mrs Alayingi Sylva after a breakfast meeting when the movie world came to Yenagoa for the 2009 Africa Movie Academy Awards (AMAA) ...recently

Governor chases out organisers, exhibitors from agric fair

Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan of Delta yesterday chased away the organisers of the Delta Agricultural Products Sales Fair, tagged Easter Festival Sales, saying they were fraudulent.

The governor who was at Osubi Trade Fair ground in Okpe Local Government Area to kick-off the ceremony, said the programme was not worth his endorsement. The programme was organised under the Peasant Farmers Support Programme, by the Delta Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Uduaghan said although the state had laid a lot of emphasis on agriculture, the programme was not intended to deceive people as portrayed by the organisers of the fair. The organisers had indicated that lots of chickens, eggs, fresh fish, pork, vegetables and other foodstuffs produced by the participating farmers, would be on display. But only a handful of the farmers turned out, and newsmen covering the fair learnt that the organisers went into the open market to buy some of the things exhibited.

The governor said: "This administration is laying a lot of emphasis in the area of agriculture. It is through agriculture that we can employ our people.

"But our agricultural programme is not to deceive people. It is not to deceive Deltans. From what I am seeing here today, we have come here to deceive the people of Delta. And I will not be part of it; even if I succeed in deceiving Deltans I will not succeed in deceiving God. We have a comprehensive agricultural programme. We have farmers in the state. We have empowered farmers", he said.

The governor added: "This is not what I am going to flag-off. I am not flagging

off any sales. "I have told the organisers, just pack your things and get out of this place. This is not what the people of Delta expected us to do. Nobody should bring me here to come and embarrass me and embarrass the state. I will not take that embarrassment. This programme is hereby declared closed." The programme was expected to take place simultaneously in the three senatorial districts of the state.

Earlier, Dr Ogaranya Tabs-Tabowei, the Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources had said that the programme had empowered

4,000 peasant farmers in the 25 local government areas of Delta. He said the programme had elicited the "genuine desire of our peasant farmers to produce enough food for Deltans and for other parts of the Country". He said 450 youths had been trained to take to the farms and replace the ageing generation of peasant farmers in Delta. Reacting to what happened at the fair, Mr Gerry Ossai, State Chairman, All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), said the turn-out was poor due to poor sensitisation.

"Today's programme came out the way it did

because AFAN was not officially requested to mobilise farmers. It was put together rather hastily. You don't mobilise farmers by radio and television. You go with town criers; you go to the grass roots, talk to them directly and through churches and peer groups," he said.

"I am totally disappointed, totally deflated by the turn of events, where farmers are involved. I feel so ashamed that I am the leader of farmers in Delta, something about farmers is happening and this is what it has come to. His Excellency has been so magnanimous with the farmers. And we have let him down at the time we should be showing off the colours, the proof of what he has done." (NAN)

Low teacher intake worries NTI boss

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

The Director General, National Teachers' Institute (NTI) Kaduna, Dr. Aminu Ladan Sharehu has raised alarm over the continued reduction in student enrolment in the institute.

Speaking during the inaugural meeting of the governing council of the institute in Kaduna yesterday, the Director General described as alarming, the rate at which enrolment in the institute is decreasing annually.

"We are worried about the continued reduction in student enrolment in the institute and this is posing a very serious challenge not only to us in the institute but to the development of the education sector in the country. So there is urgent need for all of us to come and contribute in addressing this shortcoming," he said. The NTI boss who described teachers as the key to the success of every educational system and the overall de-

velopment of the country, advocated the introduction of B. Ed and Master in Education to enhance the qualification of teachers in the country.

To address the problems facing the institution, the Director General said he had developed a five-point agenda for the institute and appealed to all staff and stakeholders to support it for the acceleration of development of the school.

Responding, the chairman of the governing council of the institute, Alhaji Adamu Ibrahim Gumba said the institute must look inwards and use the available resources at their disposal to produce indigenous teachers relevant to the needs of the environment.

"We must therefore work as a team pursuing common goals in a manner unprecedented in the history of the institute realizing that gov-

ernments throughout the country have no surplus funds to import teachers from United Kingdom as it was in the 60's," he said.

He disclosed the council's intention to organise a retreat for members of management, zonal and state coordinators of the institute to design the most appropriate way of moving the school forward.

Enugu to establish waste recycling plants

Plans have reached an advanced stage to establish waste recycling plants in Enugu State, Mr Frank Egwu, the Public Relations Officer of Enugu State Waste Management Authority (ESWAMA), has said. Egwu told newsmen in Enugu yesterday that the government had already entered into negotiations with some foreign investors on the project. He said that the plants would turn waste into energy, waste into gas, while producing plastics, metals and manure for the people.



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Half Page	162,000.00	8,100.00	216,000.00	10,800.00
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10"x6 cols	225,000.00	11,250.00	297,000.00	14,850.00
10"x5 cols	183,600.00	9,180.00	252,000.00	12,600.00
10"x4 cols	147,600.00	7,380.00	198,000.00	9,900.00
10"x3 cols	135,000.00	6,750.00	180,000.00	9,000.00
9"x6 cols	212,760.00	10,638.00	279,000.00	13,950.00
9"x5 cols	176,400.00	8,820.00	243,000.00	12,150.00
9"x4 cols	135,000.00	6,750.00	194,400.00	9,720.00
9"x3 cols	129,600.00	6,480.00	176,400.00	8,820.00
8"x6 cols	201,600.00	10,080.00	273,600.00	13,680.00
8"x5 cols	169,200.00	8,460.00	234,000.00	11,700.00
8"x4 cols	126,000.00	6,300.00	187,200.00	9,360.00
8"x3 cols	122,400.00	6,120.00	169,200.00	8,460.00
7"x6 cols	153,000.00	7,650.00	198,000.00	9,900.00
7"x5 cols	144,000.00	7,200.00	187,200.00	9,360.00
7"x4 cols	122,400.00	6,120.00	180,000.00	9,000.00
6"x6 cols	147,600.00	7,380.00	188,400.00	9,420.00
6"x5 cols	135,000.00	6,750.00	183,600.00	9,180.00
6"x4 cols	118,800.00	5,940.00	176,400.00	8,820.00
6"x3 cols	72,000.00	3,600.00	97,200.00	4,860.00
6"x2 cols	63,000.00	3,150.00	81,000.00	4,050.00
5"x5 cols	126,000.00	6,300.00	180,000.00	9,000.00
5"x4 cols	113,400.00	5,670.00	178,200.00	8,910.00
5"x3 cols	68,400.00	3,420.00	171,000.00	8,550.00
5"x2 cols	54,000.00	2,700.00	91,800.00	4,590.00
4"x6 cols	126,000.00	6,300.00	73,800.00	3,690.00
4"x5 cols	115,200.00	5,760.00	171,000.00	8,550.00
4"x4 cols	104,400.00	5,220.00	163,800.00	8,190.00
4"x3 cols	63,000.00	3,150.00	82,800.00	4,140.00
4"x2 cols	48,600.00	2,430.00	68,400.00	3,420.00
3"x2 cols	30,600.00	1,530.00	45,000.00	2,250.00
3"x3 cols	45,000.00	2,250.00	54,000.00	2,700.00
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Page 4 or 5	864,000	43,200
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Back Page Strip	324,000	16,200
Front Page Earpiece	120,000	6,000
Back Page Earpiece	96,000	4,800
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NEWS

Reps move to end Niger Delta crisis

By Tashikalmah Hallah & Nasidi A. Yahaya

The House of Representatives will soon embark on a 27-day working visit to the troubled Niger Delta region in an effort to resolve the lingering crisis that debilitates the region. Chairman House ad-hoc committee on Niger Delta, Rep Abdul Ahmed Ningi (PDP, Bauchi), who disclosed this to newsmen yesterday said the committee will also assess all federal government intervention programs and the impact of the 13 percent derivation fund on the socio-economic development of the region. He said: "The committee will move into the creeks of the region and work for 27 working days with all the stakeholders including militant groups by the first week of May with a view to get first hand information on the cause of the crisis, we will have started the reconciliatory mission if funds had been released to us". The activities of government agencies like the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), River Basins, Petroleum Training Development Funds (PTDF), Onshore and offshore funds as well as the issue of 13 percent development funds and the utilization of the ecological funds are to be examined by the ad hoc Committee, Rep Ningi added. He stated that they will also look into all Memoranda of Understanding entered into between oil multinational companies and the host communities to ensure that the agreements are carried out to the later.

Appointments: Idoma elders task Yar'adua on equality

By Yunus Abdulhamid

Idoma Elders Forum has appealed to President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to accord it the recognition it deserve by appointing Idoma sons and daughter into his administration and discard petitions emanating from the area purporting that its members were hobnobbing with opposition parties. In an open letter addressed to President Yar'adua, the group said, "it is high time Mr President looked inward for illustrious sons and daughters of Idoma extraction who have distinguished themselves in the military, academia and politics in the national development and appoint them into the federal administration." The letter signed by the forum's publicity secretary, Comrade James Peter Okolo, alleged that a senior senator from the state is influencing the appointment of his relatives and Lackeys to board positions in the Yar'adua government without putting into consideration, other Idoma people who are equally qualified. The group said it uncovered a plot where photographs of prominent Idomas being snapped at burials and church especially when such victims seat with opposition politicians to portray them as attending opposition parties' functions even though it is the tradition of the people to live freely with each other irrespective of party affiliations. The statement read in part, "As far as we are concerned all appointments being sponsored by the ranking senator never reflected the Idoma homogeneity but personal interest and acolytes as manifested in all board appointments so far. 90% of these board appointments from Idoma are his relations. We challenge him to disprove our claims and urge the President to verify these allegations. It is as a result of this lopsided appointments that places the senator at a vantage position above majority of Idomas that voted him for the PDP that we are crying foul and calling on Mr president to ignore all false petitions coming from Idoma land directed against those opposed to his hegemony and ambition to even become president of Nigeria in 2011," it said.

Benue crash victims for burial Wednesday

By Misbahu Bashir

The 18 members of the St. Peter and Paul Idoma Catholic Community who died when the bus conveying them collided with a tanker on Palm Sunday in Markurdi, Benue State would be buried next Wednesday. A statement issued by the National Secretary of the St. Peter and Paul Idoma Catholic Community, Simon O. Odeh, said the all the dead which included 17 women and a man would be laid to rest after a requiem mass on Wednesday 15 April 2009. He said the National Secretariat regretted the death of the victims and urged their families to take solace. The accident which occurred at the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) Junction along Makurdi-Enugu Road in Makurdi, Benue State left Seventeen persons dead on the spot while two others died later at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) in Makurdi, where they were receiving medical attentions.

Small-scale miners to get FG loans

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

The Federal Government has reiterated its commitment to ward supporting Artisanal and small-scale Miners to access loans from financial institutions across the country. Minister of Mine and Steel Development, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke gave the assurance while receiving the Chairman of Mineral Watch Consults Limited, Prof. Morufu Aderenle Omar Rahman in her office. She said the loans would help Artisanal and Small Scale Miners to facilitate their operations and capacity building, which would also help in creating job and wealth in the country. The minister also disclosed that the necessary legislative framework and conducive environment are being created to attract direct foreign investment into the sector. Speaking also the Chairman of Mineral Watch Consults Limited, Professor Morufu Aderenle Omar Rahman said his company is involved in bringing investors together for the development of the mining industry in the country.



From left: Chairman, House Committee on Youth and Social Development Depo Oyedokun; Prof. Okey Ibeanu, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), Executive-Director of CISLAC; Dr. Funmi Olonisakin, Director (CDG, London), and Nnenna Ijeoma, Chairperson, House Committee on Civil Society and Donor Agencies at a workshop on "Youth Vulnerability and Exclusion in Nigeria (YOVEX)" yesterday in Abuja.

Workers to get monetization arrears soon - Minister

By Francis Okeke

Workers Union of Nigeria (RATTAWU).

He commended members of the Union for their perseve-

rance and attributed the non payment of their monetization arrears on time to some bureaucratic bottleneck in the National Assembly which delayed appropriation of the

amount involved.

In a press statement signed by the Assistant Director of press in the ministry, Samuel Oluwookere, the minister stated that the delay in the payment was due to government's "commitment to completely sanitise and overhaul the public service through the ongoing Staff Auditing and Verification exercise."

He stressed that the verification exercise was "very essential provided it is carried out efficiently to ensure that people who have retired from service were replaced with the young ones with new ideas instead of wasting money on ghost workers.

Earlier in their remarks, leaders of the delegation, "Comrades Sunday Olu Jethro and Henry Odugala jointly promised the Minister the readiness of their Union to partner with his Ministry to ensure that industrial peace is maintained Nationwide" the statement added.

Senate calls for liberalisation of broadcast license

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

The Senate yesterday called for liberalisation of the process of obtaining licenses for broadcast stations in the country, Chairman Senate committee on Information and Media Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu East) made the call when he received members of the Independent Television and Radio Programme Producers Association of Nigeria (INTRAPPAN) led by the chairman of board of trustees Ambassador Olusegun Olusola at the National Assembly.

"I think that time has come for the process of licensing of television and radio to be liberalized. I was scandalized to found out that south Africa have over 250 community radio stations and we do not have even one. We have the population; we have the wherewithal to sustain these investments because a country of about a 140 million, there is nothing we cannot do. So I think that the time has come for the process of licensing of this radio stations to be liberalized. We can increase regulation by ensuring that we monitor more what goes on air. Individuals should be allowed to own more media and television stations," Eze said.

He further advocated for

better pay package for radio and television workers as according to him broadcaster are the most paid in advanced nations of the world and Nigeria should not be an exception. The committee also formally endorsed the association's proposal for an N8 billion television in Africa at 50 fiesta "We are very happy as an institution

to be part of this celebration and therefore we are very willing to partner with you in whatever capacity.

Speaking earlier, the Chairman of the association's board of trustees Ambassador Olusegun Olusola said the association is the umbrella body of content providers for both television and radio in Nigeria and provides about 80% of programmes running on both radio and television channels across the county.

N/Assembly urged to have oversight function on youth dev

By Benjamin Auta

He said that youths have been used negatively to cause violence rather than building the nation.

"We need to formulate policies that empower the youth as well as have proper mechanism of implementing them so that it will drastically reduce the rate of denial of their rights. You know that it is dangerous for the nation to deny the youth their rights to socio-economic

and political emancipation," he said.

Rafsanjani added that unless the nation can find a place for the youth to thrive the future of the nation will remain bleak since he cannot rise to the level of leadership.

Also speaking, the Director, Conflict, Societal and Development Group (CSDG) Dr. Fumi Olonisakin, said that the aim of the workshop is to facilitate dialogue and connection between security and development as it affect the youth.

NEWS

Teachers ignore call to end strike in Delta

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

Public schools in Delta State remain closed yesterday, four days after the state chapter of the Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) announced that the strike had ended. Students and pupils who reported during the week went home disappointed as no teacher was present in the schools. Dr. Eddy Uloho, secretary of the teachers' union had on Monday after an emergency meeting of the executive council of the state wing of the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) and the government, announced that all striking teachers should resume work immediately as their demands were being addressed. But neither the teachers nor the students resumed at various schools in Asaba, the state capital and its environs, except for those sitting for the Senior Secondary School Certificate exams (SSCE). Dr. Uloho maintained that the issues at stake include the implementation of 27.5 per cent salary enhancement for both primary and secondary school teachers, the release of 2008 promotion letters to primary school teachers, stagnation augmentation of February and March 2009 shortfall by the State Executive Council (SEC). "This suspension order is predicated on the firm belief, trust and faith in the determination of government to respond to and meet the yearnings of primary and secondary school teachers", he said.

NDE trains 50 physically challenged

From Rakiya.A.Muhammad, Sokoto

Fifty physically challenged and vulnerable persons in Sokoto State are to benefit from the first phase of the National Directorate of Employment skills acquisition programme in the state. Speaking on the programme, the state coordinator of NDE, Malam Aliyu Abubakar said the emphasis within the NDE was that people with disability should be gainfully employed. "Vulnerable and disadvantaged groups should be able to have a sustainable livelihoods", he stressed. He said this category of people would be given opportunities to learn trades, adding that they would undergo three months training at the end of which they could set up businesses of their own. The coordinator called for concerted efforts on job creation in the state. Special Adviser to the state governor on Physically Challenged, Alhaji Aliyu Shinaka commended the NDE for initiating the programme. The beneficiaries of the programme expressed appreciation for the gesture.

Sokoto to distribute fertilizer to farmers

Sokoto State government has assured farmers that 24,000 metric tons of fertilizer would be ready for distribution to them before the end of next month. The state's Deputy Governor, Muktari Shehu Shagari stated this in Sokoto while speaking on fertilizer distribution for this year's planting season. "We understand that the farmers need the fertilizer on time and we will ensure they get it on time." Shagari who also oversees the state Ministry for Agriculture disclosed that 10,000 tons of fertilizer was already in stock while 14,000 is to be purchased for this cropping season. He added that the farmers would be given the commodity at subsidized rate so that they could afford it. He said the

From Rakiya.A.Muhammad, Sokoto

state government would ensure effective distribution of the commodity. He

Obi stresses importance of Easter

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

Anambra State Governor, Mr Peter Obi says celebration of Easter reminds Christians of the resurrection of Jesus Christ which forms the basis of Christianity. In his broadcast yesterday in Awka, he said, "As we celebrate this year's Easter, we are called in a special way to emulate the virtues of Christ, who taught us the importance of the life of service and love of our neighbour. May this celebration bring our people closer in the spirit of love and understanding. May we also pray in a especial way for continued peace in our state and the country at large as we give thanks to God for His many blessings. On behalf of the people of Anambra, I send my best wishes to all Christians for a happy Easter".

Borno at high risk of drug trafficking –NDLEA chairman

From Isa Umar Gusau and Mustapha Isah Kwaru, Maiduguri

Borno State has high risk of drug trafficking due to its proximity with Cameroon, Chad and Niger Republic, Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), Ahmadu Giade, said yesterday.

Speaking in Maiduguri during the destruction of 3,314.604 kilogrammes of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

seized by the state command of NDLEA, Giade observed that following the agency's improved security and surveillance at cities with international flights, the desperate traffickers resorted to using border towns to carry out their activities.

"Borno, by our records is

a high risk region for drug trafficking because it shares international borders with three countries, it is a serious concern that heroin, which is among the drugs that were hitherto trafficked through cities with international flights has now been found and seized in the state", he said.

The NDLEA boss hinted that Borno had also

became high risk are due to drug related offences as a result of the crisis in Darfur region of Sudan as well as the activities of rebels in some parts of Chad and Niger, as the traffickers might take advantage of the poor security of these countries.

"The statistics of arrests and seizures in the state is an indication that the drug problem is real, 75 suspects were arrested last year, while 3,361.85kg of illicit drugs including 2.3 tonnes of cannabis concealed in a truck meant for export through the border were seized, the agency has equally prosecuted 53 accused persons", Giade added.

The chairman who described the agency's task as crucial to national security and socio-economic growth, stressed that any act of compromise and unprofessionalism would be addressed according to the rules. Giade declared that the NDLEA would not be distracted by sinister attacks of drug dealers, saying "we shall remain focused and determined to stop the activities of drug barons no matter the level of opposition".

Makurdi, environs not fully covered in polio immunisation – Parents

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

Children in some parts of Makurdi, the Benue State capital and environs were not reached in the last national immunization days to stem the child killer disease whose prevalence has continued to rise in the state.

A visit by our correspondent to some sections of the highbrow Judges' Quarters and Logo I and II as well as Agbough revealed that although the state government widely publicized the last exercise, parents were disappointed that vaccination officers failed to visit their homes.

In Judges' Quarters, children in residences at the extreme part were not visited although the field officers were seen administering the vaccine in homes along major

streets. Same reports were received from areas like Logo I and II as well as Agbough. Many parents who spoke to Daily Trust in those areas said their homes were not reached.

Health commissioner, Dr. Jairus Erube could not be reached as his two phones could not connect, but the State Immunization Officer, Mr. Denis Oshimagye said in an interview with newsmen yesterday that the state achieved more than 100 percent coverage during the exercise.

Oshimagye said the state government duly applied the necessary human and material resources for the success of the immunization exercise, which he claimed led to 120 percent success at the close of the exercise.

He added that three were reported cases of polio transmission in the state since January 2009.

Oshimagye expressed optimism that the last exercise would stem the rising case of polio in the state which affected children in Otukpo, Ohimini, Ado and Apa Local Government Areas.

Happy Easter

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OPINION

G20 & Nigeria: Beyond unfounded hopes

The G20 club of the biggest economies in the world met in London on April 2. Nigeria was not invited. They were right not to invite us. You can accuse me of lack of patriotism, but what can we put on the table? Beyond trying to save our zombie banks and *kalo-kalo* economy, what have we done for ourselves lately?

These "big boys" of the global economic jungle met to develop and work out the modalities for a co-ordinated action plan to tackle the global financial meltdown, which has now become what the IMF has termed the "great depression". They resolved to pump-in some US\$1.1 trillion, and discussed the basic outline of a new financial architecture to usher in a more rational global economic order.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, among many world leaders, has welcomed the intervention package calling it "sound economics", stressing that the developing nations must receive a part of this fund "if we are to stem the onset of a human development crisis."

By our own admission, we are not yet among the top 20 economies in the world. We intend to get there, somehow, by the year 2020. So why did we expect an invitation? We muddled matters by initially saying we were immune to the crisis, and when our officials started mouthing Soludo's pedestrian definition of "recession" and insisting that we are not in one and will never get there. We used to be invited to the G20 dinner and the group

Sanusi Abubakar ON Friday

sanusiabubakar@dailytrust.com

photograph. Now we are left to dream in our cloud coo-coo land.

All the same, we need not waste our time sulking. No crumbs off the table of any global summit will take us out of the woods. At best we should be concerned with bettering our terms of trade and securing more technologically beneficial investments from the rest of the world. Our problems however are largely internal and cannot be solved by anyone but us.

We were in trouble even before this mess started and we should be addressing that, and not the sleep-walking that seems to be our management style of choice. For the last five to ten years, only those with privileged access to public funds or state support were doing well; especially those with banks, quoted companies, GSM outfits and oil blocks. A few were also making it through oil bunkering and other shady activities of marginal or outright legality. For the vast majority, the system was not working. The current crisis only made life grimmer and more miserable. So, addressing only the current problems would merely scratch the surface. We should seize this opportunity

to demand for a fundamental overhaul of the system so as to create food, jobs, incomes, houses, hospitals and schools.

Starting with the banks, we need to sort out the zombies from those that are alive and well. We should reverse the nonsense of mega-banks and allow smaller, localized or even specialised banks to emerge. Banks should reflect the economy, and not the other way around. Right now, most of the banks have gone back to their round-tripping of pre-Abacha era because margin loans are no longer profitable. Fiscal stimulus should be directed at those infrastructural and human-centred activities that actually create jobs. Money should not be kept unutilized for a long time. We hope the policies that would actualise the Seven Point Agenda are ready. For the avoidance of doubt I define the 7As as, 1. POWER, 2. POWER, 3. POWER, 4. POWER, 5. POWER, 6. POWER and 7. POWER. Yar'adua needs the support of all of us, if he can get his men in order. Our industrial policy should also be an active one of promoting those industries we want, not a neutral policy of supporting any and all industries. Our shops

and houses are full of simple items we should be manufacturing and not be importing. We should actively support our people to set up such industries. We neither have the luxury of waiting for some private sector-led miracle, nor the limitless resources to wait and just keep selling foreign exchange to import useless consumer goods we can import-substitute. In any case, late industrialization has its own logic.

Whatever we do we must not ignore the dangers ahead. The residual defenders of what one columnist, Andrew Jackson, called "a reckless, out of control kind of financial capitalism" are still around and effectively in charge. They still believe somehow in the same free market fundamentalism that has led us to this mess. The global stimulus package itself may not be enough. The IMF is still not willing to seriously reconsider its hostility to massive public investment and redistributive transfers that are clearly needed. A more representative and accountable global financial architecture may not emerge anytime soon.

The situation both globally and here in Nigeria remains critical. Which takes us back to Ban Ki-moon. While lamenting that the financial crisis has spiralled into an economic crisis, Ban Ki-moon insists that is not his worst concern. He said, "I fear worse to come: a full-blown political crisis defined by growing social unrest, weakened governments and angry publics who have lost all faith in their leaders and their own future."

We must avoid this possibility at all cost.

Re: Escapism and Gov Doma's administration

By Mohammed M. Abdullahi

It is unfortunate that blind and clumsy sentiments have been allowed to take the center stage in the current impasse between the immediate past administration in Nasarawa State and the current regime of Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma. People outside the political realm, see the development as battle line drawn, and so delve into it blind folded. For those who know politics, and especially the Nigerian way, it is a mere political disagreement between and among close allies who will always rally round one another when it matters most. Political friends are a clear example of husband and wife, if one ventures in between them; you will be put to shame at the end of the day. This is why, wise followers of events thread softly on matters like the one at hand. If you must join the discussion, make sure you are loaded with bare facts and the right knowledge not to portray yourself/oneself as a puppet.

My attention has been particularly drawn to a piece on the *Daily Trust* of Monday 30th March, 2009, put together by one Ahmed Ibrahim from Kaduna. The piece was titled, "Escapism and Aliyu Akwe Doma in Nasarawa State." Ordinarily, the piece should not have attracted any response because of its frailty in content, logic and presentation. Most alarming is the fact as stated by the writer himself, rather unfortunately, that he was writing from Kaduna, on serious events of the moment in Nasarawa State. Yet our brother was so judgmentally conclusive in his verdict. No wonder my dear Adamu took more than half of the piece to inundate the reader with a frail preamble to cloak the frailty of the argument itself. I am tempted to wonder loudly if my dear Adamu is from Nasarawa and residing in Kaduna, or he is only an apologist, seeking to be holier than the pope from a distance. Head or tail, simple reasoning demands that our public outburst should always be from the perspective of the right information and full knowledge of what we seek to discuss.

The crux of the piece is an outright comparison of the immediate past eight year administration of Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu and the paltry two year sojourn of the incumbent, Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma in young Nasarawa State. I think that comparing outright, eight year tenure with two years and with such air of certainty and finality, simply call to question, any credibility and good judgment. No doubt, it will amount to insanity for any person to think or posit that history and posterity will not recognize the achievements of Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu in the eight years he managed the state. Surely, he left his mark and which cannot be confined to the dustbin of History for eternity. Even Governor Akwe himself has never contemplated any idea of sort on his predecessor. I am sure that even if they disagree on an issue, which is a hall mark of politicians, they remain the best of friends. Let no one be deceived.

However, any attempt to put the regimes side-by-side, must be done with high exercise of caution and strictly on the basis of their individual backgrounds. We must try to look at them separately on the basis of their respective approach to development and development needs of the people. This is why I said for any one to think or say the present Governor is seeking an "escape for failure," is the height of injustice any sound mind can pass. It therefore amounts to a hasty generalization for a sound writer in the shade of Adamu to, at least from what I read, if he truly wrote the piece; say Governor Akwe has not done anything in two years. At least, not even the blind or, and the deaf and dumb will agree with this, except if he/she is not in Nasarawa State and relies on hearsays.

The one and only reason adduced for this position is that, the man waited for so long to disclose what amount he inherited from his predecessor. In his thinking, that is a way of demonstrating failure to perform. May

be we may need to look up for a new definition of failure according to the theory of Adamu. To make matters worse, the gentleman is not only disputing the amount said to have been inherited, but he mischievously asserted that five million naira was too meager and not enough to fuel Government House vehicles for a single journey. This is absurd and unthinkable. Is this a kind of joke, at this serious level? Common, Mr. Right thinking observer, let's observe well and inject some sense into our analysis on issues.

Now having said that, let me quickly and briefly inform my friend that failure is far from it. Rather, this is a case of misplaced judgment. There must be reference points that should give failure a different meaning. What will any one say to a Governor who soon after assuming office settled outstanding Government counterpart fund of 280 million naira resulting in the immediate take-off of the UBE scheme in the State? Not too long thereafter, another whooping sum of 1.5 billion naira was paid as counterpart funds to the same UBEC. The cumulative effect of these, is the building of 178 blocks of three classrooms and head teachers' offices; 258 blocks of two classrooms across the length and breadth of the state. And as I write, contracts have been awarded through open bid, to the tune of three billion naira through SUBEB for the construction of over nine hundred blocks of primary school classrooms. This is failure?

In just under two years, Governor Akwe has opened up more rural communities than all the three previous regimes before him in the State put together through massive rural road construction and rehabilitation. This is verifiable and I challenge all, including Adamu, to visit the six roads spread across all the senatorial zones of the State. The roads are today at different advanced levels of completion. They are the Doma-Agbashi road being handled by PW Nigeria; the Toto-

Umaisha road by Bulletin Nigeria; the Gitata-Panda-Karu road being constructed by Ceezali Nigeria as well as the Kokona Junction-Agwada-Udege-Mbeki roads (Carretera Nig. Ltd); the Nasarawa Eggon-Mada Station (Mrss. Shara Brothers Nig. Ltd.) and the Doma-Agyaragu, Kadarko-Giza-Keana, Agaza-Agwatashi and Obi-Assakio roads (Golden Construction Company Ltd). And by the last week of March, 2009, approval was granted on contracts for the construction of Adudu-Azara-Plateau Boarder and Rinze-Andaha roads by the government.

Outside road, which to me is a necessary foundation for concrete development, the state of water supply before Aliyu Akwe Doma in spite of the abundant water sources in the state is better imagined than *disou-seei*. Today, the man has embarked on the expansion of water supply schemes in Lafia, Keana, Doma, Nasarawa Eggon and Nasarawa among others. Again, this too, is verifiable and work is genuinely on-going at advance stages of completion. Does this, and the remodeling of 58 Primary Health Facilities, two each in all the thirteen local Government and sixteen Development Areas in the State also amount to failure or absence of performance?

The government has also within the last two years, paid arrears of scholarship allowances to Nasarawa State students studying in various Institutions across the country, and also restored overseas scholarships for specialized trainings, jointly amounting to about five hundred million naira. These are all outside the man's giant strides in Agriculture and other sectors of the state economy. Certainly, if these are not commended, then they cannot be condemned and reduced to imaginary failure. For the sake of humanity, let us say things as they are and leave judgment to God and the people.

Abdullahi wrote in from Lafia East, Lafia, Nasarawa State.

EDITORIAL

Easter

Beginning from today known in Christendom as Good Friday and culminating on Easter Monday, Christians all over the world would engage in the annual ritual of activities commemorating the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the founder of the Christian faith. In fact the series of events marking this momentous event began exactly forty days ago when some committed Christians embarked on fasting and prayers as part of the observation of the event. It is because of the importance of this event on the Christian calendar that the Federal Government has declared today and Monday next week public holidays to enable Christians to celebrate it and adherents of other religions to express their solidarity with their Christian compatriots and with other Christians the world over.

However, as has become customary with certain days reserved for events of great spiritual significance, we are sure that many will engage in the celebration without bothering too much about the significance of what they are actually marking. For those who do not know, Jesus Christ, according to Christian doctrine, who knew no sin gave his life to redeem man from the curse of sin. This substitutory and redemptive death is an example of extreme selflessness on the part of Jesus. In spite of his powers, he humbly submitted himself for death on the Cross of Calvary, with the aim that others can find access to heaven.

Jesus Christ therefore exemplifies humility, sacrifice and selflessness. These are the virtues which the occasion of Easter calls on Christians and indeed adherents of other religions in Nigeria and indeed the rest of humanity to live by. This then is the Easter message.

And this message has become even more urgent in our world today, a world torn apart by greed, rapaciousness, selfishness, arrogance and lack of fellow-feeling. Many are beginning to experience hell here on earth largely because of their refusal to live the kind of exemplary life that Jesus Christ lived. The global economic meltdown that has created so much unemployment and suffering on a large scale across the entire world today is traceable to greed on the part of some economic operators. This shows that there is a common thread tying humanity and that if there is a vicious pull from one corner of the earth, all of humanity will be adversely affected in one form or another. This realization should have a sobering effect on our behavior.

We must acknowledge the fact that we share a common humanity and that we owe it a duty to ourselves and to others on planet earth to live a life of virtue so that we do not unwittingly bring harm upon ourselves or upon our neighbours. Our leaders in Nigeria and in the rest of Africa must begin to imbibe and put into practice the aforementioned virtues of Jesus Christ if they are to provide leadership to this extremely backward continent. This vast and resources-endowed continent is held down by leaders who are self-serving instead of being selfless and who are extremely arrogant instead of being humble. The followership is of course not exempted from the message of Easter but those in position of leadership seem to need it even more.

However, we Nigerians must all resolve to live a life of service and commitment to the best interests of the fatherland if we ever hope to pull our nation out of its present morass. It is a big reproach that our nation Nigeria has sunken so low that she is no longer even invited to gatherings where serious-minded nations are asked to come and brainstorm on some problems affecting humanity. Sinful living brings reproach upon a nation.

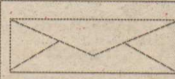
This Easter should provide us the setting to begin serious reflection on how to bring an end to corruption, divisiveness, dishonesty, lack of transparency and accountability in our public and private lives and other ills that have conspired to put us down. We wish our Christian brethren a happy Easter.

21 SUSPECTED JAMB CHEATS PROSECUTED IN OGUN

News

How about those who got admission without results

"and those who re-rig the new electoral reforms?"



Your Letters

Kafin Zaki dam and its consequences

I hope this piece will make the Governor of Bauchi State, Malam Isa Yuguda, the Senate ad-hoc committee on food crisis and other good people of Bauchi State who wholeheartedly believe in the construction of Kafin Zaki Dam despite hues and cries from their neighbouring states of Jigawa, Yobe and Borno, to have a rethink.

Yobe State has already constituted a 10 man committee whose responsibility is to see that this idea never sees the light of the day. Malam's belief that building the dam will create jobs is so unconvincing, weak and not credible to be the main intention of constructing the dam. How many job creation opportunities are we talking about here? Why don't we talk about the present over five million

families whose job is at stake when this dam is constructed? Jobs they have been doing since time immemorial?

The construction of Kafin-Zaki dam, if actualized, is aimed at intercepting water which flows through river Dilimi in Jos, Plateau State, moving 30 kilometres east wards to Kafin Zaki and moving 600 kilometres also east wards through Katagum and Jama'are in Bauchi; Hadeja in Jigawa; Ggonron, Nguru, Gashuwa, Geidam, Same Kanamma and Dama in Yobe and Damask, Joka, Duji Asaga, Gasharga, Faguwa, Jabulam, Yau Abadam, Mallam Fatori, Kaniram and down to the Lake Chad all in Borno.

The Bauchi State governor must know that presently, as the river empties its water into

the Lake Chad, those farmers on the river banks in Yobe and Borno who have been using the river for their survival from time immemorial would be redundant. By constructing this dam, the millions of people who earn their living on the river would be handicapped and suffer set back in their economic activities.

After the construction of this dam, there will be no more floodplains which typically serve as critical habitat for birds, including wintering grounds for migratory species, and the availability of water in many floodplains or wetlands during the dry season is an important resource for grazing wildlife. Millions of people across the continent are also dependent on the floodplains for their economic livelihoods.

Production activities dependent directly on the floodplains include agriculture, fishing, grazing and wood and non-wood harvesting of riparian forest resources (Adams 1992; Scudder 1991). Another seeming long term effect of the dam is the reduction in the lower level water aquifer which most of these farmers drain using tube wells during their dry farming season.

The provisions of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Act 86 of 1993 is very definite and Bauchi State should play according to the rules for peace and harmony to prevail.

Mustapha Ali Busuguma, Department of Mass Communication, University of Maiduguri, Borno State.

Text us on 08059100257

SIECs and state police

We either scrap State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs) or else there will be no justification whatsoever for rejecting state police. SIECs only exist to the advantage of selfish governors who want to install their puppets as local government chairmen.

I.D. Buzi, Bauchi, 08034397457

Shame of a nation

It is really shameful that Nigeria, which prides itself as the giant of Africa, with a population of about 150 million people and despite the country's abundant resources has less than 6000 megawatts of electricity. Compared to less populous countries like South Africa, our leaders have failed.

Joshua Timothy, 08036031086

Governors and second term

Those governors seeking for second term in office should concentrate on providing motorable roads, equipped hospitals, better schools, stable power supply among many others. By the way, how many of them are certain of seeing another election year? So the best thing is to perform well and leave 2011 for God to decide.

N. Dankane, 08035770832

Private schools in Kaduna

Governor Namadi Sambo should do something about the incessant increment of school fees by private school proprietors in Kaduna State. The governor should regularise the fees charged. If not education, one of your eleven point agenda might be negatively affected. We may be forced to withdraw our children from school. Education is the right of every child and ours should not be denied that right.

Ibrahim Isa Abubakar, Kaduna, 08036423166

Like Obama, like Bush

Slowly and steadily, President Obama is toeing the line of his predecessor, George W. Bush, especially on the so-called war on terror. His policy on Afghanistan and Pakistan is the same with that of Bush. Obama will similarly pay the price if he continues on this destructive path.

Danlami Baban Takko, Bauchi, 08030539506

North and its leaders

What contribution have our so called leaders made to make the North a better place? They keep harping on the legacies of Sardauna. The late premier is no more and is already accounting for his deeds. Today's leaders should sit and reflect: how are they discharging their responsibilities, because they will surely die and account for their deeds too.

Aisha Amoka, 08069780388

Let's not deceive ourselves

Nigerians must be aware that no political, social or economic reform would be possible without spiritual rebirth in addition to reorienting the people's thinking and ideological course. A bad thinking can never produce good action, so let us not deceive ourselves.

Com Idris A. A., National President, Concerned Citizens of Nasarawa State, 08039553220

Daily Trust on kidnappers

In its editorial of March 26, 2009, Daily Trust seems to be supporting death penalty for kidnappers. Though I am against kidnapping, condemning kidnappers to death will not stop the disturbing trend. Our leaders should provide the youths with meaningful employment, improve electricity supply, good roads etc, and kidnapping will be a thing of the past.

Enefiok Oku, Yola, 08037109510

Opinion

Energising Bauchi's Civil Service

By Rilwanu Shehu

The civil service is the nerve-centre of any government, through which it formulates and implements its policies and programmes. For any administration to succeed, therefore, it must maintain a well motivated civil service. It is in this respect that the Isa Yuguda administration in Bauchi State has strengthened the office of the Head of the Civil Service which oversees the general operations of the state's civil service with estimated staff strength of 25, 146.

Due to the commitment of the Yuguda administration to ensuring a viable civil service, the office of the Head of the Civil Service has achieved a lot through relentless effort towards discharging its functions in line with the objectives for which the office was established. In fact, the achievements recorded by the office since the beginning of the Yuguda administration are not only remarkable but also unprecedented in the history of Bauchi State.

