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Mark: Yar'adua must hand over

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE Senate still stands by its resolution urging the ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to transmit a letter notifying it of his medical vacation in line with Section 145 of the 1999 Constitution so that Vice President Goodluck Jonathan will become the acting president, Senate President David Mark said in Abuja yesterday.

He was reacting to newspaper reports which said the Senate had resolved not to pursue the

impeachment of the President or the Vice President. Mark said since the matter of impeachment never came up in the Senate, there was no such resolution.

He said, "We have never at any stage discussed impeachment one way or the other of either the vice president or the president, not to talk of impeaching two of them. We stand where we stand. We have made our resolution and we stand by that resolution and there should be no further debate. We are not going to go back on the resolution and there should be no further debate on

the resolution."

He blamed "mischief makers" for the incoherent voices emanating from the Senate on the issue of the President's health, saying "Let me use this opportunity to clarify it that the entire publication was just based on mischief, starting with the one that gave the headline as if the leadership wanted Mr. President and Mr. Vice President impeached because there were some ambitious men in the leadership. It was total nonsense and that is what started it all. So I think

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Bride, 26 others perish in crash

PHOTO: ISMAIL ADEBAYO



WRECKAGE of the two vehicles (one inset) in which 27 people lost their lives along Jega-Maiyama road in Kebbi State.

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin-Kebbi

TWENTY seven people, including a bride to be, were killed when the two vehicles in which they were travelling collided along the Jega-Maiyama highway in Kebbi State at

the weekend.

Witnesses at the scene told *Daily Trust* yesterday that the accident happened when a Peugeot 505 station wagon and a Toyota Urvan bus belonging to the Sokoto State Transport Authority ran into each other,

killing all the passengers in both vehicles on the spot.

The witnesses said the station wagon with registration number Kebbi AA 329 KLG was conveying a bride-to-be with some members of her family from Minna in Niger

State to Sokoto for a wedding when the vehicle veered off the road and ran into the Urvan bus with registration number Sokoto AA 401 GAD, which was heading towards Minna.

When our correspondent visited the scene, **Continued on page 5**

Court procedures frustrate EFCC—Waziri

From: Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE use of procedures to obtain court orders to stop investigations is frustrating criminal trials, the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission, Mrs. Farida Waziri has said.

Mrs Waziri spoke in Gombe yesterday at the launch of the Anti-Corruption Revolution (ANCOR) campaign for the 13 states of the North/East and North/West.

She added that corrupt public office holders that were supposed to be behind bars serving various jail terms were ironically using looted funds to fight back all efforts to bring them to justice.

She said ANCOR was initiated to complement the work of all anti-corruption agencies towards having an effective crusade on corruption in the country, saying ANCOR would be used by the EFCC to enlighten citizens on their role as the vanguards in the

fight against corruption and other economic crimes.

In his keynote address, the guest speaker of the occasion, the former President of Botswana, Mr. Festus Mogae, opined that no nation in the world had ever developed without fighting corruption to the minimal level of tolerance.

He added that by institutionalizing the rule of law through prudent and transparent management of resources, the destiny

of a country with poor economy could be turned around and be listed among the best economies.

The chairman of the occasion and former Head of State, retired General Yakubu Gowon, agreed with Mogae, adding that Nigerians must put hands on deck to fight corruption.

The chief host of the occasion, Governor Danjuma Goje, said the extension of the fight against corruption by the anti-corruption commission to the private sector

was quite commendable, saying within the short period which the commission had beamed its search light on the banking industry, several billions of naira had been retrieved.

Four governors, Ibrahim Shema of Katsina, Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno, Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe and the host, Danjuma Goje of Gombe attended the launch. Traditional dances and a drama from Dan-Ibro spiced the occasion.

Unknown person hacks labourer to death

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

A forty year old labourer, Aliyu Usman, was yesterday killed by an unknown person at the Tudun Tukari area of Jibiya Local Government Area of Katsina State.

The unknown lone assailant broke into Aliyu's house around 4:00am and stabbed him to death in his sleep. His wife was also in the room but could not identify the killer.

She said she heard her husband scream after he was stabbed but before she could catch a glimpse of the killer, he had escaped.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of Katsina State police command ASP Alhassan Kimba who confirmed the incident to newsmen said the attack was sudden and violent and caused Aliyu's death.

He said the deceased died of excessive bleeding on the way to the Jibiya General Hospital, adding that it was unclear whether the attacker was a thief or a hired killer, as nothing was stolen from the deceased's house. The police spokesman said no arrest had so far been made in respect of the case but that the police were still investigating it.

Edo Assembly scraps posts

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE Edo State House of Assembly has scrapped the posts of Majority Leader and Minority Leader, Majority or Minority Whip.

This is as a result of the fact that both the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Action Congress (AC) has 12 members each in the House, making it impossible for any party to call itself majority party or produce the majority leader in the House.

With this development, the former Majority Leader, Frank Okiye, and the former Minority Leader, Paul Ohonbamu, are now leaders of their respective parties.



CHAIRMAN, Alumni Association of the National Institute (AANI) Mobilization Committee, Lt. Gen. Jerry Useni (left) with AANI Abuja Chairman, Alhaji Bolaji Khaleel, at the press conference on AANI activities in Abuja yesterday.

FUT Minna axes 3 students for rape

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THREE students of the Federal University of Technology (FUT) Minna, Niger State, have been expelled from the institution after being found guilty of rape, criminal conspiracy and indecent assault on a female student of the university.

Chidi Ebere Makwuguwo of the Mathematics and Computer Science Department, Lanre

Oseya of Chemistry Department and Kevin Ajiboye of Agricultural and Bio-Resources Engineering were found guilty in the rape case.

Our correspondent gathered that the victim was deceived to the residence of her boyfriend in the Bosso area of the town where she waited for her lover who was at the time absent.

Three of the boyfriend's roommates were said to have

connived to assault her. She later reported the incident to her boyfriend and the police. The Bosso Police Station took over the case and immediately transferred it to the state police command headquarters in Minna for further investigation.

Speaking in an interview with our correspondent in Minna yesterday, the Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the university, Mrs. Lydia Legbo, confirmed the

expulsion of the students.

Legbo said the decision to expel the students followed the report of the university's disciplinary committee which investigated the case and found the students guilty.

She maintained that among the cardinal objectives of the university authorities was ensuring that students are exposed to the best training in both character and learning.

Assembly strikes out Sheriff's request for new emirates

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

THE Borno State House of Assembly yesterday voted against a bill proposed by Governor Ali Modu Sheriff to give him powers to create new emirates in the state.

Twenty five out of the 28 members who attended yesterday's sitting which was presided over by the Speaker, Goni Ali Modu,

voted against allowing the bill to go for second reading following which the House decided that the bill be returned to the executive arm of government.

Governor Sheriff had asked the Assembly to amend Section 68 of the Borno State Local Government Law 2000 for the enactment of the Local Government (amendment) bill.

According to the bill which had gone through first reading before it was struck out yesterday, Sheriff had proposed that the provisions of Section 68 be deleted and replaced with "Power to create additional emirates". Sources said the lawmakers killed the bill because of intense pressure from top personalities and various interest groups from within

and outside the state who were opposed to the creation of new emirates in the state.

Governor Sheriff was away to attend the North-east's anti corruption revolution organised by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission in Gombe State yesterday when the House sat and struck out the bill. There was no statement from the executive.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

Senate rejects pension for former Senate leaders

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki Hassan

SENATORS yesterday rejected a proposal to provide for retirement benefit and pension for former Senate President and Deputy Senate President who are the presiding officers of the upper legislative chamber.

The lawmakers said the pro-

posal which was contained in the recommendations of the Ad-Hoc Committee on the Immortalization of late Senators headed by Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba (PDP, Cross River Central) was inimical to the interest of the country.

Senators, however, approved the recommendations that the Red Chamber should name its Hearing Rooms and other infra-

structural facilities after Senators.

Senator Andrew Babalola (PDP, Oyo North) who was the first to support the recommendation said that it will help to rehabilitate Senators who are living in penury after serving the nation as legislators.

Senator Ahmed Ibrahim Lawal (ANPP, Yobe North) opposed the move saying, "To set up funds for Senators, I think in my view, is

very dangerous. We should just do our best to provide for Nigerians and whosoever finds himself outside this place should be able to cater for himself."

Senator Ayim Udeh (PDP, Ebonyi South) said "If people live carelessly by smoking, womanising, and drinking with their money, that is their business and not that of the Senate. Why should

we think of supporting such persons when out of their carelessness, they got themselves into that situation? It is not for us to start planning for people who are not careful with their money."

Ruling on the matter, Senate President David Mark said the current economic situation in the country cannot sustain new financial burdens.



FROM left: Governor Mohammed Danjuma Goje of Gombe State, former Senate President Festus Mogae and EFCC Chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri, during the ANCOR Programme launch in Gombe yesterday.

More than 750 Nigerians in UK jails

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

A total of 752 Nigerians are serving various prison terms in British jails, Nigeria's High Commissioner to the UK, Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida has revealed.

The High Commissioner told *Daily Trust* in London that the number indicates a drop of almost fifty percent of the prisoners two years ago.

"Two years ago, there were 1,451 Nigerians in British jails, but by last week, the number dropped to 752", he said.

He attributed the drop in the number of Nigerian prisoners to the Commission's close interaction with the Home Office, whereby cases involving Nigerians that normally result in custodial sentences were resolved diplomatically.

The policy of sending prisoners to their home countries to serve their sentences also contributed to the reduction in the number of Nigerians in UK jails, he said.

Dr. Tafida stressed the readiness and commitment of the Commission to assist Nigerians in the UK who are willing to return home.

"We are always ready to assist any Nigerian wishing to go home with free travel documents", he pledged.

Dr. Tafida further pledged the commitment of the commission to continue to cement political, trade and economic relations between Nigeria and the UK.

Lawyer, maidservant, guard murdered in Abuja

By Misbahu Bashir

A woman lawyer was Monday evening murdered in her home in Abuja alongside her maidservant and security guard.

A source said the yet-to-be-identified assailants arrived at Mrs. Ekene Ebuzieme's house in Karu, Abuja, at about 5pm and viciously killed her, her maidservant and security guard.

He said the assailants targeted

the arrival of the lawyer from work and must have acquired sufficient information about her.

"No one knows the motive of the killers because the lawyer had no misunderstandings with anyone around," the source said adding that her killers left the scene immediately after confirming that the three have died.

Her husband Mr. Ebuzieme declined comment.

But the body of his wife is at

the General Hospital Garki for autopsy.

The Police Public Relations Officer in Abuja SP Jimoh Moshood said the matter was reported at the Divisional Police Station in Karu around 9pm same day, barely four hours later, adding that investigation has commenced.

He said police have arrested a handful of suspects in the killings and are trying to locate the

real assailants and their motives.

The matter was immediately transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the Police Command Headquarters at Garki 2 in Abuja.

The PPRO did not reveal the real names of the other victims as at the time of writing this report but promised to do so as soon as he obtained his superiors permit.

Reps want section 315 expunged from Constitution

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives yesterday passed for second reading a bill proposing to expunge section 315 from the 1999 Constitution, which gives the executive arm of government at both the state and federal levels powers to modify existing laws.

Leading the debate, Rep Leo Ogor (PDP, Delta State) said the section usurped the lawmaking function of the legislature and was in conflict with section 58 of the constitution which grants the exclusive powers of lawmaking to

the legislature.

Section 315 reads in part that (1); "Subject to the provisions of this Constitution, an existing law shall have effect with such modifications as may be necessary to bring it into conformity with the provisions of this Constitution and shall deemed to be (a), an Act of the National Assembly to the extent that it is a law with respect to any matter which the National Assembly is empowered by this Constitution to make laws; and (b) a law made by a House of Assembly to the extent that is a law with respect to a matter

on which a House of Assembly is empowered by this Constitution to make laws."

Rep Ogor said if left to stand, the lawmaking function of the legislature would continue to be duplicated by the executive.

Rep Cyril Maduabum (PDP, Anambra State) said the intention of the section might have been to create orderliness, but that it was necessary to give the powers to modify any existing laws to the legislature in order to avoid any form of conflict.

Rep Bala Ibn NaAllah (PDP, Kebbi State) said the House

ought to be properly guided on the bill because modification of law should not be taken as lawmaking, adding that such modifications may just be substitution of words in order to ensure conformity.

Rep Mayor Eze (PDP, Imo State) in his contribution said if passed into law; the law would encourage the principle of separation of powers as a key element of democracy.

Rep Ita Enang (PDP, Akwa Ibom State) said state governors have been hiding under the provisions of section 315 to usurp the

powers of the legislature, which according to him had the exclusive powers to make laws.

He said former President Olusegun Obasanjo had under the cover of section 315, altered the revenue allocation formula of the country, a feat he said had become a norm that have denied the country a fixed revenue sharing formula.

The Bill was referred to the Deputy Speaker Usman Bayero Nafada-led ad-hoc Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution for further legislative action.

Mutallab: UK sympathetic to Nigeria, says envoy

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

THE government of the United Kingdom is sympathetic to Nigeria's situation over the alleged attempted bombing of an American airplane by Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab. Nigeria's High Commissioner to the UK, Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida who disclosed this to the Daily Trust in London said the UK "is not contemplating listing Nigeria on its terror countries list."

"Britain knows Nigeria is not a terrorist country and

Nigerians are not terrorists. Nigerians love life and don't want to die just like that," he said.

The envoy said he had held meetings with British government officials and the London Metropolitan Police officers following the incident, adding that a number of police officers have travelled to Nigeria over the incident.

During the recent celebration of Diaspora Day in London, which was attended by some British government officials, Nigerians were unanimous in condemning the attempted bombing of the American airplane over

Detroit.

Dr Tafida also disclosed that the British Foreign Secretary had written a letter of sympathy on President Umaru Yar'Adua's illness, describing the gesture as a welcome development, especially as some people were "politicizing the president's ill health".

He expressed optimism that the efforts being made by the Nigeria-British Chamber of Commerce Network would improve economic relations between the two countries.

Clark appeals to MEND over ceasefire

By Muideen Olaniyi

PROMINENT Ijaw leader Chief Edwin Clark, yesterday in Abuja appealed to the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) to rescind its decision to end the ceasefire in the region.

MEND had on October 25, 2009 declared a ceasefire in honour of the amnesty programme by the Federal Government.

Clark, who was speaking with newsmen on the state of the nation, appealed to the ex-militants whom he referred to as freedom fighters not to dismiss the amnesty and their ceasefire at this particular time when Nigeria was facing constitutional crisis.

He urged them to listen to the voice of reason by not embarking on anything that would jeopardize the amnesty initiative despite the current challenges.

He said that the amnesty programme as handled by President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua was a huge success but blamed the non-implementation of the post-amnesty initiative on his absence and bureaucratic bottlenecks.

"The post-amnesty initiative has failed both in the rehabilitation of the ex-freedom fighters and the mishandling of the programme by the Federal Government Committee headed by the Minister of Defence as the Chairman.



PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

TUNISIAN Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Moncef Gouja at the Media Trust Corporate Head Office, Abuja, yesterday.

Tunisia to help Nigeria combat desertification

By Yunus Abdulhamid

NIGERIA could learn from the Tunisian experience in fighting off desert encroachment, the Tunisian Ambassador to Nigeria Moncef Gouja has said.

Mr Gouja, who visited Media Trust Corporate Headquarters in Abuja yesterday, said the region of Regime Maatong located in the extreme south of Tunisia is a desert with no water but that the huge development and management of oasis in the area over the decades

has turned it to a business hub.

He said: "An agreement is being worked out between Nigeria and Tunisia for partnership with the Tunisia Institute of Research towards the fight against desertification. The institute is a success story in desert management. The oasis there has made it possible for the area to contribute to export of the country."

The diplomat observed that business relation between Nigeria and Tunisia was not impressive over the years but assured that efforts were in top gear to stimulate improved

cooperation through mutual sending of business delegations. He identified medical tourism as another area where Nigeria could benefit from Tunisia, which has well equipped and affordable hospitals that attract people from around the world including Europe.

He noted that Europe was only an hour's flight from Tunis, the Tunisia capital while it takes four hours from Nigeria. On that note, Gouja said arrangements were being made to start direct flights between Nigerian and Tunisia.

UACN Property names managing director, 2 directors

THE Board of UACN Property Development Company (UPDC) Plc has named announced Mr Hakeem Ogunniran as its new Managing Director.

Also appointed according to a statement from the company are Mr Babatunde Oladele Kasali and Mrs Halima Tayo Alao as non executive directors. The appointments took effect from January 13, 2010.

Mr Ogunniran, former Divisional Managing Director of MDS Logistics, a Division of UAC of Nigeria Plc, takes over from Mr Abdul Bello, recently

appointed Chief Financial Officer and an Executive Director of UACN Plc.

He holds LL.B, Masters of Law (LL.M) and MBA degrees from the University of Lagos, and was called to the Nigerian Bar in 1985. He is the immediate past President and Chairman of Council of the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators of Nigeria.

He joined UACN Plc as Manager, Legal Services in 1995. Between 1998 and March 2000, he served as Western Area Manager, Marketing Manager, GBO/

MDS Division of UACN and Acting Managing Director of UPDC at various times. He was appointed the Divisional Managing Director of MDS Logistics in April 2000, a position he held until this latest elevation.

Ogunniran attended various training programmes including the General Management Programme of Ashridge Management College, U.K (2000) and the Strategic Leadership Programme of Cranfield University, UK.

Mrs Alao, who holds Bachelor and Master's of Science degrees in Architecture from Ahmadu

Bello University, Zaria, and a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Ilorin, attended the Advanced Management and Leadership Programme of the University of Oxford, UK.

She is an accomplished public servant and she was at various times the Minister of State for Health and the Minister of State for Education. She also served as Permanent Secretary in the Kwara State Ministries of Works and Transport and Land and Housing; and as the Sole Administrator of the Ilorin South Local

Government in Kwara State.

Mr Kasali, a 1977 Economics graduate of Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria. Kasali was a Financial Consultant to Peugeot Automobile Limited before joining the UBA Group in 1996. He served variously at UBA as the Chief Inspector, Regional Director, Lagos, Divisional Director, Lagos before his appointment as the Regional Bank Head, Lagos (Consumer and Commercial Banking Group), UBA.

FG assures 4 nations of improved diplomatic ties

THE Federal Government on Tuesday assured Serbia, Portugal, Venezuela and Botswana that it would enhance economic and diplomatic ties with them.

Vice President Goodluck Jonathan gave the assurance when he received the letters of credence from the ambassadors of the four countries.

Receiving the new Serbian Ambassador, Mr Rifat Rondic, at the State House, Abuja, Jonathan said: "Our Foreign Affairs Ministry will work with you to improve on the economic relations between our countries."

"We must also encourage the business class of our countries to

exploit the opportunities available," Jonathan told the envoy.

Similarly, while receiving the Portuguese envoy, Mr Joao Maria Cabral, Jonathan emphasised the need for Nigeria and Portugal to exploit the long historical link between the two countries to strengthen economic relations.

The Vice President also received letters of credence from the new Venezuela Ambassador, Mr Enrique Arrundez, and the Botswana High Commissioner, Mr Clifford Maribe.

He told Arrundez to work with the Foreign Affairs Ministry with a view to ensuring that the pending Memorandum of

Understanding between Nigeria and Venezuela was signed.

Jonathan congratulated Maribe for the responsibilities assigned to him by his country, being Botswana's first High Commissioner to Nigeria.

Arrundez, on his part, noted that diplomatic relations between Venezuela and Nigeria dated back to 1965 and called on Nigeria to use its position as the African Regional Coordinator of A-SA to enhance relations between the parties.

Earlier, the Serbian and Portuguese envoys had respectively requested for improved economic ties with Nigeria. (NAN)

Microsoft launches anti-cybercrime song today

MICROSOFT Corporation will today launch a song composed by some of the most prominent Nigerian musicians in the country to fight the menace of cybercrime.

The latest report by the Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) ranks Nigeria third in the global list of countries with the highest rate of cybercrimes behind the US and the UK.

According to a statement made available to *Daily Trust*, the song is aimed at educating youths on the negative effect of cybercrime.

"It aims to help redirect their

energy from cybercrimes towards productive alternatives on the internet. The launch of the song is sponsored by Microsoft Internet Safety, Security and Privacy Initiative for Nigeria (MISSPIN), and was initiated by the Citizenship team at Microsoft Nigeria, under the leadership of Hajiya Jummai Umar Ajijola Ph.D. Pre-launch events start today in Abuja and continues in Lagos tomorrow.

Nigerian email scammers, locally known as "Yahoo-Yahoo", have reportedly fleeced unsuspecting internet users, especially westerners, of millions of dollars.



MR. Joao Maria, Ambassador of Portugal to Nigeria inspecting the Guard of Honour at the State House during the presentation of his letters of credence to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday.

EFCC boss commends Gov Goje

From Aliyu Mahammed Hamagam, Gombe

IF public fund will be judiciously used by government functionaries the Economic and Financial Crime Commission will have little or no work to do, the Executive EFCC, Mrs. Farida Waziri has said.

This according to her could be noticed in the case of Gombe State where developmental projects are being put in place for the enhancement of the people's economic wellbeing.

The EFCC boss who was in Gombe for the Northeast/Northwest launch of Anti-Corruption Revolution (ANCOR), the Commission's initiative commended Governor Goje's administration, saying his efforts is a true description of democracy and its dividends.

Farida Waziri while acknowledging the development efforts noted 'that bad road, hospital without drugs and basic medical facilities, dilapidated schools with no book and teaching aids, dry and failed water boreholes and other anomalies are the prices we pay and will continue to pay if we do not stand up against corruption'.

Governor Muhammad Danjuma Goje has commended the anti-graft commission for beaming its search light to the private sector, saying the within a short period of investigation in the Banking sector several billions of naira was retrieved.

He appealed for sensitization and enlightenment of the citizenry, saying the fight against corruption must be a collective responsibility of all Nigerians.

Yar'adua must hand over

Continued from page 1

that this matter should rest at this point with all these explanations."

Some senators had expressed dissatisfaction with the statement made by Senate Information and Media Committee chairman Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) that the Senate is not contemplating impeachment as an option to resolve the political crisis in the country brought about by President Yar'adua's ill health.

Coming under Order 15 of the Senate standing rules, Senator Uche Chukwumerije (PPA, Abia North) said the position of the Senate spokesman as published in some newspapers breached his privilege as a senator. He said,

"That motion gives no room for any further actions by the Senate. But in the response of the Senate's spokesman in the publications of yesterday which I referred to, the information, which is very new to me, was given that the Senate has foreclosed all options.

This publication implying that we have foreclosed all options has exposed the Senate to ridicule because Senate never discussed any options. And secondly, public view on the matter has exposed Senate to ridicule. I, as a member of the Senate, feel embarrassed, feel diminished by this discussion. I believe that the issue involved here is so fundamental that I will ask for a closed session for us to discuss the issue in order to avoid

further damage to the image of the Senate and the psyche of most of our members."

Also contributing to the debate, Senator Chimaroke Nnamani (PDP, Enugu East) said rather than go through its spokesman, the Senate should speak for itself through its resolutions. "With all due respect, I would not shy away from contributing to the issue of the Senate spokesman, Ayogu Eze. What we are practising is constitutional democracy. The issue of Senate spokesperson is local and may be specific to the Nigerian democratic experiment. What we are practicing is constitutional democracy which is synonymous with what they have in America. I have not heard of Sen-

ate spokesperson in the American Senate. I believe the Senate speaks for itself. I don't think that the Senate should go back and forth. The Senate should speak through its resolutions."

Senator Eze had said at the weekend that the Senate is not contemplating impeachment of the president or the vice president. He said in the statement that "Let me therefore restate for emphasis that there is no attempt to impeach the president or his vice. There is equally no motion known to the Senate on the matter. The Senate believes that impeachment is a fractious process that will end up dividing the country and heating up the polity."

Bride, 26 others perish in crash

Continued from page 1

the scene of the accident, dismembered bodies of the passengers littered the road. People from nearby villages who rushed to the scene said none of the passengers could be helped because they were already cut to pieces in the nasty accident. They said the only thing

they could do was to pick up their mangled bodies from the road and the nearby bush.

Magaji Ibrahim, who was part of the early rescuers, our correspondent that "I have never seen this kind of accident before. 27 people died instantly.

Their bodies were cut to pieces. Even the engines and the

roof of the Peugeot were cut to pieces."

The gory tales from Kebbi State were compounded at the weekend when two police officers attached to the Bagudo police division also died at when their Hilux Jeep ran into a ditch a few kilometres to Warah town in Ngaski Local Government Area

of the state.

Bodies of the two police officers, Garba Jabo and Aliyu Abubakar, have been deposited at the Warah General Hospital mortuary. According to Dr. Aliyu Abdullahi, the doctor in charge of the hospital's accident victims' ward, one of the officers, Jabo, an Inspector, died on the spot while

the second officer died minutes after he arrived at the hospital.

Five police officers and one civilian were returning from Borgu in Niger State, where they went for the turbaning of a prominent politician in Kebbi State, Alhaji Aliyu Ahmed Bagudo, by the Emir of Borgu Dr Haliru Dantoro, when the accident occurred.

Anambra election: PSC to monitor police

By Misbahu Bashir

OFFICIALS of the Police Service Commission would be despatched to Anambra State to keep an eye on policemen on election duties in the forthcoming governorship election in the State.

Chairman of the Commission, Parry Osayande, told members of the Police Community Relations Committee in Abuja that the Commission will continue to monitor the conduct of policemen on election duties and will be sending out its officials to monitor the conduct of policemen during the February 6, 2010 governorship election in Anambra State.

The statement came amid tension that policemen aid election rigging in Nigeria. The PSC which promotes and discipline police officers among others will hold officers responsible for their action during the election. Those found guilty of electoral offences will have themselves to blame.

He said the Commission had during its tour of State Police Commands told policemen to be law abiding.

He commended members Committee for their unselfish service to the Nigeria Police and announced that the Commission will establish a desk to liaise with the Committee so as to have a regular line communication.

The National Chairman of the Committee, Alhaji Ahmed Tahir said the federal government's police reform is a yardstick toward making policing better.

He noted that the excellent performance of personnel of the Nigeria Police during the recent protest marches in Abuja and Lagos by pro-democracy and Human Rights groups and the Edo State House of Assembly re-run election in Etsako Central Local government area are evidence that the Force is now operating within the limits of the rule of law.



LAGOS State chiefs at the handing over of the rehabilitated City Hall in Lagos yesterday.

State of the nation: NIPSS alumni begin zonal tour

By Abbas Jimoh

AS part of its mandate of enhancement of the workings of the government, problem solving and nation building among others, graduates of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), the Alumni Association of the National Institute (AANI), will from Sunday embark on national working tour.

Chairman of the eight-man Mobilisation Committee of AANI, Lt. Gen. Jerry Useni, told journalists yesterday in Abuja that the first phase of the tour will begin with four zones of Lagos, Port Harcourt and Yola, while the date for Jos zones would be decided later.

Useni said that the importance of his committee like others cannot be over emphasised, hence the need to show that the association is not dead but alive.

"From Sunday, we shall be visiting Lagos (Lagos and Ogun states), Port Harcourt (Akwa Ibom, Bayelsa, Cross River and Rivers state) and Yola (Adamawa, Gombe and Taraba states), the date for visit to Jos zone would be determined later," Useni said.

Bankole warns c'ttee chairs on indolence

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

SPEAKER of the House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole yesterday warned various committees of the House to conclude work on the 2010 appropriation bill before the National Assembly.

He also warned committee chairmen that collected funds for public hearings to do so or risk being embarrassed tomorrow when the plenary session would be televised live.

This is the second time in two weeks when the Speaker warned the committee chairmen to submit their reports.

Bankole who gave this warning during plenary session said that it was important for all committees to conclude work on the budget to enable the Appropriation committee to conclude work on it.

He said: "The appropriation committee has to move on."

The House has also called on the Federal government to make budgetary provision in the 2010 budget for all gully erosion areas in the country.

S/Court says Gen Maude wrongly convicted

By Benjamin Auta

THE Supreme Court has upheld the decision of the Court of Appeal that Brigadier General Maude Aminun-Kano was wrongly convicted and sentenced

by a General Court Martial set up by the Army four years ago.

Delivering judgment in the matter, Justice Ibrahim Tanko Mohammed dismissed the appeal made by the Army challenging the decision of the Court

of Appeal which had earlier given judgment in favour of General Aminun-Kano on June 4, 2008.

General Aminun-Kano was charged in a court martial of "making false official document which is punishable under sec-

tion 90(a) of the Armed Forces Act Cap A 20 laws of the federation and negligence of duty under Section 62(b) of the Arm Forces Act Cap A 20 of the law of the federation, 2004 among other five charges."

Group asks Senate to give Yar'adua deadline

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Save Nigeria Group (SNG) yesterday asked the Senate to set a time limit for President Umaru Musa Yar'adua to transmit his vacation letter to the National Assembly.

The SNG South East Zonal chapter said Yaradua should com-

ply with Section 145 of the Constitution by transferring power to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan.

It dissociated the Southeast people from the statement credited to the governors of the region condemning calls for President Yaradua to transfer power to Vice President.

They said the failure of the South East governors to recognize the current danger was shocking and exposed their lack of insight and foresight.

They however hailed the position of the G53, Senate, Eminent Elders Group, 3G, ACF, Ohanaeze, Afenifere, Lawyers of Conscience, EU, USA, France and UK

among others.

The release signed by Mr. Osita Okechukwu, Dr. Sam Amadi and Bar. Benedict Ezeagu read in parts: "It is clear that President Yaradua in his present state cannot preserve nor defend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

On Saturday's governorship

election in Anambra State and the amnesty programme, the group said the two are in danger of collapse, going by the threat of MEND to return to the creeks and the allegations of manipulation of the Voters Register and hijack of the election materials by Prof. Maurice Iwu and his cohorts.

Bauchi Assembly denies recommending sack of Plateau indigenes

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Speaker of the Bauchi State House of Assembly Abubakar Ahmed Faggo has said that the state Assembly did not recommend that indigenes of Plateau State should be asked to leave Bauchi.

Speaking with our correspondent yesterday in Bauchi, the Speaker said the issue was only debated on the floor of the House during last week's sitting, but it was not the position of the House. Faggo who was reacting to statements by the member representing Tafawa Balewa

constituency, Aminu Tukur, said the House on that day made three resolutions, none of which recommended that indigenes of Plateau be sacked from Bauchi.

"We made three resolutions, that the Federal Government should declare a state of emergency in Plateau State, that all

other states of the federation should condemn what happened in Plateau and that prayers should be said for those who died or sustained injuries in the crisis." The Speaker said during debates, every member was free to say his or her mind on any issue, but such views did not represent the

position of the House until a resolution was made on such a matter. Aminu Tukur had told our reporter last week that the House recommended that indigenes of Plateau State be asked to leave Bauchi, saying there were about 20,000 with 1,000 of them in the Bauchi State civil service.

Useni urges suspension of Abisoye panel

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

FORMER Minister of the Federal Capital Territory retired Gen. Jerry Useni has called for the suspension of the Emmanuel Abisoye panel, saying the sitting if allowed to continue would increase tension in the state. The Abisoye panel had commenced sitting at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru, but suspended sitting when crisis erupted again in Jos last month.

Useni who spoke with newsmen in Jos yesterday said investigating the recent Jos crisis was more important than the 2008 crisis which he said had dragged

on for too long.

"New blocks have fallen on old blocks and for you to remove the old block you must first of all take away the new blocks," he said.

Useni said it was not anyone's fault that the Abisoye panel could not conclude its investigations before the recent crisis erupted.

"Some of the testimonies coming from the panel on both sides are bound to add to the problem on ground, so they should suspend their sitting so that investigations into the recent crisis can commence," he added.

The former minister appealed for calm and cooperation from stakeholders to find a lasting solution to the problem.

Ulama flay suspension of commercial motorcyclists in Jos

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Council of Ulama in Plateau State has decried the indefinite suspension of commercial motorcyclists in Jos by the state government, following the recent crisis.

Speaking at the weekend, the council through its Secretary, Barrister Muhammad Lawal Ishaq said, "We note with concern fresh moves by the Plateau State government to worsen the situation by introducing primitive policies aimed at increasing the hardship being experienced by Muslims in Jos". He added that commercial activities such as Okada and water vending had been banned by the state government, "Knowing that over 50 percent of Okada

operators are Muslims. This is an attempt to cripple economic activities of Muslims in the state."

On the condition of refugees, the secretary said they were still grappling with multitudes of refugees several of whom were now orphans and widows. When asked the reason for the recurrent crises in the state despite the peace conference that was held some years ago, Sheikh Khalid Aliyu Abubakar, Alhaji Alhassan Shu'aibu and former Minister of State for Information and communication Alhaji Ibrahim Dasuki Nakande alleged that the peace conference was used to pursue a hidden agenda, saying it was not aimed at finding a lasting solution to crises in the state.

Unilorin 49: ASUU decries non-implementation of Supreme Court rulings

THE Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has decried the delay in implementing the Supreme Court ruling on the 49 sacked lecturers of the University of Ilorin. ASUU's National President Prof. Ukachukwu Awuzie told newsmen in Sokoto that the university was foot dragging.

He spoke shortly after ASUU's National Executive Council meeting Monday. He also said Nigeria could not address developmental challenges without ensuring a people-oriented constitution.

"We cannot have good leaders without ensuring free and fair elections," he said.

Awuzie said only the implementation of the Electoral Reform Committee's report would ensure free and fair elections.

He argued that Nigeria could not be counted among the 20 most industrialised nations by 2020 without the required high level manpower.

Awuzie said it was embarrassing that Nigerians were migrating en-masse to Ghana for university education. (NAN)



MR. Rifat Rondic, Ambassador of Serbia to Nigeria introducing his wife, Mrs. Fatma Rondic to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan during the presentation of his letters of credence at the State House, Abuja, yesterday.

Yuguda vs Gadi: Court fixes February 25 for hearing

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Court of Appeal in Jos has fixed February 25, 2010 for hearing on the case between former Deputy Governor of Bauchi State Alhaji Muhammadu Garba Gadi and Governor Isah Yuguda, his Deputy, Babayo Gamawa, the Speaker of the state House of Assembly, the state Chief Judge and 12 others.

Gadi was impeached by the Bauchi State House of Assembly over allegations of gross misconduct and abuse of office in August 2008.

Garba Gadi then went to court

to appeal the ruling of the Bauchi State High Court Judge, Justice Ibrahim Zango which said, "Since a member of the panel set up by the state chief judge was a card carrying member of the Democratic Peoples' Party, he should be replaced by another person".

The former deputy governor in his appeal said his counsel wrote a letter to the state Chief Judge Sabo Suleiman Darazo that they had appealed the ruling and that the case was pending at the Federal Court of Appeal, but the judge went ahead and swore-in another person to replace the DPP member. The panel then investi-

gated and sacked him on the same day the ruling was delivered.

He said the panel sat on August 11, 2008, called six witnesses, admitted six exhibits and concluded investigations without giving him a fair hearing.

Our correspondent learnt that apart from the appeal, there are three different cases filed by the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) and Gadi, asking the court to declare the seat of Governor Isah Yuguda and the members of the state Assembly vacant over what they called unconstitutional removal of Gadi and their decampment to the PDP.

Yobe donates relief materials to Jos crisis victims

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE Yobe State government has donated relief materials, including food and clothing worth over N4 million to victims of the Jos crisis.

The state Commissioner for Religious Affairs Alhaji Habu Dauda Gulani who took the relief materials to Jos yesterday told newsmen that the state govern-

ment approved N3 million which was used to purchase 100 bags of rice, 20 jerry cans of vegetable cooking oil, 200 bundles of male clothing and 200 bundles of wrappers for women.

He added that individuals and groups in Damaturu also contributed bags of millet, bags of guinea corn, bags of rice, beans and cash. Gulani who described the Jos crisis as unfortunate called on the

Chief Solomon Lar Committee to find a lasting solution to the problem.

"The relief materials donated by the Yobe State government and well spirited individuals is meant to bring succour to the victims who are in need of help and we hope to send more when the remaining 16 local governments bring their donations," he said.

Nasarawa strike affects hospitals

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE current strike by workers in Nasarawa State to oppose government's planned increase in taxes resulting in more deductions from workers' salaries is affecting government hospitals in the state as patients are now being ignored in the hospitals.

The strike took off Monday. Government said it had exhausted

due process on the deduction, but labour denied knowledge of any consultation or workshop on the subject, saying government must provide evidence of such process including a list of participants at the purported workshop and its communiqué.

The state chapter of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) which is leading the strike had notified all workers in the state

including the Association of Resident Doctors and lecturers in government tertiary institutions to join the strike.

State chairman of the Nigerian Medical Association (NMA) Dr. Abe Usman confirmed the development in a telephone chat with our correspondent, saying 'the hospitals were closed down in compliance with labour's directive to workers to join the strike.

He said most members of the Association of Resident Doctors who are not in the management cadre obliged the call by the NLC to make the strike total as they stayed away from their duty points yesterday.

It was observed that not even skeletal services are offered at the Specialist Hospital in Lafia, which is the biggest government hospital in the state.

