

# DAILY TRUST

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17 cops nabbed over  
Boko Haram executions



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plot to attack villages



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## Yar'adua: Jonathan is Acting President



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan.

By AbdulFattah Olajide & Mohammed S. Shehu

TWENTY four hours after President Umaru Yar'adua's statement referring to Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as "Vice President" unleashed a storm of controversy, the ailing President reversed course yesterday and recognized his deputy as the Acting President and Commander-in-Chief. Yar'adua's statement on Tuesday was widely interpreted to mean he did not recognize the National Assembly's resolution earlier this month which recognized Jonathan as Acting President even though Yar'adua never transmitted to the Assembly's leaders a medical vacation letter, as required by Section 145 of the Constitution.

The sharp about-turn was conveyed by Yar'adua's Special Adviser on Media and Publicity Olusegun Adeniyi, who spoke to reporters at the Presidential Villa, Abuja. He said Tuesday's statement, in which Yar'adua said "the Vice President should continue to oversee the affairs" of government until the president fully recovers from his ailment, "was very clear and that the Acting President would continue to run the affairs of the nation as the Commander-in-Chief until the president is fit to takeover." Adeniyi added, "That remains the situation as far as I am concerned, and as far as the president is concerned."

Asked what happens to Yar'adua's aides like himself, he said, "We run one Presi-

dency and the Acting President has already called for a meeting and I believe the meeting will hold tomorrow to brief us on how things will go and how he will run the Presidency and everybody is included, especially those who just returned from Saudi Arabia. So, it's just one Presidency and we are all under Dr. Jonathan now as the Acting President and Commander-in-Chief until the president returns to office fully."

Adeniyi said despite the purported altercation between Yar'adua's loyalists and those said to be loyal to Jonathan, the relationship remained cordial. "The relationship between them is very cordial. I know

for a fact that when the president was in Saudi Arabia, medical report of the president was being sent to the Acting President on the instruction of the President. The last one was last Friday when Dr. Salisu, the President's Chief Physician, sent to the Acting President through the ambassador

a forwarding letter. I was copied, I have a copy of the medical report on the president's health and if you read the letter sent by the president, he addressed Dr. Jonathan as the Acting President.

"They have always had a cordial relationship and I also know for a fact that several times in the council when the president was presiding, he always said it that anytime he is not around no memo should wait for him, that they should go to the acting president--then the VP---and also when there was

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“That remains the situation as far as I am concerned, and as far as the president is concerned”

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# Jonathan should give way to Yar'adua – Monguno

From Sharafa Dauda & Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

FORMER Petroleum Minister and elder statesman, Dr. Shettima Ali Monguno, has said the return of President Umaru Yar'adua

should not create any confusion because his return means automatic takeover of presidential powers since he owns the mandate as the duly elected president in the first place. Monguno who was reacting

yesterday in Maiduguri on the situation said, "For me, the whole thing is crystal clear. It is like when the Hausa people say, 'Ran da mai gado ya so gadon sa, mai tabirma sai ya nada,' literally meaning, 'When the rightful owner requires

to use his property, then the occupant should naturally relinquish that property".

He said since President Yar'adua had already issued a press statement through his Special Assistant on Media and Pub-

licity, Mr. Olusegun Adeniyi, showing gratitude to Nigerians for their prayers, the National Assembly and elders of the nation, he should be allowed to take charge of his rightful place while the representative should give way.



COLONEL Mossi Hassan, leading other members of the delegation from Niger Republic on arrival at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, yesterday.

PIC: NAN

## Yar'adua's return puts Nigeria in dilemma – Agoro

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

FORMER presidential candidate of the National Action Council (NAC) Dr. Olapade Agoro has said that the sudden arrival into the country of the ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua would put Nigeria in a political dilemma if the situation is not properly handled.

Speaking with newsmen in Ibadan yesterday, Agoro said for the polity not to be heated up unnecessarily, Acting President Jonathan Goodluck should be ready to ease himself back to the Vice-Presidency and work with Yar'adua with cooperation and loyalty like before.

Agoro who described the present scenario as a test case for the national polity, maintained that Nigeria had never experienced this kind of situation in

her political history. He therefore called on the country's political leaders, especially those at the National Assembly, to quickly step into action in order to avert an impending political doom.

Agoro declared: "No doubt, the sudden emergence of President Yar'adua has changed the political equations that were being worked out by Acting President Jonathan Goodluck and those who wanted Yar'adua impeached. The next few days will be too dangerous a political situation to be toyed with because of the perceived disaffection that had been created among some members of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) by the absence of President Yar'adua and the making of Jonathan as Acting President."

## Jallo: Obasanjo caused constitutional crisis

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THE current constitutional crisis the nation is facing was caused by former President Olusegun Obasanjo who unilaterally handpicked Alhaji Umaru Yar'adua to become the PDP presidential flag bearer in spite of his ill-health, Alhaji Hassan Jallo, a political associate of ex military President Ibrahim Babangida said yesterday.

Addressing newsmen in Kaduna, the lawyer turned politician recalled that Yar'adua collapsed during the presidential election campaigns and had to be rushed to a German hospital.

"In a good country, the party should have

changed him because right from day one, we all knew that Umaru cannot rule this country," Jallo said. However, Obasanjo insisted on fielding him, he added. According to Jallo, even as governor of Katsina State, Yar'adua spent over three months in a German hospital and everyone knew that he was sick. Jallo who is a member of the PDP, also accused his party of being the problem of Nigeria because it lacks internal democracy.

"The PDP is just doing what it likes. The leaders just select candidates and say everyone should vote for him and that is why we are in a mess", he added.

Jallo said that nothing had changed since Yar'adua assumed the presidency about three

years ago, adding that the president's policy was merely on paper.

"Nigerians have been complaining that since Umaru left for treatment nothing has been happening in Nigeria and I tend to ask this question, since Umaru was elected in 2007, what has changed in Nigeria?"

Although Jallo said Yar'adua remains the president of the country following his arrival on Wednesday, he noted that he is not capable of ruling the country. He warned the PDP not to contemplate fielding him in 2011 because voters will reject the party at the polls. Jallo said not even the party's rigging machinery would bring it to victory if Yar'adua is put on the ballot.

## 'President's return is politically-motivated'

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State Chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association and the Director, Centre for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Messrs Williams Aliwo and Idris Malik have described President Yar'adua's arrival as politically motivated. In separate chats with newsmen yesterday in Lokoja, they said the president's return was an attempt to pre-empt the confirmation of Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President.

According to them, if the president's arrival was devoid of any political interest, Nigerians have every cause to thank God Almighty for his recovery and return.

They, however, called on the president to address Nigerians and put to rest, any rumour of his being "bundled" into the country for political reasons which they said would not do him any good, calling on political office holders not to allow their personal interests to override the interest of the country.

## Yar'adua remains president – Aliyu Umar

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

BARRISTER Aliyu Umaru, former Solicitor General of Kaduna State said in Kaduna yesterday that Yar'adua remained the president of Nigeria as the National Assembly's declaration that made Jonathan Acting President was unconstitutional from the beginning.

He said Section 145 is very clear on how an Acting President can emerge.

Umaru who is now in private practice, said what is happening shows that the ruling party has lost control. He advised the president's men to subjugate personal interest to higher national interest, adding that they should learn lessons from what happened in

Niger Republic. According to him, elections are just a year away and the country cannot continue this way and expect to conduct credible elections in 2011. The lawyer said the events of the recent past had seriously strained the nation's civil rule, adding that they are not good in nurturing our democracy.

## Manner of return cause for deep concern-Keyamo

From Adenlanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

LAGOS lawyer, Mr. Festus Keyamo, has said the return of President Yar'adua to the country reportedly in an air

ambulance is a matter that calls for deep concern among Nigerians.

Keyamo said in Lagos yesterday that the obvious reason for the hurried return

when it was clear that he had not fully recovered, was to create an atmosphere that would make it impossible for Goodluck Jonathan to effectively take charge of affairs

of state, and make a cabal to continue to run the country by proxy.

This according to him, is because even when it had been said that Jonathan

would continue to run the government, the presence of the ailing president around him would be enough to destabilise him and make him unstable in his decisions.



FROM left: Alhaji Jubril Fawehinmi, elder brother of the late human rights activist, Chief Gani Fawehinmi, Mrs. Arsene Carrington, former United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Walter Carrington and Ondo State Governor Olusegun Mimiko, during a condolence visit by the Carrington to the country home of the late activist in Ondo town, yesterday.

## Uncertainty surrounds Nigeria, says Mark

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE country's political landscape is currently surrounded by uncertainty and difficulties, Senate President David Mark said yesterday.

In a goodwill message to Muslims on the occasion of Eid il-Maulud, Mark said the present situation in the country calls for all stakeholders to eschew sentiment and sectional bigotry to sal-

vage the country's democracy.

Mark implored Muslims to emulate the virtue of the Holy Prophet Muhammad by being their brothers' keeper at all times.

"This period of uncertainty calls for prayers and expression of genuine love to one another irrespective of different religious or political leanings," he said.

He said the present situation in the country calls for "genuine patriotism, loyalty to our Fatherland and upholding the sanctity of

brotherhood, because no one or group interest should be allowed to over ride the interest of the Nation."

Mark enjoined Nigerians, especially, the political class to demonstrate full loyalty and allegiance to the Nigerian State "because we have no other place or country to call ours."

"I appreciate the concern of all Nigerians at this, moment of our history. I am aware of the various challenges, but I am con-

vinced that this situation would be resolved in the best interest of the Nation," he added.

The Senate President urged Nigerians, particularly Muslims, to use the period of Eid il-Maulud to pray for the speedy recovery of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua from his illness.

He praised Nigerians for their patience and commitment to nationhood during these difficult times and asked them not to relent on their oars.

## Top FG officials met US envoy in close door meeting

By Aisha Umar Agaje

TOP government officials last night held a close-door meeting at the United States embassy in Abuja with Ambassador Robin Renee Sanders.

The Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed and Minister of Justice Adetokunbo Kayode were at the residence of the ambassador to

attend US national day celebration.

But shortly after Sanders speech, the three of them went inside the ambassador's residence and met for about ten minutes before they emerged and left. Sanders then rejoined the rest of the guest in the celebration.

It was not clear what they discussed but observers belief it may not be unconnected with the cur-

rent situation in the country following Yar'adua's return to the country after three months medical sojourn in Saudi Arabia.

In an interview with the press, the ambassador said that there is lack of transparency in the way the president came into the country, adding that it is undemocratic for Nigerians not to know the condition of their president.

In her remarks she said Nigeria faces one of its most uncertain times as it enters the 50 years of its independence.

On the 2011 election, Sanders said Nigeria should be able to hold transparent and credible elections in 2011 or earlier, keeping in mind that democracies do not always get everything right but the point is they strive to do so.

## FG dismisses US fears over Nigeria

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

MINISTER of State for Information and Communications Alhaji Aliyu Ikra Bilbis yesterday said the return of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua would not destabilize the country.

He was responding to the fears expressed by the United States Assistant Secretary of State on Africa Jonnie Carson that Yar'adua may not be able to discharge the function of his office.

The minister said nobody can be more concerned and patriotic about the progress Nigeria more than Nigerians.

He said the comment by Carson is baseless.

Mr. Carson said he wished the return of President Yar'adua is not an effort by his allies to upset Nigeria's stability and create uncertainty in the democratic process, adding that Nigeria needs strong, healthy and effective leaders.

Bilis to Radio France International Hausa Service that "Nigeria experienced and solved more difficult national issues than what is at stake and by the grace of God we will solve the problem of this country internally in an amicable manner".

## Yar'adua's return further confuses Nigerians, says CNPP

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) has expressed concerns over the leadership crisis that the return of ailing President Umaru Yar'adua is almost plunging Nigeria into chaos.

The group said the way and manner Yar'adua was smuggled into the country under the cover of darkness is a threat to the existence of the nation.

CNPP Chairman, Alhaji Abdulkadir Balarabe Musa, said yesterday in Abuja that, "If the president has truly recovered, Nigerians should have been given the opportunity to come out en masse to receive him because the people who were urged to pray for him should also have the chance to thank God on his behalf. The confusion in the land is growing because of the series of illegalities perpetrated by all arms of government in the past three months."

## Yar'adua's mum happy son is back

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE mother of the ailing president, Hajiya Dada Yar'adua, yesterday expressed happiness over the return of President Umaru Yar'adua into the country.

She said she hopes that he will continue executing his daily responsibilities.

Well wishers have been trooping to Hajiya Dada's residence in Katsina State to rejoice

with her over Yar'adua's return from the Saudi hospital. Hajiya Dada, in a brief interview with Voice of America Hausa Service monitored in Abuja, said she was delighted with the President Yar'adua's return after receiving medical treatment at the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

She appreciated the concern people have been showing to the family since his three months absence.

## Bugaje: We doubt Yar'adua's return

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE National Secretary of the Action Congress Usman Bugaje yesterday dismissed reports that President Umaru Musa Yar'adua has returned to this country. He said the fact that nobody has sighted the president has

put a lie to the claims that he is back. Bugaje, who attended the meeting of the National Democratic Movement held in Abuja, said President Yar'adua is no longer strong and healthy to pilot the affairs of this nation even if returns to the country. "I have not seen him

(Yar'adua). I have not seen anybody who said that he saw President Umaru Musa Yar'adua," Bugaje told BBC Hausa Service. He challenged those who are saying that Yar'adua is back that they should show him to the people of Nigeria if he is really in the country.

# Boko Haram killings: 17 video-taped cops nabbed

From Isa Umar Gusau and Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

SEVENTEEN policemen who appeared in the video footage aired on Al Jazeera Television executing unarmed people during and after the Boko Haram crisis last year in Maiduguri have been arrested.

The arrest was said to have been effected on the orders of the Inspector General of Police Mr Ogbonna Onovo.

Acting Police Public Relations Officer at the Force Headquarters in Abuja, CSP Yemi Ajayi, told *Daily Trust* that he could not confirm the arrest.

News of the arrest followed pressure on the police following

the broadcast.

The Federal Government ordered investigations while the House of Representatives directed a committee to probe the killings.

The 17 policemen who appeared in the footage were said to have been picked and moved from the Borno police headquarters in Maiduguri to the police

Force Headquarters in Abuja for interrogation.

They were secretly moved on Tuesday while others were still being trailed as at yesterday, *Daily Trust* learnt.

At the Borno police headquarters yesterday, the Commissioner of Police Ibrahim Abdu was said to have traveled to Abuja. It was unclear if the trip

was in connection with the arrest.

When contacted on phone, the commissioner asked out reporter to direct any enquiries to the force headquarters in Abuja.

The CP had weeks ago, while reacting to enquiries when the footage was first aired, told journalists that he was yet to see it and that he was not the CP when the crisis erupted.

## Senate blames Tandja for Niger's coup

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

OUSTED Nigerien President Mamadou Tandja was responsible for the recent military coup in the uranium rich West African nation, Senate said yesterday.

The resolution was reached after lawmakers debated and subsequently passed a motion sponsored by Senator Anthony Manzo (PDP, Taraba) and 30 others on the recent overthrow of government by a group of young military officers in the country.

After a heated debate, Senate resolved to condemn "All unconstitutional and unlawful change of government including President Mamadou Tandja's attempt to perpetuate himself in power."

The Senators also urged the military junta to come out with a definite date for returning the country to a democratically elected government.

## Maulud: Leaders tasked on accountability

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) yesterday in Abuja enjoined leaders at all strata of the society to emulate the exemplary live style of Prophet Muhammad to install probity and accountability in governance.

Director of the group Dr. Is-haq Akintola said in his Maulud Nabiyy Nigerians should stop creating artificial disasters like religious intolerance, ethnic jingoism, political thuggery and hooliganism among other vices, with their own hands.

"We seize this opportunity to felicitate with fellow Muslims around the country and all Nigerians in general. We thank Almighty Allah for singling out our dear country for special favours. Nigerians must note that this country has cheated death and ruination several times," he said.



GOVERNOR of Niger State Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu (right) with Globacom's Group Chief Operating Officer Mohammed Jameel at the launch of the Glo Free Access partnership in Minna, Niger State.

## Students protest fee raise at American varsity

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

STUDENTS of the American University of Nigeria in Yola yesterday staged a peaceful protest over the institution's plan to increase school fees by over 30 per cent.

Sources told *Daily Trust* that the university, founded by former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, has announced plans to increase the fees by 31.7 per cent with effect from September this year. The increase would mean that the annual fee of about N2 mil-

lion per student would jump to N2.6 million.

But hundreds of students walked peacefully to the office of the interim president of the institution yesterday to express their displeasure over the planned increase.

"We are not happy with the plan to increase the fees, and many of us gathered in front of the president's office to say so. It was a peaceful demonstration; and we have now returned to our normal activities," one student told *Daily Trust* yesterday evening.

The Interim President of the University Bettina Espe confirmed the story. She said the students conducted "peaceful congregation" to protest the planned increase for school fees.

She said the university decided on the increase to reduce the level of subsidy being provided to students.

She said the current annual rate of N2 million per student covers only 45 per cent of the actual cost of services the university offers to each student, while the university provides 55 per cent subsidy.

According to her, rising cost of items and services as well as a plan to provide addition services to the students also made it necessary for the university to increase the fees.

She said the university welcomed a peaceful protest from the students, but did not say whether yesterday's protest would lead to the withdrawal of the planned increase.

University officials said the university offers American standard education to students and the fees cover for tuition, laptop, unlimited access to internet service and other educational services.

## Jos crisis: Police uncover plot to attack villages

THE Inspector-General of Police Mr Ogbonna Onovo said in Abuja yesterday that the force had uncovered plots to attack some remote villages in Jos.

The IG, who stated this while meeting with police chiefs across the country, said the police were prepared to bring lasting peace

to Plateau State.

"We are aware that some youths are now engaged in guerrilla war tactics to attack remote villages. That one will be taken care of so that we bring peace to Plateau state," Onovo said.

According to him, the Jos crisis will serve as a wakeup

call to the Criminal Intelligence Bureau in particular and the Nigeria Police Force in general.

Onovo said there were reported cases yet to be resolved and called on the commissioners of police to rise to the challenge of investigating not only cases of "movers and shakers" of the

society, but also those of ordinary victims.

He also warned that any commissioner who failed to respond to a complaint or petition within seven days of request by the force headquarters would be queried.

(NAN)

## CPC, RMG express fear

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) and the Right Monitoring Group (RMG) have expressed apprehension over unfolding events heralding the return of President Umaru Yar'adua. The CPC said that Yar'adua's return springs more surprises and anxiety which is not healthy enough for the country.