The major achievements include human capital development. In less than two years of the administration, a total of 4,491 cases relating to appointments, promotions and so on have been treated. In the main area of manpower, civil servants were encouraged and given the facility for in-service training within and outside Nigeria. So far, a total number of 2,584 civil servants have benefited from the in-service training locally. Also, the sum of N30million has been spent on courses outside Nigeria. Furthermore, 118 civil servants were sponsored to read different Diploma courses under the Capacity Building Programme. And as its share of benefits from foreign aids, the state received aid from the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for the training of 350 newly employed graduates. There has been short-term trainings for civil servants in form of

workshops for various categories of workers in the State at the total cost of N47,825,000.00.

In order to ensure the delivery of quality service to the people through competent personnel, the state has adopted the policy of conducting promotion exams. The policy, which is borrowed from the Federal Civil Service, is with a view to encouraging civil servants to pursue self-development thereby improving their knowledge and skills so as to perform better in their work place.

In recognition of the importance of motivation in the civil service, the Yuguda administration has introduced handsome welfare packages to go hand-in-hand with the capacity building programmes. For instance, the administration has initiated the extension of the owner-occupier housing scheme to other Government quarters not included earlier on, such as Muda Lawal and Ibo Quarters Low-Cost Houses, as well as secured approval for 30% downward review of the prices of the houses.

In view of the importance of transportation to workers, the state government has restored the Vehicle revolving loan while the car refurbishing loan has also been recapitalized to the tune of N200,000,000. The administration has equally initiated the purchase of 1,000 Chevrolet Optra vehicles for distribution to civil servants on salary Grade Levels 14 and above on loan. So far, 900 of the vehicles have been distributed to deserving civil servants. In addition, 5,000 motorcycles have been purchased to be distributed to civil servants on loan.

Another significant achievement of the Yuguda administration is the enhancement of welfare packages for civil servants. The

packages include upward review of salaries and allowances of civil servants and implementation of HATISS and CONTISS for all the tertiary institutions in the state. Government has also implemented 15% salary increase for civil servants.

In most government establishments, benefits of retirees are usually neglected. But the Yuguda administration has ensured that such problem is not encountered in the state. Hence, it has cleared the backlog of gratuity and pension of N600,000,000 inherited from the previous administration.

Good service delivery is among the priorities of the administration of Malam Isa Yuguda, hence, the introduction of Servicom in the State, bottlenecks usually caused by bureaucracy and red-tapism have been reduced as it has greatly improved the behaviour and attitude of civil servants towards their work.

As part of the responsibilities of the office of the Civil Service, it has supplied and installed Intercom telephone (PABX) in the State Secretariat Complex at the cost of N73,997,348.30. The contract was earlier awarded to Messrs. Signal and Control Ltd in January, 2007 by the last administration at the cost of N111,697,943.30. The project, from which a saving of N37,700,595:00 was made has since been completed and commissioned by His Excellency, Malam Isa Yuguda. The administration has also, in its continued effort to provide conducive working environment for public servants, awarded contract for the supply and installation of office furniture to political appointees. The contract was awarded at the total cost of N9,730,350.00.

Realizing the importance of electricity supply for day-to-day government business, a new 1250KVA Perkins Generator Set was supplied to the Abubakar Umar Secretariat. Meanwhile, the other generator

set in the Secretariat which was faulty for a long time had been repaired and put to use. So the two Gen-sets are being used simultaneously.

The administration has also, through the office of the Head of the Civil Service, provided ministries departments and agencies with utility vehicles to ease their transportation and facilitate effective service delivery. The vehicles, which were brand new, comprise mainly of cars, pick-ups, station wagons and buses. It goes without saying that the vehicles need proper maintenance to be able to serve the purpose for which they were purchased. And this has necessitated the reactivation of the maintenance workshop at the Government Driving School, Bauchi to serve as central point of servicing/maintaining of such vehicles.

The administration has also, through the office of the Head of the Civil Service, recruited 3,643 university graduates and similar number of Diploma holders into the State Civil Service. Similarly, five thousand, five hundred and sixty-five indigenes of the state have been employed into various military, paramilitary and police services. The injection of this new blood into the civil service has not only provided the much needed employment but energised the service which has in turn positioned the state to achieve maximum development.

All the achievements enumerated above are by all definitions great achievements. The office of the Head of the Civil Service deserves commendation for operating in line with the vision of the Yuguda administration by achieving so much in less than two years of the present government. For Malam, its part of continued effort to deliver on his campaign promises.

Shehu is Special Assistant on Media to Governor Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State

'MTN pass NNPC'

By Hajiyayye Liman

Hmm! got you, didn't I? The caption, I mean, it got you that's why you are reading this piece. How can, you would say, 'MTN pass NNPC'?

Well that exactly was my reaction as I shamelessly eavesdropped on a conversation. No, do not blame me, it was at a bus stop and if they were saying it loud enough, why would I not listen?

So on and on she continued, and on and on yours truly listened. I had to get to the main gist. I even took style to move closer to them. They were real "Naija girls" and not a few sentences did they puncture with broken English and I loved it for it made the tale even sweeter. As we climbed the bus I made sure I was sitting close by, though I pretended not to be listening. I strained my ears for more of the gist despite the conductor's noise. It turned out it was a "Man gist"

"You know how Sadiq is," Fatima said (I named them Fatima and Hassana - Fatima reminded me of a beloved cousin and the Hassana just looked like a Hassana to me) "a heavy dresser." Hassana answered "a correct bobo and with that his car, we all envied you! And that his house, that was where I first saw a plasma T.V. and he was such a friendly guy!" "Tss" Fatima hissed "friendly my foot. It's because I never told you, that man is the most selfish man I know, so miserly that he can only spend on himself. In the three months I have known him he only gave me N800 worth of London Wax and that was for Sallah" "Haba my sister be kind now!" Hassana said laughing. "I

swear!" Fatima carried on "in fact the joke in my house was, my junior sister's 18 year old boyfriend was a "little" man, my aunt Aisha will joke, since he could bring his girl a bottle of yoghurt whenever he came. It shows he is "man" enough to cater for a family.

"I was so blind with love so I also laughed at her joke, till last year's fasting", she paused trying to fix the veil that had fallen off her head. I wished I could just do it for her so she can go on talking but Hassana was so anxious as I was, so turned and asked, "What happened?" "Hmm it was that time my eyes opened," she continued "you see, I was the one that opened my mouth and told Sadiq to come and collect food for breaking the fast because he kept complaining he didn't know how he would cope. I pitied him" "I know!" Hassana interjected "Is it not said that the way to a man's heart is through his stomach?" Fatima answered that "the salary I had saved the month before Ramadan to add to that of Ramadan to get something special for myself at Sallah was in his stomach and not even once, Hassana, did that guy bring an egg to compliment my efforts on feeding him. But that wasn't what infuriated me the most, it was neither the heat from the cooking stove, it wasn't even the N800 worth of London Wax he gave me. By the way, the idiot even showed me the same stuff he bought for his mum, it wasn't even the jest I was subjected to at home. no it wasn't all of the above.

What got me was, after telling me he was going home for Sallah, he said it was good that he had sent his cook away. Naturally I became happy, thinking he appreciated my cooking. But hear him "at least I have saved myself the cost of another "turmin atamfa". I was shocked and dumbfounded. "You have been used!" a naughty voice kept saying in my head. I just got out of his car leaving his N800 worth of London Wax.

"Haba my sister are you this hurt?!" Hassana exclaimed. "He can not be that bad, after all NNPC pays well." "They do" Fatima carried on "but Sadiq does not spend well, only on himself. Hassana have you ever seen him buy fruits at the roadside? He parks his car very well then goes down to haggle, when he comes back to the car, he brags about his prowess at haggling. Even groundnut sellers are not spared!" And they both laughed. "So in the end, out of disappointment I gave out the N800 wax to our Maignard whom he gave the wax to return to me, to give his wife for the Sallah and decided it was over with Sadiq.

"Wow! So you eventually didn't end up with anything from Sadiq?" Hassana queried. "I did," Fatima quickly answered and said "that gift, the N800 worth of London Wax, to me got me my current boyfriend Mustapha, because it opened my eyes to Sadiq's meanness". "What? How?" Hassana asked in her rather unique way of laughing and speaking at the same time, and it was good she was laughing, because it covered my own slip off, for I didn't even know when I also asked how?" I felt so

sheepish, I quickly looked around hoping no one had heard me. And when the conductor came round I even paid their fares pretending I had no change and then felt like shouting "just carry on!" when they paused to say "thanks". I simply had wanted to know what happened next, so Fatima carried on, "You see Mustapha lives in our neighbourhood and it appeared everyone knew of his intention towards me, but with Sadiq in the picture he did not want to make any move. As soon as he got wind of what happened between Sadiq and I, he decided to make a move and I am glad he did". "Yes and he works at MTN, so you would never lack airtime". Hassana interrupted "Yes, yes!" Then Fatima said "And he is ten times a better man than Sadiq. He is so generous that even my aunt Aisha is so excited and feels that with La Musty (as she fondly calls him) our house will be a better place to rest her old bones and so I declared that MTN is better than NNPC"! She said jumping down from the bus. Yours truly also jumped down looked around and realized that we were at the last bus stop in Unguwar Rimi while I should have gone down two bus stops behind, so I climbed back for the return journey and paid another fare but felt it was worth it. I only have to listen very well for my bus stop and hope there will not be another tale bearer on the bus, for these my ears love a good tale any day.

Hajiyayye wrote in from 10B Kinshasa Road, U/Rimi GRA Kaduna. maumarzuah@yahoo.com

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As a child Les' inattention to school work, his restless energy, and the failure of his teachers to recognize his true potential resulted in him being mislabeled as a slow learner. The label and the stigma stayed with him, damaging self-esteem to such an extent that it took several years to overcome.

Les Brown is one of the world's leading authorities in understanding and stimulating human potential.

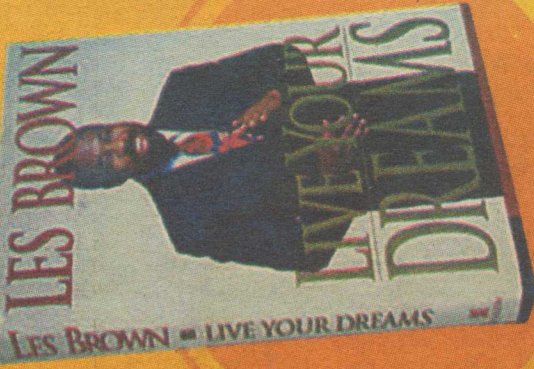
He is the author of the highly acclaimed and successful book, *Live Your Dreams*, and the newly released book, *It's Not over until You Win*.

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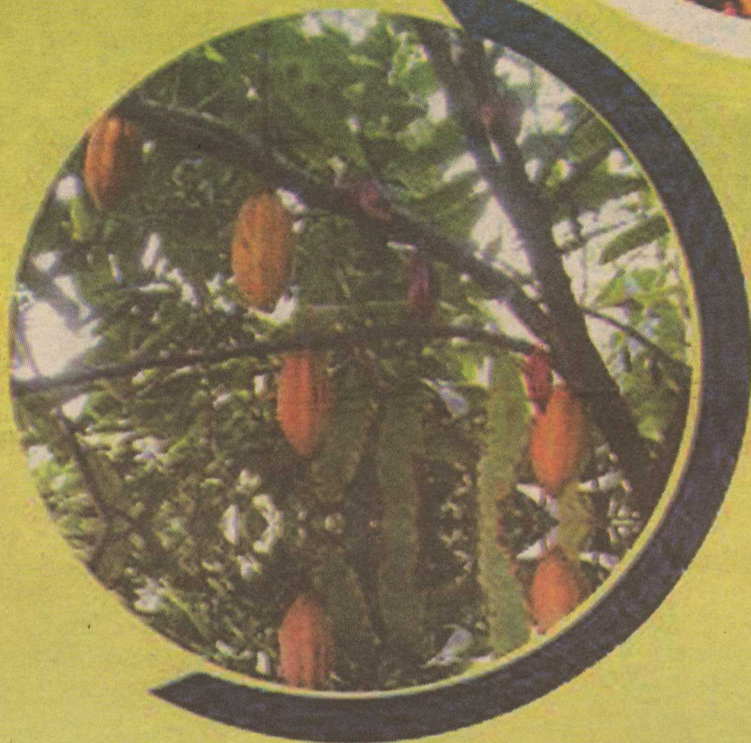




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And when the double celebration comes to a great compatriot, benefactor, inspirator and role model as the veteran administrator, a simple and easy going gentleman and a good leader in the person of **Nu'uman Barau**



Nu'uman Barau Danbatta. OON, mni

Danbatta, OON, MNI, we his grateful children say "Double Congratulations" as his Highness Alhaji Najib Hussain Adamu, CON, Emir of Kazaure turbaned you as Ajiyan Kazaure on Saturday 11th April, 2009 at 11.00am at the Emir's Palace, Kazaure, Jigawa State, and also the Wedding Fatiha of our Sister and Brother Shaima'u Nu'uman Barau Danbatta and Suleiman Tajo Othman which will insha Allah take place at the same date, time and venue.

May this be the beginning of greater things to come to you and your family.

Signed:

Engr. Yemi Oguntominiyi
for the Children

TRUST INTERNATIONAL

AFRICA REPORT



A woman picks up ballot papers as others queue up before casting her vote in Algiers yesterday. Photo: AFP

Algerian president poised for third term

Algerians voted yesterday in an election that President Abdelaziz Bouteflika needs to win convincingly to show that he can re-connect with disillusioned voters and snuff out a lingering Islamist insurgency.

Bouteflika, a 72-year-old veteran of Algeria's war for independence from France, is expected to win by a big margin. But if voters stay away from the polls, that could boost opponents, including Islamists, who say the vote is a charade. "Abstentions, the one and only adversary of Abdelaziz Bouteflika, could upset all the calculations for the election," the newspaper *Le Soir D'Algerie* commented.

Interior Minister Nouredine Yazid Zerhouni

said 30 percent of voters had cast their ballots by 1 p.m. (1200 GMT). "The election is being conducted in excellent order," he said.

But at one polling station east of the capital, officials told a Reuters reporter that only 3 percent of voters had turned up, yesterday morning. The Interior Ministry will announce nationwide results of the vote today.

Algerian lawmakers cleared the way for Bouteflika to stand for re-election last year by abolishing constitutional term limits. Critics said that could allow him to serve as president-for-life.

Several opposition figures not running in the election have urged people to stay at home, tapping into a sense among some voters that the

election will do nothing to relieve widespread poverty and joblessness.

Supporters say Bouteflika deserves credit for steering Algeria, an oil and gas producer across the water from the European Union, back to stability after a civil conflict in the 1990s that killed an estimated 150,000 people. He has promised to spend \$150 billion on development projects and create 3 million jobs.

But large sections of the population are disillusioned with the political process and frustrated that years of high oil prices have not translated into more new jobs. Unemployment among the young stands at 70 percent. Analysts say that helps feed the Islamist insurgency that is rumbling in Algeria.

Gaddafi sues Geneva after son held

Libya is suing the Geneva authorities for more than 500,000 Swiss francs following the arrest of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's son last July in an assault case, their lawyer said yesterday.

The lawsuit alleges police used disproportionate means when arresting Hannibal Gaddafi, now 32, and his pregnant wife Aline on charges of mistreating two domestic employees.

Some 20 armed police

forced open their luxury hotel suite after being alerted to repeated altercations. The couple had come to the Swiss city to give birth to their second child.

"We are seeking a finding by the court that the police action was disproportionate. Under Swiss law, disproportionate action by a state is illegal and it opens the way for a claim for damages," Charles Poncet, who represents Libya and the Gaddafis, told Reuters.

Gaddafi was led away in handcuffs, a "degrading measure" even though he did not resist arrest, according to the suit obtained by Reuters. Aline was taken to a maternity ward and their 3-year-old son was left shocked by the events, it said.

The case sparked a diplomatic crisis between Switzerland and the North African country which said it would withdraw assets from Swiss banks and stop supplying Switzerland with oil.

FBI in hostage talks with Somali pirates

The US Navy has called in FBI hostage negotiators to help secure the release of a US captain held by Somali pirates in a lifeboat in the Indian Ocean.

Capt Richard Phillips was taken from the Maersk Alabama cargo ship after it was briefly seized by pirates. Officials said a US warship had arrived in the area and was remaining in sight of the lifeboat during the tense talks.

Relatives of the Maersk Alabama crew told US media the ship was now sailing to Mombasa in Kenya under armed guard.

FBI spokesman Richard Kolko said the navy had called his hostage experts "to assist with negotiations." He said the FBI was now "fully engaged in this matter."

The pirates took the lifeboat from the Maersk Alabama when they fled the ship after being fought off by the American crew.

Analysts have said the negotiations could be lengthy, with the pirates keen to extract a ransom for the captain as well as

compensation for a boat that was wrecked in the attack. And the lifeboat is thought to be equipped for a week at sea, although the ship's owners, Maersk, said it had run out of petrol and was "dead in the water."

The cargo ship, carrying food aid destined for Somalia and Uganda, was taken about 500km off Somalia's coast in the early hours of Wednesday.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the government was following the situation very closely and urged the world to act to end the "scourge" of piracy.

There were 50 hijacks amid 130 incidents last year by Somali pirates, but this was the first time Americans had been seized.

Mohamed Omaar, the foreign minister in Somalia's fragile transitional government, told AP that the pirates were "playing with fire". He said they had "got themselves into a situation where they have to extricate themselves because there is no way they can win".

S/Africa: ANC plans faster land reform

South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) plans to speed up the country's land reform programme to help end poverty among the poor black majority, but the ruling party says it will not forcibly seize farms from white landowners. After the fall of apartheid in 1994, the ANC which is widely expected to win general elections this month, set itself a target of handing 30 percent of all agricultural land to the black majority by 2014.

But progress towards the target has been slow, and only about 4 percent of land has been acquired from private owners amid funding problems that government officials say might hinder the government from meeting its

goal.

Land reform is a sensitive issue in Africa's biggest economy, where critics say the programme has hurt investment in the commercial farming sector and drastically reduced the land that is available for commercial agriculture.

There are also fears that South Africa's land programme could mirror a similar "fast track" programme that damaged farming output and triggered an economic slump in neighbouring Zimbabwe, where white commercial farmers were often violently evicted by President Robert Mugabe's government.

The ANC has vowed that its own version of the programme will be orderly,

despite criticism that some of the same problems faced by Zimbabwe, including lack of support for new farmers and poor farming skills, may thwart South Africa's programme.

ANC spokeswoman Jessie Duarte said the party did not plan to resort to expropriation, whereby the government forcibly takes over farms where willing buyer-willing seller negotiations with land owners have failed, in order to speed up land transfers.

"There is no plan to take over anybody's farm," she said. "The law is very clear, it is a negotiation that takes place and what we would like to do is to make sure that it goes through a little bit faster."

Gunmen free 220 prisoners in Congo

Unidentified gunmen blasted their way into a prison in eastern Congo with heavy weapons yesterday, freeing 222 prisoners in a raid that killed five people, witnesses and local officials said.

The raid took place in the lakeside town of Uvira in Congo's South Kivu province, which, like its sister province to the north, remains mired in conflict long after United Nations-backed post-war elections were held in 2006.

"They attacked several parts of town at once. They came to free some of the prisoners. They succeeded, then headed back up into the hills," said Victor Chomachoma, Uvira's territorial administrator.

Chomachoma said Uvira's central prison had been holding 231 prisoners at the time of the attack but just nine remained after the assault, during which gunmen used machine guns and rocket propelled grenades.

Three of the attackers, one government soldier and a female town resident were killed during the attack, he added.

Soldiers captured four gunmen, whose identity was not immediately confirmed but residents suspect came from the Burundian Hutu rebel National Liberation Forces (FNL).

"They are believed to have been FNL associated with a local Mai Mai (militia) group," a local journalist said.

Despite the official end of a devastating 1998-2003 war, Congo's eastern borderlands remain largely outside government control, creating a lawless patchwork of strongholds of both home-grown militias and foreign rebel groups.

The FNL rebels have remained active in northwestern Burundi, southern Rwanda and eastern Congo despite signing a peace deal with the government in Bujumbura in September 2006.

The attack in Uvira comes as Congo's army and United Nations peacekeepers were preparing to launch a military offensive against another Congo-based foreign rebel group — the Rwandan Hutu Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR).

Trust International

WORLD REPORT

Suicide bomber kills 5, wounds 17 in Afghanistan

A suicide bomber attacked a police drug eradication unit in southern Afghanistan yesterday, killing five people and wounding 17 others, an official said. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

The attacker struck the patrol in Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, a major drug-producing area, said Kamal Uddin, the deputy provincial police chief.

The members of the force were traveling in a convoy of vehicles headed for nearby districts to eradicate poppies at the time of the blast, Uddin said.

Five people — two police officers and three civilians — were killed in the blast, said Daud Ahmadi, the spokesman for the provincial governor. The blast also wounded four policemen and 13 civilians, Ahmadi said.

Two police vehicles and three shops were damaged in the explosion, Uddin said. He initially reported four dead policemen, but the casualty figures were later revised by Ahmadi.

A spokesman for the Taliban claimed responsibility for the blast in a phone call to an Associated Press reporter in southern Afghanistan.

In a statement, the Interior Ministry blamed "the narcotics mafia" for the attack.

Afghanistan is the world's largest producer of opium, the main ingredient in heroin. The Afghan opium trade accounts for 90 percent of worldwide production. The U.N. estimated last year that up to \$500 million from the illegal drug trade flows to Taliban fighters and criminal groups.

World's cheapest car goes on sale

The world's cheapest car, the Tata Nano, has gone on sale across India, with reports of customers queuing up to be the first to own one.

Tata Motors has opened bookings for the cars, which cost from 100,000 rupees (\$1,979) each.

Deliveries of the vehicle will start in July, after production delays caused by a dispute over land at its Singur site.

Tata Motors says it is confident of strong demand for the Nano despite the global downturn in car sales.

The company is asking for a large chunk of the money to be paid before delivery, which is scheduled for July.

The booking fee, or deposit, required for the basic model is 95,000 rupees, rising to 140,000 for the luxury model which has a full price

of 185,000 rupees.

In addition, applicants have had to pay up to 300 rupees for an application form.

In the first phase of production, 100,000 cars will be made. They will be allocated to the first 100,000 customers picked at random from those who applied and paid deposits over the next three weeks.

Tata Motors chairman Ratan Tata has described the 10-foot (three-metre) long, five-seater car as a "milestone". He says he got the idea for the car from the common sight of Indian families perched precariously on motorbikes.

Tata hopes the low-cost of the car will encourage millions of Indians to trade up from their motorcycles. Currently, there are about nine cars per 1,000 people in India.

Shia crowds decry US role in Iraq

Tens of thousands of supporters of Shia cleric Moqtada Sadr yesterday rallied against the US presence in Iraq, six years after Saddam Hussein's fall. Protesters in Baghdad's Firdos Square carried pictures of the cleric and chanted slogans denouncing what they called the occupation of Iraq.

Six years ago, US troops reached the square and helped Iraqis pull down a statue of their former leader there. US combat troops are due to pull out from Iraq's cities by the end of June.

Under a recent agreement, they are expected to remain elsewhere in the country until the end of August 2010. Moqtada Sadr has repeatedly called for a complete and immediate US withdrawal from Iraq.

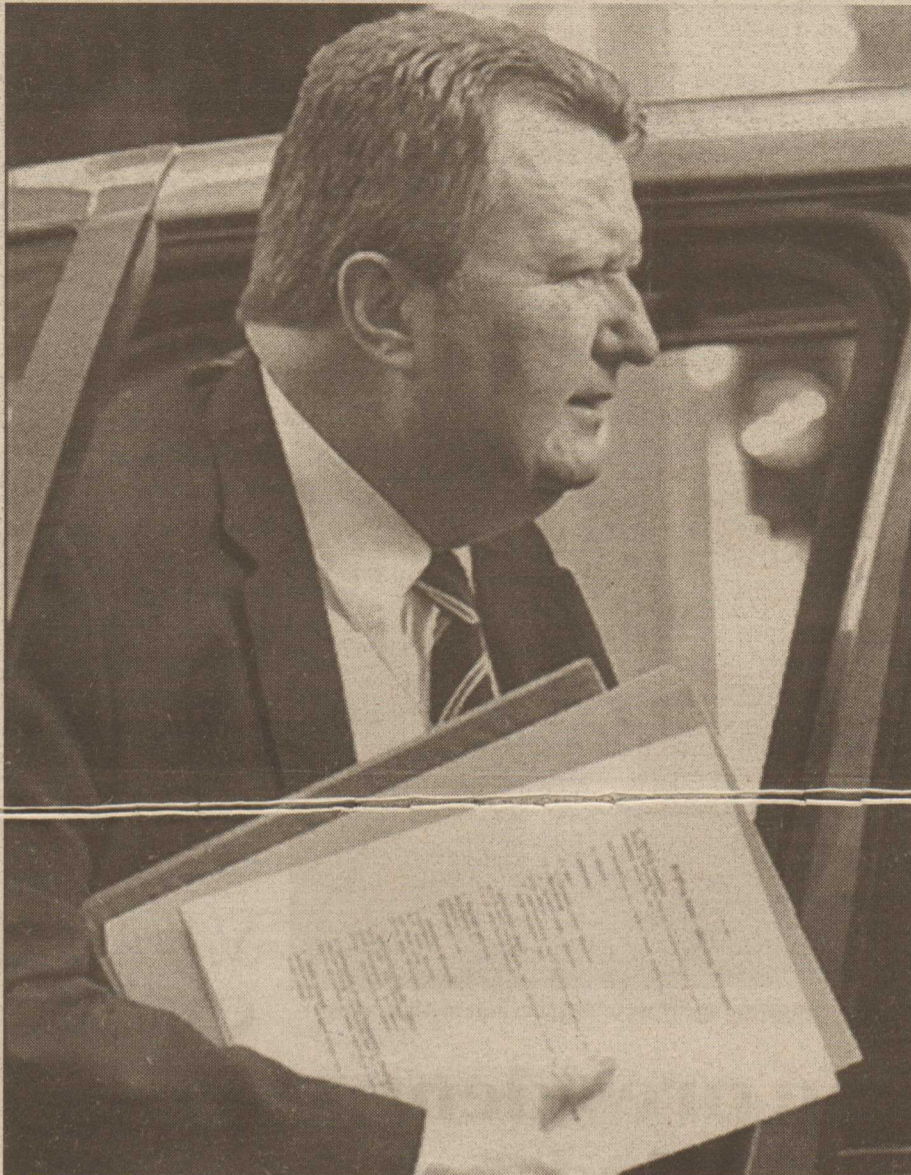
Protesters carrying Iraqi flags chanted slogans such as "No, no America - Yes, yes Iraq" as they

thronged the streets and burned an effigy of former US President George W Bush.

"God, unite us, return our riches, free the prisoners from the prisons, return sovereignty to our country ... make our country free from the occupier, and prevent the occupier from stealing our oil," an aide to Mr Sadr read, as part of a message from the radical cleric. Mr Sadr has not been seen in Iraq for several months and is believed to be in neighbouring Iran.

His militia - the Mehdi Army - was badly beaten in fighting with government forces both in Baghdad and in the southern city of Basra.

His political followers did quite well in January's provincial elections and he is again showing that he has the ability to call tens of thousands of people out into the streets, our correspondent says.



The 'secret' document clutched by British terror police chief Bob Quick was clearly on display. Photo: Skynews.co.uk

British police chief quits over blunder

Britain's top counter-terrorism officer has quit after admitting he could have jeopardised an operation to thwart a possible UK al-Qaeda terror plot.

Assistant Commissioner Bob Quick resigned after he accidentally revealed a secret document to photographers.

Police were forced to bring their operation forward and arrested 12 men — 11 of whom are Pakistanis. Gordon Brown said Mr Quick had said sorry for what went wrong and that he had thanked him for his long service.

The prime minister also said Pakistan's government "had to do more" to root out the terrorist elements in its country. Sources say

the planned attack was to be "very soon" and "very, very big".

A BBC correspondent said sources close to the investigation had revealed the counter-terror operation had been launched in response to a possible terrorist plot that had reached its final stages of planning.

Although no specific target was mentioned in intelligence, police moved quickly because of concerns over the scale of the attack and the fact that it was going to happen soon, he said. BBC security correspondent Frank Gardner said it was an MI5 intelligence-led investigation into plans for a suspected attack in the UK. It may have involved an improvised explosive device, security expert Peter Taylor added.

The operation, and its subsequent raids in Manchester, Liverpool and Clitheroe in Lancashire, had gone ahead on Wednesday afternoon rather than 0200 BST yesterday after Mr Quick's memo blunder, Mr Taylor said.

The BBC's Daniel Sandford said the change of timings had "put public lives at risk" because it was carried out when people were awake and in public areas.

Police are questioning the 12 arrested men and "deep searches" of addresses are continuing, BBC security correspondent Frank Gardner added.

Chief Constable Peter Fahy of Greater Manchester Police emphasised that the threat from terrorists had not increased but urged the public to remain vigilant.

Iran opens nuclear fuel facility

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has opened the country's first nuclear fuel production plant. He cut the ribbon at the facility in the central province of Isfahan at a ceremony marking national nuclear day.

Mr Ahmadinejad said Iran was open to an offer of fresh talks with world powers if they were based on "justice" and "respect".

Iran denies Western claims it aims to build a nuclear bomb, saying its nuclear programme is for peaceful ends. Mr Ahmadinejad also announced that Iran had tested two new types of centrifuge with higher capacities at a uranium enrichment plant in Natanz.

The newly-opened plant will produce pellets of uranium oxide that could be used to fuel a heavy-water reactor in Arak expected to be completed some time between 2011 and 2013.

It signals Iran has reached the final stage in the nuclear fuel cycle, analysts say. The move came as Tehran considered an offer by six world powers, including the United States, to take part in fresh talks on the crisis.

"The Iranian nation has from the beginning been after logic and negotiations, but negotiations based on justice and complete respect for rights and regulations," Mr Ahmadinejad was quoted as saying yesterday.

N/Korean leader appears in public

The North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il, has made his first major state appearance since he had a suspected stroke last year.

TV pictures showed him attending a parliamentary session where he was re-elected as North Korean leader. The session coincides with a separate announcement that North Korea is to revise its constitution.

No details have yet been given, but there is speculation that the changes might be linked to who succeeds Mr Kim. He has no obvious successor, and rumours of his illness last year led to international concerns about the country's long-term stability.

Mr Kim arrived in the Supreme People's Assembly to a standing ovation from his fellow ministers.



NIGER STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT [CSDP] WORLD BANK ASSISTED

VACANCIES

The Federal Government of Nigeria has applied for a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the implementation of Community and Social Development Project (CSDP).

The overall goal of the CSDP is to improve access to services for Human Development (HD). To achieve this goal, the Project Development objective is to sustainably increase access of poor people (in rural Communities) to improved social, natural resources and infrastructural services in a sustainable manner through the provision of grant support to beneficiaries for identifying, prioritizing, implementation and maintenance of Community driven micro projects under approved Community Development Plans.

In order to ensure effective implementation, Niger State Government requires the services of the following key staff for the CSDP.

- (1) General Manager
- (2) Finance & Administration Manager
- (3) Project Officer Gender and Vulnerable
- (4) Project Officer Monitoring and Evaluation
- (5) Operation Officers
- (6) Internal Auditor

Applications are therefore invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the above vacancies.

1.0 General Manager

(a) Roles and Responsibilities

The GM shall:

- (i) Be the chief Executive of the Agency and shall be responsible for carrying out the day-to-day activities of the Agency
- (ii) Exercise power and functions of the Agency as provided for in the Project Implementation Manual
- (iii) Be in charge of the general administration of the community social Development Project (CSDP),
- (iv) Manage the project personnel
- (v) Be the accounting officer of the State Agency, give approval for proposal of CDPs recommended by the State Agency management committee.
- (vi) Authorize expenditure in accordance with the annual budget and work program of the State Agency as approved by BOD.
- (vii) Have the responsibility of overall discipline of the personnel, and could punish and reward all staff.
- (viii) Represent the State Agency in all its dealings with third parties at the Management.
- (ix) Conduct dialogue with donors and those capable of providing complimentary technical and administrative skills and financial resources.
- (x) Delegate his authority to the staff of the Agency to the extent necessary for the efficient performance of the activities of CSDP;
- (xi) Perform such other duties as may be required for the effective functioning of the State Agency.
- (xii) Ensure regular and adherence to the State Agency reporting relationship with the Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU) of the State, Federal Program Support Unit (FPSU), Federal Ministry of Finance and the World Bank.

(b) Qualification and Experience

A university degree in Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, Engineering and/or any other relevant degree with at least fifteen years post-qualification experience in the private or public sector, five of which must be at management level. An experience in the management of rural development projects shall be an added advantage. Applicant must be computer literate.

(2.0) Finance and Administration Manager

(a) Roles and Responsibilities

The Finance and Administration Manager shall be charged with the responsibility for:

- Ensuring efficient running of the office and the maintenance of all office facilities;
- Processing and paying all bills, salaries (etc) pertaining to the smooth running of the State Agency
- Maintaining schedules of personnel, Welfare and other personnel functions;
- Ensuring the proper recording of financial transactions of the State Agency;
- Generating adequate, reliable and timely financial reports for the GM and other departments
- Preparing annual budgets and work plans for the State Agency
- Processing and managing all fund disbursements as well as ensuring proper documentation to facilitate the release of funds from Funding agencies to communities;
- Liaising with banks, tax authorities, and other regular agencies on behalf of State Agency
- Prepare monthly and quarterly reports on financial progress of micro-projects and CDPs;
- Prepare quarterly Financial Monitoring Reports (FMRs).
- Assist the GM in the day-to-day running of the State Agency.
- Responsible for staff discipline.
- Be responsible for managing facilities of the agency
- Reviewing financial transactions of communities in line with General Guidelines issued by the State Agency, FPSU and funding Agencies, and making reports to the GM; and
- Offering training and capacity building in the areas of financial management, record keeping, and other related matters to the communities

(b) Qualification and Experience

A university degree or higher Diploma in accounting or Banking and finance with at least ten years post qualification experience and must be member of professional association such as ACA, ICAN, ACCA or their equivalents. Applicant must be computer literate.

(3.0) Project Officer Gender and Vulnerable

(a) Roles and Responsibilities

The Gender and Vulnerable Officer shall:

- Develop an action plan for mainstreaming vulnerable groups and gender sensitive activities in the operation of the State Agency
- Facilitate the preparation processes of CDP formulation at Community level
- Assist project team to incorporate appropriate vulnerable groups (including gender) issues into project activities.
- Assist in organizing training for line ministries, LGA, LGRC and Operations Officers in mainstreaming vulnerable and gender issues in development activities.
- Liaise with the Desk Officers in line ministries to identify mechanisms of incorporating vulnerable and gender issues into their programmes.
- Identify and articulate opportunities for integrating social safety nets in project activities.
- Prepare a quarterly report highlighting emerging issues from projects activities in mainstreaming vulnerable group/gender issues in development activities;
- Provide input to the preparation of quarterly/ annual and requisite reports of the operations department.
- Provide inputs to the costed yearly work programmes for the operations department.
- Develop, maintain and disseminate a comprehensive knowledge base on vulnerable group perspectives to promote staff awareness
- Maintain links with and update knowledge of other relevant agencies programs on mainstreaming vulnerable groups into development agendas.
- Design strategies for the encouragement of the government and its agencies to be more supportive towards the cause of the vulnerable.
- Responsible to the Manager, Operations.
- Any other duties assigned by the manager, Operations.

(b) Qualification and Experience

At least a first degree or HND in Social Sciences, Natural Resources Sciences, Rural Environmental Development, Agric extension with at least 5 years post qualification experience part of which must have been spent in CDD related areas. Computer literacy experience in Gender/Vulnerable Mainstreaming and Safety nets will be an added advantage.

(4.0) Project officer Monitoring and Evaluation:

(a) Roles and Responsibilities

The M&E officer shall be:

- Responsible for data collection, collation and analysis for field level activities.
- provide implementation assistance to M&E Manager
- Compilation of monthly, quarterly and annual reports.
- Monitor progress towards attainment of targets and to adapt targets to realities,
- provide an improved foundation for planning effective resource use;
- identify unacceptably high cost interventions and operations,
- provide record of events,
- provide information base for future evaluations, maintain quality standards.
- Any other duty that may be assigned by the M&E Manager.

(b) Qualification and Experience

At least a first degree or HND in Social Sciences, Statistics, Natural Sciences, Rural development and related fields, with at least 5 years post qualification experience part of which must relate to monitoring and evaluation of community based initiatives. Computer literacy is compulsory and experience in Community Driven development (CDD) is an added advantage.

(5.0) Operations Officers

(a) Roles and Responsibilities:

The Operation Officers shall:

- Sensitize and mobilize communities on CSDP project objectives and activities as well as issues related to HIV/AIDS,
- Facilitate communities to undertake needs assessment and prioritization that are socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable;
- Facilitate communities in the formulation of CDP in line with (b) above;
- Build capacity of the CPMCs and LGRC Desk Officers, as appropriate, through providing training in requisite areas e.g. Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs), record and book-keeping, project management, mainstreaming gender, environment and natural resources issues etc, as identified by the Project officer-IEC and Training
- Supervise the implementation of the CDPs to ensure quality assurance;
- Ensure timely replenishment of accounts by the CPMCs;
- Collect, collate and forward to the M&E Department, information/data on micro-project activities in communities;
- Submission of monthly, quarterly and annual departmental reports to M&E Department on schedule, through the Manager, Operations;
- Set monthly and quarterly performance targets based on the work plan;
- Submit regular reports to the Project officer or relevant section for whose activity they are deployed at any point in time.
- Responsible to the Project officer, Supervision.

(b) Qualification and Experience

A first degree or HND in Engineering, Social Sciences, Biological and Natural Sciences, Business Administration, Accountancy or related field, with at least 1 year post qualification experience in any area. Computer literacy and willingness to learn and work extra hours and on week-ends is a must. Applicants are not expected to be more than 35 years as at the time of recruitment and not above Grade level 9 if recruited from the civil service.

(6.0) Internal Auditor

(a) Roles and Responsibilities

The Internal Auditor shall:

- Ensure adequate internal control system is put in place in the Project.
- Ensure that proper accounting records are kept in the project.
- Advise management in areas of weakness observed.
- Ensure all payment are approved by the authorized officer i.e. Project Manager.
- Ensure that all the payment vouchers have all the necessary attachment.
- Follow-up, where an observation has been raised, to ensure correction is made.
- Periodically, check all the Project Accounting Record to ascertain whether they are properly maintained and updated regularly.
- Physical inspection of all communities' micro projects.
- Ensure that payments are only made on activities which are in line with credit document agreement of the World Bank.
- Ensure that transaction is not started by one person and completed by the same person.
- Advise accounting personnel on how best to keep their record.
- Training the communities on how to maintain proper accounting record and make retirement for amount disbursed to them by the project in line with World Bank requirement.
- Checking of the communities accounting record to ensure that, they are properly kept in line with World Bank requirement.