The Medical Director there, Dr. Joseph Ogbere, was not on seat at the time of our visit for comments.

But patients who had been on hospital beds could be seen parking just as those who just came were turning back.

State NLC Secretary Comrade Salihu Eladoga said, "We are making the strike total against satanic cuts from workers salaries".

Police arrest two bank thieves

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

TWO suspected robbers who specialized in stealing money from cars parked within bank premises were arrested by police in Minna yesterday.

The police officer who made the arrest said while he was driving near the UBA in Minna town, he saw a man on the fence of the bank with a leather bag in his hand, an act which prompted him to stop the suspect.

"On my way to the office after an assignment, I saw a man jumping the fence of UBA bank with a leather bag in his hand and then I noticed an okada man picking him off immediately he reached the ground.

This act by the two made me suspect they were criminals. I asked them to stop but when I noticed they were not going to stop, I had to use my car to ram them down so when they fell off the motorcycle from the impact of my vehicle, I quickly picked the two thieves and with the assistance of a constable with me, we got them arrested", he said.

When our correspondent spoke to 32 year old Kashmire Eze, leader of the gang, he said it was the work of the devil.

He told our correspondent that they trailed the owner of the money from a bank where he earlier withdrew over N1.5 million, saying they removed the money from the trunk of his car with a multi-purpose key at the UBA premises where he went to pick additional money.

The Niger State Commissioner of Police Mr Mike Zoukumour said the two suspects would be charged to court after a thorough investigation to pick up other members of the gang.



EKITI State Governor Segun Oni (left) with the Chairman of the State Council of Traditional Rulers and Arinjale of Ise-Ekiti, Oba Adetunji Ajayi, during the governor's meeting with traditional rulers in the state over the death of the Attah of Aiyede-Ekiti, Oba Adeleye Orisagbemi, at the Council Chambers in Ado Ekiti yesterday.

Police nab 12 over arson

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

TWELVE suspects have been arrested by the police in connection with arson at Akano Umuapu in Ohaji Egbema L.G.A of Imo State. 30 persons were feared dead, 20 houses burnt while people of the area fled their homes in a recent crisis in the area.

The state Commissioner of Police Mr. Aloysius Okorie said yesterday after visiting the village to assess the extent of destruction that about 50 houses were burnt

by yet to be identified people.

Okorie expressed sadness over the destruction in the village where majority are subsistent farmers.

He warned people no matter the level of provocation not to take laws into their hands, but always allow the law to take its course whenever they feel aggrieved. Mr. Okorie promised that a thorough investigation would be conducted into the matter to determine the actual cause of the crisis and also fish out those behind the act.

Registrars task N/Assembly on polytechnic education

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE Conference of Registrars of Polytechnics and Colleges of Technology (COREG) has appealed to the National Assembly to consider and fast-track the review of the Federal Polytechnics Enabling Acts to position them to offer Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) Degree towards eliminating the disparity between HND and Degree holders in the country.

This was part of the communiqué issued at the end of its 51st regular meeting held at the Sokoto State Polytechnic, Sokoto.

The communiqué signed by COREG Chairperson Mrs. A.I Ajayi also urged the National Assembly to fast-track the establishment of a National Polytechnics Commission and review of the ETF Act/Law to concentrate and consider intervention in the tertiary education sub-sector.

While commending the Federal Government for resolving the industrial issues in tertiary institutions in the country, COREG called on the government to ensure that agreements entered into with

the staff unions are implemented with minimal delay for industrial harmony and, the development of education sector in general and polytechnic education in particular.

It also called on the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to ensure that the new Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) effective from 2010/2011 sessions achieves its desired result of enhancing patronage of polytechnics by candidates.

COREG expressed appreciation to the federal and some state governments for granting approval for implementation of CONTISS 15 for Polytechnic staff, noting that the gesture would not only attract quality personnel but would enable the Polytechnics to retain them.

It appealed to other state governments that are yet to approve the salary structure for their polytechnics to do so.

It also emphasized the need to provide an enhanced salary package for principal officers of polytechnics, adding that this was in consideration of the tenured nature of their appointments.

Jigawa students get free eye glasses

From Yusha'u A. Ibrahim

THE Jigawa State government has purchased 395 pieces of corrective spectacles, low vision devices and drugs for onward distribution to students with a low vision in the state.

Speaking while distributing the materials to the benefiting schools, the Coordinator of the Jigawa Eye Centre Alhaji Abdurrahman Umar said the students were drawn from

30 primary and secondary schools across the state.

Alhaji Umar said the gesture followed the screening of students with sight problems, saying the centre would extend the gesture to more schools. He further explained that another set of students from other 30 schools would be screened by the agency before the end of this year.

He expressed hope that within the next three years, all schools in the state would benefit from the ges-

ture and urged the benefiting students to take good care of the glasses.

In a related development, dispensaries have been upgraded in various local government councils across the state to the level of primary health care centres with a view to improving the level of health care service. The state Commissioner for Health Alhaji Ibrahim Nashabaru said more hospitals would be upgraded across the state as part of measures to improve health care services.

Reps set to probe alleged police bias in Jos crisis

By Nāsidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives committee on Police Affairs has promised to investigate the alleged involvement of policemen in the killing of innocent people in the recent sectarian crisis that rocked Jos, the Plateau State capital and its

environs.

Chairman of the Committee, Rep Abdul Ningi (PDP, Bauchi State) told newsmen yesterday in Abuja that the committee will next week invite the Inspector General of Police (IGP) and other Police top shots to explain their men's alleged partisanship during the crisis.

He said the committee has received several complaints alleging partiality of the policemen, pointing out that the allegation was "a time bomb considering the sensitivity of this nation".

"If it is true that security agents take sides in a manner that was alleged during the crisis then it is

much more dangerous than it can be imagined," he said.

He said: "The inability of the Nigeria police to contain the crises that led to the withdrawal of policemen and their replacement with soldiers was not only an embarrassment to the force but to the nation."

Rep Ningi said the investiga-

tion would enable the committee to find out the logistics problems of the Nigeria police with a view to include them in the 2010 budget.

He said the investigation would involve victims of the crisis and other stakeholders after the appearance of the police top hierarchy before the committee.

Group wants reconciliation commission for Jos

By Nasiru L. Abubakar

THE Human Rights Writers' Association of Nigeria (HURIWA) yesterday called for a legally empowered truth and reconciliation commission to tackle the long standing inter-ethnic and inter-religious differences in Jos, Plateau State.

National Coordinator of HURIWA Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko said in a statement that the HURIWA commission should be made up of reputable Nigerians from the judicial, legislative and human rights backgrounds to be chaired by a learned serving or retired Supreme Court Justice and the office of the United Nations Secretary General be invited to send a team of international observers.

He also said that the commission should be given terms of reference and time limit from the Federal Government to ascertain from the indigenes and residents of the state on the remote and immediate causes of the inter-ethnic crises and to work out sustainable and fool-proof remedial measures to redress the problems.

The group expressed dissatisfaction with the decision of the Federal Government to set up a 15-member committee under the co-chairmanship of Second Republic governor of Plateau State Chief Solomon Lar and Amb Yahaya Kwande to work out how various institutions and levels of governments can interact to bring lasting solution to the crises.

While urging the government to ensure that all those indicted for participating in the mass killing in Jos are prosecuted and punished by a competent court of law, the right's group also called for the immediate end to the internal security operation by the military in parts of the state.



FROM left: Mr Steve Oronsaye, Head of Service of the Federation, Prof. Dora Akunyili, Minister of Information and Communications and Dr. Sam, Egwu, Minister of Education, at the 2009 ministerial news conference of the Ministry of Education in Abuja yesterday.

NGO faults FG, Plateau State on displaced persons

By Sunday Williams

A non-governmental organisation, ActionAid Nigeria has condemned both the Federal and Plateau State governments for not doing enough to ensure the welfare of the citizens that were internally displaced as a result of the Jos crisis.

Addressing newsmen yesterday in Abuja, ActionAid Country

Director Dr. Hussaini Abdu said the squalid state of the displaced persons during and after the crisis in about 27 camps is heart rending.

He said not fewer than 6000 persons were displaced and over 350 lives were lost, adding that the incident could have been avoided by a more responsible and responsive governments.

He said both the federal and

state governments demonstrated incompetence in attending to the victims of the crisis to the extent that they had to seek refuge in every available space, because there were no designated camps for the displaced persons.

He said ActionAid, "In collaboration with our partners in Jos, YARAC and CeGHAD, we provided food items, water tanks and

water supply for the camps, over 400 warm clothing and blankets, over 65 different brands of medications, etc."

He said the failure of the government to implement the recommendations in reports of several committees of enquiry on Jos crisis including the much celebrated 2004 peace conference precipitated the recent crisis.

FG urged to disarm Jos residents

By Misbahu Bashir

THE Federal Government should begin initiating a disarmament process in Jos, to recover weapons allegedly stockpiled by residents as part of measure to end the mass killing that is witnessed in the area during sectarian crisis.

An opinion leader in Jos told Daily Trust in an interview.

The leader who did not want his name in print also urged the Federal government to investigate the allegation that many residents have acquired police and army uniforms which were used in impersonating policemen and

soldiers.

He said that some groups were alleged to have been in possession of dangerous weapons including guns, which they hide for use during crisis situations, adding that "Those found to have aided such illicit acts should be punished no matter how highly placed."

"Many victims of the Jos crisis were found with gunshot wounds, meaning that small arms were used during mayhem," he said.

According to him, the flow of small arms in Jos will further prevent effort by the government to address the outbreak of crisis in the future.

Yobe introduces health council

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

YOBE State has introduced the State Council of Health (SCH) in a strategic move to enhance health in the state. The Council which is the highest advisory body on health issues has its members drawn from line ministries, donor agencies and traditional institutions. It is to be chaired by commission of health.

The decision was reached during the first state council on health programme which ended recently in Damaturu in where stakeholders including the Partnership for Reviving Routine Immunization in Northern Nigeria (PRINN/MNCH)

with support from Norwegian government deliberated on healthcare strategies. Speaking during the closing session, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam said the high infant and maternal mortality rate in the North East sub region was a serious concern to all Nigerians and charged them to find a solution to the problem. "The provision of free medical care for pregnant mothers and children below the age of five was in conformity with the Millennium Development Goals target of reducing mortality rate among children by two-third and maternal mortality by three-quarter by the year 2015" Governor Gaidam said.



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1. (a) CONSTRUCTION OF
 - i. Storey Building of 6 classrooms
 - ii. 3 - Classrooms Block
 - iii. 2 - Classrooms Block
 - (b) RENOVATION OF
 - i. 3 - Classrooms Block
 - ii. 2 - Classrooms Block
 - (c) Roof covering
 - (d) Fabrication and supply of Furniture (for Pupils & Teachers)
 - (e) Supply of Textbooks/Instructional Materials
 - (f) Teacher Training and Capacity Building
2. Consultants to supervise items 1a, 1b and 1c above

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

- (a) Evidence of Company Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
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- (c) Company's VAT Registration Certificate
- (d) Letter of attestation of good financial standing of the Bank including the name and address of the Bank(s) (Bank Reference)
- (e) Bank Guarantee or insurance Bond for advance payments.
- (f) Evidence of previous similar contracts stating contract value and showing evidence of award and timely completion.
- (g) Evidence of Company's Registration with SUBEB Gombe

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**THE SECRETARY,
TENDERS' BOARD,
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The documents should be submitted within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification submission and or discontinue the tendering process at any time. Nothing in this advert shall be construed to be a commitment on the part of the Board or entertain any potential tenderer to make any claim whatsoever and seek an indemnity from the Board on account of responding to this advert. The Board shall not go into any correspondence with non prequalified contractors in any form.

The list of those pre-qualified shall be listed and pasted on the Notice Board of SUBEB Gombe.

**ALH. SALISU ABAJI
BOARD SECRETARY
FOR: EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN**

Media proprietors give Yar'Adua 7-day ultimatum

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

MEDIA stakeholders have given President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua a seven-day ultimatum to hand over power to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan or resign.

They also urged the National Assembly to commence an impeachment process against the president if he fails to take constitutional steps to stabilise the polity and keep undemocratic forces at bay. His absence since November 23, last year, and refusal to transmit power to Jonathan, they said, "is endangering the country".

Appalled by what they described as the recklessness and unpatriotic politicization of the president's ill health by the country's leaders, the stakeholders met in Lagos on Monday to review "Our Rule of Law regime, constitutionality and fortune of our democracy."

Those who signed the communiqué issued after the meeting on behalf of the stakeholders include, Vanguard publisher Sam Amuka, Punch publisher Chief Ajibola Ogunola, former Information Minister Prince Tony Momoh, Leadership publisher Sam Nda-Isiah and Chairman of Daar Communications Plc Chief Raymond Alegho Dokpesi.

Also present were Yaya Abubakar, Editor-in-Chief of the Nigerian Compass, Lade Bonuola Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief of The Sun, Tony Onyima Editor-in-Chief of The News Magazine, Mr Babafemi Ojodu Editor-in-Chief of The Source Magazine, Comfort Obi, and publisher of BusinessDay Frank Aigbogun.

Others are veteran journalist, Haj Alade Odunewu, Managing Director/Editor-in-Chief of Champion, Ugo Onuoha, Editor-in-Chief of Tell Magazine Nosa Igiebor, Editor-in-Chief of Peoples Daily Rufai Ibrahim, Olubunmi Windapo of the MITV/Star FM, Dr. Tom Adaba of Trim Media, Ben Egbuna of Niche Media Ltd.

The rest include Editor of The Nation, Mr Gbenga Omotoso, Mr Osa Sonny Adun of DBN Television, Messrs Gbenga Adefaye

and Miden Bayagbon, both of Vanguard.

The communiqué reads, "Upon a careful review of the dangers posed to our nation by the gathering clouds in the land occasioned by disregard for the spirit of our Constitution, the stakeholders resolved as follows:

"That President Umaru Yar'Adua is human and susceptible to health challenges like everyone else.

"That President Yar'Adua is no ordinary Nigerian. In any case, his health challenge is being tackled with national resource.

"That President Yar'Adua swore to an oath of allegiance to obey the letters and the spirit of the 1999 Constitution without fear or favour and to also promote peace and concord in Nigeria.

"That the media stakeholders note the various efforts of the Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Mr. Michael Kasee Aaodoakaa (SAN) to secure rulership in absentia for President Yar'Adua even when the President had admitted in a BBC interview that his health challenges had temporarily incapacitated him and prevented him from performing the duties of his office.

"That it is therefore frustrating and insulting that members of the National Assembly shall be committing very scarce public funds to a 'goodwill visit' to the President in Saudi Arabia.

"The stakeholders commend the valiant intervention by former Heads-of-State and other eminent statesmen that President Yar'Adua should show regard for the spirit of our Constitution which foresaw our kind of situation.

"Therefore, because President Umaru Yar'Adua has been in Saudi Arabia for medical treatment for more than 70 days, leaving more than 150million Nigerians rudderless, thereby unable to perform his duties as Head-of-State/Chief Executive of this Federation and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of Nigeria and has not been seen in public since then, the stakeholders therefore demand that the President cede power to his deputy or resign within seven days".

Sherrif after Shehun Dikwa - Yerima

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

GOVERNOR Ali Modu Sherrif is bent on settling a score with the Shehun Dikwa, Alhaji Kyari Elkanemi for contemplating to confer the Aji Sudan title on Senator Abba Aji, that is why he wants to cre-

ate additional emirates in Borno State, Dr Haruna Yerima, a former federal legislator, alleged yesterday.

In an interview with *Daily Trust* in Kaduna, Dr. Yerima said Senator Aji who is the Presidential Liaison Officer to the

National Assembly had since turned down the title for peace to reign but Governor Sherrif was still adamant in his desire. He therefore said it was right for the state Assembly to throw out the governor's request for additional emirates.

Ex-militants protest over amnesty package

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

EX-MILITANTS of Ijaw extraction in Edo State yesterday disrupted economic activities, in some parts of Benin City, the Edo State capital, over what they called their neglect by the government and failure to implement the post- amnesty programme.

The ex-militants who are from Iron camp Ekpekoba in Ovia South West Local Government Area of Edo State said they embraced the amnesty and surrounded their arms since the December 17, 2009 to the Director of State Security Services but regretted that since then nothing had been heard about their future.

The spokesperson of the group who was referred to as General Felix Odowu alias Lord Agbuki who led the protesting

youths to the Government House in Benin said they were tired of empty promises from the government.

He said they decided to take their problems to the state government which they said had been helping to solve some national problems, to help intervene in their plight.

Addressing the pretesting youths, Governor Adams Oshiomhole said the ex-militants surrendered their arms outside the time stipulated by the Federal Government and that the post-amnesty issue was that of the Federal Government and not the states. The governor however promised that their grievances would be conveyed to the Federal Government. He also commended the protesters for the peaceful manner they carried out their protest.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Lar heads panel on Jos crises

LET'S us wait for what this committee will come up with. May God give them the wisdom to come up with a solution to crises, not only in Jos, but the entire country. I urge the committee to also be fair in the discharge of the assignment.

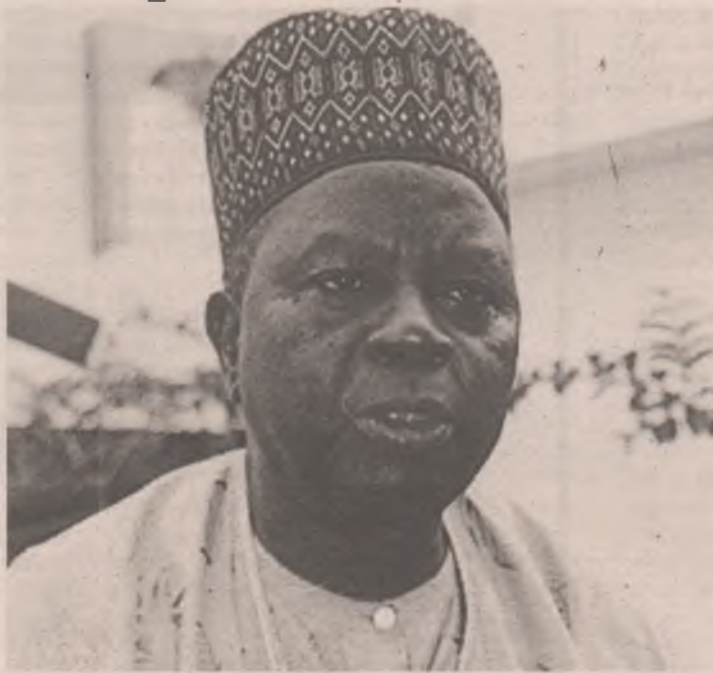
Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

Before I comment, let me quote you, Jang you said, "Our leaders are not patient, to wait and hear the two sides of a story before they make statements that will either solve the problem or increase it". No wonder, the former police commissioner came out openly and accused some Muslim youths of attacking innocent Christians in their place of worship while we all know where and how it all started.

Again, you were talking about the media, I think that is why the police invited PRTV for the role it played in the crisis. A word is enough for the wise.

Sanusi Nabage
dsan4u2nv@yahoo.com

It is always good to dialogue, but let all of the conveners, participants and observers know that a lasting solution lies in identifying perpetrators of such inhuman acts and their sponsors and punishing them accordingly. Any-



CHIEF Solomon Daushep Lar

thing short of that is deceit.

Sani M. Makarfi
babanfati2001@yahoo.co.uk

Jang, you said you have been travelling out of the country. Is this how countries you've visited treat their citizens, just because they are not from certain areas or do not belong to certain groups?

Sanusi Nabage
dsan4u2nv@yahoo.com

The Federal Government should not have appointed a party to the crisis on the panel. International bodies should have been asked to handle the investigation and their recommendations implemented. I am sure if people like Solomon Lar was not in support of what is happening in Jos, he would have tried to stop it since 2001.

H. Ibrahim

harunafai@saudia.com

How can Lar be appointed to head the panel? Definitely, the Federal Government is not looking for solutions.

Maryam Abdullahi
mammie4iaj@yahoo.com

Lar will do a good job. Unfortunately, the Federal Government will manipulate it like all the others to suit their agenda.

Adamu Iko
adiko@rcl.com

I must commend the vice president for making a move towards the resolution of Jos crises and I pray God grant him the strength to carry on. However, I must confess that I was disappointed with the inclusion of some people in the panel. It is rather unfortunate that these same individuals have been at the helm of affairs in this country and have made no noticeable effort to ensure an end to the problem. Perhaps it is because none of their close friends are affected. Sorry to say, but whether the chaos was religiously or politically motivated, it goes a long way to show that indigenes of Plateau are not welcoming and as such all non indigenes should run for their dear lives.

Abdulkadir Ali Bage
alizaki001@yahoo.com



EX-PRESIDENT Olusegun Obasanjo

Obasanjo and the perversion of honour and morality

LEAVE that man. He did not know he was fooling himself when he forced Yar'adua on Nigerians despite his health condition. Now that he cannot use him the way he wanted, he is crying foul. Let him go and sit down and keep quiet, so that we can get ourselves out of the mess he plunged us into.

Abdulmalik
abdulmaliksmuye@yahoo.com

Lady kills friend with razor blade

THE incident is very unfortunate and could have been avoided. While I sympathize with the family of the deceased, I think Ijeoma Ibezin should be charged to court without further delay so that justice will take its full course. Such cases should be discouraged and condemned.

Uluba Mai Jawur Esq.
jawur@gadzama.com

May the gentle soul of Ada Okeke rest in peace and may God console her family. Ijeoma should be charged to court so that justice will take its full course

Onyii
onyiibengs@yahoo.com

A word for Jos warriors

THIS, to me is the most practicable and best write up on the Jos crises and can be a model for the wider Nigerian society. In fact, it is broad-minded and nationalistic. Thank you.

Ejila ali ochofie
princesolly@yahoo.co.in

Well said, Mr Mahmud. How I wish every northerner/Muslim columnist would be as dispassionate as you. And I hope those in authority would be dispassionate too. God save Nigeria.

Kris
chadebola@yahoo.com

I spent all my youthful years in the north and I, a Christian and an Ibo man survived. Why is there so much bloodshed in the northern part of the country now? Why is it that the only contribution from our brothers in the north is bloodshed, religious intolerance, leadership ineptitude and abject illiteracy? Plateau is a state where violent, ultra religious and non tolerant men should avoid because the indigenes will not allow them to encroach.

Solomon Sunday
solomonz_2004@yahoo.com

Bauchi warns Plateau against expelling non-indigenes

TO the best of my knowledge, the Plateau State government has never asked indigenes of other states to leave Plateau.

It is a Bauchi State legislator, Aminu Tukur that wants Plateau indigenes to leave Bauchi. We cannot progress in this country unless our legislators concentrate on laws that will move us forward. They should stop threatening to expel indigenes of other states from their states. The 1999 constitution allows every Nigerian to live in any part of the country, irrespective of religion or ethnic affiliation.

Ahmed Tijani
ahmed_tijani001@yahoo.co.uk

We should learn to live in peace with one another. Violence is an evil wind that blows no good. Both parties are suffering for this irresponsible action.

Tom
adisatom2@gmail.com

I think Bauchi lawmakers are just trying to cause more problems. They are the first in the history of Nigeria to pass a resolution that all non indigenes of Bauchi should leave their state. Please Bauchi lawmakers, stop



BAUCHI State Governor Isa Yuguda

this nonsense and lets live in peace.

Marshal Kogi
marshalkogi@yahoo.co.uk

Plateau State deported some Fulanis' which they claimed were a threat to their security. Are we saying we cannot read between the lines? Isn't it aimed at wiping out the so call non-indigenes? Can't we see how they burnt the market to tell us we are not welcome? Go to the University of Jos and see the kind of treatment we receive from them. Where do they expect us to go? Let the govt know that we are not going to leave Jos, unless they kill all of us.

Pedr
pedbabs@gmail.com

Yar'adua remains president as long as he is breathing – Sen Ukpo

PEOPLE should forget about personal interests and sentiments and do the right thing.

If our democracy must survive and grow, then we must learn from other counties that are progressing. The Russian president

and American president had surgeries while in office, but did not leave their country in darkness. Why is the Nigerian case different.

Chukwuma Chinedu
mezybusiness@yahoo.com

NFF wants Shehata

MY honest advice to Shehata is 'stay away' from that job. He (Shetata) has earned for himself, reputation, name and honour over the years. All these will be rubbished in Nigeria. How can he

handle a bunch of unruly players and self centred football administrators? Stay away Shehata and spare yourself the trouble.

Ahmed
myanwene@yahoo.com

'Those calling for Yar'adua's resignation are saboteurs'

THE Constitution provides that the president should write to ask for permission before going on vacation, after which his vice is expected to take over. But the two pronouncements by the same court did not offer any meaningful way out of the political logjam rather, they have caused more tension in the polity and added to the confusion.

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
damurna@yahoo.com

This statement coming from Mantu should not surprise anyone. He was one of the supporters of the Obasanjo's 3rd term attempt. After suffering two defeats in his bid to return to the senate, the man is looking for relevance, using the president's ailment. Yar'adua, please get well soon and render the Mantus' jobless once again.

Pita
justpita@yahoo.co.uk

Group holds 3million man march for Yar'adua

WE forget very easily in this country. Well, God will resolve this matter just as He did after the

2 Million Man Match for Abacha.
Bunor Agbomedarho
tabunor@hotmail.com



By Abike Dabiri-Erewa

The unforgettable Maryam Babangida

Meeting in progress... Inside Dodan Barracks, seat of the Military Government of General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida (IBB). Then First Lady, Mrs Maryam Babangida, in her office, was making a vital statement; the room was filled with an array of dignitaries as well as reporters. Reporters were scribbling away except for one - me, Abike Dabiri (then NTA State House Correspondent). The ink in my pen had stopped flowing! Everyone was busy, no one noticed my frustration and confusion, except for one person, one woman, and the least expected of all in the room, the First Lady herself, Mrs Maryam Babangida. She just stopped in mid-sentence, then tapped one of her aides and gave her a big black pen to hand over to me, saving the day!

At the end of the event I had time to admire the pen, a black *Mont Blanc*, perhaps one of the most expensive writing instruments in the world. I then proceeded to hand over the pen to Mrs. Babangida, "Madam", as everyone called her. "Thank you Ma, I'm very grateful," I politely enthused; "Oh don't bother, keep it and always make sure you keep an extra with you" she advised, as she gave me a warm and motherly smile. I

Four years on working with her I realized that was the quintessential madam

immediately expressed my deep appreciation and never forgot that gesture. That was just five days after my posting to her office. Four years on working with her I realized that was the quintessential madam. Very observant with an eye for details and excellence, ever ready to be of help, caring, concerned, kind and passionate about her beliefs, ideas and strong family values. Fair, focused. Strict? Yes! Any mother should be. A woman of sartorial elegance, full of grace and a stickler for principles.

As a young reporter who transverse the length and breadth of Nigeria, covering the Better Life Programme (BLP), I make bold to say that the Better Life programme remains one of the most successful programmes ever embarked upon by anyone, anywhere. I grew to appreciate and imbibe that passion to give back. I recall while doing a documentary on Better Life in company of Mr. Supo Babalola of NTA and Mr. Omoniyi, the State House Photographer. Our passport to the hearts of the rural women was to let them know we were from Maryam Babangida. They had nothing but prayers and praises for a woman who made an enormous difference in their lives. She opened a new vista of life for rural women, she showed them they could be economically empowered and fulfilled as women, they would proudly display the products made by them through the skills they acquired through the Better Life Programme. The real made in Nigeria!

I still cherish till date a woven material one of the rural women gave me among several other locally sourced products. Through the programme, they acquired skills they never imagined they had. Thereafter, they set up businesses some of which still thrive till today.

And what about the foreign trips? Thanks to Madam, Many boarded a plane for the first time in their lives. Let's take for instance, the World Expo in Seville Spain. These women were there to display products they made themselves. Thanks to the Better Life Programme. And the products were such a pride to Nigeria; in fact the Better life products were adjudged some of the best at the Expo. And I will never forget the faces of those rural women who just couldn't believe they were in "obodo oyinbo". I recall one incident during lunch. At one of those trips. One of the women got uncomfortable, and gave out a large fart, because as she explained while apologising to everyone present, she had never eaten that kind of food before in her life. But Madam, so down to earth, got the then Nigerian Ambassador, Ambassador Dele Azikiwe to arrange Nigerian dishes for them all through their stay. That woman today is resident in Abuja and very successful. Thanks to the Better Life Programme and the exposure it gave her.

And there was another woman on another trip whose travellers' cheque was stolen by pickpockets. She went hysterical. Apparently she had been briefed in Nigeria that the value of the naira to one dollar traveller's cheque was ten to one. So when she found she had lost all her dollars she kept screaming "10 to 1.10 to one. They don't kill me O, 10 to 1". We were all laughing but she didn't find it funny at all. As soon as Madam got to know, she ensured she got a refund, and even jokingly taxed all that were laughing at the woman to contribute something for her. Later. We all started calling the woman "mama 10 to 1".

It was quite emotional seeing some of these women in Minna during the condolence visit to the Babangida's. "Our benefactor is gone" yelled one of them as she rolled on the floor, one of many whose life Maryam Babangida touched. The Better Life Programme created countless cooperative societies, over 1,000 cottage industries, about 1,750 new farms and gardens, over 500 shops and markets, about 420 women centres, 163 welfare programmes, Several Sunday markets, agricultural and food processing centres. And I will also never forget the accident in which the car myself and the great photographer, Sunmi Smart-Cole were travelling in, on the way to inspect A VVF Centre in Sokoto.

We had a burst tyre on motion, in a convoy. And we all know how fast cars in convoys go. The car somersaulted three times, but we thank God no one was hurt. No Car in the convoy could stop for us at the speed they were going. Madam had no idea of the incident. And, of course, there were no mobile phones then.

Cont'd on page 13.

Dabiri-Erewa, a member of the House of Representatives, is Chairman of its Diaspora Relations Committee.



By Mukaila Oyeniran

Bankole and recent developments in the budget process

Since Dimeji Bankole assumed office as Speaker of the House of Representatives over two years ago, significant developments have taken place in Nigeria budgetary process. Under the military administration, the budget is just read at a specified date and that is it. All that may come up is for ministers to hold ministerial briefings on the various aspect of the budget.

All that ritualized process was supposed to change since ten years ago when it was expected that budgets would be scrutinized by the legislature, particularly the House of Representatives with real power over appropriation. But the hangover of military attitude characterized the first 8 years of democracy under President Olusegun Obasanjo. All kind of intrigues, strong arm tactics and even "Bribe for Budget" were employed to emasculate the primal role of the legislature over the budget process.

But all that changed with the Fourth Session of the House of Representatives under Bankole, who presided over the first full budget presented by the new administration of President Umaru Yar'Adua in 2007. Drawing from his experience and insight as a former Deputy Chairman of Finance Committee,

But all that changed with the Fourth Session of the House of Representatives under Bankole

Bankole directed relevant chairmen of House's committees to ask relevant fiscal questions on the 2008 budget and it soon turned out that the unspent budgetary fund from 2007 budget was grossly understated. From a partly N25 billion according to reports, the figure ballooned into N450 billion! This sum was returned to the treasury for appropriation thus preventing the hitherto practice of public officials and civil servants mostly siphoning the funds through bogus end-of-year contract bazaars.

Interestingly enough the new president supported the initiative and directed that thenceforth, all unspent fund must be returned on the pain of sanctions. Indeed, two ministers lost their jobs and were charged to court, along with Senator Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello and other civil servants over their roles in 'sharing' such fund in 2008. Subsequently, the president by October of 2008 disclosed that over N350 billion will be returned as unspent funds from the budget. It is now established that unspent fund has now become an issue to be tackled headlong and curb corruption in the interim as part of the budget process.

But this issue is a symptom of another more important one, that of budget implementation. If budgets are fully implemented, the issue of unspent

fund would not arise. Over the years, budget implementation has hovered between 25%-30%, leading to huge unspent funds that were not discovered until Bankole propelled the House towards the new internal oversight process.

The implication is that even after appropriation of funds by the legislature for developmental projects and sometimes release of funds by the Federal Executive Council, projects are still not executed. The approach of the House to this issue was an active drive on its oversight functions on projects in various MDAs. It soon became apparent that there could be element of sabotage and incompetence among civil servants that are critical in the execution of projects. It was discovered that even when funds are appropriated by the legislature and same released to MDAs for projects, they end up in CBN vaults. Bankole at a point raised alarm that N500 billion appropriated and released by Federal Executive Council was stuck in CBN and he traced the problem to lack of capacity on the part of most civil servants. The civil servants grudgingly accepting the charge blamed such occurrence on the cumbersome process of Public Procurement Act. What is to be done in the circumstance? While the legislature are taking another look at the Act provisions, the executives have taken the novel stand of allowing capital budget to run till March of the succeeding year instead of the fund being returned as unspent fund at the end of the year with projects uncompleted or not done at all. This has led to the situation, according to Ayo Adeseun, the House Committee Chairman on Appropriation, where the country is running two parallel budgets in 2010.

Another significant development in our budgetary process arising from the new activism of the House of Representatives is the scrutiny brought to bear on projects in the budget. It is now a thing of the past that budget passage is now a ritual or treated with a 'bow and go' approach. All relevant items and expenditure are scrutinized and cross-checked with facts on the ground. This has led to the discovery of glaring anomaly like the discovery by Alhaji Usman Nafada, the Deputy Speaker of the House of the inclusion of already executed and paid for projects to the tune of billions in his constituency in 2010 budget!

These are all significant progress in our budgetary process these last two years with leadership provided by the House of Representatives. Further progress could be made when the National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO) Bill patterned along US Congressional Budget Office (CBO) is enacted into an Act. This bill that has already been passed by the House of Representatives is awaiting the concurrence of the Senate and assent by the President to become law.

Equally, the nation's budgetary process would be given further fillip if a bill sponsored by Bankole is passed into law. Oyeniran wrote from 15 Gado Nasco Road, Kado Estate, Abuja.



The unforgettable Maryam Babangida

By Abike Dabiri-Erewa

Cont'd from page 12

She got to the VVF centre and observed we were not there. She was very upset with some of the security details and immediately ordered them back to meet us. She refused to start the event till she got to know we were OK, and had joined them. That was Madam for you. Babalola, the NTA Cameraman, I worked with then, never stops appreciating the role Madam played in his life when his wife fell victim of fraudsters who capitalised on Supo's transfer to Abuja, when the seat of the Federal Government moved to Aso Rock. She was a fulcrum of moral and financial support. That again was Madam for you.

Maryam Babangida brought the institution of First Ladyship into nation building. She was indeed a trail blazer in women advocacy and a mobilizer par excellence. She surrounded herself with a group of intellectually-stimulating women called the M Team who worked assiduously for the success of her programme. Yes, she was beautiful, glamorously elegant on the faces of newspapers and television but for those close to her she was even more beautiful inside. Criticism? Yes, she got quite a fair share of it but she took everything in her strides and took solace in her undisputed faith that posterity would judge her right.

I learnt a lot from Madam, the virtues of hard work, discipline, giving back and making a difference, the dignity of womanhood and motherhood. Madam was a sticker of family values and she guarded her family jealously. You would see her children Mohammed, Aisha, Aminu and Halima (though a baby

then); all mingled freely with everyone, with no airs around them. So humble. So dignified, so respectful.

Madam carefully watched my foray into politics and ensured she gave her words of advice constantly. Every time she hears of one community-oriented programme or the other that I embarked upon in my constituency, she will always commend me for that "better life spirit" "of always making life better for all around you". And she will always encourage me to do more.

She was no doubt a woman of courage, inner strength, great mobilizer and a rallying point in life and even in death. She was the quintessential woman of substance. Madam! UNFORGETTABLE... That's what you are!

Concluded.

Dabiri-Erewa, a member of the House of Representatives, is Chairman of its Diaspora Relations Committee.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

I can't understand

WHAT is it that our leaders are afraid of saying the truth about the true state of Yar'adua's health? Is it that no one wants to take responsibility, or is it that the circle of entrenched cabal around the president doesn't want this country to move on? **MATHEW Osondu Ukwungwu N.C.R.I., Bida, Niger State, 07034826784.**

Perhaps there's a reason

PRESIDENT Yar'adua is developing a rare political strategy; he is observing his enemies from all dimensions. At the right time, he will be back to shame the wolves. **07067763337.**

Happy ending?

I congratulate the speaker and the entire members of Borno State House of Assembly for throwing out the executive bill seeking powers to create new emirates and chiefdoms in the state. The pro-

posed bill was unnecessary, ill-timed and preposterous. **M.GUJBAWU, Maiduguri, 08036060568.**

Daily Trust, my observation

IT is unfortunate that *Daily Trust* newspaper has taken sides in the Jos crisis; how would you justify the showing of pictures of people with attire that stood them out as either Muslim or Hausa, or Fulani? Am sure you know they are not the only ones displaced. As a widely-read newspaper, be objective in your presentation of issues. I am from Taraba State, and a Christian; I should be happy picking up *Daily Trust* every morning and expect unbiased reporting. **N. Banker, 08036163566.**

Haba Obasanjo

DESPITE all your scheming, Yar'adua will rule Nigerians for eight years, insha ALLAH! **08038726170.**

Gov Jang a failure?