National Publicity Secretary of the party Aghanya Dennis told *Daily Trust* that it is disturbing the Yar'adua's deputy and Acting President Goodluck Jonathan is unaware of Yar'adua's return.

"Our fear is that democracy is still being threatened by the unfolding events, why did those keeping the president away from Nigerians allowed the 6-man FEC team to waste tax payers' money to Saudi Arabia when they knew the president is coming back? This shows that President Yar'adua's family did not consult with the presidency or Jonathan that the president is coming back, this is not good for the country," Aghanya said.

The Right Monitoring Group (RMG) said Nigeria is bigger than any individual and the way the president's return was handled is nothing short of mockery of Nigerians. The group's National Coordinator Olufemi Aduwo said yesterday in Abuja that the best option is for the Senate to commence impeachment proceeding against President Yar'adua to avoid the country plunging into crisis.

## Saudis join Nigerians to rejoice Yar'adua's return

By Aisha Umar Agaie

SAUDI Arabian Charge d Affairs, Jalal Hassan O. Almograbay has said that Saudi authorities join Nigerians to rejoice on the return of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua after staying for three months at Jeddah Hospital to receive treatment.

In an interview with *Daily Trust* at the embassy yesterday in Abuja he stated that "it is the wish of Saudi authority that Yar'adua return to Nigeria healthy and we pray for him to be in good health and perform his duty successfully". He emphasised that Saudi government does not have a hand in hiding information on the condition of health of President Yar'adua.

He said going to Saudi Arabia for medical is open to the world and the moment a patient fulfils the medical requirement, the embassy will grant the patient medical visa to travel to Saudi Arabia for treatment which is normal to all Saudi embassies all over the world.

He added that the relationship between Nigeria and Saudi Arabia is a long time relationship since independence and it could be added to the large population of Muslims in Nigeria.



FORMER Governor of Kano State Alhaji Abubakar Rimi (left) with Esama of Benin, Chief Gabriel Igbinedion, during the launch of a book written by former INEC Chairman, Dr. Abel Guobadia, in Abuja yesterday.

# Nnamani group warns against military intervention

By Muideen Olaniyi

SENATOR Ken Nnamani-led Good Governance Group (3G) yesterday warned against any attempt by the military to intervene in the current constitutional crisis created by the return of ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Mr Salihu Lukman, who

addressed newsmen in Abuja on the state of the nation, berated the manner in which President Yar'adua was brought to the country without proper clearance with the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan who is still the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

The group said the various reported acts of intimidation

against Jonathan in the Villa, posed serious threat to stability and national unity, saying 'no to 'Illegal' Exercise of Presidential Power'.

It said those impeding the effective exercise of executive powers by the Acting President Jonathan are violating the constitution and will be made to answer to their treasonable acts.

"Nigerian people will not accept any military solution to a crisis contrived by those who do not want to lose power because they are afraid of being made to account for their misdeeds," the group said.

We will continue to mobilize Nigerians to insist on respect for the constitution, especially Section 1 of the Constitution.

## Jonathan is Acting President

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tion between ministers and minister of state, he mentioned the kind of cordial relationship he had with Dr. Goodluck Jonathan then as his vice president. So, as far as I am concerned, they had a very cordial relationship."

On the reports that Jonathan was billed to take orders from First Lady Hajija Turai Yar'adua, Adeniyi said though he was not at the meeting where Jonathan briefed ministers, he however dismissed the report. He said, "If you ask anybody who was at the meeting, he or she will tell you that what you have there in the press is not what actually happened. I was not actually there, I was doing something in the office and before I got there, the meeting was over."

"Yes, the president has arrived, he [Jonathan] has not seen him, he suggested that when he sees the

First Lady is just a matter of courtesy, that he will call on the first lady and then the president. So when you hear that Turai is in charge, Turai takes over, all those things are not correct.

"It's been very unfair to the First Lady at the time she is nursing her husband. So there is no such thing and you don't expect the Acting President to report to the First Lady. It is abnormal and it won't happen. What the Acting President actually said that he was going to see the first lady and ask about the husband, that is the President, and probably see him. To me it is a normal situation, which I believe is the natural thing to do."

Hours before Yar'adua's office made the about-turn, Information and Communications Minister Dora Akunyili told Reuters that Jonathan remained the coun-

try's acting head of state until the National Assembly reverses a resolution giving him the president's executive powers. She said, "He cannot go back to Vice President until the National Assembly reverses their resolution that made him acting president, which was even supported by the Federal Executive Council and more importantly by most Nigerians."

As it happened, the planned meeting between Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and the First Lady Hajija Turai Yar'adua did not hold on Wednesday evening, *Daily Trust* gathered last night.

A reliable Presidency source told *Daily Trust* that when the acting president sent his aides to President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's residence located in the Aso Rock Villa, Abuja, to meet with the First Lady and arrange the meeting, they were told that she was not

available.

Jonathan had told ministers at a meeting Wednesday that he would meet Hajija Turai later that evening to get a briefing on Yar'adua's health. According to the source who spoke on condition of anonymity, "around 7.00pm yesterday (Wednesday), when the team went to the president's residence, the first lady was not ready to come down for any meeting, so Jonathan's aides went back to their boss to report the situation. It was then that the meeting was put off."

The source added, "What the acting president wanted to do is to welcome her back and get briefing on the president's health from her. He also wanted to show solidarity with the family and to make her understand that there is no rift between him and the Yar'adua family. But I think people may have misinterpreted the whole thing".

# FG wants Niger junta to run short transition

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE Federal Government yesterday urged the military junta in Niger Republic to run a short transition programme in order to ensure a speedy transition to democracy.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan said this yesterday when he received a six-man delegation from Niger Republic at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

A statement issued by the Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity to the Acting President Ima Niboro said, "The message the president passed to them is very clear that they must have a

very short transition programme and conduct election as soon as possible. That is the only way they can write their names in gold and considered as heroes"

Jonathan told the junta that Nigeria was concerned about the situation in Niger because of the proximity to Nigeria.

The statement said the junta didn't make any commitment to that effect.

Explaining their position, Mossi Hasaan, a colonel and leader of the six-man delegation, said "Our mission in Nigeria is to explain to the President of Nigeria the reason for the emergence of the Supreme Council for the Res-

toration of Democracy.

He said the council came about because there is a real problem in Niger. "We have to tackle the problem and reconcile the people and finally have to restore democracy in the country. We have appointed the prime minister; he will put in place the council (cabinet) that will come and do the job and they will determine how long we will stay".

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Jibril Maigari said the Economic Community of West Africa States (ECOWAS) has emphasised that their stay in power must be short, adding that "the suspension of Niger from ECOWAS stays."

## EFCC arrests Kenny Martins

By Misbahu Bashir & Atika Balal

COORDINATOR of the defunct Police Equipment Foundation Kenny Martins was yesterday arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

A High Court sitting in Gwagwalada, Abuja, had issued a bench warrant for the arrest of Martins over a case of forgery and criminal intent to commit crime.

EFCC's Head of Media and Publicity Femi Babafemi said Martins was arrested outside a court in Maitama Abuja, where he had gone over a different case.

Martins was said to have taken refuge inside the court room when he realised the presence of the EFCC detectives. He refused to come out until around 5pm and undercover operatives stationed in the court arrested him.

Meanwhile, an Abuja Federal High Court has set aside the fiat given to Festus Keyamo and his

chambers by the Attorney General of the Federation to act as prosecutor in a suit filed against Kenny Martins by the EFCC.

Counsel to Martins, Chief J. I Ucheaga had opposed to Keyamo's appearance as prosecutor and asked the court for an order preventing Keyamo or any member of his chambers from acting as prosecutor in the matter.

Setting aside the fiat, Justice Adamu Bello said the fiat given to Keyamo and his chambers by the AGF has not been given in the interest of Justice and asked the AGF to appoint another prosecutor if he must.

Martins, who pleaded not guilty, is accused of breaching a loan agreement amounting to \$97.5 million he entered into with an American company, Cavalry Security Group, LLC.

Meanwhile, one of the persons who stood as bail sureties for Martins has approached the court seeking to withdraw his position. The court has set March 31 for the motion filed by the surety to be taken.

## Crime: Reps c'ttee to revisit asset forfeiture bill

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representative's Committee on Drugs, Narcotics and Financial Crimes yesterday regretted the defeat of a bill seeking the forfeiture of assets of persons under investigations allegedly over drug, economic and financial crimes.

The House had on Wednesday rejected the bill which sought to empower the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to confiscate assets acquired illegally by suspected criminals.

Chairman of the Committee, Rep Rabe Nasir said the committee is bringing back the bill and ensure its passage into law.

He made this remark during a public hearing organised by his committee on a bill for an Act to Amend Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (Establishment) Act 2004.

He said the defeat of bill on the floor of the House was regrettable, adding that it would be re-introduced due to its importance in tackling corruption in the society.

Speaking on the issue, EFCC chairman, Mrs. Farida Waziri, declared that the greatest amendment that could be made to the Commission Act was the asset forfeiture bill.

Represented by the agency's Head of Operations Emmanuel Akomaye, the EFCC boss said there was no better way the commission could fight corruption without having law that permitted forfeiture of assets of those involved in crimes.



Chairwoman of the Liberia Anti-Corruption Commission Mrs. Frances Johnson (left) being decorated with the EFCC logo by EFCC Chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri, during the Liberian commission's visit to EFCC headquarters in Abuja yesterday.

## Fraud charge: Court to rule on Ogunlewe's request March 30

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

AN Abuja High Court will on March 30 rule on the application by the embattled Managing Director of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) Ganiyu Ogunlewe for stay of proceedings pending the hearing and determination of his appeal against a decision of the court.

Ogunlewe is standing trial alongside the Director, Operations of the Corporation, Prof. Peter Umoh; Dr. Joe Emerson, Innocent Ilozumba, Adedapo Agboola and Pius Obeleke over alleged conspiracy and fraudu-

lently misappropriating recovered funds of the distressed Fortune Bank Plc running into billion of naira.

Ogunlewe had through his counsel I.O. Olorundare (SAN) protested their arraignment before the Abuja High Court on the ground that the alleged offences for which they are charged by the Police were committed in Lagos and not in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The Court threw out five out of the seven-count charge leveled against the accused persons by the Inspector General of Police (IGP) for lack of jurisdiction.

## New Dep Clerk assumes duty at N/Assembly

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE new Deputy Clerk to the National Assembly Alhaji Salisu Abubakar Maikasuwa has assumed full official duties.

His appointment was confirmed last week by the National Assembly Service Commission (NASC) with effect from October, 2009.

Maikasuwa replaces Prince Oluyemi Ogunyomi, who has been elevated to the post of the Clerk of the National Assembly.

Maikasuwa was formerly the Clerk Special Duties for the assembly after spending two years as the Clerk to the House of Representatives.

He attended the National Insti-



ALHAJI Salisu Maikasuwa

tute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru near Jos and has worked at various levels at the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) before moving to the National Assembly.

## Institute seeks partnership with media

By Fidelis Mac-Leva and Maureen Onochie

THE Chief Executive Officer of the National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Professor Taiwo Ajayi has commended Media Trust limited for its leading role in information dissemination, particularly in the area of education.

Ajayi said this when he led a delegation of the Institute on a visit to the corporate Headquarters of the Media Trust in Abuja.

"We have been following your reportage of activities in the country, particularly in the area of education and we are highly impressed. In fact going through your stables one would think you are one of the oldest media outfits in the country," Ajayi said.

He said their visit to Media Trust was to seek ways of partnership, especially in creating public awareness on the activities of the institute.

Ajayi said NIEPA is a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Education which is based in Ondo State and has its presence in other parts of the country.

He said it was established in 1992 by UNESCO to serve the entire West Coast.

# Carrington weeps at Gani's tomb

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

FORMER United States Ambassador to Nigeria Mr Walter Carrington yesterday broke down as he formally bade late human rights crusader and lawyer Chief Gani Oyesola Fawehinmi farewell at his home country, Ondo Town.

Carrington admonished Nigerians, especially lawyers, to emulate the deceased by being in the forefront of the struggle

for the defence of people's right at all times.

The human rights activist died on September 5 2009. Carrington who has been in Ondo State since Monday where he delivered a lecture entitled 'Electoral Reform, Good Governance & Democracy in commemoration of the first anniversary of the Dr Olusegun Mimiko's administration, acknowledged Gani's principled stance against oppression and

anti-democratic tenets especially during the Late Gen. Sani Abacha regime.

The ex-US envoy and his wife, Arese, accompanied by Ondo State Governor, Dr. Olusegun Mimiko and his wife, Olukemi paid a visit to Fawehinmi's graveyard family.

According to the diplomat who was on his way back to his United States, Gani Fawehinmi could have lived a comfortable life because of his success-

ful legal practice, but instead chose to defend the defenceless through the use of the instrument of the law and mass mobilization against acts of injustice and oppression.

Describing the late lawyer's death as a great loss not only to Nigeria and Africa but the world in general, Carrington posited that Gani's passionate championship of the rights of the masses must never be forsaken or forgotten.

"Nigeria, Africa and the world have lost a voice that can never be replaced. May the younger generation take up your mantle and continue the struggle until poverty is eliminated and all men and women have equal opportunity", he said. Responding on behalf of the family, Alhaji Jubril Fawehinmi expressed appreciation for the visit, adding that the family was thoroughly devastated by his death.



PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

MEDIA Trust Managing Editor, Suleiman Mohammed (right) with students of Noble Guide Academy, Abuja, during their visit to Media Trust Corporate Head Office, Abuja, yesterday.

## BUK to honour Fafunwa, Dangote, others with degrees

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

VETERAN educationist, Professor Aliyu Babatunde Fafunwa and billionaire businessman, Alhaji Aliko Dangote are among four distinguished Nigerians to be conferred with honorary doctorate degrees by the Bayero University, Kano (BUK) at the institution's 28th convocation billed for tomorrow.

The two others are Nigeria's former Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Nura Imam and former Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission Professor Idris Abdulkadir.

The event will take place at the institution's permanent site on

Gwarzo Road Kano.

The decision to confer the honorary degrees on the personalities was announced by the institution's Vice Chancellor Professor Attahiru Jega at the pre-convocation press briefing.

A total of 3,838 graduates will pass out in tomorrow's event, he said. Of the number, 51 are PhD holders, 1, 539 Masters degrees and 1,458 diplomas, he said.

According to him, only 790 graduates who are spill-over students will be awarded degrees at the convocation ceremony to be chaired by Lagos State Governor Babatunde Fashola.

He said the smaller number of first degree holders was due to

the recent disruption in academic activities as a result of the strike embarked by members of the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU). The vice chancellor also said the current set of final year students of the institution were yet to conclude their academic activities, saying that they would have no option but to wait for next year's convocation.

Asked to explain why the institution considered Dangote as one of the honorary degree recipients, Jega described Dangote as a self-made man despite the fact that he comes from a privileged background. He believed graduates of the institution would be inspired by Dangote's pedigree as one of

the most creative, hardworking and innovative entrepreneurs in the country.

The vice chancellor therefore canvassed government's support for unemployed graduates who are endowed with entrepreneurial abilities.

Jega said it was unfortunate that self employed inclined graduates practically found it impossible to secure funds from financial institutions in the country. He implored the state and federal governments to create the enabling environment which would enable unemployed graduates to have access to credit facilities that would help them set up their own businesses.

## Etsako West LG office set ablaze

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE office of the Chairman of Etsako West Local Government in Edo State, Gani Audu, was yesterday set ablaze by suspected arsonists.

Other offices set on fire included that of the supervisory councillor for health, administrative officers' office/establishment and the councils conference room. The fire was believed to have started at about midnight.

The arsonists were believed to have gained entrance into the council through a fence close to the chairman's office.

When our correspondent visited the scene, it was discovered that the barbed wire was cut to aid easy access to the council while a packet of half filled match box was found on the ground around the same spot. The Auchi Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Mr. Adamu Ngoji said the police would do its best to unravel the misery behind the fire incident.

## Meningitis kills two in Plateau

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

CEREBROSPINAL Meningitis has killed two persons in Plateau State, the Directors of Health in Pankshin and Shendam Local Government Areas of the state Mrs Julia Daches and Dalyop

Vogam said yesterday.

They said this yesterday at a sensitisation workshop on CSM organized by the National Emergency Management Agency for the North Central Zone in Jos, saying the two local governments recorded one death each.

According to the directors,

there were 11 reported cases in Pankshin and seven in Shendam, adding that after the outbreak, medical personnel were mobilized to sensitise the public as well as report the cases to the state Ministry of Health.

They advised the public to beware of the outbreak by embark-

ing on preventive measures such as avoiding overcrowded rooms as well as noting the signs and symptoms of the disease which include, fever, vomiting, loss of appetite, irritability, pale skin (in babies) and severe headache, stiff neck, drowsiness among others (in older children and adults).

## JIBWIS seeks return of Abisoeye panel

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Jama'atul Izalatul Bid'ah Wa Ikamatis Sunnah (JIBWIS) has called for the return of the retired General Emmanuel Abisoeye panel to continue its investigation into the November 2008 Jos crisis.

The National Chairman of the Ulama Council of JIBWIS Ash-Sheikh Muhammad Sam Yahya Jingir who addressed newsmen in Jos yesterday said the Solomon Lar Presidential Advisory Committee set up by the Federal Government to find the cause of the recurrent crises to proffer solutions for lasting peace in the state had a lot of confusion.

Sheikh Jingir said the additional seven people added to the committee would not be able to flow with the initial members of the committee since they had already started working.

"There is a lot of confusion in the committee, because some people do not know what the committee has so far done since they joined them lately, ordinarily, when someone attends a meeting late, he finds it very difficult to make a meaningful contribution since the meeting did not start when he was around not to talk of a whole committee", he said. He also decried the inclusion of certain personalities in the committee who were alleged to have been found wanting in the recurrent crises in the state, adding, "The report of the Abisoeye panel will go a long way in finding the culprits of the recurrent crises in the state which will also help in uniting this country and deterring other people from perpetrating same in any part of the country."

He also maintained that the Federal Government should have been the only party to investigate and punish the culprits since it is the apex and neutral body in the country, adding that there is no wisdom in setting up a committee made up of people in the state.

Sheikh Jingir further alleged that the committee has not been doing a commendable job in its recent tour of key places affected by the crisis adding that the committee has sidelined key areas where they were supposed to have visited because those areas hold part of the key to finding lasting solution to the crisis.



CONJOINED twins delivered in Ningi Local Government Area of Bauchi State, recently.