(b) Qualification and Experience

A first degree or HND in Business Administration, Accountancy or related field, with at least 5 years post qualification experience part of which must relate to project audit. Computer literacy is compulsory and experience in Community Driven development (CDD) and membership of any recognized professional body (e.g. ANAN, ICAN) is an added advantage.

(7.0) Remuneration

The advertised key positions have attractive remunerations commensurate with the mode of entry and in accordance with agreed terms with the World Bank

(8.0) Method of Application

Applicants are required to submit a written application with five copies of detailed curriculum vitae attached with certificates and other credentials. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

(9.0) Closing Date

All signed and sealed applications should be addressed and forwarded two weeks from the date of this advertisement to

The Honorable Commissioner
Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning
Abdulkarim Lafene Secretariat
Minna, Niger State.



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Akure: 0705 611 1334

Asaba: 0803 738 5553 / 0706 070 3754
Benin (1): 0805 857 8789 / 0805 531 5145 / 052-450 479
Benin (2): 0705 563 6183 / 0705 563 6185
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Enugu: 0803 635 4641 / 0807 513 1813 / 0807 061 4504 / 042-325 618
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BUSINESS TRUST

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● Challenges before new BPE boss —Page30

Stock Market Report —Page 31 & 32

Hotline: 08051000536



Flight Schedule

Chanchangi Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 16.45
Lagos-Kad: 10.00
Lagos-Owrr: 08.00, 10.00, 14.30
Kad-Abj-Lagos: 10.30, 11.45
Abj-Lagos: 08.10, 13.40, 15.00

IRS Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 09.45, 11.45, 12.45, (Mon-Fri) 09.30, 12.45(Sat & Sun)
Lagos-Kano: 06.15(Mon-Fri), 16.30(Sat & Sun)
Kano-Lagos: 07.30(Mon-Fri), 10.30(Sat & Sun)

Aero Contractors

Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16;45 (Sat).
Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30; 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30(Sat).
Lagos-Ben: 07:45 ; 11:00 ; 15.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).
Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun)
Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun)
Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun)
Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00(Sun)
Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.30; 09.30; 15.00(Mon-Fri/ Sat/ Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 11.15; 17.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat) 18.00 (Fri)
Lagos-Warri: 07.45; 16.00 (Mon-Fri/sat) 09.15 (Sun)
Warri-Lagos: 09.15; 17.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat) 10.45(Sun)

Virgin Nigeria

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 09.00, 11.30, 14.00, 15.50, 17.00, 18.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.15, 11.15, 13.35, 16.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00, 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20, 12.45, 15.30, 16.15, 17.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Kano: 18.00 (Mon-Fri)
Kano-Abj: 08.20 (Mon-Fri)

Bellview Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 06.50, 12.55, 17.00(Mon-Fri) 16.40(Sat) 17.00 (Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 07.40, 14.50, 18.25 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Kano: 06.50(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Kano-Lagos: 10.10(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

Arik Air

Lagos-Abj: 07.30, 10.20, 14.20, 16.45 17.45, 18.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Lagos: 09.20, 09.30, 10.30, 12.15, 16.20, 17.45, 20.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Cal: 10.25, 17.25(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Cal-Abj: 08.50, 15.50(Mon-Sat) 19.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Abj-Ben: 10.35(Mon-Fri)
Ben-Abj: 12.00(Tue-Fri)
Lagos-Ben: 08.00, 11.45, 15.30(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Ben-Lagos: 09.15, 13.35, 17.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Cal: 07.00, 14.05(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Cal-Lagos: 12.00, 19.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Enu: 07.30, 14.30, 16.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Enu-Lagos: 09.30, 18.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Jos: 11.30, (Mon-Fri/Sat/sun)
Jos-Lagos: 13.15(Mon-Fri)
Kano-Lagos: 15.30(Mon-Fri/Sun)
Lagos-PHC: 07.20, 07.50, 09.15, 11.30, 12.30, 15.10, 15.55, 16.45, 17.00(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
PHC-Lagos: 07.00, 08.30, 09.15, 11.10, 13.40, 14.30, 15.00, 17.05, 17.50(Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)

N500m capital base:

Bureau De Change operators cry out

*Say it is anti-North policy

By Abubakar Buba

Some Bureau De Change (BDC) operators in the Federal Capital Territory have described as a ploy against the North and an apparent move to cause further friction in the nation's economy the recent reform by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) in the foreign exchange market.

The CBN had in the last

licensing fee of N1 million; annual renewal fee of N250,000 and minimum IT infrastructure that enables the BDC to make daily returns to CBN.

Chairman of the Bureau De Change traders association in the FCT Alhaji Shehu

Alhaji Mahmud said: "As an association, we have been trying to raise the N500 million requirements for licensing into the class 'A' category for the last 5 weeks without success. We only managed to raise N82.5 million which is not even half of the requirement"

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pumped about \$200 million foreign exchange to banks for the last 3 months without any noticeable change in the price of foreign exchange in the parallel market. Before the reform, a dollar was sold at N116, but has



From left, Chairman Toyota Nig. Ltd, Chief Michael Adejo; Chief Executive Officer Lead Automobile Co. Ltd, Aliyu Kakumi and Chairman House Committee on Information, Rep. Dino Melaye at the launching of the new generation Toyota Avenis, held in Abuja yesterday.

3 months introduced various reforms aimed at sanitizing the bureau de change segment of the foreign exchange market by making it mandatory for operators seeking class 'A' license to have a minimum capital of N500 million verifiable at all times.

Based on the conditions for the granting of the license, the apex bank stipulates a mandatory deposit of US\$200,000 00 non-interest bearing; non-refundable application fee of N100, 000;

Mahmud said that the reform slammed down by CBN will cause further hardship in the society considering the rising rate of foreign exchange.

He said that the reform is a deliberate attempt to sabotage the effort of northerners who are into Bureau De Change business, adding "about 60% of BDC operators in the country are northerners who cannot even boast of having N100, 000 in their accounts".

"If as an association, we couldn't raise the said amount, then it will be practically impossible as a single Bureau De Change outfit to raise that kind of money".

Commenting on allegation that BDCs are responsible for leakages in the economy, Alhaji Mahmud said that the blame should not be fingered on BDCs who act as mediators between the CBN and end users, but banks who receive foreign exchange at official rates and hoard it.

"Imagine, CBN has

Pic: Felix Onigbinde nosedived to N182 as at yesterday.

"Fluctuation in the dollar can be checked if the CBN can sell directly to us", he added.

Meanwhile, Alhaji Mahmud said that the association had written to the CBN and the national assembly for interference into the matter.

However, Mr. Ukasaonya Innocent of Peace BDC disagreed with the notion that the policy is a politically motivated and a ploy against the North.

BUSINESS TRUST

Why North is searching for black gold - NNDC boss

Prospecting for oil is not for the lily-livered investor because it is both capital intensive and high technology-driven and that explains why there are only a few indigenous investors in the upstream sector in spite of federal government's encouragement. However, the New Nigerian Development Company (NNDC) have decided to tread the long and slippery terrain of oil exploration. Recently, the company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Gazprom, a renowned Russian oil firm, in its effort to commence oil exploration in the North. In this interview below, Alhaji Ali Alkali, the Group Managing Director of NNDC tells the story of the North's 14 years search for oil and the company's deal with Gazprom.

The search for oil in the north has become some kind of a mirage because the more we hear about it, the less we see anything concrete on the ground. I remember around 1994, the first news of the oil find in Alkali local government in Bauchi state was reported and that Shell was about to start exploration and since then, nothing has been heard about it. What is the story of that oil find?

Thank you very much for your question, although you have touched on an area that is not NNDC's area, but nevertheless, just like you said that you heard oil was found at that time, it is true. The oil company that you mentioned was given an oil bloc and three other foreign oil companies were also allocated blocs. The difference between then and now, is that they were asked by government to search for this oil in order to may be strike a balance between the north and the south, so that the north can also be making some contribution in that area, especially because the total contribution from the oil sector is very high in terms of the revenue that the nation generates. However, the period when this exploration was to take place was a time when the price of oil was very, very low and therefore the foreign oil companies found it not very profitable to venture into it and therefore they were not keen. We were made to understand that it was like they were forced to really do something in the country's hinterland instead of getting oil very easily in the Niger Delta area and apparently, it was not a willing intention of these companies. And therefore as soon as they got the allocation that they were expecting in the Niger Delta, they abandoned the search in the north.

However, the current management of NNDC that I lead decided way back in 2005, because of our belief that there is definitely oil or oil related products such as gas in the north, especially looking at countries on our borders like Chad and Niger republics and looking at the axis where they found oil, we were made to believe that there is a every likelihood of finding oil in the north. And we therefore made a commitment for the search to take off, doing the best we can in order to see that we make our own contribution in this area. As God will have it, it is not long

By Ibraheem Musa

after this management came into place that the government announced a bidding process in buying oil blocs instead of the usual allocation that government used to do to those individuals or groups that show interest. Therefore, NNDC bid for the oil blocks in the north; we bid for four blocks, two in the Benue trough, the area between Bauchi and Gombe states and two blocks in the Chad basin. We won the blocks and paid well over \$2 million in order to secure the allocation. Somehow along the line, may be because the politics of oil is probably more complicated than most people think, it took us one whole year, August 2006 before we were asked to come and sign the documents that actually transferred these oil blocs from NNPC to NNDC.

Then the search for the data that we require in order to make progress in the search for oil in those areas started. This is still what we are on up to date. We have not yet gotten the complete data/documents that will enable us to claim complete knowledge of what has taken place before we came into the area.

You made allusion that there is politics in oil exploration business. Is it correct to say that NNPC has been frustrating NNDC, particularly in the access to geographical and geological data?

No. My allusion to politics in oil industry is a very common thing anywhere in the world. But may be the politics is more complex in Nigeria than in other areas. I do not think that NNPC as an institution has been trying frustrate the efforts of NNDC in the search for oil in the north. However, I must say that quite a number of individuals whose role would have assisted us in moving at a faster pace than now, did not help matters.

From what I understand, the Memorandum of Understanding that you signed with the Russian firm is not for the actual commencement of oil exploration but for the beginning of collation of data. Am I correct?

Not really. We have some scanty information regarding all the four blocs that we are going to explore. However, the coming together between NNDC and Gazprom is as a result



Alhaji Ali Alkali

of developments regarding our search for oil and gas in that area. We have some data that we can look at for now and from there on, we can now move on to the next stage. The data that we are looking for have been collected in the last 20 years or may be longer. So, we want to find a starting point, having evaluated what has been achieved and move on from that point. So, the coming of Gazprom and NNDC is in order to find a take-off point so that we move forward; we have been moving forward from the day that we signed the Memorandum of Understanding. We have been discussing with Gazprom for about 15 months before we signed the MOU. Gazprom is the largest oil company in the world and they are experts in the business and they do not have time to waste to wait for whatever or whoever. Once they are able to reach an understanding with a potential partner, it is for them to move forward. And this is exactly what we are doing; from the very next day that we signed this agreement, we have been moving forward.

Can you give me an insight into this memorandum of understanding; is Gazprom just offering technical assistance while NNDC finances the project?

We are coming together not only in Gazprom providing technical assistance and we providing financial wherewithal for the project. No. We are coming together as partners and we would now agree on the quantum of financial contribution that each is capable of making or is prepared to make. Besides that, the technical aspect will be provided by Gazprom. Let me be very clear about one issue; NNDC does not have the money to go about this project. Right from the word go, we did not intend to finance it. We have only

pioneered the process of oil and gas search in the north in order to attract other financial and technical partners that will work with us. NNDC is a development company and therefore it is our duty to make whatever developmental efforts in order to bring about economic development and sustenance in the north. What we are doing is the duty upon which NNDC was established.

Its surprising when you said that NNDC doesn't have money because I remember that some time back, the 19 northern state governors resolved to recapitalize it and they even pledged to contribute N250 million each directly from source. Are you saying that the states have defaulted in paying?

The amount of money that the Northern Governors' Forum accepted to contribute to the recapitalization of NNDC is far below the amount of money that NNDC will require in order to venture into oil and gas business. When the current management came, we looked at our sources of income, we realize that quite a number of them, somewhere in the region of 70-80% have gone down because the main investment of NNDC is the industrial sector, particularly the textile industry. These were where dividends come and we re-invest in other areas to enable NNDC maintain itself because NNDC has never received any financial contributions from the owners in the last 35 years. We are a limited liability company that is expected to maintain itself. But you will agree with me that sustenance is becoming more expensive by the day. So, when the revenue angle keeps shutting down in terms of dividends from the companies that we have, then problems start. And then we looked at other opportunities and other avenues that we can go in so that we can be able to turn the place around. And we realized that we can not do this without the support of our share-holders. The money that we are asking these states to contribute is to increase their share holding, so that if revenue starts coming, their dividends will be higher. We actually told them that in the areas that we envisaged, they will start getting revenue in less than two years. We gave them that

commitment and we believe that it can be achieved. So, the recapitalization is not about giving NNDC money to go into oil and gas. We had actually itemized areas that will require about N17 billion for us to invest all over the north. However, the governors on their own accepted to contribute something in the region of N5 billion. It is up to us now to find a way to raise the other N12 billion.

What people don't understand about NNDC's operations is that we never own a venture by putting in 100% of the requirement. Most of the time, the maximum that we can invest in a company should not be more than 20%, this is because we are into every business operation. Therefore, because we are limited by the money that we can invest, we can not invest in all the areas that we wished to have invested in. Secondly, we want a situation where other people will be invited, be they foreign or Nigerian companies, so that we will all put our heads together and promote the business. So, it has never been the intention of NNDC to own businesses 100%, most of the businesses that we are involved in, we own not more than 10% but in a few areas we own as much as 20%.

One of the potential areas of contention will be what can be referred to as the 'sharing formula' should actual exploration and sales begin. How will proceeds be shared amongst NNDC, federal government and Gazprom?

We have what is called a confidentiality agreement with Gazprom. Certain details or information that may be available may not be disclosed because it is a business arrangement between Gazprom and NNDC. So, these are areas that I will not want to even touch.

What about the states that comprise NNDC, how will the proceeds be shared amongst them?

Each of the 19 northern states that are owners of NNDC has a percentage in the company; therefore, it is a very easy thing to do, we have been doing it. Every year when we make profit, no matter how small we pay the states dividends. So, if anything big comes, it will not be difficult to share. Each state has its stake in NNDC, the governors came and met it there since the days of northern Nigeria. Each state has its percentage holding in NNDC, so when dividends come, they will be a percentage of the total amount that has been realized. The balance will be retained for the running of the company.

It may not be as straightforward as that; don't you think that states where oil will be explored will ask for more share of the cake?

Well, these are details that we have not yet resolved but I can assure you that what ever is operational and it is legal will be taken care of when the situation gets to that level. But let me tell you what we expect. Those states where mineral resources, I don't mean only oil, will usually have get higher in that venture than states that are not custodians of that particular land where the mineral is found. So also the local governments; they will also be involved and they will make some financial contributions in the venture before they will reap the benefit. The economic benefit of having an industry in your own environment is a lot, that alone is an attraction. But when the time comes for us to work out things in terms of who gets what or who gets higher than who, that will be taken care of. The most interesting aspect of it is that everybody in the north should be enthusiastic, should be committed to the development of every mineral resource that is located in any part of the north, so that we will be able to bring our contribution to the nation's coffers in order to stop the reference of being parasites.

In other words, the search for oil in the north is both politics and geology as well as economics

The search for oil is economic but certainly along the line political issues will come up. The role of NNDC is developmental, it is not political. So, our interest is development of northern states and by extension, the development of Nigeria.

Did you factor the issue of environmental degradation in the Memorandum of Understanding that you entered with the Russian firm?

We are awarding a contract this week or the next, for that aspect. We are taking legal steps in order to meet the requirement of the law and to mitigate whatever environmental problems that we are likely encounter along the line. We are not greedy commercial people, we are not business people, we are a developmental organization and we are owned by every northerner. So, whatever we do, we do it in the interest of the north and for the wellbeing of the people of the north. The issue of doing anything that will create problems for the inhabitants of the environment that we are going to operate, will be eliminated by the Grace of God.

INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS

Oil now \$52 per barrel

Oil prices rose nearly 5.8 percent yesterday, fueled by a rally on Wall Street and data showing that the number of workers filing new claims for unemployment benefits fell last week.

U.S. crude rose \$2.86 to settle at \$52.24 a barrel while London Brent rose \$2.47 to \$54.06.

"The energy complex finished this short week on a strong note, apparently responding to renewed economic optimism in the form of a solid advance in the stock indexes," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch & Associates in Galena, Illinois.

U.S. stock markets jumped around 3 percent on Thursday after solid earnings from Wells Fargo fed hopes that stability may be returning to the banking sector.

Markets were also bolstered by U.S. data showing fewer workers than expected filing for jobless aid last week.

Oil has tracked equities markets closely this year as investors seek signs of a potential economic recovery that would boost energy de-

mand.

"Every time the equity markets move up, the energy complex tags along," said Gene McGillian, analyst at TFS Energy in Stamford, Connecticut. "For the energy complex, we will have to see if equities continue to advance next week. That will likely show whether the energy complex is able to hold

on to gains made above \$50."

Adding support, UK consultancy Oil Movements said on Thursday that OPEC seaborne oil exports, not including new members Angola and Ecuador, will fall 280,000 barrels per day in the four weeks ending April 25.

OPEC has agreed to slash 4.2 million bpd of crude out-

put since September to counter falling prices and match slumping world demand.

Oil prices had also climbed on Wednesday on weekly Energy Information Administration data showing a smaller-than-expected build in U.S. crude inventories and a big slump in distillate stocks. *Reuters*

Japan outlines \$150bn stimulus

Japan has unveiled its record \$150bn (£105bn) stimulus package as it seeks to revive its flagging economy.

Prime Minister Taro Aso announced the package, worth about 3% of its gross domestic product, in Tokyo after the ruling party approved the measures.

The 15.4tn yen package, to be formally unveiled on Friday, includes measures to boost fuel-efficient vehicles and consumer electronics.

Shares in Tokyo gained as details of the stimulus plan were announced.

"Only countries that can turn a challenge into an opportunity can prosper in the future," Mr Aso said.

The consequences over the longer term are

negative as we are piling up more of a fiscal burden

The stimulus plan, the government's third in the past year, is bigger than many analysts had expected.

It also creates a financial safety net for temporary workers, boost struggling firms and support regional economies.

Earlier in the week, Finance Minister Kaoru Yosano had suggested that the stimulus would be more like 2% of GDP.

Mr Aso had previously said he would not hesitate to issue new government bonds to cover the cost of the proposed steps.

The country is going through its worst recession since World War II as the global financial downturn

sapped demand for its exports.

Japan's benchmark Nikkei 225 index closed at a three-month high, rising 3.74% to finish at 8,916.06.

Shares in carmakers and solar power-related firms gained after details of the draft plan were released.

"This may contribute to GDP for a year," said Masamichi Adachi, an economist at JP Morgan. "The consequences over the longer term are negative as we are piling up more of a fiscal burden. Bond issuance will go up from here on."

The package came out as figures showed Japan's machinery orders unexpectedly rose in February thanks to gains in the services sector. *BBC*

US making little progress on food safety

Efforts to improve food safety in the United States have "plateaued," exposing the need for an overhaul of the nation's food safety system, government health officials said on Thursday.

Despite work to improve food safety in recent years, the number of foodborne infections remained steady, with little change in the past few years, suggesting fundamental problems are not being solved.

"Progress has plateaued. This indicates to us that further measures are needed to prevent more foodborne illness," Dr. Robert Tauxe of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters in a telephone briefing.

Overall, CDC identified 18,499 laboratory-confirmed cases of food poisoning in 2008 using FoodNet, a tracking system that looks at foodborne illness in 10 states, covering about 46 million people or 15 percent of the U.S. population.

"When we compared the year 2008 information with the three previous years—2005 to 2007—we

see no significant change in the incidence of these infections," he said, noting that 2004 was the last year gains had been made at curbing infection rates.

Salmonella infections were the most commonly diagnosed and reported foodborne illnesses in 2008, and their numbers were essentially unchanged compared with data from 2005-2007.

The 2008 findings represent just a portion of the Salmonella Typhimurium infections caused by tainted peanuts and peanut products processed by the now bankrupt Peanut Corp of America, which has led to the biggest food recall in U.S. history.

The outbreak, which began in September, forced the recall of more than 3,200 products and sickened more than 680 people in 46 states, perhaps killing nine. A series of other incidents involving pistachios, lettuce, peppers and spinach have eroded public confidence in food safety and renewed calls for change.

Dr. David Acheson, associate commissioner for foods at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said the report "underscores the need for a change in approach." *Reuters*

Happy Birthday
@ 75

We congratulate our Dear Father and Grand Father, Alhaji Lawal Othman Musawa as he marks 75 years today.

We rejoice with you on this special day and pray that Almighty Allah will continue to bless you with good health, guide and protect you for more prosperous years. (Amin).

once again, HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

Signed:

L.O. Musawa's Family.

Alh. L.O. Musawa

STAR FEATURE

Haphazard sewage disposal: How K

Estimated five million litres of poisonous waste generated by manufacturing companies in Kano is released daily into River Challawa and much of it finds its way into the Tamburawa Water Treatment plant, Wudil Water Works, Yobe-Kamadugu River and Chad Basin, with all the health hazards to Kano residents and those living along the polluted rivers.

Communities living along Kano River that stretches to Wudil River, Yobe-Kamadugu River and on up to the Chad Basin may have been exposed to dangers of industrial wastes released for years without knowing it.

Daily Trust investigations revealed that over the years the refusal of industries to adhere to sewage and wastes disposal procedures that led to millions of litres daily being released into sources of water has led to land degradation, erosion, loss of animals, and tremendous human health hazards that might have caused rise in many illnesses and preventable deaths.

Malam Sani Sabuwar Gandu is a father of four. Most in the family have developed serious illnesses that have seen them hospitalized severally in the last few years.

Ibrahim Sani, the eldest son, had at 19 years been diagnosed with kidney infection at the Abubakar Imam Urology centre, and like many others living along Sabuwar Gandu, Gadan Tamburawa, Sharada and several other industrial estates, hundreds or even thousands are suffering from dangerous diseases as a result of the indiscriminate release of industrial wastes by companies along the area.

Ibrahim Sani is not the only victim of the wanton and indiscriminate release of industrial wastes due to poor sewage disposal provision by industries in Kano.

Farmers along the Sabuwar Gandu, Challawa, Tamburawa, Kura, Bagauda and several other communities interviewed disclosed observation of fall in cultivation of produce over the years.

Malam Shehu Tamburawa told our reporter that even before their displacement as a result of the construction of the Tamburawa Water Works by the Kano State Government, communities along that area, especially those engaged in irrigation, have been experiencing fall in cultivation.

"We thought it was as a result of inadequate fertilizer, but even if we have adequate amount of the commodity, the produce still recedes unlike before," he said.

The problem did not stop with fall in cultivation alone, animals were daily being lost after drinking from the open sewage that carries industrial wastes from Sharada and Challawa into the Kano River.

Alhaji Kawu Garba informed our reporter that in the last five

From Hassan A Karofi, Kano

years more than fifty animals had died after drinking from the industrial sewages.

The development has raised concern among residents living along the Kano River and beyond.

A recent survey in Kano State shows increase in cases of infections largely caused by suspected consumption of food with high concentration of chemical components mostly with high acidity

elements and metallic compositions.

An investigation at the Infectious Disease Hospital in Kano and the Urology Centre shows increase in patients being diagnosed with infectious diseases, the number, according to the investi-

gations, increases by over 50% within the last few years.

Not only are the actions of the companies causing tremendous damage and threat to health of the residents, even farms are not spared from the devastating effects resulting from the release of these

poisonous chemicals into the public water system by the industries.

Investigations at irrigation facilities in Kura, Bagauda and some other communities using the Kano River as their source of water indicate dwindling fortunes in produce as a result of dying proteins of the soils which were affected by the chemicals from the industries.

Dr Mustapha Karkarna is an environmentalist and currently at the Civil Defence and Immigration Board in Abuja. He told our reporter that the damaging effects of industrial releases can be short, medium and long term.

He said the chemicals being released especially by tanneries possesses some high level of chemical components that have heavy metallic accumulation and other dangerous chemical components that could immediately cause havoc to humans and land.

"Because of these metallic and high accumulation of acidic components, any human consumption could cause cancer and other fatal diseases, while the land that these chemicals are being released on can be affected with loss of value and with time they will dry and fail to produce even if farming is tried on them," he said.

Dr Karkarna added that most tanneries use these chemicals that are supposed to be downgraded, recycled and tr into the Kano rivereated after use and not to be released into the community.

He disclosed that the resultant effect is not only restricted to humans and land, but even sources of water could be affected as wells could dry up due to the impact of these chemicals.

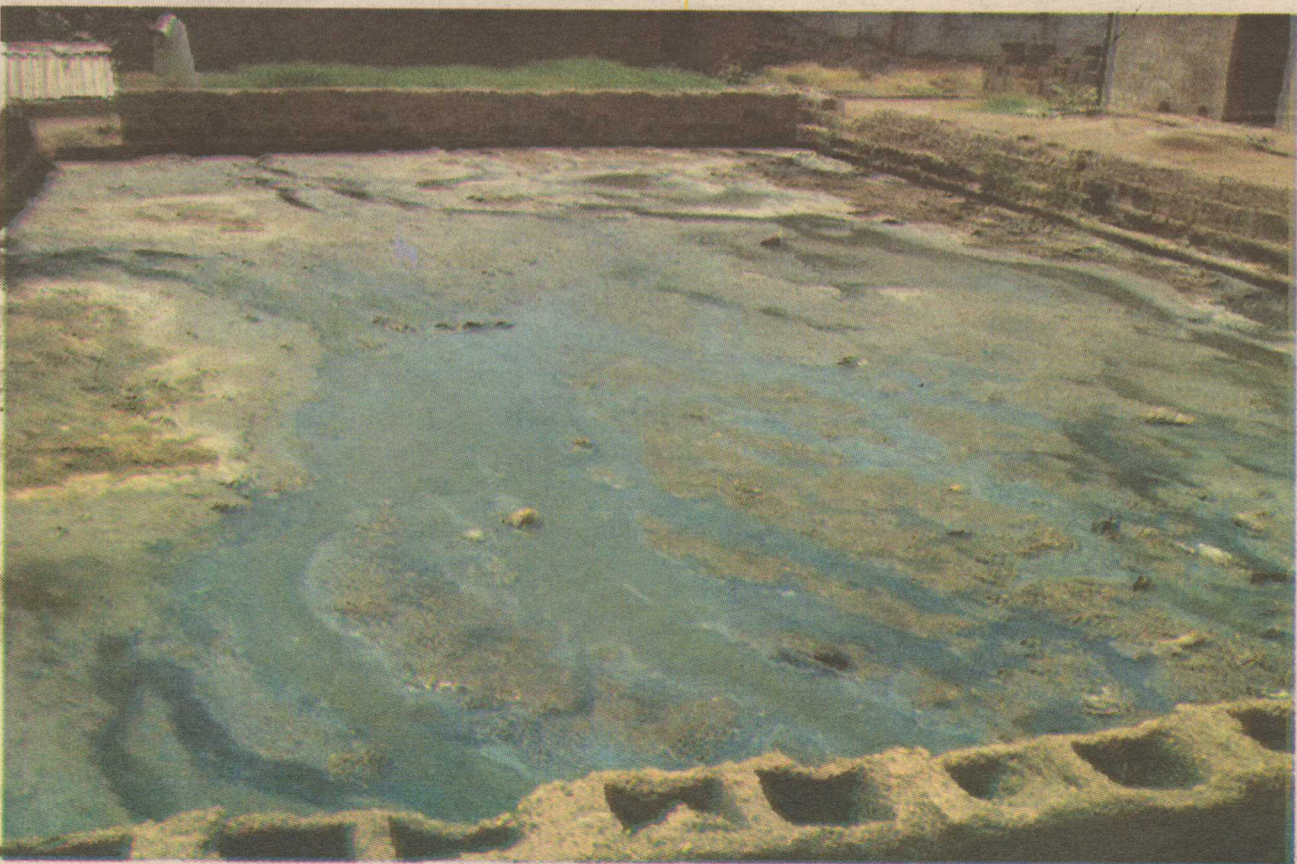
The environmentalist disclosed further that the indiscriminate release of these sewages has already affected the quality of over 90% of water sources in Kano.

"If you go to the city and anywhere near these industries, you will see that taste of water drawn from wells have changed with high level of acids and mostly cannot even be drunk," he said.

Dr Karkarana further explained that the enormous human health hazards being caused over the years by these indiscriminate actions cannot be easily quantified because in the last few years only a full investigation could say how many people have died and how many farm lands have been degraded by these contaminations



A gutter that carries industrial waste



Contaminated industrial waste around one of the factories in Kano

Kano communities pay dearly

Another dangerous trend revealed is the sale of industrial wastes to farmers as fertilizer by many factories.

Many farmers resorted to the use of industrial wastes in place of organic fertilizer or even local manure because of the high cost of the commodity and the availability of the local manure, thereby preferring to use the cheap industrial wastes sold at give away prices by the industries to farmers.

But revelations are that the use of these industrial wastes as fertilizer has devastating effect on the farms and the subsequent produce.

According to Dr Mustapha Karkarna, over 40% of lands in Kano have their productivity value reduced due to use of these 'fertilizers'

This is because due to their chemical composition these industrial 'fertilizers' kill the land, infect the produce, affect the consumer and generate dangerous health hazards over years of use.

"It is imperative for governments at all levels to mobilize and educate farmers on the dangers of using this type of industrial 'fertilizers' being sold by factories to farmers and industries must be forced to engage in proper disposal of their sewages and wastes to protect the people and their land," Dr Karkarna added.

Disturbed by reports of scheming of procedures and refusal to take adequate safety measures in sewage releases and wastes disposal, the National Environment Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) visited Kano to inspect compliance with the rules on sewage releases and wastes disposal.

Many of the industries visited lack the facilities while the few with them have circumvented the process, thereby indiscriminately releasing sewages into public water sources.

After a tour of the industries, the Director of Inspection and Enforcement of the agency, Mrs Ronke Soyombo said any industry that refuses to adhere to the rules and procedures by 6th of May would be sanctioned.

She told *Daily Trust* that the agency decided to inspect tanneries in the state after a report carried out in 2008 indicated that most industries pollute their environment through careless release of toxic wastes.

"A year ago we realized that industries, mostly tanneries, pollute the environment mostly because they refuse to utilise their water treatment plants as stipulated by the law," she added.

Soyombo who described the trend as unfortunate and

responsible for fatal health hazards said the agency decided to give all industries in the country up to May 6th to provide waste treatment plants or face sanctions.

"Very soon we will conduct pre-assessment visit to see how they are complying and any defaulter will be sanctioned according to the level of his offence," she added

The director revealed that a meeting of all stakeholders comprising relevant industrialists would be held to

discuss ways of preserving the environment and preventing the release of poisonous chemical wastes into the society.

"You find that some of these wastes contains corrosive materials, some with chromium that are very toxic and some of the wastes are used as fertilizers and end up in our farms with devastating consequences," she said

Chairman of the Tanner's Council of Nigeria, Alhaji Lawal Sule Garo said the council is

concerned about the development and added that already they are working in conjunction with the tanners to comply with the regulations on waste management in the interest of the people.

He said it is disturbing that actions of the tanneries had been causing serious health hazards and environmental pollution to the community, adding that they will do all it takes to ensure industries comply to the regulations of the wastes disposal and

sewage construction procedures.

In one of the companies, Unique Tannery, where poisonous releases reach a daily 300,000 liters, the team expresses happiness of the company's readiness to complete its treatment plant soon.

Conducting round the team the Chief Engineer, Mr Niaz Ali said very soon the company will commission its waste treatment plant, believed to be the biggest in Africa.

He said adequate measures

are being taken to ensure compliance with the regulations and safety of the environment.

"Right now our treatment plant is the biggest in Africa and when completed there will be none like it in the entire African Region," he said.

Further investigations revealed that after realizing the monumental effect of the industrial wastages to the people as a result of failure of industries in Kano state to adhere to the sewage regulations the federal government in conjunction with the state and the United Nations Industrial Fund (UNIDO) met and agreed to set up a secondary treatment plant to enable industries recycle their wastages and protect the communities from consuming these poisonous releases.

But since 2006 when the idea was conceived during the reign of Mrs Grace Ogburne as the Minister for Special Duties in the Presidency, the idea has since died with the change of government in 2007.

But chairman of the Kano State Technical Committee on the establishment of that secondary treatment plant and Deputy Director, Pollution Directorate at the state Ministry for Environment, Engineer Mustapha Muhammed told *Daily Trust* that findings had shown that most industries do not have the treatment plant.

He said even those that have it were bypassing it to release wastes directly into the public sewage.

He said it was for the dire need to ensure compliance and protection of the people that a draft bill for the establishment of a secondary treatment plant with collaboration of the federal and state governments and UNIDO is underway.

Engineer Mustapha disclosed that it is because of the realization of increase in the pollution level and the fact that waste water from these industries are going up stream as well as the down stream source like Tamburawa, that necessary action to protect the people became imminent.

He also disclosed that one of the problems facing the establishment of the secondary treatment plant was the decision of the federal government to direct the ecological fund through the Hadejia Jama'are River Basin Development Authority, an action making coordination difficult.

"But we are determined to see that all industries operating in the state act within the laws, and as seen in some of the industries, the intent to comply with the regulation is really a welcomed development," he said

But the question many people are asking is this: Why has it taken both the Kano State and Federal Government this long to realize the effect of the actions of these industries to the health of the people, land and animals, knowing fully well that hundreds, if not thousand deaths, could have been as a result of the haphazard sewage disposal method of these industries?



This waste which originates from one of the industrial estates empties into the Kano River



This waste is used by some farmers as fertiliser

BUSINESS TRUST

Challenges before new BPE boss

On the 10th of March, 2009, President Umaru Musa Yar-adua did not surprise pundits when he appointed a once little known Dr Christopher Anyawu, formerly of the University of Nigeria Nsukka to head the nation's privatisation agency.

It is not the first time somebody from outside the Bureau of Public Enterprises is being appointed to head it. Notable examples are: Malam Nasir el-Rufai (1999-2003) and Dr. Julius Bala.

Without doubt, the BPE is one of the government agencies that has generated enormous controversies in public discuss in recent times. Its main job is privatisation (a euphemism for selling public properties to private individuals) of government enterprises considered to be performing lower than par or apparently failing. Even though the public might not have direct monetary benefit from these enterprises, the knowledge that they are labelled public properties gives enough sentiment to the people to resist attempt to change the ownership structures, more often than of such properties.

The new Director General of the BPE really has many hurdles to cross especially when he is obviously a green horn in privatisation matters. Dr Anyawu knows this and he confirmed it.

Speaking at a breakfast meeting with journalists in his Abuja office, he said, "I am receptive of ideas and guidance. The first thing I had to say when I resumed here is that I have come with a clean slate, clean hand and clean heart to work. I know that any lawyer who knows his onions will effectively carry out any assignment given to him."

Gauging the enormity of the task ahead, the brand new BPE boss quipped to the crowd of journalists, "I am sure most of you don't envy me. I don't envy myself. What I have on the ground, I don't know how many people are challenged to carry out such duties."

For this reason, inexperience, especially in privatization matters would probably be the biggest task the BPE new helmsman will have to contend with.

Even though, Malam Nasiru el-Rufai was not so known to have prior work experience in selling of state assets, he was reputed for having a diploma certificate in privatisation from the prestigious Harvard University. On top of that, he was a special assistant to the then chairman of the Technical Committee on Privatization and Commercialization (TCPC) under the General Babangida government.

Anyawu believe he can surmount this with his

By Yunus Abdulhamid

trainings as a lawyer.

The next hurdle he has to cross is the successful sale of Nigeria's foremost telecoms national carrier, Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) to a new owner.

NITEL has weathered all storms and defy all odds to remain the most problematic entity in Nigerian billed for privatisation.

During el-Rufai's days at the BPE, it was a smooth sail until the controversial privatisation of NITEL to Pentascope. Till he left the agency to become a minister of the FCT, controversies never left his door steps any more, even after his ministerial job.

A brief notes of various controversies that have trailed NITEL may suffice to underline the enormity of the challenge it poses to the new BPE boss.

Under the watch of Mrs. Irene Chigbue, Transcorp Plc, got it at the cost of \$500 million (N63 billion) with a commitment to the federal government to turn its fortune within a year or face revocation. Ever after, the fortune of the foremost telecom company has nosedived, leaving more questions than answers.

Following the non performance of Transcorp after one year, the federal government invoked the Share Sale and Purchase Agreement (SSPA), calling on the company to step down as core investor for a new one to be selected. The 51% shares to be given to the new core investor would be contributed by the federal government and Transcorp. This took place in December, 2007 but after one full year, a little seemed to have been achieved to restore the moribund NITEL.

In July, the BPE, with the approval of the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) appointed BNP Paribas to provide advisory services towards the search for a new core investor. According to the time table released by BPE, the transaction would be completed in February, 2009. But recent happenings are pointing to somewhat different directions. A consortium of banks including UBA, Union bank, Intercontinental bank, Wema bank among others had claimed ownership of NITEL upon hearing the plans to sell it to out to a new owner. The group claimed Transcorp borrowed about N75 billion to finance NITEL purchase which was yet to be paid back. Apart from that, the staffs of NITEL and MTEL, the mobile arm of the national carrier are still having a running battle with Transcorp management, alleging non payment of arrears for several months and cannibalisation of NITEL/



Director General of BPE, Dr. Christopher Uloneme Anyawu

MTEL's property.

Another controversy that arose was the refusal of Transcorp to accede to the power of attorney to relinquish some of its shares to BPE which would in turn be given to the new core investor as agreed by government and Transcorp. Media report also had it that 6.67% equity have been ceded to Investor International London Limited (IILL) for the \$13 million initial payment it made in its bid for NITEL in 2002 which revoked for its inability to pay the balance. Another reason speculated to delay the February 2009 date line is that the Federal Government which owns 49% of the shares in NITEL has whittled down its shareholding considerably by ceding 15% of the shares to the Nigerian Communications Satellite, NigComSat and with that if IILL, the market might be very uneven for the government.

The journey to privatise NITEL has been a long and arduous one. It started in 2000. It was stopped in 2002, when IILL, then investor failed to pay the \$1.317 billion it offered. In 2003, Pentascope was appointed by government to run a three year contract to prepare the sleeping giant for sale but this failed following alleged embezzlement and incompetence. In 2006, Orascom of Egypt offered \$256.53 million but this was rejected by the federal government on the ground that it was ridiculously low before the coming of Transcorp in November 14, 2006.

Also arising from the sale of NITEL to Transcorp is the N17 billion pension buy out of its former workers. Shortly before Chigbue's exit, the BPE had announced government approval of N8 billion to be paid to the hunger stricken ex-NITEL staff. This came on the heels of long drawn battle between the workers and BPE since 2006. The pensioners, not able to bear the brunt any

longer had brought the battle to the door steps of BPE in droves from all over the country. They did not leave until Chigbue and her team struck a deal with them that the money would be facilitated.