NOTHING can be farther from the truth. People behind the crisis just want to corrupt his administration. When they are tired of killing themselves in Jos, they will learn to embrace each other, like in Kaduna. **NALAYA, A. I. 08036020633.**

Joke of the year

HOW can benefactors of Maurice Iwu's abracadabra of 2007 be today warning him against rigging the Anambra poll on Saturday? Are they now born-again? **ABUBAKAR Ndana, Kaduna, 08068014505.**

Who should guard the barn?

THE committee set up by Federal Government to investigate the Jos crises is ridiculous, because the people that masterminded and or perpetrated the crises were also included in it. **BUKHARI K. Factor, Jos, 08061632181.**



By Tunde Asaju

Of court rulings, bloody civilians and tamed officers

I've always looked forward to writing a will. The only reason I haven't succeeded in actually writing one is because I have more liabilities than assets. Every time I show at the bank, the tellers chuckle at the pain of making the same argument all over again. Pity, bank promos do not reward miser savers? Yet a wind-fall could teach us better saving habits. I belong to that group who believe in exercising their fundamental rights to withdraw up to the last kobo but the tellers insist they must keep a fraction. Sadly, they always win. I have threatened several times to get my liars to write them, but someone tell me how I'd be received if I show up at the Legal Aid Council with this complaint.

I refuse to blame the witches and wizards of Okeagi for my financial predicament. I ought to have made hay while the sun of my professional life was shining. I could have negotiated with the czars of corruption for a fraction of their loot and live happily ever after. I avoid quarrels with uniformed men or women. My name is not Fela and although I know that uniform na clothe, na taylor dey sew am I cherish this life I have and I hate hospital beds like hell. This is perhaps the reason why I did not join the army in the first instance, although for some time, I would have given anything to have a military, police, Civil Defence or scout sticker for my jalopy.

In Nigeria, such stickers confer a rare privilege to insult traffic police or sometimes beat them up. It exempts you from molestation whenever you travel during those hours before check-point minders take the deserved rest to count their loot.

The only respite we had was when Lawrence Anini and that Beninois robbery kingpin used uniformed men for target practice; otherwise uniforms are a license to live above the law. Taxi drivers know better than to argue with a uniformed man, you lose the fare, sometimes the car and a few tooth. The rest of us pray not to use the road at the same time as an angry soldier, Mopol commander or civil defence patrol team. We all know that sirens are immunity for the uniformed people, including empty ambulance drivers, bullion vans and empty escort vehicles to run the rest of us out of the highway. They beat you up or shoot you if you block an empty convoy whose legal occupant is flying above you for not knowing that his car is still carrying his fragrance.

It's been a dangerous country since Fela passed on. The rest of us who love our anatomical bones know how to stay out of trouble. But two Nigerians appear to have been listening to too much of Fela's music. One is Uzoma Okeke. This young daughter of a retired colonel failed to ram her car into the culvert as a sign of civil submission to a naval officer. She was beaten black and blue but lived to recount the ordeal. Goaded on by people who don't like us, she is now as famous as Rosa Parks and richer too. A Lagos court has granted her N100 million in damages. Then in Abuja where Aliero's bumps is every road user's terror, one Okoronkwo who was shot and left to die at the Life Camp Police Station for years was awarded N5 million by another judge. The two judgements would make Fela feel as bad as Odegbami is feeling compared with JJ Okocha. These young people are teaching the uniformed people things that Fela's song failed to drive home.

But who pays for all the fines - me and you of course. We are the taxpayers. These people don't pay taxes. It may be pouring for the armed and paramilitary forces that cry when they are posted to war zones but unleash terror on bloody civilians. My reason for writing my will is not because of the deluge of court cases that will be coming the way of service chiefs; let the finance minister deal with that. Rather my fear is that I am still using the roads daily and knowing these zombies and kill and go, there is no assurance that henceforth, victims would be alive to either tell their tales or go to court for redress. So, before you confront a man in uniform, be very sure that he is not armed and that his colleagues are not nearby. If the trend continues, there may be more accidental discharges. As for me, pending the time a liar can take my will, I promise to do what Yoruba people are experts at when in trouble - just dobale or prostrate. Believe me; if you do it quickly enough, it works!

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DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Recent court rulings in rights abuse cases

After decades of impunity in which some Nigerian security and paramilitary agencies and their staff took turns to harass, intimidate, maim and sometimes kill other citizens, their victims are finally filing their voices of protest by heading for the courts. The courts are rising to the challenge.

In the past couple of weeks, two significant judgements have been delivered with serious consequences. In one of such judgements, Ms Uzoma Okeke, whose abuse by some naval personnel in Lagos hit the headlines barely a year ago was awarded N100 million as compensation by a Lagos High Court. The court ordered that she is to get, in addition, full-page advertisement requesting her forgiveness in four national newspapers for the embarrassment they caused her. Ms Okeke's crime was that she used a public highway at the same time as a senior naval officer, who believed he had more compelling right of way.

In a similar pronouncement, an Abuja High Court granted a N5 million cost to Ugochukwu Nwakporo in exemplary and aggravated damages. He was shot and detained at the Life Camp Police Station for years and only escaped death by the whiskers. Parallel pronouncements have been made against sloppy and shoddy services by the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). These legal developments give us hope that the days of the culture of impunity that had become a way of life for many citizens, are coming to an end.

A common thread runs through these cases, which is that abuses are very often committed either by people in authority or by service agencies without due punishment. This creates a recipe for anarchy. The case of abuse by people in uniform, particularly those in government security outfits, against civilians is perhaps the most common and therefore the most reprehensible. Uniforms are usually given to men and women who have sworn to protect the society against anarchy. Indeed, appearing in uniform is an oath to put one's life on the line for those who are not uniformed. This is the exceptional act of bravery expected of our men and women but which they have abused over the years. When uniforms of protection are turned into uniforms of brutality, people have nowhere else to turn for protection and redress but to the courts of law.

It is a thing of courage for courts to take the side of the underdog and to award heavy, even if punitive, damages as deterrence against anarchic conduct both by uniformed personnel and people who render service. We salute the tenacity of those who have availed themselves of these avenues. We equally salute the courage of the law courts that in these instances have lived up to the dictates that the courts are the last bastion of hope for the common man and the less powerful. Their pronouncements are impetus for people whose rights have been trampled upon to seek redress for the sustenance of their rights and the restoration of their human dignity.

Nigerians would be looking forward to the execution of these judgements as proof that they live in a modern society that respects human liberties. It is also a vital lesson to these cash-strapped agencies that are now forced to use their financial allocations for compensation when other needs are pressing. We ask the appropriate agencies to pay up speedily and hope that they relay the pain to their officers and men that the times are indeed changing. These court's pronouncements are the best way to make people and agencies responsive either in the way they treat people or in the way they render service.

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For this to be the last Jos communal crisis

Timawus Mathias

timmathias@yahoo.com

Some peace returned to Jos during the week and has so far held. The cost is being counted. Over 300 persons were reported dead and wealth in billions of Naira gone up in flames. Thousands of internally displaced persons, whose property some how escaped the arson have returned to their homes. Normalcy is being achieved amazingly fast, as people pick up pieces of their lives to go on living.

But I am worried, that the clearing storm is soon returning to gather as the thick clouds of the next cyclone, regrettably in the North of the country, if not Plateau again. My worry stems from the emerging trends in the packaging of "religious" crisis. There are quick attempts to blame and implicate Governor Jonah David Jang by media commentators, politicians, and community leaders. Hardly anyone lays specific charges; someone even called Jang "senile", without specifying what role Jang played to bring about the destruction witnessed last week. This suggests to me that there are devilish brains behind the events who want the blame laid on Jang in hope that certain aims would be attained. Note the hasty attempt to steamroll a bill for the declaration of a State of Emergency in Plateau by notable indigenes who did not even care to take the 3 hour journey to Jos to ascertain facts before attempting to pull the power stool from under Jang. I had observed last week that given the unfolding physical development in Plateau, Jang would be the last person to want a violent conflict of any kind, especially one with the bloody consequences that we have seen.

My other worry is that we appear deliberately drifting towards the desired checkmate of these dastardly political manipulators, emotionally responding to the gory outcome of the conflict instead of the big picture which is in reality a hell-bent attempt (succeeding) to set the North ablaze, using greedy, myopic and power hungry agents on the Plateau. Plateau is crucial, being central and containing the bubbling volcano of indigene - versus settler feuds in a country of one people.

To think politicians could be heartless enough to instigate the wanton killing of innocent simple folk that we saw in Jos and environs over the week, just to create a climate that promotes their selfish ambitions! I am worried because there does not seem to be any more interest in establishing how a "resolved" altercation in front of Alhaji Garba's house on Saturday, could lead to a fatal attack on worshippers in Church on a Sunday by fake-military-uniformed-youth, which then snowballed into the complete sacking of Jos with such unimaginable mayhem that reverberated across the State. I make bold to say that all involved in the Alhaji Garba incident have a lot of explaining. I am worried that the inevitable conclusion has been arrived at by an authority no less important than His Eminence the

Sultan of Sokoto. What happened in the Plateau was genocide. From one small disposable disagreement at Alhaji Garba's house restoration attempt, we have attained genocide, true indeed, for pictures do not lie. But we delude ourselves if we do not realize that we have been cleverly manipulated to this precarious checkmate at such unacceptable cost in human lives by masters of intrigue and political shadow boxers. I am worried that we should be talking more about peace, forgiveness and reconciliation than we are doing. Before the puppeteers make the next move and get their ultimate desired

people's basic needs. Government's first responsibility is to restore and rebuild public confidence. It needs to determine total human losses in order to extend communal and corporate commiseration, and compensate capital claims to enable victims rebuild. Sympathetic governments, corporate organizations, missions, poverty alleviating agencies and NGOs, philanthropists, and individuals with means, should be encouraged to directly help the needy and grieved. Delaying of this aspect forces victims to attempt to rebuild on their own and in bitterness, with possibilities of more violent conflict erupting. Were the issue of rehabilitation and restoration for Alhaji Garba settled with Government driven initiative since 2008, the present carnage and bloodletting would have been avoided. Community policing which Government needs to build with mechanized security

“My worry stems from the emerging trends in the packaging of “religious” crisis

response, I make bold to state that without punishing known culprits, these deadly “religious” crises will continue to repeat themselves. The present reoccurrence is because those indicted for the 2008 crisis went unpunished. According to the Plateau State Attorney General, Police in Jos took the case files to Force Headquarters in Abuja, and as a result, no one was prosecuted, and all the arrested suspects were eventually released. Whoever is behind the frustration of the prosecution of the known culprits of the 2008 crisis should be established and punished accordingly. The scenario is already repeating itself as the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo is said to have ordered the transfer of some of the arrested suspects to again Abuja. In fact the running rumour was that it was the Military that transferred the arrested armed and uniformed attackers to Abuja and many smelt a cover up. Police must perform their constitutional duty to investigate and prosecute all arrested suspects, including the uniformed ones. For this to be the last Jos Communal Crisis, the lesson must be driven home that Nigerians in deed the Hausa-Fulani have a right to live in any part of their choice and derive full and all citizens' rights. It is wrong and criminal to just wake up and pounce on the innocent disadvantaged and weaker neighbours and annihilate them purely on the basis of their ethnic minority credentials. In deed it is a Godly and moral obligation to be a sojourner's keeper. All scriptures testify to that. To attain this wish, Vice President Goodluck Jonathan must appropriate immediate relief to the Plateau State Government, which needs to also immediately get involved in restoration of the

infrastructure such as Police and Civil Defence Stations, security kiosks and duty posts (point duty) will restore Public confidence. The mass media, traditional rulers, religious and community leaders should be involved in the fundamental task of confidence building.

This should further restore relationships and revive economic activity. At the political level, Plateau State and its indigenes should wake up to the stark reality of the growing population and influence of the Hausa-Fulani and other “settlers” in Jos, particularly Jos North. In one country, there can be no restriction to the migration and settlement of communities any where as long as they are law abiding. This is in exercise of inalienable rights, and constitutionally guaranteed freedoms. The growth of the Hausa-Fulani community through migration and birth can not be stopped because it is an inevitable natural occurrence. With democracy, a game of numbers, the vote has no ethnic identity, except its all importance as determinant of winners, whether “Dankasa” or “indigenous” Hausa-Fulani. It offers any sizeable ethnic group confidence to agitate and demand for a say in local affairs and to give support to any politician willing to harness this political asset. There can be no stopping this, and therefore we should sooner admit and declare the “settler” phenomenon as obsolete and untenable, even if locals hail it. We need affirmative action to ensure this. The truth is that the so called Jessawa are bona fide Plateau citizens with rights to aspire to all political offices. There is no stemming this tide.

Banking Reforms in Nigeria: What Next After CBN's Intervention



SANUSI LAMIDO SANUSI
Governor,
Central Bank Of Nigeria



ALHAJI UMARU IBRAHIM
Acting MD/CEO
Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation



REMI BABALOLA
Hon. Minister of State, Finance



DR. MARIO BLEJER
Former Governor,
Central Bank of Argentina



BJÖRN CHRISTIAN STEIN
Director, German-based
Global Banking Development
Solutions



SVEIN HARALD OYGARD
former Central Bank Governor
of Iceland, now Director at
McKinsey & Company



Dalvinder Singh
Associate Professor of Law,
University of Warwick



Razia Khan
Regional Head of Research
for Africa Standard Chartered Bank, UK



Luca del Conte
Executive Director,
Treasury & Capital Markets
Medicapital Bank Plc, UK



Tara O'Connor (UK)
Managing Director,
Africa Risk Consulting, London

- OPTIONS FOR RE-CAPITALISING BAILED-OUT BANKS
- BANKING RISK MANAGEMENT
- CORPORATE GOVERNANCE & REGULATION
- INSURING DEPOSITORS' FUNDS

KEY NOTE

SANUSI LAMIDO SANUSI
Governor, Central Bank Of Nigeria

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR

REMI BABALOLA
Hon. Minister of State, Finance

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ONNO RUHL
World Bank Country Representative

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CEO, Rencap, Nigeria

SOLOMON QUAYNOR
Country Director,
International Finance Corporation (IFC)

TEMITOPE OSIKOYA
Director-General,
West African Monetary Institute, Accra, Ghana.

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Venue: Federal Palace Hotel, Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island, Lagos

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INTERNATIONAL

Africa leaders wrap up summit on continent's crises

AFRICAN leaders yesterday wrapped up their annual summit less divided and looking at brighter economic prospects but still facing a raft of conflicts, including Sudan's predicted break-up. The African Union's peace and security commissioner said yesterday that a resolution was adopted overnight increasing the pressure on Madagascar leader Andry Rajoelina, who seized power in a coup in March and did not attend the summit.

"We have already started getting replies from some of the parties but we are waiting for the response of the party that took the unilateral decisions that have called into question the agreements," Ramtane Lamamra said.

The 53-member body's approach to Madagascar had been typical last year of African discordance, with Libyan leader and outgoing AU president Moammar Gaddafi breaking from the tough stance of the organisation's executive.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon had also stressed in his opening speech that the continent needed to curb power-grabs.

The situation in Sudan, where tension has been escalating in the run-up to a 2011 referendum in which the south is widely expected to choose independence from Khartoum, has featured high on the summit's agenda.

Many observers fear that a secession in Sudan -- Africa's larg-



OPENING session of the three-day AU summit in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

est country, bordering nine others -- could further destabilise one of the continent's most volatile regions. Senegal's president has been trying to drum up support for the fight against Al-Qaeda's North African branch, saying the network's campaign was taking

on "new and disturbing" forms. Abdoulaye Wade appealed to Senegal's neighbours to join a round table with neighbouring countries to tackle resolve the issue of Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM).

"This desert terrorism is tak-

ing new and very disturbing forms... But countries like Senegal, or Mali, can do nothing on their own. It is an international problem. Western powers will have to intervene too," he said in an interview.

On the economic front experts

said they see signs of a rebound on the continent. African Development Bank (ADB) chief, the Rwandan Donald Kaberuka, expects the continent's economy to grow by between 4.5 and 5.0 percent this year and by some 6.0 percent in 2011.

S/African leader criticized over love child report

A South African presidential spokesman yesterday called a newspaper story that the country's polygamist leader had fathered a child out of wedlock "a private, personal issue" without confirming or denying the report.

Some political opponents already have criticized President Jacob Zuma, who has three wives and is engaged to a fourth woman, saying his alleged actions send the wrong message in a country where one-tenth of the population is living with the virus that causes AIDS.

Johannesburg's *Sunday Times* newspaper, citing unnamed friends of the woman's family, reported that the 67-year-old Zuma had a daughter in October.

The president, who acknowledges fathering 19 children, has not commented on the story.

"Those who have laid judgment on the president in a matter that is entirely a private, personal issue, can they subject themselves to a public audit of their private lives?" He said Zuma spokesman Vincent Magwenya in an e-mail from Ethiopia, where the president was attending an African Union summit.

But Helen Zille, a provincial premier and leader of the main opposition Democratic Alliance party, said the matter does have public importance.

"President Jacob Zuma's behaviour directly contradicts the government's campaign against multiple sexual partners, and the inherent AIDS risk in having unprotected sex," she said in a statement.

A former prominent member of Zuma's party who formed a breakaway party in 2008 agreed.

Guinean commission report casts blame for massacre

AN investigative commission in Guinea is blaming the man who tried to assassinate the country's junta leader for a September massacre.

Human rights groups say Guinean soldiers killed at least 156 people and raped dozens of women at the national soccer sta-

dium.

In a report presented to Guinean authorities yesterday, the commission said Lt. Abubakar "Toumba" Diakite and a group of red berets from the presidential guard were responsible for the violence.

Diakite, who remains in hid-

ing, has said that he shot junta leader Moussa "Dadis" Camara because Camara wanted him to take the blame for the massacre.

The report yesterday said only 58 people were killed, and that Camara, now in voluntary exile in Burkina Faso, was not responsible.

Togo rejects presidential bid of ex-French minister

TOGO'S constitutional court yesterday rejected the presidential candidacy of Kofi Yamgnane, who has served as a junior minister in France, because of a mix-up over his date of birth.

Yamgnane holds dual nationality and the court disclosed that the French documents he submitted had him born on October

11, 1945, while according to his Togolese documents he was born on December 31. "This situation is of a nature to cause confusion over the identity of the person and consequently to weaken the legal and judicial security inherent in the highest office in the country," the court said in its ruling.

A former member of the

French government under late president Francois Mitterrand, Yamgnane expressed regret at the court decision and said he was the strongest challenger to the ruling Togolese People's Rally (RPT). "I am unhappy for the Togolese," Yamgnane said. "The RPT believes it is going to remain in power eternally in Togo."

International



EXILED Hamas leader Khaled Meshaal.

Hamas 'ready for Fatah unity deal'

EGYPT yesterday welcomed statements by Hamas leaders that they were ready to seal a unity deal with the rival Fatah faction but said Cairo's blueprint for Palestinian reconciliation was not up for negotiation.

"Successive statements from several Hamas leaders regarding their willingness to achieve Palestinian reconciliation are welcome," foreign ministry spokes-

man Hossam Zaki said. But he ruled out requests by Hamas to modify an Egyptian-drafted document to seal the reconciliation between the Islamist group and Fatah, the mainly secular party of Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas.

"This matter would delay reconciliation indefinitely," Zaki said in a statement.

"Opening the way for any

changes in the document would mean...a regression," Zaki said, in apparent reference to repeated reservations by Hamas over the Egyptian proposals. Egypt's efforts to re-unite the two rival factions have so far failed and Cairo has postponed twice a planned signing of a reconciliation agreement because of the deep divisions between Hamas and Fatah.

Yemen rebels pledge not to attack Saudi Arabia

YEMENI Shiite rebels pledged yesterday not to attack neighbouring Saudi Arabia, a key condition laid down by the Sanaa government to end its nearly-six-month military campaign against them.

"As long as no one attacks us, we would not target any party," the office of rebel leader Abdul Malak al-Huthi said in a statement posted on the rebels' website.

It said the rebels, known also as Huthis, had already made this position clear last week when they announced a "withdrawal from Saudi territory and ending the war."

The issue of captured Saudis would not be a "hurdle," it said, adding that "if there is a willingness to have peace, this issue can be solved through an exchange of prisoners."

The rebel leader offered on Saturday to accept the government's five-point truce terms, as long as the government halts military attacks. But the govern-

ment rejected the offer, pointing to a sixth condition stipulating a Huthi pledge not to attack Saudi Arabia.

The demand was apparently added after the northern rebels started to lock horns with Riyadh in early November.

Saudi Arabia, in its largest military mobilisation since the 1991 Gulf War, deployed reinforcements on its border with Yemen after accusing the Huthis of killing a border guard and occupying two small villages.

The rebels last week announced their withdrawal from the last positions they occupied in Saudi Arabia, which in turn said they had been chased out of its territory. "We have offered all that we can to stop the bloodshed ... The party that is playing with words, finding excuses and setting up more hurdles in order to keep the war raging should be held responsible," yesterday's statement said.



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AC alleges plot by Iwu to rig Anambra Polls: A rejoinder

The attention of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) has been drawn to a news story in The Guardian newspaper on the above caption. It was credited to no other person than Alhaji Lai Mohammed, the National Publicity Secretary of Action Congress (AC). The Action Congress, in our estimation, is a vibrant political party which has made significant contributions to the enthronement of democratic culture in this country. Ironically, the party and its Publicity Secretary appear to be operating in a manner that suggests some centrifugal state of affair. In an ideal situation, Lai ought to have taken upon himself the responsibility to propagate his party's socio-political blueprints to elicit acceptance from the electorate. Regrettably, he has abdicated this very important responsibility. Instead, he delights in sensationalisms; emotional outbursts and unsubstantiated allegations about INEC and its leadership: allegations which exist only in the fecund recess of his imaginations.

Only last week in Awka, the Anambra State Capital, Lai Mohammed issued a statement condemning an innocuous view said to have been expressed by Professor Maurice Iwu about "the process that threw up Andy Uba as governorship candidate of Labour Party." According to him, the INEC Chairman's alleged statement was a "ploy to deceive the public and set the stage to rig the election in favour of Uba".

It has been very difficult for INEC and its leadership to comprehend the basis for this allegation which spurious content has tended to defy all rational analyses. This is because the Commission, under the law has the responsibility to observe the intra-party processes that produce their candidates for national elections. If the INEC Chairman actually did comment on the way and manner Andy Uba emerged as the flag bearer of Labour Party therefore, he was doing exactly what is expected of him under the law.

To be specific, Section 14(2c) of the Third Schedule to the 1999 Constitution empowers INEC to "monitor the organization and operations of the political parties, including their finances" while sub section 21 of the same schedule gives the Commission the legal muscle to "monitor political campaigns and provide rules and regulations which shall govern political parties".

These provisions have been adumbrated in Section 85 (2a-b) of the Electoral Act 2006 which states: "Every registered Political Party shall give the Commission at least 21 days notice of any convention, congress, conference or meeting convened for the purpose of electing members of its executive committees or other governing bodies or nomination of candidates for elective offices specified under this Act."

The statement which Lai Mohammed has, with relish credited to the INEC Chairman, if it is true that it came from him, was clearly suggestive of non-compliance of the party with the provisions of this section of the Act.

Lai argues albeit mischievously that "as umpire, Iwu should not have made the statement". One however wonders how criminal it is for the INEC leadership to tell the world that a particular party and its candidate have fallen foul of the letters of the law regarding the nomination process that threw him up as a candidate in the most imminent Anambra Governorship Election.

But waxing terribly warped in his reasoning, Lai Mohammed has ridiculously declared that the INEC Chairman "is merely trying to give an impression that he is against Uba, when indications are that he has perfected the strategy to give him (Uba) victory". If the INEC Chairman has such enormous powers as would simply put a particular candidate in Government House, Awka, we can as well bid farewell to our young democracy. In fact there shouldn't be any need whatsoever for the Commission to dissipate its energies the way it is doing in order to deliver this epochal election. The allegation, we make bold to say however, exposes the bankruptcy or vacuity of Lai's thought processes.

Lai Mohammed has further alleged that Andy Uba is Iwu's benefactor but in what sense if we may ask. Professor Iwu was appointed INEC Chairman based on his sterling qualities as a retired University don and a researcher/scientist of international renown. How then would such a towering personality be a beneficiary of Andy Uba's imaginary largesse if Lai wants to be taken seriously?

If Andy Uba has not challenged Iwu's statement as Lai Mohammed has alleged, it confirms in very uncertain terms his party's abridgement of the relevant sections of the Electoral Act, 2006 which deal with the processes leading to the nomination of candidates for elective offices. There is therefore nothing to this than meets the eye as the AC spokesman would want the world to believe.

On the membership of the Anambra Governorship Election Monitoring and Observation Board, Lai claims at least five of them are "either consultants to Iwu/or INEC, and are card carrying members of Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Lai would do himself a lot of justice if he would be brave enough to disclose the identities of such members some of whom, he claims were "PDP witnesses in the on-going tribunals."

In spite of Lai's brazen inability to disclose the identities of these allegedly compromised members of the Board, it is inconceivable that such members (assuming they are on the Board) would work towards the election of an opposition Governorship candidate, Andy Uba who has entered the contest on the platform of Labour Party. Whither the logic of Lai Mohammed's accusation of the INEC Chairman then?

His characterization of the Board as "part or the strategy to hoodwink the public by giving the impression that the Commission wants the election to be free and fair" only betrays the psychology of the small minded which he fittingly typifies. People who manifest such pathological pre-derelection to mistrust are themselves not to be trusted. They assess others from the prism of their diabolical dispositions. Their reason for this is that since they have a chilling propensity for sinister motives, other humans must be like them. In other words, they cast fellow humans in their diabolic moulds. If not, why should Lai not give INEC benefit of the doubt in its constitution of the Election Observation Board which mandate essentially, is to "carry out pre-election observation of the preparations for the Anambra Governorship Election, observe relevant aspects of the organization and conduct of the election?"

And most importantly, the Chairman of the Board, Ikeazor Akariwe, first Vice Chairman of NBA is as a credible a personality as the organization he represents - the Nigeria Bar Association. Enjoying this same credibility are the civil society groups whose members are on the Board. Only a pathologically fixated cynic like Lai would doubt the sincerity of the INEC leadership in setting up this Board.

It is regrettable that our brand of democracy is one which does not place high premium on issues-based politics. Ideologies and under-pinning philosophies have no place whatsoever in our national politics. Instead, political parties are either "personality-tied" or interest-based. Owing to the absence of distinct beliefs and ideologies, our political parties and their apparatchiks do not seem to have selling points before the electorate. It is therefore not surprising that recourse has to be made to the *win-at-all-cost* political ideology which philosophical underpin is violence, blackmail and intimidation. This, unfortunately, is what is being propagated by the excesses of Lai Mohammed whose party has threatened a violent revolution should they lose the Anambra Election.

INEC is nevertheless consoled by the fact that the Police high command is not taking these posturing from some of these political parties as empty threats. This explains why the riot act which the IG, Ogbonna Onovo read to the twenty-five candidates in the Anambra Governorship is timely and most welcome.

Equally welcome are the security measures he has put in place to ensure that law and order reign

supreme before, during and after the election. It is also hoped that these measures would forestall impersonation of members of the Police Force as well as guard against improper conduct while the planned deployment of a special monitoring unit to Anambra State would ensure compliance with all directives regarding the election.

On its part, the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), desirous a free and fair Anambra State Governorship poll has by way of identifying with these security initiatives of the number one Police officer of the Federation, accredited 33 Civil Society Organizations to observe the election process and is willing to collaborate with the six-man assessment team from the United States of America who would be on hand to observe the election. The Commission has met its personnel requirements by training its permanent staff and members of the National Youth Service Corps who have since been deployed in readiness for the poll.

To ensure transparency and forestall manipulation of results as they journey from the polling units to the collation centres, ballots will be counted at the polling units and the results announced there and then. This would enable the political parties, the civil society organizations, security agencies and the electorate to monitor the initial results before their collation at various levels.

An additional transparency measure INEC has introduced into the Anambra Governorship is its decision to allow political party agents to take serial numbers of ballots papers at all levels of distribution to forestall the phenomenon of strange ballots finding their way into the ballot box or prevent ballot papers from being snatched from poll officials and presented for counting after being thumb printed fraudulently.

The Commission has also decided to play the coach and the umpire as an effort at reining in electoral violence through sustained voter education/enlightenment aimed at persuading the people of Anambra State to embrace the peace and eschew selling their voters' cards. This hopefully, would forestall the subversion of their true intent by desperate political actors.

In order to give political parties much opportunity as it would be practically possible to observe the election process, INEC has extended the deadline for submission of names of their agents. The Commission has put in place one Statutory Resident Electoral Commissioner to oversee the election. He will be assisted by three others.

Meanwhile, the Commission has provided just enough ballot papers for the election since excess supply would undermine the integrity of the process. It has in place a voter data-base that is fool-proof thereby laying to rest all furore about the state of our national voters roll.

Finally, it bears stating the obvious fact that Professor Maurice Iwu after accepting to serve as the INEC Chairman brought innovations, as well as his personal integrity to election administration. He came to make personal sacrifices based on his behalf in Christ Jesus - the sacrificial lamb for those members of our common humanity who believe in him.

It would be an understatement to say that he has achieved just that. This is what his critics have been ill at ease to buy. Now they want to destroy him. But armed with his Christian beliefs as the source of his sustenance, he has been able to withstand pressures, criticisms and finger-pointing. INEC under his watch has done its best. The Commission has remained consistent, resolute in its commitment to deliver on its mandate and is not prepared to give up midway in its struggle as its critics would want. The future of Anambra Governorship Election in INEC's assessment is not as bleak as it is being presented in the media. By the grace of God we shall triumph.

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT,
INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL
COMMISSION (INEC)
HEADQUARTERS, MAITAMA, ABUJA**



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

PRESS RELEASE

RE- ALLEGED LIMIT TO LOAN APPROVAL AND FIVE PER CENT EQUITY HOLDING IN BANKS

The attention of the Central Bank of Nigeria has been drawn to two publications, the first in the Vanguard Newspaper of January 28, 2010 titled: *CBN to ensure 5% Equity Holding in Banks-Sanusi* and the second on the front page of the Vanguard Newspaper of February 1, 2010, titled: *CBN limits bank Mds, boards' loan approval*.

In the first article of January 28, 2010, the Deputy Governor, Financial System Stability, Dr. Kingsley Moghalu, was alleged to have said that "as part of the on going reforms in the banking sector, and in our drive to ensure sanity in the nation's financial system, we will soon be undertaking a review of the structure of the banks, and it is very likely that we are going to ensure that no one holds more than five per cent stake in any bank in Nigeria".

The above report is a misrepresentation of the Deputy Governor's comments at a recent breakfast meeting of the Nigeria-South African Chamber of Commerce. For the avoidance of doubt, the Deputy Governor only said that any shareholder who wishes to own more than five per cent equity shares in any Nigerian bank has to obtain the prior written approval of the Central Bank.

The CBN does not intend to limit the percentage of shareholding of investors in Nigerian banks as this will not only negate the provisions of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 1991 as amended but also the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Act which encourages unfettered participation of both local and foreign investors in all Nigerian enterprises, including the banking sector.

In the same vein, the February 1, 2010 Vanguard publication, quoting from page 64 of a Circular issued by the CBN dated January 18, 2010, titled "Minimum Information to be disclosed in Financial Statements for the Year Ended December 31, 2009", claimed that the CBN had set credit approval limits for banks.

The CBN also wishes to inform the general public that this position is untrue as the Circular only provides guidance on the minimum disclosures by banks and discount houses in their annual accounts to enhance transparency and ensure standardization in financial reporting in annual financial statements. The figures in the circular are therefore merely hypothetical figures that do not in anyway represent credit approval limits set by the CBN.

The general public should note that the primary responsibility for managing banks and discount houses rests with the Boards and Managements of those institutions, a position that the CBN recognizes and respects. The CBN has not and will not impose approval limits for banks and discount houses as those are matters of discretion for the Boards and Management of those institutions.

The general public is hereby advised to be guided accordingly.

Signed

M.M.Abdullahi,
Head, Corporate Affairs

International



AUSTRALIAN police have charged two teenagers with arson over a fire that killed one man on "Black Saturday" -- the day last year that 173 people lost their lives in wildfires.

Two teens charged over Australian bushfire

AUSTRALIAN police yesterday charged two teenagers with arson over a fire that killed one man on "Black Saturday" -- the day last year that 173 people lost their lives in wildfires.

The pair, aged 14 and 15, were charged with arson causing death for allegedly lighting a bushfire in a dry creek bed at Maiden Gully, near the country town of Bendigo in Victoria state as temperatures soared last February 7.

"As a result of the Maiden Gully fire, a 47-year-old man was killed and 354 hectares of land, 61 houses and 125 sheds and outbuildings were destroyed," police said in statement.

Conservative Muslim village raided by Bosnian cops

A remote Bosnian village that's home to highly conservative Wahhabi Muslims was raided yesterday by hundreds of police who said they were searching for an unspecified security threat.

The Office of the State Prosecutor said the raid in the northeastern village of Gornja Maoca was the largest police operation in Bosnia since the 1992-1995 war that killed tens of thousands and left millions homeless as Muslim Bosnians, Christian Orthodox Serbs and Roman Catholic Croats clashed.

The spokesman for the Prosecutor's Office, Boris Grubestic, said police detained several residents in the raid, without giving details.

Ex-UK minister says Blair lied over Iraq war

FORMER minister Clare Short accused Tony Blair of lying over the invasion of Iraq in 2003 and stifling discussion in the British cabinet in the run-up to the war.

Short, a long-time critic of Blair who served as International Development Secretary in his government, disputed evidence the former prime minister gave last week to an inquiry into

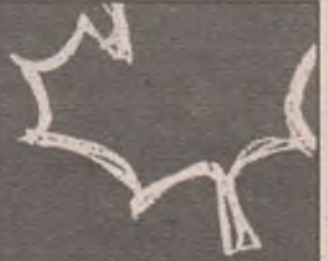
the war. Short voted in favor of the 2003 invasion but quit Blair's government shortly afterwards because she said Blair had "conned" her into thinking the UN would play a lead role in post-war Iraq.

Last Friday, Blair made a robust defense of his decision to go to war, telling the inquiry that Saddam Hussein had posed a threat to the world and had to be dis-

armed or removed. He said there had been "substantive discussion" with senior ministers in the cabinet.

But Short told the Chilcot inquiry, which is examining Britain's role in the war and its aftermath, that she had been excluded from talks and that Blair had not wanted Iraq discussed in the cabinet because he was afraid of leaks to the media.

Canada



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PROGRAM

9:00 AM	Opening of exhibition
10:00 AM	Presentation on requirements for Study Permits by the Visa Section
11:00 AM	Presentation by visiting representatives of Canadian Institutions
12:00 NOON	Lunch Break
1:00 PM	Presentation by visiting representatives of Canadian Institutions Continues
2:00 PM	Presentation by Nigerian Banks on banking products for international students
4:30 PM	Closing of exhibition



International

No IPO for adultery website

AVID Life Media Inc, which runs adult dating websites including one that facilitates extramarital affairs, appears to be having problems getting a date.

The Toronto company had planned to go public on the Toronto Stock Exchange in a matter of weeks to raise at least \$60 million in an initial public offering, according to sources and media reports.

But one source who has been provided details about the offering said efforts to

woo investors seem to have met with a cool response.

"They're putting that plan on hold, citing market conditions," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Avid could not be reached immediately for comment, but media reports in recent days indicated banks and big investors were hesitant to get involved in the deal, despite Avid's solid financial record.

Avid runs racy dating websites including the

Ashley Madison Agency, whose website masthead reads "Life is short, Have an affair" (<http://www.ashleymadison.com>) and which describes itself as the world's premier discreet dating service, with more than five million anonymous members.

Avid Life, which was being advised by GMP Capital Inc, had planned to use the funds raised from the offering to acquire another company, sources said.



AN Indonesian tobacco company has agreed to pay the medical expenses of a man who lost six teeth when a cigarette mysteriously exploded in his mouth.

Cigarette-maker repents over exploding product

AN Indonesian tobacco company has agreed to pay the medical expenses of a man who lost six teeth when a cigarette mysteriously exploded in his mouth.

Security guard Andi Susanto, 31, told Metro TV in an interview from his hospital bed that cigarette producer PT Nojorono Tobacco Indonesia had

offered to pay for his treatment.

"The company's officials have talked to my family and we agreed to settle it amicably, as an out-of-court settlement. They will pay all the medical expenses," he said through bandaged lips.

The cause of the explosion remains unknown. Susanto said he wasn't

chewing anything when he lit the Clas Mild cigarette and didn't notice anything strange about its odour, colour or taste.

He said he would quit smoking after the incident.

Indonesia is one of the most profitable tobacco markets in the world, and more than 60 percent of Indonesian men smoke.

Pack of stray dogs kills 13 animals in Bulgarian zoo

A pack of stray dogs leapt the fence of Sofia's zoo and killed 13 rare animals last week, the zoo director said on Saturday.