# 1,000 Nigerians get teaching jobs in S/Africa

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN) says it has secured places for over 1,000 Nigerian graduates with teaching background to work in South Africa.

Registrar of the council Professor Addison Wokocha who made the disclosure during a one day training workshop on TRCN/STEP-B Project in Akwange, Nasarawa State, yesterday, said South African authorities had agreed to receive the teachers under the International Forum for Regulatory Council which had made provisions for the engagement of the teachers. He said the teachers are mainly young and unemployed graduates.

The appeal for the recruitment of the science teachers was made through the Nigerian

High Commissioner in South Africa Brig. General Bubwa Marwa, after the registrar visited him last year. He explained that the employment of the Nigerian teachers would be for a three year period at the first instance and subject to renewal.

Declaring the workshop open, Prof. Wokocha said it was aimed at equipping TRCN field officers with the method of the data collection that would guide them to collect authentic and verifiable data of Science, Technology and Mathematics teachers in all the states of the federation and FCT.

He the STEP-B project was part of the TRCN mandate by the Federal Government supported by the World Bank to develop a database of Science, Technology and Mathematics (STM) teachers in the country to

adequately equip them with Information Communication and Technology (ICT) skills needed for the technological development of the country.

World Bank Senior Education Specialist in charge of the STEP-B project, Dr. Tunde Adekola, expressed satisfaction with the TRCN project and its proper utilization of World Bank funds allocated to it.

He said the bank had released \$180 million to federal science schools across the country within the last two years, with each school getting between N30 and N40 million for the training of teachers and the development of the schools in terms of infrastructure and equipment, "but not up to a quarter of that fund have not been expended."

## Maryam Abacha frustrates investigation - Police

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu Kano

ALL attempts by the police to interrogate the son of late General Sani Abacha, who was fingered as an accomplice in the case of his mother's alleged jewellery theft failed as Maryam Abacha denied police access to the boy, a police officer who handled the theft investigation told court yesterday.

Inspector Usaini Mati, who led the team of police detectives from Kano CID to investigate the crime, disclosed this while testifying during the continuation of the trial yesterday. He said the principal suspect in the case, Abdullahi Ali, who was a personal servant of the former

first lady, alleged in a confessional statement made to the police which was obtained "under words of caution" that they had been committing the crime in collaboration with Abdullahi Sani Abacha, son of the late Head of State.

Inspector Mati added that, "Although we requested the complainant to release her son in the course of investigation, she failed to do so." The police investigator further added that Ali, the first accused person, later took the police to one Alhaji Goni, the second accused person in the matter, who he alleged received the stolen jewellery. He said that was how the police were able to recover N110,000 and a silver necklace which were tendered as exhibits

before the court.

However, an earlier objection of the admissibility of the original copies of Ali's statement by his counsel, Abubakar Mohammed, on the ground that they were obtained under duress and misrepresented his client who cannot write in English. But while overruling the objection, the trial Chief Magistrate, Aminu Abubakar Kabara, said it could not hold water as the only way to sort out the problem and prove whether or not the statements were not obtained voluntarily, was to go on trial within trial, which he said has been abolished in Kano State. The case has been adjourned to the March 24 for continuation of hearing.

## Lab scientists call for implementation of service scheme in Borno

From Yahaya Ibrahim and Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE Association of Medical Laboratory Scientists of Nigeria (AMLSN) has called on Governor Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno State to implement the current service scheme for medical laboratories in Borno State.

Man of the Association in Borno Haji Bukar Musa made this call in Maiduguri during the fourth

annual public health lecture of the association titled: "Evidence-based Health Services: Policymaking and the Medical Laboratories". According to the Chairman, the National Council of Establishment approved new service scheme for lab scientist since 2001 but Borno State is yet to implement the scheme.

"Up till now, a Directorate for Laboratory Services to be headed by a Medical Laboratory Scientist (Director) has not been created

in both the Ministry of Health and the Hospital Management Board. It is heart-breaking to know that our colleagues have stagnated as chiefs for 12-14 years without being promoted to Assistant or Deputy Directors, as provided for in the scheme of service, which has been enjoyed by our other professional colleagues in the hospitals," he added.

Musa also called for the establishment of clinical laboratories at the primary health care level, which he noted, would help prevent

many preventable deaths. He explained that for instance, most causes of maternal mortality are anaemia, post partum haemorrhage and malaria, adding that simple tests such as PCV, urine analysis, malaria test, can assist the community health officer in preventing such deaths.

In addition, he said it is the tradition of the association to organize an annual lecture on topical health issues that can positively improve health care delivery services.

## Court dismisses Falana's application

By Atika Balal

AN Abuja Federal High Court has dismissed an application by Lagos-based lawyer Femi Falana seeking reference to the Court of Appeal questions of law formulated for interpretation in a suit he filed against the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF).

In dismissing the application, Justice Adamu Bello said before the case can be referred to the appellate court, the applicant must establish locus standi, which was not established in this case.

The court also granted an application sought by Counsel to Falana, Kayode Ajulo, to withdraw the suit.

Falana, in the initial suit filed before the Federal High Court 1, asked that decisions reached by the Executive Council of the Federation during President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's absence be annulled.

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

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

## 'Our performance has earned us respect'

By Francis Okeke

DIRECTOR General of the National Directorate of Employment (NDE) Malam Abubakar Mohammed yesterday said that the performance of the directorate in recent years has brought respect to the institution with many organisations and individuals partnering with the directorate to create jobs.

Mohammed told Daily Trust that the performance of NDE has attracted state governments and members of the national assembly as well as state houses of assembly and private individuals which led to several collaborations on job creation.

He however attributed the success of the NDE to teamwork from all stakeholders.

Mohammed said the directorate is consistently striving to better its past records so as to continue to contribute to national development.

# African ministers unite against piracy

By Shehu Abubakar

MINISTERS of transport, ambassadors and representatives from 30 African countries meeting in Abuja are finding ways to tackle the problems of sea piracy, arm robbery, bunkering and the use of substandard ships on the African coast.

Transport Minister of the Republic of Congo and Chairman of the Abuja Memorandum of Under-

standing (MoU) Mr Parfait Aime Coussoud Mavongou said when implemented, the MoU would provide a solution to all the problems being encountered by African countries at the African coast.

He said the Abuja MoU which was signed into law attempt to address issues on the regional cooperation and commitment to the eradication of substandard shipping activities through effec-

tive ports state control.

He said the African committee of Transport Ministers is by the resolution of the Abuja MoU signed in 1999 and with the active collaboration of the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

Welcoming delegates, Nigeria's Transport Minister, Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Bio expressed concern that only ten of the 16 member countries that originally signed the Abuja MoU

have fully acceded to it. He said poor financial contributions, lack of proper and adequate means of communication among member states are threatening the official activities of the transport ministers' forum on the safety and security of the maritime area. Gambia, Equatorial Guinea, Ghana, Cameroon, Guinea, Togo, Senegal and Benin republics were at the opening session of the meeting yesterday morning.



MEMBERS of Caregivers Initiative International on a charity walk during a campaign to raise awareness for the plight of the elderly sick people in Abuja yesterday.

PIC: NAN

## Women politicians unite ahead 2011

By Akor Ojoma

WOMEN politicians from different political parties and civil society organisations yesterday gathered in Abuja to discuss how to come out strongly in the forthcoming 2011 elections.

The women include serving and former deputy governors, ministers, senators and other parliamentarians, women party leaders, Local Government chairmen, councilors, commissioners, among others.

Hajiya Inna Ciroma, PDP women leader, said it has become necessary for women to come together irrespective of difference because of the problems they have been facing in participating in Nigerian politics.

"2011 is around the corner and we have to strategise on how to help ourselves and to move our gender agenda" she said.

Deputy Governor of Plateau State Mrs. Pauline Tallen said women can make a dramatic change in the country if given room to participate fully in governance.

Senator Eme Ufot Ekaete commended the initiative of the dialogue and dinner organized by the Gender Affirmative Action Project (GAA) as a welcome development to unify women.

Earlier, Mrs. Sarah Jibril advised the women to be united and listen more to one another.

## ECOWAS launches public service award

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE ECOWAS regional body has introduced an award system to promote innovation in the public sector for improved service delivery.

The All Africa Public Service Innovation Awards (AAPSIA), launched by ministers of public service from the ECOWAS mem-

ber countries, also aims to promote regional and cross-sector collaboration towards promoting good governance on the continent.

In a statement issued in Abuja, the commission said the award system will create a platform for information, sharing, lesson-learning, partnerships and possible replication of successful initiatives across Africa.

Mr. Richard Baloyi, who launched the awards in Abuja, stressed the need for ECOWAS member states to show their support by submitting their entries to beat the 31st July 2010 deadline.

Nigeria's Head of the Civil Service of Nigeria Mr. Steve Oronsanye, who welcomed delegates, said a virile public service is essential for the building of a functional state.

## Perm sec tasks civil servants on efficiency

By Francis Okeke

A Permanent Secretary under the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation has urged civil servants to be proactive and efficient in the discharge of their duties in line with the Public Service Charter.

Alhaji Suleiman Kassim, who was recently deployed to the General Service Office, said this in his first meeting with officers on Grade Level 15 and above in his department.

He said he expects every staff of the SGF to report to work on time and ensure that files are treated

within 24 hours, saying that the SGF's office is the engine room of government.

While urging staff to work as a family, he assured them that he was ready to provide them with leadership and working tools for effective service delivery.

"I am prepared to listen, pre-

pared to support and prepared to lead," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the officers earlier, the Director of General Services Mr. U. D. Ambursa, who acted as Permanent Secretary for about four months, assured the newly-deployed permanent secretary of support.

## Police commissioner sacked for embezzlement

By Misbahu Bashir

THE Police Service Commission (PSC) has approved the dismissal of Mr. Sambo A. Mohammed, Commissioner of Police, Special Duties at the Force Headquarters, Abuja, for embezzlement and abuse of office.

The commission arrived at the decision at its 13th plenary meeting which held in Abuja on Tuesday.

PSC's Head, Press and Public Relations, Ikechukwu Ani said Mohammed was found to have diverted and embezzled various sums of money estimated at N16 million given to him by the gov-

ernment of Borno State between 2008 and 2009 when he was the State Commissioner of Police, contrary to rule 030402 (1) of the Public Service Rules, 2008.

He was also found to have illegally deducted the sum of N16,000 from the funds of each Divisional Police Officer in the State Com-

mand for the purpose of purchasing generators which had already been purchased with funds released to him by the Borno State government, the commission said.

Mohammed was found to have abused his office with the unilateral creation of Area Commands and Divisions in the Borno State

Command without recourse of the Inspector-General of Police Godwin approval of the President and others. The Commission urged the government to ensure such people to over his completion of the clean while record time. Police

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



FROM left: Representative of the Senate President, Senator Abdullahi Idris Umar, Chairman of the occasion former Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Muhammed Lawal Uwais and former INEC chairman author of the book, Reflections of a Nigerian Electoral Umpire, Dr. Abel Guobadia, at the book presentation, in Abuja, yesterday.

## Jigawa govt sets up c'ttee over mother, baby's deaths

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

THE Jigawa State government has set up a committee to investigate the deaths of one Malama Bara'atu Muhammad Ali and her baby due to alleged negligence of workers at the Ringim General Hospital, Jigawa. The Director General of the state Directorate of the Gunduma Health System Hajiya Hasana Husaini Adamu who disclosed this to newsmen in Dutse Wednesday said the committee was headed by Dr. Magaji Muhammad. Hajiya Hasana added that the Directorate asked the committee to investigate the matter and report back to the Directorate as soon as the investigation was concluded. It would be recalled that the late woman's husband, Mallam Ali Muhammad of Ringim Local Government Area petitioned Governor Sule Lamido over the death of his wife and baby over alleged negligence by workers of the hospital. Mallam Ali said, "The incident occurred on January 16, 2010 when I took her to the maternity unit of the hospital for medical attention. To my surprise, the staff on duty demanded N24, 600 from me. The request baffled me because the present administration announced that antenatal and post natal treatment are free of charge at government owned hospitals. But because I had no money to give them, they abandoned her for four days in the maternity unit of the hospital. They only agreed to attend to my wife when an officer at the hospital, Alhaji Bako Usman, presented his ID card to them and stood as my guarantor. But because she had suffered a prolonged labour, the child died in her and she also died."

Mallam Muhammad Ringim appealed to the state government to wade into the matter with a view to preventing a future occurrence, saying many people died in the state due to such attitudes by workers in government owned hospitals.

When contacted on phone, the chairman of the committee, Dr. Magaji Muhammad, told our correspondent that the committee had visited the hospital and interviewed the staff involved, the petitioner and all other parties. Dr. Muhammad however said the committee was yet to compile its reports.

# Lar c'ttee visits displaced persons

From Mahmud Lalo & Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Federal Government advisory committee on Jos crises headed by the former Plateau State Governor Chief Solomon Lar yesterday visited displaced persons camps in Jos.

At the camps, the Chairman of

the committee, Chief Solomon Lar, told the displaced persons that they were there to commiserate with them over what happened to them during the recent crisis and give them hope that all would be well, asking them to be patient. Solomon Lar recalled that during his tenure, Plateau was the most peaceful state in the country

and that they got a commendation letter from the then Federal Government under the leadership of former President Shehu Shagari as the most peaceful state. He said Plateau must redeem its image, adding that his committee would make recommendations that would ensure peace in the state.

## Group denies agitating for state

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

A group known as the Yerwa Citizens Association in Borno State has denied being part of recent calls by some people that a new state be created out of the present Borno State. The association said in a statement signed by its Legal Adviser, Martema Umar and Financial Secretary, Mohammed Alkali Mahmud, that its executive was not consulted by anyone or group on the issue even though an advertorial in a national daily last month was signed in the association's name. The statement noted that though some members of the association's board of trustees signed the advertorial, they did so without consulting the association.

The association said it was neither a tribal nor cultural group and would not be dragged into matters that on sectional interests, maintaining that the group only takes part in community driven programmes with direct impact on the lives of Borno citizens.

## Lafiaji to know fate April 30

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

A Lagos High Court has fixed April 30, 2010 as judgment day in a suit filed by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) against the former Chairman of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency Bello Lafiaji and his personal assistant, Usman Amali.

The presiding judge, Justice Olusola Williams, announced the date yesterday after the prosecuting counsel, Bolaji Ayorinde and the defense lawyer, Taiwo Oshipitan adopted their written addresses.

While adopting his written address, defense counsel, Professor Taiwo Oshipitan, urged the court to discharge and acquit the two accused person for lack of evidence, adding that the prosecution built its case on mere suspicion.

Oshipitan submitted that the charges leveled against his client were destined to fail from inception, arguing that there were variations between the charges and testimonies of witnesses.

He pointed out that while the prosecution alleged that the accused in November 2005 conspired to unlawfully receive 164,300 euro from one Ikenna Onochie to release him and his vehicles from custody, the statement of Onochie revealed that the money was actually recovered from his house. He submitted that it was the duty of the prosecution to prove every word contained in the charge and not to create doubts.

Oshipitan added that circumstantial evidence must go beyond suspicion, adding that there was no evidence before the court to link the accused with the charges. He added that while Nigeria should be purged of corrupt practices, it should not be at the expense of sacrificing innocent people.

In his submissions, Bolaji Ayorinde, the prosecuting counsel described the suit as a classical case of corruption and manipulation of the system by the accused persons.

Ayorinde added that the facts of the case pointed to only one conclusion, which is that the accused persons were guilty.

## Kano spends N778m on rural roads

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

THE three rural feeder roads currently under construction in Shanono, Kura and Kibiya Local Government Areas in Kano State will gulp N778 million and will be ready before the year runs out, state Commissioner for Rural and Community Development Dr Musa Iiyasu Kwankwaso said in Kano yesterday.

They include the Yallaba-Danmadaci-Dutsen Danbako-shi, Kura-Azore-Gidan Danye-Bakin Kogi and Kwanar Dinya-Katakau-Sabon Garin Ingini roads. Inspecting the roads, the commissioner said all rural roads currently under construction in the state were captured in last year's budget and would be completed shortly. He said more rural roads were also captured in this year's budget that was recently signed into law by Governor Ibrahim Shekarau.

The 11.4km Yallaba-Danmadachi-Dutsen Danbakoshi road in Shanono Local Government Area, according to him cost N89.9 million. He said the 8.3km Kura Azora-Gidan Danye-Bakin Kogi road in Kura council area would gulp N491.6 million while the 16km Kwanar Dinyar-Katakau-Sabon Garin Ingini in Kibiya would cost N198.6 million.

Kwankwaso said the Kura-Azore-Gidan Danye-Bakin Kogi would link Kura, Madobi and Garun Malam Local Government Areas if completed. He said the roads would greatly help rural dwellers in those places in the movement of farm produce and people. Chairman of Kura Local Government Area Alhaji Shehu NaAllah and Special Adviser to the Governor of Kano State on Rural Development Dr Ayuba Ibrahim Adamu said the roads would complement councils' effort in its rural development drive.

## Niger demands N70m

From Capital Airlines from Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

FOLLOWING the failure of Capital Airlines to comply with the agreement between it and the Niger State government, the state government has demanded that it refund the money given to it. The state Commissioner for Land and Inland Waterways Mr. Timothy Jiya disclosed this yesterday while addressing newsmen in Minna. He said Capital Airlines only operated in the state for two months against the six months in the Memorandum of Understanding signed by both parties.

The commissioner said since they only worked for two of the six months, the management of the airline would be invited to the state to discuss the balance of the money which is N70 million. Mr Jiya however added that the airline could not keep its part of the agreement because of an aviation law which grounded it.

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# FUT Minna admission process for probe

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER State Governor Babangida Aliyu yesterday in Minna said he would investigate allegations of victimization by indigenes of the state

over admission into the Federal University of Technology (FUT) Minna.

The governor said a situation where qualified indigenes of the state were deprived of admission into the university

was unacceptable.

"I am going to investigate the admission process in the institution, especially as it concerns the 2009/2010 admission", he said. On appointments into the institution, the governor

expressed concern that indigenes of the state were not carried along, adding that vacancies reserved for them had been occupied by people from other parts of the country.

Aliyu who spoke while sign-

ing the 2010 budget said N30 billion had been earmarked for infrastructure development. He urged the state's lawmakers to cooperate with the executive to ensure that the 2010 budget was fully implemented.

## ... Matriculates 2,231 students

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Federal University of Technology Minna has matriculated 2,231 students for the 2009/2010 academic session, the Vice Chancellor, Professor Muhammed Audu, said yesterday. The VC who spoke at the 23rd matriculation ceremony of the institution said the School of Agriculture and Agricultural Technology had 128 students, School of Engineering and Engineering Technology, 731 while the School of Environmental Technology had 273 students.