So, when these ex-workers of NITEL come back knocking again, the new BPE boss will have to fix the problem or perhaps be ridiculed.

Another pitfall Anyawu will need to cross is to learn to avoid controversies. Privatisation by its nature gives room for controversies. He needs to avoid controversies and when an inevitable one crops up, it must be cleared without giving room for suspicious.

Mr. Ajayi Olatunji Olowo, an Assistant Director with the River Basin Developments Authorities (RBDAs) Department of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) was on August 5, 2008 given the sack.

He accused the former BPE boss, Irene Chigbue of serial corruption and nepotism running into millions of naira. He authored a petition to the presidency and the anti-graft agency, the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC). That cost him his job and after some war of words in the pages of newspapers, and the EFCC's widely publicised attempt to unravel the truth of the allegations. Almost a year after, nothing has been heard from the EFCC about the conclusion of the investigations. Probably, investigations are still ongoing.

Again, a controversy ranged in 2007 as to the true status of the privatisation proceeds. While Chigbue vehemently argued that the money were in an escrow account with the Central bank of Nigeria, the Revenue Mobilisation and Fiscal Commission (RMFC) claimed it was the constitutional rights of the commission to ware house the proceeds. Daily Trust investigations at the CBN had indicated that there was no such

account with the apex bank.

Upon resumption, Dr Anyawu told a gathering of BPE correspondents and Abuja Bureau Chiefs that he was going to midwife a privatisation model that is not particularly tilted towards western capitalism and Communism of the East.

He said, "I believe we are intelligent people. We cannot follow the state drive economic idea of the east-Russia, former Soviet Union or the capitalist model of the west. If we can find the middle of the road approach, that will be our own unique contribution to human civilisation."

How he is able to achieve this self set goal to palliate hard feelings of the Nigeria public will be part of criteria through which his stewardship will be judged.

Importantly too is the brewing crisis of deregulation of the downstream sector of the oil industry. Since oil and gas is the main stay of the Nigerian economy, the collective interest of the Nigeria people and uproar that privatisation of any entity there is probably understandable.

In August last year, a planned industrial crisis was threatening to grind the wheels of operation in the oil industry when the BPE announced that the Eleme Petrochemical Company Limited (EPCL) and the Nigeria Gas Company were among government agencies slated for sale. The BPE refuted ever planning to do so. But truth be told, August 23, 2008, BPE had announced in its 2008/2009 transaction plans that, "A key transaction in the plan is the privatization of Petroleum Pipeline Marketing Company (PPMC) which will go through privatization process from October 2008 to October 2009. So too will the Nigeria Gas Company (NGC) go through privatization process from September 2008 to June 2009."

Members of the National Union of Petroleum and Natural Gas Workers (NUPENG) and Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) mounted a stiff resistance till BPE and NNPC staged a joint press conference to announce halting exercise towards that direction.

Today's realities do point to the fact that the labour and federal government may soon get back at each other's throat.

Anyawu's ingenuity in resolving trade disputes will be put to full test when that time finally comes and may come sooner than later.

Post privatisation monitoring is another vital area of concern to the Nigeria public. No doubt, the success of the privatisation exercise will be hinged on how well the sold enterprises do better than the state at which they were sold.

A very good example of poor monitoring of privatised government firm is the Daily Times of Nigeria, Plc. In fact, it is an epitome of how not to privatise.

In 2001, Folio Communications Limited acquired the Daily Times with the intent to make it better positioned in the media industry. But eight good years after, the company is in virtual tatters. No single edition in the market, no sign yet that it will be. Journalists working for the company have been left in the cold with pay or benefits.

It is therefore safe to say that if privatisation renders an entity like Daily Times of Nigeria that made some of the most outstanding journalists in the nation even at the time government held sway to be a shadow of itself, there is really no need to."

The New Nigerian Newspapers is another case study. At the moment, the once vibrant voice, especially of Northern Nigeria is cut between extinction and survival, thanks to inaction of the Nigeria government. The staff and pensioners are perhaps regretting while they ever chose the misfortune of working for the company.

Originally founded by the old Northern government, its ownership changed to the federal government with the passage of time. In the name of re-inventing the once prosperous media giant, the 19 northern states took over the control but this time, may be to its death bed. Why BPE has not swing into action to have it privatised is an open question.

But Anyawu, in his maiden meeting with the press vowed to strengthen the monitoring wing of the BPE, saying, "All privatisation were done within legal frame work. There are agreements. Non-compliance will definitely attract the reaction of the BPE. We are going to strengthen our monitoring to make sure if you are not working according to the agreement, things won't just be the way they had been."

Finally, with this and more, Dr Christopher Uloneme Anyawu must remember that for every action or inaction, there is a day of reckoning, sooner or later.

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FINANCE BUSINESS

THE NIGERIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

REPORT AS AT THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2009

Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares	Company Name	No of Deals	Quotation(N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares
2ND-TIER SECURITIES					HEALTHCARE				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	1	13.83	300	4,149.00	EVANS MEDICAL PLC	3	2.66	8,693	21,993.29
Sector Totals	1		300	4,149.00	FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	8	2.17	324,039	703,164.63
AGRICULTURE					GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	7	15.73	39,860	614,903.81
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC	1	0.86	1,000	850.00	MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	18	4.50	161,469	726,913.67
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	23	1.05	697,013	759,150.15	NEIMETH INTERNATIONAL PHARMA. PLC	7	1.77	202,061	372,004.97
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	9	1.04	99,300	104,619.00	UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SER. PLC	6	0.63	659,958	415,773.54
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COMPANY PLC	1	29.61	222	6,244.86	Sector Totals	49		1,396,080	2,854,753.91
PRESCO PLC	13	5.33	34,500	176,550.00	HOTEL & TOURISM				
Sector Totals	47		832,035	1,047,414.01	CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	4	3.94	52,000	204,880.00
AIR SERVICES					IKEJA HOTEL PLC	1	3.91	6,300,455	24,634,779.05
NIGERIAN AVIATION HANDLING CO. PLC	42	7.00	486,131	3,425,498.05	Sector Totals	5		6,352,455	24,839,659.05
Sector Totals	42		486,131	3,425,498.05	INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE					B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	6	16.96	33,521	572,673.80
DUNLOP NIGERIA PLC	23	0.50	1,360,016	680,008.00	FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC	1	1.86	120,000	223,200.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	2	8.28	81,568	675,383.04	VITAFAM NIGERIA PLC	9	3.71	71,871	279,454.41
Sector Totals	25		1,441,584	1,355,391.04	Sector Totals	16		225,392	1,075,328.21
BANKING					INFORMATION, COMMUNICATION & TELECOMMUNICATION				
ACCESS BANK PLC	176	4.90	7,015,954	34,260,947.12	CHAMS NIGERIA PLC	29	1.22	1,633,927	1,956,555.91
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	120	5.47	3,908,074	21,271,400.10	MASS TELECOM INNOVATION NIG. PLC	2	0.59	15,000	8,550.00
DIAMOND BANK PLC	62	4.30	3,101,233	13,792,463.85	STARCOMMS PLC	45	2.00	1,694,470	3,412,334.70
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	6	27.96	22,575	631,197.00	Sector Totals	76		3,343,397	5,377,440.61
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	141	5.00	13,005,959	62,484,796.67	INSURANCE				
FIDELITY BANK PLC	106	2.19	11,129,443	23,666,610.20	AIICO INSURANCE PLC	111	0.99	1,031,049	1,054,292.04
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	1,070	14.40	31,280,099	454,795,339.50	CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	5	0.91	260,000	239,150.00
FIRST INLAND BANK PLC	10	2.36	491,488	1,159,911.68	CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC	11	1.24	627,814	780,865.36
GTBANK PLC	340	9.97	21,178,884	211,666,122.91	CUSTODIAN AND ALLIED INS. PLC	6	2.06	229,150	467,014.50
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	60	5.38	2,347,518	12,473,586.86	EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	2	1.63	38,700	59,985.00
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	310	7.19	9,721,757	70,150,001.09	GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	21	0.50	2,495,257	1,247,628.50
OCEANIC BANK INTERNATIONAL PLC	228	6.21	4,079,097	25,820,768.20	GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	19	0.51	1,011,444	515,566.22
BANK PHB PLC	81	5.00	1,985,268	10,114,139.38	CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INS. PLC	8	0.54	704,724	378,217.92
SKYE BANK PLC	145	3.95	3,525,276	13,840,818.81	INVEST. AND ALLIED ASSURANCE PLC	7	0.50	2,464,510	1,232,255.00
SPRING BANK PLC	7	5.59	412,776	2,307,417.84	INT'L ENERGY INSURANCE CO. PLC	34	1.00	3,990,634	3,996,834.00
STERLING BANK PLC	40	1.37	2,068,757	2,838,038.24	LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	14	0.88	421,405	378,992.56
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	246	8.50	2,037,496	17,262,017.49	LAW UNION AND ROCK INSURANCE PLC	2	1.35	6,500	8,385.00
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	258	11.92	3,248,765	38,571,182.57	LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	8	0.50	285,796	142,898.00
UNITYBANK PLC	38	1.26	2,827,719	3,554,021.23	MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSURANCE PLC	21	0.68	727,375	495,695.00
WEMA BANK PLC	13	3.30	57,591,290	190,051,257.00	N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG) PLC	48	0.59	6,942,303	4,148,578.77
ZENITH BANK PLC	164	11.68	5,865,640	66,885,112.40	NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	10	1.47	31,927	46,239.59
Sector Totals	3,621		186,845,068	1,277,597,150.14	OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	4.67	10,000	44,400.00
BREWERIES					PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	4.62	5,000	21,950.00
GUINNESS NIGERIA PLC	69	88.90	282,828	25,145,099.25	REGENCY ALLIANCE INS. CO. PLC	2	0.50	77,500	38,750.00
INTERNATIONAL BREWERIES PLC	16	2.90	148,459	420,254.50	SOVEREIGN TRUST INSURANCE PLC	3	0.74	334,391	247,449.34
NIGERIAN BREWERIES PLC	98	36.60	1,481,278	54,319,179.74	STACO INSURANCE PLC	4	3.66	20,000	73,200.00
Sector Totals	183		1,912,565	79,884,533.49	STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	57	0.61	2,361,784	1,481,014.08
BUILDING MATERIALS					UNIC INSURANCE PLC	10	0.73	186,691	127,483.03
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	63	8.00	604,550	4,973,477.84	UNIVERSAL INSURANCE COMPANY PLC	22	0.54	1,370,970	740,323.80
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	26	22.84	1,296,982	28,735,681.96	INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INS. PLC	20	2.07	1,191,206	2,465,796.42
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIGERIA PLC	12	6.73	388,250	2,612,922.50	Sector Totals	447		26,826,130	20,432,964.13
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	55	17.20	980,583	16,591,853.98	LEASING				
Sector Totals	156		3,270,365	52,913,936.28	C&I LEASING PLC	6	6.04	35,026	201,049.24
CHEMICAL & PAINTS					Sector Totals	6		35,026	201,049.24
CHEMICAL AND ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	10	32.77	10,537	328,122.18	MARITIME				
Sector Totals	10		10,537	328,122.18	JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERVICES PLC	121	1.67	1,230,494	2,051,277.00
COMMERCIAL SERVICES					Sector Totals	121		1,230,494	2,051,277.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	10	2.00	158,480	314,496.40	MEDIA				
Sector Totals	10		158,480	314,496.40	DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	227	1.40	8,524,950	12,278,557.50
COMPUTER & OFFICE EQUIPMENT					Sector Totals	227		8,524,950	12,278,557.50
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	22	0.89	617,132	513,478.74	MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
TRIPLE GEE AND COMPANY PLC	2	7.39	44,500	312,835.00	ABBEY BUILDING SOCIETY PLC	2	2.78	3,000	7,950.00
Sector Totals	24		661,632	826,313.74	ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC	15	0.97	219,615	217,448.00
CONGLOMERATES					UNION HOMES SAVINGS AND LOANS PLC	78	1.50	2,808,131	4,001,887.72
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	3	6.79	9,620	62,145.20	Sector Totals	95		3,030,746	4,227,285.72
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	11.97	15,000	170,700.00	OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS				
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	33	17.10	272,177	4,638,494.53	ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	3	2.17	41,069	85,012.83
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	11.95	100	1,136.00	Sector Totals	3		41,069	85,012.83
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	40	0.53	4,252,250	2,220,985.00	PACKAGING				
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	25	29.50	75,378	2,196,904.84	NIGERIAN BAG MAN. CO. PLC	512	1.18	1,305,801	1,543,826.20
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	40	7.71	447,223	3,461,253.23	Sector Totals	512		1,305,801	1,543,826.20
Sector Totals	143		5,071,748	12,751,618.80	PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
CONSTRUCTION					AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	146	84.98	278,679	23,564,651.13
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	33	4.84	388,682	1,794,533.56	CHEVRON OIL NIGERIA PLC	1	90.30	50	4,740.50
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	15	22.00	97,644	2,116,153.49	CONOIL PLC	5	67.23	19,751	1,261,496.37
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	13	0.54	638,376	344,723.04	ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	2	26.68	4,940	131,799.20
Sector Totals	61		1,124,702	4,255,410.09	MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	4	96.61	581	58,936.64
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY					OANDO PLC	51	65.00	39,834	2,519,624.03
CUTIX PLC	1	6.72	3,000	19,170.00	TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	7	143.32	7,035	1,016,140.00
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC	1	1.41	20,300	27,202.00	Sector Totals	216		350,870	28,557,387.87
Sector Totals	2		23,300	46,372.00	PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	4	4.18	27,692	112,331.08
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	11	37.05	13,687	506,924.00	Sector Totals	4		27,692	112,331.08
BIG TREAT PLC	3	2.35	5,950	13,328.00	REAL ESTATE				
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	24	10.10	120,421	1,248,129.18	UACN PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT CO. PLC	8	16.44	9,978	164,637.00
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	84	7.65	723,650	5,735,681.11	Sector Totals	8		9,978	164,637.00
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	91	14.31	2,112,050	30,585,782.20	ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	80	14.97	225,942	3,351,387.41	ASSOCIATED BUS COMPANY PLC	11	0.98	284,705	275,191.58
NATIONAL SALT COMPANY NIGERIA PLC	21	3.99	446,989	1,783,486.11	Sector Totals	11		284,705	275,191.58
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COMPANY PLC	17	22.50	9,350	210,131.60	THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	41	147.00	53,250	7,672,512.10	ECOBANK TRANSNATIONAL INCORP.	116	9.20	2,594,570	24,678,618.41
TANTALIZERS PLC	19	1.07	215,500	230,585.00	Sector Totals	116		2,594,570	24,678,618.41
UTC NIGERIA PLC	4	3.01	18,117	51,814.62	Overall Totals	6,632		261,362,708	1,614,895,486.89
Sector Totals	395		3,944,906	51,389,761.33					

Continued on page 32

FINANCE BUSINESS

Start from page 31

Top 10 Trades

Symbol	Volume	Value	Trades
IKEJAHOTEL	6,300,455.00	24,634,779.05	1
NEM	6,942,303.00	4,148,578.77	48
ACCESS	7,015,954.00	34,260,947.12	176
DAARCOMM	8,524,950.00	12,278,557.50	227
INTERCONT	9,721,757.00	70,150,001.09	310
FIDELITYBK	11,129,443.00	23,666,610.20	106
FCMB	13,005,959.00	62,484,796.67	141
GUARANTY	21,178,884.00	211,666,122.91	340
FIRSTBANK	31,280,099.00	454,795,339.50	1070
WEMABANK	57,591,290.00	190,051,257.00	13

Gainers

Symbol	Last Close	Yesterday's Close	Change
NESTLE	140.02	147.00	+6.98
AP	83.51	84.98	+1.47
BCC	21.76	22.84	+1.08
ZENITHBANK	11.13	11.68	+0.55
UBN	11.57	11.92	+0.35
FLOURMILL	14.67	14.97	+0.30
AFRIBANK	5.21	5.47	+0.26
COSTAIN	4.61	4.84	+0.23
WAPCO	17.00	17.20	+0.20
NASCON	3.80	3.99	+0.19

Losers

Symbol	Last Close	Yesterday's Close	Change
GUINNESS	89.90	88.90	-1.00
JBERGER	22.80	22.00	-0.80
FIRSTBANK	15.05	14.40	-0.65
CADBURY	10.60	10.10	-0.50
DANGSUGAR	14.75	14.31	-0.44
RTBRISCOE	8.71	8.28	-0.43
ASHAKACEM	8.40	8.00	-0.40
UACN	29.90	29.50	-0.40
NB	36.96	36.60	-0.36
CCNN	7.08	6.73	-0.35

Market State: Closed

Index	: 19,913.86
Deals	: 6,632
Volume	: 261,362,708
Value	: N1,614,895,486.89
Cap.	: N4,504,968,468,663.18

Fidelity bank raises agric facility to N10m

By Idris Ahmed

Fidelity Bank Plc has said that it has raised the maximum limit of agricultural loans an individual can access from the bank from N250,000 to N10 million.

The bank said this yesterday in Abuja while unveiling its new agricultural financing project.

Tagged the "Fidelity Agri-Nigeria Project", the bank said it is an agricultural empowerment initiative for a new generation of Nigerian farmers and entrepreneurs in Agric business.

At the same event, a group representing farmers in the

country has urged the federal government to allow many banks to participate in the disbursement of the proposed N200 billion agricultural loans.

Chairman of the Sorghum Grower Association of Nigeria, Sambo Bello Ingawa who said this at the event said that if more banks are involved in the disbursement, more people would get access to the loans.

The Minister of Agriculture and Water Resource, Abba Sayyadi Ruma said the loan is in the level of actual-

ization and that they have met with State Governors on the implementation modality.

Speaking on the bank's new agric project, the Fidelity bank's Managing Director and the Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Reginald Ihejiahi said that the project constitutes the bank's own "package to support the government and people of our nation to convert the opportunities in agriculture."

He said: "We are beginning a project where the co-operation and encouragement of all are required - both government and the agric business entrepreneurs."

He said Nigerians should embrace agriculture because of the opportunities in the sector and also plan better because commercial agriculture enables best use of land and other resources.

"Fidelity wants to enable the emergence of a new generation of entrepreneurs in agriculture from the front end to the back end. This generation would include young graduates in agriculture and other

fields, smart investors", he said.

The Fidelity Agri - Nigeria Project, according to the bank's MD/CEO has four features.

The first is the Fidelity Agric Trust Fund Facility (FATFF) which is designed to increase the production of agribusiness through tripartite arrangement of beneficiary, sponsor/promoter and bank.

The second is Fidelity Self Help Group Facility (FSHGF), designed to support and encourage individuals and informal groups to go into productive activities along agric value chain business through promoter and sponsors.

Another feature is the Fidelity Cooperative Union Facility (FCUF) aimed at providing the funding needs of registered cooperatives involved in various productive agribusinesses, while the Fidelity Agric Lease Facility (FALF) is designed to fund the acquisition of operation assets required for agribusiness.

Market indices down by 0.3 per cent

Stock market indices yesterday were down by 0.3 per cent against the previous day trading of 0.2 per cent. Specifically, the market lost N15.140 billion to close at N4.504 trillion in sharp contrast to Wednesday's dealing of N4.520 trillion.

All share index also dropped by 0.3 per cent or 66.93 to close at 19,913.86 point level against the previous day dealings of 19,980.79 points.

In all a total of 261.362 million shares worth N1.614 billion in 6,632 deals were transacted in the market with banking sub sector led other sub sectors.

The sector recorded a turnover of 186.845 million shares worth N1.277 billion in 3,621 deals. Activities in the shares of Wema bank drive the sub sector with 57.591 million shares worth N190.051 million exchanged in 3,621 deals.

Insurance sub sector as usual followed with a turnover of 26.826 million shares worth N20.432 million exchanged in 447 deals.

Activities in the shares of N.E.M Insurance drive the sub sector with 6.942 million shares worth N4.148 million in 48 deals.

On the gainers' chart, Nestle led others with N6.98 to close at N147.00 per share, AP with N1.47 to close at N84.98 per share, BCC N1.08

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

to close at N22.84 per share.

On the losers chart, Guinness led others with a loss of N1.00 per share to close at N88.90, JBerger N0.80 to close at N22.00 per share, First bank N0.65 to close at N14.40 per share

Minister urges manufacturers to be consumer friendly

By Yunus Abdulhamid

The Minister of Commerce and Industry Chief Achike Udenwa has urged manufacturers in Nigeria to as a matter of deliberate policy set aside a fraction of the annual profit to strengthening of consumers protection in the country.

He said the Nigeria consumer population was largely ignorant, uneducated and passive which makes the job of the Consumer Protection Council (CPC) a herculean task.

The minister was speaking at the maiden edition of the Consumer Protection Council's 2009 National Young Consumer award held in Abuja. The award is instituted by the CPC to inspire consumer education among the youngsters, according to the CPC Director General, Mrs. Ify Umeanyi.

He said it has been ob-

served overtime that most companies do not take into consideration the interest of consumers when designing and developing their social responsibility initiatives, saying "This situation is unacceptable, particularly in the globalising world. Globalisation apart from breaking down barriers in world trade, projects the consumer as the driving force of the economy."

Also speaking, the Edo state governor, Comrade Adam Oshiomole, represented by the state's Abuja Chief Liaison Officer, Mr. Tony Aiyejina advised Nigerian children to shun all social vices for a better future.

He said, "If you are the true future of this country, you must shun cultism, exam malpractices, prostitution and

human trafficking."

The CPC boss said "the youths worldwide have been identified not only to be agents of social change, but a strong factor in the consumption pattern of homes, demands that more attention be directed at them with a view to catching them young for the fight for a virile consumer protection regime in Nigeria."

She said three states were picked from each of the six geopolitical zones from the country to participate in the national completion was in three categories; namely, Newsletter, video and fliers.

At the awards, Government Secondary school, Wuse Zone 3, Abuja was crowned winners of the Newsletter category and went home with N70,000 cash prize and a digital video camera. Government Secondary School, Owerri came second and went home with N50,000 and 21 inches LCD television. For the fliers category, Girls Senior Commercial School, Aba Abia state earned the number one spot and were rewarded N70,000 and a digital video camera.

The Living World Academy, Aba and Girls' Secondary School, Abai, Aba, both in Abia state came second with a tie. They won N50,000 and 21 inches LCD television.

Government Secondary School, Nyanya, Abuja came top in the video category and went home with N100,000 and a digital video camera while the Living World Academy, Aba in Abia state came second and were given a cash prize of N70,000 and a digital video camera.

Buffett loses top credit rating

US financier Warren Buffett's holding company, Berkshire Hathaway, has lost its top credit rating.

Ratings agency Moody's cut the debt rating from Aaa, the highest, to Aa2, meaning that it thinks the company is less likely to pay back its debt.

Mr Buffett admitted last month he made some "dumb" mistakes in 2008, when Berkshire's profits fell 62% - the worst performance in its 44 years.

The move is all the more noteworthy, as Berkshire is a significant investor in

Moody's. The outlook on Berkshire's debt is stable, meaning Moody's does not expect to cut its rating again anytime soon.

In his annual letter to investors, Mr Buffett said his errors included buying stakes in two Irish banks and investing in oil company Conoco Philips when the crude price was at its peak.

He predicted that the US economy would be in a "shambles" throughout 2009 and beyond.

Berkshire's equity holdings include financial stocks

such as Goldman Sachs, American Express Co and Wells Fargo & Co, which have all suffered big declines.

Mr Buffett, ranked as the world's second-richest man by Forbes magazine, also owns stakes in Coca-Cola, reinsurer Swiss Re and car insurer Geico. Now, there are only four US companies with Moody's top Aaa debt rating - Exxon Mobil, Microsoft, Johnson & Johnson and Automatic Data Processing.

Class A shares in Berkshire have dropped by 7.9% this year, closing on Wednesday at \$88,960 a share. BBC.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES

INAUGURATION OF BOARDS OF THE MINISTRY'S RIVER BASIN AUTHORITIES

The Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, Dr. Sayyadi Abba Ruma cordially invites the underlisted persons who are appointed Chairmen/Members of the Boards of River Basin Development Authorities to the Inauguration Ceremony scheduled as follows:

Date: Tuesday, April 14, 2009.
Venue: Ladi Kwali Hall, Abuja Sheraton Hotel and Towers.
Time: 10.00 am.

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

1. ANAMBRA-IMO RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	ENGR. GREG AMAJUOYI	CHAIRMAN
2	Dr. FRANCIS EGU	MEMBER
3	HON. ALEX OGBONNA	MEMBER
4	ENGR. LAWAN WAKILBE	MEMBER
5	Dr. OFFIONG ANI OFFIONG	MEMBER
6	ABDULLAHI OHIOMAH	MEMBER

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

2. BENIN-OWENA RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	PRINCE SOLOMON AGUELE	CHAIRMAN
2	MRS. RITA COKER	MEMBER
3	KAWU AHMED NAFADA	MEMBER
4	CHIEF DAVID AMOH	MEMBER
5	BARR. OJO WILLIAMS	MEMBER
6	JULIUS SOWUNMI	MEMBER

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

3. CROSS RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	MR. WILLIAMS MAKINDE	CHAIRMAN
2	ALH. ABUBAKAR IBRAHIM DAN-MUSA	MEMBER
3	BARR. EDET BASSEY MBIAM	MEMBER
4	SABO A. MADUGU	MEMBER
5	DR. AYO OLAIYA	MEMBER
6	CHARLES C. ANYANWU	MEMBER

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

4. CHAD BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	RTD. A. I.G. ZANNA LAMINU MAMADI	CHAIRMAN
2	ALH. MOHAMMED GAMBO GUJBA	MEMBER
3	ALH. SIRAJU DADA	MEMBER
4	ALH. GARBA DANDIGA	MEMBER
5	RAYMOND DABO	MEMBER
6	SEN. GARBA TAURA	MEMBER

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

5. HADEJIA-JAMARE BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	ALH. IBRAHIM MUKHTAR	CHAIRMAN
2	ALH. GARBA NABALI AHMED	MEMBER
3	BABA HARDO ZARMA	MEMBER
4	ENGR. KAMAL GIWA	MEMBER
5	COMRADE TONY NWOYE	MEMBER
6	HON. FIBI ISA	MEMBER

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

6. LOWER-BENUE BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	ENGR. YUSUF NYAM	CHAIRMAN
2	ALH. JALO ABUBAKAR	MEMBER
3	CHIEF FRANK NEVOBASI	MEMBER
4	MAGNUS KANU	MEMBER
5	CHIEF LANRE RASAK	MEMBER
6	AMB. (MRS) OGBON	MEMBER

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

7. LOWER-NIGER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	CHIEF ENYI OBANDE	CHAIRMAN
2	DR. IFEANYI NWOBODO	MEMBER
3	GROUP CAPT. T. DANYIL	MEMBER
4	ALH. SULE MASHASHA	MEMBER
5	PRINCE KINSE OKOKO	MEMBER
6	HAJIA FATIMA SALIHU	MEMBER

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

8. NIGER-DELTA BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	HON. E. A. AGUARIYWODO	CHAIRMAN
2	MR. MOWON ETETE	MEMBER
3	CHIEF C. O.C. EGUNGBE	MEMBER
4	MRS. OCHO ALFA	MEMBER
5	MOHAMMED SHEHUWA	MEMBER
6	HON. SUNNY UYIGWE	MEMBER

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

9. OGUN-OSUN RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	CHIEF HYDE ONAGULUCHI	CHAIRMAN
2	ALH. AJIYA IDRIS WAZIRI	MEMBER
3	MALLAM GARBA YABO	MEMBER
4	MRS. DOLAPO ABANIDA	MEMBER
5	EMMA M. SHODA	MEMBER
6	CHIEF FEMI ADEKANYE	MEMBER

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

10. UPPER NIGER RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	ALH. ABDULLAHI WAZIRI TAMBUNAL	CHAIRMAN
2	SIR KELLY INYIRI	MEMBER
3	LAWRENCE AMADIOHA	MEMBER
4	HON. RABU SULE	MEMBER
5	CHIEF ONYILO OGBECHE	MEMBER
6	MR. OLANREWaju OLADIMEJI	MEMBER

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

11. UPPER BENUE BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	UMARU DAN ADDA IBRAHIM	CHAIRMAN
2	MR. VIN OGBA	MEMBER
3	HON. MODU FUGUMI	MEMBER
4	HON. AUDU DANKA	MEMBER
5	HAIYA RABI MUSA ABDULLAHI	MEMBER
6	HON. CATHERINE OMNI	MEMBER

NAME OF PARASTATAL/AGENCY:

12. SOKOTO-RIMA RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

(A) APPOINTABLE MEMBERS

S/No	NAME OF NOMINEE	DISCIPLINE
1	IBRAHIM LANGE	CHAIRMAN
2	MRS. GERTRUDE EZEBUNAM	MEMBER
3	ALH. BUKAR GURDAMA	MEMBER
4	SIMON AUDU GALADIMA	MEMBER
5	HON. SAIDU ABDULLAHI RIMI	MEMBER
6	MRS. ELIZABETH EZOMO	MEMBER

Appointees are expected to bring along their photo IDs (Drivers Licence, International Passport or National ID card) for purposes of proper identification. Screening will commence at 8.00 am at the same venue.

SIGNED:

OTAKI M. OYIGBENU OON, mni

Permanent Secretary

Announcer



BEROM EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL ORGANISATION BECO

BEO Headquarters, No. 28 Ahmadu Bello Way, Jos, Plateau State
becoexco@yahoo.com

30th March, 2009.

His Excellency,
Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua GCFR,
President, and Commander -In – Chief,
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Aso Villa
Abuja.

Your Excellency,

APOLOGY BY THE BEROM COALITION ORGANIZATIONS

The Berom Nation currently in a mourning mood, following the demise of our paramount ruler Da (Dr.) Victor Dung Pam, the Gbong Gwom Jos, was greatly consoled by your timely and well appreciated visit on the 9th, of March 2009. That gesture is not unexpected of a leader who has shown tremendous interest in the welfare of his people.

Mr. President, you gave us a sense of belonging and lessened our pains at this moment. This visit which we shall continue to cherish was almost marred by the senseless conduct of a few misguided youth who hauled stones and missile at Your Excellency's convoy. Such barbaric action targeted at your most revered and sitting President of the Whole nation is indicative of the highest level of intolerance exhibited by the perpetrators of such dastardly acts. This is shameful, condemnable, callous and embarrassing to the entire people of Plateau State. We apologize to you for the embarrassment such disgraceful behavior by this misguided group might have caused you and your esteemed entourage. We condemn in totality such outrageous behaviors, noting in particular that this action is quite alien to the culture of our peace loving people of Plateau State.

We appeal to Mr. President not to view this ugly episode as a reflection of the character of the people of the Plateau State, but an attempt by a group of misguided out to cast the State in bad light. We frown at this barbaric act and only hope that the law enforcement agencies will apprehend these culprits and bring them to justice.

Mr. President, the Berom Nation condemns in unreserved terms this conduct, and as the host community, tender our sincere apology on our own behalf and on behalf of the good people of Plateau State

Mr. President, Plateau State is your home and therefore, let no action by anyone, group of our detractors discourage you from visiting our dear state whenever you so desire.

May God bless you with long life, peace and vitality in the onerous task of providing leadership to our great nation Nigeria.

Once more accept our unreserved apology for the unruly behaviors of a derelict few.

Please accept the assurance of our highest esteem.

Long Live the Berom Nation,
Long Live Plateau State,
Long Live The Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Da Air Cdre Ishaku G Mwadkon (rtd)
National President BECO
For and on behalf of the Berom Nation



DISCLAIMER

RE: THE STATE OF GOVERNANCE ON THE PLATEAU AND THE RECENT EXPERINCES BEING A POSITION PAPER WRITTEN TO SELECTED ELDERS OF PLATEAU STATE ON JANUARY 28TH, 2009.

BY
CONCERNED BEROM

The attention of the Berom Nation has been drawn to a paid publication in the Daily Trust of 4th, March 2009, page 24 under the above caption.

The Berom people are very democratic, friendly, good hosts, very hospitable and multi – religious. We are therefore very accommodative to meaningful, constructive view, opinions etc. that will promote the positive development and progress of our fatherland.

A joint consideration by various Berom organizations ie: The Berom Educational and Cultural Organization (BECO), The Berom Youth Movement (BYM) and The Berom Women Association (BWA) has revealed that, the authorship and the umbrella ship of the said publications are fictitious, spurious and inconsequential. We are appalled by this obnoxious act, considering the wicked and malicious intent of its sponsors.

As far as the Berom Nation is concerned, that write-up emanated from enemies of peace who simply used pen names to express their evil intentions under an amorphous umbrella that is not reflective of the Berom identity or aspirations.

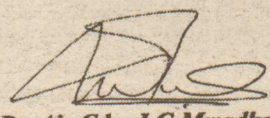
The Berom Nation and all its affiliate organizations fully disassociate itself from the said publication as no sons of the soil can stoop so low to dance naked in the market in order to support the evil agenda of a frustrated group of anarchist.

We warn in strong terms that the politics of mudslinging should not be used as a scheme to cast a dent on the collective image and integrity of a whole ethnic nationality, in view of the negative consequences.

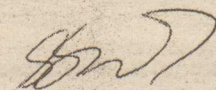
Politicians and religious fanatics should know the limit of their game plan, particularly in the context of accepting their rights stop where the rights of others might be forced to drag such faceless writers to consider redress actions, by their unrestrained actions, if the Berom Nation continues to suffer damage in character and reputation.

The enemies of Governor David Jonah Jang must find other ways of expressing their vituperations rather than using the toga of ethnic semblance to mislead and hoodwink unsuspecting individuals into believing their libelous and defamatory antics.

The general public is advised to be wary of such vices which has become the stock in trade by some discredited individuals who are seeking popular platform to re-launch their campaign of calumny and sectional interest.


Da Air Cdre I.G Mwadkon (rtd)
President BECO


Guy Zang
President BYM


Ngo Grace Pwol
President BWA

LAKE CHAD RESEARCH INSTITUTE
P. M. B. 1293, MAIDUGURI



INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 2009 CAPITAL PROJECTS

The Lake Chad Research Institute, Maiduguri intends to execute some projects under the approved 2009 Capital Projects. Consequently, the Institute hereby invites pre-qualified Contractors to bid for the under-listed projects under the following scope and terms:

S/No.	LOTNo.	Scope of Works
1.	LOT 1A	Supply of Milling and Baking Equipment
2.	LOT 1B	Supply of Bread Quality Testing Equipment:
3.	LOT 2	Amilograph, Farinograph, and Extensiograph Supplies of Agrochemicals
4.	LOT 3A	Supply of Tractor with a trailer
5.	LOT 3B	Supply of Farm Implements (Harrow, Rodgers and Plows)
6.	LOT 3C	Supply of Water Pumps (8" Hydraulic Pumps)
7.	LOT 4	Expansions of ICT Facilities: (Website Maintenance, Bandwidth Subscription and Internet Networking)
8.	LOT 5A	Construction of about 435m Road network LCRI Headquarters along staff Clinic – Maintenance Unit Road.
9.	LOT 5B	Construction of about 570m Road Network LCRI Headquarters along Staff Canteen – Power House Road
10.	LOT 6	Rehabilitation of Existing Drainage Network at LCRI Headquarters
11.	LOT 7	Supply of Books, Journals and Periodicals including Subscription to e-Journals
12.	LOT 8	Supply of Equipment for Digital Editing Suite (Non- Linear) for LCRI Farm Broadcast Studio
13.	LOT 9A	Supply of Laboratory Oven and Fermentation Chamber
14.	LOT 9B	Supply of Model Kitchen Equipment
15.	LOT 10	Procurement of Laboratory Reagents, Glassware and Consumables
16.	LOT 11A	Renovation and Energizing the Screen House
17.	LOT 11B	Supply of Equipment to Renovated Screen House

TENDER QUALIFICATIONS:

The following are the qualifications of would be Contractors/Suppliers.

1. Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission;
2. Registration with the Lake Chad Research Institute, Maiduguri as a Contractor/Supplier
3. Must show evidence of previous experience in similar jobs and supplies
4. Must present (3) years Tax Clearance Certificates
5. Payment of non-refundable Tender Bid fee of N20, 000.00 for each Lot tendered payable into the Institute's Account at Bank PHB No. 056110000010.

Tender documents for the projects will be ready on sale with effect from 14th April 2009. Pre-qualified Contractors/Suppliers are to check at the LCRI Headquarters or log on to www.lcrimaid.org for the details.

All bidders should consider the condition that the award of contracts must be in strict compliance with the provision of section 16(6) (d) of the Public Procurement Act 2007 as it relates to pensions that "any Supplier, Contractor or Consultant who is an employer of labour covered by PRA 2004 bidding or soliciting contract or business from LCRI must fulfill all its obligations with respect to pensions."

SUBMISSION OF TENDER:

The completed Tenders must be enveloped, sealed and clearly marked "Tender for the (state the Project in the Scope tendered for at the left hand corner of the enveloped) and drop in the Tender Box located in the Office of Executive Director on or before 4.00 p.m. on 25th May 2009.

OPENING OF TENDER:

Tenders would be opened at 10.00 a.m. on 26th May 2009 at Block E Conference Room of the Institute. All contractors/suppliers are also invited to the opening.

Professor Bukar Bababe
Executive Director

FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE

PMB 0037, ASHAKA ROAD
GOMBE

A. INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING)

LOT	DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS	QTY
I	16 SLIDE CT SCAN MACHINE	1

PRE-QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission
- Evidence of tax clearance for three years (2006-2008)
- Evidence of vat registration
- Company audited account for three years (2006-2008)
- Evidence of financial capability
- Evidence of technical capability
- Experience/Technical qualification of key personnel
- List of previous similar job executed with photographs, locations names of Clients-mail addresses and telephone numbers.
- Evidence of payment of non refundable pre-qualification fees of N100, 000.00

B. INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION/TENDER

The Federal Medical Centre, Gombe wishes to invite interested, competent and reputable contractors for pre-qualification and tender for the supply of hospital equipments, furniture and a generator to the hospital under its 2009 approved capital budget.