Six dogs, probably driven by hunger in temperatures that fell to minus 15 degrees last Saturday, tore to pieces five deer and

eight mouflon, zoo director Ivan Ivanov said. Two fallow deer fought the dogs and survived.

Ivanov said the zoo's fences had since been reinforced and gas pistols issued to security guards. The Bulgarian capital, home to some two million people,

has been plagued by stray dogs for years.

City council officials put their number at about 9,000, and say it has grown since economic crisis hit the European Union's poorest member state and some people abandoned their pets.

Noisy lovebirds expose Russian smuggler

A Russian woman was caught at a border checkpoint in Russia's far east attempting to smuggle 50 lovebirds from China under her coat, officials said yesterday.

Border guards spotted the woman after the birds "woke up and began to

talk loudly among themselves," the Russian border guards service said.

"It was impossible for the customs inspector and tourists not to hear them."

The birds were hidden "under a coat in a special apron with pockets," the service said in a state-

ment.

The woman had been visiting the Chinese town of Heihe and was returning to the Russian town of Blagoveshchensk, which is located on the opposite bank of the Amur River separating the two countries.

NIGERIA DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

SALE OF LANDED PROPERTIES

The Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC), in exercise of its statutory role as liquidator of failed banks hereby invites interested members of the general public to buy over the interest of the defunct Trade Bank Plc in the property stated below through PUBLIC SEALED COMPETITIVE BIDDING:

NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	NATURE OF TITLE
1.	A block of 6 flats of 3 bedrooms each on three floors on a site area of 631.03m ²	Off Ibrahim Taiwo Road, Behind Methodist Cathedral Church, Ilorin, Kwara State	Certificate of Occupancy
2.	A block of 2 flats of 2 bedrooms each on two floors on a site area of 633.12m ²	Asani Sunmonu Street, Osere Area, Ilorin, Kwara State.	Certificate of Occupancy
3.	A block of 4 flats of 3 bedrooms each on three floors on a site area of 476.07m ²	Asani Sunmonu Street, Off Muslim Cemetery Road, Osere Area, Ilorin, Kwara State.	Certificate of Occupancy

INSPECTION:

All interested bidders are invited to contact the Sales Agent stated below for guided inspection of the property and further enquiries.

The Sales Agent
Amos Etukeno & Co.,
159, Ibrahim Taiwo Road,
Ilorin
Kwara State.

Telephone Nos-08023036294, 08066251020

BIDDING CONDITIONS:

Bids, together with 10% of the bid price in certified bank draft in favour of Trade Bank Plc (In-Liquidation), shall be submitted in a sealed envelope with the inscription on the top left-hand corner of the envelope "BID FOR PROPERTIES OF TRADE BANK PLC, ILORIN". The bids should indicate name, address and telephone numbers of the bidders. The successful bidder will be required to pay the balance of the bid price within 30 days of notification. The properties are sold "as they are" and "net".

SUBMISSION OF BIDS:

Bids should be submitted to the office of the Zonal Controller, Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation, No. 10 Sulu Gambari road, Ilorin, Kwara State on or before 4:06 p.m. on Monday, 1st March, 2010.

OPENING OF BIDS:

Submitted Bids shall be opened in the presence of all bidders on Tuesday, 2nd March, 2010 by 12 noon prompt in Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation's Zonal Office at No. 10, Sulu Gambari Road, Ilorin, Kwara State.

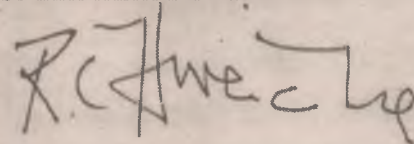
(Signed)

Head, Asset Management Department,
Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation,
25th Floor, NECOM House
15, Marina, Lagos.

THE POSITION OF *Ndigbo* ON THE STATE OF THE NATION

The Executive Committee of *Ohanaeze Ndigbo* in a special session held on Saturday, 30th January 2010 at her Head Office, No. 7 Park Avenue, G.R.A., Enugu, after deliberating on the continued absence of Mr. President and its impact on the state of the Nation, resolved on behalf of *Ndigbo* as follows:-

1. *Ndigbo* are unrelenting in our prayers for the good health of Mr. President, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua *GCFR*. We wish him quick recovery and early return to his duties.
2. *Ndigbo* are happy and satisfied with the deep sense of responsibility and patriotism with which His Excellency, Vice President Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan *GCON* has continued to keep Nigeria at peace inspite of the long absence of the President and the obvious turbulence the absence has continued to create. We commend Mr. Vice President for this maturity and his love for Nigeria.
3. *Ndigbo* are not satisfied and totally disagree with the current situation in which the President is seriously ill and receiving treatment abroad for over two (2) months, and the Vice President is not bestowed with the status of Acting President. *Ndigbo* consider it inappropriate and unhelpful on the side of the President for not transmitting his long absence to the National Assembly and making provision for the Vice President to assume full responsibility as Acting President. We urge Mr. President to immediately rectify this unacceptable situation. *Ndigbo* stand by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
4. We commend the action of the Senate in asking the President to transmit a medical vacation letter to the Senate and urge them to pursue this to its logical conclusion. We urge the Distinguished Senators of the Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Honourable Members of the House of Representatives to take-up their responsibility and set in motion the process for bestowing on the Vice President the status of Acting President without further delay pending the return of the President.
5. *Ndigbo* call on all Nigerians to realize that the way and manner the issue of the President's absence in relation to the status of the Vice President is currently being handled puts the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria into jeopardy. *Ndigbo* urge all Nigerians to note that whatever puts the Constitution in jeopardy puts the Nation in jeopardy. All steps must now be urgently taken to put an end to this machination at putting the Constitution and the integrity of the nation in jeopardy. We urge all Nigerians to step forward now and make sure that the position and prestige of the Vice President as provided in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is not diminished or undermined.



Amb. Raph Uwechue OFR
President-General
Ohanaeze Ndigbo



EDUCATION SECRETARIAT
FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the underlisted schools have been granted full accreditation and are therefore licensed to operate as educational institutions at the locations as indicated below in the FCT. The accreditation hereby granted will expire in November 2013, when they are expected to submit themselves for re-accreditation.

All institutions that have begun the process of accreditation are encouraged to expedite action so that they can attain the status of full accreditation.

Meanwhile, institutions that have not submitted themselves at all for accreditation are hereby advised in their own interest to begin the process of registration or risk being sanctioned in accordance with the law.

1. Christabel Private School, Wuse Abuja.
2. Divine Mercy Secondary School Asokoro Abuja Basic and Senior.
3. Glisten International Academy, Jabi
4. Lugbe International School Lugbe Abuja.
5. Government Secondary School, Wuse Abuja.
6. Government Secondary School, Airport Abuja.
7. Noble Height Academy, Karu, Abuja.
8. Junior Secondary School, Jabi Abuja.
9. Legacy Academy Jabi Abuja.
10. Grande Ville Life Camp Abuja.
11. Ladela Day Secondary School Garki Abuja Senior.
12. Government Secondary School, Garki Area 10 Abuja
13. Light Way Academy, 58 Paraku Street Wuse II Abuja Basic.
14. Esteem International School Wuse Zone 4 Abuja.
15. Premiere Academy Lugbe Abuja (Basic).
16. Cherry Field College Jikwoyi Abuja Basic.
17. Jolatsen Basic Academy Dagiri, Gwagwalada Abuja.
18. Government Secondary School, Gwagwalada Abuja.
19. School for the Gifted Gwagwalada Abuja.
20. Government Junior Secondary School, Old Kutunku Gwagwalada Abuja.
21. La-Vogue International School, Kurudu-Karshi Road, Abuja (Basic).
22. Living Spring International Secondary School, Senior / Basic Gwarimpa.
23. ARWA Basic School Wuse Zone 4 Abuja.
24. Hifford International School Bwari Abuja Basic.
25. Government Secondary School, Bwari Abuja.
26. Shining Star Collage Kubwa Abuja Basic/ Senior
27. Government Day Secondary School, Kubwa Abuja.
28. Oasis International School Lugbe (Basic)
29. Ozuke International Academy Kubwa Abuja (Basic).
30. Abuja Capital International College Gwarimpa Abuja.
31. Government Girls' Science Secondary School, Kuje Abuja.
32. Best Brain International Academy Bwari Abuja Basic/Senior.
33. Great Height Academy Kado Estate Abuja
34. Government Secondary School, Kuje Abuja.
35. Capital Science Academy Kuje Abuja.
36. Angel Crown Basic School Gidan mangoro Abuja.
37. Sheikh Hamdan Modern Senior Secondary School, Gwagwalada Abuja.
38. Hayil Said Model Basic School Gwagwalada Abuja
39. Government Secondary School, Kwali Abuja.
40. Raberto Basic School, Wuse II Abuja.
41. Anglican Girls Grammar School Apo (Senior).
42. Stella Maris School Area 1 Garki Abuja (Basic).
43. Omil International School Dutse Alhaji Abuja.
44. Chelston International School Gwagwalada Abuja (Basic/Senior).
45. The Royals School Kuje Abuja (Basic).
46. Junior Secondary School, Pegi Kuje
47. Jolatsen Senior Secondary School Paiko- Deshi Gwagwalada Abuja.
48. Government Secondary School, Dobi Gwagwalada Abuja.
49. De- Kapital School Bwari Abuja (Basic).
50. Total Child School Dutse Makaranta Bwari Abuja (Basic/ Senior)
51. St. Theresa's Catholic Education School Bwari Abuja (Basic).
52. Junior Secondary School, Gwagwa Abuja.
53. Catherina International Academy Dutse Alhaji (Basic).
54. Unity High School Kubwa (Basic)
55. Government Secondary School, Jiwa Abuja.
56. Government Secondary School, Tungan Maje Abuja.
57. Intelligent Quotient Academy Garki Abuja.
58. Model Secondary School Maitama.
59. Word of Faith Secondary School Garki Abuja.
60. Word of Faith School Garki Abuja (Basic).
61. Africa Community School (Basic) Asokoro.
62. Oasis International College Lugbe (Senior).
63. Delphia Kiddies Land School Lugbe FHA (Basic).
64. Government Science Secondary School, Pyakasa.
65. King of Kings Academy Lugbe (Basic).
66. Junior Secondary School, Life Camp Abuja.
67. Regina Pacis Collage Garki Abuja Basic.
68. Fou'ad Lababidi Islamic Academy (Basic/ Senior).
69. Fou'ad Lababidi Islamic Academy (Senior).
70. City Royal Secondary School Nyanya (Basic).
71. Shalom Children Academy Karu (Basic).
72. Government Secondary School, Karshi Abuja.
73. Esty Foundation N/P School Kubwa Basic.
74. Golden Gate Universal School Kubwa (Basic).
75. Royal Destiny International School Kubwa.
76. Rahinna Model N/P School Jikwoyi (Basic/ Senior)
77. Aisha Comprehensive Education School Area II Abuja.
78. City Royal Secondary School Nyanya (Senior).
79. King of Kings Academy Lugbe (Senior).
80. Light Way Academy Wuse II Abuja.
81. Baliz School Trust Wuse II Abuja.
82. Christ the King Collage Junior Secondary School, Gwagwalada Abuja.
83. Olumawu Education School, Wuse Zone II (Basic).
84. Prime Scholars, Karu.
85. Junior Secondary School, Jabi by MOPOL Barracks.
86. Stella Maris Collage Life Camp Abuja.
87. Napo Private School Maitama.
88. Christ Academy International School Gwagwalada Abuja Basic.
89. Eduvision International School Gwako Gwagwalada Abuja.
90. Prince of Life Academy Gwagwalada Abuja.
91. Royal Rainbow International School Lugbe.
92. Louisville Senior Girls Secondary School Gwagwalada.
93. Louisville Girls Junior Secondary School Gwagwalada.
94. Eucharistic Heart of Jesus Model School Kubwa.
95. Government Girls' Science Secondary School, Dutse - Abuja.
96. Jewel Model Secondary School Kubwa.
97. Jewel Model School Kubwa (Basic).
98. Mater Misericordiae N/P School Nyanya.
99. Government Secondary School, Yangoji Abuja
100. Divine Mercy Secondary School Asokoro (Senior).
101. Cedar International Secondary School Byazhin Kubwa.
102. Baptist High School Kubwa.
103. Emmanuella School Gwarimpa Abuja (Basic).
104. Best Children International School Gwarimpa Abuja.
105. Unity High School Kubwa.
106. African Child School Kubwa (Basic).
107. Cedar International School Byazihin Kubwa (Basic).
108. King Comprehensive College Dei-Dei (Basic)
109. King Comprehensive College Dei-Dei (Senior).
110. Unique International Academy (Basic) Bwari
111. Light of Day N/P (Basic) School, Kubwa.
112. Adeola Basic School Kubwa
113. Junior Secondary School, Pai
114. Junior Secondary School, Kado-Kuchi
115. Bristol Kiddies Academy, Karu
116. Pace Setters' Academy, Wuse District (Basic)
117. Pace Setters' Academy, Wuse Zone 7)
118. Pace Setters' Academy, Gwarimpa Estate
119. Pace Setters' Academy, Gwarimpa (Senior)
120. Pace Setters' Academy, Wuse District (Senior)
121. Government Secondary School, Yaba-Abuja
122. Premier International School, Wuse II
123. St. Aloysius School, Garki (Basic)
124. Solid Rock International School, Lugbe
125. Solid Foundation Kiddies College, Kubwa (Basic)
126. Nelson Mandela School, Nyanya (Basic)
127. Ave-Maria Boys'/Girls' College, Nyanya and Jikwoyi
128. Government Secondary School, Pandagi
129. Sam Kings International School, Karu
130. Abuja Comprehensive College, Nyanya (Basic)
131. Abuja Comprehensive College, Nyanya (Senior)
132. American International School, Abuja
133. International Community School, Wuse II
134. Heritage Academy, Wuse II
135. Steady Flow International School, Dutse-Alhaji
136. Great Heights Academy, Kado Estate
137. Glory International Academy, Karu
138. Dayspring International School, Kubwa
139. Glory and Praise International School, Kuje (Basic)
140. Besnaya Victory ECWA Nursery and Primary School, Nyanya
141. Loremm International School, Maitama
142. Banky's Private School, Gaduwa Estate
143. Treasure Home Crèche Nursery and Primary School, FHA Lugbe
144. Prince and Princess Ultra Modern School, Kubwa
145. Parliament International School, Apo Legislative Quarters
146. St. Cecilia International School, Dei-Dei, Abuja
147. Grace Garden International School, Maitama
148. Kenji Angel School, Jikwoyi
149. Jennif Angel School, Wuse Zone 6 (Basic)
150. Star Divine Heritage International School, Kubwa
151. Christ the King College (Basic and Senior), Gwagwalada
152. Excellent Grade, Kubwa
153. Iqra'a Nursery/ Primary school FHA Lugbe
154. Al-manar Basic Education School Life Camp
155. Treasure House Montessori, Asokoro-Abuja
156. Handmaids International School, Area 3 Garki-Abuja
157. Al-Ilimu Nursery and Primary School, Kubwa-Abuja
158. Model Primary School, Maitama-Abuja
159. LEA Primary School, Kayarda-Kuje
160. LEA Primary, Apo Village-Abuja
161. Model Science Primary School, Garki II-Abuja
162. LEA Primary School, Phase II, Gwagwalada-Abuja
163. Stage 1 International School, Kubwa-Abuja
164. Funtaj International School (Senior), Kuje-Abuja
165. Toddler's Haven Basic Education school Kontagora estate G/Ladas
166. Nurul Bayan International Academy, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja (Basic/ Senior)
167. Fountain Nursery and Primary School, Karu- Jikwoyi, Abuja
168. Hayatul Islamic Nursery and Primary School, Karu- Abuja
169. Bafat Victory Academy, Karu-Abuja
170. Africa International College Kaura District-Abuja (Senior).
171. Africa International College (Kaura District, -Abuja (Basic).
172. Margaret Thelma International School, Karu - Abuja
173. Lumen Christi Nursery and Primary School, Durumi- Abuja
174. Holy Child Private School, Dutse-Abuja
175. Sunrise international School, Asokoro-Abuja
176. Top hill Nursery and Primary School, Wuse Zone 5- Abuja
177. Glory and Praise International School (Senior), Kuje-Abuja
178. Rightway Kiddies Academy, Gaduwa Estate-Abuja
179. Lead British International School (Basic), Gwarimpa- Abuja
180. Lead British International School (Senior), Gwarimpa-Abuja
181. NERDC National Model School, Shade-Kwali-Abuja
182. El-Amin International School, Maitama-Abuja
183. Nigeria-Turkish International School Wuse II - Abuja (Basic/Senior)
184. New Capital School, Asokoro - Abuja
185. Funtaj International Nursery and Primary School, Asokoro - Abuja
186. Kubwa School of Islamic Studies, Kubwa - Abuja
187. Adonai International Nursery and Primary School, Gwagwalada - Abuja
188. Madonna International Nursery and Primary School, Gwagwalada Phase III
189. Dayful Nursery and Primary School, Gwagwalada - Abuja
190. Jethrone Academy, Kubwa-Abuja
191. AT.VIC International Academy Dutse-Alhaji (Basic).
192. Suzz Tenderly Academy, Gwagwalada-Abuja (Basic)
193. Whole Person Academy, Kubwa - Abuja
194. Denalice Nursery and Primary School, Dutse-Alhaji, Abuja
195. Al-Mohass International School, Gwagwalada - Abuja
196. Trinity International School, Karu - Abuja
197. Divine Mercy Secondary School, Asokoro - Abuja
198. Footsteps International School, Gwarimpa - Abuja
199. Livingstone Nursery and Primary School, Gwarimpa - Abuja
200. Loremm International School, Maitama - Abuja
201. American International School, Durumi - Abuja
202. Rayino International School, Deidei (Basic)
203. The Siloam Schools Gwarimpa (Basic)
204. The Hillside School Gwarimpa (Basic)
205. Capville Schools Gwarimpa (Basic)
206. FOMWAN Basic Education school Wuse II
207. British-Nigeria Academy (Senior/basic), Prince and Princess Estate, Abuja
208. Ben - Nice International Academy Saburi Estate Abuja.
209. Perfect Step International School Karu Abuja Basic.
210. Starville Children's Academy Gwarimpa.

Signed
R.E. Umana
Director

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THE naira may soon give way to an African common currency.

Africa to have a common currency

• Nigeria hosts African central bank

AFRICAN countries intend to have a common currency, Dr Maxwell Mkwezalamba, the Commissioner for Economic Affairs of the African Union Commission (AUC) has said.

Mkwezalamba made the statement at a news conference yesterday in Addis Ababa.

He said the African Investment Bank and the African Monetary Fund would also be established.

Mkwezalamba said that the protocol establishing these institutions was adopted at the last AU Summit in Libya.

"Nigeria will host the African Central Bank, while the African Investment Bank will be in Libya. "The African Monetary Fund will be sited in Cameroon," he was quoted him saying.

Mkwezalamba said that the AUC had been working in collaboration with the Association of African Central Banks on the regional central bank.

He said that the Nigerian government had identified offices which would be used for the bank, while the AUC had secured office accommodation for African Monetary Fund in Cameroon.

Mkwezalamba said that the formation of the central bank meant that national central banks would cede part of their functions to the regional bank.

Besides, Mkwezalamba said that NEPAD had been transformed to NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency (NPCA) and the new agency would operate under the aegis of AUC Chairman Jean Ping.

He said that the budget of NPCA would be incorporated into the budget of the AUC, while its other sources of finance, including contributions from member states, would be identified.

Reacting to concerns that the new investment bank would be a duplication of

the African Development Bank (AfDB), Mkwezalamba said that the two banks would play complementary roles.

Mkwezalamba conceded that AfDB was playing a very important role in financing Africa's development, adding, however, that Africa had only 60 per cent equity in the bank.

He also said that while the AfDB financed projects in African countries, the African Investment Bank would finance only regional projects.

On the central bank, Mkwezalamba said that there would be some emerging challenges when the bank became operational.

"Inflation numbers would converge, as inflation rates vary from country to country," he said, adding that there would be a need to bring the inflation rates to a uniform and manageable level. (NAN).

FG engages new consultant on Mambilla power project

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE Federal government has engaged a new consultant to undertake a detailed review of the feasibility study done on the proposed 2,600MW Mambilla hydro power station, the Minister of Power, Lanre Babalola, has said.

The Minister in a statement signed by Yakubu Lawal, his Special Assistant on Media, said the step was part of efforts aimed at improving power supply in the New Year, adding that contract for the tender document in respect of the Zungeru power station has since been awarded. The Minister's statement did not mention the engaged consultancy firm and the amount involved in the consultancy deal.

As part of diversification strategy to shore up operations in the power sector, according to the Minister, preliminary work have been concluded on the proposed 215MW dual fired -Low pour fuel /Gas power plant in Kaduna, 300MW coal-fired power plant, 250MW crude/gas fired power plant, 700MW hydro-power plant in Zungeru and 50MW small and Mini hydro-power plants. The projects are expected to deliver power in 3-4 years. The Minister also listed a number of ongoing rehabilitation projects aimed at improving power supply in 2010 to include 130MW Afam V, 200MW in Delta, 200MW Afam VI, and 90MW from Jebba hydro power and 440Mw from unit 6 in Lagos thermal station in Egbin.

In order to engage the private sector effectively in power business, the Minister said Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) and Gas Supply Purchase Agreement (GSPA) as well as Gas Transportation Agreement (GTA) have been drafted in line with international standard to facilitate private sector involvement in the industry.

Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$42.47bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$6.7bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Interest Ratio	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$74 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 3,700MW
Oil output per day	→ 1.9mbd

CBN EXCHANGE RATES				BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)		
CFA	0.2996	0.3096	0.3196	BUYING	
DANISH KRONER	27.9142	28.0088	28.1033	DOLLAR	N151
EURO	207.9073	208.6115	209.3156	EURO	N208
POUNDS STERLING	237.9648	238.7708	239.5767	POUNDS	N249
RIYAL	39.368	39.5014	39.6347	SELLING	
SDR	230.3072	231.0873	231.8673	DOLLAR	N152
SWISS FRANC	141.2322	141.7105	142.1888	EURO	N210
US DOLLAR	147.63	148.13	148.63	POUNDS	N252
WAUA	229.9356	230.7144	231.4931	Source: S&P Bureau de Change, Wise Zone 4, Abuja.	
YEN	1.6456	1.6512	1.6568		

Stock Market Index	
Date:	Tuesday, February 2, 2010
Index:	23,096.17
Deal:	7,468
Volume:	537,958,569
Value:	N 4,445,880,908.64
Cap.:	N 5,562,309,104,003.86

COMMUNIQUE OF THE PLATEAU STATE INDIGENES DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (PSIDA)
ABUJA AT AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STAKEHOLDERS ON

SUNDAY, 24, JANUARY, 2010

The Special Council/Stakeholders Meeting of the Plateau State Indigenes Development Association (PSIDA), Abuja, comprising all the Executive Committee Members, Chairmen and Secretaries of Associations and Branches of PSIDA in the six FCT Area Councils and Environs held on January, 24, 2010. The meeting reviewed and deliberated extensively on the recent January 17, 2010 Jos crisis and resolved as follows.

1. PSIDA commiserates with the Government and People of Plateau State over the loss of lives and properties and expresses its heartfelt condolences to all affected persons.

2. PSIDA commends the Federal and State Governments for restoring order to Plateau State and further commends the "Vice President", **Dr. Goodluck Jonathan** and his entourage for personally taking time to visit the affected people and areas.

3. PSIDA also commends the efforts of all individuals and organizations, both in the public and private sectors, who, have provided physical and psycho-social support to affected persons

4. PSIDA re-affirms its support and loyalty to the Plateau State Government under **Governor Jonah Jang** and resolves to continue supporting it to restore total, lasting and sustainable peace to the state.

5. PSIDA condemns in totality, the incessant destruction of properties, unprovoked, reckless and wanton killings, of innocent lives irrespective of their ethnic and religious persuasions.

6. PSIDA condemns the specific attacks on worship places which are factors in escalating disputes which should, ordinarily be resolved through dialogue and legal processes. The attempt to stop a person from completing a structure, if true, **CANNOT** justify the carnage that has taken place.

7. PSIDA calls for the immediate prosecution of all arrested persons by the appropriate law enforcement agencies. PSIDA also notes the fact that persons arrested in the 2008 crisis were brought to Abuja despite protests from the State Government on matters of jurisdiction. PSIDA regrets that this decision lends credence to rumours that there is an ulterior motive to temper with the process of justice.

8. PSIDA calls for the immediate prosecution of all indicted persons, identified by previous Commissions of Inquiry to serve as deterrent to other miscreants.

9. PSIDA notes that the people of Plateau State have lived in peace with other Nigerians (Yoruba, Igbo, Fulani etc) who are amongst the early migrants to Plateau Highlands and appreciates the diversity of the State which is made up of over 50 ethnic groups. It however observes that the Hausa community, **ALONE** has been associated with all previous crisis in Plateau and ventures to pose the question: Of which ethnic groups are associated with similar crisis in Shagamu, Agege, Aba, Kaduna, Tafawa-Balewa, Kafanchan, Zangon Kataf, etc? In the same vein, PSIDA ventures to ask which ethnic/religious groups are associated with the Maitasine, Boko Haram, Kala-Kato, etc crises in past years. Can all these be attributed to the so called religious and ethnic chauvinists in Plateau State? PSIDA also poses the same question: In the wave of these various crises over the years, is it Plateau people who looted properties of the Ibo, Yoruba, Urhobo, Itsekiri etc?

10. In view of "9" above, PSIDA calls on Government to have an immediate dialogue with the Hausa group to enable it live as

other tribes are doing in Plateau.

11. PSIDA notes that the politico-religious tolerance of Plateau State has enabled the following positions to be filled according to accepted constitutional provisions that guarantee such rights to residents of any community:

- a. Hon. Shehu Sale Hassan-Member-House of Representatives (2003-2007)
- b. Hon. Ismaila Mohammed. - Hon Member - House of Representatives (2007-Date)
- c. Hon. Ibrahim Baba Hassan - Deputy Speaker - Plateau State House of Assembly (2007-Date) All these are Hausa/Muslim Members of Jos.

12. PSIDA considers the calls for the balkanization of Plateau State as a solution to lasting peace as unwarranted, unconstitutional and a figment of the imagination of undemocratic elements.

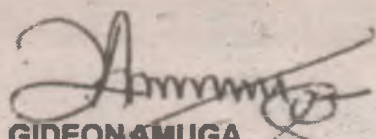
13. PSIDA notes that the failed call by Senator Kanti Bello from Katsina State for the re-enactment of a state of emergency in Plateau State on the floor of the Senate and the purported move for same in the House of Representatives lend support to an ethnic agenda by the Hausa community. Shouldn't the Distinguished Senator have risen to call for a State of Emergency in Bauchi, and Borno States when Boko Haram slaughtered innocent Nigerians, including religious leaders inside their places of worship in those states?

14. PSIDA calls on Government to ensure that the criminal investigations of this crisis include the actions of the Army as its neutrality is currently in serious doubt. (Note the allegations contained in the The Nation Newspaper of Wednesday January 27, 2010 Pg 19 titled 'Jos: The "fire" this time'). This will also unravel the sources of uniforms and sophisticated weapons used by some of the miscreants which contributed to casualties as innocent people ran into enemy fire, thinking it was the Nigerian Army. PSIDA considers the takeover of security by the Army as a coup on the state. This situation should be reversed to a Joint Task Force of Army and Police, immediately.

15. PSIDA notes the incessant use of military weapons in crisis situations in Plateau State and calls for a disarmament program, similar to the actions in the Niger Delta.

16. PSIDA strongly condemns the immediate redeployment of the former Plateau State Commissioner of Police. This similar action was taken in 2008. PSIDA wishes to observe that this creates a situation where Security Operatives who are at sites of crisis, have difficulty in speaking the truth.

17. **Conclusion** - PSIDA commends all persons and organizations that have based their reportage of this sad situation on facts rather than sentiments. PSIDA commits itself to work with all Stakeholders - Public and Private to contribute towards lasting and sustainable peace in Plateau and Nigeria at large.



GIDEON AMUGA
Secretary, Board of Trustees.
25th January, 2010
Abuja.

Business

No plan to limit shareholders' interest in banks - CBN

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) said on Monday that it does not intend to limit the percentage of shareholding of investors in Nigerian banks.

There have been speculations over plans by the apex bank to limit the shareholding percentage of Nigerian investors in order to allow foreign partners to take over.

But CBN said such action would not only negate the provisions of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 1991 as amended but also the Nigerian Enterprises Promotion Act which encourage unfettered participation of both local and foreign investors in all Nigerian enterprises, including the banking sector.

"For the avoidance of doubt, sections 5.1.3 of the Code of Corporate Governance for Banks in Nigeria issued by the CBN in March 2006 requires shareholders who wish to own more than 10 per cent equity shares in any Nigerian bank to obtain the prior written approval of the Central Bank"

CBN, in a statement signed by its head, corporate Affairs, M.M.Abdullahi, also explained that it has not set credit approval limits for banks.

"CBN wishes to inform the general public that this position is untrue as the circular only provides guidance on the minimum disclosures by banks and discount houses in their annual accounts to enhance transparency and ensure standardization in financial reporting in annual financial statements. The figures in the circular are therefore merely hypothetical figures that do not in any way represent credit approval limits set by the CBN.

"For the avoidance of doubt, the primary responsibility for managing banks and discount houses rests with the Boards and Managements of those institutions, a position that the CBN recognizes and respects", it said

"The CBN has not and will not impose approval limits for banks and discount houses as those are matters of discretion for the Boards and Management of those institutions"

Aso Savings rewards customers

By Tina A. Hassan

A customer of Aso Savings and loans Plc Mr. Aremu Yekini Olayiwola has won a three-bedroom bungalow at Karu, a sub urban area of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, as star prize in the Aso My House customer reward promotion held at the weekend in Abuja.

More than a hundred and fifty winners emerged and won various prizes ranging from Flat screen television, Deep freezers, Chest freezers and Micro wave ovens as consolation prizes in the promotion.

Presenting the prize to winner, Managing Director of the bank Hassan Usman said the promotion is to appreciate loyal customers of bank who participated in the Aso My House promotion by saving up to 30 percent of the amount required to own a house in the promo.

He said: "Once you put up the 30 percent required for buying a house, we would lend you the 70 percent to buy the house. Our main objective is to expand the pool of savings so that we can encourage people to participate using this promotion as a platform.

"This is our first time of doing this and we hope to this at intervals and hope to do it once more this year and the benefit of the various



MANAGING Director of Aso Savings and Loans Plc Hassan Usman (right) and Executive Director of Product and Marketing of the bank Hajiya Maimuna Aliyu at the Aso Housing promo in Abuja weekend:

types of accounts is basically to own a house and reduce the housing deficit in the country.

While responding to the news through a phone call placed to him, Mr. Olayiwola had this to say "more grease to your elbow and thank you."

The new My House account is a non-withdrawing account that gives the holder the opportunity to save towards a mortgage with three savings options of minimum opening balance of N20-74,000, N75-499,999 and N500,000 in the Pearl, Ruby and Black Diamond accounts respectively.

Some of the winners who spoke with Daily Trust expressed confidence and satisfaction with what some described as 'transparent' selection of winners in the promo.

One of the winners of a deep freezer Mrs. Funke Abdullahi, said she initially did not believe that the promotion is true but decided to come anyway and is glad that she came.

She said: "When I wanted to come this morning, my husband was even saying that I would not get anything but see I won a deep freezer, I am really shocked and surprised."

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Star Feature

New frontiers in auto theft

Criminals employ new methods of depriving motorists of their vehicles, even as a security expert gives reasons and panacea for the trend

By Tosin Omoniye

FOR 35 year old Muniru Adebajo, one incident he is not quick to forget in a hurry, is his brush with death few years back along the Lagos Ibadan expressway. According to him every time he thinks about the incident, he still breaks out in cold sweat. It also further showed him that indeed the country still requires a lot in order to tackle the security challenges, encountered by motorists on the nation's numerous highways.

He narrates: 'I was coming back from a wedding ceremony of a friend which had just taken place in Lagos, and I was in high spirits remembering the huge success of the event. A few kilometers to Ibadan, a young man dressed like an auto mechanic flagged me down by pointing in the direction of my left tyre. He was energetically doing this, prompting me to believe that there was something wrong with the tyre. Without a second thought, I drove a few yards more then stopped. My first inclination was to come out of the vehicle in order to inspect the tyre. But I was driven to look at the rear mirror first. What I saw made me change my mind instantly. By the side bushes I suddenly noticed some movements which made me to pause momentarily. The young man that stopped me in the first place was hurrying towards me. From where I was parked I could see the glint of metal objects, which revealed to me that the persons hiding in the bushes were probably armed. Then I remembered another incident in which a friend of mine was robbed in broad daylight in the same process. I

didn't need anyone to persuade me to leave the place immediately. I didn't even care if the tyre was actually faulty like the young man indicated. I immediately zoomed off. I didn't stop until I reached an area which I could reasonably ascertain as safe. When I came down to check my vehicle I found out that there was nothing wrong with the tyres. I do not know if I would have been alive today had I stayed to check my vehicle when I was flagged down.'

Adebajo says that ever since the incident, he has learnt never to stop anywhere on the highway in his frequent travels. He adds that he equally ensures that his vehicle is in the correct condition anytime he travels, so as not to encounter mechanical problems that would tempt him to stop on the highway. 'Our highways are very dangerous and nothing seems to be done by the authorities to stem the tide of criminal activities on these roads. Motorists have learnt to take fate in their hands anytime they travel. This is not good enough.'

Adebajo may be fortunate. However an artiste, Mike Nwadike (not real name) recounts how his very first vehicle was snatched at gun point few years back, when he was still engaged in interstate performances. He said that as at then he was not financially buoyant enough to take flights, and he had to rely on the magnanimity of colleagues in the industry who loaned him entertainment gadgets and band members, which he used to perform in the states where he was called to. On this particular occasion he had been travelling towards a south east-

ern state when he was flagged down by a scruffy looking kid who pointed to his tyres. On getting down from his vehicle to inspect the tyres the kid had already strolled up to him offering to assist. His tyres according to him had already deflated. As he went towards the boot of his car to remove the spare tyre, he suddenly realized that he had company. A group of 3 other youths had suddenly gathered around him wielding dangerous weapons. No one needed to tell him that he was being robbed. 'I lost everything I had on me that day. My vehicle was not even the most valuable thing that day. I had many important items including some vital documents in the car. I was not allowed to remove anything. I could only watch in shock as the youths climbed into my vehicle and sped off. I was just lucky that they did not hurt me as I could see that they were under the influence of alcohol and probably drugs' Today, Nwadike is moderately wealthy but the incident according to him, is one sore that has refused to heal even several years after.

Many Nigerians have been robbed of their vehicles through this method. While some were able to recover their cars, others still are yet to recover such vehicles. Ironically while the method is no longer an innovative one, many still fall prey to such tactics which are used to deprive motorists of their vehicles.

Ben Okezie, a security consultant and media aide to erstwhile Inspector General of Police, Mike Mbama Okiro, says that snatching of vehicles and robbery on the nation's

highways dates back to the days of Jaguda, a notorious armed robber that tormented security agents in the early post independent era when robbery was still at an infant stage. According to him, Jaguda (interestingly a Yoruba tag meaning 'thief') was a kingpin who added glamour to armed robbery on the highways. 'Jaguda used to waylay people as they were travelling along the highways, especially those trailing into vast villages. He especially preyed on those who were returning from the markets usually on known market days. Although he utilized crude weapons in order to deprive his victims of their possessions, he was nevertheless very ineffective. After many successful operations, his name became linked primarily with highway robbery and he struck fear into victims and police men alike. At the mere mention of his name, many would even scamper for safety without waiting to know if he was actually in the vicinity. By the time he was actually captured by the authorities he had carved a name for himself as the king of highway bandits. Many believe that his unsavory activities actually levels up in stature and prominence even with deadly robbers like the infamous Anini, due to the uncountable victims that fell under his cruelty.'

He adds an interesting twist to the emergence of highway robbery: 'the fallout of the civil strife, the Biafran war also led to the blossoming of highway robbery. Many war veterans who could not stand the dreary life after the civil war found solace in the trade, which brought money and fame to them. Many

of them did not actually relinquish their weapons to the federal government as widely speculated. They used these weapons to terrorize motorists on the highway. What these characters usually do and which many modern day highway robbers still do is to place sharp objects on the road with the hope that these will puncture the tires of any vehicle that runs over it. The objects may be oranges that have been pierced with nails or polythene bags that contains an assortment of very sharp objects. A car which runs over these is not likely to go far they reason. And once the motorist makes the mistake of coming down from the vehicle to inspect the damage to the vehicle they would be all over him or her like flies, and will rob the motorists of possessions and of course in some cases the car. In some peculiar cases, some even make use of commercial motorcyclists popularly known as okada riders, who will walk up to you offering to help you only to turn on you to rob you or hold you up, pending the time their accomplices will come to assist. Motorists who pick up stray girls or women of easy virtue on the way, have equally been known to have fallen prey to the antics of highway robbers. Most of these girls are agents of the robbers utilized to trick motorists into opening up access to the cars. The list of antics of these robbers is actually limitless with new ones emerging on a daily basis.'