Others are the School of Science and Science Education with 815 students, School of Information and Communication Technology, 161 students and the School of Entrepreneurship and Management Technology has 83 new students.

He urged students to shun violence and focus on their studies.

"We have laboratories and workshops which have been equipped to serve your needs as you are all aware that this is an academic environment with its unique norms and values", he said.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

AKWA Ibom State governor Godwill Akpabio (right) with House of Representatives member Bernard Udoh during the governor's visit to the National Assembly, Abuja on Wednesday.

## Mimiko pledges dividends of democracy

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

GOVERNOR Olusegun Mimiko has pledged to deliver dividends of democracy to the people of Ondo State. Mimiko in an address to mark his one year in office Wednesday in Akure said,

"This is our sacred mandate and by the special grace of God, we shall live up to your expectations".

He said his administration in the past one year had enjoyed the support of the state legislature, judiciary as well as other stakeholders.

He said the government had worked assiduously to make its electoral promises a reality through the conceptualizations and implementation of human development projects.

## Army arrests fake Major

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE 2 Amphibious Brigade of the Nigerian Army in Port Harcourt has arrested a 37 year old man, Daniel Bucknor (aka Adesola Bucknor) a suspected fraudster who has been parading himself as an army Major attached to the Chaplain Department.

Addressing newsmen yesterday in Port Harcourt, the Brigade's Spokesman, Major Aminu Iliyasu, said the suspect was arrested following a tip-off.

He said items found on him include a fake army identity card, three fake attestation forms for applicants seeking recruitment into the army and pilgrims' welfare forms carrying the chaplain's logo.

## Group to facilitate adoption of Jos orphans

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Orphanage Relief Association says plans are under way to give out 200 orphans whose parents died in the recent Jos crisis for adoption.

The Chairman, Yakubu Abdulkarim Mai Manja, said the association in collaboration with traditional rulers, were urging well meaning Nigerians to adopt the orphans.

"We are working on a plan. We

have talked to the authorities and they have promised to talk to some people who will adopt the children. We have also announced in Mosques asking people to come forward to adopt them. Anyone who shows interest will be screened by a seven man elders committee in charge of the adoption", he said.

The general overseer of the orphans, Alhaji Abdullahi Tela, who is also the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) chairman in Toro Local Gov-

ernment Area, called on wealthy people to come to the aid of the orphans, saying, "The problem is beyond feeding or clothing. They need to begin a new life".

Last week, a member of the House of Representatives, Haruna Ibrahim, Representing Toro Federal Constituency in Bauchi State, said over 200 Kuru orphans were in his constituency and that most of them were brought to the area for safety. He said they were between the ages of one and seven.

## Lawmaker faults constitution amendment

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

A member representing Kirfi constituency in the Bauchi State House of Assembly, Harsanu Guyaba, has described efforts to amend the 1999 constitution as another attempt by the political elite to engage in a wild goose chase as it would not benefit the masses.

The lawmaker said the nation's leaders should stop deceiving Nigeri-

ans by insinuating that they failed to provide social amenities for the people because of defects in the constitution. He maintained that the 1999 constitution was enough to guide them if indeed they wanted to develop the country.

Speaking to our correspondent in Bauchi yesterday, Guyaba said the problem was not with the constitution, but its operators.

"The constitution cannot work

on its own. It needs honest and sincere operators. The US which we copy spent 250 years using a single constitution with only seven clauses amended. Our constitution is just 10 years old, but 136 clauses are being proposed for amendment", he added.

According to the lawmaker, unless the leaders are sincere, the nation will not have a better constitution than the one the country is operating currently.

## Amaechi urges Ogonis to fight bunkering

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Rivers State government has threatened to withdraw its support to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) remediation efforts in Ogoniland if the people fail to fight against illegal bunkering activities that has become a source of concern in the area.

Governor Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi stated this yesterday during a meeting between the

Presidential Implementation Committee on the clean up of oil impacted sites in Ogoniland, the leadership of United Nations' Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Rivers state government in Government House, Port Harcourt.

The governor said reports of increased illegal bunkering activities in the area at this time when UNEP officials were engaged in the clean up of old oil spill sites in the area, called for serious con-

cern.

The Minister of Environment Mr John Odey who was also at the meeting, lauded the state government's effort at providing adequate security and furnished office space for UNEP officials involved in the clean-up of impacted oil spill sites in Ogoniland.

Mr Odey also expressed appreciation to Governor Amaechi for his leadership role in the Niger Delta region, particularly

his efforts in ensuring the commencement of UNEP clean up exercise in Ogoniland.

The United Nations Environmental Project Coordinator Mr Michael Cowing in his presentation on the update of the project, said there were new oil spill sites caused by activities of saboteurs and cautioned against the continuation of the illegal activities.

Mr Cowing disclosed that the team had held consultations and sensitization with some Ogoni

communities in course of the project and assured that their activities are in consonance with international best practices and sued for cooperation from the people.

Speaking on behalf of the Ogoni people, King Godwin Gininwa said the people were eager to see the actualization of the project and urged the government to ignore such people to ensure the completion of the clean up in record time.

# Online Reactions

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



**ACTING President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan**

## FG stops Niger River dredging

HALTING this project is to prevent the northern part of the country access to the ocean, point blank.

**K.M**  
[kamilusalisu@gmail.com](mailto:kamilusalisu@gmail.com)

Now that the president is back, all praises be to God. President Yar'adua should immediately stop the transfer of those funds and give a four month ultimatum for the completion of the dredging.

**Abdu Isa Kofarmata**  
[kmatagigi@yahoo.com](mailto:kmatagigi@yahoo.com)

I am very sure that the dredging of the River Niger is more important economically and socially to this country than preventing erosion in the Niger Delta region only. All the states and local government areas in Nigeria have their problems, ranging from desertification, desert encroachment, erosion and earthquakes.

**Usman A. Mustapha**  
[mammam2023@yahoo.com](mailto:mammam2023@yahoo.com)

Wake up, Northern leaders. Only a few days after assuming the position of Acting President, Jonathan started reversing projects that are supposed to benefit the region.

**Yusuf**  
[postolucida@yahoo.com](mailto:postolucida@yahoo.com)

I pray that the president gets well quick so that the bickering can stop.

**AbdulHadi Ahmad Bawa**  
[abusuwaiba@gmail.com](mailto:abusuwaiba@gmail.com)

This is an act of selfishness. I hope Yar'adua reclaims the funds for the continuation of the dredging of the River Niger

**Rilwan Yusuf**  
[ryusufu@gmail.com](mailto:ryusufu@gmail.com)

This project will not only benefit the north, but will reduce congestions at the ports. I pray the president reverses this decision.

**Ahmad Ibrahim**  
[meetahmed2001@yahoo.com](mailto:meetahmed2001@yahoo.com)

Why do we as a nation continue to shoot ourselves in the foot? Goodluck should have thought seriously before taking this action. It will just go a long way to justify the arguments in most Northern quarters that his assumption into office is a Southern agenda. To specifically order the funds to be relocated to the Niger-Delta will increase tension in the land.

**Abdulaziz Mamman Kid**  
[abdulmkida@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:abdulmkida@yahoo.co.uk)

WHY was the president's return shrouded in so much secrecy? When is he due to give his post Saudi Arabia address? Has he come to take back his office or to prove his detractors wrong?

**Thomas George**  
[okirika\\_george@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:okirika_george@yahoo.co.uk)

I am very happy with the return of President Yar'adua. May Allah grant him quick recovery so that he can rule this country beyond 2011.

**Aminu Y. Ringim**  
[jamilatay@yahoo.com](mailto:jamilatay@yahoo.com)

This is quite interesting. We are waiting to see how the president will react, but we hope he will be mature in all his decisions. I want him to focus on the constitutional amendment.

**Usman Ahmed Danbaba**  
[dانبابا1986@yahoo.com](mailto:dانبابا1986@yahoo.com)

The first thing that came to my mind was Timawus Mathias's theory which says that, "Jonathan needs more than Goodluck". Now that the president is back, hale and hearty, he must reverse the diversion of the funds for the Niger River dredging. Long live President Yar'adua.

**Musa Azare**  
[maazare@yahoo.com](mailto:maazare@yahoo.com)

You are welcome, our president. The Acting President can now move aside. Congratulations, Hajia Turai.

**Sadeeq Sheshe**  
[sadeeqmuhdsheshe@rocketmail.com](mailto:sadeeqmuhdsheshe@rocketmail.com)

It is good to know that the president is back. His medical condition was blown out of proportion because of politics. We hope this will put an end to all the speculations.

**Dr Muktar Gadanya**  
[gadanya@gmail.com](mailto:gadanya@gmail.com)

Why do we like deceiving ourselves? This man cannot continue due to his health condition, but some people want him there at all cost because of their personal interests. Yar'adua's life is more important, he need a rest. I am sure he

## 'President walked, not stretchered'

WHETHER the president was stretchered or not, is not relevant. The question that should bother any right thinking Nigerian is, "Why was everything done in the dark?". Why put out the lights? Why haven't we been able to see the president? He is a public figure for crying out loud. Let us remember that for every action, we are writing history. The nation is greater than any individual

**Sola Kehinde**  
[angeleniola@yahoo.com](mailto:angeleniola@yahoo.com)



**PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua**

wants to rest, but those around him are insisting that he continues.

**Sam**  
[samduro2006@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:samduro2006@yahoo.co.uk)

Well, we are very happy to hear that he is back, but we will not agree that the story is true until the president addresses the nation or newsmen. All the same, we wish him a quick recovery.

**Safwan Suraj Ilyas**  
[safgee@hotmail.com](mailto:safgee@hotmail.com)

Now that Yar,adua is back, what next?

**Abdullahi Abubakar**  
[abdalahero@gmail.com](mailto:abdalahero@gmail.com)

We thank God that he is back, However, is his return to secure his seat or an indication that he has fully recovered. Again, I don't see the need for the secrecy. I urge him to write to the National Assembly immediately so that he can resume work.

**Abubakar**  
[asslere@yahoo.com](mailto:asslere@yahoo.com)

We share in the joy of his return. I will however state categorically that anyone who loves him should advise him to consider his health and forget about politics.

**Derek**  
[derekin.derek@gmail.com](mailto:derekin.derek@gmail.com)

That Yar'adua is back is good, but my problem is that he came back in the night. Why didn't he come back

in broad day light so that people can welcome him?

**Princess**  
[dekkoluv@rocketmail.com](mailto:dekkoluv@rocketmail.com)

Life and death are in the hands of God. However, some people do not see it that way. They look at it as if anyone who is sick committed a crime, for which he or she is being punished. These are people who have never won election and never will because they do not even have the courage to present themselves. Welcome, our president.

**Iliyasu M Ustapha**  
[iliyasub@yahoo.com](mailto:iliyasub@yahoo.com)

All thanks be to Allah for sparing the president's life. May He give him good health to continue to lead the nation. I join Hajia Dada in rejoicing over her son's return. Congratulations to other well-meaning Nigerians.

**Ahmad Ibrahim**  
[meetahmed2001@yahoo.com](mailto:meetahmed2001@yahoo.com)

Nigerians, we must celebrate and rejoice over the return of our president. But as long as he is not fit, the crisis will not end. This is because the anti-Yar'adua groups will not surrender until he vacates the Presidency. Therefore, let us all pray for the quick recovery of the president.

**Abdullahi Muhammad**

May Allah grant him good health and strength to rule this country.  
**Zaharadeen**

**anthonyogwu2006@yahoo.com**

It is unfortunate that no one in Nigeria can speak the truth about this situation. Even the aides to the president who are our middle men have betrayed us. I thought they were actually expected to protect Nigerians, not only the Nigerian president.

**Fisayo**  
[onipedefisayo2002@yahoo.com](mailto:onipedefisayo2002@yahoo.com)

Maybe he is not back.  
**Datong**  
[dgdaton@yahoo.com](mailto:dgdaton@yahoo.com)

**zaharadeenhamdana@yahoo.com**

We welcome the president, thanking God for journey mercies. Now, let us all pray that he recovers fully so that he can resume his duties. Wishing him a speedy recovery.

**Sochima Isioma**  
[sochizzy@hotmail.com](mailto:sochizzy@hotmail.com)

Can't these people leave Nigerians alone? The best place for Yar'adua to recover is in an up-to-date hospital, not in the Aso Rock. Why was he rushed back? From all indications, he has not fully recovered. I do not know why they cannot agree that the president is still ill and cannot function as president. Yar'adua did not ask for the ailment, it is the wish of God. These people do not have his interest at heart, they are only after selfish interests. The Almighty God is going to do what is best for Nigeria.

**Patrick Agbobu**  
[info@abhools.com](mailto:info@abhools.com)

Is being a president a do or die affair? President Yar'adua still needs rest and medical attention. I know you mean well for this country, but due to your failing health, you have lost control of what is happening in the country. May Allah restore your health and liberate you.

**Abdulrauf A. R**  
[abdurraufu@yahoo.com](mailto:abdurraufu@yahoo.com)

I really have my reservations about this story, who really came back? Is it really the president? Strange things can happen and Nigerians are not fools. If the president is really alive, why hasn't he addressed us? I doubt if the president is still alive. Why arrive in the dark and continue to keep us in the dark. May God help us.

**Bissy**  
[evaluving@yahoo.com](mailto:evaluving@yahoo.com)

You are welcome. We thank God for improving your health. We also pray that God bless you with a long life.

**Sule Ningi Habu**  
[sulehabu@hotmail.com](mailto:sulehabu@hotmail.com)

## President + Ag President = Confusion

THE people behind this confusion are those that hurriedly flew the president from his sick bed in a Saudi Arabian hospital back to Nigeria despite the fact that he is still not fit. Over 24 hours after his return, no one has seen or heard from the president. Nigerians deserve to be treated with respect & courtesy.

**Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahim**  
[elkutigi@gmail.com](mailto:elkutigi@gmail.com)



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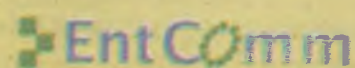
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Partners





By Rasaq Olokooba

## Leave Bankole alone

Since the President, Alhaji Umaru Yar'adua was admitted to a Saudi hospital on November 23, 2009, the fate of the country have hung in the balance over the inability of the President to transmit a letter of his indisposition to the National Assembly as prescribed by Section 145 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

We are aware that the nation's political system was unusually heated up with various stakeholders making inputs on how the issue should be resolved. Some held rallies, others made representation to the National Assembly and the judiciary made their input in form of judicial pronouncements on how a looming constitutional crisis should be averted.

While some of these stakeholders were patriotic Nigerians with the sole aim of averting disaster for the nation, others were playing to the gallery to achieve their selfish political ends. For the latter group, the issue at stake was not the national interest, the constitution or the rule of law. It was purely how they could position themselves in the power equation of the country without any thought of illegality, unconstitutional acts or rule of law. In their quest, any one insisting on following due process, the constitution and rule of law is seen as a clog in the

We are therefore alarm at the sinister motives of those who are behind these moves against an illustrious son of Oodua race

wheel of their progress to be eliminated using falsehood and propaganda.

At long last on February 10, 2010, the two chambers of the national Assembly passed separate resolutions to resolve the political logjam by making the Vice President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, the Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria with full presidential power pending the return of the incumbent President, which he did last Wednesday

While we had publicly congratulated Dr Jonathan on his ascension and on his first act of making the Attorney General, we also called on him to work towards peace and stability of all arms of government as a means of moving the country forward.

Alas, we have since noticed that a cabal is working assiduously, not only to destabilize the House of Representatives but also to tarnish the image and reputation of the highest Yoruba son in Nigeria's political equation in a grand plot to remove him from office and discredit the Yoruba race.

We have noticed that since the beginning of the crisis, the cabal comprising renegade Yoruba and elements from other tribes, and a couple of others thrown out of power in the new administration of President Yar'adua are working tirelessly to portray Bankole in bad light for his stand that due process, constitution and rule of law must be followed in finding solutions to current problems.

Using a section of the media, they have misinterpreted every moves of Bankole in his leadership of the House of Representatives to mean opposition to the emergence of acting president based on what they said was his loyalty to President Yar'adua or what they term "northern interest". We know this to be an agenda of easing out our son that has so far demonstrated all the good qualities that the Yoruba are noted for, namely loyalty, fairness, enlightenment, equity and justice. The intention is to get him out of office and replace him with a pliable stooge as representatives of Yoruba race in the Federal Government set up. This would allow them to further marginalize the Yoruba race in the scheme of things in Nigeria.

It started with a total misrepresentation of the role of Bankole in the death of a motion to compel the president to obey Section 145 of the constitution. In a House comprising of 360 members, Bankole was alleged to have manipulated the House to kill the motion by a majority of members. This was after Bankole, uncharacteristically, ensured that all the rules of the House were waived to take the motion immediately as a matter of urgent national importance as well as overruled 14 points of order. In the ensuing debate, majority voted not to pass the motion as it amount to forcing the President to do what is discretionary by our constitution and may not solve the problem at hand.

The House position, based on the constitution and the court ruling of Justice Daniel Abutu was that the Vice President can perform all functions of the President based on Section 5 (1) and 148(1) of the constitution which is what eventually formed the basis of the resolution it passed to enable the Vice President become Acting President.

We note that even after this resolution, the cabals are now resolute to destroy Bankole as they believe his leadership of the House may frustrate their plot to capture and control the Jonathan acting presidency for their gains. The plot now is to accuse Bankole of working for "northern interest" as if Jonathan Acting Presidency is to work against "northern interest". From this a plot is developing to rake up allegations of corruption in the media against Bankole or his family members as a spring board to call for the removal of his leadership.

We view these dastardly moves with all seriousness. We are sure that Bankole is ready to work and support Acting President Jonathan in the interest of the nation. We are equally sure that Bankole as a true Yoruba son who believe in equality, fairness and justice will work for the interest of all Nigerians from all section of the country. We are therefore alarm at the sinister motives of those who are behind these moves against an illustrious son of Oodua race.

It is in the interest of all those behind these moves, including "blacklegs" and 'omoale' of the Yoruba race to quickly retrace their steps and allow the top Yoruba representative in the present administration to continue his work based on the mandate that brought him to office.

Olokooba is Secretary General, Coalition of Oodua Self Determination Groups, 43, Adeniyi Jones, Ikeja, Lagos.