LOT	DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS	QTY
I	MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS - A	
	-Automatic film Processor	3
	-Thermal laser Printer for CT, MRI& Mammography	3
II	MEDICAL EQUIPMENTS -B	
	-Static X-ray Machine(700 MA)	1
	-X-Ray Machine R/F(Fluoroscopy)	1
III	MEDICAL EQUIPMENT-C	
	-Mobile Ultrasound scanner	4
	-Color Doppler scanner	1
IV	GENERATOR	
	-Procurement and installation of 250 KVA Generator	1
V	EXTENSION OF ANTE-NATAL CLINIC	
	-Expansion of ante-natal clinic	

PRE-QUALIFICATIONS/TENDER REQUIREMENTS

- Evidence of incorporation with corporate Affairs commission.
- Evidence of tax Clearance for three years (2006-2008)
- Evidence of incorporation with Corporate affairs Commission
- Evidence of VAT Registration
- Company Profile with experience of key/technical personnel
- Company Audited Accounts for three consecutive years (2006-2008)
- Verifiable evidence of previous experience in similar jobs
- Evidence of remittance of pension contribution
- Payment of N10, 000.00 non-refundable pre-qualification fees.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

A. COLLECTION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION/TENDER DOCUMENTS Pre-qualification documents are to be collected from the Office of the Secretary Tenders committee upon the payment of non-refundable fee of N100,000.00 (One hundred Thousand naira only) for A and N10,000.00 (Ten thousand naira only) for B.

B. SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION/ DOCUMENTS Bound pre-qualification documents in a wax sealed envelop addressed to the "MEDICAL DIRECTOR" and with "PRE-QUALIFICATION" OR "PRE-QUALIFICATION/TENDER" written at the top left hand corner should be drop at a securely locked tender box located at the ground floor of the administrative block of the hospital not later than 23RD April, 2009 by 12:00 noon. Opening of submitted documents shall take place by 2:00pm of the same date.

NOTE:

- The submission of pre-qualification documents do not automatically guarantee award of contracts.
- This advertisement shall not be considered to be a commitment on the part of the hospital.

SIGNED
Management

FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE,

P.M.B. 0037, GOMBE,
GOMBE STATE.

STAFF VACANCIES.

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified and interested candidates for the following posts:-

1. CONSULTANTS [One each in Paediatrics Surgery and Urology]

- Minimum qualification requirements: - MBBS, in addition to professional qualification of the relevant Postgraduate Medical College or its equivalent registrable with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria.
- Salary: - CONTISS 13.

2. RESIDENT DOCTORS/MEDICAL OFFICERS [for Medicine, Surgery, O & G, Paediatrics, Radiology, A & E and General Out- Patient Departments]

- Candidates should possess MBBS or its equivalent, registrable with the Medical and Dental Council in addition to having passed the Primary in the relevant specialty plus the NYSC Certificate. For Medical Officers in Accident and Emergency training and experience in A & E will be an added advantage.
- Salary: - CONTISS 10.

3. MEDICAL PHYSICIST

- [1]a. Candidates should possess at least an M.Sc. in Physics plus NYSC Certificate.
- b. Salary- CONTISS 9

4. MEDICAL IMAGING SCIENTISTS II

- [4]a. Candidates for this post should possess Bachelors Degree in Radiology [B. Rad.] or its equivalent from a recognized University and registrable with the Radiographers Registration Board of Nigeria in addition to having completed the NYSC programme.
- b. Salary: - CONTISS 7.

5. DENTAL OFFICER

- [1]a. Candidate must possess a Degree in Dental Surgery and registrable with the MDCN plus NYSC.
- b. Salary: - CONTISS 11.

6. PHARMACISTS

- [2] a. Candidates should possess a B.Pharm. Degree registrable with the Pharmaceutical Council of Nigeria in addition to having completed the NYSC programme.
- b. Salary: - CONTISS 9

7. PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

- [2] a. Candidates must possess a Degree in Physiotherapy and registered with the Therapists Registration Board of Nigeria plus NYSC.
- b. Salary: - CONTISS 8.

8. NURSES/MIDWIVES [for Intensive Care, Nephrology, Anaesthesia, Peri-Operative, General Nursing and Midwifery][30]

- a. Candidates should possess the NRN and/or NRM or equivalent qualification and has been duly registered with the Nursing & Midwifery Council of Nigeria. Female candidates must have both NRN and NRM.
- b. Salary: - CONTISS 7.

9. QUANTITY SURVEYOR II

- [1] a. Candidate should possess a Degree in Quantity Surveying registrable with the Nigerian Institute of Quantity Surveyors plus NYSC.
- b. Salary:- CONTISS 7

10. ELECTRICAL/ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS II

- [2] a. Candidate should possess a Degree in Electrical Electronics Engineering from a recognized University and registrable with COREN.
- b. Salary:- CONTISS 9

CONDITION OF SERVICE: - The condition of service is as obtained in other Federal Tertiary Health Institutions in Nigeria.

METHOD OF APPLICATION: - All interested candidates should submit TEN copies Each of TYPEWRITTEN applications with their curriculum vitae and relevant credentials which should be forwarded to the following address:-

The Medical Director,
Federal Medical Centre,
P. M. B. 0037,
Ashaka Road, Gombe,
Gombe State.

Candidates should ask three of their referees to submit their reports directly to the address above.

CLOSING DATE: - SIX [6] Weeks from the date of this advertisement. Only the names of shortlisted candidates will be published in the Newspapers.

Signed.
Management

THE HOME FRONT

What is anxiety neurosis?

By Ni'imah Shehu

Anxiety neurosis is a situation everybody experience from time to time but it will become medically significant if it is disproportionate to the external events or if it persists long after precipitating factors have been resolved, says Doctor Nurudeen Toyin Abdur-Raheem of Anchor Medical Centre, Ilorin, Kwara state.

According to him, this condition has also been identified as a classical example of psychiatric presentation of physical illness. In other words it is a psychiatric symptom.

Experts at homeomiracles.com also confirm that anxiety is a normal reaction when a person feels a kind of threat or when there is a proper reason for it. As a matter of fact the body prepares to deal with this problem but anxiety neurosis sets in when the affected person cannot overcome the situation.

Difference between fear and anxiety

Anxiety neurosis is a mild deviation of mind with unpleasant, distressing emotion that is usually distinguished from fear. It is not the same as an identifiable fear because fear is aroused by the perception of actual or threatened danger.

Anxiety arises when the danger is imagined or cannot be identified or clearly perceived. It is a normal response in stressful situations, but frequently experienced in many mental disorders.

What happen when you have anxiety neurosis?

Anxiety releases adrenaline and cortisone into the blood stream. When this happens, Doctor Abdul Azeem of University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital explains that it quickens the heart with palpitation. Breathing becomes shallow; the muscles become tense; the energy is wasted with this abnormal situation, which leads to unbounded tiredness and headache.

Types of anxiety neurosis

These include generalized anxiety disorder; phobic disorder; panic attack and obsessive-compulsive disorder.

Doctor Abdur-Raheem explains phobic anxiety as an unnecessary fear of a particular object or situation such that it leads to the avoidance of that provoking stimulus.

"Phobic Anxiety is common where the

irrational fear of certain situations, confining places, particular things and insects characterize this phobia".

Panic attacks on the other hand are neurosis with no evidence of reason for extreme fear or tension such as fear for disease and future. Obsessive-compulsive disorder is a type of anxiety neurosis where the affected person displays irrational thoughts and repetitive

behaviour. According to experts obsession is frequent and continuous thoughts whereby the individual visualizes violence, contamination and tragic events happening to him or her. Such person also feels compelled to respond to that obsession in a senseless and repetitive manner. This explains why the individual would wash the cutleries or hands repeatedly because of his or her obsession for contamination.

Symptoms

The patients also roam about because they are irritable; usually wear frowned faces, gloomy look and seem confused. They suffer loss of sexual derives such as impotence, premature ejaculation, hypertension in elderly people and bed wetting episodes in children. It is important to note that several physical conditions such as thyrotoxicosis; phaeochromocytoma, hypoglycemia (insufficient sugar in the blood) and alcohol withdrawal can initially manifest themselves with anxiety

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Symptoms

Doctor Abdur-Raheem categorises these into psychological and somatic. Under the psychological symptoms you have apprehension, fear of impending disaster, depersonalisation.

Somatic symptoms include tremor, palpitation (of the heart), excessive sweating, diarrhoea, chest pain, headache, dizziness, breathlessness, frequent urination and poor concentration, the doctor says.

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irritable; usually wear frowned faces, gloomy look and seem confused. They suffer loss of sexual derives such as impotence, premature ejaculation, hypertension in elderly people and bed wetting episodes in children. It is important to note that several physical conditions such as thyrotoxicosis; phaeochromocytoma, hypoglycemia (insufficient sugar in the blood) and alcohol withdrawal can initially manifest themselves with anxiety

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before other signs follows.

On a general note anxiety is a common emotion during early stages of many illnesses but it usually subsides over time.

Treatment. Although psychological treatment such as counselling and reassurance (talking about the illness and allaying fears) is the main stay of anxiety neurosis, drugs are also used.

A patient is also exposed to the particular object or situation he or she has phobia in stages. This, according to doctor Abdur-Raheem, is called desensitisation and flooding.

Typhoid fever: Causes, prevention and control

Typhoid fever

In 1880, the name Typhoid Fever was introduced because of its clinical similarity with

Typhus. It was also known as Typhoid Mary in 1869. Mary was the first person in the United States to be identified as a healthy carrier of typhoid fever.

It was identified as a separate disease causing enlargement of peyers, patches and mesenteric lymph node hence named enteric fever.

Bacteriology

These infections are caused by members of the salmonella typhi, and salmonella paratyphi A, B or C, Salmonella typhi is a gram negative aerobic non sporing rod-like organism. It can survive in water for 7 days, in sewage for 14 days and in ice cream for one month. The incubation period is usually 7 to 14 days.

Routes of transmission

It is caused by infection with salmonella typhi, a bacteria found in infected animals and transmitted to persons in contaminated food or fluids. Food handlers especially if they are intermittent carriers are particularly dangerous and have been responsible for many outbreaks of disease.

-Chronic carriers
-Acutely ill patients -Health care givers.
-Laboratory accident
-Person to person contact.
Feaco oral route or to some extent the urine of infected people.

Epidemiology

The Typhoid fever has a world wide distribution although they are endemic in communities where the standards of sanitation and personal hygiene are low.



Children on Palm Sunday.

Pic: Kennedy Egbonodje.

By Zainab Umar Ibrahim

Typhoid fever presents one of the classical examples of a water borne infection. All ages and both sexes are susceptible

Incidence Rate

In the past four decades in U.S.A. 400 new cases caused by salmonella typhi are reported annually. The low figures is because of improved standard of living e.g portable water source, however in contrast to this at world level typhoid continues to be a major health problem. 13-17 million cases are reported annually with 600,000 deaths

Typhoid fever is endemic in most developing nations e.g. India, Vietnam, Mexico, Peru, and African sub region. This is related to rapid population growth, inadequate human waste treatment, limited water supply and over burdened health care delivery system.

Signs and symptoms

Fever, and abdominal pain, fever usually higher in the evening

Diarrhea may occur, Severe headache, chills Anorexia, Constipation, more common than diarrhea Cough, weakness, sorethroat, dizziness, and muscle pains

Signs

Rose spots, - these are faint salmon colored blanching maculopapular rash located primarily on the trunk and chest, Lymphadenopathy [enlargement of lymph node], hepatomegaly [enlargement of the liver], epistaxis [blood loss from the nose], and relative bradycardia [slow heart rate], muttering delirium or coma vigil

Complications

Usually occurs in the 3rd and 4th weeks in the untreated. It includes intestinal perforation, gastrointestinal hemorrhage Neuropsychiatry

encephalopathy, [any disease or degenerative condition of the brain], delirium [an organic brain syndrome characterized by clouding of consciousness, difficulty in sustaining attention.], meningitis. [inflammation of the meninges]

Late complications

These include pancreatitis [inflammation of the pancreas], hepatic and splenic abscesses [focal collection of pus], endocarditis [an inflammatory disorder of the endocardium often involving the heart valves] myocarditis, pericarditis, [Inflammation of the pericardium] nephritis [Inflammation of the kidney], orchitis [Inflammation of the testis], parotitis [inflammation of the parotid gland], anaemia.

Laboratory diagnosis

-Blood culture
-Other than a positive culture, no specific laboratory test is diagnostic for enteric

fever.

-Bone marrow culture
-Salmonella serology
-Stool culture
Supportive investigation- full blood count.

Treatment

Currently recommended antibiotic treatment of typhoid fever are 3rd generation cephalosporin's

Prevention and control

The ultimate control of typhoid fever in a community depends on sanitary disposal of excreta, which will stop the dissemination of faecal matter from one person to another. The introduction of permanent method of purification of water and raising the standard of personal hygiene.

The individual-All typhoid patients should be nursed in a hospital. Patients should be immediately notified and if possible the room from where they come should be cleaned and disinfected.

The community-If food is implicated, it should be traced back to its source and enquiries made as to any recent illness among persons handling the food, samples of food should be taken for medical examination

If water supply is suspect, boiling or hyperchlorination is required.

Milk should be pasteurised or boiled

The use of fresh human manure as fertilizer should be actively discouraged and vegetables should be boiled or cooked before consumption. Food should be protected from flies. Always wash and maintain clean hands before eating. Keep food contact surfaces clean.

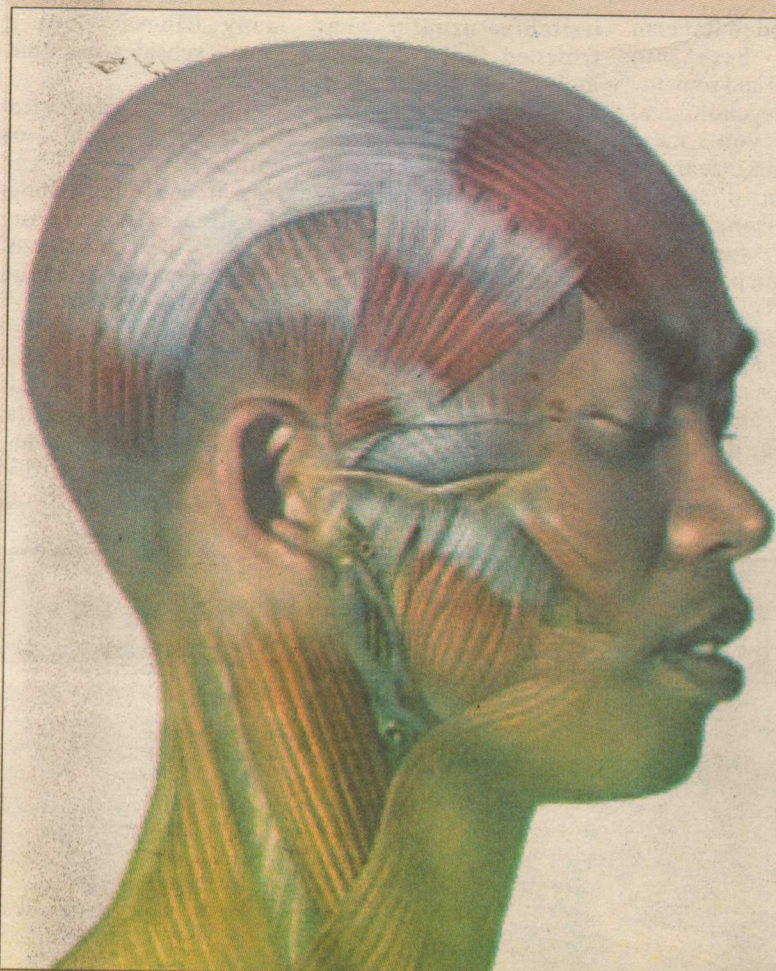
Dr. Zainab Umar Ibrahim (GOPD) writes from Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano.

THE HOME FRONT

Health interactive

With

Dr Aminu Magashi



**Muscle tension
in the face, neck,
and shoulders
may cause
tension
headache**

ADAM

Adolescence is the period of transition between puberty and adulthood.

Most cases of Precocious puberty have no known cause. In some cases, the pituitary gland, which regulates the release of most of the body's hormones, signals the ovaries and testicles to begin hormone production prematurely. Signs of puberty may also appear early because of ovary and testicle abnormalities.

Some causes of early puberty include amongst others:

1. McCune-Albright Syndrome
2. Spina bifida with hydrocephalus (abnormalities that children are born with)
3. Early commencement of activities by Hypothalamus and Pituitary Gland that release hormones (chemical agent) which are responsible of triggering puberty.
4. Obesity

Some drugs can be used to treat early puberty.

Some of the common problems of early puberty are social in nature; peers' pressure on kids. Some will have tough time when they go through pubertal changes early. They may be teased, and may have body image or self-esteem problems. They may also be confused about what is happening to their body, and may have unfamiliar emotions. Girls may enter into dating and sexual activity earlier, and may even marry earlier than their classmates. Early-maturing girls may also have more behaviour problems and a greater risk for substance abuse and tendency to commit suicide, if the societal pressure is unbearable. Professional

Sustained headache, my dilemma

In the last 8 months, I have been suffering from a sustained headache that is preventing me from doing normal day to day activities. Although I am on a treatment, I will like to know the different forms of headaches and remedy.

Habila from UNIMAID.

Headache has a lot of dimension; it could be a symptom of a particular disease. In another angle it could be psychological problems either due to anxiety, stress, emotional imbalance, over working and exhaustion.

Among the common headaches, are as follows.

- Tension head ache, this is the commonest, it is dull, tight or like a pressure and there is a sensation of as if a band is tie around the head and the cause of such may be emotional strain, anxiety, and depressive illnesses.
- Migraine (cluster head ache), it can be a common migraine which is characterized by only repeated headache or classical which is characterized by repeated (paroxysmal) headache, vomiting and focal neurological events (visual disturbance).
- Headache due to raised intra cranial pressure, this type is worse in the morning and improves as the day progresses and it is associated with morning vomiting and aggravated with cough and straining and it is dull and often mild.

Important points to consider when diagnosing head ache are as follows.

1. The degree of the severity from onset
2. Time of the day of onset of maximal pain
3. Effect of posture, coughing and straining
4. Location of the pain
5. Other associated symptoms.

It is based on assessment that a diagnosis will be made and institute management.

My daughter's breast is enlarged

My daughter is about 8 years and already her breasts are enlarged and I am noticing some changes in her. I am worried and scared. What could be wrong?

Eunice

Your daughter might be having her maturity at an early age, a condition called Precocious Puberty, which means having the signs of puberty (development of breasts, testes, pubic and underarm hair; body odor; menstrual bleeding; and increased growth rate) earlier than usual. Precocious puberty is when the signs of puberty appear before age 8 in a girl or 9 1/2 in a boy.

Puberty is the beginning of sexual maturity. Puberty is the period when a child changes physically, hormonally, and sexually, and becomes able to reproduce.

counseling will help those kids through the difficult time.

Among those help will be; making sure those kids with precocious puberty understand that everyone will go through the same changes, but that they happen earlier in some kids and later in others. Encouraging them to take part in regular physical or social activities and give them openings to discuss any worries or concerns. Please visit a sexual health counselor.

I have never experienced orgasm

For the last 3 years that I have been initiated into sexual intercourse, I have never experienced orgasm even once during intercourse. Am I a normal person?
Sylvia from Edo.

There is a possibility that you have experienced orgasm before, only that you don't know what you experienced was orgasm. From studies, ladies equate orgasm with only what they viewed in movies or read in books and to them, if they did not behave in the same manner from what they read or saw in a movie, then what they experienced could not be orgasm.

Orgasm which is the highest pleasurable condition one experiences during intercourse varies from person to person.

Factors that can lead to lack of orgasm can be from the woman, her partner and/or the way and manner they interact, as well as their willingness to satisfy each other during intercourse. Lack of orgasm may affect health indirectly, as if one is not happy, disturbed, anxious and/or frustrated may lead to some health conditions such as Depression, Peptic Ulcer, High Blood Pressure to mention but few.

To provide a direction to your problem and remedy, you need to provide more information and have one-on-one discussion with a sexual health counselor.

My menses has stopped

I will like to know what causes absence of menses in a woman apart from pregnancy.
Kubura

Pregnancy is only one of the causes of missing period, others are as follows

1. Miscalculation of Menses
2. Infections especially with High Grade Fever
3. Anxiety and worries especially during Exam Period or any Stressful moments
4. High Level of Prolactin (chemical agent responsible for breast milk production) in the Blood and that could be due to Drugs, Abnormal Secretion by Pituitary Gland
5. Excessive discharge of Breast Milk
6. Chromosomal abnormalities

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

THE HOME FRONT

fashion & style

It is ruffles!

The newest trend taking over the racks are ruffles, ruffles, and more ruffles. Whether it is huge dramatic ruffles or just a few around the neckline, ruffles is what is in vogue and making statement now. It has taken over many ladies clothing ranging from blouses to dresses, bags and shoes. You can find styles of it practically anywhere having become every lady's favourite. The ruffles come in different forms; they could be off-centre, beautifully

multilayered, big, bold or small.

The ruffled blouse is the most prominent of them all. The perfect way to update your wardrobe without spending a lot of money this season is to try a ruffled blouse. Pair it with items you already own like jeans

By Akor Ojoma

or pants or skirts especially a pencil skirt. Remember, if you are wearing volume on top, keep it fitted below. It's all about proportions. If you are looking for a nice gift, choose a blouse with big ruffles, lace and other

feminine touches.

According to Kim Moshtaghi a contributing writer for Adventures in the stiletto jungle "Ruffles isn't just a potato chip brand anymore—ruffles mean fashion. The ruffle trend is here to stay in a more powerful way. This trend,

which is simply made by cinched material, is adding a lot of spunk to clothing and accessories. I have always liked this reoccurring trend because of how easily it transforms a white crisp shirt to a powerful, fashionable shirt with attitude. With variations ranging from small to big ruffles, there is a ruffle piece for everybody! Ruffles have gotten bolder and less symmetrical just following the natural fashion trend."

Ruffles on wedding dresses are also back. Some ruffle wedding dresses are rather wonderful; and the fashion formula obtainable from it is; ruffles + wedding dress = stylish princess.

Runway2 Hallway website suggests that if you want, your ruffles could be a little more subtle or dramatic and no matter how big or dramatic the ruffles you wear, as long as you're wearing them, you'll be fashionable this period.



THE HOME FRONT

Living

Between women and low-waist trousers

By Mustapha Suleiman

Whoever must have designed the newly and widely embraced clothing by women popularly referred to as "low-waist trousers" probably have something in mind and that is the need to expose the wearers' waist line and perhaps their backside.

One do not need much evidence to support the idea that women that prefer to buy and wear this clothing style have evidently agreed to show the public whatever the trousers have been designed not to cover. Indeed the name itself "low-waist trousers" is enough to buttress the fact that it is for those who dare to expose the part of the body that are supposed to be covered.

As a writer, I am not going to delve into the vexed argument whether it is morally justifiable at least for African women to expose that part of the body that is supposedly meant for their men and not every Tom, Dick and Harry to watch for free. But rather I will be mainly concerned with the comfort ability of those who wear it.

It is common sight to see women who wear low-waist jeans feeling uncomfortable whenever they want to board or alight from vehicles. Worst still if they are on motor bikes.

The buttock will be exposed and of course get the attention that goes with such a free display of what should be exclusive for their ideal men.

However, whether it is due to lack of will or outright guilty conscience, you will discover that some of the wearers of this clothing often use their hands to cover the exposed privacy they have chosen to display to the public gallery.

To be fair to the wearers of low-waist trousers, some of them have devised another method of hiding the area low-waist designers have designed it to reveal to all. They tuck in the top they are wearing to cover the back side but the fault with this method is that whenever they bend the clothing removes as they struggle every now and then to tuck it back. In a case where the top remains intact as it is tucked in, the transparency nature of such still reveals much of the covered parts. Many men will bear me witness on this.

An incident happened on a vehicle I boarded from Kubwa last week when a lady in a low-waist trouser was to alight from the bus and as she bent over the whole thing was on display and a man was staring at her. The lady in question obviously was not comfortable with the way the man was staring at her. She made frantic efforts to hide the buttock from the gaze of the man by using her left hand to protect the exposed backside but as she does this another man was staring at her front because she was wearing a spaghetti top which could not give her breast enough protection it deserves.

Sighting the other man watching her chest intently, she used the second hand to guide the front and then left without any free hand to hold on to the door. She yelled, "can't you keep your gaze useless men or have you never seen a woman before?"

A male passenger that was not one of the men she was ranting at responded swiftly to her outburst. The man who happens to be the person sitting next to me at the back seat said, "woman you must have known that the trouser you are wearing will give you all the necessary attention that comes with it." Hearing this, she immediately yelled back this time around at the man that had just spoken. "Will you mind your own business? Even if I wear it, it is not for Agberos (touts) to watch."

Other men in the bus could not help it but to burst out laughing at her defenceless response. A man observed that she must

have known that what she is displaying is for the general public with no string attached. He said at the top of his voice, "even if you visit the Internet to browse pornography the warning is there that it is strictly for adults. But in your own case you have placed no restriction by deciding to wear this in public. At least you have no moral ground to stop someone from looking at you. More so when you are displaying what they found interesting," the man said.

Sensing that everyone was not in her support and the women who were in the bus have decided to maintain their silence obviously not to be found joining in condemning one of their own or probably they are also in the category of those that wear such.

She sighed and dashed out of the bus with shame boldly written all over her face.

Her issue was the subject of our discussion throughout our ride. Her case is just one out of many other travails of women who love body-revealing clothes with passion.

Another case I witnessed recently was in Nyanaya. This fair skin lady was on a bike, wearing a low-waist jeans that look smaller than her body size. As she sat at the back of the commercial motor bike, expectedly her backside was exposed up to the "dividing line". A man was attracted and shouted out

of consciousness or curiosity I assumed because he was with lady who seems to be his sister.

"Whoa. How much do I offer you for a night? You really got it in abundance," he shouted.

The lady in question wasted no time in raining curses at the young man, calling him a useless man of insane mind.

"It's your mother that goes for a price, idiot. I am not your mate," she ranted. She did not stop there as she ordered the bike man to stop for her to rain more abusive words on the man who has the gut to tell her what he feels in his inner mind.

After raining more insults on the man; she decided to move on while covering the exposed backside with her hand, looking worried and uncomfortable.

Now a million naira question begging for an answer is why on earth will someone wears what she cannot be proud of?

The question was put to a lady who gave her name as Evelyn. She was in low-waist jeans, so I found her ideal enough to give appropriate answer to my curiosity. And her response was as ridiculous and mind blowing as the heated debate that the wearers of this clothing have generated in the minds of men.

"Low-waist trousers are in vogue now. So to keep with the trend, one has to go for what the world likes. It is just that most Nigerian men cannot control themselves. Go to other countries and see what they

wear yet nobody is crying foul over nothing. My advice to men who are not comfortable seeing us in it is that they should lower their gaze, including you Mr. Journalist." She declared.

Flesh everywhere, it is a common site everywhere in Abuja, most girls have developed an undying passion for it. Nobody cares whether it is good or otherwise for the wearers. But I insist in knowing why they feel offended whenever they are complimented by some men who get carried away by the sight of what they are proud to show -off.

Joy a lady said that the low-waist jeans are what are mostly and readily available in the market thus she buys it as there is no alternative. When reminded of other materials in the market, she replied that low-waist makes her look smarter, adding that an informed man will not raise any uncomplimentary remark at the sight of a woman in such attire.

She is not the only one with this opinion as a female corps member who does not want her name mentioned said that her curves is what informed her decision to be wearing low-waist trousers.

"You see I am lucky to have a lovely shape so this tight jeans looks nice on me. A lady without a good figure will find it repulsive to wear this kind of trousers. Those criticizing it are those that do not go in-line with latest fashion in town," she said confidently.

While responding to the same question, Joyce a 20 years old student noted that she has other options other than tucking in her shirt in her trousers which according to her is not a guarantee to prevent her back from getting exposed whenever she bends or removes.

"I wear a tight belt to prevent the low waist I am wearing from slipping whenever I bend. I also make use of G-string underwear to complement it. It gives it a perfect combination," she concluded.

Not only those that wear low waist trousers were found to be uncomfortable while in it, according to Philip, who observed that those in mini-skirts behave and act the same way like those wearing low-waist trousers.

"If you look around you will see ladies in mini-skirts forcefully dragging it down in public as if they did not know that it was as short as that before they left home or bought it in the first place."

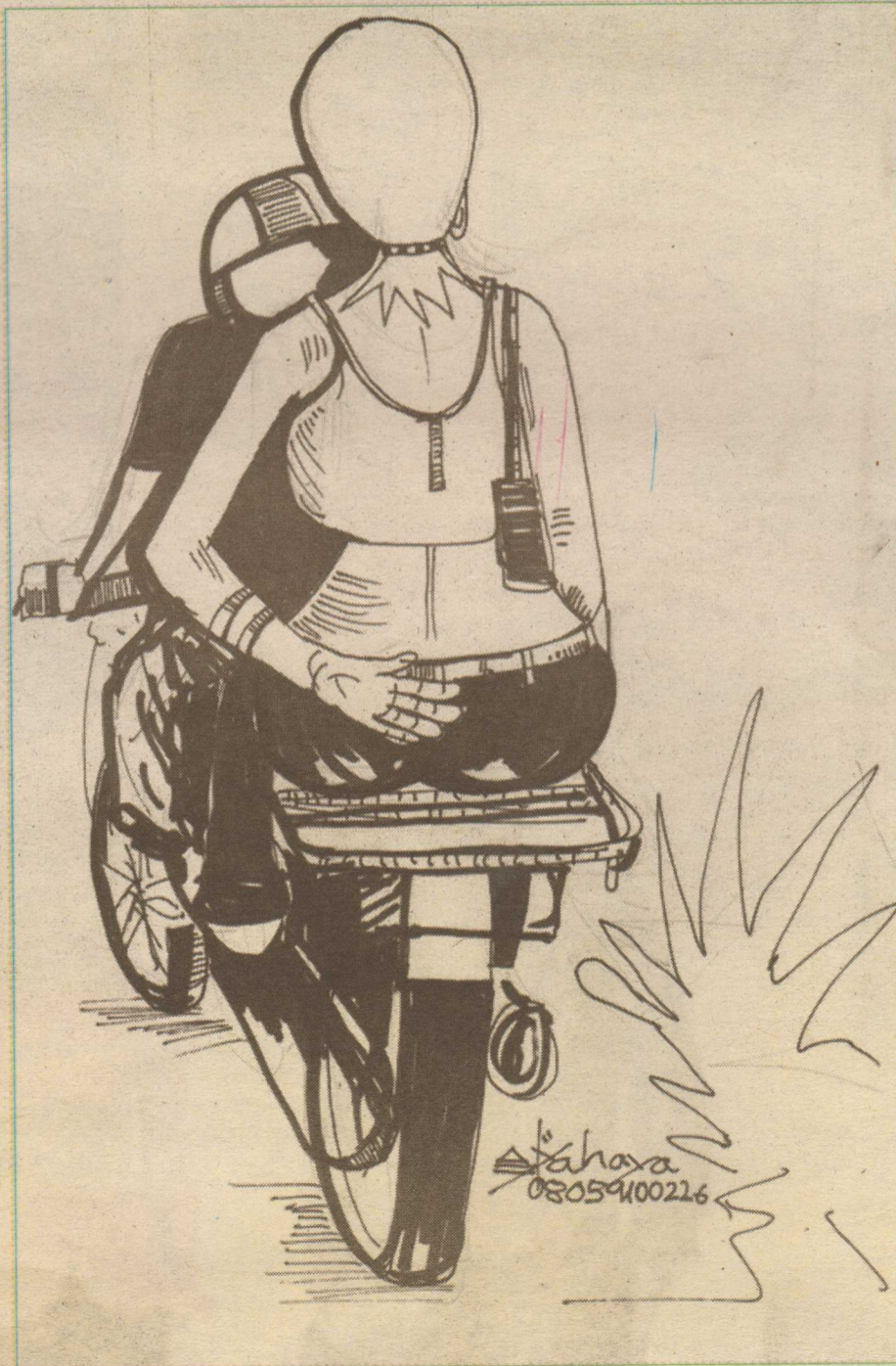
Philip attributed the actions of such women to hypocrisy and act of guilt which goes with anything one is not sure of.

Mrs. Jane, a school teacher, however differs in her view on the wearing of body revealing clothes. She said that any women that decided to buy low-waist trousers should be prepared and muster the courage to face any consequences that comes with it. Be it rape, sexual molestation or uncomplimentary remarks from the opposite sex.

She added that those that wear such clothes in Europe wear it with a strong mind, saying that one can never see them covering their exposed flesh here and there as applicable here.

"For God's sake if you are not bold enough then why buy it let alone wears it. You don't bear a name you cannot answer. Anything worth doing is worth doing well," she said philosophically.

For the purpose of record, the FCT Police recently said that they are having difficulty in getting rid of prostitutes that have obviously taken over every nooks and cranny of the city, citing among other things that they found it extremely difficult to differentiate between a normal lady and a prostitute as most of them dress in the same provocative manner all in the name of modern fashion.



DIGEST

Food memories 'influence tastes'

If the thought of gobbling down a mound of sprouts or chewing on some rabbit makes you feel queasier than a trip on a rickety rollercoaster, it could be because of your childhood food memories.

According to a new survey, these memories have a huge impact on our tastes in later life with almost half (43%) of people questioned across the UK admitting they have not tried the food that gave them their earliest bad flavour memory again.

Smell expert, Professor Tim Jacob, from Cardiff University's School of Biosciences, said flavour was actually a mixture of two senses - taste and smell - and in many people, these were inherently conservative.

"We spend our formative years being fed with things that are sweet and are quite bland," he said.

"Once we have established what foods we need to survive, why change it? We often don't want to take that risk.

"Because of the way our tastes develop, things like olives are an acquired taste



18% of those questioned in Cardiff said they would be unwilling to try chillies

but memory and emotion remain closely linked to flavour preferences throughout our lives."

According to Professor Jacob, our childhood palates are not too partial to sour or acidic foods and a taste for salt only develops when we are around six-years-old.

"Children's foods are basically very

conservative for biological reasons. But as they grow up it seems some tend to stick with this conservatism even though biologically our tastes change," he said.

"But also our preferences for food seem to stay with us. Babies have a preference for sweet foods."

Professor Jacob's work at the university involves looking at which sides of the

brain are activated by good and bad smells.

Student volunteers are often exposed to butyric acid, a chemical which smells of a combination of vomit, smelly feet and ripe Parmesan cheese, as well as nicer whiffs like almonds, pear drops and roses

Culled from bbc.co.uk

Study finds stress link to asthma

Pregnant women who suffer from stress are more likely to have a child with asthma, according to research from Children of the 90s study.

Researchers working with

about 6,000 families in Bristol found anxious mums-to-be were 60% more likely to have a baby who would develop the illness.

The findings show 16% of asthmatic children had

mothers who reported high anxiety while pregnant.

Professor John Henderson, from the Children of the 90s team, said: "Perhaps the natural response to stress which

produces a variety of hormones in the body may have an influence on the developing infant and their developing immune system that manifests itself later on."

The Children of the 90s study - carried out by the University of Bristol - has been following 14,000 children.

They are regularly tested and monitored to see how different lifestyles affect growth, intelligence and health.

The aim is to identify ways to optimise the health and development of children.

Key findings to come out of the project include left-handed children do less well in tests than their right-handed peers and women who eat oily fish while pregnant have children with better visual development.

Culled from bbc.co.uk



Emotions may play a role in foetal development

Want to chat up a man? Keep it simple, say scientists

Women should forget shy smiles and small talk if they want to chat up a man, according to research.

Men favour a direct, no-nonsense approach when being chatted up by

women, scientists found.

A study at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania found men had trouble 'reading' hints, even if they are accompanied by flirtatious body language, according to a report in the Daily

Mail.

The researchers asked a group of women for their top chat-up lines and put the most common suggestions to men and women to ascertain how they worked in practice.

Men found direct

approaches such as invitations to dinner or the cinema most appealing, followed by exchanges of phone numbers or straightforward questions such as 'What are you up to tonight?'. Women preferred lines that were

Magnet woman holds any types of cooking outfit on her body

A 71-year-old resident of the city of Lipetsk, Elena Kovaleva, is a magnet woman. She can keep any types of cooking outfit on her body: irons, plastic bowls, crystal ashtrays and many other things. The woman discovered the gift of hers at age 45, which intensified her other gift, the gift of remote viewing.

Kitchen utensils, such as forks, spoons and knives, heat up a little after they hang on the woman's body for a while. It is hard to take them off: they get 'glued' to the body hard.

"The things take a lot of my energy as they stick to my body. Magnet people usually attract only steel things, but I

"I used a wooden stick to stop the water, but I stepped into a pool on the floor. I suffered from the electric shock, but I was lucky to stay alive"

can work it with plastic, glass and ceramic things," the woman said.

The parts of the skin, on which the items hang, remain as cold as ice after the things come off. The woman said that she discovered her gift of magnetism at age 45, after an accident.

"I was working as the head of the canteen at the local plant in Taganrog. Someone forgot to turn the water off one day in the meat shop of the plant. There were electric wires there all over the place. I used a wooden stick to stop the water, but I stepped into a pool on the floor. I suffered from the electric shock, but I was lucky to stay alive. They told me later that I had had 160 volts running through my body. It was supposed to be a fatal accident, but I had the third degree of disablement only," Elena said.

The woman suffered a similar incident in her childhood. When she was five years old, she fell into the dumb well of a toilet. A janitor rescued the girl as she was clinging to the edge of the toilet floor.

"I remember adults telling that the incident was a token of my future wealth. It never worked out in the end, but I began to foresee the future. I predicted my mother's death - she died from lung cancer," Elena said.

Culled from pravda.ru



Magnet woman holds any types of cooking outfit on her body

Psychologist Dr Joel Wade said: "The direct indication of a possible dates as well as the hint of a possible date gives the man a clear signal - instead of sending mixed non-verbal signals that the man must decipher."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

DIGEST

SUDOKU PUZZLE

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.

EASY

56.

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

SOLUTION TO SUDOKU PUZZLE No. 55

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

SIGN LANGUAGE



Signwriter's devil! We sell FRESH food only
Photo location: Tokyo, Japan
Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO

FIND & CIRCLE JUMBO puzzles are solved by finding all the hidden words in the diagram. The words are always in a straight line and may read up, down, forward, backward, or diagonally. Cross a word off your list once you have circled it. Many words will overlap.