The security pundit may actually be right on the mark with his last assertion. Indications are rife that even inside major cities, Abuja inclusive, a new way of snatch-



THEFT of cars is taking a new

ing vehicles is slowly emerging. According to findings gathered, all what intending car snatchers need to do nowadays is to go to spots where many cars are parked as a result of ceremonies taking place. Such ceremonies may include parties, get together by club members or even religious services in which cars are parked in close proximity. A notice is usually passed on to the master of ceremony in such gatherings that a particular vehicle(s) was wrongly parked or obstructing the passage of another car. The owner of the 'offending' vehicle was usually implored to come and remove his or her car. When such a car owner eventually comes out to remove the car, he or she may be robbed at gunpoint as soon as the car doors are opened. Although few people have actually been reportedly robbed through this method, it is apparent that the



dimension across states of the federation

travelling through, as you don't know when they may be useful. Also avoid picking up people you do not know as they may be criminal agents. Avoid driving through secluded area as much as possible. Ensure that your car is in top shape before travelling especially the four tyres. When you are pressed during travels, do not stop to relieve yourself until you get to a relatively safe area. When you notice any vehicle trailing you on the highway, drive straight to the nearest police station to lodge a complaint. Night travel still remains dangerous, avoid it like a plague. For those who are called out during gatherings to move their vehicles from an obstructing point, never go alone to move such vehicles. Go with a partner. If you cannot find a partner, then study the position and surrounding of your vehicle from a safe distance to ascertain if it is truly blocking another car or if assailants are waiting to pounce on you.'

He offers a word of caution though: 'Never argue or struggle with an assailant who is armed and dangerous. It is better to relinquish your possession than to lose your life. Call the police immediately. Police commands, especially within the FCT are already utilizing the cordoning tactic and motorized surveillance which is making retrieval of stolen vehicles and arrest of criminals much easier, even as low as few minutes after such crimes have been committed...'

method has already been hatched and perfected by a select few of criminals who are relying on the usual gullibility and careless nature of Nigerians. Due to the emergence of this new trend, most organizations, especially churches, have employed the services of park security operatives who have the duty of patrolling parking lots of such places in order to prevent the operations of such criminal minded individuals. Churches like the Mountain of Fire Ministries, Abuja even make use of the services of patrol teams from the police in order to safeguard the vehicles of their members during services. However, despite all these measures bandits still continue to hold sway in most cities on a daily basis, snatching vehicles from their owners with impunity.

Consulting Editor, the Dawn newspapers, Force headquarters Abuja, Anikwe Ogbuagwu believes that the mindset of most Nigerians do not reflect security consciousness. This he believes results in so many cases of car theft and other crimes, that still deprive many of their possessions. He says that until Nigerians begin to imbibe the habit of being aware of their security needs and how to meet such, then they would continue to fall victim of criminal elements. 'How many Nigerians actually have

police hotlines or phone numbers of police commands, they can put calls to in times of extreme security emergencies? I can assure you not many have these. More worrisome also is that not many Nigerians do also know the importance of having access to these numbers. Having these hotlines are actually easy and ironically, this may be the thin line between life and death, in times of critical security emergencies and cases of crime.'

Okezie buttresses the need to possess police hotlines. 'It is good for people to have these police hotlines at their finger tips. The Nigeria Police is slowly reasserting itself, and people need to reignite their trust in them. Having the hotline with me saved not only me but others, during an armed robbery operation on the Okene highway few years back. The police responded

exactly 5 minutes after I put a call through to them. It saved us from danger and still saves people even today.'

He offers some useful preventive and solution tips people could use during times of acute danger: 'Be aware that crime cannot be totally eradicated in the society. This should stimulate your ability to be careful and security conscious at all times. When on the highway especially at top speed, avoid running over any material on the road as it may contain puncturing objects. When you come across road blocks manned by the police, endeavor to ascertain if they are truly policemen before stopping. The Nigeria Police now have special shoulder badges which cannot be counterfeited by criminals. Always have the numbers of the police commands of the states you are

“A notice is usually passed on to the master of ceremony in such gatherings that a particular vehicle(s) was wrongly parked or obstructing the passage of another car. The owner of the 'offending' vehicle was usually implored to come and remove his or her car. When such a car owner eventually comes out to remove the car, he or she may be robbed at gunpoint as soon as the car doors are opened.

Business/Agric

Nigeria to benefit from \$1mn yam research grant

By Tina A. Hassan

NIGERIA and five other countries in West and Central Africa are to benefit from a \$1 million yam research fund from the European Union-African, Caribbean and Pacific Science and Technology Program (EU-ACP) for improving yam research.

The research project tagged, "Strengthening Capacity for Yam Research-for-development in Central and Western Africa (SCYReC)" is targeted at improving the capacity of yam in the selected regions.

As a leading partner in research in Africa, the International Institute for tropical Agriculture (IITA) has been selected to manage and implement the project in collaboration with a team of partners in 13 research institutions in the six selected countries in the region.

The project Coordina-

tor of the IITA-SCYReC David Annang, described the project as "something good for the region where Yam plays an important role nutrition and economic well-being of the people."

He said he is hopeful

that the project would go a long way in tackling the many challenges facing increased yam production because the crop faces a lot of limitations despite its contribution to ensuring food security.

He listed some of the

limitations of yam cultivation to include high cost of planting materials and labor, inadequate yield potential of varieties, decrease in soil fertility and the increasing levels of field storage, pest and diseases associated with

intensive cultivation.

Labour requirement in yam cultivation like mounding, staking especially in the zone, weeding and harvesting far exceeds those of other starchy staples like cassava, he said.

He said about 40 percent of yam production costs is on

labor while 50 percent expenditure goes into other planting materials.

According to Annang, another difficulty faced by yam farmers is that they must set aside at least 30 percent of their harvest for the next farming season.

Fadama III partners farmers on rice production

By Tina A. Hassan

IN its bid to boost rice farming and production in Nigeria, the third National Fadama Development Project (fadama III) is to partner with the farmers and the national centre for Agricultural mechanization (NCAM).

Speaking at a collaborative meeting in Abuja, National Project Coordinator of Fadama III Bukar Tijani said the project is designed to uplift the living standard of users of land and water resources in the rural areas by increasing their income through good farm yield.

He said rice production can help fight poverty through employment generation which is possible if agricultural activities are improved in the rural areas for income generation.

Tijani said NCAM would work closely with Fadama III to improve the Fadama groups by training them to adopt the technology that would making rice farming simple by bounding, puddling, levelling and smoothing.

Executive Director of NCAM Eng. Ike Azogu said the technology would lead to higher yield.

He said a close linkage with the rural farmers is a platform for the technology to thrive and the project covers 641 local governments in Nigeria.

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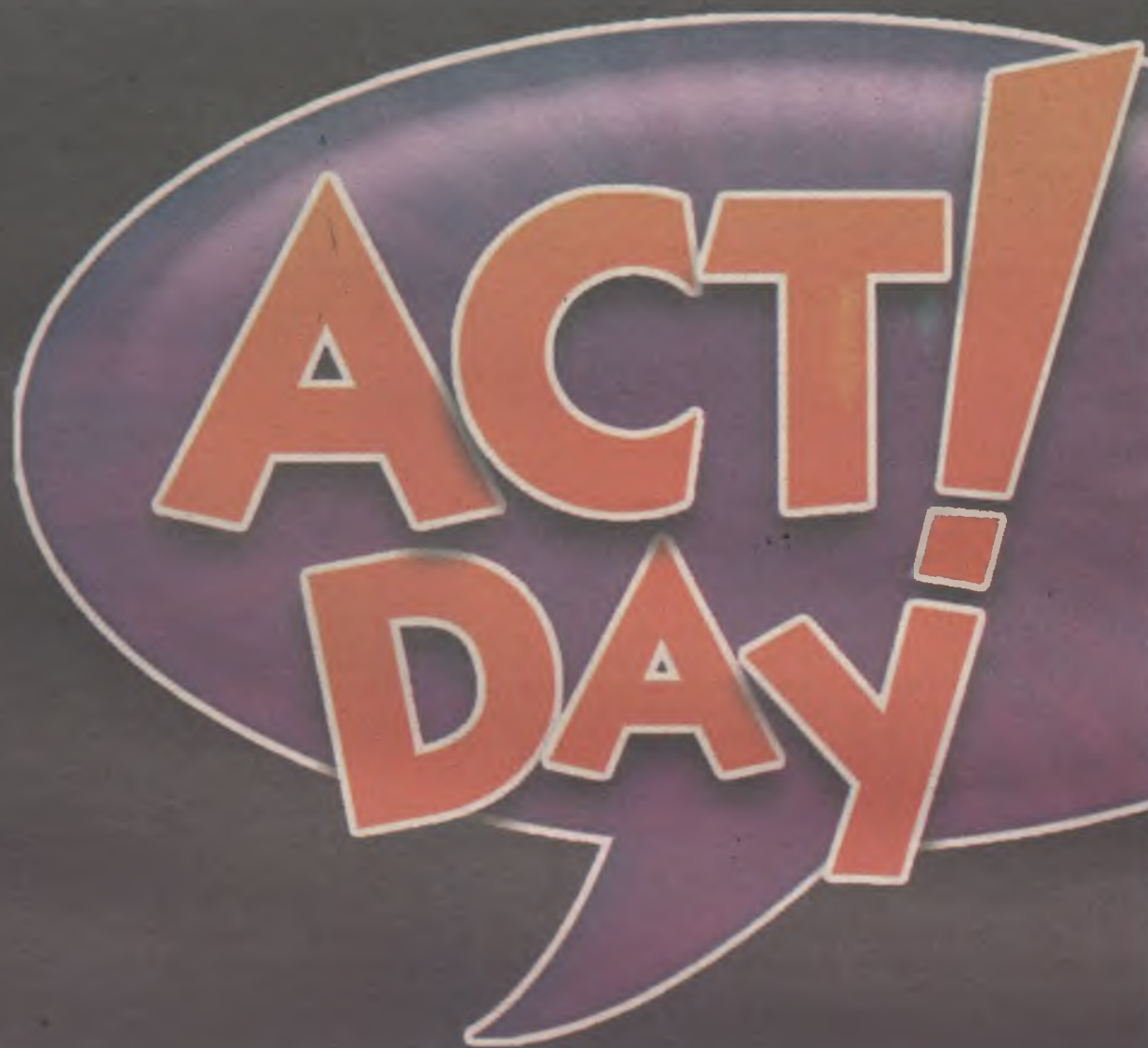
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Business/International

EU investment bank ups Mauritius sugar reform funds

THE European Investment Bank (EIB) yesterday announced a 15 million euro loan to Mauritius sugar producer Omnicane, as the country faces the end of preferential European Union prices.

Sugar firms on the Indian Ocean island have increasingly looked to diversify their products and cut costs after the EU announced a graduated 36 percent cut in its guaranteed price for African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) sugar. The final tranche took effect in October.

Alessandro Mariani, head of the EU's delegation in Mauritius, said the loan would help "contribute to ensuring the commercial viability and sustainability of the sugar sector as well as to increase the country's economic competitiveness."

Omnicane expects its new \$200 million "flexi factory" to produce 200,000 tonnes of sugar per year -- roughly two fifths of Mauritius's

total sugar exports -- and generate electricity and produce ethanol.

Sugar was once the bedrock of the Mauritian economy. Today the almost \$10 billion economy has moved into tourism, offshore banking and business outsourcing, although about half the island is still covered in cane.

The Mauritius Chamber of Agriculture says sugar sales still make up some 3 percent of gross domestic product. The industry remains one of the island's leading employers.

The loan follows a separate EIB loan of 13 million euros last year to Mauritius' FUEL Sugar Milling Company.

Both companies are now selling refined sugar in place of raw sugar to German sugar giant Sudzucker, ending a long-standing relationship with Britain's Tate & Lyle.

(Reuters)



A sugar cane farmer at work

Rio says Zimbabwe local mine ownership a threat

ZIMBABWE'S plans to impose local ownership rules on foreign firms threaten the diamond operations of mining group Rio Tinto, a company official said yesterday.

Harry Kenyon-Slaney, Rio's chief executive for diamonds and minerals, praised plans by the Zimbabwe government of national unity to seek dialogue with mining companies on the planned local ownership reforms, which authorities said are aimed at empowering locals by handing them a stake in the mines.

"We are staying on course in Murowa in Zimbabwe; the only threat to our operations is the indigenisation programmes," Kenyon-Slaney told a mining conference in Cape Town.

"Partnerships are also a key focus of our Murowa diamond mine in Zimbabwe," he added.

(Reuters)

Kenyan remittances worth \$609m in 2009

KENYANS abroad sent home \$609 million last year, down from a record \$611 million in 2008 but higher in local currency terms, the central bank said yesterday.

Remittances are a significant source of foreign exchange for east Africa's biggest economy, coming after horticulture, tea and tourism. Day-to-day fluctuations in the local currency market are often driven by remittance flows.

Charles Gitari Koori, director of the research department at the Central Bank of Kenya, said after taking into account currency fluctuations, remittances in 2009 came to 47.1 billion shillings, up from

42.3 billion in 2008.

He said in a statement that 2009 was much better than the previous year because there were no major events to boost remittances, such as mobile operator Safaricom's IPO or the onset of the global financial crisis in 2008.

Kenyans abroad also sent money home to help relatives after post-election violence in early 2008.

Persistent drought in Kenya during 2009 boosted remittances to help families hit by extensive crop failure and dead livestock, Koori said.

North America remained

the main source of remittances, accounting for 52 percent of the December's \$56.3 million, followed by Europe with 30 percent -- up from 51 and 27 percent respectively in November.

"In general, the remittances data could signal the fact that economic activities in the source markets are recovering and as such they will be significant sources of future remittances. Overall, these data signals the resilience," he said.

"Most of the diaspora remittances are used to support investment especially in real estate-construction and investment in equities in the stock market." (Reuters)

S/Africa mines to be hit by Eskom hikes

SOUTH Africa's mining sector needs to work closely with utility Eskom to find ways of cutting power consumption in the face of planned steep rises in electricity prices, the head of Anglo American Plc said.

Eskom, which provides 95 percent of electricity to Africa's biggest economy, wants to raise prices by 35 percent a year for the next three years to help fund a 385 billion rand power expansion programme.

"A number of the mining groups here today are both major suppliers to and customers of Eskom. Clearly none of us is in a position to sustain large electricity price increases year after year," Anglo Chief Executive Cynthia Carroll told the Indaba mining conference in Cape Town yesterday.

Anglo -- which has the biggest mining interests among its peers in South Africa, in platinum, iron ore and coal -- and other miners should work together with Eskom to reduce demand and come up with other sources of power, she said.

"This could entail seconding senior management to Eskom, as Anglo American has done ... (or) supplementing supply by generating our own electric power and pursuing non-electric technologies," Carroll said.

Harry Kenyon-Slaney, Rio Tinto's chief executive for diamonds and minerals, said the impact of Eskom's proposed tariff hike on businesses would be significant, and could lead to job losses and reduction in mine life across South Africa.

South Africa's Mineral Resources Minister Susan Shabangu said the government would try to mitigate the impact of power tariffs, but warned that the days of cheap power were over.

"(The) government is discussing how best to deal with the impact of a raise in electricity tariffs. There is no intention by the government to try and destroy any sector, but unfortunately we need more electricity (through new investments)," Shabangu said. (Reuters)

Toyota car recall may cost \$2bn

TOYOTA Motors says its massive vehicle recall could cost it up to \$2bn (£1.25bn) in lost output and sales.

It is in the process of recalling millions of vehicles which are potentially prone to uncontrolled acceleration.

It said the massive vehicle check might spread from the US and Europe to include the Middle East, Latin America and Africa.

The company said 180,000 cars had been sold in those regions.

The carmaker has identified eight models as potentially at risk, but stresses that very few are actually faulty.

Last week, Toyota said it was recalling up to 1.8 million cars across Europe, including about 220,000 in the UK, following an accelerator pedal problem.

It has also recalled almost 8 million cars in the US in the past four months.

(BBC)



TOYOTA car

BP's profit drops by 45%

OIL giant BP has reported a 45 percent drop in annual profit due to lower oil and gas prices and depressed refining margins.

Its replacement cost profit for 2009 was \$13.96 billion (£8.75bn), compared with \$25.59 billion in 2008.

The company said that its oil and gas production increased more than 4 percent in 2009 and its reserves had grown for the 17th year in a row.

Profits during the final three months of 2009 were \$3.45 billion, up 33 percent from the \$2.59 billion reported a year ago.

However, the fourth quarter results fell short of analysts' expectations, and BP shares fell more than 4 percent in early trading.

BP said third-quarterly output had risen by 3 percent compared with the same period in 2008, to 4.05 million barrels of oil equivalent per day.

The company said this was due to new field start-ups in the Gulf of Mexico and the absence of a significant hurricane season. It expects production in 2010 to be slightly lower.

BP group chief executive Tony Hayward said 2009 had been a "very good" year. (BBC)

Business/Energy

Fuel queues: Whence comes the end?



By Hamisu Muhammad

THREE months down the line, the agonising fuel queues in Nigeria have refused to go.

The lines started building up in February last year when government decided to stop subsidy payment for petrol which gulped over a trillion naira between 2007 and 2008.

Nigerians have been subjected to hardship in the last three months or so as a result of the lingering fuel scarcity in the country. It is an embarrassing situation that is peculiar to Nigeria, a country with abundant hydrocarbon resources but its citizens are suffering to get fuel for their daily use. At every corner of the country, unmanageable and unimaginable queues at petrol stations are causing traffic jams, and to some extent, businesses are folding up due to scarcity of fuel for them to operate.

The recent petrol scarcity escalated in October last year which till now neither the government nor petroleum marketers are willing to claim responsibility. The government on the one hand is saying one thing and the marketers are saying another leaving the rest of Nigerians in between the cross fire.

Recently, the federal government, with other stakeholders met in Lagos for two days to identify the causes of the intractable fuel scarcity. At the meeting, many revelations were made by various stakeholders including the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigerian (IPMAN), Major Oil Marketers Association

of Nigeria (MOMAN), the Depot Owners and Oil Unions.

At the meeting, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Odein Ajumogobia personally described the situation of fuel scarcity experienced in the country as "a shame and a national embarrassment."

Different reasons were proffered for the lingering scarcity. According to the IPMAN President, Aminu Abdulkadir, the government must take the blame for not being able to provide enough fuel for his members at lower rates.

He said if the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) could not stop selling petrol at depots above N58 per litre, why are they moving down to the IPMAN member to force them to sell at N65 per litre?

He said most of his members were buying the petrol from Lagos depots at exorbitant rates forcing them to adjust their pump price at their petrol stations. To him, government should as the first option import enough fuel and revive our local refineries that will end the recent crisis in the downstream sector.

From the major marketers' point of view, the failure of government to settle their arrears of the defunct Petroleum Support Funds amounting to N70 billion and their decision to suspend petrol importation is another reason for the lingering scarcity.

Some analysts point fingers of blame at the Nigerian and National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) for the monopoly of petrol

imports. At the moment, NNPC is responsible for 100 percent of the 32 million litres consumed daily in Nigeria, unlike before when major marketers and depot owners were importing 50 % while NNPC imported the rest.

The experts say NNPC is now battling with the challenges of infrastructure at the discharging and loading points at various jetties in Lagos. They noted that as a result of that decision by the NNPC, vessels are now queuing for months on the high sea waiting to discharge petrol.

It was reported last year that 26 out of the 31 receiving depots owned by the Pipeline and Products Marketing Company (PPMC), a subsidiary of the NNPC, are currently lying fallow. As a result, lifting of petroleum products from them has since been suspended owing to the activities of pipeline vandals.

Some say that government is confused on how to merge fuel import and implementing the much talked about deregulation policy. To some points, government accused marketers of sabotage through the hoarding of petrol at the filling stations and therefore ordered the NNPC to expand its distribution wing and acquire more branches nationwide. But even with that, many of the new NNPC stations remain empty.

Also one of the major jetties – the Atlas Cove in Lagos which is considered to be a major discharging point of petroleum products in the country has not been repaired since last year's attack by militants.

The discharging of fuel is now difficult because of the infrastructural difficulties.

Now that the federal government has settled the

arrears of the marketers, it is expected that marketers will soon resume the importation of petrol into the country. But bringing the petrol to the shores of the country is not the problem but how to discharge it. Government need to diversify its discharging points if possible out of Lagos to some other parts of the country for easy distribution.

Now that there is relative hope as a result of the amnesty on ground, and

there is need for urgent repair of the Atlas Cove jetty and other jetties to allow smooth importation of petrol into the country.

Another option is for government to revert to the former administration's programmes which until last year, Nigerians were enjoying normalcy in the downstream oil sector until when it (Federal Government) becomes fully prepared to implement the deregulation policy or end of subsidy.

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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

Job Announcement
Country Program Coordinator – Nigeria

The African Development Foundation (ADF), an agency of the United States Government, is seeking applications from qualified Nigerian citizens for a Personal Services Contract (PSC) to assist in the coordination of its country program in Nigeria. The contractor will be responsible for helping ADF fulfill its administrative oversight and program management responsibilities in the implementation of grant agreements. This includes assisting in the identification of new projects (including screening applications and visiting potential grantees); monitoring the performance of ADF's in-country program partner; assisting with the analysis of grantee financial records and other activities associated with closing out completed grants, ensuring the smooth operation of the CPC office; and coordinating travel and other logistics for ADF personnel traveling to Nigeria from Washington, DC. The contractor will be responsible for submitting accurate and timely reports in English to headquarters staff in Washington.

Key skills and knowledge of the contractor include:

1. Bachelors degree from an accredited university in business administration, management, public administration, finance, accounting, community development, economics, and/or related field.
2. Three years of professional experience in business development, finance, banking, auditing, monitoring and evaluation, or management of international development programs. Experience in Nigeria preferred.
3. Experience with auditing or monitoring/evaluating international development programs
4. Availability to travel extensively throughout Nigeria – up to one week per month.

Applicants will be evaluated according to:

1. Relevance of professional experience
2. Educational background
3. Experience working with marginalized and/or community-based groups
4. Interview – only top candidates will be invited to interview

Only Nigerian citizens are eligible for consideration.

A solicitation that includes the complete position description and list of required qualifications will be available at <http://www.usadf.gov/contracting.html> on or about February 3, 2010.

Applications will be accepted only via email. See the solicitation for details.

Applications submitted after February 20, 2010, 11:59pm (Washington, DC time) will not be considered.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Tuesday, February 2, 2009

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)				
2ND-TIER SECURITIES								
CAPITAL OIL PLC	3	0.50	386,805	193,402.50				
SECTOR Totals	3		386,805	193,402.50				
AGRICULTURE								
AFPRINT NIGERIA PLC	2	0.86	24,200	20,812.00				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	38	0.78	3,102,130	2,377,320.52				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	22	0.76	637,833	478,008.09				
PRESKO PLC	20	4.36	669,005	2,834,344.60				
SECTOR Totals	82		4,433,168	5,710,485.21				
AIR SERVICES								
AIRL/SERV. & LOG. PLC	5	3.05	31,000	95,300.00				
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	147	8.82	1,897,004	16,926,231.70				
SECTOR Totals	152		1,928,004	17,021,531.70				
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE								
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	7	0.50	163,962	81,981.00				
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	17	6.24	200,992	1,253,006.97				
SECTOR Totals	24		364,954	1,334,987.97				
BANKING								
ACCESS BANK PLC	214	8.80	18,934,673	162,808,110.15				
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	100	3.00	7,452,339	22,567,964.00				
DIAMOND BANK PLC	143	9.05	57,044,979	511,249,183.68				
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	12	7.83	123,930	922,039.20				
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	80	8.80	12,687,119	109,947,781.70				
FIDELITY BANK PLC	216	2.65	16,092,635	42,201,438.24				
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	886	15.20	20,050,716	305,415,194.88				
FINBANK PLC	179	0.79	42,101,719	32,717,085.44				
GTBANK PLC	499	18.29	21,027,558	379,202,365.20				
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	76	8.57	4,807,820	41,353,967.65				
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	140	2.30	5,989,534	14,327,628.65				
OCÉANIC BANK INT. PLC	183	2.36	7,394,231	17,737,130.27				
BANK PHB PLC	92	2.20	3,477,451	7,582,527.83				
SKYE BANK PLC.	186	7.35	13,020,297	95,196,899.05				
SPRING BANK PLC	11	1.22	1,562,687	1,906,478.14				
STERLING BANK PLC	67	1.62	4,153,829	6,788,756.96				
UNT BANK FOR AFR. PLC.	340	13.30	21,828,993	286,599,638.51				
UN/BANK OF NIG. PLC	194	6.10	9,458,819	59,125,474.75				
UNITYBANK PLC	56	1.03	4,246,095	4,586,153.89				
WEMA BANK PLC	87	1.22	9,288,988	11,244,751.93				
ZENITH BANK PLC	226	15.60	25,217,542	393,251,295.28				
SECTOR Totals	3,987		305,961,954	2,506,731,865.40				
BUILDING MATERIALS								
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	129	15.95	4,468,286	68,037,864.84				
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	60	50.01	1,284,527	64,105,803.01				
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	131	15.50	20,758,867	303,217,105.61				
NIGERIAN ROPES PLC.	1	9.14	9,600	83,424.00				
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	108	35.00	2,084,214	72,972,521.25				
SECTOR Totals	429		28,605,494	508,416,718.75				
CHEMICAL & PAINTS								
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	6	3.36	57,107	201,016.64				
SECTOR Totals	6		57,107	201,016.64				
COMMERCIAL/SERV.								
AFROMEDIA PLC	3	0.68	439,120	298,601.60				
COURTVILLE INVEST. PLC	3	0.50	3,025,000	1,512,500.00				
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	10	2.52	252,795	637,877.90				
SECTOR Totals	16		3,716,915	2,448,979.50				
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP.								
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC.	1	8.13	10,200	87,006.00				
OMATE VENTURES PLC	18	0.69	1,263,949	873,944.30				
THOMAS WYATT PLC	1	1.84	1,012	1,862.08				
SECTOR Totals	20		1,275,161	962,812.38				
CONGLOMERATES								
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	7	2.81	110,593	319,919.70				
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	9.28	720	6,350.40				
PZ CUSONS NIGERIA PLC	54	26.00	1,084,947	28,068,681.30				
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	52	0.50	6,552,400	3,276,200.00				
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	74	41.98	2,155,613	89,061,926.35				
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	92	23.33	917,111	21,503,999.11				
SECTOR Totals	280		10,821,384	142,237,076.86				
CONSTRUCTION								
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	62	5.37	1,734,871	9,310,644.06				
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	33	28.50	312,687	8,565,919.06				
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	10	0.50	993,000	496,500.00				
SECTOR Totals	106		3,046,924	18,388,427.26				
ENGINEERING TECH.								
CUTIX PLC	5	3.28	70,700	241,069.00				
NIG. WIRE AND CABLE PLC.	2	0.94	4,000	3,760.00				
SECTOR Totals	7		74,700	244,829.00				
FOOD/BEVER. & TOBACCO								
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	19	30.60	41,221	1,299,205.50				
BIG TREAT PLC	30	0.75	2,572,466	1,973,322.46				
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	155	14.82	6,242,446	94,711,995.68				
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	229	13.08	5,872,159	76,800,658.74				
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	130	15.97	5,840,944	94,040,450.29				
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	80	41.01	533,499	21,839,483.45				
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	8	7.77	60,800	452,808.00				
NAT. SALT COY NIGERIA PLC	69	6.81	1,653,939	11,372,611.68				
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	25	28.00	92,867	2,608,399.22				
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	41	265.00	1,104,480	292,087,906.94				
TANTALIZERS PLC					24	0.91	1,107,629	1,009,095.29
UTC NIGERIA PLC					11	0.90	35,893	31,593.32
SECTOR Totals					821		25,158,343	598,227,530.57
HEALTHCARE								
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.					6	1.10	30,951	35,123.95
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC					27	2.09	1,835,388	3,788,689.82
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC					27	26.10	340,674	8,887,344.90
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.					17	5.23	119,835	618,195.25
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC					2	1.70	10,751	17,514.25
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC					16	0.63	3,295,483	2,122,137.49
SECTOR Totals					95		5,633,082	15,469,005.66
HOTEL & TOURISM								
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC					11	2.17	1,689,000	3,556,630.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC					11	0.99	95,000	96,340.00
SECTOR Totals					20		1,734,000	3,652,970.00
INDUSTRIAL/DOM. PROD.								
ALUMACO PLC					1	20.40	1,851	35,872.38
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC					2	0.50	100,000	50,000.00
VITAFIAM NIGERIA PLC					18	5.30	94,976	487,241.29
VONO PRODUCTS PLC					2	0.66	49,000	32,340.00
SECTOR Totals					23		245,827	605,453.67
INF. & COMM. TECHNOLOGY								
CHAMS PLC					33	0.73	2,574,167	1,836,899.47
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC					2	0.50	1,300,000	650,000.00
STARCOMMS PLC					37	2.02	4,233,700	8,441,941.98
SECTOR Totals					72		8,107,867	10,928,841.45
INSURANCE								
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.					88	0.99	8,624,440	8,578,804.40
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC					39	0.95	6,235,379	5,804,585.89
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC.					19	0.57	666,872	369,686.96
CUST. & ALLIED INSUR. PLC					39	2.80	4,418,250	12,037,330.50
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC					43	0.54	11,258,947	5,993,666.44
GUARANTY TRUST ASS. PLC					33	2.18	7,115,100	15,227,890.40
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.					1	0.50	10,000	5,000.00
CONSOL. HALLM. INS. PLC					3	0.50	12,000	6,000.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC					37	0.62	3,501,612	2,169,377.65
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.					35	0.53	2,578,586	1,383,199.58
LAW UNION & ROCKINS. PLC.					16	0.55	6,866,376	3,508,764.08
MUTUAL BEN. ASS. PLC					2	0.64	523,000	334,720.00
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC					71	0.51	20,204,422	10,466,015.82
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.					9	0.88	119,100	100,969.00
OASIS INSURANCE PLC					1	1.49	45,000	63,900.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.					3	3.61	1,212,500	4,377,125.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC					3	0.50	1,225,000	612,500.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC					3	0.95	511,090	485,535.50
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC					28	0.61	2,139,753	1,325,858.33
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.					38	0.80	2,540,883	2,032,514.40
UNITY KAPITAL ASSUR. PLC					5	1.62	6,503,500	10,535,670.00
UNIV. INSURANCE COY PLC					4	0.50	254,441	127,220.50
INTERCONT. WAPIC INS. PLC					17	0.95	384,753	366,251.35
SECTOR Totals					537		86,951,004	85,912,585.80
MEDIA								
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC					14	0.63	251,455	

DIGEST

Girl, 9, 'becomes one of world's youngest mothers after giving birth to a baby boy'

A nine-year-old Chinese schoolgirl has allegedly become one of the world's youngest mothers after giving birth to a healthy boy.

The unnamed girl had been brought in to Changchun hospital gynaecology department in the north east of the country when she was eight-and-a-half months pregnant, a Chinese newspaper has reported.

Two days later, she apparently gave birth to the 6lb boy by Caesarean section.

No further details about the birth are known.

A reporter from China's City Evening News tried to find out the circumstances of the girl's pregnancy, but was only able to learn that she was from the town of Songyuan and looks very mature.

Her family refused to discuss the pregnancy, but confirmed they had reported it to the police.

On Monday night police were reportedly trying to establish who the father is. In the province, sex with a child under the age of fourteen brings an automatic rape conviction and a lengthy jail sentence.

A lawyer from the Liu Gongcheng Law Firm told the paper that women under the age of 14 do not have sexual rights - 'so any argument of being consensual as a defence is completely untenable,' he said.

The lawyer added: 'Anyone



THE nine-year-old girl who apparently gave birth to healthy baby boy is reportedly from the town of Songyuan (pictured)

who had sexual relations with a girl under 14 means they have committed rape and is to be punished severely.'

A Shanghai hospital said about 30 per cent of abortions were on school-aged girls.

The youngest reported mother in the world - and the

most bizarre of all young pregnancy cases - is five-year-old Lina Medina of Peru, who gave birth to a 6lb son named Gerardo in a caesarean operation in 1939.

Her father was arrested on suspicion of child sexual abuse but was later released because of lack of evidence.

In 1957 another Peruvian girl, aged nine, gave birth to a girl weighing just over 6lb and, curiously, it was in 2006 that yet another Peruvian girl, aged eight, gave birth to a 4lb 4oz girl.

Several other girls aged nine, from Thailand, Singapore, Rwanda and Brazil, have also

given birth.

Mothers aged as young as 10 and 11 have also become an increasing occurrence.

The youngest mother in Britain is believed to have been 11 when she got pregnant and 12 years old when she gave birth.

Want your words of regret to get the best reception? Then say sorry the right way and give the left ear a miss



Whisper it gently: Right is best

IT'S never easy to say sorry. But it seems there is a way to ensure you won't have to utter it twice. Researchers have found the secret of getting your regret across is to direct it at someone's right ear.

A study showed that when we're furious, this ear becomes more receptive to sound. Therefore, they claim, to calm someone down it makes sense to target your apology appropriately.

The finding fits with the right side of the body being controlled by the left side of the brain - the part we use when we're cross.

To study what happens when we get angry, the researchers made 30 young men work themselves up into a fury by reading a folder of hostile statements. As they became more outraged, their

heart rate and blood pressure went up, as did levels of the male sex hormone testosterone.

The University of Valencia researchers carried out hearing tests on both left and right ears before and after giving the men the 'anger' folders.

The right ear's ability to pick up sounds increased significantly when the men were angry but there was no change in the left ear, the journal *Hormones and Behavior* reports. It is thought this is because the left side of the brain processes sounds that come in through the right ear. If anger activates it, noise from the right, but not the left, will be heard more keenly.

Previous research has shown that if you want to persuade someone to do

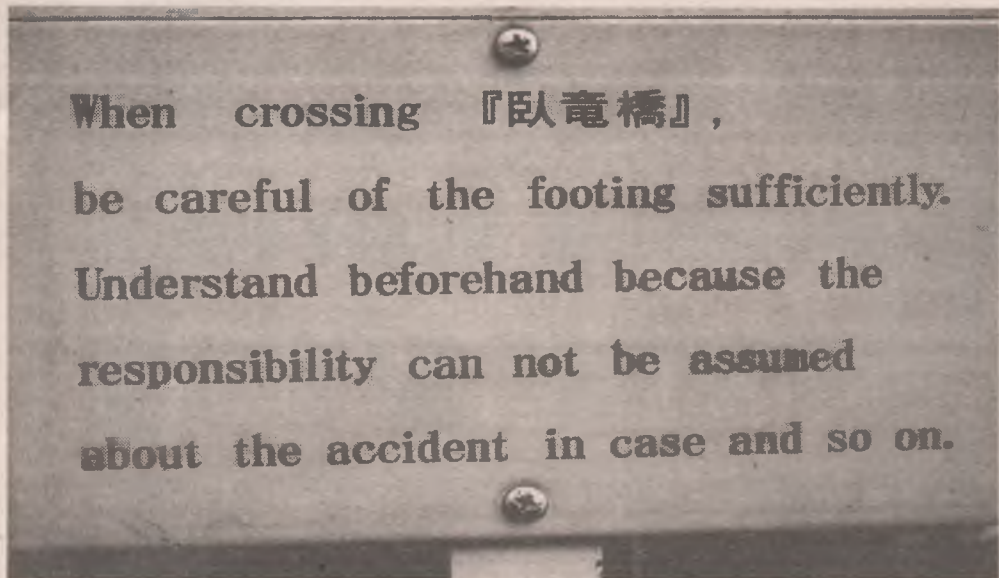
something, you should also speak in their right ear. When Italian researchers asked almost 200 nightclubbers for a cigarette, they found the smokers were almost twice as likely to comply when the request was directed to their right ear.

Other research has shown that the left ear may be best for salesmen.

In a British study, sales teams used one of three headsets - left, right, both ears - for a day's selling of insurance by telephone. Those who wore the headset on their left ear outsold the others.

Exactly why is not clear, but one theory is that sales staff who opt to use their right ear may be more likely to use logic for selling, while those who use the left may have a more intuitive and responsive relationship with clients.

Sign Language



Got the gist? That is passing the buck.
Photo location: Kyoto, Japan, by Lars Rasmu
Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

SUDOKU

The Sudoku puzzle consists of a 9x9 square grid made up of smaller 3x3 square grids (regions). The numbers already present within the puzzle are "given" - these are there to start you off. The aim is to complete the puzzle by filling the empty cells. Every digit from 1-9 needs to fit in each row, column and region of 9 squares. Each row, column and region must contain just one instance of each number, 1-9.