By Abdullah Musa

## No tears for Tandja

It seems that the world has learned all that there is to learn, and it is simply consolidating on previous knowledge. One lesson which most of us in the third world are forced to accept is that the European is always right. He is right politically; he is right economically; he is right culturally.

It is also vital for all inhabitants of the third world to also believe that the European has the final word in any political configuration they might wish to enact. Tandja Mamodu chose to think and act differently; he is likely in a prison, with an uncertain fate.

That Tandja Mamodu once participated in a coup was recently told to us via the radio. So if coming to power through a coup was acceptable to Tandja, it is also expected that he should find no fault with any that also used the same weapon to unseat him. In this I thus have no tear to spare for Tandja.

But I disagree with the traditional chorus; those who memorized the 'European political Qur'an', where it is written that constitutions should not be changed. And Tandja, the first Cain in political history, dared to do just that: he followed the rules and changed the Nigerien constitution; the opposition cried foul; Ecowas and the Nigerien army moved in; Tandja also moved into 'protective custody'.

Let's scan the African political horizon. Nigeria, the country started

Was it in Japan that a political party held power for 59 years? Was there no opposition?

with parliamentary system of government, patterned after the Westminster model of Britain. A coup stifled it, and the American presidential system was imposed, with Alhaji Shehu Shagari as its first victim. A coup also came to truncate it. Then came Babangida's maneuverings; he stepped aside, and another constitution of the presidential type ushered in Obasanjo, who also wanted to tinker with it; he failed, but he enthroned Yar'adua, who the constitution also wants to devour, via section 144. The lesson which Ecowas chooses to ignore is this: Nigeria changed its constitution at least three times.

In Algeria, I can faintly remember, (because I am neither a historian nor a political scientist) that there was an election which FIS was poised to win. It was scuttled, followed by bloodshed of greatest magnitude. Today, I think, Boutflika is running another term on an amended constitution. But the reason might be because Boutflika is light-skinned and Tandja is dark.

In Cameroon, Paul Biya had been around for say at least 25 years. His current term, unless I am wrong, is hinged on amended constitution. Biya must be dangida, (Son of the soil) in France, and

possibly Tandja is not.

Is the Green Book a constitution? I don't know. But whatever the arrangement, it has enabled Gaddafi to be in power for forty years. Gaddafi is of course Arab, while Tandja is not.

In Egypt, Mubarak has also been around. Whatever constitution may be operational there, it has enabled Mubarak to be in power since 1976 I presume. That same constitution says that members of the Muslim Brotherhood cannot contest elections, their organization is banned.

Which other African country had a President who died in office, having spent forty years on the 'throne'? He must have had the foresight of designing a constitution that carried within it the proviso of life presidency. Tandja was foolish to have only acted with hindsight.

If truth be told, there is no single political system that is suitable to all the diverse people of the world. What is most worrying is the fact that a set of people, those who inherited the colonial mentality from their ancestors, insist that all others must do their bidding. If you don't, they might have prepared someone from your military to topple you; then they would come to insist on 'quick' return to 'democracy'.

In Madagascar, in Guinea, the military hold sway. In Ivory Coast, a civilian had been in power for up to, is it ten years, without an election? And the gods of wisdom had been alive and kicking during the interregnum.

Was it in Japan that a political party held power for 59 years? Was there no opposition? The same excuse might be given: the constitution must have provided for such long tenure pre-natal, while Tandja's was post-natal. What military coups in Africa do are two things: they afford Western Powers to change governments that they do not want. This is possible because of the second reason: coups expose the docility of the African population. The African, by accepting to live under the yoke of military government, shows that he can still be colonized and accept it. It might not come to direct white occupation in re-colonization, but the satisfaction is there that the possibility remains open.

Tandja was a gambler. He lost. He deserves no scorn in so far as successful gamblers like Biya and Boutflika abound. The ones who deserve to be scorned are the 'parrots'; who are always extra ready to spread the message of the West to the hapless Third-Worlder. The Nigerien opposition may clap and beat their chest for seeing the back of Tandja. But today, next month, or even next year, they will be living under a dictatorship. And even if they ever come to power, let them know that they are in power subject to a license from their military, not the electorate; and their military are under the influence of their former colonizers. However, where one chooses to be a lapdog to another, as in the case of Hamid Karzai in Afghanistan, self-esteem is a word not to be found in one's dictionary.

Musa writes from Ahmad Nuhu Road, Sharada, Kano.



## Your Letters

### Nigeria at 50: What are Bush, Blair and Rice looking for here?

With 8 months to go till Nigeria's Independence anniversary, it's never too early to start to figure out ways to celebrate our journey so far. However one question looms over our heads as a nation; is there a cause to celebrate? Already, C.E.O of Leaders and Company, publishers of *Thisday* newspapers, Nduka Obaigbena, in my opinion, has marred our celebration by inviting former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, former U.S. President George W. Bush and his one-time crony former U.S. Secretary of

State Condoleezza Rice to the 15th annual *Thisday* awards which took place this month. I spoke against this on my blog under the title "We don't want war criminals celebrating our independence". I even started a group on Facebook of the same name to little fanfare, so you could imagine my surprise on Sunday evening when I found out about 100 people led by Shehu Sami were arrested for protesting the invitation of said individuals.

To my surprise, there wasn't much outrage from the media earlier on or even leading up to the event and/or against the invitations. I doubt the protest was even covered by the local media, let alone for it to be shown on international TV. I think it was from Is'haq Modibbo Kawu of *Daily Trust* that I first heard of Obaigbena's invitation of Blair and Rice (Bush was not yet men-

tioned, perhaps for obvious reasons) about a month ago, that sprung me into action. The most common response I got from people, whenever I raised the issue of the irony of the invite was that Nduka is a businessman. Clearly, but where's his patriotism? On Obaigbena's behalf (not that I'm standing for him), perhaps we should ask if our patriotism still exists in the first place? But even if it didn't, one can clearly see the irony of inviting these individuals who participated in orchestrating a war that robbed a people of their freedom celebrating that of another. Our independence celebration is starting off on a bad step, not to mention until recently we didn't have a captain to stir the nation... and the one we presently have is just acting, lest we forget.

Abdulnasir Imam, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, lostdogg84@yahoo.com

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### Busybodies

KAI! United States, what is your concern with Nigeria? Please keep your opinions to yourself and don't interfere in our affairs. Just leave us with our leaders; we know how to handle them.

MUSTAPHA Abdullahi, Yusuf-ari, Yobe State, +2347069110104.

### See who's talking now

MR Jatau was just being mischievous in his letter (*Daily Trust* February 25) on the recent unrest in Hadejia. For his information, the press and radio reported that the emir visited the affected pastor of the affected church, who in turn acknowledged the gesture.

M Farouk, 08033006113.

### Understanding the Niger coup

THE AU and France did not vigorously make their opposition unmistakable, or try to stop him when Mamadou Tandja unilaterally diluted the constitution and

perpetuate himself in power. Their hasty decision against the military government is therefore questionable.

ISMAILA Sani, Katsina, 07036027745.

### Sparing the rod

A teacher arrested for punishing his student? What on earth is a teacher expected to do if he gave his pupils work and they neglected to do it, other than to punish them? What kind of parents do we have these days? Was there no other means of laying her complaints? This is not love at all.

YUSUF Nuhu, ATBU, Bauchi, 08036924729.

### This is good, but...

YARADUA is back. What good news. But why in the night, without the usual retinue of his cabinet members and well-wishing Nigerians? Well it's a matter of time. Whatever is hidden from man is

open to God, and He will bring it to the open.

FOLA, Kaduna, 08037043401.

### Where are the miracle workers?

EVERYDAY, Nigerians are assailed with stories of 'miracles': the dead resurrected, the barren giving birth, the blind from birth seeing and 'recognising' colours, etc. But here we are with a sick president, a basically good man who has even demonstrated 'faith' by giving national awards to some of the 'miracle workers', and none of the 'men of God' is coming forward to demonstrate their miracles on him.

REMY, Lagos, 08065300351.

### Sin of omission

ISN'T it significant that while the president reportedly thanked practically everybody in his statement on Wednesday, he left his cabinet out of the list?

08033078940.



By Maimuna Abba Wabi

## When the military seemed welcome

I can not recollect whose idea it was who said 'the worst civilian administration is better than the best military government.' In all honesty, I don't believe such to be any where nears the truth. No worst thing is ever of value and there is nothing that qualifies as best that could be any where near goodness. Only those politicians that are characterized by failure and who want to cling unto power usually have such myopic beliefs.

This is Africa's situation. It is not however peculiar to Africa, but it is most common there. Leaders in Africa have this belief that they, and they alone have right of leadership. No matter the amount of colossal failure recorded by the African leader, he and his cronies will do everything to jeopardize the peace and the progress of a country to perpetuate them in power.

The third term bid of Obasanjo of Nigeria has caused the country enormous wastes in resources and has caused hardships of which we are still paying the price. When the move was resisted by Nigerians, Obasanjo decided to foist on Nigerians someone whom he knew can not withstand the terrain of the office of the President. And because 'Yar'adua was either power-drunk or he thought he could save Nigeria from the tumultuous situation, he accepted to be imposed on Nigerians by Obj. The script that Obasanjo drew against Nigerians seems to be working now that 'Yar'adua is hospitalised. We shall see who laughs last between Nigerians and obj.

In the Republic of Niger, the president Mamadou Tandja was elected in 1999 and the people of Niger decided in 2004, to give Tandja another chance to enjoy leadership for another five years. That made him a super power and he decided to pay back the Nigeriens in a bitter coin. He destroyed all the ideals of democracy painstakingly established by honest leaders of the past in that poor-like country. He power-drunkenly arrested and jailed innocent people and politicians and sent some on exile who have shown any aura of defiance of his self-succession to infinity. He distorted the country's constitution and entered changes to suit his lust for power and his greed to remain in power till his last breath (which he hoped would never come).

Because the people of Niger were helpless, they resigned to their fate to accept the un-acceptable. The whole world cried foul for Tandja's actions but Tandja boldly told the world to mind its business that what he did was a reflection of the true wishes of the people of Niger.

Now, the military in Niger have decided to intervene to bring an end to the unfortunate leadership and political tussle that have stalled all processes in Niger. And they seem welcomed. Tandja has murdered democracy in Niger. The saying goes in pidgin that 'the son wey sey im mama no go sleep, im too no go sleep'.

Tandja should be made to pay in full, the hardships, the difficulties, embarrassments, the sleepless nights and the wastes in resources Niger suffered due to his ill-actions.

In my opinion, the military in Niger are welcome for as long as they, however, did not overstayed that welcome. The A.U., the E.U. and the ECOWAS had not welcomed the military coup as much as they condemned the democratic murder perpetuated by Tandja. One wonders what they want the Nigeriens to do. These multi-lateral agencies could not stop Tandja from executing his evil plans against his own people and yet they condemned the military coup. Well the Nigeriens, knowing what is best for them came out en-masse to lend support to the military coup.

The Military had been patient, watching the so-called civilians acting contrary to everything that qualifies democracy and constitutionalism in Africa. They, the civilians, are supposed to depend, uphold and consolidate democracy. And if these politicians could not act in such vein, then they need to be toppled. There should also be heavy penalties in terms of freezing bank accounts and confiscating assets of those who selfishly caused the state, wastes in any way. And they also deserve life in prison with no possibility what-so-ever for a state pardon.

The military in Niger are welcome to the extent that they act drastically to punish those politicians and whosoever is involved in jeopardizing democracy in Niger. They should also take decisive steps to restore democracy in Niger and ensure the sustainability of constitutionalism. This should apply not only in Niger, but all countries in Africa. Africa has come of age and nobody in Africa should think that, the Africa of the slave trade age is the same as the Africa of today.

And because negotiations are no longer workable for the selfish African leaders, the ECOWAS should establish a formidable military institution with the task to topple any sit-tight president or leader in any African country to preserve democracy.

Mrs Wabi wrote from No.7 Abdulkadir Road, Azare, Bauchi State (maimunatuabba@yahoo.com)

## DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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

## Callous and outrageous

The Federal Government last week announced another inquiry into new evidence of widespread and indiscriminate extrajudicial killings of suspected members of the Boko Haram sect during last July's sectarian violence in Maiduguri, Borno State. The Senate and House of Representatives also have launched separate probes into reports of the killings. These initiatives were precipitated by universal expressions of outrage and revulsion that greeted the broadcast of a video footage depicting the conduct of security agencies deployed to quell the uprising. The Dubai-based cable news network *Aljazeera* screened several minutes of the footage, showing senior police officers, some with their name tags clearly legible, giving orders to subordinates to shoot unarmed, helpless people point-blank in cold blood. The cameras panned at least one senior officer personally taking part in the orgy. The blood chilling scenes that the footage shows are so horrifying it is unbelievable our security agencies, particularly those in their middle level cadres, can degenerate to such animalistic level as to treat human life in such a callous and whimsical manner.

When the Boko Haram leader, Muhammad Yusuf, was arrested by military personnel and, with his hands bound, handed over to the police, he was a dead man in just hours, cut down without being accorded due process that our laws guarantee.

Thereafter, several others, including a former Borno State commissioner, Alhaji Buji Foi, Yusuf's father-in-law, Alhaji Fogu Muhammad who reported himself to the police following their invitation, were among many who died while in custody. At the time, national and international human rights groups rightly condemned the resort to extrajudicial killings, especially by police personnel. The authorities provided no firm figure on how many people were killed that way; the *Aljazeera* film provided some clues as to the scale and extent of the practice. It shows the young and old, clearly unarmed, who clearly did not look threatening, and some even on crutches, being asked to lay face down and mindlessly shot several times in the head and trunk.

Nigeria has sought to build some of its international goodwill by stressing the role of its soldiers and police personnel in peacekeeping operations around the world. Indeed, because of this carefully cultivated resource, our security agencies are sought after to contribute to managing trouble spots around the globe.

The brutality of the security personnel we saw in the Boko Haram footage tells a different, far more compelling story. Regrettably, this is the story that is being told in practically every country, about the bestiality of the nation's police personnel and military officers in handling their kinsmen. We wonder in what kind of environment does the training of our security forces take place that can produce such goons that otherwise should not have been in uniform at all. Their conduct in the Boko Haram episode is out of character with our national objective of building a just and humane society.

The police force is in a particularly sorry state. Its personnel in the democratic society that we envisage ought to be most civil, the most citizen-friendly, and therefore the most effective organisation in intelligence-gathering and nipping potential crises in the bud before they grow to become major national tragedies. The reality however is different; if they are not only among the poorest paid public servants, they are the least professionally equipped, in training and equipment, to address the challenges of modern crime-fighting and control techniques. Beyond the effort to fish out and punish those who took part in or gave the orders for the extrajudicial killings of the Boko Haram suspects, the government should not shy away from its responsibility that it created the climate for them to take place. We recall that it was President Umaru Musa Yar'adua who, in the heat of the Boko Haram problem, ordered the security agencies to take "all necessary measures" to put an end to it.

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e-mail: opinion@dailytrust.com

## Jang has no genocide case to answer

By Stephen L. Makama

My problem with Nigeria is our penchant for picking up on craze of the moment, whether it is fashion, music, or clichés and personalizing them. Suddenly it has become a byword for fashionable ignorance to include genocide in any write-up or speech or public address these days.

Since November 2008, following the violence that followed peaceful elections in Jos North, the press and mouths of lesser endowed individuals have been awash with the use of the word 'genocide', particularly *Daily Trust*. It is ironical that the same *Daily Trust* has dedicated endless riffs and print to misinformed positions by one or two columnists namely Mr. Adamu Adamu on challenging and denying the Holocaust, even prompting a rejoinder from the Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Israel himself. It is the same *Daily Trust* suddenly discovering the word exists when conducting a campaign of calumny and mischief.

Fortunately the intended target readers are mostly illiterate tea vendors, cart-pushers and petty traders who pin shortwave radios to their ears and are oblivious to anything else. The few enlightened that read such diatribe mostly smile in embarrassment and move to the next story, but then stories like those were conveniently picked up by a one-track *Aljazeera*, which conveniently, again, picked up by *Al-Qaeda* in the Islamic Maghreb-but we will not go into that now.

*Daily Trust* and its affiliates would have the same ignoramus believe that Mr. Jonah Jang, the Executive and democratically elected Governor of Plateau State was captured on *Zapruder* film dressed in traditional animal skin, executing cartwheels and handstands, after killing some Hausa/Fulani people in front of his house or on the streets of Jos.

Sometime in 2009, a friend showed me a short video clip like the ones very popular on YouTube titled "The Genocide in Jos" and the week following the 2010 repeat disturbances another friend, from whom I expected better, being a professional and educated, posted a link on Facebook titled "Jang's Genocide in Jos 1... not for the faint hearted", almost the same captions and wordings used in the so-called 2008 genocide, in fact I am very sure it was the same video, with updates.

If only the these purveyors of false and dissent understood the full import and implications of the word 'genocide' they would not use it so carelessly except of course, and is the case that there is an 'agenda' which has been set in motion which demands that that the polity be so heated with careless abandon; after all there are insinuations that the so-called fake soldiers operating with impunity, much like the death squads in the former Yugoslavia and Bosnia, were not fake soldiers at all.

The word genocide was coined by Polish legal scholar Raphael Lemkin to describe the crime of destroying or conspiring to destroy a group of people because of their ethnic, national, racial or religious identity. Genocide occurs when a group

or nation conquers another group and it was common practice to kill all men - civilians and soldiers alike.

So now was it Mr. Jang or Mr. Jang's people, was it the Berom or the Berom people that set to carry out the genocide because better judgment tells that it is not possible that that a single individual will possess the capability or wherewithal to carry out a genocide? But then it may be a case of the thief being chased to turn around and point at those chasing and create confusion in which he escapes. It is unfortunate that even the Sultan of Sokoto, as reported by *Daily Trust*, a much respected leader was caught up in the frenzy to use the 'G' word.

According to Fein, Helen (*"Genocide" Microsoft Students 2008*) the underlying conditions necessary for genocide are:

Fortunately the intended target readers are mostly illiterate tea vendors, cart-pushers and petty traders who pin shortwave radios to their ears and are oblivious to anything else

1. The offending nation or perpetrator is usually an undemocratic country (hardly a term that describes the individual Mr. Jang) that views the targeted group as a barrier or threat to maintaining power, fulfilling an ideology or achieving some other goal.

They would have us believe Jang's goal or agenda was to drive Hausa / Fulani out of Jos, an agenda or goal they insist he failed to execute when he served as military administrator in Benue and the former Gongola states.

2. The perpetrators exclude the victims from their universe of obligations. They do not have to account for protection of the victims who are seen as inferiors, subhuman, or strangers...