45

Circus fun

Acrobat	S	I	M	C	J	U	G	G	L	E	R	T	N	E	T
Acts	E	K	T	S	L	Z	S	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	A
Amuse	N	G	C	I	T	A	D	E	C	I	R	C	U	S	B
Animals	T	T	P	I	G	C	P	D	S	E	T	W	S	I	O
Applause	E	I	U	R	R	H	A	P	D	R	M	T	S	G	R
Audience	R	G	P	I	A	T	T	I	L	X	O	R	E	E	C
Bears	T	E	O	N	L	B	R	R	Z	A	E	H	N	R	A
Big top	A	R	T	G	U	O	E	C	O	M	I	Q	E	U	
Cage	I	S	G	S	C	D	O	A	R	P	A	S	J	G	D
Circus	N	G	I	C	A	S	Z	O	R	R	E	L	E	A	I
Clap	L	O	B	R	T	M	F	C	T	S	A	V	R	C	E
Clowns	I	D	A	U	C	R	G	W	M	U	S	I	C	I	N
Costumes	O	P	M	S	E	Z	O	N	G	S	N	W	O	L	C
Daring	N	E	B	P	P	H	X	H	I	G	H	W	I	R	E
Dogs	S	A	M	U	S	E	S	U	O	R	O	M	A	L	G
Elephants															
Entertain															
Glamor-															

- ous
- Glitter
- High wire
- Horses
- Juggler
- Laugh
- Lions
- Music
- Parade
- Perform-
- ers
- Rider
- Ringmas-
- ter
- Rings
- Show
- Spectacu-
- lar
- Tent
- Tigers
- Tightrope
- Trainer
- Tricks

SOLUTION TO PUZZLE No. 44

A	C	P	D	F	E	D	J	I	G	Y	T	L	S	A
O	T	S	I	P	D	V	N	O	C	W	O	A	O	
E	L	B	O	M	V	I	K	F	I	O	I	I	I	
G	F	I	T	S	E	V	I	L	O	L	L	T	L	L
L	J	R	I	O	O	L	R	D	O	P	E	O	O	
H	E	C	O	C	A	T	E	D	I	O	B	P	B	T
I	N	S	O	L	D	L	E	L	C	O	E	L	D	S
M	N	H	I	X	I	S	W	T	I	U	E	B	S	
G	I	L	A	O	G	O	H	L	L	O	G	D	L	P
G	L	A	B	P	U	E	O	E	O	I	O	Y	O	S
I	B	I	Z	I	T	O	H	P	O	C	M	L	T	O
L	O	V	L	L	O	S	I	N	G	D	I	O	L	J
B	G	O	X	L	O	C	E	B	T	L	L	B	M	
O	I	J	S	O	I	L	E	D	E	I	P	K	O	G
V	D	S	Y	W	K	U	Q	W	P	V	E	X	E	B

PROPERTY



Generator (bottom left) used at the commissioning of transformer by Governor Gabriel Suswan in Mchia, Benue State. Pix: Hir Joseph

UN-Habitat budgets \$356m to facilitate pro-poor housing

The 22nd Session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT ended on Friday with a budgetary allocation of USD \$356m with the summit described by the Under secretary General, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka as the most successful ever in the agency's history.

Some of the highlights of the week-long meeting held at the United Nation's Compound, Gigiri in Nairobi, Kenya included dialogue sessions on affordable housing and climate change; the signing of partnership agreements with six financial institutions that would serve as pilot house financing schemes. Resolutions were also passed calling on governments to support UN-HABITAT's work on human settlements development particularly in the occupied Palestinian territories.

At the concluding session the President of the Governing Council, Clifford Everald Warmington, the Jamaican Minister of State for

By Abubakar Ibrahim,
just back from Kenya

water and housing said the Habitat Agenda was extremely relevant in these times of financial turmoil and climate change.

Addressing the last press conference of the Session, Executive Director Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka thanked the Governing Council for approving the organisation's budget proposal.

"We requested a total of USD \$356 million including a general purpose budget of USD 66 million representing an increase of 32 percent and this is the highest in the history of UN-HABITAT and shows the confidence of the Governing Council in our work," she said.

In comparison she noted that in 2000 the foundation budget was less than one third of the amount and that in terms of the work programme there was general consensus that Medium Term and Strategic Institu-

tional Programme is being well implemented and that the good work in reform be continued.

Other highlights of the week included launching of many other new programmes and initiatives such as the collaboration with Swedish Police on Safer Cities and the nomination of popular Kenyan musician Sara Mitaru as the new Messenger of Truth.

Addressing the participants at the closing ceremony, Mrs. Tibaijuka recalled the challenges faced by the agency and said that it was now on a firm footing and could only move forward. Reflecting on her stewardship of UN-HABITAT for the last eight years, the Executive Director said a lot had been achieved.

"There have been many developments and improvements; we now have well established flagship reports, and our findings and conclusions about urbanization and the slum challenge are

beginning to influence the work of other UN agencies and partners, including the press. Thanks to the support from the media we now have regular stories about the real living conditions in slums and the consequences of poorly planned urbanization and poorly managed cities," she said.

At the closing ceremony, on realizing that this would be the last Governing Council for Mrs. Tibaijuka, the delegates were unanimous in their praise for her leadership. In turn Mrs. Tibaijuka thanked the President of the Session, who is also the Jamaican State Minister for Water and Housing, Everald Warmington.

The meeting attracted a total of 797 delegates from 104 countries, 500 of whom represented national governments. They were joined by 175 representatives of NGOs and 41 representatives of local governments and their associations.

COREN tasks engineers on transparency

The Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) has tasked engineers especially those in the public sector to ensure transparency in discharging their duties in order to minimise negative effects of economic meltdown in the country.

President of COREN, Engr. Habu Gumel who made the call in Abuja yesterday at a workshop on 'Value for

By Mustapha Suleiman

money in Engineering projects' said government's quest for development of infrastructure could be achieved by involving engineers.

He said: "indeed only recently, the Budget Office disclosed that the Federal Government had allocated 45.5 per cent of the 2009 Capital expenditure to the resuscita-

tion of critical infrastructure and almost all the projects involved are engineering-based.

"This calls for total commitment by engineers particularly those in the public sector. Value for money can only be realised in the execution of these projects only if engineers stick to the standards and ethics of the engineering profession".

Engr Gumel called on government to involve local con-

tractors in execution of projects, adding that "the need for this informed the wisdom of the former President, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo, to set up the Presidential Committee on strategic plans for Engineering Development and Control. The White paper released on the committee's work approved those jobs less than N500 million should be reserved for indigent contractors"

HOTLINES:
08064416006, 08035946883

Kwara Assembly disburses N1.3m to disengaged KIPDC staff

The Kwara State House of Assembly has disbursed a total sum of N1, 342,492 to disengaged staffs of the state's Investment and Property Development Company Ltd (KIPDC).

The amount is the total sum accruable to them as retirement benefits for about 40 beneficiaries from the disbursement.

Presenting the cheques at the Assembly complex in Ilorin, the Speaker of the House, Hon. Babatunde Mohammed, commended the disengaged workers and the management of the company for the high level of understanding demonstrated, which engendered amicable settlement of the dispute between them.

He also commended the house committee on Commerce and Cooperative, which brokered the truce between the two parties.

While enumerating the various cases in which the House had intervened, Mohammed assured that the legislators will continue to be responsive to issues brought before it with a view

From Mustafa Abubakar,
Ilorin

to ensuring the collective well being and interest of the people of the state.

The sacked worker had in a petition titled "unwarranted retrenchment by the Board of Directors of KIPDC," alleged injustice by the company and called on the House to intervene with a view to ensure their recall.

Commenting on the issue, the Chairman of the committee, Hon Ramat Abaya, also commended the two parties involved for the maturity displayed, disclosing that the workers agreed to the disengagement provided their entitlement was fully paid.

She added that the option of becoming a casual staff of the company was presented to the workers, which was declined.

One of the beneficiaries, Mr Benard Oyo, commended the House for intervening in the matter, which led to the payment of their entitlement.

Abuja developers' association holds maiden meeting

The Abuja Developers Association yesterday held its maiden meeting at the Reiz Hotel Abuja where various issues bothering on the Association's activities were discussed.

It was attended by members of the Association, chaired by her president Engineer Chinazor Okereke.

A communiqué issued at the end of the meeting states that among the Association's objectives include making Abuja and Nigeria the best real estate investment destination in the whole world and to infuse standards in housing delivery in Abuja and Nigeria using internal control measures.

It further states that the Association's will be out to assist government to improve on processes involved in housing delivery like development control and to increase the housing stock in the FCT.

Speaking to journalists at the end of the meeting, Engineer Chinazor Okereke, said that the Association will

By Mustapha Suleiman

ensure that non-professionals are ejected from the profession, adding that various measures have been put in place to checkmate the menace of quacks in the profession.

He pledged that the Association will sanction any of her members who does unprofessional job, saying the integrity of her members will be sacrosanct in all they do.

"I promise that any of our members who does unprofessional job, we will be the first to expose him and mete out appropriate sanction to such erring developer," he warned.

Engineer Chinazor disclosed that there are several challenges affecting developers among which is lack of access to suitable land for development, untimely approval of development plan, lack of infrastructure development in areas to be developed and difficulty in securing mortgage loan by developers

PROPERTY

Germany's first nudist hotel reveals all

It will be the most German of combinations: nudity and beach towels. After decades of sunbathing and camping in the buff, the legions of Teutonic naturists are about to get their very own holiday heaven - a completely clothing-free hotel.

The Hotel Rosengarten, in the aptly named Black Forest town of Freudensstadt ("Town of Joys"), will mark a new frontier for the homeland of Freikörperkultur (FKK), meaning "free body culture." A handful of German hotels have accommodated naturists up to now, but the management at Rosengarten plan to take a

hardline anti-apparel stance.

That is where the beach towels come in. Even before the hotel opens strict house rules have been published, among them the stipulations that all guests must be naked at all times, and all must put towels on chairs and loungers before using them. Lest anyone get the wrong idea, it is also made clear that there is to be strictly no sexual harassment of fellow guests and no smutty behaviour in communal areas. Those who disobey will have to put on the ultimate badge of nudist dishonour - clothing - and leave.

Frieder Haferkorn, the naturist behind the plan, said: "We hope that all kinds of people will come to the hotel, including families, and we are building a playground in the hotel grounds.

A German travel company will offer nudist flights this summer for naturists who want to bare all before they hit the beach.

"The town is surrounded by a beautiful national park and there are lots of opportunities for hiking and skiing." Guests will be permitted to wear clothes while undertaking such activities, although perhaps many will

not want to. Ever since Heinrich Pudor, a German sociologist and the Father of Nudism wrote a treatise entitled *The Cult of the Nude* in the 1890s, his countrymen and women have been gleefully stripping off outdoors.

The German FKK association (DFK), which celebrates its 60th anniversary this year, has about 160 affiliated clubs with 45,000 members as well as a youth section. In contrast to neighbouring Switzerland, where the authorities have announced plans to fine the "objectionable behaviour" of nude hikers, two villages in the central German Harz mountain range are

planning special walking routes for nude rambblers.

The grounds of the Hotel Rosengarten will soon be another small oasis of nakedness if things go according to Mr Haferkorn's plan. The 57-year-old hopes to complete the purchase of a 31-room hotel soon, and will welcome guests in all seasons.

Baring all during a German winter may sound like a recipe for painful frostbite, but Mr Haferkorn offers assurances that the hotel will be heated to a balmy 26C (79F) all year.

-Timesonline



A slum at Nyanya, Nasarawa State.

Pic: Felix Onigbinde.

Lagos moves to end land disputes

The Lagos State Government has appealed to traditional rulers in the state to find a lasting solution to land disputes which have been claiming innocent lives.

The Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Mr Rotimi Agunsoye, made the appeal at a forum organised by the state government for traditional rulers, chiefs and government officials.

The forum was held at the Adeyemi Bero auditorium, Alausa, Ikeja.

Agunsoye said Governor Babatunde Fashola is worried by the incessant land disputes in the state and the resultant killing of people.

He said, "the ugly incidents are bad lessons for our youths who might think that there are gains from settling scores in this manner."

The commissioner implored the royal fathers to find out the causes of land dispute and how they could be averted.

He noted that violence generated by land dispute have led to a breach of the peace, urging that dialogue, litigation and arbitration rather than violence be employed to resolve the disputes.

"This untoward and barbaric development has shaken the fabric of our society and has constituted serious embarrassment to the state government.

"There are other humane and civilised means of resolving differences or disputes through dialogue, arbitration or the law court as a last resort, rather than the use of force or violence which is barbaric and condemnable," he said.



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The Federal College of Horticulture, Dadin Kowa, Gombe State, a Parastatal under the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources hereby invites applications for pre-qualification exercise from competent and interested companies for execution of the following projects under its year 2009 Capital Budget.

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Lot 1A	-	Procurement of Office Equipments.
Lot 1B	-	Procurement of Farm machineries.
Lot 2A	-	Procurement of Survey Equipments.
Lot 2B	-	Procurement of Workshop Facilities.
Lot 3A	-	Perimeter wire Fencing of Orchard (20Hectres).
Lot 3B	-	Establishment of Training Farm.
Lot 3C	-	Construction of Training Workshop.

C. Pre-qualification criteria

To qualify for consideration interested companies are required to submit the following:

- Evidence of incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission
- Current Tax Clearance Certificate
- Company VAT Registration Certificate
- Evidence of similar Jobs successfully executed within the zone;
- Company Profile
- Evidence of financial capability

D. Submission of pre-qualification Documents

All pre-qualification documents should reach the undersigned not later than two weeks from the date of this publication.

The provost
Federal College of Horticulture,
P.M.B 108, Dadinkowa
Gombe State.

E. Please Note

This advertisement is not an invitation to tender, and only those qualified will be invited to tender.

Signed
PROVOST
Federal college of Horticulture,
Dadinkowa

ENVIRONMENT

UN plans guide to fighting climate-change disasters

A proposed U.N. study of climate extremes will be a practical guide for tackling natural disasters and fill a gap in past reports focused on the gradual effects of global warming, experts said.

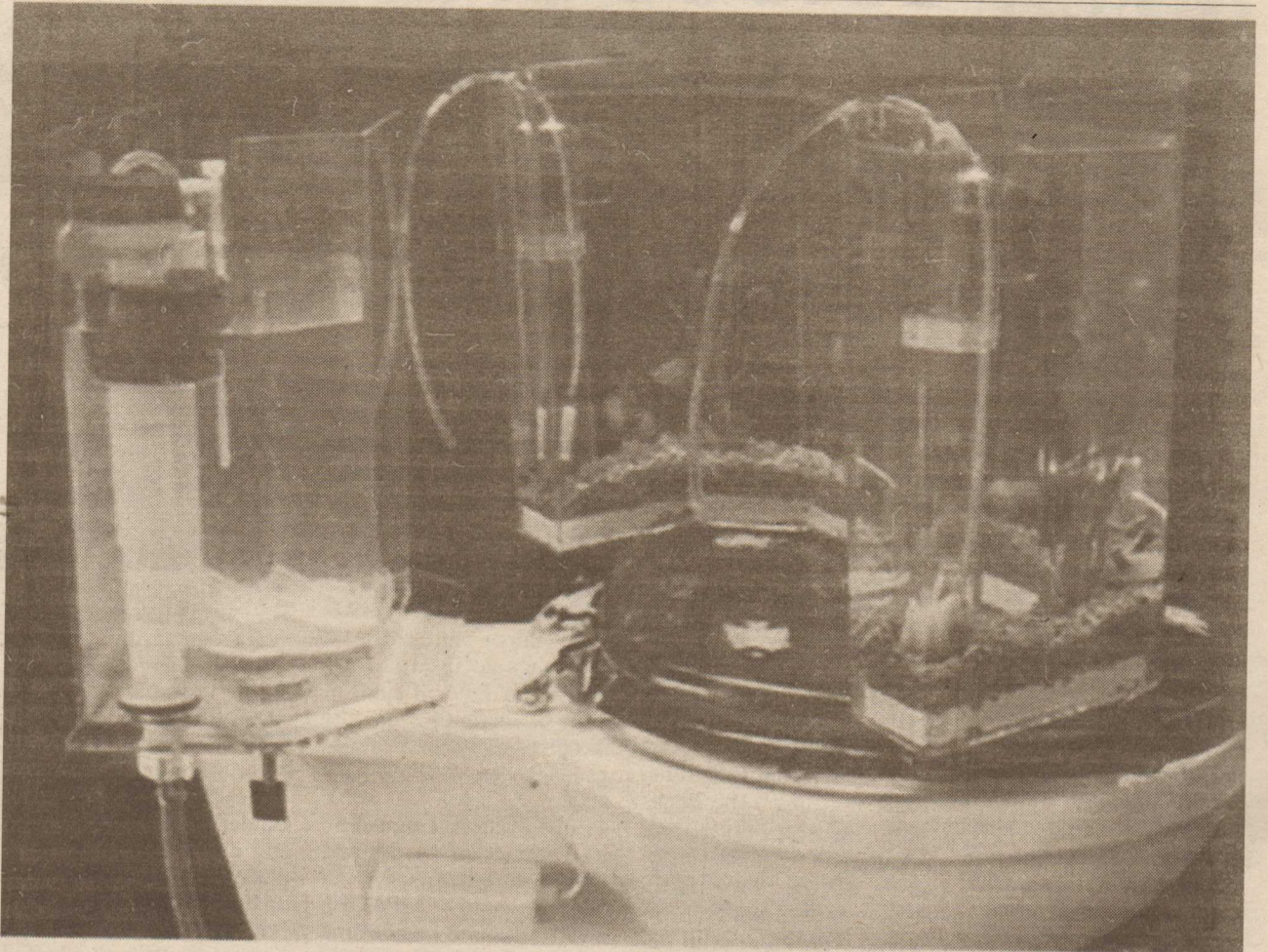
Floods, mudslides, droughts, heatwaves or storms are often the main causes of destruction and human suffering tied to climate change, rather than the creeping rise in average temperatures blamed on a build-up of greenhouse gases.

"We are saying a lot about changes in mean temperatures but the impacts on real people, real companies, are taking place at the extremes," said Chris Field, a co-chair of a group in the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

Better knowledge of extreme climate events could help governments, companies or humanitarian organizations to cope with natural disasters, he told Reuters on Tuesday during a March 23-26 IPCC meeting in Oslo.

"Most importantly (a special study) will be a guide for how we can get going with practical measures in countries vulnerable to climate change," said Ellen Hambro, head of the Norwegian Pollution Control Authority which is hosting the talks.

About 100 scientists are meeting in Oslo to map out a possible special U.N. report about climate extremes by Field's group, under a proposal by Norway and the U.N.'s International Strategy for Disaster Reduction. — Reuters



A new fish tank, which attaches to your toilet, is the latest in bizarre bathroom accessories

Lavatory flush tank that holds fish too

A new fish tank, which attaches to your lavatory, is the latest in bizarre bathroom accessories.

The extraordinary mini tank, called the Fish n Flush, doubles as a flush tank for your lavatory and a 2.2 gallon aquarium.

Maker AquaOne says the tank was designed with fun in mind and, despite some concern from animal rights activists, is perfectly

safe for both fresh and saltwater fish.

It can even be emptied water and used for small animals like turtles or lizards.

David Parrish, from AquaOne, said the tank had been designed with fun in mind and reactions to the aquarium had been positive on the whole.

But he admitted there had been some opposition—mostly from people

concerned about using the loo in front of their pets.

Mr Parrish joked: "People have said they get freaked out by using the bathroom in front of the fish."

"I just tell them to lift the seat and use the lavatory like everyone else does."

He added: "Some animal rights activists have also taken issue with the type of aquarium we use."

"But once we explain that we hired one a marine

biologist to help design the filtration system they are less concerned."

Despite appearances—the Fish n Flush aquarium is completely separate to the lavatory system, meaning the water in the lavatory and the aquarium never mix.

The separated systems also means the fish are safely secured in the aquarium.

A tank costs around £299 and can be ordered from the company website.—Daily Telegraph



Temporary tents for Italy's earthquake victims

Minister commends climate change body

The Minister of Environment, Mr. John Odey has commended the efforts of Climate Change Network (CCN) Nigeria, for joining the crusade against deforestation through the

By Mustapha Suleiman

promotion of wood conserving stove.

He gave this commendation while receiving in audience in his Abuja office, a team led by

the Coordinator, Mr. Surveyor Etuk.

The Minister assured the organisation of the Ministry's support and cooperation and therefore urged it to liaise with the Special Climate Unit of the

Ministry in order to work out the details.

He expressed the Ministry's preparedness to partner with the organisation and others with similar objectives to tackle problems of deforestation headlong.

Mr. Odey said that the Ministry will be much interested in making available the stove at affordable prices to rural dwellers as a means of mitigation against climate change.

Earlier, the leader of the delegation, Mr. Surveyor Etuk noted that the organisation's effort was based on its desire to ameliorate deforestation in a unique way, which made it to seek for better and most efficient way of cooking through the stove.

He appealed to the Ministry to establish a plant that will manufacture the stove as a way of reducing the cost of production as well as discouraging large consumption of firewood.

Energy Outlook 2050: Lower carbon, but not so renewable

The electric system at mid-century will have a lot more renewable energy than it does today, but coal and nuclear power together will still supply two-thirds of the energy, according to a new study from the Electric Power Research Institute, a consortium supported by both government- and investor-owned utilities.

Coal-fired plants will likely be capturing and storing their carbon dioxide—so-called "clean coal"—and the exact mix between coal and nuclear will depend on construction and carbon sequestration costs, according to the study.

Wind and biomass, meanwhile, will supply about a quarter of the electricity, while solar power will not play a significant role, the study predicts. "It just

doesn't enter into our equation," said Revis W. James, the director of the institute's Energy Technology Assessment Center.

Of course, as the physicist Niels Bohr famously observed, "Prediction is very difficult, especially about the future." Last year the Energy Department produced a report that said that wind alone could produce 20 percent of the country's energy by 2030. And various advocates say a substantial share could come from solar photovoltaic cells, which make electricity directly from light, or solar thermal systems, which gather the sun's heat to boil water. Geothermal energy and energy from ocean waves or temperature differences are also candidates.

But wind and biomass are the only ones likely to have a cost low enough to compete—at least in the near term, Mr. James said.

The institute is pushing for a broad research program to lower the costs of carbon capture and of low-carbon energy production, and has published two reports—one on where costs stand now, and another on how the mix would vary under various cost levels for carbon storage and for reactor construction.

One way that power plants are compared is by price per kilowatt of generating capacity—roughly the amount needed to run a window air-conditioner.

For nuclear power, the institute has been using \$4,000 a kilowatt, but Mr.

James noted that Moody's, the debt-rating agency, recently predicted \$6,000. At the lower construction price, the cost per kilowatt-hour (the amount that the window air-conditioner would consume running for an hour on a hot day) is about 6.4 cents. At the higher price it is 9.4 cents. (For comparison, in 2007 the average generating cost for the United States was 6.6 cents.)

But \$6,000 a kilowatt is hardly a ceiling. The institute notes that some reactors built in the 1980s came in even higher. So the study also models the results at \$8,700 a kilowatt of capacity, which would mean 12.2 cents a kilowatt-hour.

For coal, the cost to sequester carbon dioxide is likely to be determined by the number of places

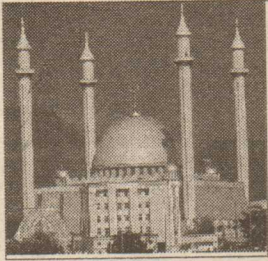
approved for underground storage of that compound—and how much it would cost to build a pipeline to pump the material to those sites.

Costs could be lower if the carbon dioxide could be sold to oil producers, who already use it for oil production (they pump it underground in old oil fields to force out oil that cannot be recovered by conventional means).

But, said Mr. James, that financial advantage might not be around very long because the volumes carbon dioxide from power plants would be so large they would quickly depress the market.

And, of course, the relative competitiveness of any future energy resource will depend on another uncertain factor:

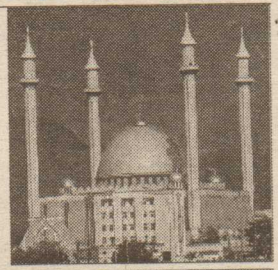
—New York Times



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In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

Obama's bow to Saudi King labelled 'shocking'

In what's been called a "shocking display of fealty to a foreign potentate," President Barack Obama bowed to the King of Saudi Arabia at the Group of 20 summit meeting in London. "The bow was an extraordinary protocol violation," The Washington Times observed in an editorial on Tuesday. "Such an act is a traditional obeisance befitting a king's subjects, not his peer. There is no precedent for U.S. presidents bowing to Saudi or any other royals," the editorial said. Obama offered King Abdullah a deep and prolonged bow from the waist when he met him at the summit, which brought together

By Jim Meyers

the leaders of the world's largest economies on April 2. The story about Obama's unusual gesture has gotten scant media coverage in the United States, but a Spanish TV broadcast was picked up on blogs and has created an Internet stir. "No Americans of any station are required to bow to royalty," the Times stated. "It is one of the pillars of American exceptionalism that our country rejected traditional caste divisions." The Times editorial also opined that Obama's bow "to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques does not help his image with those who be-

lieve he is secretly a Muslim, and why he chose to bow only to the Saudi king and not to any other royal remains unexplained." For instance, Obama did not bow to Queen Elizabeth when he

first met her last week in London. Subjects of the crown may bow to the monarch but are not required to do so. First lady Michelle Obama also broke protocol

during the Obamas' trip abroad when she put her hand on the queen's back. The move caused a bit of tempest in the British press, but was quelled when the queen put her hand on

Michelle in what a Buckingham Palace spokesman described as a "mutual and spontaneous display of affection and appreciation."

Culled from www.newsmax.com

Islamic Forum condemns use of pills, condoms

The Islamic Forum of Nigeria has condemned the recent hosting of United Nations Population Fund conference in Sokoto where Muslim women were advised to use pills and condoms for family planning and prevention of HIV/AIDS.

In a statement signed by the chairman of the Sokoto chapter of the forum, Malam Usman I. Musa, the organisation called on all Muslim women to distance themselves from the declaration and recommendations of the conference, saying that the family planning method being promoted "are injurious to the health of

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

women and morality in the society."

The statement specifically said use of condoms and pills by Muslim women which the conference advocated for family planning and HIV prevention, destroys morality and promotes sexual promiscuity. The Forum warned that "any Muslim leader who allows the use of mosque to promote sex education to girls in the community and also to be used as a distribution centre for pills and condoms should know that he is working against the interest of Islam."

Memory verse

Verily, when He intends a thing, His command is 'be', and it is! Qur'an 36:82

Ask your Imam

Q. What are the things that a widow in mourning must observe?

- A. A widow in mourning must observe the following:
1. To spend her 'Iddah (i.e 4 months and ten days) in the premises in which she was living when her husband died, unless she is pregnant, in that case her 'Iddah would be over upon childbirth according to the Quran: "And those pregnant women, their term would be concluded by their childbirth." (V65: 4)
 2. She should not go out unless it is absolutely necessary.
 3. Refrain from wearing attractive or colorful clothes. That is what the Prophet (SAW) commanded.
 4. Avoid wearing jewelry of any kind before the end of the 'Iddah.
 5. Avoid wearing perfumes or using any scented substances such as scented soap etc.
 6. Avoid all application of beauty aids. She also must not drink a beverage mixed with saffron, for it is a kind of perfume. Neither is she permitted to entertain obvious proposals for marriage. These are the only things a widow must observe throughout her 'Iddah.
- Shaikh bin Baz

Jos crisis: MPAC accuses Jang of propaganda war

By Abbas Jimoh

The Muslim Public Affairs Centre (MPAC) has accused Governor Jonah Jang of Plateau State of attempting to enlist the press to wage a propaganda war on Muslims in his state.

In a statement signed by its Director of Media and Communications, Disu Kamor, said "MPAC is aware of some clandestine moves of the state government to enlist the press in its battle against Islam and Muslims. The Plateau State Governor, Jonah Jang was recently in Lagos on 'a private visit', in the company of the CAN Chairman in Bauchi state among others, to meet with editor-in-chiefs,

editors and deputy editors of major newspapers where copies of CDs and other materials purporting to contain "incriminating evidences" against Muslims in Jos were handed out with the obvious and dishonest intention to place the blame of the crisis on the doorstep of Muslims. It is sad and dangerous that a state government adopted this policy of 'smearcasting' to affect news standards and reporting".

Kamor said "This is cheap propaganda which has failed before it even started. The Governor is attempting to rubbish the good work that various reli-

gious and inter-religious councils are doing to bring peace and harmony to the flashpoints of religious crisis in Nigeria. It is embarrassing and shameful to try and whip up sentiments by dragging the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) into his plans by coming to the meeting with the Chairman of the Bauchi State Chapter of CAN. This is pure deceit as the governor ought to be aware that both the Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and the national body of CAN are both united in fighting this scourge of religious intolerance, which are majorly precipitated and manipulated by politicians, such as the governor. The various security reports before the crisis were enough foretelling."

He stated further: "Apparently not satisfied with the responses from the media, the State Government has embarked on a media blitz to bring its agenda to fruition, as can be gleaned from a planted news items in the Saturday March 28 edition of Punch newspaper titled: "Plateau govt alleges fresh plot to destabilise Jos" wherein the DG of Research & Planning in the Governor's Office, Mr. Gyang Pwajok tried very hard to convince the reading public that the Central Mosque area is the hotspot where trouble flare in Jos. MPAC knows that it is all too easy to make a ca-

reer in the Islamophobia industry but the Punch newspaper's decision to uphold this bizarre propaganda strikes us as peculiar. We call on the Plateau State governor and its officials to be true partners for peace, to read and review the report of findings of the National Assembly and sit down to do its work of governance and crisis management, rather than following the easy but cheap and counterproductive path of blackmail."

"It is sad to note that at a time that various bodies and the government at federal level are looking for a way out of the recurring crisis, the Plateau State Government is out on a campaign of calumny against Islam and Nigerian Muslims, even when the report on the findings of National Assembly committee paints a different picture. The report among others states that "One of the immediate causes of the Jos North Local Government Election crisis could be attributed to alleged attempt by the ruling Party in the State to manipulate the results of the Chairmanship election to its advantage." The report further states that the State Governor failed to heed three separate intelligence reports from the State Security Service, SSS, forewarning of imminent threats to security in the state," he added.

Muslim groups hold da'wah camps in Ilorin

Various Muslim organisations in Ilorin, the Kwara state capital, have lined up separate da'wah camp programmes for this weekend. Various statements made available to *Daily Trust* by the organisations said their programmes would commence today at three different locations and end on Sunday.

The Young Muslims (TYM)'s programme tagged Muslim Children Camping Programme (MCCP) will hold at the Queen Elizabeth

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

College, Ilorin for children under the ages of 4 and 9 years.

Al-Mu'minaat (the believing women)'s event tagged Al-Mu'minaat Training Program (ATF) will hold at the Okele Secondary School, Ilorin till Monday 13th April, 2009, while The Muslim Congress (TMC)'s programme will be held at male Muslims between Ruqayyah Group of Schools, Odota, Ilorin between 24th to 26th April.

Muslim lawyers oppose withdrawal of judges' police orderlies

By Muideen Olaniyi

The National Executive Committee of the Muslim Lawyers' Association of Nigeria (MULAN) has condemned the Federal Government's recent decision to withdraw police orderlies from judges and other public officers.

A statement signed by MULAN's National Chairman, Adekola Mustapha said such move was capable of derailing justice in the country and frustrating the government's desire to rid the nation of crime.

According to the statement, "It is inconceivable that the government is trying hard to curb crime and prison congestion in one

hand, and on the other, on its own, issuing directives capable of frustrating the effort.

MULAN said the resultant effect of the directive is that, magistrates and judges may have to rethink before they accept to preside over criminal cases.

The statement added that "it is unfortunate for the government to lump together judges and political office holders who sometimes abuse the use of police orderlies by using them to intimidate political opponents and oppress the people."

Al-Mu'minaat holds camping Programme

By Ni'imah Shehu

Al-Mu'minaat, an organisation of Muslim women professionals, will commence the fifth edition of its annual camping programme for women and children at Government Science Secondary School, Pyakasa, along airport road, Abuja today. In a statement signed by the scribe of the organisation, Hajiya Fatima Juma'ah, Al-Mu'minaat organises camping programmes purposely to "engender the spiritual upliftment, moral reformation, intellectual rectitude and sound overall develop-

ment of women." According to her, a woman with these qualities would be a guide and a source of blessings not only to her immediate family but the society as a whole. The camp with the theme "Our nation: our roles" would be declared open tomorrow with Hajiya Maryam Tahan, Director, Nurul-Bayan Academy and Hajiya Rabi Namtari, Director, Great Heights Academy as the chairperson and mother of the day respectively.

City news

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Boy beheaded at Mpape

The beheaded corpse of a seven-year-old boy was on Tuesday discovered in a bush, behind Ansar Plaza, near Berger Quarry at Mpape, in the Federal Capital Territory.

By Hamisu Kabir Matazu

The dead boy's father, Malam Yusuf, said his son Abdulrahman got missing on Saturday morning and his corpse was discovered Tues-

day without a head.

"My wife told me that Abdulrahman went out that fateful Saturday morning and could not be found after numerous searches," the father lamented.

Malam Yusuf said he went to the traditional ruler's palace, the police station and Maitama Hospital to search for his son but could not find him.

"A man informed us to go

to the back of Ansar Plaza and on reaching the place, we discovered my boy's corpse cut into pieces and put inside a plastic bucket without head," he disclosed.

The father said he imme-

diately reported what he saw to the police and traditional ruler of the place before his son's remains was conveyed to the burial ground and buried.

Speaking on the incident, Malam Umar Dada, secretary to the district head of Mpape, said this is not the first time that ritualists have struck in the area.

He said there was a particular incident when a man killed an almajiri boy and went away with his head.

"The man was later arrested by the divisional police officer of Maitama and his case later transferred to the Force Headquarters, Abuja.

Another resident, Alhaji Damboa narrated an incident when the corpse of a middle-aged labourer was found inside a ditch with his eyes removed.

He said the corpse was buried after a formal report was lodged at the police station.

Lawal Sarkin Daji, a resident also narrated the case of a five-year-old girl that was also found dead inside a bush without her head.

"We went into the bush to supervise a building in a plot, when we saw something in a sack, and on closer look noticed a feet with sandal," he said.

He said when the sack was opened the corpse of a girl of about 5 years in uniform was discovered close to a giant tortoise that had been slaughtered.

A police officer at Mpape Police Station said a special squad has been set up to deal with issues relating to ritual killings.

He said the problem is not peculiar to Mpape as such incidents have occurred at the Stadium and other parts of Abuja.



A tanker that fell along Abuja-Lokoja road recently.

Pic: Abubakar Sadiq Isah.

Mother charged for selling own child

A middle-aged mother, Aisha Mohammed and three others were yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly selling a baby.

Prosecutor Obed Amikor told the court that on March 24, 2009, an anonymous person called the Utako police 'B' Division Headquarters, Abuja, to inform them that the mother of a baby, Aisha Mohammed conspired with one Gambo Bello to sell her child.

He said one Chinyere Ndubuizi also aided in the illegal act by introducing the mother to the person that bought the child at N40,000.

"During police investigation, the child was rescued by the police, while the buyer of the child, Iyabo Nnakwu ran away," the prosecutor added.

According to the prosecutor, the offences committed by the accused persons are contrary to Sections 79, 83 and 238 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they all pleaded not guilty

By Husein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

and requested for bail.

Following the denial of the charges by the accused persons, the prosecutor asked the court for a hearing date, adding that he vehemently opposed their bail on the grounds that if granted bail they could interfere with prosecution as the police are still trying to arrest the buyer of the child.

Magistrate Binta Mohammed ordered that the accused persons be remanded in Suleja Prisons and adjourned the case to May 14 for hearing.

In another court, a 24-year-old engineer, Uche Raymond was on Tuesday arraigned for allegedly abducting a 16-year-old girl and keeping her in his room without the consent of her parents.

Prosecutor Jeremiah Elijah informed the court that on April 3, 2009, one Michael Anih of Gosa village, Abuja, came to Lugbe Police Station and reported that the accused

abducted his 16-year-old daughter, Blessing, and kept her in his room without the consent of her parents.

He said the offence committed by the accused is punishable under Section 327 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded

not guilty, saying he did not abduct the complainant's daughter or keep her in his room.

Following the denial of the charge, the prosecutor asked the court for a hearing date to enable the police prepare its witness.

Magistrate Oyeyipo

Ademuyiwa granted the accused bail in the sum of N150,000 with a surety in like sum that must reside within the court's jurisdiction as well as swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 27 for hearing.

FCTA to prosecute armed robbery suspects

The FCT Administration in conjunction with the attorney-general of the federation would soon commence the prosecution of armed robbery suspects arrested in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

FCT Minister, Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero made this disclosure on Thursday while inspecting arms and ammunition recovered from armed robbery suspects by Alhaji Ali Kwara.

The minister said the FCT Administration has had useful discussions with the

attorney-general of the federation, where he has permitted the FCT Administration to also handle their prosecution in order to ensure speedy deliverance of justice.

According to him, the present crop of leadership in the FCT Administration is working assiduously to make Abuja unattractive for armed robbers to operate.

The minister emphasised that there may be the need for additional manpower in the Legal Services Secretariat to enable them meet

up with the new challenges.

He advised criminals who use the FCT as a base to relocate immediately before the long arms of the law catch up with them.

He said the FCT Administration decided to appeal to the attorney-general of the federation to allow the FCT Legal Services Secretariat to come in and assist in the prosecution process of robbers in order to close-up on their nefarious activities.

The minister thanked Alhaji Ali Kwara for the selfless service he has been rendering to humanity; assuring that the FCT Administra-

tion would continue to employ his services.

He commended the FCT Police Command for the feat so far achieved; noting that since he took over the mantle of leadership at the FCT, Abuja has not witnessed any violent crime and urged them to keep it up.

Senator Aliero reiterated that the FCT Administration would not condone crime and criminality in the FCT and urged residents to report any suspicious movement or give useful information to the police to ensure that such crimes are nabbed on the bud.

City news

Family members injured in auto crash

Five family members, including two children were seriously injured Tuesday morning in a motor accident that occurred at Yangoji village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

An eye witness said the accident involved a Toyota Corolla car with registration

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

number AT 465 RSH and a truck, whose driver escaped immediately the incident, occurred.

The witness said the driver of the truck tried to avoid a pot-hole while on speed and lost control, forc-

ing the car to enter a ditch.

According to him, five family members sustained various degrees of injuries, while the truck driver sped off to avoid arrest.

Our reporter learnt that officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) rushed to the scene and evacuated the victims to Kwali General Hospital.

Similarly, three persons were injured in another acci-

dent that occurred at the same scene, few hours after the previous one.

An eye witness said the incident occurred when a Toyota Hiace bus that belongs to Osas Motors had a tyre bust while on motion with 15 passengers inside it.

"The driver lost control and crashed into a ditch, injuring a man and two ladies, who taken to the hospital by FRSC officials," he added.

The Kwali Unit Commander of FRSC, Mr. Tukur D. Sifawa, while confirming the two separate accidents blamed the drivers for dangerously driving and over-speeding.

He said one person was also injured in another accident that involved a motorcycle and a Toyota Hiace bus along Kwali Market junction.

The commander blamed

the accident on the bus driver, whom he said overtook wrongly and knocked down the motorcycle rider.

He said 12 persons narrowly escaped death yesterday when a truck caught fire at Kwaita village.

He said the truck with registration number XB 662 AKA and a Daf truck with registration number XE 775 TRN loaded with cement had a head-on collision.

Black marketers sell adulterated fuel at Nyanya

Black marketers at Nyanya now sell adulterated fuel in order to make more gains.

Our reporter who went round Nyanya yesterday learnt that the practice becomes frequent during fuel scarcity periods.