78

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

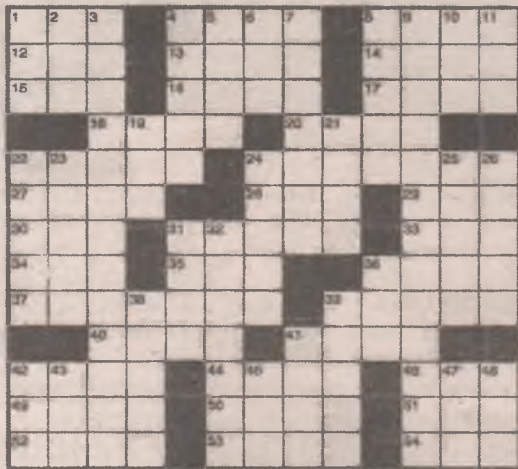
Solution to Sudoku 77

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

EASY CROSSWORDS

- ACROSS**
- 1. Doting attention (abbr.)
 - 4. "Arrivederci, ___"
 - 8. Attention-getting sound
 - 12. Scrooge's cry
 - 13. "___ sesame!"
 - 14. MP3 player from Apple
 - 15. Tax mo.
 - 16. Jolie's man
 - 17. Mouth surrounders
 - 18. "Understood" (2 wds.)
 - 20. English school
 - 22. Outstrips
 - 24. Tied a bow
 - 27. Elevations (abbr.)
 - 28. SSE's opposite
 - 29. "Ball ___"
 - 30. Singer Cooke
 - 31. Whaler's workplace
 - 33. French summer
 - 34. Greek letter
 - 35. Mauna ___
 - 36. "Oh, sure!" (2 wds.)
 - 37. Go downward
 - 39. Sedan's four
- DOWN**
- 1. Vague schedule info (abbr.)
 - 2. Swimmer's unit
 - 3. One way to save for the holidays (2 wds.)
 - 40. Gears
 - 41. Tenant's expense
 - 42. Building extensions
 - 44. Exile island
 - 46. Scale notes
 - 49. Put to flight
 - 50. Singer Diamond
 - 51. Chop
 - 52. Recedes
 - 53. Pitch
 - 54. Italy's cont.
 - 4. Wranglers' gear
 - 5. Mayberry lad
 - 6. Came together
 - 7. Bug's feeler
 - 8. Aircraft flier
 - 9. Klesing game (3 wds.)
 - 10. Soak up
 - 11. Grid scores (abbr.)
 - 19. Roads (abbr.)
 - 21. Municipality
 - 22. Stationed
 - 23. Make ecstatic
 - 24. Massage
 - 25. Diner patron
 - 26. Food plans
 - 31. Cassini of fashion
 - 32. Permission
 - 36. Charged atom
 - 38. Sella for
 - 39. Distributes cards
 - 41. Hitters' stats
 - 42. Poetic "before"
 - 43. Tennis hit
 - 45. MGM's lion
 - 47. Debt memo
 - 48. Apr.'s season

66



Solution to Easy Crosswords

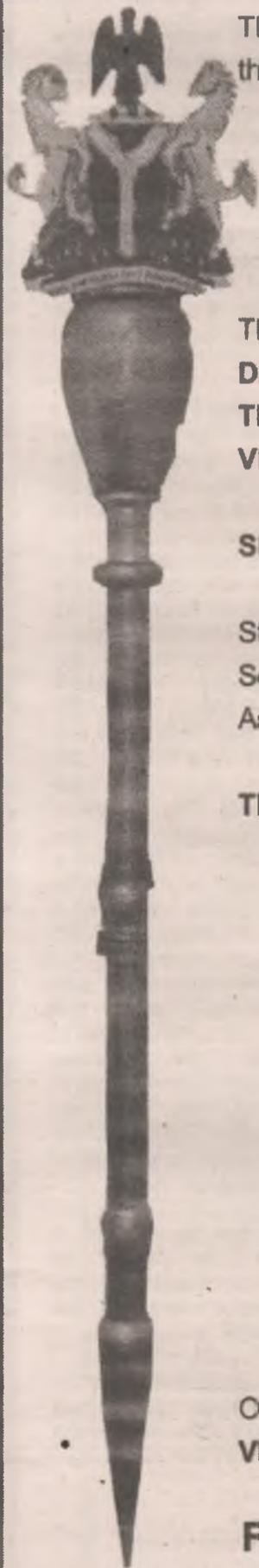
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T	H	O	U	P	R	O	N	A	P	A	
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R	O	S	T	E	R	R	E	S	E	T	
				C	L	E	R	I	C		
P	I	L	A	F	I	N	S	I	S	T	S
O	T	I	S	A	L	A	M	O	A	T	
E	S	S	E	N	C	E	O	A	S	I	S
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R	A	D	I	A	N	C	E	N	A	I	L
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D	E	M	O	E	W	E	D	E	E	P	



THE SENATE
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMMITTEE OF JUDICIARY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND LEGAL MATTERS
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING



The Senate Committee of Judiciary, Human Rights and Legal Matters hereby notify stakeholders and the general public of the public hearing on:

1. "A bill for an act to provide for the prohibition of electronic fraud in all electronic transactions in Nigeria and for other related matters"; and
2. "A bill for an act to amend the evidence Act Cap E14 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004".

The public hearing is scheduled to hold as follows:

DATE: Monday 15th February, 2010
TIME: 10:00 AM Prompt
VENUE: Senate Hearing Room 1, White House, National Assembly Complex

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR: Senator David A.B. Mark, GCON, President of the Senate.

Stakeholders are hereby requested to submit 10 hard copies and one softcopy of memoranda to the Secretariat of the Committee in Room S.B 10 Basement, Senate Wing, (White House), National Assembly Complex, Abuja on or before 12th February, 2010.

The following institutions are hereby requested to take note:

1. The Judiciary
2. Federal Ministry of Justice
3. Economic and Financial Crimes Commission
4. Central Bank of Nigeria
5. All Banking and Financial Institutions
6. Nigerian Communications Commission
7. Nigerian Law Reform Commission
8. Nigerian Bar Association
9. Nigerian Police Force
10. Independent Corrupt Practices Commission
11. Independent National Electoral Commission
12. Other Relevant Institutions

Oral presentations/submissions will be accepted at the venue of the hearing. For softcopies of the Bills

Visit: www.sencomonjudiciaryng.com, Email: senatecommitteeonjudiciary@yahoo.com

**For further enquiries contact the Secretariat of the Committee on:
08033145481 and 08054133363**

SIGNED
SENATOR UMARU DAHIRU
CHAIRMAN



PLATEAU STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Office of the Honourable Speaker

21 CBN Road, P.M.B. 2142
Jos, Plateau State.
Tel: (073) 460153, 464080

RESOLUTIONS OF THE PLATEAU STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY ON A MOTION ON MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE PURSUANT TO ORDER 6 RULE 4 OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010.

The Plateau state House of Assembly, at its plenary session on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 sequel a motion on matter of Urgent Public importance on the state of affairs in the State on account of the Sunday, January 17, 2010 civil unrest in some parts of Jos and Bukuru Metropolis and after a painstaking deliberation in context of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and other legislation resolved as follows:

1. The House condemns in totality the Sunday, January 17, 2010 civil unrest and the wanton destruction of lives and properties for whatever reason as there are many dispute resolution mechanisms sufficient to unveil the truth which may be hidden in any storm of dispute. It is a fundamental absurdity and contradiction that religions which profess the sacred nature of human life turn to treat same with utmost disrespect.

2. The Transfer to Abuja of some suspects arrested in connection with the civil unrest is roundly condemned by the House. The suspects must be investigated and prosecuted in Plateau State in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, penal Code, Criminal Procedure Code and other relevant substantive and procedural laws. Worthy of specific mention is section 134 of the Criminal Procedural Code which provides in unambiguous terms the place of inquiry and trial of offences. The transfer of the suspects to Abuja, outside the territorial jurisdiction of the State where the offences were allegedly committed and the transfer of Mr. Gregory Anyating, the erstwhile Commissioner of Police, Plateau State Police Command who promptly responded to the eruption of the Sunday 17, 2010 crisis heighten the concerns of the House and cause very deep apprehension about the motives behind the transfer. The Plateau State House of Assembly is not unmindful of the fact that it does not determine deployments in the Police but the timing of such deployment especially at times like this agitates any analytical mind. Assuming, without conceding, that the Police has good reasons for the deployment, the timing is wrong and it has sent a wrong signal. The house calls on the appropriate authority to return to Plateau forthwith the suspects already transferred to Abuja else the House will be tempted to suspect complicity of the authorities that requested for the transfer.

3. The order of the Governor on suspension of the operation of commercial motorcycles in Jos and Bukuru Metropolis and the reasons given are endorsed by the House. The House calls on all security agencies to enforce the order pending an enabling legislation on same. The House, however, calls on the government to make provisions for alternative means of transport as soon as practicable.

4. The House questions the constitutionality of transfer of all security powers of the civil authority to the Military. Firstly, the fact that under section 214 (4) of the 1999 constitution, it is the Governor or such Commissioner of the Government of the State as he may authorize in that behalf that gives to the Commissioner of Police of the State such lawful directions with respect to the maintenance and Security of Public safety and Public order within the State as he may consider necessary, makes the Governor the Chief Security officer of the State. The House is unable to understand, on rational

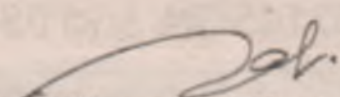
analysis, why such orders were not made in some State in the North where religious sects such Boko Haram and Kala Kato emerged in challenge of Federal authorities in which many lives were lost. Secondly, The House is mindful of the role of the Military under Section 217 (1) (c) of the 1999 Constitution in situations such as in Plateau State but with due respect to the authorities, the armed forces can only be called upon by the President to suppress insurrection and acting in aid of civil authorities to restore order. Even then the call by the President to perform such functions by armed forces is subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by an Act of the National Assembly. It is worthy of note that the Constitution subordinates every law or action by any person or authority to its overriding powers.

5. On some State Legislatures in the North that called for declaration of a state of emergency in Plateau State, no reason other than smacks of crass and culpable ignorance explains such resolutions. It is quite unfortunate that such State legislatures only become active and alive in relation to Section 305 of the Constitution which provides for a state of emergency even when same States are bedeviled by many social problems such as girl – child education, low enrolment of pupils in schools, Boko Haram, Kala Kato, Street begging, amongst others. The State legislatures wasted their precious legislative time and energy in deliberating and passing resolution on issues they clearly do not have the legislative competence. By the provisions of section 305 (4) of the 1999 Constitution, however, the Governors of their States may with the sanction of a resolution supported by a two – thirds majority of the House, request the president to declare a State of emergency in their respective States. On account of ignorance or a myopic understanding of the import of section 305 of the Constitution, those state legislatures think that a declaration of a State of emergency must be followed by suspension of democratic institutions. Our dear colleagues in those States are advised to avail themselves of the opportunities in legislative capacity building workshops and seminars in order not to waste the sacred mandate of their people. Interestingly, same States have had numerous civil unrests and on each occurrence, the Plateau State House of Assembly and indeed the entire good people of Plateau States never called for a declaration of a state of emergency in those States but rather prayed for return of peace. The States of origin of most suspects arrested in the 2001, 2008 and 2010 Jos crisis speak volumes on the call by some Northern state legislatures for a declaration of a state of emergency.

6. The House recommends that the government in consultation with the security agencies in the State should establish Emergency Response Centers at strategic locations in Jos and its environs with a view to prompt response by the security in the event of breach of the security.

7. The house recommends that government should adopt the principles of Reconstruction, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation as one of its efforts to cushion the effect of the civil unrest.

RESOLUTIONS


Rt. Hon. Istifanus Caleb Mwansat
Speaker.

News Extra

Ten Americans who tried to take a busload of orphans out of Haiti slammed

The ten Americans who tried to take a busload of Haitian children out of the country knew that 'what they were doing was wrong,' Haiti's prime minister said Monday night.

Now the Baptists from the Idaho-based charity New Life Children's Refuge could be prosecuted in America for child trafficking.

Prime Minister Max Bellerive said his country is open to having the Americans face US justice, since most government buildings - including Haiti's courts - were crippled by the monster earthquake.

'It is clear now that they were trying to cross the border without papers. It is clear now that some of the children have live parents,' Bellerive said.

'And it is clear now that they knew what they were doing was wrong.'

For now, the case remains firmly in Haitian hands, State Department spokesman PJ Crowley said in Washington.

Haitian officials insist some prosecution is needed to help deter child trafficking, which many fear will flourish in the chaos caused by the devastating January 12 quake.

Even before the 7.0 earthquake struck, killing as many as 200,000, around 2,000 youngsters were believed to be being taken from the streets each year.

The government and aid groups are still struggling to get food, water, shelter and basic health care to hundreds of thousands of survivors, and many parents are desperate to get help for their children.

Members of the church group insisted they were only trying to save abandoned and traumatised children - but appeared to lack any significant experience with Haiti, international charity work or international adoption regulations.

They were stopped at Malpasse, Haiti's main border crossing after police conducted a search of their bus.

Officers said they were arrested because they did not have proof that the youngsters - many of whom were sick and dehydrated - were orphans.

Their detained spokeswoman, Laura Silsby, said they were 'just trying to do the right thing.'

At a police station next to the airport in the capital Port-au-Prince, she said: 'We came here to help and we know God will reveal the truth.'

'I was going to come back and do the paperwork. They accuse



THREE of the women arrested for alleged child trafficking answer questions at police headquarters in Port-au-Prince



SOME of the children suspected to have been taken by the charity



THE group of missionaries insist they have done nothing wrong, despite having no paperwork allowing them to take the children out of the country

us of children trafficking. This is something I would never do. We were not trying to do something

wrong - we had permission from the Dominican Republic government to bring the children to an

orphanage we have there.

'We have a Baptist minister here in Port-au-Prince whose

orphanage totally collapsed and he asked us to take the children.'

Sean Lankford, whose wife and daughter are among those arrested, said the group had rented hotel rooms to house the children until an orphanage could be built.

'It really is shocking because it really is a rescue mission for these children,' he added.

'They're really hoping to save their lives.'

The charity is buying land to build a home for up to 150 orphans and provide a place for adoptive parents who want to take the children back to the US, he said.

Clint Henry, pastor of the Central Valley Baptist Church in Meridian, Idaho, which founded the group, said: 'I know that there has been illegal activity down there and it's unfortunate that we would be associated with that.'

I don't know what to say but God is in control and he's got it figured out and we're trusting him. It probably comes down to paperwork and we believed that we had done everything we needed to do.'

The 33 children, ranging in age from 2 months to 12 years, arrived with their names written in tape

'I am not an orphan. I still have my parents,' said George Willeit

on their shirts at a children's home where some told aid workers they have surviving parents. Haitian officials said they were trying to reunite them.

'One (9-year-old) girl was crying, and saying, 'I am not an orphan. I still have my parents,' said George Willeit, a spokesman for SOS Children's Village, which runs the orphanage where they were taken.

The prime minister said some of those parents may have knowingly given their kids to the Americans in hopes they would reach the United States - a not uncommon wish for poor families in a country that already had an estimated 380,000 orphans before the quake.

News Extra

Mahmoud Abbas: Israel's West Bank occupation leading to one-state solution

Exclusive interview: Palestinian president hints at mediated talks to restart moribund peace process



PALESTINIAN Authority President Mahmoud Abbas

Israel's continuing colonisation of the West Bank is leading to a "one-state solution", the Palestinian president, Mahmoud Abbas, has told the *Guardian*, while indicating that he may be poised this week to accept a US proposal for "proximity talks" with Israel through American mediators.

In an exclusive interview, the Palestinian Authority (PA) president also insisted he would not allow any return to armed resistance; offered direct negotiations with Israel in exchange for a complete three-month settlement freeze; claimed he had come close to a comprehensive agreement with former Israeli leader Ehud Olmert that went beyond anything negotiated by Yasser Arafat under President Bill Clinton; and defended Egypt's construction of an underground wall to prevent smuggling into the Hamas-controlled Gaza strip.

The Palestinian Authority president has been under intense US pressure to open peace negotiations with the Israeli government of Binyamin Netanyahu, but has so far refused to do so unless Israel freezes all settlement building in the occupied Palestinian territories, as originally demanded by the US president, Barack Obama, and required under the 2002 road map. Israel has only accepted a partial halt on settlement construction for 10 months.

Last month Obama conceded that the US had failed to achieve

"the kind of breakthrough that we wanted" in the Middle East and might not have raised expectations as high if it had anticipated the political problems.

Speaking in London after meeting Gordon Brown and the foreign secretary, David Miliband, the Palestinian leader said he did not know why the Americans "backed off" their demand for a full freeze. He would consult with Arab allies before responding tomorrow to the US Middle East envoy George Mitchell's call for proximity talks.

"If there is any substance in the response from the Israeli side - for example, if they accept the framework of a two-state solution based on the 1967 borders and an end to occupation, with timelines and

mechanisms - then there will be progress," Abbas said.

Israel is being pressed by the US to respond with confidence-building measures, including an end to military incursions, dismantling of checkpoints and release of prisoners, if indirect talks take place.

Abbas also said he would be prepared to resume full face-to-face peace negotiations if Israel froze all settlement construction for three months and accepted its June 1967 borders as the basis for land swaps. "These are not preconditions, they are requirements in the road map. If they are not prepared to do that, it means they don't want a political solution."

The Palestinian Authority and the PLO supported the two-state

solution, Abbas said. But what Israel was doing now in the West Bank, in terms of continued occupation, settlement expansion and the confiscation of Palestinian land, was "leading to the one-state solution, which we reject".

Negotiations with Olmert in the run-up to the Gaza war, Abbas claimed, had gone further than those held in January 2001 at Taba between Arafat and Ehud Barak and included "border swaps, Jerusalem and the return of some refugees", but the Netanyahu government refused to accept what had been agreed as a basis for further negotiation.

The Palestinian leader is under pressure, both from his Islamist

ence to the organisation's effective ceasefire since January last year - "and now they are talking about peace and a truce with Israel".

But if Israel continued to resist an end to occupation, he would resign and refuse to stand in new elections: "I will have to tell our people there is no hope and no use in my staying in office." Abbas's four years as elected PA president expired a year ago, but last month the PLO extended his term until any new elections are held.

The PA leader defended his security forces' crackdown on Hamas activists in the West Bank, insisting that "we don't want to imprison any political members of Hamas, but only people who

Abbas also said he would be prepared to resume full face-to-face peace negotiations if Israel froze all settlement construction for three months

rival Hamas and inside his own Fatah movement, over concessions to the US and Israel and the perceived inability of his leadership to deliver tangible progress towards Palestinian national goals of an end to Israeli occupation, statehood and the return of Palestinian refugees.

"There will be no return to armed struggle," Abbas said. "It will destroy our territories and our country." Hamas itself, he argued, "is not resisting" - a refer-

ence to the security situation, even from Fatah".

He also denied reports published in the *Guardian* that the CIA had been working closely with elements of the PA security apparatus involved in arresting and allegedly torturing Hamas supporters. The American role was restricted to the training and rehabilitation of the security forces as part of the wider international effort, he said.

The PA was ready to hold new elections in the Palestinian territories, last won by Hamas in 2006, if the Islamist organisation would sign the reconciliation agreement drawn up by the Egyptian government, Abbas said. He blamed "somebody outside" - code for Iran - for Hamas's refusal to do so.

The Palestinian president also defended Egypt's decision to build an underground wall on the blockaded Gaza strip's southern border to prevent smuggling through tunnels. "I support the wall," Abbas said. "It is the Egyptians' sovereign right in their own country. Legitimate supplies should be brought through the legal crossings."

Abbas on ...

Armed struggle

"There will be no return to armed struggle. It will destroy our territories and our country."

Talks with Israel

"If they accept the framework of a two state solution based on the 1967 borders and an end to occupation ... there will be progress."

Gaza anti-smuggling wall

"It is the Egyptians' sovereign right ... legitimate supplies should be brought through the legal crossings."

Hamas

"We don't want to imprison any political members of Hamas, but only people who provoke the security situation."



PRESIDENT Mahmud Abbas

Culled from *guardian.co.uk*

News Extra



READER'S Digest: Pension deficit

Reader's Digest, the pocket-sized magazine that has been a favourite in dentists' waiting rooms for more than seventy years, is on the brink of collapse in the UK.

Its American parent company is blaming the UK's Pensions Regulator for failing to sign off a deal on the deficit in the pension fund of the British subsidiary.

In a statement released in the US, Reader's Digest Association warns that it may be forced to put its UK business into administration within weeks, unless it can secure a last-minute deal with the watchdog.

The magazine is renowned as the most widely-read in the whole

world, but its parent company got into financial difficulties because of a downturn in advertising revenues amidst the recession.

Traditional publishing has been hit hard by the rise of internet-based news and gossip sites.

In its halcyon days of the 1990s, Reader's Digest was the best-selling magazine in the UK with a circulation of around 2 million. But its loyal readership has been getting older and younger readers are more attracted by celebrity magazines such as OK! and Closer. Circulation in the UK is thought to now be just 500,000.

The US business filed for 'Chapter 11' bankruptcy in August 2009. It had been hoping to re-emerge from bankruptcy

Reader's Digest on brink of collapse after 70-years

with a restructured business over the coming weeks.

However, the UK subsidiary is proving a sticking point. It cannot agree a rescue deal for the pension deficit on the UK scheme, it will probably just cut the division loose and hand it over to administrators.

Reader's Digest employees 135 staff in London and Swindon, whose jobs would be at risk if it is placed into administration. There are also 1,600 members of its pension fund, who will be worried about the payment of their retirement benefits.

The dispute is over the deficit in the UK pension fund, which is thought to be around £125 million. Reader's Digest had offered to inject £10.9 million into the fund plus one third of the UK business as a guarantee against future liabilities.

The company had already reached a deal with the trustees of the fund and the Pension Protection Fund which helps provide a lifeboat for schemes in trouble.

However, the regulator, which

Reader's Digest was the best-selling magazine in the UK with a circulation of around 2 million

has the final say-so, is refusing to sign off the deal.

It is thought that the watchdog believes that the parent company needs to inject extra cash to ensure that it can pay future liabilities of scheme members. It would also want reassurance that

the publisher is financially strong enough to keep making the necessary payments into the scheme.

Now that the regulator has refused to sign off the plan, "the board of directors of Reader's Digest Association UK is likely to authorise the prompt commencement of insolvency proceedings," the company said in a court document.

A source close to the company said: "Without getting the pension sorted out the American company has been very clear that it will not be able to support the UK company. In that situation, the directors of the UK company would have no choice but to file for administration and then it will be up to the administrators to decide what to do. At the moment, this firm is a very large pension deficit with a small company attached."

Reader's Digest has offices in 44 countries and says that its publications reach 130 million readers in 78 countries. It publishes 92 magazines including 50 editions of Reader's Digest. It also has websites and sells books and music.

Cat predicts 50 deaths in nursing home

A cat with an uncanny ability to detect when nursing home patients are about to die has proven itself in around 50 cases by curling up with them in their final hours, according to a new book.

Dr David Dosa, a geriatrician and assistant professor at Brown University, said that five years of records showed Oscar rarely erring, sometimes proving medical staff at the New England nursing home wrong in their predictions over which patients were close to death.

The cat, now five and generally unsociable, was adopted as a kitten at the Steere House Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre in Providence, Rhode Island, which specialises in caring for people with severe dementia.

Dr Dosa first publicised



THE tortoiseshell and white cat spends its days pacing from room to room, rarely spending any time with patients except those with just hours to live Photo: AP

Oscar's gift in an article in the New England Journal of Medicine in 2007. Since then, the cat has gone on to double the number of imminent deaths it has sensed and convinced the geriatrician that it is no fluke.

The tortoiseshell and white cat spends its days pacing from room to room, rarely spending any time with patients except those with just

hours to live.

If kept outside the room of a dying patient, Oscar will scratch on the door trying to get in.

When nurses once placed the cat on the bed of a patient they thought close to death, Oscar "charged out" and went to sit beside someone in another room. The cat's judgement was better than that of the nurses: the second

patient died that evening, while the first lived for two more days.

Dr Dosa and other staff are so confident in Oscar's accuracy that they will alert family members when the cat jumps on to a bed and stretches out beside its occupant.

"It's not like he dawdles. He'll slip out for two minutes, grab some kibble and then he's back at the patient's side. It's like he's literally

on a vigil," Dr Dosa wrote.

Dr Dosa noted that the nursing home keeps five other cats, but none of the others have ever displayed a similar ability.

In his book, "Making rounds with Oscar: the extraordinary gift of an ordinary cat", Dr Dosa offers no solid scientific explanation for Oscar's behaviour.

He suggests Oscar is able - like dogs, which can reportedly smell cancer - to detect ketones, the distinctly-odoured biochemicals given off by dying cells.

Far from recoiling from Oscar's presence, now they know its significance, relatives and friends of patients have been comforted and sometimes praised the cat in newspaper death notices and eulogies, said Dr Dosa.

"People were actually taking great comfort in this idea, that this animal was there and might be there when their loved ones eventually pass. He was there when they couldn't be," he said.

PROPERTY

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KADUNA State Governor, Arc. Namadi Sambo (left) receiving briefing documents from the Managing Director, Federal Housing Authority (FHA), Arc. Terver Gemade when the management of the FHA visited the governor in Kaduna recently

KDSG allays fear over master plan

THE Kaduna State Government on Sunday said that the implementation of the reviewed Kaduna Master Plan would not involve the demolition of structures.

Alhaji Mohammed Sañi-Sidi, the State Commissioner for Works, who spoke to newsmen in Kaduna, said that the exercise was aimed at updating and articulating a broad vision for the future physical development of the state.

He said that although there was no plan to demolish existing buildings, the government was

taking a critical look at the structures built on green areas in its bid to control flood.

The commissioner said that the state government had warned against the erection of illegal structures in flood-prone areas, especially in Kigo area of the state capital.

He said that henceforth no development would be allowed to take place in new areas lacking infrastructure and social amenities.

Last week the state governor,

Alhaji Namadi Sambo, had said that his government would soon start issuing computerised certificates of occupancy in its bid to improve land management.

Sabo, who disclosed this when he received some consultants in his office, said that Kaduna city could be redesigned without much damage to existing structures.

NAN recalls that a British firm, Max Lock, designed a master plan for Kaduna in 1967. (NAN)

Lagos advises residents of defective buildings to relocate

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LAGOS state government has appealed to property owners as well as the residents who have had structurally defective buildings to immediately relocate and bring same to the attention of the state government through the Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development to prevent further loss of lives and property through preventable collapse of building in any part the State.

The state government equally reminded members of the public that owners of any building that collapse in the state would forfeit such landed property to the government as provided by the law.

The State Commissioner for Information and Strategy said this while conveying the decision of the State Executive Council in his office yesterday. He noted that the government did not want a situation where people would wait till their buildings collapse resulting in loss of lives and property.

He advised owners of buildings that are above 40 years and building owners that are not certain or who entertain doubts as to the structural stability of their buildings to voluntarily apply to Material Testing Laboratory as they would not attract penalty.

He advised owners of buildings that are above 40 years and building owners that are not certain or who entertain doubts as to the structural stability of their buildings to voluntarily apply to Material Testing Laboratory as they would not attract penalty.

The commissioner call on members of the public who suspect any building in their neighbourhood with structural defect to report or advice the State Government accordingly.

NSE to focus on continuous education, professionalism

By Nasir Imam

THE new administration at the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) has said it will focus mainly on continuous professional development and education of members as a way of making them relevant and bringing them up to date to meet current challenges of the profession.

A statement from NSE's Head of Media and Publication, Ikenna Emeka Okpani, said the newly inaugurated President of the Society, Engr. Olumuyiwa Alade Ajibola who spoke in Eket, Akwa Ibom state on a visit to the branch of the society called on all branches of the society to explore ways of developing its members through seminars workshop and lectures and through tapping into the programmes of the Society Resource centres in Lagos and Abuja.

He attended a memorial lecture in honour of Engr Felix Esi who was one of the founding members of the NSE branch in Eket and laid the foundation for the branch's Resource Centre and Engineering Centre

"As I said in my inaugural speech at the investiture a fortnight ago, our real professional strength in providing service to the nation lies in the specialised divisions and branches of the Nigerian Society of Engineers. Therefore the branches must continue to provide avenues for the professional growth of its members. We must be prepared to promptly respond in a systematic manner to challenges of the profession nationally and internationally and one of the ways to do this is through interactions and lectures like this. At the national level, we shall continue to strengthen the branches with constant interaction so as to make them alive to their responsibilities for the professional development of their members," he said.

W/Bank to assist in reconstruction of Bauchi - Gombe - Biu road

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development Dr. Hassan Lawal said Monday that the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the highly dilapidated Bauchi - Gombe - Biu roads would be financed under the World Bank assisted loan.

Dr. Hassan who disclosed this when he paid a courtesy call on the Gombe State Governor, Alhaji Muhammad Danjuma Goje during an inspection tour of federal

government road projects in the zone said it is the desire of the present administration to ensure road constructions are evenly distributed across the country.

He said that the commencement of work on Gombe's 12 kilometer ring road, that has been on the drawing board since President Shehu Shagari's administration attest to President Yar'Adua commitment and determination to ensure that traffic flows through Gombe main town is reduced and to save lives from the constant motor acci-

dents being recorded on that roads.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development said a number of other federal government roads which he inspected including Gombe - Numan - Yola road that has not been rehabilitated in the past 30 years are receiving attention, adding that Journey from Gombe to Yola which used to take almost five hours due to the bad nature of the failed portions of the road now takes two and half hours. He assured that with the tempo of work on site

the contractor would complete and delivered the roads before December next year.

Receiving the minister, the Gombe State Governor Alhaji Muhammad Danjuma Goje thanked the federal government for embarking on the reconstruction of Gombe - Numan - Yola road. He said that the rehabilitation of Bauchi - Gombe road, Gombe - Biu roads as well as the construction of the Gombe Ring road would relief not only the state but the adjoining states the pains experienced on bad roads.

Property



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PHCN reconnects Garki market

By Nasir Imam

SEVEN months after the market was disconnected from electricity supply for huge indebtedness to Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN), Garki Model Market, Abuja was recently reconnected through the spirited efforts of the Market Managers-Abuja Markets Management Limited.

Daily Trust's investigation revealed that prior to this effort by Abuja Markets

Management Limited, payment of electricity bills in the market was handled by the former traders Association led by one Prince Edozie Ugwu.

A cross section of traders interviewed claimed that they were paying the electricity bill to the Association promptly, yet from the bill made available to our reporter, the market owed the sum of N25.6 Million.

At a tripartite meeting held before the reconnection, by AMML, PHCN and the traders, the PHCN representative,

Engr. Olotu, noted that the decision to reconnect the market in spite of the huge debt overhang followed pressure from AMML and the need for a continued business relationship between PHCN and the market.

"For more than six months now this place has been cut off, we on our own side we are not happy because we know what we have been losing but after a long discussion, we were able to reach a conclusion that the market should be reconnected", he said.

Continuing, he said "You all know that the amount that is in arrears is so much; it is not a meagre amount, so we encourage you to endeavour to pay your bill".

The agreement, according to him, is that traders should pay current charges and service the outstanding bill simultaneously, even as he noted that any default on the side of the traders will bring about a disconnection, which would require total settlement of all arrears before reconnection.

Daura city gates, Kusugu well for reconstruction

By Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE Emir of Daura, Alhaji Faruk Umar Faruk, has pledged to use thirty million naira (N30m) from his personal resources in order to reconstruct three old city gates and the famous "Kusugu well" monument in the emirate.

The emir made the pledge last Saturday in his palace during an occasion organised by the emirate to honour Hajiya Talatu Nasir Daura who was recently appointed as permanent secretary for women affairs by the state government.

"We have awarded contract worth millions of naira to reconstruct city gates to promote our historical antecedents, and all the monies going to come from the personal pockets of the emir, if anybody has contributed a dime let him say so," the emir declared.

He said the emirate was motivated into embarking on such ventures because they don't want to be like Oliver Twist who always asks for more after all that the state government has done for them in recent days.

He said they were in a hurry to develop the palace into a modern one that will march the 21st century even as they have limited time in their disposal. He however seeks for the cooperation of all people in the emirate.

Explaining further he said, while the state government has reconstructed the two major western and southern gates to the best so far in the northern part of the country with hundred of millions of naira, the emirate decides to reconstruct the eastern and northern gates at the cost of seventeen (N17m) million naira.

In addition he said, the famous Kofar Gabas (East gate) where the legendary Bayajidda came through to Daura is to be reconstructed at the cost of six million naira (N6m) while the famous Daura historical Monument of "Kusugu well" is to be re modernised also at another cost of six million naira (N6m).



PIC: HIR JOSEPH

THE urban renewal project of the Keffi local government area going on in the ancient town of Keffi in Nasarawa State.

FG yet to pay UniPort landlords compensation

MORE than 34 years after the Federal Government acquired the present land area housing the University of Port Harcourt, the land owners are yet to be compensated. Expectedly, the communities are grumbling and there is tension in the air and their patience may soon run out.

The aggrieved communities include Choba which owns the largest portion of the acquired land, Aluu, Rumuosi, Alakahia, Rumuaholu, Nkpolu, Rumuigbo and Rukpokwu and the land area of about eight kilometre radius is regarded as one of the largest university landmass in West

Africa.

Only recently, Rivers State Governor, Chibuike Amaechi, reminded the Federal Government of the unpaid compensation.

Speaking when the new Pro-Chancellor and Chairman of the university's Governing Council, Dr. Dan Shere paid him a courtesy visit sometime last year, Governor Amaechi had complained that compensation was yet to be paid for the hundreds of acquired plots.

"What happens is that each time we want to build or expand, people come and demand some payment

in lieu of the unpaid compensation. However, I must say that they are very understanding because they also benefit one way or the other from the university," said a senior university official.

But a community leader in Choba, who would not want his name in print said the landlords see the attitude of the Federal Government as unfair.

"To tell you the truth, we feel very bad each time we hear that the same Federal Government is paying or has paid compensation in other parts of the country. Why this unfair treatment?"

Nasarawa people want Makurdi urbanisation model

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE people of Nasarawa State have called on Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma to take a queue from his Benue State counterpart, Governor Gabriel Suswam to bring urbanization to Lafia, the state capital of the 13 year old state.

The untidy state capital lacks roads and aesthetic features to go with urbanization, with a contract to bring urban renewal to the town suffering at the foundation, more than two years after it was awarded. The contract to provide

Lafia with a perfect network of roads and drainages was awarded by the state government in 2007, being the first project embarked on after Governor Doma was inaugurated. But the CCECC project did not pick up, forcing the state government to review it upward, a year after. But the contractor abandoned the job after the provision of a few drainages and the foundation work on the Doma Road Junction Roundabout. Government has blamed paucity of funds, however.

A stakeholder in the state, Alhaji Shamsudeen Abubakar expressed the

displeasure of the people of the state with the lack of development in the state capital and headquarters of the various Local Government Areas, saying the state government must copy from Benue State's model of development.

"You can't compare Lafia with its neighbour - Makurdi, the capital of Benue State or any other state capitals in the entire federation. This is sad. We are therefore calling on our governor to copy from Makurdi to make Lafia a beautiful state capital", Shamsudden said.

He also urged Governor Doma to complement the efforts of the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Hassan Mohammed Lawal who has awarded an ongoing contract to give Keffi a face lift through the provision of asphalt on the deplorable roads.

Shamsudeen who is also the Magajin Rafin Keffi expressed concern that an earlier report on the ongoing Keffi project gave the Keffi local government chairman the credit instead of the minister, explaining that "the contract is by the minister and not the chairman."

Property



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Alao-Akala commissions N1.5bn project

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

GOVERNOR Christopher Adebayo Alao-Akala has commissioned the dualised 7.7km Iwo Road Interchange-Monatan-Leyland-Olodo Road, Ibadan, Oyo State, along with the streetlight at a total cost of about N1.5 billion.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony on Tuesday night, the Governor said that the road project was in fulfillment of his promises to the delivery of dividends of democracy and in furtherance of his electoral vows to spread development round all parts of the State.

The Governor stressed the determination of his administration to bring comfort to the people of the State regardless of their religious and political affiliation.

He noted that the provision of standard and adequate infrastructural facilities particularly good road network cannot be over-emphasized as it is indeed an essential component of the State Government poverty alleviation programme.

Otunba Akala added that his administration is totally committed towards the positive transformation of the State socio-economic and the general well being of the citizenry.



A sculpture situated in downtown Chicago, USA

Potholes on FCT roads worry residents

By Bunmi Omolehin

SOME residents of the Federal Capital Territory have complained over the increase in the number of pot holes on some major roads in several parts of the city.

Some of the residents, who spoke with Daily Trust, also appealed to the

FCT administration to carryout massive repairs of the pedestrian pathways in some areas of the city.

Particularly of note are the several pot holes that can be found in some streets in the Jabi area of the metropolis. Residents of the area have noted that these pot holes could be dangerous especially at nights when visibility is low.

Also in some parts of the Area 11 axis of the FCT, numerous pot holes on pedestrian pathways could be noted. Right in front of the Texaco filling station, a giant pot hole can be found. A regular passerby in the area, Samuel Adeloje said that several people have been injured at the site when they unknowingly feel due to poor visibility. "it is a dangerous spot

that the authorities need to take care of that we would not have any more accidents, he noted.

Effort to get officials of the Federal Capital Development Authority to comment on the issue was not successful but Daily Trust gathered that concerned residents have embarked on measures targeted at filling some of these holes.