Yes! They hammer on some misinterpreted and misconstrued statements or utterances attributed rightly or wrongly to Mr. Jang as their evidence. It is common knowledge that most or all politicians gaffe and momentarily or for some length of time do not appear very smart-but to pick on a single word in a statement and use it as proof of genocide by a politician shows extreme lack of reasoning.

2. Most genocide occurs during a crisis, state breakdown or revolution.

The only crisis in Jos since 1994 was and is still being exploited by a certain faceless group of citizens, whether indigenes or 'settlers' who believe that unless they have their way the whole state along with its people should burn to ashes. The only breakdown is the one these faceless people and their sponsors seek to create so that an emergency situation can be declared to further truncate the development of the state. These ignoramuses, especially in the Nigerian parliament, are so blinded in their shallow grasp of the law that

they fail to understand as pointed out by one senator, that a 'state of emergency' never means the constitutional or democratic structures of the state in question be dismantled but that Federal aid especially security be dedicated for control of the situation be it manmade or natural disaster.

The cowardly and unjustified provocation arising from the peaceful conduct of the November 2008 local government elections in Jos North followed by retaliatory actions by genuinely aggrieved victims, was brought under control within a week without Federal intervention and the same with the 2010 'terror' attacks which was unfortunately exacerbated by the field operations of 'fake' army units who were not under the orders or control of the state governor. For reference it would be pertinent to note that that the 2001 crisis under the stewardship of a different

governor dragged on for weeks and then almost 3 or 4 years.

There are four types of genocide: ideological, retributive, developmental and despotic. The Turkish suppression of the Armenians during the Ottoman Empire is an example of ideological genocide, the Rwandan mass killings of 1994 which claimed up to a million lives in 3 months is also described as an ideological genocide. In Cambodia the Khmer Rouge carried out a killing spree of close to 1.7 million people in retribution by the Communists against academics and intellectuals, Idi Amin and Milton Obote were said to have carried out despotic genocide against each other's tribal members. In the late 1960's and 1970's the Paraguayan government committed developmental genocide against indigenous peoples to clear way for access to logging areas and cattle pastures.

To be sure the misinformed minds calling for Mr. Jang's head on genocide charges are simply people whose brains may not yet be capable of partaking of intellectual nourishment without cerebral indigestion.

Social scientists have estimated that since the end World War II, at least 16 nations have attempted or committed genocide- not one single individual has been classified, the late Milosevic died in International custody on charges of War Crimes as genocide charges would have been laughable. Those calling for genocide charges on Mr. Jang should continue and, hopefully when it gets anywhere, the ICC, the man can sue for millions for libel against such narrow-minded individuals.

Makama wrote from Nasarawa State Polytechnic, Lafia (lonewolf-mak@yahoo.com)

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# INTERNATIONAL

## Chief of Algerian police killed by colleague

THE powerful chief of Algeria's national police was shot and killed by a colleague during a meeting yesterday in his office at the North African country's security headquarters, a law enforcement official said.

Two others were injured, including a security chief for the Algiers region, the official said, speaking on condition of

anonymity because he was not allowed to give information to the media.

Ali Tounsi's attacker turned his weapon on himself afterward, the official said.

Reports differed about whether he survived.

A law enforcement official told The Associated Press that the attacker, an unidentified police

colonel, died after shooting himself. Algeria's APS national news agency, citing an Interior Ministry statement, said he was seriously injured and was taken to a hospital.

A judicial inquiry has been opened into the shooting, APS said, adding that the attacker had been seized by a "fit of madness."

Tounsi was among the most

powerful security officials in Algeria and played a key role in the fight against Islamist insurgents who almost brought the North African nation to its knees in the 1990s.

Sporadic terror attacks continue, despite President Abdelaziz Bouteflika's national reconciliation plan aimed at luring extremists out of their holdouts and get-

ting them to lay down their arms and reintegrate society.

The Algerian media have reported for months that Tounsi had tense relations with Interior Minister Nouredine Yazid Zerhouni, who oversees the nation's police.

But the minister does not appear to have been at yesterday's meeting.



ARCHBISHOP Desmond Tutu and other eminent peacemakers have called on the head of Kenya's Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) to resign over allegations of bias and misconduct.

## Tutu wants Kenya reconciliation boss to quit

DESMOND Tutu and other eminent peacemakers called yesterday on the head of Kenya's Truth Justice and Reconciliation Commission (TJRC) to resign over allegations of bias and misconduct. The call for Bethuel Kiplagat to stand down came in a joint statement by former chairpersons and truth commissioners from around the world, including South African Nobel Peace laureate Tutu.

"We are deeply troubled by serious allegations of bias and

misconduct that have been made against chairperson Kiplagat," the statement said, urging him to step down. Kiplagat's role in government under former president Daniel arap Moi has "generated a widely held perception that he labours under an unavoidable conflict of interest and that he is unable to bring an impartial mind to bear on his important duties," the group said.

Kiplagat was appointed chairman of the TJRC in 2008 as an

integral part of the dialogue sponsored by former UN chief Kofi Annan to resolve the 2007 electoral crisis that broke out following the disputed 2007 polls.

According to the deal, the TJRC must, among other things, "inquire into major economic crimes, in particular grand corruption, historical land injustices, and the illegal or irregular acquisition of land."

Earlier this month, the Kenya Human Rights Commission also

urged Kiplagat to resign, accusing him of being responsible for some of the violence that preceded his mandate.

The latest letter calling for his resignation was circulated by the new York-based International Center for Transitional Justice. "If the TJRC is to be effective, it has to be free of any taint of real or perceived bias and impropriety," said Suliman Baldo, Director of ICTJ's Africa Programme.

## Rwandan army officer gets 25 years for genocide

A former Rwandan military officer accused of ordering the killing of up to 50 people was jailed for 25 years yesterday by a UN court trying masterminds of the country's 1994 genocide.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) in Arusha, Tanzania, found lieutenant colonel Ephrem Setako, 60, guilty of genocide, crimes against humanity and murder.

"The Chamber found that Setako ordered the killings on 25 April 1994 of 30 to 40 Tutsis at Mukamira military camp in Ruhengeri prefecture and around 10 other Tutsis there on 11 May 1994," the tribunal said in a statement on its website.

Setako, who was the head of legal affairs in Rwanda's defense ministry at the time, was acquitted of other charges of complicity to commit genocide, murder as a crime against humanity and pillage as a war crime.

## ...As Sarkozy pays homage to genocide victims

FRENCH President Nicolas Sarkozy yesterday paid homage to the victims of the genocide against Rwanda's Tutsis during a highly symbolic visit aimed at mending strained relations.

"In the name of the people of France, I pay my respects to the victims of the genocide against the Tutsis," he wrote in the visitors book of the main genocide memorial in the capital Kigali. "Humanity will forever preserve the memory of these innocents and their suffering," his message read.

Accompanied by Rwandan Foreign Minister Louise Mushikiwabo and Culture Minister Joseph Habineza, Sarkozy observed a minute of silence in front of the mass graves where the remains of 250,000 victims are buried.

According to the United Nations, at least 800,000 people -- mainly from the Tutsi minority -- were killed within around 100 days in 1994 by extremist Hutu militias.

## Niger junta delegation on West African tour

A delegation of the junta in Niger yesterday began a tour of several West African countries, exactly a week after it came to power after ousting President Mamadou Tandja, state radio reported.

Junta leader Major Salou Djibo,

proclaimed head of state late Monday, "has mandated Colonel Hassane Mossi to visit Nigeria, Togo, Ghana and Burkina Faso," La Voix du Sahel (Voice of the Sahel) said. The radio did not give further details of the tour. The delegation

yesterday met with Nigerian Acting President Goodluck Jonathan in Abuja, officials told AFP.

Apart from Mossi, the delegation also includes 10 other members of the junta as well as the secretary general of ministry of

foreign affairs, Abdoulaye Dan-Maradi, the radio said.

The Supreme Council for Restoration of Democracy (CSR - junta), yesterday last week deposed Tandja, in power since 1999, in a military coup.

## International

## Iran leader says opposition has lost credibility

IRAN'S supreme leader said the opposition has lost its credibility and the right to participate in politics by not accepting the June presidential elections, state TV reported yesterday.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said those that do not accept the vote of the majority of the people and are trying to turn the elections into a weakness for the country should be disqualified from participating in the Islamic system.

"They have already lost their credibility," he said, without mentioning any names. Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, said the postelection turmoil was because certain people wanted to deny the will of the majority.

"Denying the vote of the people and the harming of the system by some individuals" led to the postelection unrest, he said, calling the opposition accusations of fraud "a major crime."

Speaking to a group of clerics, Khamenei said those who accept the ruling structure of the Islamic republic as based on the constitution would still be considered part of the system. Khamenei said while foreign enemies confront Iran abroad, some people inside the country were providing them with ammunition by repeating their accusations against the system.

He urged activists to clarify their relations with "enemies of

the state." Opposition leaders Mir Hossein Mousavi and Mahdi Karroubi, both defeated by President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in the election, maintain he won through fraud.

Since then hundreds of thousands poured into the streets in protest causing the country's most serious crisis over the decades. The security forces crackdown on the protesters left dozens of casualties and hundreds in jail.

## Sunni leader decides to take part in Iraq election

A top Sunni lawmaker who just last week pulled his party out of Iraq's upcoming election backtracked yesterday, ending any possibility that minority Sunnis would boycott the crucial March 7 vote.

Saleh al-Mutlaq's announcement that his National Dialogue Front would contest the race was the latest twist in an ongoing political saga that has gripped the Iraqi political establishment for weeks.

A Sunni boycott could have called the vote's legitimacy into question, throwing the country into turmoil as US forces prepare to withdraw.

Al-Mutlaq called on all Iraqis to participate in the election, which will determine who will lead the country as US forces draw down.

"After so many calls from our supporters, the Iraqi people, not to give others a chance to spoil our project, your brothers in the National Dialogue Front have decided to actively participate ... in the upcoming elections," al-Mutlaq told a news conference.

Al-Mutlaq had withdrawn his party from the race just last Saturday because he had been banned from running by a committee vetting candidates for ties to Saddam Hussein's Baath party.

He says he quit the Baath party in the 1970s.

## Corruption trial of Israel ex-PM Olmert resumes

ISRAEL'S former Prime Minister Ehud Olmert was back in court yesterday, stressing his innocence at the resumption of his corruption trial.

"A few months ago I came before this court as an innocent man and I believe I will leave as an innocent man," Olmert told reporters before entering the Jerusalem courtroom.

A member of his legal team, Rohi Bleher, said the trial would last several months with as many as 280 witnesses expected to testify. Yesterday, the prosecutor was expected to detail the charges against Olmert.

In December, Olmert, 64, pleaded not guilty to charges of corruption linked to three separate cases. He resigned under pressure in September 2008 after police recommended he be indicted.



IRANIAN President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, right, and Syrian President Bashar Assad review the honour guard at al-Shaab presidential palace in Damascus, Syria, yesterday.

## Iran defends strong ties with Syria

IRAN defended its strong ties with Syria yesterday and dismissed US efforts to break up the 30-year-alliance, saying America should not dictate relationships in the Middle East.

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his Syrian counterpart, Bashar Assad, vowed increased cooperation during a meeting in Damascus and canceled visa restrictions between the countries.

"We hope that others don't give us lessons about our region and our history," Assad told reporters when asked about Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's comments this week that the US is troubled by Syria's relationship with Iran. "We are

the ones who decide how matters will go and we know our interests. We thank them for their advice." Ahmadinejad was more direct, calling for the US to pack up and leave the Middle East.

"(The Americans) want to dominate the region but they feel Iran and Syria are preventing that," he said. "We tell them that instead of interfering in the region's affairs, to pack their things and leave."

A string of high-profile visits to Damascus in recent months, from the US, France, and now Iran, demonstrates Syria's strategic importance in the Middle East.

US President Barack Obama is determined to engage with Syria,

a country seen as key to peace in the region but which the State Department has long considered a sponsor of terrorism. America's goals include peeling Syria away from Iran.

Ahmadinejad's trip comes amid rising US tension with Tehran over the country's nuclear program. The US and others believe Iran is hiding nuclear weapons development under the guise of a civilian energy program. Iran insists that its intentions are peaceful.

Assad signaled his strong support for Iran, saying America's stance toward the country "is a new situation of colonialism in the region."

Still, Assad could be open to

a breakthrough with the Americans. He is hoping for help in boosting a weak economy and for American mediation in direct peace talks with Israel — a recognition that he needs US involvement to achieve his top goal of winning the return of the Golan Heights, seized by Israel in the 1967 Mideast War.

But Secretary of State Clinton said Wednesday that the recent decision to send the first US ambassador to Syria in five years does not mean American concerns about the country have been addressed. Speaking to lawmakers, Clinton said the nomination of career diplomat Robert Ford is a sign of a "slight opening" with Syria.

# International

## Afghan government claims Taliban stronghold

THE Afghan government took official control of the southern Taliban stronghold of Marjah yesterday, installing an administrator and raising the national flag while US-led troops worked to root out final pockets of militants.

The ceremony was held in a central market as US Marines and Afghan troops slog through bomb-laden fields in the north of the town.

The Marines and their Afghan partners are trying to secure a 28-square mile (45-square kilometer) area believed to be the last significant pocket of Taliban insurgents in Marjah. Militants and allied troops are still getting caught up in gunfights in some areas, NATO said.

But the number of residents returning has increased in recent days, shops have opened to sell telephones and computers alongside fresh fruit and vegetables, and officials hailed the installation of

Abdul Zahir Aryan as the town's administrator as a key sign of progress. Some 700 residents gathered to see Aryan formally appointed as the top government official

in Marjah, along with government officials and Brig. Gen. Larry Nicholson, commander of US Marines in Marjah, according to officials at the event.



AFGHAN residents of Marjah sit at the foot of the national flag after an official flag raising ceremony.



### UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE ABEOKUTA

P.M.B. 2240, ABEOKUTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA  
Website: [www.unaab.edu.ng](http://www.unaab.edu.ng)

#### INTERVIEW FOR FRESH STUDENTS (UME & DIRECT ENTRY) FOR THE 2009/2010 ACADEMIC SESSION FROM 8<sup>TH</sup> 13<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, 2010

- All candidates who have been offered Provisional Admission into the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta at 100 Level (UME) and 200 Level (Direct Entry) for the 2009/2010 academic session and have paid acceptance fees are hereby invited for oral interview at the University Main Campus, Alabata Road, Abeokuta.  
**Date:** Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2010  
**Time:** 8.00am 5.00p.m. daily
- Details of the specific interview schedule with Date, Venue and Group for each candidate can be found in the University's Website url: [unaab.edu.ng](http://unaab.edu.ng)
- Candidates are expected to appear for the formal interview with original copies of their credentials, including JAMB result slip and birth certificate on the dates scheduled for them.
- For enquires, call these numbers: 08035763159 and 07036438383.

Adeleke Adeboye  
For: Registrar



### BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT STATE UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION BOARD (SUBEB) AJIYA ADAMU ROAD NEAR AWALAH HOTEL ROUND ABOUT P.M.B 1009 BAUCHI

#### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION

The State Universal Basic Education (SUBEB) Bauchi intend to carry out renovation/construction project under the 2009 Education Trust Fund (ETF) Special BOT intervention.

Reputable contractors are hereby invited to bid in the following schools

- Lot I Umaru Abdullahi Primary School, Dambam Dambam LGA
- Lot II Sakwa Primary School Zaki LGA
- Lot III Kabi Primary School Ningi LGA
- Lot IV
  - Science Primary School Gololo, Gamawa LGA
  - Ibrahim Ibrahim Primary School Gamawa Gamawa LGA.
- Lot V
  - JSS BELI Shira LGA
  - JSS Tsafi Shira LGA.
  - JSS Madara Katagum LGA
  - GJSS chinade Katagum LGA
  - Central Primary School Gadau I/Gadau LGA.
- Lot IV-Nasarawa Primary School Katagum, Zaki LGA
- Lot VII-Central Primary School Giade Giade LGA
- Lot VIII-Itas Primary School I/Gadau LGA
- Lot IX-Umar Faruk Primary School Azara Katagum LGA
- Lot X-GDSS Yame, Dambam LGA

- To qualify for the bidding, the following documents are required:
  - Certificate of incorporation of company with the Corporate Affairs Commission
  - Evidence of registration as a contractor with the Bauchi State government
  - Tax clearance certificate for the last three (3) years
  - Evidence of financial strength of the company
  - Professional qualification of key personal of the company
  - Availability of plants and equipment to execute the works
- Pre-qualification document should be sealed and marked **CONFIDENTIAL** and addressed to the Executive Chairman Bauchi State Universal Basic Board Ajiya Adamu Road, Near Awalah Hotel Roundabout P.M.B. 0109 Bauchi Bauchi State.
- This is only an invitation for Pre-qualification and not for tender and is valid for two (2) weeks from the date of this publication
- Only successful contractor will be contacted for tender after screening please

Signed  
Kabir Ali Kobi  
Public relations Officer  
For: Executive Chairman

## International



**BRAZIL'S** President Luiz Inacio Lula Da Silva, right, greets former Cuban leader Fidel Castro in Havana, Cuba, yesterday.

# Stronger Fidel Castro meets with Brazil president

WEARING his now-trademark track suit, Fidel Castro smiles happily and appears to vigorously embrace his longtime friend, the president of Brazil.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, who met with Castro behind closed doors Wednesday, described him as being "exceptionally well," Brazil's private Agencia Estado news agency reported, citing unidentified Silva aides.

Silva spent more than an hour discussing various topics with Castro, who ceded power to his younger brother Raul — first temporarily, then permanently — after undergoing emergency intestinal surgery in July 2006.

The meeting was closed to international news media based in Havana, but information about it was carried by Agencia Estado and Cuban state media. Recent photographs released by Cuba's government have also shown a healthier-looking Fidel Castro.

Wednesday's images show a beaming Castro chatting with Silva and mugging for the camera with the Brazilian president's communications minister while Silva himself takes a photo. The gray-bearded revolutionary was thought to be in far graver health — in fact, rumors of his imminent death were frequent — the last time Silva came to see him in January 2008.

This time, Silva felt Castro looked "much different" and improved, Agencia Estado reported.

Cuba's state television led its evening newscast with a report on the meeting, though it didn't broadcast any images of Castro until the 30-minute show's closing, when it displayed several still photographs of the former leader.

The report said Castro and Silva discussed several matters, including the UN climate conference in Copenhagen. After

that conference, Castro released a string of essays strongly criticizing President Barack Obama for Washington's brokering of an accord that urges — but does not require — major polluters to make deeper emissions cuts.