At Phase 4 area in Nyanya, two litres of fuel was bought and when it was checked, the content appeared to be a mixture of fuel and kerosene.

The same adulterated fuel was also sold at Area C, Nyanya and along the way that leads to Gbagalape.

A black marketer, who sells genuine fuel, said his colleagues have in the past put pressure on him to adulterate his product for him to make

By Abubakar Yakubu

money but he refused. "I do not know why they are in a hurry to make money and I would advise people to check the oil and fuel they buy from black marketers because they are adulterated," he disclosed.

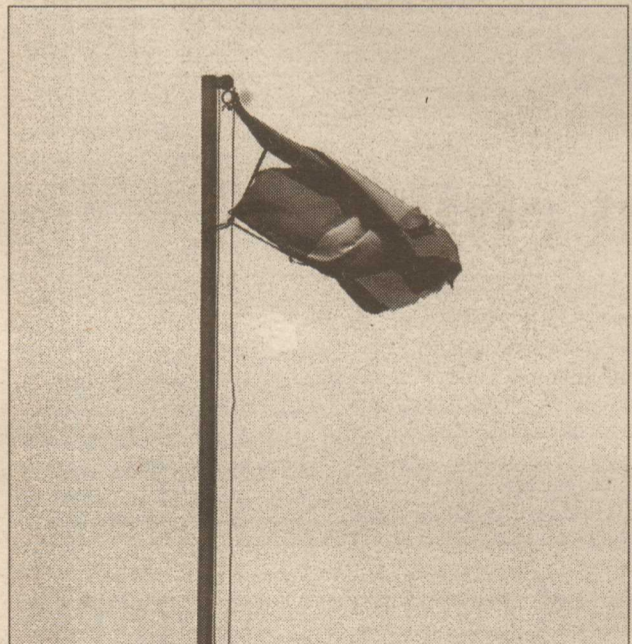
City News learnt from a generator repairer that such fuel can destroy the carburettor of generators as well as cause vehicles to jerk.

At the Nyanya Police Station, a policeman said they are just hearing the information as nobody has complained about the practice.

"Any of the marketers caught selling adulterated fuel can be arrested," the policeman added.



Minister of FCT, Senator Adamu Aliero (left) and UBA's Deputy Managing Director (North), Faith Tuedor-Matthews, during a UBA delegation's visit to the minister on Monday.



A wornout Nigerian flag at Federal Secretariat, Abuja yesterday. Pics: Felix Onigbinde.

NUJ lifts suspension on Abuja Council members ...Reschedules delegates' conference to May 15-17

The national body of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) yesterday lifted the suspension placed on 10 members of the NUJ Abuja Council.

Those whose suspensions were lifted include Timothy Elewere, Sunday Ayami, Abdul Jelil Adebayo, Iyobosa Uwugiaren, Rasheed Abdulkarim,

By Abubakar Yakubu

Chucks Ehirim, Emma Ogbeche, Chris Ogodo, Ben Bright Mkpuma and Osisam Ede.

In a letter signed by the union's National Secretary, Shuaibu Usman Leman, the 10 suspended members were informed that after a careful consideration of their petition, the national body is convinced that their suspension on November 29, 2008 was done out of malice and not according to the union's constitution.

"We wish to apologise to you all for this act of injustice which we were misled into endorsing and to inform you that the purported suspension by this letter was null and void, ab initio," the national secretary stated.

In another development, the NUJ has rescheduled

the suspended national delegates' conference of the union for May 15-17, 2009 in Abuja.

The conference which had earlier been convened on March 28, 2009 was suspended due to sharp disagreements over the number of delegates allocated to each state.

The NUJ national body stated that the decision to hold the conference was one of the resolutions reached in Jos on April 8, 2009, after a meeting of the 36 state council chairmen and secretaries of the union with the national secretariat of the union and the registrar of trade unions.

"It was resolved that the contentious 2009 delegates list be withdrawn and be replaced with the list used in 2006 delegates' conference in Port Harcourt in order to

conduct the 2009 elections.

The NUJ national secretary also disclosed that the meeting removed Barrister Iduma O. Iduma as chairman of the credentials committee and replaced him with one of the committee members, Alhaji Isa Suleiman, the chairman of Bauchi State Council.

"The meeting further passed a vote of confidence on the national secretary of the union and directed him to liaise with the reconstituted credential committee to raise money to ensure that the rescheduled delegate conference in Abuja is held without any hitches," the union stated.

The union also stated the list of all delegates to the 2009 delegate conference will be published two weeks before the date of the conference.

FCT police solicits for community's support

The FCT Police Commissioner, Mr. John Haruna, recently informed Gwagwalada residents to always give useful information to the police in order to rid their community of criminals.

Haruna stated this during the launching of community policing in Gwagwalada Area Council.

According to him, the po-

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

lice alone can not fight crime and other social vices in the society without the support of residents of the communities.

The police boss solicited for cooperation among traditional rulers, village/district heads, religion leaders as well

as community leaders in tackling crime in their various communities.

In his address, Gwagwalada Council Boss, Alhaji Zakari Angulu Dobi, expressed his happiness for the launching of community policing in the area.

He said the council takes the issue of security seriously, adding that the issue of security should not be left to the police alone.

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VENUES:

- ABUJA** - Rockview Hotel, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II,
Date - Tuesday, 14th April, 2009.
Time - 9am - 5pm
- KADUNA** - Hamdala Hotel, (Syndicate Room D)
26 Muhammed Buhari Way, Kaduna.
Date - Thursday 16th April, 2009.
Time - 9am - 5pm
- KANO** - Royal Tropicana Hotel, Niger Road, Kano
Date - Friday, 17th April, 2009.
Time - 10am - 5pm
- LAGOS** - BY FORESIGHT TUTORS
No.113 Allen Avenue, opposite Alade Market,
beside Tantalizers, Ikeja, Lagos.
Date - Monday, 20th April, 2009.
Time - 9am - 5pm.

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**COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 201st NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE
PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY OF NIGERIA (PSN), HELD ON WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 25, 2009, AT ROYAL TROPICANA HOTEL, KANO, KANO STATE.**

The meeting of the National Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) was held in Kano State, from Tuesday 24th - Thursday 26th of March, 2009.

The meeting was attended by members of the National Executive Committee, Chairmen and Secretaries of the 36 states PSN Branches and FCT, Directors of Pharmaceutical Services across the Country, Deans of Faculties of Pharmacy, Chairmen of all Technical and Interest Groups of PSN, D.G National Institute for Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD), Registrar, Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN), Ag Director, Food and Drug, Federal Ministry of Health, National President of Pharmaceutical Association of Nigerian Students (PANS), and selected opinion leaders in organized pharmacy.

The National Council of the Pharmaceutical Society of Nigeria (PSN) deliberated on a number of contemporary Health and National issues and subsequently resolved as follows:

WRONG APPOINTMENT OF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF NAFDAC

The National Council of PSN regretted the seeming indifference of the Federal Government on the wrong and unjustified appointment of the Director General of NAFDAC, which continues to generate avoidable entropy in organized Pharmacy in Nigeria. Council mandated the President-in-Council to continue to reach out to Government at the highest level for an immediate reversal of the wrong and unjustified appointment of persons who do not have good knowledge of Pharmacy, Food and Drugs to steer the ship of NAFDAC while urging stakeholders to embrace only options that are in line with due process in larger public interest to ensure that the safety mandate entrusted to NAFDAC is guaranteed at all times.

UNCONTROLLED ACCESS TO DRUG PRODUCTS IN NIGERIA

Council continue to express deep concern over the activities of charlatans and unauthorized persons handling medicines across the length and breadth of the nation.

Council called on the Federal Government, the National Assembly and the State Governments to realize the dangers inherent in their unstructured drug distribution channels and empower the relevant regulatory authorities with a view to implementing the provision of the drug laws.

A special appeal was made to all Directors of Pharmaceutical Services to cooperate with PCN and other appropriate regulatory authorities in ensuring that the Country is rid of fake and counterfeit drugs and that drugs are sold only in authorized places.

POOR IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME (NHIS)

Council reviewed the report of the subcommittees on National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) Standards Technical Committee and subsequently faulted the recommendations of the Accreditation subcommittee which gave guidelines that completely excluded Pharmacists on the personnel requirement in all facets of primary healthcare from Health Centres, Clinics, Maternity Homes, Nursing Homes, University Medical Centres, Government Staff Clinics and even more ridiculously the Out Patients Departments (OPDs) of Teaching/Specialist Hospitals and Federal Medical Centres.

Council berated the NHIS Management which has a propensity for disguising easy access to services and dearth of Pharmacists as convenient platforms to negate valid Acts of Parliament that DISPENSING, SALES AND DISPLAY OF DRUGS were exclusive professional privileges and rights of Pharmacists in Nigeria by virtue of salient provisions of the National Drug Policy 2005.

Council noted that the operations of these facilities without Pharmacists is illegal and portends a great danger as it will rub the public of the benefits of the expertise of a registered Pharmacists who should supervise and ensure that safe and efficacious drugs are dispensed to the public at all times.

Council mandated the Association of Community Pharmacists of Nigeria (ACP/N) to critically review this chain of events alongside the incidence of unlawful payment mechanisms in the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) and do the needful.

TRAINING OF PHARMACISTS SUB-CADRE IN UNAPPROVED INSTITUTIONS

Council put on record recent attempts by some Polytechnics across the Country to introduce programmes in Pharmaceutical Technology which ideally is a postgraduate Specialty in Pharmaceutics. Pharmaceutics is one of the seven (7) subjects required to qualify as a Pharmacist. Council directed the Registrar of the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) to urgently draw the attention of such Institutions and National Board on Technical Education (NBTE) that the PCN is by virtue of the provisions of Section (11) of Decree 91 of 1992) charged with the function of regulating and controlling Pharmacy Practice in Nigeria in all its aspects and ramifications.

Council notes the increasing challenges of access to medicines of assured quality and their rational use in Nigeria and frowns at attempts by certain groups and some unnamed professional colleagues to train sub-cadres of Pharmacy illegally (without the approval of the PCN). For the avoidance of doubt, adequate provision has been made in the law of the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) to train Pharmacy (sub-cadre) e.g. Technicians at the Schools of Health Technology. These Schools are available in all States of the Federation.

Council advises those seeking to become Pharmacists to go through a normal process of admission and in line with National Universities Commission (NUC) requirements for degree programmes.

RECENT BOARD APPOINTMENT IN TERTIARY HEALTH INSTITUTIONS

Council lamented the unfortunate lopsided appointments of healthcare providers into the Boards of Teaching and Specialist Hospitals and Federal Medical Centres (FMCs) in Nigeria. Council in particular frowned at the appointment of only three (3) Pharmacists in over 54 existing such boards in Nigeria when global perspectives suggests that DRUGS remain the pivot of any credible healthcare system. Council noted with dismay that the appointments were a blatant violation of the salient provisions of Decree 10 of 1985 which provides that each board should have among others, representatives of other Health Professionals. (Pharmacists, Nurses, Medical Laboratory Scientist, etc) including Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) which has a Medical Doctor or Dentist as member in each board. Council draw Government attention to this abnormality with a view to bringing equity and justice in the entire process of board representatives so that the expertise of the Pharmacists is continuously brought to bear at these boards and ensure quality and safety of drugs in those institutions at all times.

URGENT NEED TO RECONSTITUTE THE BOARD OF THE (PCN) COUNCIL

Council is worried over the long delay in appointing a Chairman to the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria (PCN) and other Health professional boards in the Country. This delay has stalled many regulatory and oversight functions of these boards for instance the Pharmacists Council of Nigeria cannot discipline erring companies and Pharmacists as a result of this Government seeming inaction.

Council unanimously appealed to the Minister of Health to implement the provisions of the PCN decree and recommend names as provided in the decree to the President and Commander-in-Chief for immediate action.

OUTBREAK OF EPIDEMICS

Council reviewed the overall response of the Federal and State Governments to reported cases of cerebrospinal meningitis and lessa fever in parts of the Country in the last few months and called for proactive measures to mitigate the effects of these seasonal epidemics. Council called on Government to partner with identified private Pharmaceutical Stakeholders to produce our entire vaccines requirement in Nigeria and create a buffer stock of Ribavirin for use in emergency situations for lessa fever.

GLOBAL ECONOMIC MELTDOWN

Council noted with concern the implications of the global economic meltdown and the multiplying effect on the populace and advised government to take immediate and proactive measures to cushion the effect so that cost of Healthcare and especially drugs will continue to be accessible and affordable to the average Nigerian.

APPRECIATION

Council seizes this opportunity to thank the Executive Governor of Kano State, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau and his cabinet, the Royal Father and the good people of Kano State for their hospitality and logistic support towards the success of the meeting.

PHARM. (SIR) ANTHONY AKHIMIEN, FFSN
PRESIDENT

PHARM. GBENGA OLOBOWALE
NATIONAL SECRETARY

INSIDE POLITICS

Easter: Ogbulafor felicitates with Christians

National Chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, has congratulated Christians all over the world on the celebration of Easter.

In an Easter message yesterday through his Special Assistant on Media and Public Affairs, Edmons

By Muideen Olaniyi

Chijioke Adindu, Ogbulafor said there was every reason to celebrate the period.

He said the Christ's death and resurrection as symbolised by the Easter period was a constant reminder of God's love for humanity.

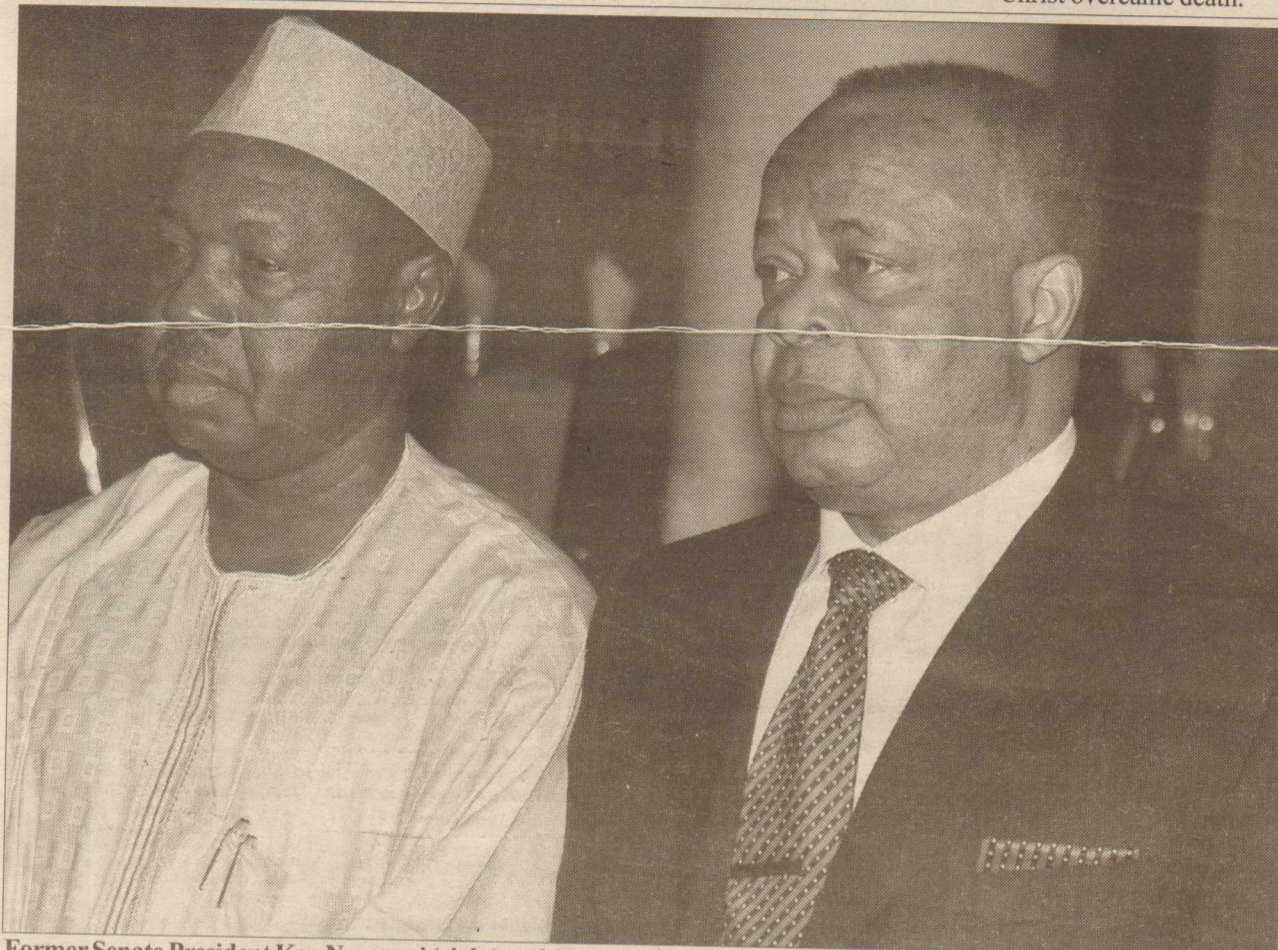
"The resurrection is the

clearest indication that we serve a God over whom something as great as death has no power. More so, Christ's resurrection makes our reconciliation to God sure and complete," he said.

Ogbulafor implored Christians all over the world to imbibe the significant lessons of Easter.

While urging them to strive to walk on the path of righteousness and live a life of service just as Christ did, he reminded all Christians not to relegate God to the background in their plans, actions and words.

Ogbulafor expressed confidence that Nigeria would overcome just as Christ overcame death.



Former Senate President Ken Nnamani (right) and former Speaker of the House of Representatives Aminu Bello Masari at the national dialogue on electoral reform in Abuja recently.

Pix: Felix Onigbinde.

Political thugs worry Gombe residents

Some residents of Gombe metropolis yesterday expressed concern over increased activities of political thugs, popularly known as "Kalare" in the state.

They called on security agencies and the state governor to take decisive measures to stem the tide of violence being carried out by the thugs.

They wondered why, in spite of the threat to lives and property, adequate and decisive measures were not taken to checkmate the activities of the thugs.

Aliyu Usman, a resident, noted that in the last two months, the thugs had intensified their activities and seemed to be getting away with it.

"There have been many incidents of Kalare attacks, with the attendant casualties, yet we are being told that the authorities have been taking measures to safeguard our lives and property.

"Even if such measures were being taken, they are not strong enough. What the people of Gombe want to see

is practical results," he said.

Another resident, Mohammad Umar, lamented that clashes between rival groups of thugs often degenerated to "free-for-all", with majority of the casualties being innocent and law abiding citizens.

"Often, the clashes are between rival groups but in the course of the conflict, the collateral damage becomes a collective responsibility," he observed.

He called on the state governor, who is also the Chief Security Officer to issue specific instructions that would bring to an end to the barbaric acts of the thugs.

Hauwa Sambo, another resident, said women and children were also not spared in the wave of the violence. "Whenever there is pandemonium and everybody is running for cover, women and children caught in the confusion are often the most vulnerable of the victims," she noted.

According to her, unlike in the past when most of the violence occur in the night, nobody can predict the time

of its occurrence now.

Another resident, Mrs Ngozi Eze, warned that members of the public are being pushed to the wall on the matter and are fast running out of patience.

"I foresee a situation whereby there will be a complete breakdown of peace and order should the current trend of violence continues unabated. People are fast losing confidence in the security authorities for not stopping the activities of the thugs. We are made to understand that some of the

thugs (Kalares) are trying to prove their worth for political patronage as 2011 draws closer," she said.

Contacted on the activities of the thugs, the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Gombe Command, Mr Hosea Karma, said the police in the state were doing their best to checkmate the thugs. According to him, they have made series of arrests and charged culprits to court.

"After charging them to court, the rest is left for the judiciary to handle," he stressed. (NAN)

Speaker urges reading, writing culture

Speaker of the Zamfara State House of Assembly, Alhaji Abdullahi Bature, has appealed to the people of the state to adopt the culture of reading and writing, to enhance the socio-economic development of the area. He made the appeal yesterday in Gusau at the launching of a book titled "Gaskiya Matakin Nasara," written by Hajiya Khadija Rufai. Bature, represented by the Deputy Speaker, Alhaji Muratla Adamu, said the development of any society depended on the ability of its people to read and write. He noted that the author had contributed to the preservation of the culture and tradition of her community by writing the book. Bature also advised the government to continue to assist writers in the state for the preservation of the cultural heritage of the communities. He said government should also execute development projects that would transform the living condition of people of the state. (NAN)

Yar'adua congratulates Mark at 61

By Turaki A. Hassan

President Umaru Yar'adua yesterday in Abuja congratulated the Senate President David Mark on his 61st birthday. In the message, Yar'adua felicitated with Mark for celebrating his 61 years of a life of uncommon accomplishment. "You have steadfastly steered the course of the affairs of the upper legislative chamber with consummate skill. This is driven by unmediated patriotism and an abiding faith in the ideals of constructive engagement and mutual respect among the three arms of government. Your place in the political development and history of our nation is definitely assured. I join your family and well-wishers in praying for Almighty God's continued guidance and provision for you as you continue to serve the fatherland," he said.

Ondo commissioners know fate on Tuesday

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

Nineteen commissioner-nominees in Ondo State will know their fate on Tuesday next week when the House of Assembly Screening Committee completes its assignment. The committee chaired by the speaker had started the screening of the nominees and it will submit its report to the House next week. Deputy Speaker of the House had earlier told *Daily Trust* that the screening would be done in accordance with the provision of the constitution, stressing that only qualified ones would be passed. Governor Olusegun Mimiko had sent a list of 19 nominees for the post of commissioners to the House for approval. The nominees were divided into two groups. The first group of ten nominees appeared before the committee on Wednesday while another group of nine appeared yesterday. It was learnt that the committee did not complete the screening of the nine nominees yesterday and would resume sitting to complete the assignment on Tuesday.

Yarima will not be welcome into PDP—Shinkafi's aide

By Abbas Jimoh

Senator Ahmed Sani Yarima will not be welcome into the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) if he decides to move there from the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), and aide to Zamfara State Governor Mamuda Shinkafi, Alhaji Ahmed Suleiman Leda, has said. "Yarima is not welcome in PDP; he is not even ready now to join the PDP. Nobody can say someone is not welcome in a political party, but I think Yarima is not ready to join PDP; we would not accept him anyway, he is still in ANPP," Leda said. Responding to an allegation recently by one of Yarima's political associates that the problem in the state was between Yarima and Shinkafi, Leda said, "It is an unparliamentary statement to say that. We are disappointed with such statement, that the political problem in zamfara is between Yarima and Governor Shinkafi." He added, "PDP is doing well in the state and Governor Shinkafi recently appointed PDP members like Alhaji Kabiru Marafa, commissioner for water resources, Alhaji Kabiru Moyi, commissioner for youth and sport as well as special assistants and chairmen of board of parastatals."

Ex-governor warns against violence in Ekiti

A former military governor of the old Western State, retired Vice-Admiral Akin Aduwo, wants politicians to shun violence and strive for peace in the re-run of the Ekiti State governorship election. Aduwo, who was also a Chief of Naval Staff, was speaking with newsmen yesterday in Lagos, against the backdrop of accusation and counter-accusations by Ekiti politicians ahead of the re-run, slated for April 25. "Politics should be like a football match; there should be a winner and a loser but if they want to kill each other, then they are doing a disservice to God," he said. Aduwo, who said he was not a politician and did not like politics, said that violence and killings during elections were unnecessary as they did no one any good. "They should maintain peace and safety among themselves as politicians are members of families who always bear the brunt of violence when they occur in the state," he said. The Court of Appeal last month ordered a re-run of the governorship election in 10 local government areas of Ekiti State after overturning the election of Mr Segun Oni. (NAN)

TRUST CLASSIFIED

CRESCENT STARS FOR ISLAMIC VALUES AND ETHICS INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. ZAKARIYA AKINOLA KEHINDE AKINPEJU Chairman
2. AISHA ADEBISI AKINPEJU Member
3. MARIAM ADEWUMI AKINPEJU Member
4. ZAHIRAT ABIMBOLA AKINPEJU Member
5. RASHEED ADEWALE RAJI Member
6. ABDUL-FATTAH ADEBAYO HASAN Secretary

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

- a. To promote Islamic Values and ethics as laid down in the Qur'an and Sunnat.
- b. To propagate Islamic education among all persons irrespective of gender, faith, creed, colour or belief.
- c. To undertake and engage in religious, charitable, educational and cultural activities.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Abdul-Fattah Adebayo Hasan
Solicitor
08033735540

OSUH PROGRESSIVE UNION ABUJA/SULEJA BRANCH

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. MR. LONGINUS OBI
2. IFEANYICHUKWU ANTHONY EGWUASI, ESQ.
3. MR. CHIKA EWUZIE
4. MR. ANDREW E. ECHEFU
5. MRS. EUCHARIA IWUANYANWU

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

- A. To provide a level playing ground for the Meetings and Socialization of OPU indigenes resident in Abuja/Suleja and its environs.
- B. To protect the good name of OSUH Community here in Abuja/Suleja and uphold her time honoured social and cultural values.
- C. To promote enduring peaceful relationship amongst members and mediate in their misunderstandings and disputes and other issues of concern as may affect the progress of OPU.

Any objection to the registration of the above Association should be addressed to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: IFEANYI EGWUASI, ESQ
SOLICITOR
TEL: 08037198232

HESED RESOURCE CENTRE

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 Act Cap 59, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Prof. Abraham Orkurga Malu
2. Mr. Teryila Anju
3. Pastor Cephas Tyotsugh Anju Tushima

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To advocate and promote the interest of orphaned and vulnerable children (OVC)
2. To empower widows who are less privileged to be self reliant.
3. To strategically work with younger generations in churches with the view of inculcating a Christian world view and preparing and positioning them as emerging leaders in their high potential areas in order to bring about a wholesome influence in their future vocations.

Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
STEPHEN TERUNGWA AHILE ESQ
BEMANGWE AND COMPANY
6 YAKUBU GOWOM WAY, JQS.
08058470814, 0709309125

IMAGE BUILDING FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Fuanbial Nathaniel Nsen
2. Rev. Father Peter Maigari
3. Mr. Thomas Fuanbial
4. Mrs. Patricia Fuanbial
5. Dr. Francis Fuanbial
6. Mr. Macdonald Fuanbial
7. Dr. Daniel Freeman
8. Miss Nelly Fuanbial
9. Mr. Fredrick Shanglong

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To promote youth development and empowerment through positive attitude orientation and skill acquisition.
2. Promote human resources development among youth
3. HIV/AIDS awareness
4. Celebration of excellence
5. Talent hunt in the area of music dance and drama among youths.

Any objections to the registration should be forwarded to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the LOSS OF CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY NO N131 BCGA AREA KONTAGORA BELONGING TO ALHAJI BUHARI GOGO is reported missing all effort to trace it proved abortive.

If find please report to the nearest police station or contact

ALHAJI UMARU BUHARI
08036443331

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original Offer of Terms of Grant/Conveyance of Approval in respect of Plot No. 712B of about 1300sqm² Ref. No. MFCT/LA, new file No. KG12429, old file No. KG2922 dated 10/03/2003 located within Gaduwa District. Bearing ABDULRAZAK SALIHU and belonging to SEGUN OLUWATUYI. All efforts to trace the documents proved abortive. If found, contact the nearest police station. AGIS & FCDA please note.

LOSS OF ORIGINAL TITLE DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified of loss of original letter of Offer of Statutory Right of Occupancy of Plot 383 Asokoro, Cadastral Zone A04 with file number EK 20082 belonging to PROFESSOR TUNDE ADENIRAN. All efforts to recover the missing documents proved abortive.

Please, if found return to the nearest police station or call 08035753699.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public and the Ad-hoc Committee on the Sales of Federal Government Houses in Abuja is hereby notified of the loss of original receipts Nos. 06135 and 39235 dated 13/10/2005 and 24/12/05 respectively, in respect of Plot 13, House No. 10, Patrick Lumumba Street, Asokoro and Block 8, Flat A, Cairo Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja. All efforts to trace the receipts failed, hence the need for replacement by the relevant authority.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified of the loss of Allocation Paper/Certificate of Occupancy/Letter of Grant/Occupancy Permit, with file No. S0488 situate at Garki II, Abuja, FCT, belonging to ABUBAKAR B. GWANDU. Issued by FCDA Land Admin. Div. All efforts made to trace it proved abortive. FCDA Land Admin. Div and general public take note

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is notified of the loss of Application Form issued to MS ONIKAN ELIZABETHA. of Block 8, Flat 2, Benue Crescent, Area 1, FCT Abuja with file No. OD1430.

All efforts to trace the documents proved abortive.

If found, please return to the nearest police station.

AGIS and the general public take note please.

NEGVE HILLS FOUNDATION FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

The general public is hereby notified that the named Organisation has applied for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mr. Charles Chukwu -Chairman
2. Mrs. Jimaimah Ogbu -Secretary
3. Mrs. Geraldine Onyinye -Member
4. Mrs. Christiana Nonye Ilonwa -Member
5. Mrs. Rose Dogara Silas Gyar -Member
6. Mrs. Hauwa Mustapha -Member

The aims and objectives are:

- i. To promote the Socio-Economic lives of women and youths
- ii. To promote the rights of youth
- iii. Facilitate and strengthen the participation of women and youths in policy making process.
- iv. To support effort in combating the HIV/AIDS scourge amongst women.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja within 28 day of this publication.

Signed,
Barr. Ndueme Chinyelu

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as MISS GRACE IFEOMA JIDEFOR, henceforth to be called MRS. NWANKWO GRACE IFEOMA. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS ANYANWU GLORIA OGADINMA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS GLORIA VITUS OSUJI. All former documents remain valid. Spring Bank Plc and general public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS SHILEOLA ADEDIWURA OBISESAN, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS SHILEOLA YEMI - IBIRONKE. All former documents remain valid. Consolidated Media Associate Ltd and general public take note.

Formerly MISS FRANCES CHINOYE OPARA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS FRANCES CHINOYE WILLIAMS. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS FAWOLE OLUBUNMI OYEWUMI, now wish to be addressed as MISS OLUWAFEMI OLUBUNMI OYEWUMI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS RACHAEL UDOO ANTHONY, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS RACHAEL UDOO NYAGBA. All former documents remain valid. SUBEB Makurdi and general public take note.

I, formerly AKINWUMIJU OMOBOLANLE OLUWATOSIN, now wish to be addressed as MRS ODUYOYE OMOBOLANLE OLUWATOSIN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as G. OJO USMAN now wish to be called ABUBAKAR MOHAMMED. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I, formerly OMOGO ISAIHMARY now wish to be called OMOGO ISAIH MARK in all my documents in S.B.R.S. and ABU. Zaria. take note.

I, formerly known as OFIDO ANNASTHESIA NKECHI, now wish to be known as EGBUEDIKE ANNASTHESIA NKECHI. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as ABAKA AHMED UMAR, now wish to be known as ABAKA JA'AFAR UMAR. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as HANSA'U FADLUDEEN LADAN, now wish to be known as HANSA'U JA'AFAR FADLUDEEN. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as STEPHEN ASUNDA, now wish to be JOSHUA ANZA. All former documents remain valid. The Nigeria Police and the general public take note.

I, formerly known as FADIMATU UMAR DIRAM, now wish to be called as FADIMATU MOHAMMED HAMMAN. All former documents remain valid. Continuing Education Dept, University of Maiduguri and the general public to note.

I, formerly BOLA ADUNNI BALOGUN, now to be known as SARATU BOLA ABDULQUADIR APAOKAGI. General public take note.

I, formerly called MISS TABITHA ANTHONY, now wish to be known as MRS KANYIO TABITHA JOSEPH. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly ADAMU MOH'D ANHADEJA, now wish to be called KASIMU SALISU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS CHRISTIANA CHINONYE ONWUNALI now wish to be known as MRS CHRISTIANA CHINONYE OLORUNNIMBE. All former documents remain valid, general public should take note.

I, formerly HAUWA IBRAHIM KAITA now wish to be called HAUWA IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid, NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly LAWAL ABDU now wish to be YUSUF ABDU. All former documents remain valid Malumfashi LGC and LGSC Katsina to note.

I, formerly MISS JAMILA SHEHU SHIKA now wish to be called and referred to as MRS JAMILA SHEHU SHIKA. All former documents remain valid, A.B.U., N.Y.S.C. and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as USMAN MUH'D of Funtua Katsina state now wished to be called ADAMU ALIYU. All former documents remain valid. Public take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the original Offer of Grant/Conveyance of Approval of Plot No. 429 with Reg. No. MFCT/LA/MISC 18,988, Guzape District, belonging to M/S ALLAH YA YARDA NIG LTD is missing. If found, please contact the nearest police station or call Mohammed Nda on this number - 07025052931.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT CENTRE, YOLA

The general public is hereby notified that the above named body has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the companies and allied matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Alh. Umar Mohammed | Chairman |
| 2. | Abdullahi Ibn. Hamman | Secretary |
| 3. | Mal. Mohammed Danjuma | Treasurer |
| 4. | Mal. Salihu Buba Jimeta | Member |
| 5. | Barr. Hashimu Sulaiman | Member |

Aims and Objectives;

- To foster peace, progress and unity among Muslim Ummah.
 - To establish and disseminate the teachings and practice of Islam in the state and beyond.
 - To render humanitarian services among the Ummah.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission within 28 days of this publication.

Signed
Barr. Bello Bakari
Solicitor

CHRIST DYNASTY GLOBAL MINISTRY

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

TRUSTEES

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Pastor Peace Olusesan | General Overseer |
| 2. Mrs. Mercy Peace Olusesan | Assist General Overseer |
| 3. Pastor Phillips Kolawole | |
| 4. Mrs. Labake Adeyinka M. Yembra | |
| 5. Rev. Dr. Benson Beke Soriwei | |
| 6. Pastor Busayo Oladele | |
| 7. Bro. Johnson K. Oshodi | |

THE AIMS OF THE ORGANIZATION ARE:

- To preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all mankind.
 - To establish and run ministerial institutes and hold and organize public meetings, crusade, outreaches, deliverances etc
 - To embark upon community help projects and general philanthropic activities.
- Any objection to the registration of the above Association should be addressed to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

PETER A. DAUDA Esq.
PETER A. DAUDA & CO.,
Suites A 35/36 Shakir Plaza,
Plot 1029 Michika Street, Area 11 Garki, Abuja
08065938888

OVERCOMERS FAITH CHRISTIAN MINISTRY

The General public is hereby informed that the above named Ministry has applied to the corporate affairs Commission for a certificate of incorporation registration under the companies and allied matters ACT No1 of 1990 part C

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. | Rev. Mike Moses | Chairman |
| 2. | Pastor (Mrs) Aminchi M. Moses | Member |
| 3. | Rev. Papa Peter Jalo | Member |
| 4. | Bro. Kefas Charles | Member |
| 5. | Rev. Agnes J. Kahko | Member |
| 6. | Rev. Esther Galbe | Secretary |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To propagate the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to the world.
- To Organize, conferences, Seminars, crusades and other Gospel outreaches.
- To plant Churches so that converts can be taught the Holy Scriptures and also pastored.

Any objection(s) to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED

REV MIKE MOSES

MACEDONIAN MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

The general public is hereby notified that the named organization has applied for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The trustees are:

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Dr. Victor O. Adara | President |
| 2. | Barr. Yohanna Ibrahim Loya | Secretary General |
| 3. | Barr. Peter A. Dauda | |
| 4. | Mrs. Grace Amadi | |
| 5. | Mr. Jesse Oluwole | |
| 6. | Mrs. Esther Ibrahim Oladi | |
| 7. | Mr. Henry Amadin | |
| 8. | Barr. Debra O. Adara | |
| 9. | Mr. Timothy Adedayo Adara | |
| 10. | Cmdr Jerry Olu Oshielu (rtd) | |

The aims and objectives are:

- To pray and organize strategic prayer sessions for Nigeria and other African and Asian countries for peace, harmony and development
 - To provide technique and machinery to discover and develop talents and skill acquisition in Nigeria, African and Asian Youths;
 - To undertake, provide and arrange for vocational training, discipleship, mentoring, poverty alleviation, economic empowerment and the general well being of the communities of Nigeria, Africa and Asia
 - To undertake spiritual mapping and prophetic mission action projects;
- Any objection should be sent to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja within 28 day of this publication

Peter A. Dauda Esq.
Peter A. Dauda & Co.,
Suites A 35/36 Shakir Plaza
Plot 1029 Michika Street, Area 11 Garki, Abuja
08065938888

KARAYE AREA PEOPLE'S ASSOCIATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, No. 1 of 1990 (As Amended), Cap C20 LFN 2004.

TRUSTEE:

- Lawan Yahaya Karaye
- Magaji Bello Karaye
- Auwalu Adamu Karaye

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- to encourage public enlightenment on educational, social and religious development of our society
- Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Off Michael Opera Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Ibrahim Lawan Karaye

WAFI ROAD MOSQUE FORUM

W.R.M. Forum Secretariat,
Ali Akilu Road, adjacent Oando filling station. U/Sarki Bus-Stop.
P. N. B. 7840, Kaduna - Nigeria.

This is to notify the general public that the above mentioned Forum has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (C.A.C.) for amendment of its Constitution and change of Trustees under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

NEW TRUSTEES:

- Muhammad Sani Isah
- Nur Yakubu
- Usman Abubakar
- Vurtala Aliyu
- Abubakar Sada
- Muhammad Jaji

Any objection(s) to this amendment and changes should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Executive Secretary



DOMA LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL, NASARAWA STATE

INVITATION FOR TENDER

In line with the Federal Government Policy on DUE PROCESS for award/execution of projects/ supplies. Accordingly, Doma Local Government Council of Nasarawa State invites credible and reputable companies/contractors to:

- Register as contractors/suppliers with Local Government Council
- Prequalification tender for the following works:

i. Construction of 5.5km township roads/streets in Doma town. The roads/streets are:

- Lafia road - Alwaza road bye pass
- Alwaza road - Guest house
- Sule Academy through Local Government Guest House-Alwaza road
- Hussaini Ogu - Catholic Church through Alhaji Bala's Deport-Tanimu Yahaya link
- Andoma's Palace through Dogo Avenue

- Expansion and Reconstruction of Youth Centre, Doma
- Construction of a Legislative block at Doma
- Expansion/construction of Hall/Office, Isolation room and laboratory at Maternal and Child Welfare Clinic Doma
- Construction of charlets at the Local Government Guest House, Doma

REGISTRATION

All contractors/suppliers wishing to do business with the council should register in either of the following categories with a payment of non refundable fees in the same manner.