How Lagos plans to boost water supply

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

WHILE commissioning the newly constructed two mini-waterworks at Magodo and Mende area of metropolitan Lagos last week, the state governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola said eight of such mini-waterworks have been fully completed and on commissioning, they are capable of giving people of the state additional 30 million gallons of water daily.

According to the governor, the two mini-waterworks commissioned were part of the 15 such project being undertaking by the state government to enable residents of Lagos get drinkable water on regular supply everyday. He said the completed eight among the 15 mini-waterworks will soon be handed over to the communities where they were sited.

The governor also said the new 15 mini water works in addition to providing 30 million gallons of water to the people of Lagos daily would also each come with five kilometer reticulation to aid the distribution of the water across

the state.

On the government readiness and medium term plan of the for solving the problem of water supply in Lagos, Fashola said the Iju Waterworks and Adiyen water works with a capacity to produce 130 million gallons of water daily would be positioned for optimum production for the betterment of the people.

Explaining how this dream will easily become a reality, the governor noted that Lagos is building a 12.5 megawatt independent power station that would be dedicated to the two prominent water works in the state and promised that before June this year, the Independent power station would be commissioned.

On the remaining seven among the 15 mini-waterworks projects embarked on by the state government, Fashola explained that they were at different stages of completion adding that they were spread across the state with all of them scheduled for delivery in the next few weeks as part of the short term plan of providing water for the populace.



GOV Babatunde Fashola

Describing commissioning of the two mini water works at Mende and Magodo as a fulfillment of his electoral promises to the people two and half years ago, the governor said the long term plan for getting required water for use by Lagosians was to build new massive waterworks through the Adiyen Phase 2 and Odomola in Epe, both in the outskirts of metropolitan Lagos.

While stressing that the plans form part of the water sector reforms of the government, he invited private investors to come forward and partner with the state by investing in the water sector just as it is done overseas.

He also said water supply is

a major component of the State Government's responsibility to sustain the environment, promote sustainability and provision of health care and prevent disease.

In his words: "While some people see this as a Millennium Development Goal (MDG) or a goal that has a particular date, we in our party (the Action Congress) see it as a Minimum Development Goal".

Governor Fashola added: "A long time ago they told us that everything will happen in Year 2010, we are now in 2010, the miraculous year. The Action Congress (AC) believes that this are things that should not have a date but should be the primary function of any serious party that wants to form government in this country."

Governor Fashola also expressed appreciation to the contractor which handled the mini water works at Magodo for donating a computer and laboratory science block to the school behind the water works without any prompting.

He described the conduct of the contractor as a commendable act

of giving something back to the community by people who have prospered from their endeavours in the area. He appealed to the residents of the communities where the water works are located not to see the projects as government properties, but facilities they should be ready to defend, adding that the people should guide against vandalism, cutting of pipe and making illegal connections.

Governor Fashola also implored residents to pay their water bills regularly noting that refusing to do so will deprive the water corporation of resources to keep the supply going, buy diesel and maintain the facility, which would ultimately be inimical to the ability of the facility to supply water to the people.

Earlier, while speaking at the commissioning of the water works at Magodo, the Deputy Minority Leader of the Senate, Senator Olorunimbe Mamora commended Governor Babatunde Fashola for becoming the trademark for performance and good governance in Nigeria.

BORNO INTEGRITY GROUP

No 414, Sir Kashim Ibrahim Road, Maiduguri, Borno State. big10@yahoo.com

SUPPORT FOR THE CREATION OF MORE EMIRATES IN BORNO STATE

The attention of Borno Integrity Group has been drawn to the activities of some misguided groups under different guises and names desperately struggling to oppose the creation of more Emirates out of the existing three in Borno State. The claims of these groups range from the weird to the ridiculous and from the tone of their objections, it is very clear that they are acting out the scripts of some few disgruntled politicians that want to use every opportunity to threaten peace and tranquillity in our State, especially as 2011 draws nearer. One of such groups that was hurriedly conscripted to 'fight' the noble intention of creating more Emirates is the so-called Borno State Unity Forum, which is, sadly, largely made up of people that are not even indigenes of our State but are from far away Kebbi, Katsina, Zamfara and Sokoto States.

One therefore wonders in what way(s) creating an Emirate in Borno is these people's business even if they now live in Borno? The group recently issued a press release and even wrote a piece in *Daily Trust* Newspaper of Friday, 29th January, 2010 making some ill-informed claims and insinuations that only expose their desperation and thoughtlessness. The other group (in all likelihood non-existent) that was similarly created under the funny name of Kanem Development Association wrote an open letter to the Executive Governor of Borno State, His Excellency, Senator (Dr.) Ali Modu Sheriff, which appeared on page 28 in the same *Daily Trust* Newspaper of Friday, 29th January, 2010. It is incredible and highly suspicious that such an association that is so passionate about the issue in question could write an open letter in an advertorial without disclosing the names of their officials or their address, which confirms that they surely do not exist.

The claims of these two groups (assuming that they exist and differ from one another) are basically the same. Their style of operation (commando-like) is also the same. They are opposing the creation of more Emirates in the State and are expressing fears of a 'breach of peace' in the event more Emirates are created. They hoped to create some phantom tension and false sense of insecurity in the State just to dissuade the Borno State House of Assembly from carrying out their constitutional duties. The so-called Kanem Development Association specifically claimed that "the creation of new emirates will only bring about hatred, retard progress and destroy a history that is regarded as the longest and most peaceful in living memory". We are shocked and embarrassed that an association that claims to be for the development of Kanem is exhibiting such unpardonable ignorance about the emergence, evolution and history of the Kanem Borno Empire, which gave rise to the existing three Emirates in Borno.

It is important to say that Kanem Borno Empire (originally known as Kanem) was founded in the 9th Century and its territory at various times included what is now Southern Chad, Northern Cameroon, Northeastern Nigeria, Eastern Niger, and Southern Libya. Pre-colonial Empires, Kingdoms, Caliphates and other autonomous political units have changed and will continue to change in size, character and form. Their sphere of activities will also continue to be affected accordingly. This is a fact of history that these trouble shooters must come to terms with, including our respected traditional rulers, especially in the context of our modern secular political structures or democracy.

These apostles of mischievousness should know that this strong Empire (KANEM) has undergone changes over time, including restructuring to respond to the challenges of the times and circumstances. THERE IS THEREFORE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING WRONG IN CREATING MORE EMIRATES IN

BORNO TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME AND CIRCUMSTANCE THROUGH DUE PROCESS RECOGNISED BY THE LAW. The Borno State House of Assembly, as the representative of the people, represents the three existing Emirates in the State. They have been empowered by law to consider the creation of Emirates, Chiefdoms, Village Units, etc. The Executive Governor has the mandate of the people of the State and if in his wisdom and in the overall interest of the State, more Emirates need to be created, there is also nothing wrong with that. The Law recognises his powers to do so. Creating more Emirates in this way is therefore not illegal or unconstitutional and should not therefore warrant any apprehension. Moreover, there are precedents in the State and the country at large.

It is instructive to say that, recently, a group under the auspices of Yerwa Citizens has openly clamoured for a New Borno State out of the present Borno State. Before then, the Biu Development Association has consistently demanded for Savannah State out of the present Borno State. Various groups and individuals have severally demanded for the creation of new political constituencies, wards and units in the State. For God's sake where were all these mercenaries, emergency lovers of peace and the claimed voices of the people (the so-called Borno Unity Forum and Kanem Development Association)? Where were these advocates of doom when Yobe State was created out of Borno State and even when the Northern Eastern State was spilt into six States (Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, and Yobe)? Did the heavens fall? With the benefit of hindsight, these developments brought with them appreciable transformations of these States and improvement of the lives of the people. Similarly, all the political entities that emerged from the Kanem Borno Empire have progressed remarkably, politically, socially, economically and administratively speaking. So what the hell are these rented birds singing?

In conclusion, we fully SUPPORT the action of the Executive Governor of Borno State, Senator Ali Modu Sheriff and appeal to the Borno State House of Assembly to positively consider the bill before them for the creation of more Emirates out of Borno State in the interest of our people and peaceful co-existence. This will ensure that many more of our communities will have the platform to better articulate their interests and aspirations. We urge you to ignore the activities of these visionless and self-serving groups and individuals that have a political agenda of dragging our respected traditional institutions and rulers into their dirty politics in 2011. You should remain undaunted in your quest to serve the people of the State. We assure you that there is nothing that will happen in our State if more Emirates are created in the interest of our people, and Borno will still remain the Home of Peace.

As we have stated, Borno is not the first and will not be the last to create Emirates and Chiefdoms in the country. We want to enjoin the security agents in the State to track and uncover those behind these misguided groups that are more concerned with the money they collect from such shameless activities than the peace and tranquillity that exist in our State. We believe that all this brouhaha about Emirate creation is the handwork of discontented politicians residing in far away Abuja and outside the State. As a matter of fact there is no better time to do that than now when our State is being governed by a no-nonsense and fearless Governor that is determined to free our people from the antics of the ruling class in Borno and do things right for our people no matter whose ox is gored.

Mallam Bukar Fantami Kundili
President



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Invitation for Bids (IFB) - Nigeria

Bid Issuance Date: 3rd February, 2010.
Contract Identification No: IFB/AICP/AH/NCB/01/2010
World Bank Credit No: 4160 - UNI
World Bank Credit Name: Avian Influenza Control and Human Pandemic Preparedness and Response Project.

- This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in *Development Business*, issue no. 691 of 30th November, 2006, *Daily Trust newspaper of October 20*, *Guardian newspaper of 24 and Federal Tender Journal of October 30, 2006*.
- The Federal Government of Nigeria has received credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of **Avian Influenza Control & Human Pandemic Preparedness & Response Project** and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the **Procurement of 400 units of GPS Equipment**.
- The **Avian Influenza Control & Human Pandemic Preparedness & Response Project - Animal Health Component** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of under listed item(s):

LOT	Description	Qty	Location	Delivery Period	Bid Security
1	GPS	400	1 st floor NAIC House Unit D, Plot 590, Zone AO, Central Business District, Airport Rd., Abuja -FCT, Nigeria	60 days	At least 2% of bid price

- Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)** procedures specified in the World Bank's *Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits*, and are open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.⁵
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Avian Influenza Control & Human Pandemic Preparedness & Response Project** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from the hours of 9:30 am to 4:00 pm on Mondays to Thursdays and 9:30 am to 1:00 pm on Fridays.
- Qualifications requirements include: All, as contained /listed in the BDS of the Bidding Document. A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding documents.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee **N10,000.00** (Ten Thousand Naira) only or **70.00USD** (Seventy USD) only. The method of payment will be cash. The Bidding Documents will be collected by hand.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **12:00 Noon, 3rd March, 2010**. Electronic bidding **will not** be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at **12: 00 Noon, 3rd March, 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by at least 2% bid security or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.¹
- The address referred to above is:
Avian Influenza Control & Human Pandemic Preparedness & Response Project, 1st floor Nigerian Agricultural Insurance Corporation House Unit D, Plot 590, Zone AO, Central Business District, Airport Road, Abuja-FCT, Nigeria..

Signed:
DR. M.D. SAI'IDU
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HEADQUARTERS NIGERIAN ARMY
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INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE EXECUTION OF CAPITAL
PROJECTS FOR THE NIGERIAN ARMY

A. PREAMBLE

In partial fulfillment of the requirements of Public Procurement Act 2007 in the procurements of goods and services by the Federal Government Ministries and Departments and Agencies, the Nigerian Army wish to undertake the execution of the under- listed project under the Year 2009 Capital Appropriation ending March 2010. To this end competent contractors/vendors are invited to submit both technical and financial bids in line with the defined scope and technical specifications for the projects.

B. PROJECT

Improvement of Water Supplies in NA Barracks: Drilling of Water Boreholes and Basic Support Water Reticulation in various Nigerian Army Barracks spread nationwide.

C. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Tenders should meet the following requirements:

- Indicate clearly the location on the technical and financial submissions.
- Be registered with the Ministry of Defence, Defence Headquarters or the Nigerian Army.
- Possess the following:
 - Company 3 years audited accounts report.
 - Certificate of Incorporation with CAC.
 - Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three years.
 - VAT Certificate/Evidence of Remittances
 - Verifiable evidence of execution of similar projects, the contract sums, including copies of letters of award and completion certificates; and other works experience.
 - Evidence of financial capacity from the Bank.
 - Pay a non-refundable tender fee of N50,000.00.
 - Provide list of construction equipment including an indication of whether owned or leased; for own equipment evidence of ownership shall be required.

D. VERIFICATION OF CLAIMS IN QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS:

The Nigerian Army reserves the right to verify the authenticity of claims made in the tender documents submitted. All documents are to be subjected to vetting by the relevant Intelligence Agencies.

E. SUBMISSION AND OPENING OF TENDER DOCUMENTS:

Submission of bids should be in 2 separate envelopes, sealed and clearly marked as **TECHNICAL** and **FINANCIAL** stating the project bid for. The location is also to be clearly stated on the envelopes which is to be deposited in the Tenders Box located in the Assistant Director Army Tenders Board's office at the Department of Logistics Army Headquarters, Ministry of Defence, Area 7, Garki ABUJA.

Collection of tender requirements commences on Fri 5 February 2010 and submission of completed tender documents closes by 1000 am on 19 February 2010. Successful pre-tenders will be notified immediately of the date and time of opening of tenders.

F. PUBLIC OPENING OF BIDS

Contractors and their representatives are invited to witness the technical opening of bids same day at Army HQ. Please note that only shortlisted contractors from the Technical Bid Evaluation shall be invited to the Financial Bid opening to be scheduled thereafter.

Nothing in this advertisement shall be construed to be a Commitment on the part of the Nigerian Army to undertake the project, reply any company not found suitable or entitle any bidder to make any claim(s) whatsoever in respect of any expense(s) incurred in preparing a qualification. Late submission will not be considered. The decision of the Nigerian Army Procurement Planning Committee is final.

SIGNED
Chief of Logistics (Army)
for Army Headquarters Abuja

CITY NEWS



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News about your capital city

Six PDP members die in Abaji auto crash

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

FOUR officials of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Abaji as well as two members of the party lost their lives Monday evening in a ghastly motor accident that occurred at Awawa Village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

Our reporter learnt that the PDP ward chairmen of Abaji north-east ward, Agyana-Pandagi ward, Abaji central ward and south-east ward, all died in the crash.

An eyewitness said the accident

occurred when a Honda car with registration number FS 501 LND overtook dangerously and collided with an Opel car with registration number AH 286 ABJ, killing five persons on the spot.

The witness said one other victim later died after he was rushed to University of Abuja Teaching Hospital by officials of the Abaji unit command of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC).

Alhaji Haruna S. Kaura, ward chairman representing Nuku-Sabon-Gari, disclosed that they were returning from a party's

meeting at Gwagwalada when the incident occurred.

According to him, the meeting was attended by all the 10 ward chairmen of Abaji, Kwali, Kuje, Gwagwalada and the senator representing FCT, Senator Adamu Sidi Ali, after which N10,000 was given to the participants at the end of the meeting.

He said the participants left the meeting venue in a convoy of vehicles and on approaching Dangara junction, noticed traffic hold up caused by the accident that led to the death of six of their colleagues.

The ward chairman lamented further that all ward chairmen received notices on Sunday that one Honourable Isah Egah Dobi, a member representing their constituency wanted to hold a meeting with them, adding that to the surprise of all the chairmen, who waited for a while, Senator Sidi Ali walked in and pleaded that he was the one that summoned the meeting and later gave them N10,000 each at the end of the meeting.

The Abaji unit commander of FRSC, Mr. Joseph Ojerinde, while confirming the accident, blamed the driver of the Honda vehicle for

dangerous overtaking. He said the driver escaped after the accident and has not been seen.

The FRSC commander also revealed that the six corpses have been handed over to the relatives of the deceased for burial.

Abaji Council Chairman, Alhaji Yahaya Musa Mohammad also expressed shock over the incident and said the deceased devoted their time to the party's progress.

He urged their families to accept their loss in good faith, assuring that the council will look for ways to assist them.

Police react to Peace Corps office closure

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE police Monday evening said the closure of Peace Corps of Nigeria's headquarters by their men is because the organisation's activities violate their aims of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission.

Spokesperson of the FCT Police Command, Jimoh Moshood, superintendent told journalists that the organisation constitutes a threat to national security.

The police statement is at variance with a high court ruling by Justice Muhammad Umar, which states that Peace Corps does not pose a security risk and was duly registered by the Corporate Affairs Commission.

The court also ruled that any investigation conducted on the organisation should be done through due process.

It will be recalled that after the court's ruling two weeks ago, the police are yet to vacate the premises of Peace Corps corporate office and have been arresting their members.



PEACE Corps of Nigeria's corporate office being sealed by the police at Gwarinpa, Abuja.

Suspected kidnapper in police net

By Usman A. Bello & Hussein Yahaya

A man, Isah Kona, who alleged tried to kidnap a student of Junior Secondary School, Dutsen-Alhaji, is currently cooling off in a police cell.

According to eyewitness, the suspect attempted to kidnap the student at about 9 am, when he went into a nearby bush close to his school along Living Faith road to defecate.

"As the student bent down to defecate, he saw something like a shadow coming towards him, which prompted him to

look back and he saw the man attempting to cover him up with sack," the witness said.

He said the student started shouting, while the man took to his heels, adding that the shout attracted some people, who accosted the suspect and asked the student to go and call his teacher, before they were taken to the police station.

The witness also informed that the suspect attempted to kidnap a woman selling food in the school at about 6 am, when she came to prepare food to be sold to students, saying that it

was God that exposed the man.

The suspect denied the allegations at the police station, saying he was going to a nearby river to wash his clothes and that the sack was meant for his washed clothes.

At the police station, the food seller identified the man as the person that attempted to kidnap her in the morning.

The Station Officer of Dutsen-Alhaji Market Police Out Post, John Ijibla, confirmed the incident and said the case will be thoroughly investigated before any action is taken.

225 convicted for flouting environmental law

By Usman A. Bello & Lami Sadiq

ABOUT 225 hawkers and residents have so far been convicted by a mobile court set up by the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) for flouting environmental laws in Abuja.

The board's Public Relations Officer, Samuel Harry Musa, said the residents among them failed to pay waste bills or purchase waste bins. He said they were found guilty of flouting environmental laws, adding that they were fined

in order to serve as deterrents to other residents.

According to him, the law mandates the board to arrest and punish environmental defaulters, saying the board members will not relent in their efforts to sanitize the city.

The spokesperson also revealed that stakeholders in the FCT have resolved to work with the board in order to make the city clean and advised residents to participate in the monthly environmental sanitation exercise.

Trader denies assaulting lady

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 30-year-old trader, Ndubuisi Okoro, yesterday in court denied assaulting one Esther Ugwu of Lugbe Zone 5, Abuja.

Police prosecutor, Yilkudi Dungji, had earlier told the court that on January 27, 2010, the complainant reported to the police

that the accused beat her up without any provocation.

"While entering the compound, the complainant mistakenly kicked the accused person's bucket and as a result of that, he started beating her as well as damaged her Ecolac bag with rechargeable radio," the prosecutor added.

The prosecutor stated further that the complainant's property is valued at N11,000, adding that the accused committed an offence punishable under Sections 265 and 327 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail,

which was not objected by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Hadiza Dodo granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to February 17 for hearing.

Applicant jailed two weeks for trespass

By Usman A. Bello

A 25-year-old applicant, Ali Musa, has been sentenced to two weeks imprisonment for trespass, contrary to Section 348 of the Penal Code Law.

Police Prosecutor, David Udeh, told the court that the offence was committed on January 26, 2010 at Sheraton Hotel and Towers, Wuse, Zone 4, Abuja.

He said one George Mophet, a security man attached to the hotel reported that while he was on duty, he caught the accused trespassing into the hotel through the fence, adding that during investigations, the accused confessed to have committed the offence.

When the content of the First Information Report (FIR) was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged the court to temper justice with mercy, saying he did not intend to steal.

The prosecutor urged the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

Magistrate Folashade Oyekan sentenced him to two weeks imprisonment with a fine option of N500.

Council polls: Bwari residents call for transparency

By Hussein Yahaya

RESIDENTS of Bwari Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) have appealed to stakeholders in the forthcoming area council polls to ensure that the entire process is not only transparent but free and fair.

Some residents who spoke with our reporter at Bwari, Payi, Ushafa and Dutsen, stressed the need for all the stakeholders to conduct themselves peacefully during the exercise to ensure a rancour free poll.

Mr. John Isenboug, a Payi resident, specifically called on the security agencies taking part in the exercise to act professionally by not taking sides with any of the candidates or parties in the election.

A civil servant, Issa Ibrahim, commended the peaceful conduct of some candidates during campaigns periods in the area and urged them to sustain the tempo.

"So far, the candidates have been conducting themselves in an orderly manner and this gesture must be sustained in order

to have a free and fair poll in the council," he said.

Mr. Ayodele Banji called on the electoral officers to be neutral throughout the entire process, adding that the electoral body can conduct acceptable elections if it really wants to.

Posters of some of the candidates have already been pasted in strategic locations in some of the villages visited by our reporter while residents expressed willingness to participate in the elections that will usher in new council officers.

Elections into the six area

councils of the FCT are expected to take place in April this year.

So far, the candidates have been conducting themselves in an orderly manner and this gesture must be sustained in order to have a free and fair poll in the council

Security guard accused of stealing generator

By Usman A. Bello & Lami Sadiq

A 26-YEAR-OLD security guard, Yahaya Musa, was yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing a generator belonging to a tenant.

Prosecutor Adamu Abdullahi told the court that on January 23, 2010, one Joshua Horsefall, reported to the police that on the same day, the accused whom they had employed to guard their

residence stole his 2.2 KV generator valued at N33,000.

He told the court that the offence was committed at Plot 18, Naomi Street, Wuse Zone 3, Abuja, adding that the one count charge is punishable under Section 287 of the Penal Code Law.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge, while his counsel urged the court to grant him bail on the grounds that an accused is innocent until proven guilty by the court.

The prosecutor did not object to the bail application but asked the court to fix a date for hearing to enable him present witnesses in court

Chief Magistrate O.O. Oyewumi granted him bail in the sum of N100,000 with two sureties in like sum.

The magistrate ordered that one of the sureties must be a civil servant of not below grade level 06 and adjourned to February 11 for hearing.

Man charged with theft

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A middle-aged man yesterday appeared before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly picking the pocket of one Mr. Tofuwigle Aina at Lugbe junction, Abuja.

The man, Bashar Garba, was accused of committing the offence on February 1, 2010.

Prosecutor Yilkudi Dungji informed the court that the complainant was trying to board a bus at Lugbe junction, when the

accused criminally went behind him and picked his wallet containing N50,000, thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 288 of the Penal Code Law.

He said during police investigations, the said wallet containing N50,000 was recovered from the accused.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied the allegation, saying he was not the one who picked the complainant's pocket.

Based on the denial, the prosecutor asked the court for a date for hearing to enable the police bring evidence and witness to court.

In her ruling, Chief Magistrate Hafsat Soso granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to February 17 for hearing.



FUTURE ENERGY LIMITED

WITH SUPPORT OF THE ENERGY COMMISSION OF NIGERIA

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

Future Energy limited in collaboration with other stakeholder within and outside Nigeria is in the process of establishing Mega Farms for the cultivation of Jatropha and other Energy crops and Bio-diesel Refinery as an alternative source of Energy in Kwara State.

INVITATION:

Interested Contractors are hereby requested to submit their Expression of Interest for Pre-qualification for contracts in the underlisted Lots.

1. Lot I = Land Clearing (5000 Hectares)
2. Lot II = Bore Hole (130 and Solar powered)
3. Lot III = Construction of the site Buildings
4. Lot IV = Procurement of Project Vehicles
5. Lot V = Construction of Farm roads.
6. Lot VI = Construction of Storage Facilities (Silos)

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT:

1. Evidence of Company's registration with CAC
2. Current Tax Clearance Certificate
3. Evidence of VAT registration
4. Evidence of registration with Future Energy Limited (Project Promoter)
5. Company's Profile with evidence of technical capacity
6. Evidence of Financial Capability

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENT:

All required documents are to be addressed and submitted in a separated envelop sealed and clearly marked "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST"

indicating the LOT of interest and returned to the addresses below.

The Project Manager
Future Energy Liaison Office
20, Lajoin Street off Munitala Road,
Ilorin, Kwara State,
OR
Future Energy Limited
A68, (3rd Floor) Efab Mall,
Area 11, Garki,
Abuja.

For Further enquiry call: 09-8734727,
08053975658, 07037738693,
07031160643, 080533975701

All registration with the promoter will be done at the project desk offices at the above addresses and interested contractors are to obtain registration receipt with a Bank Draft of N20, 000 payable to Future Energy Limited.

Note

All the interested Contractors who have responded to our earlier publication are hereby inform that their earlier registration with us remains valid. This publication supersedes the earlier one.

Signed
MD/CEO
FUTURE ENERGY LIMITED



WE PARTNER WITH





FROM JIGAWA STATE TO AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

"I really have difficulty in addressing the issue of this type of award. While I may thank you for celebrating Sule Lamido as icon of Human Rights and while I have to thank you for your kind words, I get a bit worried that it has to take an outside body, because you are claiming to be the local arm of your parent body, to address a totally domestic arrangement. It has never been the reverse. It has never been our own going there to address or commend or give someone in Europe or America this kind of award. It is a little bit patronizing. I may feel elated in being celebrated or being given this or that award but then it leaves me with more questions. Why did I go into politics? Why did I want the people's mandate? Is it not to serve the people? Then why should I be celebrated or commended for doing that? It is part of the tragedy of Africa that we have to be assessed and scored and passed by people like you and those you said you are representing".

The above quotation is taken from the unwritten but tape recorded response of Governor Sule Lamido of Jigawa State on Wednesday, January 27th, 2010 when Amnesty and Human Rights Organization came to pay a courtesy call on the governor at Government House, Dutse and to announce an award to the governor. Amnesty International, the global Human Rights watch, has subsequently entered a disclaimer on the award which its self-advertised progeny, Amnesty and Human Rights Organization, gave to Alhaji Sule Lamido.

Government House, Dutse heartily welcomes the disclaimer and identifies itself with it as indicated by the quotation above. The quotation is certainly not the statement of a local, ignorant and award hungry Nigerian governor. Instead, the above quotation and the cognitive and conceptual framework behind it speak for itself. It captures the essential Sule Lamido as a discerning, sharp witted and politically educated operator who has pended so many awards till he is out of office, including an Honourary Doctorate degree from a North American university recently, an award many a Nigerian public official wouldn't mind transporting the entire state executive council to the United States to receive and show off.

As the head of a government, the governor and the Government House must welcome as many as those who knock on its door although the governor reserves the right of what responses to give to each and every caller, provided the response tallies within the bounds of 'diplomacy'. That was what happened in the case of this award.

In fact, Amnesty International would be most gratified if it watches the video of the last segment of the courtesy call where, with all standing, the governor and the award giver engaged themselves in a breathtaking impromptu debate on socialism. While the award giver was saying that Lamido was doing what he is doing in government because he is a socialist, Lamido thought and told him that he (the award giver) was no longer current in ideological thinking. When a protocol officer tried to stop the 'debate', Lamido protested, saying the officer should leave his visitor to be educated.

While responding to the statement of the award giver, Lamido had, apart from the quotation which opened this rejoinder, tried to explain, among other things, why the Jigawa State Government paid the ransom it paid to a particular victim of a particular herdsmen/farmers clash on the basis of the White paper on that particular conflict, the primacy of peace 'because there is no way I can be a governor in a graveyard', the imperative for the Talakawa Summit, the oddity of the immunity clause in the Constitution, why he stands by his earlier statement that he is in politics to defeat any other party which is too weak to stand up, fight its way and win elections because "to do otherwise is to ask your opponent to help you win a contest". The explanations were necessitated by his thesis that he does not have to be given award for doing what are merely his duties as a governor. Watching the video or listening to Radio Jigawa recording of the courtesy call, there is no where the governor stated he would be in Kaduna to collect the award later this month.

Clearly, Governor Sule Lamido knows who he is, where he is coming from and where he is going. On this particular award, Governor Lamido and Amnesty International are standing shoulder to shoulder. The evidence is that it is uncommon for a designated recipient of any award acceptable to him to, at the same time, proceed to pulverize the award giver as is very clear from the opening quotation and the subsequent 'debate'.

The only surprise in Amnesty International's disclaimer is why it is coming only now when this same Amnesty and Human Rights Organization has been doing business all over Nigeria, boldly and brazenly introducing itself ever since as the Nigerian Office of Amnesty International. Has someone been consciously sleeping in London and Geneva?

Over to Elisabeth Vikman!

Dated this 2nd of February, 2010,
Media Unit, Government House, Dutse
Jigawa State of Nigeria

Inside Politics

Anambra: Aggrieved PDP aspirants head to S/Court

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

AGGRIEVED governorship aspirants of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the Anambra governorship election scheduled for Saturday have appealed to the Supreme Court against the judgment of the Court of Appeal in Abuja which validated the candidature of Prof. Charles Chukwuma Soludo as the party's

candidate.

Valentine Ozoigbo, Nkoli Imo and Ferdinand Okoye faulted the process of the party's selection of the former Central Bank Governor as its governorship candidate in the Saturday governorship election in Anambra state and approached the Court of Appeal to overturn his candidature.

But the appeal court in a lead

judgment delivered by Justice Uwani Aba-Aji on January 26, 2010 held that the selection of a party's candidate in an election is clearly a political one which cannot be determined by a court of law, stressing that PDP has the right to select or appoint any person of its choice as flag-bearer in any election.

When the appeal was mentioned yesterday at the apex court,

counsel representing Valentine and others, Abubakar Sanni held that the Court of Appeal was wrong in its January 26, 2010 judgment delivered in favour of Prof. Soludo.

The appellants held through their counsel that the appellant court erred in law by dismissing their appeal, pointing out that Onuoha vs Okafor, Dalhatu vs Turaki and Ehinlawo vs Oke cases

relied upon by the court are not applicable to their case.

The five-man member panel of the Supreme court Justices preside over by Justice Dahiru Musdapher while adjourning further hearing in the appeal to February 16, 2010 said the appeal will be given accelerated hearing and that briefs should be filed in accordance with the requirements of counsels.

...Gov Obi optimistic of victory

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

GOVERNOR Peter Obi of Anambra State yesterday reached out to traders and other citizens of the state for support, during which he expressed hope of returning to power after Saturday's gubernatorial election.

The governor who arrived in the industrial city of Nnewi in a long convoy told a well attended rally that government had stepped up security measures, working in collaboration with all security agencies to ensure a free and fair election.

Addressing a section of the traders, Obi told members of the Fairly Used and New Motorcycle

Dealers Association (FUNDA) that government had set aside N10 billion for further development of the town, stressing that APGA is committed to the total development and progress of Anambra.

He warned the electorate to beware of liars and desperate politicians, insisting that they have nothing new to offer the people apart from confusion, looting and thugery.

"PDP government in Anambra introduced kidnapping, they burnt government house, Anambra broadcasting service, among others. They owed salaries to civil servants, schools were closed down for over one year, while facilities broke down and were allowed to decay over years," he said.

2011: Gov Idris prepares son for House of Reps

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

KOGI State governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, has allegedly concluded plans to ensure the nomination of his son, Mohammed Idris, as the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the House of Representatives election in 2011.

Confirming this to our correspondent yesterday, a party leader in Ankpa-Olamalaboro Fed-

eral Constituency of the state, Alhaji Ibrahim Lincio-Ocheje, said the governor agreed to support his son after he had approached and intimidated him of his plan to contest the election.

"That is the situation. The governor called and told me that after his son approached him over his plan to contest the election into the Federal House of Representatives in the next general election, he gave him his blessing and

asked him to go and contest with several other aspirants," said the party leader.

The governor's son, who is from the Omala Local Government Area of the state, will be ruffling feathers with the Majority Leader of the State House of Assembly, Adamu Muhammed who is also from the same local government, and Abdullahi Ibrahim, member representing Ankpa I constituency in the House at the moment.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Original Conveyance of Statutory Right of Occupancy ref. No FCDA/TRBM/LA 1407 dated 14th September 1995 on a plot located in Deidei belonging to Patrick Edewue is declared missing. All effort to trace the said document proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest police station. AGIS to take note

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Letter of Acknowledgement in respect of File No. CR20154 issued by AGIS to Mr. Lawrence E. Alobi MON of No. 62B Abidjan Street, Wuse Zone 3 Abuja is declared missing and all efforts made to trace it proved abortive. If found, please contact the nearest police station. FCDA, AGIS and relevant authority to note please.

Signed:
Lawrence E. Alobi MON.

QUEEN HADASSAH FOUNDATION

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 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Princess Esther Adepeju Osasona
2. Dr. Adebayo Ayo - Alanda
3. Rev. Dele Popoola
4. Miss Adenike Osasona
5. Alhaji Ibrahim Kuta

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To assist sick women and children financially and spiritual during and after their illness, especially people living with HIV/AIDS.
2. To encourage women to be self employed to be able to stand when no one is there to assist.
3. To establish, maintain and conduct a suitable organization for the benefit of Nigeria women and children.
4. To educate women on the need to manage terminal diseases for long life.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Register-General, Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), plot 420 Tigris Crescent of Aguiyi Ironsi, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.
Signed: Miss Adenike Osasona.

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08034981441

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the Notice of the general public, about the incorporation of a non-profit organization with:

NAME: REFORMATION CHRISTIAN MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. Plant a network of reformed churches in Nigeria and beyond.
2. Organize crusades, seminars etc aimed at reformation.
3. To reach out to men through television, radio, internet with our messages.
4. To reach the world through printed pages: literature, magazine.

NAME AND ADDRESS OF TRUSTEES

1. Dr. Gabriel Dansai, Khas
2nd Ewra Church Kefanchen, Kaduna State
2. Apostle (Dr.) Emmanuel Nnamdi Omuwachi
Ugozozie compound Idemili north L.G.A. Anambra State
3. Pastor Onaghe Modiere
No. 16 Ejroghense st Okpara (NLD, Delta State
4. Prophet Godsent Onweleke
No. 13 Ekwu AGBR, Delta State
5. Engr. Philip Omuwachi
Ugozozie compound Idemili north L.G.A. Anambra State
6. Chidima Onuobi
Ekwedo S. Onuobi's Compound Obioha villa, Bende LGA, Abia State

GENERAL FOCUS: A non-profit making organization meant to spread gospel world wide.
This publication is made in compliance with the provisions of section 594 part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) 1990 Cap C201FN.

Signed:
MANAGEMENT

My name was wrongly spelt by WAEC as MARINU MUHAMMED. The correct name is MANIRU MOHAMMED DAN IYA. WAEC and general public to take note

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly MISS FAOSAT BOLANLE MOHAMMED, now wish to be known as MRS BOLANLE SYNTYCHE WILLIAMS. All former documents remain valid. Oson State College of Education Ilesa and general public note.

I, formerly known as EMMANUEL ABIMBOLA now wish to be called ABIMBOLA OLAOLUWA ADURALERE EMMANUEL. All former documents remain valid. Federal Polytechnic Kaura Namoda, Zamfara State and the general public take note.

Formerly CHARITY OBIOMA OKWOR and CHARITY OKOWOR now wish to be known as MRS CHARITY OBETTA. General public/Agric Research Council of Nigeria take note.

I, formerly known as MISS CHRISTIANA SUNDAY AYAH, now wish to be known as MRS. CHRISTIANA UWEM BASSEY. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MARY MAGAWI DIKKI now wish to be known as MRS MARY AKINBAMI. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

BABALOLA, I formerly MISS ONIKEPO ABIDEMI COKER, now wish to be addressed as MRS. ONIKEPO ABIDEMI BABALOLA. All former documents remain valid. NIGCOMSAT and general public to take note

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of the loss of the Original Land Document No. 23247 belonging to UNIC INSURANCE PLC issued to them by KSDPC in respect of plot No. B10 with Beacon Members KSDPC 12, KSDPC 17, KDB 5254, and KDB 5246 situated at Magadishu Layout, Kaduna.

Inside Politics

Yar'adua, PDP and the zoning poser

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has a zoning arrangement for all top positions in government and the party's hierarchy. Does this have a role in the ongoing debate by politicians for and against Yar'adua's presidency? **Muideen Olaniyi** examines the issues.

THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has been steering the ship of Nigeria since 1999, when former President Olusegun Obasanjo was first elected as the civilian President. The emergence of Obasanjo as the PDP candidate for the 1999 general election had the support of a group of 34 eminent Nigerians, including first PDP National Chairman Chief Solomon Lar, former civilian governor of Kano State Alhaji Abubakar Rimi and the former Vice President in the second republic Dr Alex Ekwueme, among others. Their belief in a candidate from the Southwest was to pacify the people of the region who were still grieving from the annulment of the June 1993 Presidential election that was widely believed to be won by Bashorun MKO Abiola.

Indeed in the face of sustained political upheaval following the annulment of the election and subsequent death of Abiola in prison, PDP adopted an unwritten zoning formula in the selection of candidates to fill various political positions and conceded the presidency to the South West.