Also visiting Cuba was socialist Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, another close friend and confidant of Fidel Castro.

Silva, Chavez and Raul Castro had all been in the Mexican Caribbean city of Playa del Carmen on Tuesday for a Latin American and Caribbean "unity" summit. There was no word on whether Fidel Castro met with Chavez, a frequent visitor to Cuba.

Before their meeting with Fidel Castro, Silva and Raul Castro donned guayabera dress shirts and traveled to the port city of Mariel, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Havana, where Brazil's government is helping build a new port designed to handle full-size container ships.

The \$600 million renovation is being split equally between Silva's government and Cuba. Brazil is Cuba's fourth-largest commercial partner, with nearly \$700 million in trade between the two countries in 2008, the most current figures available.

Raul Castro became provisional president on July 31, 2006, and took over permanently two years ago Wednesday. But he played down the anniversary in comments to the news media. Silva's comments were not the first recent indication Fidel Castro has turned the corner on his health.

During a visit to Havana in October, the director of the World Health Organization, Margaret Chan, met with him for more than two hours and said he was "wonderful" and "very dynamic." Chan said at the time that Castro had more endurance than she did. "I'm younger than him and I felt tired when he wasn't," she said.

## act:onaid

### VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

ActionAid Nigeria (AAN) is one of ActionAid Country Programmes around the world. ActionAid is an International Non-Governmental organization registered in The Netherlands with headquarters in Johannesburg South Africa. ActionAid International works in about 50 countries in Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia and the Americas. 22 of these country programmes, affiliates or associates are in Africa and are led by Africans. We have been doing development work on the continent since 1972 and in Nigeria since 1999. ActionAid works with the poor and excluded in Africa, promoting values and commitment in civil society, institutions and governments with the aim of achieving structural changes in order to eradicate injustices and poverty in the world.

To effectively remain proactive and consolidate on the new country strategy, AAN is inviting applications from qualified candidates to fill the following positions:

**Policy, Advocacy & Gender Technical Advisor. (One position each for Benue, Ogun & Akwa Ibom)**

#### Person Specifications

##### Education/Qualifications

- Degree in Social Sciences, Arts or Humanities is **essential**.
- Post graduate degree in a relevant field is **essential**.

##### Experience

- A minimum of 7 years working experience preferably in the social development field is **essential**
- A minimum of 3 years experience in a similar position is **essential**
- Experience of the Nigerian policy environment as it relates with Gender & HIV/AIDS is **essential**
- Experience in HIV Prevention and Gender mainstreaming is **desirable**

##### Skill/Abilities

- Excellent computer application skills is **essential**
- Excellent oral and written communication skills is **essential**
- Excellent conceptual, analytical, documentation and presentation skills is **essential**
- Excellent Skills in policy analysis and interpretation is **essential**

##### Personal Qualities

- Creative and takes initiative.
- Able to work effectively in a diverse team environment
- Willing and able to travel

**Capacity Building Technical Advisor. (One position each for Nasarawa, Ogun & Akwa Ibom)**

#### Person Specifications

##### Education/Qualifications

- Degree in Social Sciences, Arts or Humanities is **essential**
- Post graduate degree in a relevant field is **essential**.

##### Experience

- A minimum of 7 years working experience preferably in the social development field is **essential**
- A minimum of 3 years experience in a similar position is **essential**
- Experience in working with HIV/AIDS-related Civil Society Organisation in the area of capacity building and prevention is **essential**
- Experience of the Nigerian policy environment as it relates with Gender & HIV/AIDS is **desirable**

##### Skill/Abilities

- Excellent computer application skills **essential**
- Excellent Skills in capacity building **essential**
- Excellent oral and written communication skills **essential**
- Excellent conceptual, analytical, documentation and presentation skills **essential**

##### Personal Qualities

- Creative and takes initiative.
- Able to work effectively in a diverse team environment
- Willing and able to travel

All interested candidates should fill in the application form as accessed from the application pack on [www.actionaid-nigeria.org](http://www.actionaid-nigeria.org) or <http://www.actionaid.org/pages.aspx?PageID=12&ItemID=190> for Enhancing Nigerian Response (ENR) Capacity Building Technical Advisor and <http://www.actionaid.org/pages.aspx?PageID=12&ItemID=191> for Enhancing Nigerian Response (ENR) Policy, Advocacy & Gender Technical Advisor

The application pack contains the Vacancy announcement, Job Description and Application form. **Subject line of emails should clearly state position applied for and name of applicant with surname first otherwise application will not be considered.**

ActionAid offers competitive terms of employment. **Applications from women are particularly welcome.** Applications are also particularly welcome from candidates living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHAs).

Closing date for receipt of application forms is **12<sup>th</sup> March, 2010**. Only short listed candidates will be contacted. Only Electronically completed application forms will be entertained and should be mailed to [vacancy.nigeria@actionaid.org](mailto:vacancy.nigeria@actionaid.org). Applications will **ONLY** be considered if submitted on AAN's Standard Application forms.

## Advertorial

## ATTEMPTS TO POLARISE THE ARMY

Only a few days ago, the Nigerian Tribune celebrated sixty years of existence. Typically, it was celebrated in grand style: pomp, fanfare, wide publicity and promos. Many people were of the view that the paper would take advantage of the occasion to rebrand itself to objective and responsible journalism in tune with the current realities in the world and Nigeria in particular since people are now more educated and discerning. Unfortunately, Tribune still clings to its archaic and retrogressive ideals of championing ethnicity, tribalism, and mercenary journalism. Till date, Nigerian Tribune has refused to liberate itself from its tribal cocoon and move in tandem with time: as a rule it automatically opposes everything that is not South-West, it is particularly ruthless and unreasonable if it happens to do with the North. Otherwise, how can one explain its consistent attack on any establishment headed by a northerner, while deliberately remaining silent on the glaringly criminal excesses of some people from the south west? Although one is not defending wrong doings by anybody, rather, the paper should be fair to all, regardless of ethnicity, religion or creed.

On 18th February 2010, we woke up to the usual antics of Tribune with screaming headlines alleging that there were grumbings in the Army over what they called lopsided postings of officers. The story, which is an obvious reference to the recent postings in the Army, was certainly aimed at tarnishing the good image and reputation of the Army as an institution and its leadership. Whoever is behind this baseless story is indeed an enemy of democracy, peace and stability of this nation. Beyond the façade, the aim of the write-up was to create panic, tension and general disaffection among the highly cohesive and disciplined ranks and files of our military and by extension the whole country.

Although the Army through its Director of Publicity and Information has already debunked the allegations, it is pertinent to ask questions as to the motive of such baseless and unfounded publication. Certainly it is not the interest of this nation; otherwise Tribune would have also drawn inference from the recent postings done by the Nigerian Air Force, which is headed by their kinsman. Keen observers of that posting which was made available to the press would see that it indeed favoured the Yoruba Christians officers over and above their Muslim counterparts. Out of the 7 Air Vice Marshalls given command appointments, five of them were Yoruba. Out of the 33 Air Commodores, over 20 of them were from the South Western part of this country. In fact the only northerners were the Director of Information and the Commander of 335 Base Service Group Kaduna and 204 Wing Maiduguri respectively. How lopsided can a posting be and does it mean there are no northerners, middle beltters, south southerners and easterners that can grumble in the Air force?

In the wake of the first publication our research revealed that Tribune was economical with the truth and deliberately misrepresented the facts to mislead gullible members of the public. If one would take the allegations one after the other, it would be glaring to all that Tribune indeed has hidden agenda. Firstly the paper gave the impression that the postings were recent. Far from it, for instance the posting of Brigade of Guards Commander was done in 2008 and the present Commander Brigadier General Mustapha actually took over from Major General Munguno. However before them and particularly during Obasanjo, the successive Brigade of Guards Commanders were Major Generals Shoboiki, Oshanupin and Apata back to back. They were all Yorubas from southwest. Tribune also made mention of other northerners namely commanders of 4 Guard Battalion and Guard Brigade Garrison. But they willfully declined to report that within the same Guards Brigade, the Commanding Officer of 177 Guards Battalion is Lt Col Agachi (Ibo man) who is neither from Kano nor from Katsina State, while the Chief of Staff at the headquarters, who is the operational Commander, is Colonel Isoni from Cross Rivers State.

Tribune equally alleged that the former Commander of Nigerian Army Artillery Corps, "a seasoned professional has been replaced by a lesser qualified person". It may interest the Tribune to know that he was replaced by no other officer than Major General EE Bassey whom we learned is an equally seasoned and eminently qualified artillery officer, who certainly is not from Kano or Katsina state. In any case every officer that rose to the rank of Major General must be a seasoned professional whether he is from the north or south, Christian or Muslim. It might interest the public to know that the recently posted Brigadier General KTJ Minimah, the former Commander of 1 Brigade Sokoto, was replaced by no other person than Brigadier General DD Enetie whose last unit was Army Headquarters Garrison. Both of whom are from Niger Delta. Equally interesting is the fact that the Nigerian Army does not have any formation called 81 Brigade; rather it has a Division by that name whose General Officer Commanding is Major General Nyanguma and 81 Battalion which is commanded by Lt Col JC Ogbonna.

From the foregoing it is obvious that none of these senior officers came from the north let alone Kano or Katsina States. Therefore the first and subsequent publications by the Nigerian Tribune on the allegation of grumbings is nothing other than sheer mischief and attempt to divide the Army along ethno-religious lines, which will not succeed. We are of the view that further comparative analysis should be undertaken by Tribune and other papers to ascertain the degree of "Lopsided Postings" in all the security agencies throughout the democratic period. This is necessary in order to put the issue of "Lopsided Postings" in proper perspective and possibly to rest. The Chief of Defence

Staff, Chief of Air Staff, Chief of Naval Staff, Director General State Security Services, Director General, National Intelligence Agency, Comptroller General of Immigration as well as that of Prison Service are all Christians for example and yet no one complained.

Given the timing of this unprovoked attack, we can ask ourselves whose interest Tribune is serving through their biased publications; Yoruba, Christian or some faceless cowards? We leave that to the readers but we are not fooled. It would be recalled that some highly unpatriotic and disgruntled Nigerians tried albeit unsuccessfully to take advantage of the recent political impasse in the country to cause disaffection in the military through various means. Their frustration is that the military particularly the Army as presently constituted remains an impediment to their ominous goal. Now the same group has commissioned highly discredited retired public officers as arrow head to further create tension and overheat the polity to lay ground for the actualization of their selfish and diabolical schemes.

To further debunk the allegation by the Nigerian Tribune one can recall the following stories in the Vanguard newspaper and the Nigerian Tribune itself:

"Meanwhile, Vanguard can report authoritatively, that the Acting President, Goodluck Jonathan is pleased and comfortable with the present leadership of the military because of the manner they were able to hold the armed forces together and ensure they stuck to the constitutional responsibilities during the over 70 days absence of Mr. President, and the political logjam that followed..." The Vanguard of 15/02/2010.

And "However, Nigerian Tribune gathered, at the weekend, that the acting president had approved the long-awaited postings and retirements of officers in the armed forces. Some top army officers that were promoted to the ranks of major general and their equivalent in the Navy and Air force last year are yet to be posted to their new ranks. Sources close to the military said that the acting president was pleased with the present leadership of the military, especially the professionalism it displayed throughout the period of President Yar'Adua absence. He was said to have given his nod to the military leadership to affect the posting. The Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Paul Dike, last Thursday, led his colleagues to the Presidential Villa to pledge their unalloyed loyalty to the acting president." Nigerian Tribune 15/02/2010.

It really beats our imagination that the same Nigerian Tribune that reported the postings of all the services have been overdue and have the blessing of the Presidency, created an impression that the army was not among the armed forces. The sponsors of these publications, apart from trying to cause disaffection, from all indications, they are hell bent in distracting the Chief of Army Staff from the enviable work he is doing within the short period he has been in command of that institution, something that they were unable to achieve while in such position. We are all aware of the sorry state of affairs when they were in circumstance to impact positively but they did not. Indeed, there was a time when such people could only surround themselves with principal staff that were either from southern part of the country or Christians by faith for reasons best known to them, while they were at the helm of affairs.

Our advice to such people is that they should please know that Nigeria is far greater than any individual or group of persons whose interest is to champion ethnic and sectional interest and Godfathers. They should stop enticing hapless officers and soldiers to promote their selfish interest to heat up the polity. A call for the removal of the Brigade commander and change of configuration of the Brigade of Guards is nothing but a desperate attempt to illegally seize control of security in Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory, especially during the absence of President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. The same group also wants to control the Army to facilitate illegal oil bunkering through the redeployment of the Commander of the Joint Task Force (JTF) with a more amenable person to their selfish and parochial agenda. In any case, this is a wakeup call to all.

Our take on the two publications is that the leadership of the army should remain focused and concentrate on steering the army to greater heights. The Chief of Army Staff in particular should also continue to post officers and soldiers according to laid down procedures without fear or favour. Our advice to Nigerian Tribune is that it must resist being used as a platform for promoting parochial and selfish interest if they wish to be a credible newspaper and relevant to the common man as they stated in their mission statement.

Finally, let it be known that any attempt from any quarters to demonize or short change the North will be resisted. We also wish to warn those fanning the embers of intolerance and sectional conflict to be very careful what they wish for. Religious and ethnic conflict will consume everybody once started in this country.

Long Live the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Colonel Adamu Hamisu

Colonel Sadau Garba (rtd)

Lt Col Damina Ibrahim (rtd)

Major Kabiru Maihula (rtd)

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# BUSINESS

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FROM left: Deputy Comptroller Admin FCT command of the Nigerian Customs Services Mr. Bawa Mohammad, Mr. Tunde Ojodun of the Forum Newspapers, the Customs Area Controller FCT Command, Comptroller Usman Kankara Bello and Mr. Walter Ukaegbu of the Sun Newspapers, when the members of the Maritime Reporters Association of Nigeria paid a courtesy visit to the Customs FCT Area Command in Abuja.

**BRIEF**

## Ministry commits huge funds to woo US investors

By Sunday Williams

HUGE sums of money will be committed by the Commerce Ministry in order to woo American investors, according to Minister of Commerce and Industry Achike Udenwa. The minister did not specify how much it will cost Nigeria to stage a forum in Atlanta, Houston and Chicago but experts said it may run into huge sums of money. Some experts who spoke to *Daily Trust* doubted the mission and called it another jamboree. But addressing newsmen yesterday in Abuja, Udenwa, said the forum is the outcome of last year's US-Nigeria Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA). The minister said the 1st US-Nigeria business forum in three US states is an opportunity for American to understand business opportunities in Nigeria.

## NIPC aims to sustain \$20bn FDI in 2010

By Sunday Williams

THE Executive Secretary of Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Engr. Mustafa Bello has said that the Commission intends to sustain the current \$20bn Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) it attracted for the country in 2008 for the year 2010. He made the remarks to news men in Abuja at the Turkey-Nigeria Business Forum with over 170 business delegation from Turkey.

# Kaduna, Warri refineries start production

By Hamisu Muhammad

TWO of the nation's refineries in Kaduna and Warri are now back on stream with at least 60 percent capacity production of Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), Dual Purpose Kerosene (DPK) and other petroleum products.

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) disclosed this yesterday in Abuja.

It said that the two refineries will compliment fuel supply and ease the scarcity in the country.

NNPC said that the Kaduna refinery has the capacity to process and refine 110,000 barrels of crude oil per day but due to the failure of crude supply and the delay in completion of the TAM it had been idle for more than 2 years.

It said in the same vein the Warri refinery has the capacity to process 125,000 barrels per day but had also remained idle since the middle of last year due to militants' attack on the pipeline at the Chanomi Creeks that supplies

crude oil to it from Escravos.

A statement from NNPC said that the Kaduna refinery had fully came on stream on Friday the 19th of February, 2010 and two weeks earlier the Warri Refinery and Petrochemical Company, started production. The statement said the Kaduna refinery presently produces Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), Dual Purpose Kerosene (DPK), Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) and Low Pour Fuel Oil (LPFO).

The statement said the NNPC was "glad to announce to Nigerians that the Turn Around Maintenance of refineries embarked upon by the NNPC is beginning to pay off as the Kaduna refinery fully came on stream last Friday and has stabilized at 60 per cent capacity."

The statement noted that all the primary units of the Kaduna refinery have started production, adding that this would go a long way in reducing importation of petroleum products into the country by the Corporation and other importers.

NNPC expressed optimism that with the refineries now back on stream, the chal-

lenge of fuel queues noticed in some states of the federation would soon become a thing of the past.

According to NNPC, "Already the Pipelines and Product Marketing Company, PPMC, a subsidiary of the Corporation has begun the evacuation and marketing of the petroleum products from the revamped refineries."

The Corporation maintained that in line with the transformation programme of the NNPC, all the refineries would be made to work as a truly commercial entity to avoid a relapse in line with the determination of the management of the Corporation to transform it from a cost centre to a profit making entity.

The NNPC spokesman called on the organized labour and Nigerians to support the Federal Government deregulation agenda saying that is the only way out of the recurring fuel supply challenge in the country.

The KRPC recently went through the TAM which gulped about 2.9 million US dollars.

## Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$41bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$4.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$78 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2, 200MW
Oil output per day	→ 1.9mbd
Broad Money Supply	→ N10,730,793.1m
Credit to Private Sector	→ N10,155,442.0m
Inter-Bank Rate	→ 2.2600%
Treasury Bills	→ 2.645%
Deposit Rate	→ 12.56%
Prime Lending Rate	→ 19.03%

## CBN EXCHANGE RATES

2/12/2010

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2897	0.2997	0.1097
DANISH KRONER	26.8799	26.971	27.062
EURO	200.1899	200.8681	201.5462
POUNDS STERLING	230.5512	231.3322	232.1132
RIYAL	39.36	39.4934	39.6267
SDR	226.2265	226.9929	227.7592
SWISS FRANC	136.5655	137.0281	137.4907
US DOLLAR	147.6	148.1	148.6
WAUA	226.801	227.5693	228.3376
YEN	1.6378	1.6434	1.6489

## BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

BUYING	
DOLLAR	.....N151
EURO	.....N206
POUNDS	.....N238
SELLING	
DOLLAR	.....N152
EURO	.....N209
POUNDS	.....N240

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

## Stock Market Index

Date :	Thursday, February 25, 2010
Index:	23,033.02
Deals:	7,082
Volume :	407,834,032
Value:	N 3,266,284,914.51
Cap. :	N 5,547,310,689,069.66

## Business

## Kaduna International Trade Fair

## Demand soars for 'pure' water

By Abubakar Mommoh

SELLERS of sachet water, popularly called 'pure' water are experiencing a boom at the 31st Kaduna International Trade fair. A sachet of pure water is now N10 instead of N5 it is usually sold in the town.