- For projects above N1,000,000.00 and not more than N5,000,000.00 - 10,000.00
- For the projects above N5,000,000.00 and not more than 20,000,000.00 - 30, 300.00
- For projects above N20,000,000.00 and more - 50,000

QUALIFICATIONS FOR TENDERING/BIDDING

- Interested companies/Contractors must meet the following conditions
- Must be a registered company with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). Attach a copy
 - Must be a registered company with Doma Local Government. Attach a copy
 - Submit a detailed company's profile including personnel
 - Evidence of tax clearance
 - Evidence of financial capability
 - Evidence of equipment verifiable similar projects

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested contractors are to collect tender documents/forms at and return to the office of the Director of Works, Doma Local Government Council, Nasarawa State in a SEALED envelope to be marked "Tender" to reach him not later than two weeks from the date of this publication while registration of contractors will end on 24th April, 2009.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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For Executive Chairman,
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Yakmut carpets
NFF, Amodu over
home-based Eagles

By David Ngobua

Executive secretary of the Nigeria premier league, Mallam Alhassan Yakmut yesterday frowned at the sudden readiness of Super Eagles chief coach Amodu Shuaibu to extend invitation to some players in the domestic league describing the move as action prompted by public outcry over the continuous exclusion of some of the league's best players.

After Super Eagles 0-0 draw with the Mambas of Mozambique in the 2010 world cup qualifiers, the coach of the team has come under serious criticism in the hands of Nigerians who feel dissatisfied with his choice of players.

Most soccer fans therefore called for inclusion of some of the players in the domestic league in the senior national team as it was the case in the days of Dutchman Clemence Westerhoff.

It was in response to such clarion calls that both the Nigeria Football Federation and the Eagles Coach took the decision to give chance to some of the local players to be part of the Super Eagles who would prosecute the remaining matches.

As welcome as the decision may appear to be, the scribe of the Nigeria premier league felt differently as he considered the sudden interest in the home based players as a move borne out of compulsion.

Yakmut lamented that as qualitative as players in the domestic league are, they have been reduced to under-23 players even as it is obvious that they are eminently qualified to play for the nation at the highest level.

His words, "It is unfortunate that players in the league have been reduced to good U-23 materials. But we are beating our chest to say that our players can compete favourably with any other player if given a level playing ground".

The league scribe expressed disappointment that Nigerian football authorities are now thinking towards the domestic players only because they have been forced to do so due to public demand.

Stolen NFF money rises to \$236,000

By Orkula Shaagee

A lot of questions were asked and media men baffled as the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) yesterday jerked up the

amount of money stolen from its safe to \$236,000 from the earlier announced \$200,000.

A member of the NFF Executive Committee, Alhaji Aminu Maigari told reporters in Abuja that contrary to earlier reports that only \$200,000 was

stolen from the Nigeria Football Federation's (NFF) safe when burglars broke the federation's vault last month, the actual amount stolen from its safe was \$236,000.

Disclosing this after the NFF Executive Committee meeting in Abuja, Maigari said the \$200,000 given to reporters by its Chief Media Officer Ademola Olajire was in error, as the NFF even reported to the police the loss of \$236,000 from its safe.

Maigari, who read the communiqué of the emergency meeting, condemned the theft and urged the police to intensify efforts to unravel the mystery, identify the culprits and recover the money.

"The Executive Committee condemned in its entirety the theft of the sum of \$236,000 from the NFF secretariat last month, and commended the police for the ongoing investigation.

"Members however urged more intensive efforts on the part of the Nigeria Police to quickly unravel the mystery,

identify the culprits and recover the stolen money", Maigari stated.

He added that the "It is not \$200,000 that was taken from the safe but \$236,000 and that was what the Nigeria Football Federation reported to the police".

On the Super Eagles 2010 World Cup qualifying campaign, Maigari said the NFF secretariat has been urged to work closely with the technical crew and the technical committee to ensure the country's total victory in the remaining five qualifying matches.

"The committee praised the ongoing preparation of the National U-17 Team, Golden Eaglets for the FIFA World Cup finals that Nigeria will host and defend later this year and resolved that the National U-20 Team, Flying Eagles should be given adequate attention and preparation for the FIFA U-20 World Cup finals in Egypt", the statement further said.

Delta in contact with FIFA on Warri stadium

Delta Sports Commission is in regular touch with FIFA on progress of work at the Warri Stadium in preparation for the Under-17 World Cup, according to its chairman, Amaju Pinnick.

Warri is one of the nine Nigerian cities bidding to host the FIFA cadet championship in November.

Others are Lagos, Bauchi, Calabar, Enugu, Kaduna, Kano, Ijebu Ode and Abuja.

The world soccer governing body, which is expected to choose six from the nine centres, will be back in the country next month for the final inspection.

Pinnick said in Oghara on Wednesday that 90 per cent of the job on the Warri stadium had been completed, adding that they were ready for the FIFA inspection.

"We have been able to come out with something that is very

novel and I think we are on course.

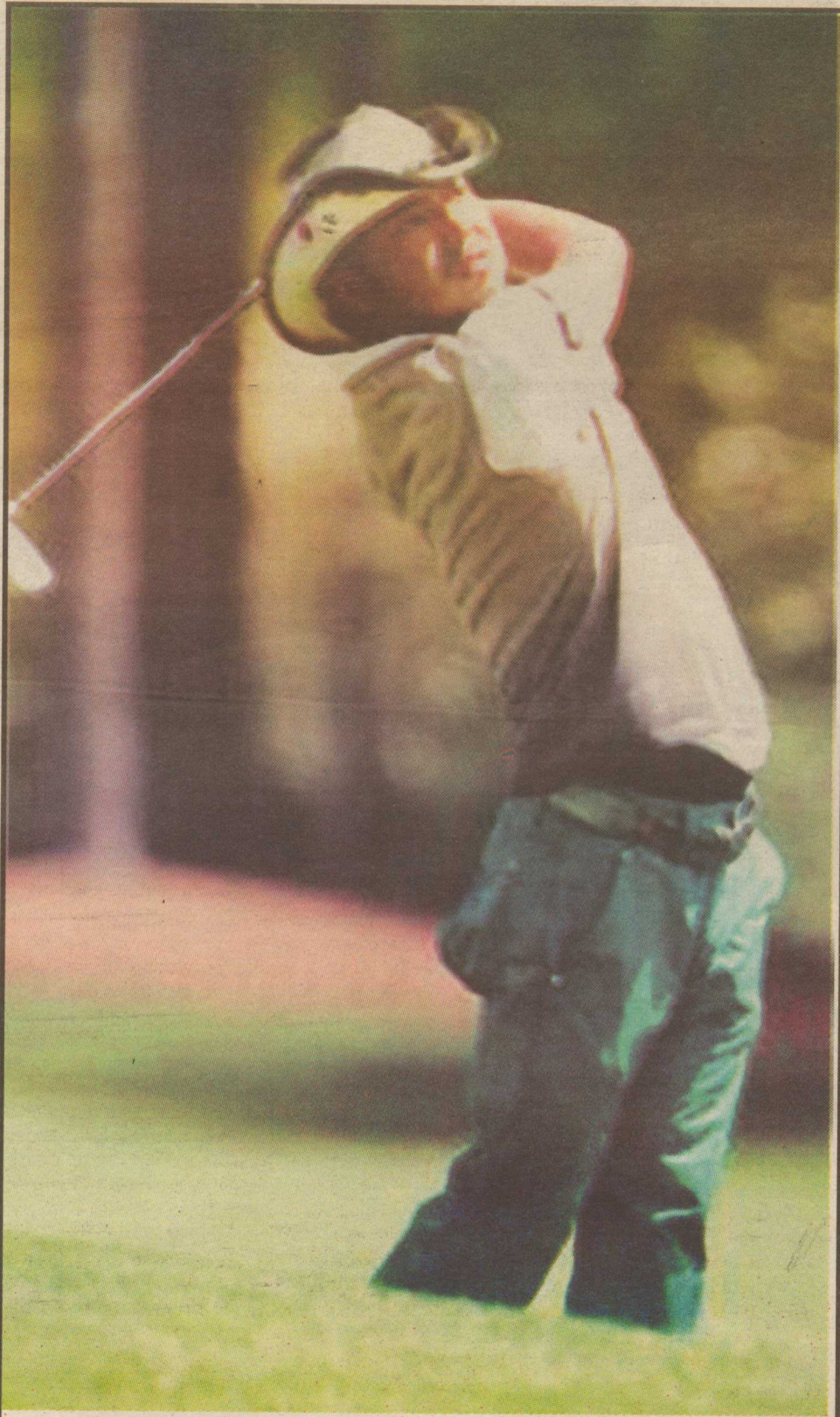
"We are in touch with FIFA and I think that they are very pleased with the progress of work at the Warri stadium at the moment," he said.

The Delta government, he said, had five pitches for training instead of the three recommended by FIFA.

"Generally, if they said they were to come today, we will say that we are ready. The medical facilities are 100 per cent ready, accommodation is also 100 per cent ready.

"All the dressing rooms are ready. The cabling work of the floodlight is on. The scoreboard is ready too," added Pinnick.

He said Gov. Emmanuel Uduaghan had set up a Local Organising Committee comprising experienced football technocrats with good track records.



Shingo Katayama of Japan hits his tee shot on the 12th hole during first round play at the 2009 Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National in Georgia, United States ...yesterday.

Nnamdi Azikiwe Stadium wears new look

The Nnamdi Azikiwe Stadium, Enugu, is wearing new looks as refurbishment work to put it in shape for the FIFA U-17 World Cup has commenced.

Six stadiums across Nigeria are expected to host the FIFA U-17 World Cup scheduled for October.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) correspondent who visited the stadium complex on Wednesday observed increased tempo of work.

The facility was a beehive of activities as workers were seen scrapping off the old paints in a bid to repaint the complex.

The work on the dressing rooms and installation of lockers had

reached advanced stages.

Certain portion of the complex was completely knocked down to make way for the linking of the media stand to the media workrooms in line with FIFA recommendations.

Some of the toilets were also being refitted, while tiles were being laid in some marked portions. About N36.5 million was recently released by the Enugu State Government for the general improvement of the stadium.

The Federal Government also released N250 million to each of the nine states jostling to get the nod to host some of the matches.

Of the nine stadiums, six would be selected to host the matches.

Delta sports associations dissolved

The governing boards of all sports associations in Delta state were dissolved yesterday in Asaba.

Amaju Pinnick, Chairman of the Delta State Sports Commission, who announced the dissolution, said the tenures of the boards had expired. Pinnick said that the boards, which were inaugurated in 2006, had served for three years in line with laws setting them up.

He commended the outgoing chairmen and members for their "invaluable service to the state".

Pinnick told the members that Delta recorded tremendous achievements during their tenure.

The chairman directed the outgoing officials to hand over all associations' and government property in their possession to their respective organising secretaries within one week.

"We wish the outgoing board chairmen and members the very best in their future endeavours," he said.

Pinnick expressed the hope that they would be willing to serve again if invited to do so.

He said the new boards to run the affairs of the association in the next three years would be constituted soon.

Quote of the Day

What I saw in the first half is, without doubt, the worst football in Bayern's history... It's a demonstration, almost a humiliation. They gave us a lesson.

— Bayern Munich president, Franz Beckenbauer, condemning the first half performance against Barcelona in the Champions League on Wednesday as the worst in the club's history.

Sports

Clark sets early pace at Masters golf

Tim Clark of South Africa grabbed the early clubhouse lead in the first round of the Masters on Thursday with Tiger Woods set to open his assault on the Grand Slam of golf later in the afternoon.

Clark, bidding to become the first player to win both the par-three contest and the main event, went out in one-under 35, but three birdies on the back nine gave him the lead.

With perfect playing conditions drawing much of the fire out of Augusta National, England's Ross Fisher was set to join him at four-under until a bogey at the last meant he had to settle for a 69.

Also at three-under for the day were Kevin Sutherland of the United States and leading the Asian challenge was Prayad Marksang of Thailand, who regretted a triple-bogey six at the fourth.

Clark, looking to make it two in a row for South Africa after Trevor Immelman's triumph last year, said he had drawn confidence from his win in the fateful par-three contest on Wednesday.

"We had receptive greens and they certainly didn't play the course at its full length," the 33-year-old from Durban said.

"It certainly set up well for me but as the week goes on it sets up harder for a guy who hits like me."

Out on the course there were encouraging starts also for Greg Norman, playing at Augusta for the first time in seven years, and twice former winner Bernhard Langer.

Both were one-under through 11 holes.

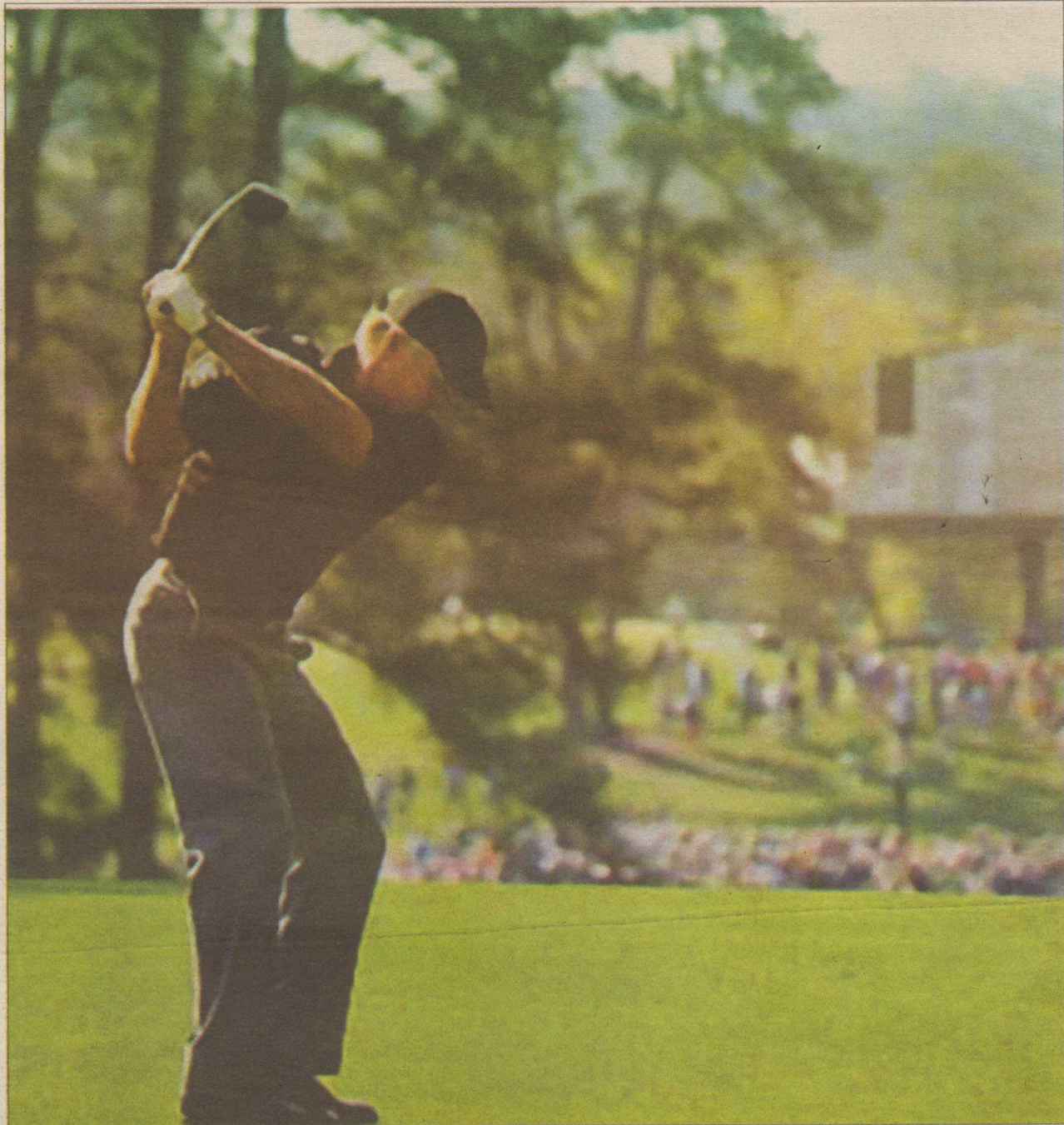
Playing for the 52nd and last time, 73-year-old Gary Player went out in a remarkable one-over 37, but a double-bogey six at the 10th set him back.

World No. 2 Phil Mickelson bogeyed the opening hole but grabbed the dropped shot back at the next hole, while Ireland's Pádraig Harrington, shooting for a hat-trick of major wins, was one-under at the turn.

American legend Arnold Palmer set the ball rolling for the third straight year by smacking a ceremonial drive up the fairway of the par-four first before retiring to watch the action.

Tournament favourite Woods came into Augusta hot on the heels of his victory at Bay Hill, his 66th career tournament win on the US PGA Tour and first since returning to action in late February following eight months on the sidelines to recover from major surgery on his left knee.

The world No. 1 is seeking his fifth Masters title, which would be one short of the Nicklaus record of six green jackets, and his 15th major title, three short of the all-time best of 18, once again the property of Nicklaus.



Greg Norman is challenging for the top spot as the action heats up at Augusta National.

Rookies, veterans lured by Augusta's mystique

Augusta National Golf Club, the spiritual home of American golf, retains a very special aura for U.S. Masters debutants and veterans alike.

First-timer Anthony Kim was blown away when he drove through the club gates earlier this week and 2003 champion Mike Weir still felt nostalgic about the venue while preparing for his 10th appearance in the year's opening major.

"I've waited a long time to get a tee time here and to finally be able to walk on the grounds

was pretty special," American Kim, 23, told reporters in the build-up to Thursday's first round.

"I'm so excited and TV doesn't do it justice. It was really special going through those gates. My parents were in the car, and also my best friend."

Left-hander Weir, who became the first Canadian to win a major with his playoff victory over American Len Mattiace, loves coming back to the permanent home of the Masters.

"There is definitely a different and very special feel about

Augusta with its mystique and aura," the 38-year-old told Reuters.

"Being the only major championship that is played at the same venue, there's that sense of nostalgia you get around here with all of its great history and the holes you get used to seeing year after year."

With its spectacular setting amid Georgian pines and blooming azaleas, the rolling par-72 layout at Augusta National is one of the most beautiful places in the world.

During Masters week, the course is an explosion of colour

and sound with the swirling breezes and heavily contoured greens providing the world's best golfers with a stiff challenge.

With its unique traditions ranging from caddies clad in all-white boilersuits to Tuesday night's champions' dinner for past winners, the tournament holds a mystique for all the players.

"It is amazing over the years that I've been here just the feelings that you get when you come," four-times winner Tiger Woods said. "It's just a great feeling to be back, and to know that I'm going to be coming

back is an even better feeling."

British Open champion Pádraig Harrington vividly remembers being intimidated by Augusta National when he made his debut here in 2000.

"It's just the ambiance of it and to be honest your first year on the golf course is lost because of that," the 37-year-old Irishman said.

"It's hard to get your head around everything and you do tend to be a little bit rushed, a little bit overawed by it all. Augusta is beautiful in its own right in how it's manicured and how it's set up."

Three-times champion Gary Player, who makes a record 52nd and final appearance at Augusta this week, has enjoyed a lifelong love affair with the Masters.

"It's the best-run golf tournament in the world, without a question," the 73-year-old South African said. "And it's like a magnet. It just draws drama every time, and that's what has made this such a great tournament."

"I remember my first drive up Magnolia Lane, it was so much more than I expected. It's the only tournament where you start to choke as you drive in the gates."

Garcia would gladly trade label for green jacket

Sergio Garcia was supposed to have won a major or two by now, if not more. Instead, the only title he's got is that dreaded "best player never to win one."

And the way he was talking Wednesday, the oh-fer streak likely will continue this week at the Masters.

"It would be nice, but I'm not expecting it this week," Garcia said on his way to the Augusta National clubhouse after finishing a practice round with Greg Norman. "My putting doesn't feel great, and probably my head is not beautiful at the moment. But

you know, we're trying to figure it out and see what I can do."

Asked what was wrong with his psyche, the Spaniard said he's dealing with some personal issues.

Garcia started the season strong by winning the first event on the European tour, the HSBC Champions, and following it with top-10 finishes in Abu Dhabi and Qatar. He also was 11th at the Dubai Desert Classic.

But he hasn't been the same since getting knocked out of the Accenture Match Play Championship in the first

round by a guy ranked 63rd in the world. He tied for 31st at Doral, and was 77th last week at the Houston Open.

"I'm struggling a little bit. But you know, I'm working on it," said Garcia, who was on the putting green before and after his round, and took extra putts on most of the nine holes he played with Norman, Robert Allenby and Camilo Villegas.

"Hopefully, I can overcome it."

Garcia was just 16 when he played his first major, the British Open, and 17 when he won his first professional

event. He turned pro at 19 in 1999, after recording the low amateur round at the Masters. He played eight events his first season as a pro, and had top-10 finishes in four of them.

But it was at the PGA Championship that year that the player, then known as "El Nino," really took the world by storm.

Trailing Tiger Woods by five strokes at one point, his birdie on the 13th hole got him within three. After making his putt, he turned around, looked back at Woods on the tee and tugged his cap as if to say,

"Your turn." His tee shot on the 16th hole sailed wide right and landed behind an oak tree, settling behind a knot of roots.

The green was hidden and the pin 189 yards away, and most players would have been content to simply chip out. Not Garcia. He grabbed a 6-iron, closed his eyes and swung. He sprinted out to the fairway and jumped like a hurdler at the top of a hill so he could watch as the ball landed on the green.

Woods ended up winning the Wanamaker Trophy for his second major title, with Garcia a stroke behind. But it looked as if golf's next rivalry for the

ages had begun.

Now 29, he is 0-for-38 in the majors. But he's had nine top-five finishes and could have shed that awful label at either the 2007 British Open or last year's PGA Championship. He had the lead in the final round at both, only to wind up second to Pádraig Harrington each time.

Garcia is an excellent Ryder Cup player, a big part of the reason Europe had won three straight before last year's American win at Valhalla. He won last year's Players Championship, his biggest victory yet, and went to Doral this year with a chance to be No. 1 in the world—mathematically at least.

Sports



What makes this competition so great again?

Anyone who says they saw all four Champions League quarter-final first legs panning out as they did is a liar.

Anyone who denies the past two days have been a celebration and resurrection of adventurous, entertaining and exceptional football is insane.

But then that's the thing: there are so few bitter Bayern, Liverpool or Man United fans. They may rue the inevitable and indisputable mistakes made by their clubs, but there have been far less excuses and

Sulmaan Ahmad, Goal.com

teams went through from the second round to serve up the best games in the quarter-finals. We perhaps didn't know it then, but we know it now.

Who is honestly wishing that Roma, Inter, Juventus or Real Madrid were here, other than fans of those clubs or countries? No one. The competition has progressed perfectly without them.

Villarreal out-passing Arsenal with their trickery and technique was truly captivating and both the game's goals were out of this

Liverpool rarely look so helpless. Barcelona kept alive their magic, blitzing a Bayern side that were just starting to be taken seriously.

Two weeks ago, this entire showpiece had been written off as a dirge - a Premier League procession - and who knows, maybe that's what it needed to be sparked back into life.

The rest of Europe (barring Barcelona) had been counted out of contention, just as England (barring Man United) always had been in years gone by.

The mass media has perpetuated the belief that the

belief that the Premier League has relative recession immunity is what makes this era so much more scrutinised than others from years gone by.

Several figureheads from around Europe have at times expressed a sense of powerlessness with regards to stopping the Premier League dominance. That pathetic, defeatist attitude thankfully wasn't adopted by the likes of Porto and Villarreal and will hopefully serve as an example to one and all, next season and beyond.

The same four English teams'

tion of many fans was the defiance of the underdogs: Porto, Villarreal and even Chelsea. None were expected to win, but all not only got somewhat surprising results, but outplayed their opponents.

The favourites were favourites no more - and that's what makes Barcelona such a genuine threat: they were the only big guns who lived up to their billing.

Three Premier League teams could yet go through; Bayern could yet even beat Barcelona. A few of us remember Barca throwing away their Copa del

beautiful game blossoming in its evolution.

Barcelona still drop the odd lead, but Pep Guardiola is not Frank Rijkaard.

Liverpool are still the architects of the impossible, but Hiddink never loses by three goals - at least not against teams on a similar skill level - and especially when knowing exactly what's required from the game in order to win the tie.

Meanwhile, Porto have never lost to English opposition at the Dragao and already showed they can subdue all kinds of firepower at home, but United



Liverpool's Fernando Torres, left, and Steven Gerrard, right, react after their 3-1 defeat by Chelsea in the UEFA Champions League quarter-final first leg match at the Anfield Stadium in Liverpool, England on Wednesday.

complaining than usual, because the football really did do all the talking.

Who said football needs controversy to be exciting?

In two breathtaking nights, four captivating games have been played out between eight fearless and talented teams. The atypically tentative and uninspired round of 16 is history.

Inter and Real Madrid are two clubs in particular that, whether they admit it or not, now believe themselves to be cursed in Europe. And it shows. These are great clubs that ultimately failed to live up to their billing.

Add to this Juventus and Atletico Madrid sides still not fitably rehabilitated to trade blows with the best of the best and Roma, a side like Lyon, now on the way down after having peaked, and it's not hard to see why they ended up as near-misses.

And to finish off the complement of those eliminated, there are Panathinaikos and Sporting CP whose only knockout potential was the physical and technical process of being knocked out in the first place.

It is now clear that the right

world.

Porto's young guns tearing through the reigning champions stunned the masses and will have put all of Europe's elite on alert ahead of the summer transfer window.

The return of Drogba and Essien, as well as the delayed emergence of Ivanovic and undisputed arrival of Hiddink was almost dumbfounding.

'big four' will dominate for years to come off the back of a couple of years in which they have been the dominant presence in the quarters and semis.

When the Italians and Spanish enjoyed this success, there was never such widespread prophecy of a decade-long dynasty or anything of the sort being on the horizon for them, so why for England? Maybe the

repeated qualification for the competition has enabled them to practice to the point of perfection and the energetic, pressing game of the English game has provided a culture shock of sorts to several European heavyweights, but it is merely a matter of time until they acclimatise to the wind of change sweeping over UEFA's showpiece event.

What captured the imagina-

tion of many fans was the defiance of the underdogs: Porto, Villarreal and even Chelsea. None were expected to win, but all not only got somewhat surprising results, but outplayed their opponents.

Anything can happen, but it probably won't. This wasn't defying the odds just for defiance's sake. This was the

rarely disappoint when all is to play for, while Villarreal remain the most likely candidates for heroic failure, just as they did when the draw was made.

All roads leading to Rome sure has come in handy, as we now find ourselves taking a couple of spectacular detours along the way, knowing and hoping this tournament reaches the destination it deserves.

Guardiola calls for calm after Barca crush Bayern

Pep Guardiola may have been banished to the stands but he could not hide his delight after his Barca side have crushed Bayern Munich 4-0 at Camp Nou to all but book their place in the Champions League semi-finals.

A brace from Lionel Messi and further strikes from Samuel Eto'o and Thierry Henry on Wednesday demoralised Bayern in a first half goal blitz to put Barca in a commanding position for the return leg in Munich on April 14.

"Obviously 4-0 in the first leg of a Champions League quarter-final match is incredible," said Guardiola. "We did almost

everything right. Bayern have great players so it is difficult to beat them. The talent made the difference tonight.

"(Jurgen) Klinsmann is right to say that 4-0 is a great result but Bayern are a great team so we have to keep our feet on

the ground.

"The way we will do that is to focus on the next three points in the league and maintaining our six point gap at the summit."

"The confidence we have at the moment is a real bonus," said Marquez. "We have the

quality, a good coach and the right attitude.

"Our will to win and mentality are battling with any fatigue that may be setting in at this stage of the season.

"However, the tie is not over as Bayern are a team with a lot

of quality and we need to score in Munich to relax a bit."

Guardiola was ordered to watch the game in the stands after furiously protesting a yellow card handed out to Messi in the 17th minute for diving.

Defiant Benitez defends zonal marking system

Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez has defended his zonal marking system after the Reds went down to a 3-1 defeat to Chelsea at Anfield on Wednesday night.

The Blues, who scored two of their goals through Branislav

Ivanovic headers from corner kicks, are now in complete control of their Champions League tie ahead of next week's second leg at Stamford Bridge.

But a defiant Benitez insists the zonal system is not to blame and that his side are not

effectively out of the competition after the disastrous result.

"I say again that when you are marking man-to-man you see a lot of goals conceded every week," he said to Sky Sports after the match.

"In this case, they are very strong in the air, we made

mistakes and paid for them.

"No [we are not effectively out of the competition]. It will be very difficult, but that is football and in football anything can happen so we have to do well, try to score three goals and have a very very good game."

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SPORTS Bits

NFF sets up c'ttee on Super Eagles

Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has set up a Mobilisation Committee for the Super Eagles' three home matches in the 2010 World Cup qualifiers. Alhaji Aminu Maigari, NFF executive committee member, announced at the end of an emergency meeting yesterday in Abuja, that the step was to guarantee that Nigeria picked up a World Cup ticket.

The committee is made up of Dr Shehu Adamu, NFF executive committee member, Chairman; and Idris Adama, of the NFF secretariat, Secretary.

Others on the committee are: Patrick Ekong, Vice-Chairman; Tar Ukoh, Ademola Olajire, Tunde Aderibigbe, Victor Osunsanmi, ACP Olufemi Haruna, Christian Emeruwa, Callistus Ebare and a representative of Afrifbank.

According to Maigari, the main thrust of the committee's job is to enlighten and educate the people when the Eagles play at home.

He said that the committee was also to mobilise fans during the final round qualifiers, which began on March 29 when the Super Eagles played a goalless draw with Mozambique in Maputo.

"When we (Nigeria) play at home, we (fans) don't cheer them. The committee's job is essentially to get people into the stadium," he said.

Maigari said that the committee, which would work on an ad hoc basis, could be enlarged.

"The committee will not turn into another technical committee or take over the team from its handlers. The NFF can assure Nigerians on that," he said.



Parasoccer coaches eye Cowbell trophy

Coach Adam Mohammed of New African Shrine (NAS) Warriors and his Leads Utd counterpart, Olajuwon Agidi, have vowed to lift the trophy for the Cowbell Easter Parasoccer tournament.

Mohammed said yesterday in Lagos that the team started preparation for the competition two months ago.

"We (NAS) are prepared for this championship. We are ready to surprise every other team. By God's grace, we will qualify for the final and carry the cup," Mohammed said.

Yeni Anikulapo-Kuti, NAS Warriors proprietress, expressed

confidence that the team would lift the trophy on Monday.

The daughter of the Late Afrobeat King, Fela Anikulapo-Kuti, said the players were well motivated to win the trophy.

"I am satisfied with their response to training. They are dedicated. We commenced training since February and they have been working very hard.

"A package awaits them if they win the trophy," she said, though she did not disclose what the package was.

Agidi, coach of the Lead Utd., runners-up in the first edition of the championship, was also confident of winning this edition.

Lagos boosts track and field with Grand Prix

Track and field in Nigeria will not be the same again as the Lagos Government has decided to give it a boost, with the sponsorship of an international Grand Prix. The Grand Prix will attract the world's top athletes to the country. Former Athletic Federation of Nigeria (AFN) President, Oriyomi Adeyemi-Wilson, said in Lagos yesterday that the May 5 meeting in Abuja would feature 100 metres, 200 metres, 400 metres and 110 metres hurdles.

Others are the 400 metres hurdles, long jump and triple jump. He said the International Associations of Athletics Federations (IAAF) would put Nigeria on the world athletic map as well as promote the development of the sport in the country.

He said the meet would showcase international athletes from various parts of the world and enhance the worldwide appeal for Nigeria in athletics.

Adeyemi-Wilson, who is the chairman of the Committee set up by the Lagos government to develop track and field in the state, said Gov. Babatunde Fashola mandated him to raise the money for the Grand Prix from the private sector.

He said he hoped to raise about N100 million through the Sydney Bialosa Asiodu Athletic Foundation, adding that he was already holding consultations with the private sector.

The technical committee has among others, Yusuf Ali, Henry Amike, Falilat Ogunkoya-Omotayo, Gabriel Okon, Mary Onyeali-Omagbemi, Sunday Bada, were handling the invitation of the athletes to the meet.

Among those who had so far been confirmed to be at the Abuja meet are former 100 metres world record holder, Asafa Powell, Tyson Gay, Oluwoji Fasuba.

Negotiations were still being held with Darvis Patton, Walter Dix, Xavier Carter, March Burns, Francoise Mbango Etone, Veronica Campbell, Aleen Bailey, Doucoure Ladj and Liu Xiang.

World 100 metres record holder Usain Bolt is also expected in the country, but would not race.



Developing the North's private sector

By Salisu Suleiman

The economy of every country is broadly categorized into the public and private sectors. The public sector is usually engaged in the provision of services that are determined by government to be in the public interest while the private sector is mostly engaged in the provision of goods and services that are largely determined by market forces.

Northern Nigeria is replete with examples of people who became wealthy from their engagement in business and from other areas of human enterprise. But the names of these people fade almost as soon as they die. Apart from a few obvious ones, it would be very difficult to an average Nigerian to remember the names of five wealthy people from the North in the last 50 to 100 years. This is because the nature and structure of their businesses make it virtually impossible for these enterprises to survive their founders. Thus, the death of any business man means that the jobs and livelihoods of his employees are jeopardized. That is the curse of the informal sector.

And this has been a major challenge to the development and growth of the private sector in the North. It is widely accepted that the private sector is needed and better suited for sustaining economic growth. Experience shows that growth is the most powerful weapon in the fight against poverty because it creates jobs that use labour, the main asset of the poor. As growth proceeds, private sector employment becomes the major source of economic support for the majority of workers and their families. It is because the North has failed to develop its private sector that poverty and unemployment in the region remain higher than the national average.

Contrary to the views held by many that the North is poor because we too lazy, the truth is that the region's poverty is not from laziness but because it has been doing things wrongly. One can hardly accuse a 60 year old man who pushes a cart laden with fresh fruits all over a big town as being lazy. Nor can a manual labourer or farmer who works in the baking sun all day be termed as lazy. In the same manner, the entrepreneur hustling to establish and sustain a business cannot be assumed to be lazy. But because all these efforts are often misdirected, or fundamental facts overlooked, poverty in the region persists.

The question is - why is the private sector in the North so underdeveloped? A fundamental explanation is the fact that a majority of businesses in the region are informal. The informal economy forms a large part of the economies of many developing countries like Nigeria. It comprises 42% of value added in Africa, 41% in Latin America and 35% in the transition economies of Europe and the former Soviet Union. The informal economy provides employment and income for many who lose or cannot find work in the formal economy, and it includes a disproportionate number of women, young people and others from disadvantaged groups. It is estimated that informal employment accounts for 84% of women's employment in sub-Saharan Africa.

While the informal economy has helped to engage many people in one form economic activity or the other, its prevalence has also limited the growth of the formal private sector. Consequently, developing countries like Nigeria have a strong interest in fostering a policy and institutional environment that enables the private sector to flourish and act as an effective driver of pro-poor growth. This requires addressing the needs and recognizing and maximizing the contribution of the many informal enterprises, family-run farms and self-employed people, as well as those of formal and large businesses. Therefore, for the private sector to deliver pro-poor growth, five interlinked and mutually complimentary factors need to be put in place. These are:

1. Providing incentives for entrepreneurship and investment;
2. Increasing productivity through competition and innovation;
3. Harnessing international economic linkages through trade and investment;
4. Improving market access and functioning; and
5. Reducing risk and vulnerability.

In the wake of the current global economic crisis, there has been renewed appreciation of the private sector's development role as an engine of growth. Experience has shown that, when properly regulated and operating under competitive market conditions, the private sector can generally use resources more efficiently than the public sector. Private sector entities can deliver goods and services to meet growing demands and create job opportunities in the process. For the North of Nigeria, already economically backward and faced with a population explosion, this is the time to seize the opportunity and develop a vibrant private sector.

The advantages to be gained from such a development are many. Private sector growth also increases the tax base that enables

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government, acting on good governance principles, to finance labor market programs and provide basic social services. Health and education services, in particular, give the poor a better chance to increase their productivity and earning capacity

The private sector can also alleviate poverty in other ways. For example, private investment in infrastructure projects that are properly regulated can relieve pressure on public budgets and thus enable governments to redirect more resources to social spending. Private sector participation in infrastructure can also improve the delivery efficiency of essential services and extend these to the poor. Also, involvement of private-sector companies leverages additional capital for development financing.

To develop the North's private sector, a number of issues ought to be addressed. Apart from the political will on the part of states and local government areas, we also need to change mindsets. We must recognize that there is no obligation on government to provide every one of us with jobs. Rather, people must get up and develop themselves. After that, we may seek the help of government by way of providing an atmosphere conducive to the growth of our businesses through relevant regulation.

Some of the major issues that ought to be addressed include the need to reduce barriers to formalization. Poverty alleviation strategies must make it easier for businesses to migrate from the informal to the formal sector. Thus, the *mai kosai* at the corner, the *mai rake* by the road side, the *mai shayi* under the tree; local authorities should help them formalize their businesses. This would make it easier to keep records, facilitate access to credits from micro finance banks, among other advantages. Who knows, they may even begin to pay taxes to government.

It is also important to facilitate competition between and among the businesses being formalized. We must realize that competition is central to innovation. The business that offers the better service is likely to attract more customers, and if better managed as well, generate more profits. Again, this has to do with the authorities remaining neutral while business men and women must strive for creativity and innovation in their businesses.

Technical and financial assistance from all tiers of government, but particularly from community based poverty alleviation agencies is crucial if the North is to develop a productive and sustainable private sector. The norm has been to procure and distribute motorcycles to multitudes of youth in the name of poverty alleviation. The only people whose poverty is being eradicated are the Chinese producers and suppliers of those motorcycles. For any line business proposed by a beneficiary, professional business development strategists must provide technical and financial assistance to ensure the success of such businesses.

It seems that most poverty alleviation or business development programs are aimed primarily at men. However, women have a vital role to play if the North's private sector is to be properly developed. Market access for women must therefore be protected. As it were, the finances of a significant number of families are already being run by the womenfolk. There are some businesses that can be better operated and managed by women, and policies and projects of government aimed at poverty alleviation must recognize and build around this fact.

Public private partnerships must also be developed between local government areas and emerging businesses. There are certain areas where neither has a comparative advantage, but a formal partnership between the local authorities and emerging private concerns must be considered. That way, the costs of projects services are shared, often better managed and capable of growing to a sustainable private sector driven business. In this regard community based approaches should be fashioned out.

The private sector in the region can also be developed by formation of business partnerships. Instead of granting loans individuals, a group of like minded individuals with similar interests can be provided with loans and grants and encouraged to run business as a partnership. Registration of companies by group working together discourages one-man business that collapses soon as the owner dies or is unable to manage the business competently. Thus a group of itinerant barbers of manicur instead of roaming the streets in search of customers can act open a shop, where customers go and obtain needed services.

To succeed in today's highly competitive world, the North needs to modernize skills and production processes of its artists and products, respectively. If we want to produce and pack 'daddawa' for instance, the production process must be more hygienic otherwise it would not pass NAFDAC tests. Talk of food standards tests that would qualify food products for the niche US and European markets.

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