While Obasanjo was the Southern candidate for the position, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar who hails from Adamawa State in the Northeast geo-political zone who happened to be Obasanjo's deputy between 1999 and 2007 was seen as the Northern representative. The duo spent eight years in the saddle of leadership before the conduct of another fresh general election in 2007 that saw the assumption of Mallam Umaru Musa Yar'adua as the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and as the Northern candidate in the spirit of power rotation between North and South in the ruling PDP.

But the effectiveness and reliability of this zoning formula being adopted by the ruling party is now being put to test by the health challenges of President Yar'adua who has been receiving medical treatment in Saudi Arabia for more than two months. The development has begun to generate a lot of arguments and controversies among politicians, cutting across political parties, civil society groups and rights activists as well as lawyers. The apple of discord is that the President did not transmit any letter to the National Assembly to enable the Vice President function in acting capacity in line with the provisions of Section 145 of the 1999 Constitution.

Some theorists say the decision of Mr. President not to transmit the letter that would power Jonathan stemmed from the need to respect the eight-year mandate

of the North as planned by the leadership of the PDP in its zoning arrangement. To these people, the position of the national leadership of the PDP and leadership of the National Assembly in the debate concerning the absence of President Yar'adua forms the basis for their thought.

The calculation is such that going by the zoning pattern in place, PDP National Chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, who hails from the Southeast geo-political zone, may have to quit the seat because the President and party's National Chairman cannot come from the South. There are also suggestions that the positions of the Senate President and the Speaker of the House of Representatives will have to re-zoned if Jonathan assumes the presidency. This, some observers say, explains why the occupants of the offices, David Mark and Dimeji Bankole respectively are unwilling to support the idea that Yar'adua should go.

But there are also fears that Jonathan may dismiss the zoning arrangement if President Yar'adua gives way on health ground. These are some of the fears contributing to the ongoing crisis in the country which seems to have set the North against the South.

Another pointer, according to these people, is the decision by the PDP leadership and the BOT to shower encomiums on Jonathan. Ogbulafor, at a special press briefing on the controversy generated by Yar'adua's absence, said the opposition would not be allowed to set any agenda for the PDP. He said some politicians who were bent on destabilizing the country were behind the ongoing controversy, calling on Nigerians to remain loyal, and restraint in their actions.

In the same vein, the BOT for the first time, issued a statement on the outcome of its meeting after media reports suggested that former President Obasanjo left the meeting which he presided over in a sad mood because his attempt to rally support for the emergence of Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as 'Acting President' hit a brick wall.

PDP's National Secretary, Alhaji Abubakar Kawu Baraje, who was part of the meeting in a statement titled, 'the Health of Mr. President, Commander-in-Chief and the State of the Nation' urged Nigerians to exercise more patience until the president returns, saying everything was under control. Alhaji Baraje, who said the Vice President has been performing his responsibilities in line with the constitution, expressed BOT's support for the Vice President.

"Rising from its BOT meeting



PRINCE Vincent Ogbulafor



VICE President Goodluck Jonathan

held on Thursday, 14th January, 2010, the PDP considered the serious issue of the indisposition of the President, Commander-in-Chief, Alhaji Yar'adua, the effect of his prolonged absence on the nation and sequential developments and resolved as follows:

"That His Excellency, the Vice president, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan has been discharging the duties of the President in accordance with the provisions of the 1999 Constitution," he said adding that "a federal high court has ruled that there is no vacuum in the leadership of the country and that the Vice president can, indeed, act for the President in the latter's absence."

Also, President Yar'adua absence for more than 60 days has fuelled speculations of frantic moves by at least six power blocs within the PDP to search for a fresh Vice President. But the PDP National Publicity Secretary, Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali, further has dismissed such speculation and accused desperate opposition politicians of trying to use the media to sow a seed of discord among the ranks of the PDP.

Meanwhile as the political manoeuvrings reached a crescendo in January, President Umaru Yar'adua made a brief statement on the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in January, saying he would come

home as soon as he Doctors discharge him from the hospital. But rather help the situation, the voice which many described as not too pleasant fuelled further tension regarding his capacity to continue in office. Some cynics also went to the extent of alleging that the voice was that of an impostor.

Before the dust raised by the BBC programme could settle down, former President Olusegun Obasanjo, who is believed to have railroad Yar'adua to power, advised the ailing president to quit. This ignited the already charged political atmosphere. The two events created an atmosphere of suspicion on both sides of the coin, especially among various interest groups from the North and the South.

Some analysts see Yar'adua's BBC statement as something desperately arranged by those close to him to ensure that he remains in power despite the political tension. Others on the other hand particularly, consider Obasanjo's comments as a confirmation of the long held rumour that he deliberately chose a 'weakling' who would die and give way for another southern president.

Obasanjo's remarks also attracted widespread condemnations from various quarters, including the PDP which described his it as ill timed and in

bad taste. The party said the man has become a subject of ridicule despite his pre-eminent position in society.

However, one issue that added another twist to the whole power tussle is the judgement of the Federal High Court that directed the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to furnish it with details of the health status of President Yar'adua within 14 days, a directive which was faulted by some hard-line politicians including Alhaji Tanko Yakassai, a prominent northern politician.

But a source from headquarters of the PDP said the President's precarious condition as at the time he was flown out of the country may be responsible for his inability to transmit such letter, thus putting doubt on the authenticity of the so called signature which Mr. President was said to have appended to the 1999 Supplementary Budget.

Whether the ongoing crisis would be resolved as soon as possible, the decision of the relevant stakeholders, including the PDP, the Senate and the House of Representatives to respect the Constitution and put the national interests above selfish interests will be a determining factor. Only this will save the country from unnecessary political tension, nurture the much needed unity and development of Nigeria.

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FRETECH HOME APPLIANCES LIMITED IN MEMBERS VOLUNTARY WINDING-UP, IN THE MATTERS OF COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 1990

NOTICE OF A GENERAL MEETING.

In compliance with section 468 (1) (2) of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990 NOTICE IS HEREBY given that a meeting of the Company will be held at the Company's Board Room in 2/2, 2nd floor, Golden Plaza, Falomo, Lagos on Monday 8th March, 2010 at 12 Noon to consider the following matters:

- i) To receive the final Accounts of the Liquidator showing how the winding-up of the Company had been conducted and the property of the Company has been disposed of together with the Auditor's Report therein.
- ii) To receive any explanation on the winding-up in general and any incidental matter(s).

Dated 29th January, 2010

(Signed)
Barrister Yinka Kalejaye Liquidator

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as MISS FALNYI BLAMAH VACHAKU, now wish to be addressed as MRS FALNYI MARTINS TAGWI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS CHINY ADAOBI OKOYE, now wish to be known as MRS CHINY NWANKWO. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly HIEV ERIC TOR now ORJIME TOR HIEV. Former documents remain valid. General public note.

I, formerly called STELLA OBY EZEILO wish to be called MRS STELLA OBY EZEILO-NZEAGWU. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MARY YOHANNA BASSI now wish to be known as MRS MARY JOSHUA BUKAR. All former documents remain valid. Public take note.

Formerly DANJUMA USMAN is now DANJUMA USMAN ANGBOKA. Former documents remain valid. FIRS and general public note.

I, formerly known as CHRISTIAN CHIBUZOR ORJI, hereby wish to be known and addressed as ALI CHIBUZOR ORJI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly ISHAYA MOSES now MATHEW BALA. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS ROSEMARY C. WOGU now wish to be known as MRS ROSEMARY JONATHAN OMOJO. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS BARMINAS HAPPINESS WETKUM now to be known as MRS MANGSET HAPPINESS LONGYIL. All documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly MISS OKPALA VERONICA OBIAGELI now to be addressed as MRS OKPALANZE VERONICA OBIAGELI. All former documents remain valid. OSISATECH POLYTECHNIC Enugu, Enugu State and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS ADAOBI IJEOMA EZOMIKE now wish to be addressed as MRS ADAOBI IJEOMA OKOLI. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I was formerly known as MISS NGODOO GLORIA MNYEMANGA, and now wish to be addressed and called MRS NGODOO GLORIA ASEMAVER. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

Formally called Miss Oluwaseun Comfort Adeyemi now wish to be called Mrs Oluwaseun Adebayo Tijani. All documents remained valid. NYSC and the public to note

Formally called Miss Mallam Bukar now wish to be called Yusuf Bulama. All documents remained valid. SUBEB Yobe State and the public to note.

I formerly known as MISS JOSEPHINE IFEOMA EZULUKA, now wish to be called as MRS JOSEPHINE IFEOMA CHIKEZIE. All former document remain valid.

I, formerly ALI BALA SHEHU, now ALIYU BABA ADAM IDRIS. All former documents remain valid. Kumbotso L.E.A and general public to note.

Former MISS NDUKWE JANE UKOMA, now MRS KANU JANE UKOMA. Former documents remain valid. General public please note.

I, formerly RABU IBRAHIM, now ILIYASU ABDULLAH. All former documents remain valid. Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano and general public to note.

I formerly MISS ASIHAT SIYAKA now wishes to be addressed as MRS ASIHAT ABDUL OJAPAH. All relevant documents remain valid. FCE Okene and general public take note.

SEAMARK
Marine Systems Experts Limited

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 1990
NOTICE OF SPECIAL RESOLUTION FOR VOLUNTARY WINDING UP

At the Extraordinary General Meeting of Seamark Marine System Nig Ltd held at its registered office Plot 414, Lobito Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja FCT on the 28th day of December, 2009 the following Special Resolution was proposed and duly passed -
"THAT the company be wound up voluntarily pursuant to section 457 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990."

Dated this 28th day of December, 2009.

HOLY LIFE CHRIST FOUNDATION MINISTRY

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Prophet Stephen Alfa
2. Mrs. Anna Alfa
3. Pastor Abel Igomu
4. Pastor Donatus Idokpo

The Aims & Objectives

1. To propagate the word of our Lord Jesus Christ
2. To establish Christian institution that will preach the gospel and help the needy and less privilege
3. Spreading the gospel of the Lord Jesus to the world
4. To engage in Christian evangelism, refining lives through the power of prayers
5. To proclaim the gospel in truth, holiness and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Any objection(s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Barrister Abdurraheem Muyideen

POWER OF PRAYER AND REVIVAL MINISTRY

This is to inform the general public that the above-named ministry applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, for registration under "part C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Rev. Pastor Ibikunle Amos Adio
2. Rev. Mrs. Ibikunle Bola Docas
3. Mx. Docas Aivi
4. Decon Moses Oluwaseye Adebayo.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To teach and preach the gospel.
2. To empower ministries for the work of the ministry.
3. To establish and maintain Christian educational institutions for spiritual and moral training of Christian ministers and workers.
4. To set the captive free.
5. To care for the needy, widows, destitute as well as poor in body and spirit.
6. To reach out to Schools, Hospital, Prisons and other such establishments in order to bring good news to them.
7. Conduct and perform the ordinances of Baptism, Holy communion, child naming dedication, marriage as well as funeral ceremonies.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi St, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Omoniyi Oluwaseye.

MERCY-GATE PENTECOSTAL MISSION

This is to inform the general public the above named Mission has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mr. Julius Fodayan Famusanmi
2. Mrs. Abiodun Abisola Goodwill
3. Mr. Isaac Olaiya Ajana
4. Mrs. Rachael Abimbola Ajana
5. Mr. Anthony Oluwadiya Oluwasanmi
6. Mrs. Sarai Olajumoke Olatuyi
7. Mr. Oyewole Andrew Adefemi

Aims and objectives:

1. To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To organize regular Christian fellowships namely Bible studies, prayer meetings etc
3. To reach out to the un-reach with the gospel of revival.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed: Yomi Ogunsanya Esq.

HEALTH AND MANAGED CARE ASSOCIATION OF NIGERIA, RC. NO. 20297.

CHANGE OF TRUSTEE

This is to inform the general public that the above named association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration earlier on, and wishes to change some of its trustee, under the part C of companies and allied matters Acts, 1990.

NEW TRUSTEES ARE:

- (1) Dr. Ladi Okuboye.
- (2) Dr. Egun Sonaiya.
- (3) Dr. Joseph Gbenga Idowu.
- (4) Dr. Oluwaseun Oluwaseun.
- (5) Mr. Oluwaseun Adedamola Awolola.
- (6) Dr. Kafada Richard
- (7) Dr. Kolawole Ajan Awolola.
- (8) Dr. Bashir Muhammad.

REMOVED TRUSTEES ARE:

- (1) Prof. Alimola Bankole Odutola.
- (2) Dr. Adedokun Oshunmi.
- (3) Festi Thomas.
- (4) Dr. Oluwaseun Adedamola Awolola.

Any objection to the amendment to this registration should be forwarded to Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed by: (Secretary).

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified of the loss of Original Land document in respect of Plot AHE497 of about 1219sqm located at AMAC Housing Estate, Lugbe Abuja which was transferred by power of Attorney by one GRACE AREMU 'F' to GP Capt ADEWALE STEVEN OGUNMODEDE 'M' of Headquarters, Nigerian Air Force, Area 7 Garki Abuja. All effort to trace the document proved abortive. If found please contact Zone 7, Police Headquarters, Wuse Zone 3, Abuja or the nearest police station.

GLOBAL YOUTH CENTER FOR SELF RELIANCE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Center has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Onwusoro Gloria Chijago
2. Musa Ali
3. June Ipeh
4. Onwusoro Chioma
5. Onwusoro Halima
6. Onwusoro Nnebihe
7. Barr. Onwusoro Chibulke

Aims and objectives:

1. To provide a centre for guidance and counseling for youths on career choices.
2. To encourage proper modes of dressing and personal hygiene among youths.
3. To create awareness on HIV/AIDS.
4. To rehabilitate the youths and juveniles who dropout of school through counseling and referrals.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed: Barr. Emmanuel Adigbo

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of the loss of the original customary certificate of occupancy No KAC/FCDALP&SKD-1023 in respect of Plot 313 Chikuku layout located at Kuje bearing DAUDA YOHANNA AKUT as the holder. All effort to trace it proved abortive but if found, please return to the nearest Police Station.

SPORT

Eagles lack
good strikers
- Ikpeba
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Bora Milutinovic slams Eagles, NFF

NIGERIA'S coach to the 1998 World Cup in France, Bora Milutinovic, has slammed Super Eagles players, saying they lacked discipline and focus.

In an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Luanda, Milutinovic did not spare the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), accusing the body of interference with the job of coaches.

Milutinovic noted that Nigeria was blessed with abundant football talents but there was nothing a coach could achieve with players, who lacked discipline.

He said he doubted the Eagles' chances of going far at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa.

"This is not the Nigerian team I used to know, there is no bite in the team at all. If Nigeria hopes to do well at the World Cup, serious work needed to be done in the team," Milutinovic said.

The coach, who has led five different countries to the World Cup, said

the Super Eagles players in Angola displayed the same traits as their

predecessors.

"In my entire coaching career I will never forget my experience in Nigeria. The country is blessed with great potentials in football with lots of talented players, but I could not achieve much because most of the players were not focused and lacked discipline.

"There is nothing a coach can

do with players without focus and discipline.

What a coach does is to give instruction, it is left for a disciplined player to carry out the instruction on the field," he said.

"It is more than ten years since I left the team, but I could still see such attitude being displayed by the Nigerian players with their performance at the Nations Cup here in Angola.

"They did not play as a team, the players were just displaying their individual skills. I think they are over pampered by the management in your country," said Milutinovic.

"The management of football in Nigeria is different from other countries I had worked. There are lots of interference both from the government and public.

"In Nigeria everybody is a coach and football tactician. They want to tell you the player to play a match, what your training programme should be, there were so many distractions while I was coaching the team," he added.

He said players should be made to realise that it was an honour to play for their country if Nigeria must attain its football potential in the world.

"The players should not be made to think that they are doing the country a favour by playing for the country. They must equally submit to the leadership of the coaches and most importantly, the coaching crew must be allowed to



FORMER Super Eagles coach Bora Milutinovic said the team Nigeria paraded in Angola lacked discipline and focus and accused NFF of interfering with the job of coaches.

do their work," he said.

Milutinovic, one of the most travelled coaches in the world, led Mexico to the 1986 World Cup. Four years later, he took Costa

Rica to the 1990 championship, he moved to the U.S., and led the hosts to the 1994 competition.

It was the turn of Nigeria in 1998, where the then NFA said

they wanted a "world class coach" and China hired him for the 2002 tournament in Korea/Japan.

He took Iraq to the Confederations Cup in South Africa in 2009.

I'll take Eagles to 2010 final - Bonfrere

DUTCHMAN Johannes Bonfrere has said that he will guide Nigeria to the final of the 2010 World Cup, if he is given the Nigeria coaching job.

Bonfrere told MTNFootball.com on phone from his home in Belgium that with him in charge of the team, the Super Eagles would surpass their semi-final finish at the Africa Cup of Nations by going all the way to the final of South Africa 2010.

"The team stopped in the semi-final in Angola. If I'm given another chance with Nigeria, I will do better by

getting them to the final of the World Cup," said the Dutch coach, who led Nigeria to win an historic Olympic gold in 1996.

"Work for the World Cup must start immediately, not two weeks to the tournament and with the right preparation, Nigeria have the quality to take the world by storm.

"I know a good number of these players as well as their mentality because I spent over six years in Nigeria. I also know the country. I have the experience and we all know I won the Olympic gold with this team."

Bonfrere tore at the team

paraded by Shuaibu Amodu in Angola.

"This was no team, there were no tactics and most of the players were used wrongly. They did not play good," he said.

The Dutch coach also warned the authorities from trying to hire a big-name coach, saying such a move would destroy the team.

"Getting a big-name coach will kill the team. It will not help Nigeria. You need someone who is ready to work, a coach who will give players in the local league a chance to fight for a place on the World Cup squad."

His conditions to take the

team again would include working with Daniel Amokachi as his assistant and also he said he will not submit his CV until the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) approach him to do so because "they already know me".

Bonfrere, 63, has been out of work for over three years, but the coach, who first worked in Nigeria as assistant to compatriot Clemens Westerhof in 1990, said he has refused several offers from Greece, Japan and South Korea because he has been waiting for Nigeria to call him up.

"Last week, I would have signed for a club in Greece, but

if I do that, it would mean that I can no longer take up the Nigeria job should I be approached," he told MTNFootball.com "I have refused over 10 offers from Japan and Korea, but my mind is on Nigeria because Nigeria need a good coach."

Bonfrere, who guided Nigeria to the final of the 2000 Nations Cup jointly hosted by Ghana and Nigeria, was fired as coach by Nigeria in April 2002 with Nigeria's qualification for the 2002 World Cup in the balance after a shock 1-0 loss in Sierra Leone.

NBBF to sanction erring clubs, officials

NIGERIA Basketball Federation (NBBF) President Malam Tijjani Umar, said the federation will not tolerate unprofessional conduct from match officials and clubs as the new league season dunks off.

"We will not allow clubs or referees to hold us to ransom with clear unprofessional officiating or conduct," Umar told Trustsports on Monday.

The basketball season starts with the men's DSTV Premier League on Feb. 27 in Lagos, while the first phase of the female Zenith

Bank league will also dunk off on March 10 in Kano and end on March 22.

The issue of discipline will be taken seriously and it is topmost on the federations agenda from this year.

"There will be several sanctions for club or referees who by their conduct will bring the game to disrepute," he said on telephone.

Umar said that beginning from this season, erring match officials and clubs would face severe sanctions or fine as the case might be.

He recalled that during the sport's stakeholders meeting in Abuja last week the issue of discipline was discussed and the sanctions of N30,000 was agreed upon for any team that failed to attend meetings.

He said the federation had written to the Kano State government to support the female league as host and co-sponsor.

The NBBF president said that barring unforeseen circumstances the leagues would take off as scheduled.

Umar said he was impressed

with the turnout and cooperation of clubs and their officials at the stakeholders meeting and wished it would be so in all its programmes.

He said that a match fixtures sub-committee had been set up for the DSTV League pending when the Federation's Technical Committee would take off effectively.

The fixtures committee has Muktar Khaleh the Federation's First Vice President, Col. Sam Ahmedu of Dodan Warriors, Tanko Dutse of Yelwa Hawks and Rotimi Savage of Union Bank.

Adepoju warns against Eagles' disbanding

By Orkula Shaagee

AS the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) Executive Board prepares to make changes to the Super Eagles team and technical crew that took part in the just concluded African Cup of Nations tournament in Angola, former Super Eagles midfielder Mutiu Adepoju has warned the Federation against disbanding the team as being canvassed by some individuals.

The NFF secretariat announced on Monday that its Executive Committee would hold an emergency meeting on Friday in Abuja to discuss pertinent issues affecting the nation's football.

Top on the agenda it said is the issue of the overhauling of the technical crew and playing squad of the national football team, Super Eagles, in order to engender keen competition for places in the team towards Nigeria performing creditably at the FIFA World Cup finals coming up in South Africa in June.

The statement added that a comprehensive report of Nigeria's performance in Angola has already been prepared by the NFF Technical Committee for submission at the meeting.

But in a telephone interview with Trustsports yesterday, the 3SC of Ibadan Team Manager disbanding the team will not solve the country's football problem, rather Adepoju says the football governing body should find ways of making the team perform better at the South Africa 2010 World Cup in June.

According to him, some of the young players in the team have great future and with the needed changes, particularly in the technical crew, they can go places.

"I don't agree with the views from some quarters that the team be disbanded, I don't think that is the way forward. Rather, they should find ways of making the team perform better at the World Cup.

"If you disband the team it means the entire team is bad, but I want to say that some of the boys in that team are good and have something to offer in the team to South Africa", Adepoju stated.

Eagles lack good strikers - Ikpeba

THE post-mortem continues over Nigeria's outing at the Nations Cup in Angola, with former African player of the year, Victor Nosa Ikpeba taking a swipe at the Super Eagles strikers for letting the nation down.

The Prince of Monaco stated during an interview with bri-lafm.net that gone are the days when Nigeria could showcase strikers who take on opposing opponents at will and score loads of goals.

"The biggest problem with this team is that we don't have the individual brilliance we had in the past. We no longer have strikers dribbling defenders and scoring goals on their own.

"So, we have to go back to the drawing board and look for good players. We still have a lot of good players we can use.

"Maybe we can use some of our players playing at home," he suggested.

But Eagles vice captain Joseph Yobo feels until there is continuity in the Super Eagles, Nigeria will continue to be perennial underachievers.

At the weekend, the Eagles won their seventh third-place Nations Cup playoff against Algeria in Benguela, with many again saying the team did not play to their full potential.

"There is no continuity in the

team, we often have different players in and out of the team when we need enough time to train and play together, if we are ever to reach great heights," said Yobo.

However, coach Shuaibu Amodu insisted that placing third ahead of Algeria was worth celebrating.

"It's better to go home with something than to go with nothing," said the embattled coach.

“The biggest problem with this team is that we don't have the individual brilliance

"Good enough we improved with each game. We were not at our best in Angola but we can be better before the World Cup."

He added: "We have seen a lot of mistakes but these mistakes could be corrected before the World Cup. We have enormous potentials."

Nigeria have only won the Nations Cup twice, in 1980 and 1994.



OSAZE Odemwingie and Obafemi Martins in action during the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola.



ADEPOJU

Corrigendum

This is to draw the attention of the general public to a quarter page black/white advert published in Daily Trust of Tuesday, 2nd of February, 2010 titled **Gombe Teachers College Old Students Association** page 21. The number of the **Publicity Secretary** was written as **08038936498**, the correct number is **08038736498**. The error is regretted.

Management

Football Notes....

Okocha declares NFF interest

FORMER Nigeria international, Austin 'Jay Jay' Okocha, will today declare his interest to be on the board of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), whose elections are due in August. A source told MTNFootball.com that Okocha, who featured for the country at full international level for over 13 years and captained the team to the 2002 World Cup, will declare his interest to become a vice-president of the NFF when the elections are staged on August 28. Several former internationals like Segun Odegbami and Fabian Duru have served on the board of the Nigeria FA. Okocha, 36, is currently a member of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) for the 2010 World Cup, a government organisation to compliment the efforts of the NFF in ensuring optimal performance of the national teams.

Bordeaux agree new deals for Brazilian pair

DEFENDING French champion Bordeaux has agreed new deals for Brazilian midfielder Fernando Menegazzo and Brazilian winger Jussie. Bordeaux said on its Web site that the 28-year-old Menegazzo has signed a new three year deal until 2014, and the 26-year-old Jussie has signed a four-year deal until 2015. Menegazzo has scored 17 league goals in 147 games for Bordeaux, while Jussie has 11 goals in 77 league games. Both helped Bordeaux win the French title last season.



JUSSIE

Ferguson: 'Immature' Nani has finally grown up

MANCHESTER United winger Nani insists that his confidence in himself has finally returned following a sensational performance in last weekend's 3-1 victory over Arsenal. And his manager agrees as Sir Alex Ferguson branded his winger "fantastic" and admitted his form has presented a selection headache. The Portugal international scored the opening goal and went on to set up Wayne Rooney for the second en route to securing three points at the Emirates Stadium on Sunday. "The manager has shown confidence in me, I have been given more time on the pitch and that has given me belief in myself," said Nani, according to The Mirror.

Zamalek sign Zambia's Kalaba



KALABA

EGYPTIAN giants Zamalek FC have signed Zambia midfielder Rainford Kalaba on a six-month loan deal from Sporting Braga, the Cairo club have announced on their official site. Kalaba, who spent the past six months on loan at Uniao Leiria, is believed to have signed a deal worth €450,000 with the Whites. Kalaba is a regular for Zambia, starting both games against Egypt in last year's World Cup qualifying campaign.

CAF and the unkindly ban on Togo

By Olawale Alabi (NAN)

THE 27th edition of the African Nations Cup – Angola 2010 – has come and gone.

Egypt retained the cup, Ghana came second and went home with silver. Nigeria was in its "traditional" third position and got another set of bronze medals.

Togo, without kicking a ball, lost two of its nationals to the fiesta and took two coffins back to Lome for a tearful burial.

In what has left the sporting world stupefied, Togo has been banned from the next two editions of the competition!

Shortly before hostilities began on the field, the Togolese faced deadly machine gun fire.

They were sprayed with bullets by fighters of the Cabinda rebel moment as they crossed from Congo DR into Angola by road on January 8. The competition began on January 10.

An assistant coach and a media officer – as well as the driver of their bus – a non-Togolese – were killed in the attack that left them traumatised and demoralised.

The team's reserve goalkeeper, Kodjovi Obilale had to undergo emergency surgery in South Africa due to the attack and is still in intensive care. Some other members of the delegation sustained various degrees of injuries.

The situation forced the Togolese federation, having in mind the resolve of the players to still play the tournament for the memory of their lost colleagues, to ask CAF for an adjustment of their Group 'B' matches.

They wanted to go and bury the dead and come back to play the game.

With pains in their hearts and tears in their eyes, Emmanuel Adebayor and his colleagues abandoned the tournament and went home to a grieving nation to mourn and bury their dead.

CAF did not adjust the Togo, Ivory Coast, Ghana and Burkina Faso group 'B' fixtures to give bereaved Togo the room to come back.

But, if the world empathised with Togo, The Confederation of African Football (CAF) is of the view that Togo erred by abandoning Angola.

And, as written in its statutes, CAF has fined Togo and banned it from two consecutive editions of the continental tournament!

Since the announcement of the ban, it has been condemnation all the way for CAF by many watchers of African football.

The tongue-lashing over what many describe as an insensitive decision has also brought to the fore the need for CAF to review its rules.

Christian Chukwu, a former Green Eagles captain and ex-Super Eagles coach, says the ban is too harsh on the Togolese and compares it with using "a sledge-hammer to kill a fly."

"The ban on the (Togolese) team is too high-handed. It should have been limited to one edition,



ISSA Hayatou, CAF President

even if Togo actually defaulted by their withdrawal from participation in the tournament.

But the attack by the rebels is condemnable and unhealthy for African football!

Mr Jide Fashikun, the Director, Sports Development and Marketing, Nigeria Sports Development Fund Incorporated, had initiated a protest against CAF on the issue.

Fashikun says the decision had portrayed CAF as being a slave to its own rules.

"CAF should be responsive to our feelings; this is our continent and CAF should not be a slave to its own rules," he argued.

He believes that CAF, no matter its rules, should have viewed the matter from a democratic and humanitarian angle.

Former Super Eagles striker, Barnabas Imenger says CAF's decision has far-reaching meanings that can, in the long run, harm the interests of African football.

"It does mean that CAF has no responsibility for its visitors or guests at any of its competitions, if they are now blaming Togo.

"This will indeed be a problem for African football in the future and the forthcoming World Cup finals in South Africa," he added.

Mr Abiodun Alabi, Head of Sports at Abeokuta-based Gateway Television, says rather than blame Togo the incident should be blamed on CAF, and the competition organisers.

"If this decision is not unabashedly irresponsible of the continental football governing body which has responsibility for all participants in the competition, including providing security for Togo, then nothing

can be more irresponsible.

"Rather than blame Togo, CAF should be blaming itself and the competition's Local Organising Committee (LOC) for failing to take good care of their visitors," he said.

Malam Isah Ahmadu, a football enthusiast, feels CAF can still do damage control by taking another look at the decision and making a quick review.

"CAF has to immediately get down to the business of repairing this damage it has helped in doing to African football in order for it not to have a long-term effect on the game's development.

"This is better done by reviewing its handling of the Cabinda attack and realising that it has not been fair to the Togolese. It will not be too late for CAF to say it was wrong," he said.

Alhaji Sabo Babayaro, Chairman of Kaduna United Football Club, in agreeing with Ahmadu, notes that the incident had made Africa look as if it does not know how to run the game effectively.

"The grave implications of all these is that CAF, which had hitherto been seen as a weak and toothless bulldog, gets a more negative image and African football and the continent is seen in a darker light by the usual cynics," he said.

Mrs Bunmi Sanuth, a Lagos-based football enthusiast, says CAF's mode of taking decisions is responsible for the kind of contempt the European clubs have always shown for it and African football.

"It is due to CAF's style of running the game on the continent, as shown by this decision on Togo. It is very annoying, and this is why the clubs in Europe don't respect CAF and its competitions," she said.

THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Mohammed Haruna

ndajika@yahoo.com

Obasanjo: Calling God as false witness

If anyone needed further proof that it's hard, if not impossible, to find a better example of someone who hardly ever practices what he preaches than our dear ex-president, General Olusegun Obasanjo, the man himself provided it two weeks ago. This was on January 21 on the occasion of the 7th Trust Annual Dialogue which he chaired.

The theme this year was "The African Woman and Politics." To discuss it was a very formidable line-up of four of Africa's leading women politicians, namely South Africa's Winnie Mandela. Ghana's Samia Nkrumah, and our own Kofo Bucknor-Akerele and Naja'atu Mohammed.

With a line-up like this you would expect the following day's newspaper headlines to be dominated by what the panel had to say on the theme. Instead it was the chairman's rather unkind, but predictable, cut against his erstwhile protégé, the ailing and besieged President Umaru Yar'adua, that grabbed all the headlines.

The bedridden Yar'adua, he said in response to what looked suspiciously like a choreographed attack from the audience against him for his role in foisting a sick president on the country in 2007, is honour as well as morally bound to step aside.

"If," he said, "you take up an appointment, a job, elected, appointed whatever it is and then your health starts saying 'I will not be able to deliver', to satisfy yourself and the people that you are supposed to serve, then there is the path of honour and the path of morality. And if you don't know that then you don't know anything."

Then in apparent self-exculpation he, in effect, swore to God that he never knew Yar'adua was not healthy enough to withstand the rigours of the highest job in the land. "What I need to say," he said, "is that nobody picked Yar'adua so that he will not perform. If I did that, God will punish me."

To which someone in the audience, a lady I think, heckled "Who gave you the right to impose any one on us?" or words to that effect. It is highly instructive that the former president did chose to ignore this more fundamental aspect of the constitutional crisis which his imposition of Yar'adua on the country in 2007 has plunged the country into.

The answer to this more pertinent question is all too obvious; the man gave himself the right. Nine days before the famous - or infamous, depending on which side you were on - Southern Leaders Forum in Enugu on December 19 2005, a forum which had Obasanjo's imprimatur all over it and during which all manner of abuses were heaped on the North for its insistence on power shift to the region in 2007, the man told the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP), Convention that as its leader he should be conceded the sole right to interpret its policy of power shift.

"The party," he said, "must resist efforts by some individuals or groups to use their pedestrian understanding of power shift and power rotation to hold the country to ransom...When the time comes, they should accord me, as the leader of the party, the opportunity to interpret our policy and principle of power shift to suit the occasion which will definitely consider the seeming agitation from the North of the country."

When the time eventually came following the defeat, mercifully, of his Third Term agenda, the man did not wait for the party to concede the right to him. He simply usurped it by imposing new rules on the party which effectively reserved the chairmanship of the party's Board of Trustees (BOT) to himself. He also transferred virtually all the powers of the party's executive council and congress to himself.

There was hardly a whimper of protest from many of those who have since found their voices in blaming the man for the crisis Yar'adua's illness has plunged the country into.

But I digress, somewhat. The subject this morning is not who gave the man the sole right to choose who was to succeed him, pertinent as it is. The subject is the moral right he has to pontificate about honour and morality. His dismal record as a man whose word has hardly ever been his bond - ask the group of Northern leaders who thought they had a deal with the man to be president for only a term back in 1998, or *Afenifere*, which thought it had a deal with him to allow the incumbent Alliance for Democracy governors in the South-West a second term in return for supporting his re-election in 2003, or even members of the Yoruba Elders Forum which he created to undermine *Afenifere* but dumped as soon as it had served its purpose - shows clearly that it was rich, very rich, of him to preach honour and morality to Yar'adua, or in deed to anyone.

To begin with, it is dishonourable and immoral for a leader to disown responsibility for the consequences of his actions, sometimes even for those of his subordinates who take their cue from his body language. Here the contrast between him and former military president, General Ibrahim Babangida, his bete noire, couldn't be sharper; whereas Babangida has

consistently accepted full responsibility for the controversial "June 12", Obasanjo has chosen to disown his role in bringing about the Yar'adua presidency.

As chief law enforcement officer of the country, President Obasanjo had all the intelligence information on all of the country's VIPs at his figure tip. By the time Yar'adua became governor of Katsina State in 1999 it was an open secret that he had had a kidney transplant in 1986. And as any medical student would tell you, organ transplants have an average span of 10 years, depending on the organ. After that chances are it will begin to malfunction.

In the case of Yar'adua, it was a not-so-open secret that in his first four years as governor he used to travel to Kano weekly for dialysis. During his second term, Borini Proino, a major Italian road construction firm in the state, offered to build a state of the art dialysis centre in the main hospital in the state capital. This was eventually built by Julius Berger, Nigeria's most well-connected construction firm.

As president, Obasanjo cannot say he did not know all this. If he didn't then he was obviously not fit to be president.

It is not clear whether Yar'adua used the facility but he had stopped his regular trip to Kano long before its construction. This could explain his infirmity by the time Obasanjo, for obviously cynical reasons, decided to inflict a decidedly weak PDP presidential ticket on the Nigerian voters.

Not for the first time in his military/political career the man has tried to disown a script because it has not worked out exactly as he had hoped. The last time was, of course, his infamous Third Term agenda which he disowned no sooner than it collapsed around his ears.

As was the case last time this time too he invoked God as his witness. Before the Third Term debacle he had called on God to judge between him and his then estranged party chairman, Chief Audu Ogbe, as to who had lied about the crisis that was precipitated by an attempt to forcibly remove Chris Ngige as the PDP governor of Anambra State in late 2004.

This time, however, he did not stop at merely calling on God to be a false witness. He also invoked His wrath upon himself if his motive in forcing Yar'adua on Nigerians in 2007 was not for their best interests.

Obasanjo can swear as much as he likes but as his divinity teacher as a recent student of the country's Open University may have told him, no one ever invokes God's name in vain.

It is dishonourable and immoral for a leader to disown responsibility for the consequences of his actions, sometimes even for those of his subordinates who take their cue from his body language

SPORTS REPORT



IVAN Lendl

Lendl returns to tennis

Ivan Lendl will play his first exhibition since he retired from tennis 16 years ago in a new Atlantic City event.

Organizers announced on Tuesday that the first Caesars Ten-

nis Classic will be played on April 10 at Boardwalk Hall.

Lendl will play former nemesis Mats Wilander, while Andy Roddick will face recently retired Marat Safin. A third match will be announced later.



AMANTINO Mancini

Milano owner Berlusconi slams club for signing Mancini

A C Milan owner Silvio Berlusconi lambasted his own club and chief executive Adriano Galliani on Tuesday for signing Inter Milan winger Mancini on loan.

The Brazilian, who has barely played for bitter city rivals Inter in the last two seasons after a dip in form, joined Milan on Monday on the last day of the January transfer window.

"I really don't understand it," the Italian prime minister told Jerusalem's Italian community, sources at the meeting said.

"He is another creative player when we need someone who can finish off moves. He's not played for two years. I don't agree with getting him and I've told Galliani."