Daily Trust gathered that the hike in price was a result of the current epileptic electricity supply being experienced in most parts of Kaduna metropolis with some areas getting only a few hours of electricity a day or none at all.

Some of the traders told Daily Trust that they had to buy iced blocks at more than the usual price and also pay gate fees to gain entrance into the fair ground.

One of the vendors, Mama Lucy said her customers complained that they were buying diesel from the black market and needed to charge more for the iced blocks.

She said the business is good compared to what she was earning before the fair adding however that when cost of transportation is added, she would not be making much profit.

11-year old boy, Yusuf, who was also seen hawking the pure water in the complex said he was hired to sell and did not know why it is now being sold for N10.

The rise in temperature is also contributing to the high demand. Abdulsalam, Ade, who came to the fair for site seeing, said by the time people go around the various stands they will certainly become thirsty and buying a sachet of water or mineral was a natural thing to do no matter the cost.

There is also high demand for bottled mineral water like coke, fanta, sprite, etc



Some of the Turkish investors that visited the Kaduna Trade fair complex on Wednesday

## Foreign investors storm Kaduna trade fair

Stories from Abubakar K. Mommoh

NO fewer than 179 investors from Turkey Wednesday visited the ongoing 31st Kaduna International Trade Fair in furtherance of trade cooperation between the two countries, Daily Trust has learnt.

Kaduna Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture, (KADCCIMA), the organizers of the fair had announced that about 80 investors from Turkey were being expected, alongside to participate in the 31st trade fair which began last Friday.

Confirming this in an interview with Daily Trust, the Director General of KADCCIMA Alhaji Usman Sallawa said the

delegation were taken round the trade fair grounds to give them firsthand experience.

Sallawa said the delegation was divided into three groups in view of their large numbers in order to manage them properly.

He explained that the visitors had requested to witness the trade fair to see how they could assist, adding that however that they had promised to participate fully next year.

He said the investors had earlier visited state and planned to have trade and investment forum and business relationship with Nigeria business community and the country.

Commenting on the visit, the

Director General expressed optimism it would rub off on the country's economy opening various opportunities in manufacturing, real estate, oil and gas, solar energy and fast food/pastries business.

"I believe we stand to gain a lot in real estate, for instance, the Kaduna State millennium city project will gain partnering with Turkish investors", he said.

He did not state when the various business discussions would be consummated but assured that the chambers was planning a trade mission to Turkey next year, adding it had received invitation to participate in the country's trade fair.

## Dangote introduces new products at Kaduna fair

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

DANGOTE Industries Limited (DIL) has introduced a new range of drinks and other products at a special day organised by the company at the ongoing 31st Kaduna International Trade Fair.

THE products which include Kally sparkling soft drinks and other household products, were showcased at Podium One at the fair ground. SPEAKING at the occasion, representative of Dangote Group, Alhaji Abu Sufyan said DIL has taken the lead in providing quality products to Nigerians, and assured that they will continue to touch lives of PEOPLE at every opportunity.

ACCORDING to him, the company has not only diversified its range of products so as to meet the increasing demand of its customers in Nigeria and abroad, they are ideal for all categories of people because they have been specially packaged to meet the demands of all its customers.

"WHETHER you are young or old, man or woman, there is something for you at Dangote. We value our customers and will continue to provide them with best products that will meet their needs," he added.

EARLIER in his remarks, council member of the Kaduna Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (KADCCIMA), Prince Remi Fadahinsi commended Dangote Group for providing quality products for use in Nigeria and abroad.

HE said as Nigerians, "we are all proud of what Dangote is doing to project the image of our country and our people by ensuring that Nigeria can compete with all countries without any fear."

HE said KADCCIMA values the participation of Dangote at the fair, and expressed hope that the company will be available at all subsequent editions of the fair in future. Speaking to Daily Trust, Mr Henry Ejiregbe, the marketing executive of Kaduna region explained that Dangote Industries wants to give consumers of soft drinks an alternative that is why it came out with Sparkling Kally. According to him, their findings showed that there is need for an alternative and so the company decided to go into the production of Kally Range of products.

HE said that there are three range of the soft drinks but the Kally Guarana twist is the top brand which is being promoted at the moment.

## Police nab pick pockets

TWO young suspected thieves were arrested at the trade fair ground by the security operatives while trying to steal handsets from members of the public.

Security operatives who spoke in confidence said one of the suspects; was nearly lynched by the mob when they rescued him.

The suspect who had blood all over him when he was brought into the council's building told Daily

Trust that he is a mechanic based in Bukuru in Plateau State and came to the trade fair to buy some goods.

He denied being a thief saying that the mob took away his money, phone and ID card.

However the victim, Ayuba Gods power told our correspondent that the second suspect was trying to remove his handset from his pocket when he caught him. God's power who said he is

a member of a chaplain dedicated to fighting crime said such miscreants must be punished to serve as deterrent.

The police officer in charge of security declined comments on the security situation at the fair.

Daily Trust gathered that despite tight security measures during the fair many pick pockets and petty thieves have been apprehended.

## Glo chooses showbiz for youth empowerment

GLOBACOM says the decision to promote show biz is a deliberate policy on youth empowerment in the country Regional manager of the company in the North Mr. Kaka Olukemi made this known Wednesday at the GLO special day at the 31st Kaduna international trade fair.

Olukemi said it was not true that

the company was not investing in educational development as its competitor, pointing out that each network had its own focus to drive its business.

He explained that the reason why the company promotes more show biz in the South is because Hollywood, which is the biggest showbiz in

the country is located there, adding however that the company has been promoting many personalities as GLO ambassadors among them Nuhu Aliyu and Sani Danja

The Regional manager said the company was at the fair to introduce some of its new products like Glo talk more and BID-

WIN. According to him, Glo talk back allows the subscribers to pay as 30 kobo per second on GLO-GLO network and 60kobo to other networks, which gives subscribers about 80% reduction in tariff.

BIDWIN is a reserve auction game where subscribers bid low to win fantastic prizes every day

for 18 days. The subscriber with the lowest unique bid at the end of each day wins a Kia Rio Car.

The entire subscriber has to do text you're BID to 300.

He promised that the company will continue to reward its loyal subscribers with more promos to be introduced during the year.

Business

# Nigeria: From black gold to raw gold

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

TOWARDS the end of 2009, the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development under the leadership of Mrs. Diezani Alison Madueke disbursed micro grant of \$10 million to 31 small-scale mining cooperatives and communities across the country.

The fund which was granted to some qualified small scale miners is from the World Bank scheme: Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project (SMMRP). The aim of the scheme was to facilitate the development of Artisan and Small Scale Mining activities across the globe.

The total credit available to be disbursed to the qualified countries was \$120 million with a grace period of 10 years and a maturity period of 40 years.

The objective of the project, according to the World Bank was to increase the government's long term institutional and technical capacity to manage Nigeria's mineral resources in a sustainable way.

The project also sought to establish a basis for poverty reduction and rural economic renewal in selected areas of the country via the development of non-farm income generating opportunities through small-scale mining to diversify the economic base from oil.

Nigeria has many minerals resources and in most cases in commercial quantity. Many people are exploring some of these abandoned resources

locally and illegally. Thousands of these resources remained untapped.

Nigeria has these minerals in excess, some of which are: Bitumen/tar sand with estimated reserves of 27 billion barrels of oil equivalent. Gold also has estimated reserves of 2.7 billion tonnes, Iron ores 3 billion tonnes, Limestone 2.23 trillion tonnes, Barytes 14 million tonnes, Lead/Zinc Sulphides 1 million tonnes and Gold 3,000 meters. Nigeria has untapped gold of over 300,000 ounces, with 2 million ounces estimated.

Nigerian gold is capable of competing with that of Ghana. Ghana produces ten percent (10%) of the world's gold which makes her the world second largest producer of gold.

It is on record that Nigeria without the intervention of foreign grants had at one time become the world's largest exporter of Columbite and the sixth largest exporter of Cassiterite (Tin). Nigeria now imports virtually every solid mineral materials needed for its industry.

The Minister of mines and steel development had once told Nigerians that, "Mining sector in the country is an alternative to the oil sector."

She had also said over 500,000 household relied on local unskilled mining. She said the consequences are "uncontrolled informal small-scale mining."

Even with this abandoned mineral resources in the country, mining sector presently contributes less than one percent

(1%) to the Nigerian Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This means that it is not playing any role visibly in the nation's economy. This is not because it can't but because, according to observers, successive leaders have neglected for oil.

The sector therefore has been in comer for close to forty years, to the extent that Nigeria has "missed out on the various opportunities to capitalize on the upswing of commodity's prices."

Nigeria is collaborating with the World Bank supported Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project (SMMRP) to support small-scale mining in providing grants to the tune \$50,000.

It is as though the sector is grossly underfunded. When the World Bank team visited the country last year to access the three-month activities of the ministry regarding the \$10 million grant allocated for the development of the activities of Artisanal Small-Scale Mining (ASM) the Minister asked for more money.

"We are looking forward to the World Bank to increase their scope of our financial involvements so that it encapsulates not just the lowest cadre, which has already been represented under the \$10 million grant, but so that by next year we should be able to also take care of the middle

and larger cadre of small-scale miners as", the Minister said.

She said the small-scale miners are important to the nation's economy because in that sector alone "we can reach well up to 20 million jobs if properly articulated in the next two years."

She said Mining has to be admitted into programs like National Poverty Eradication Program (NAPEP), Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and all organizations working towards creating better lives for rural dwellers.

Artisanal and Small-scale Mining, she said, is typically a poverty driven activity and largely practised by poor people with scarce alternative livelihood in the rural areas across the country.



MRS. Diezani Alison Madueke, Mines and Steel Development Minister

## VACANCIES! VACANCIES!! VACANCIES!!!

Applications are invited from suitable qualified candidates to fill the following vacancies that exist in a ultra modern hotel situated at one man village Nasarawa State behind Datino Investment Ltd Fueling Station and Bwari F.C.T.A

Manager	Bsc in Hospitality Management or Higher National Diploma in Catering and Hotel Management with not less than Ten Years Working experience in a five star hotel.
Administration or Personnel Manager	B.A. or HND in public administration or personnel Management with three to five years experience in hotel or hospitality industry
Marketing Officer	B.A. or HND in marketing with three years experience in hotel industry.
Accountant	B.sc or HND in accounting with ten years experience in hotel industry is an advantage and must be computer literate.
Store keeper/Cashiers/Control Clerk	HND in account with three years experience or OND in account with five years experience in hotel industry.
Food and Beverage Manager	Bsc. in hospitality Management or HND in catering and Hotel Management with not less than five years experience
Chef	HND in catering and Hotel Management with not less than ten years experience as a chef or OND in Catering and Hotel Management with not less than fifteen years working experience.
Bar, Restaurant, Banquet and Room Service Supervisor/Front Office Receptionist/House Keeping	HND in Catering and Hotel Management or equivalent with two years experience or OND/Advance Certificate in Catering and Hotel Management with not less than five years experience in hotel industry.
Waiters/Waitresses, Bed Room Steward, Cooks and Laundry Men	Advance Certificate in Catering and hotel Management with not less than three years experience or SSCE with not less than five years working experience in a reputable hotel.
Cleaners	SSCE with two years experience in hospitality industry.
Maintenance Engineer	Bsc in Electrical Engineering and Maintenance with not less than three years working experience in hotel industry will be an added advantage.
Electrician/Plumber	Trade test in the field with experience not less than three years.

The application should be hand written, attached photocopies of C.V and credentials with two passport photographs.

Indicate the position and the hotel (Bwari or One Man Village) on the addressed envelop.

Application should be submitted to the security Global Village Suite and Hotels One Man Village Behind Datino Investment Ltd Fueling Station

Closing date of application 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2010

**Nigerian gold is capable of competing with that of Ghana. Ghana produces ten percent (10%) of the world's gold which makes her the world second largest producer of gold. It is on record that Nigeria without the intervention of foreign grants had at one time become the world's largest exporter of Columbite and the sixth largest exporter of Cassiterite (Tin). Nigeria now imports virtually every solid mineral materials needed for its industry.**



INVITATION TO A

# PUBLIC HEARING

ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO

## ESTABLISH THE NIGERIANS IN DIASPORA COMMISSION ETC. (HB 294)

The House Committees on Diaspora and Foreign Affairs invite all stakeholders to a Public Hearing on A Bill for an Act to Establish the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission Etc (HB 294).

The objective of the Bill is to provide for the engagement of Nigerians in Diaspora in the policies, projects and participation in the development of Nigeria and for the purpose of utilizing the human, capital and material resources of Nigerians in Diaspora towards the overall socioeconomic, cultural and political development of Nigeria.

**Date:** Tuesday, 2nd March, 2010  
**Venue:** Conference room 028, House of Representatives, new building, National Assembly Complex Abuja  
**Time:** 2p.m

Stake holders are required to forward 20 copies of their memoranda to Barr. Oscar Okoro, Clerk House Committee on Diaspora, HB 47 or room 7 House of Representatives, National Assembly Complex, Abuja ([baroscarnass@yahoo.com](mailto:baroscarnass@yahoo.com)) on or before 2 march, 2010.

On behalf of the joint committees, please accept the assurances of our esteem regards

Signed:

Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa  
House Committee on Diaspora

Hon. Umar Bature  
House Committee on Foreign Affairs



(مركز جامعي للدراسات العربية)  
**NIGERIA ARABIC LANGUAGE VILLAGE, NGALA**  
 (Inter-University Centre for Arabic Studies)  
 Office of The Director

LIAISON OFFICE, MAIDUGURI  
 NO. 6A, LAFIYA ROAD, OLD G.R.A.  
 PMB 2002, Maiduguri  
 Tel: 076-276267  
 FAX: 076-276267

GSM: 08023577013  
 e-mail: [tblmshkinyahoon.com](mailto:tblmshkinyahoon.com)  
[www.nalv.edu.ng](http://www.nalv.edu.ng)

### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER:

1.0 The Nigeria Arabic Language Village, Ngala is in the process of implementing and executing proposed 2010 capital projects. In view of the above, the Village is inviting competent and interested Contractors/Suppliers/Consultants to submit their pre-qualification and full tender documents to the Village for the following projects.

S/No	Project Description	Pre-Qualification & Tender Fees N
Lot 1A	T&RE I (supply & installation of digital simultaneous interpreting equipment)	20,000.00
Lot 1B	T&REIII (supply and installation of digital language laboratory equipment)	20,000.00
Lot 2A.	Construction of male Students' Hostel.	20,000.00
Lot 2B	Furniture to male Students' Hostel	10,000.00
Lot 2C	Solar facilities to male Students' Hostel	20,000.00
Lot 3A.	Construction of female Students' Hostel	10,000.00
Lot 3B	Furniture to female Students' Hostel	10,000.00
Lot 3C	Solar facilities to female students' hostel	5,000.00
Lot 4A.	Rehabilitation (general)	10,000.00
Lot 5A.	Solar facilities to students' hall A	10,000.00
Lot 6A.	Purchase of utility vehicle	

#### 2.0 PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- All interested companies must:-
- Provide evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission(CAC).
  - Provide evidence of registration with Federal Ministry of Works, (where applicable).
  - Provide evidence of registration with Nigeria Arabic Language Village (NALV).
  - Provide evidence of current Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three years(2007,2008&2009
  - Names, qualifications and experience of the company's technical/managerial staff to be involved in the project(s) where applicable (enclosed photocopies of credentials).
  - List of Plant and Equipment (where applicable).
  - Verifiable list of projects completed, listing names of clients, contract sum, evidence of practical completion(2007,2008,&2009)
  - Audited Account of the bidder for the last three (3) years2007,2008 & 2009
  - Bank reference and Bank statement
  - Articles and memorandum of Association.
  - Any other relevant information

#### 3.0 TENDER:

The Financial Bid documents shall be made available to interested companies upon payment of non-refundable appropriate processing fees as indicated above to the Bursary, where receipt will be issued to accompany the tender on submission. Tenderers should collect tender documents from the Office of the Coordinator Municipal Services Department.

#### 4.0 SUBMISSIONS

- The completed pre-qualification and full Tender bids must be in two different sealed envelopes and clearly marked at the top hand corner indicating pre-qualification for 'Title of the project' similarly the tender envelope shall be clearly marked indicating TENDER FOR 'Title of the project' and all of which shall be in **ONE BIG ENVELOPE** clearly marked indicating **PRE-QUALIFICATION AND FULL TENDER FOR 'Title of the project'**. Also name and address of the firm/company should be clearly indicated at the back of the envelopes.
- The Pre-qualification and full tender bids must be returned to the Office of the Director/Chief Executive, Nigeria Arabic Language Village, Ngala on or before 10 am 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. The pre-qualification bids will be opened immediately by 10.00 am at the Council Chamber. Willing tenderers and General public are invited to witness the opening. **The Village will thereafter undertake verification of all claims made by Contractors. Only Pre-Qualified Contractors will be invited for the opening of the Financial Bids.**

#### NOTE

- This is not an invitation to tender; full tendering procedures will be applied only to contractors That have been pre-qualified and found capable of executing the projects
- That the Village is not bound to accept tenders sent by courier or post.
- Interested contractors may make submission for not more than two (2) projects and must show competency in each of the lots separately.
- On the opening date, the pre-qualified bids will be opened first to qualify tenderer for the full tendering and the pre-tender bids found to be unsatisfactory shall have their full tender package returned to them, while those who meet the pre-qualification criteria will have their tenders opened for consideration.
- This advert serves as notice to both the pre-qualification to tender and the Full tender.
- All interested companies must produce original of documents on the date of opening for sighting only.

Signed:  
 Director/Chief Executive.  
 Nigeria Arabic Language Village, Ngala  
 10/02/2010

## Business/Energy

### Chevron to build 750mw power plant in Lagos

By Hamisu Muhammad

CHEVRON Nigeria Limited has indicated interest to construct a 750 mega watts capacity power plant in Agora, Lagos State, the Chairman and Managing Director of the company Andrew Fawthrop has said.

Fawthrop said at a media parley at the ongoing Nigeria Oil and Gas Conference in Abuja that he has invited tenders to power the plant.

He noted that there is currently a serious shortage of power in Nigeria but when there is stable power generation; capital inflow will increase in the country.

On the domestic gas obligation, the Chevron Boss said it is not true that Chevron has restricted supply of gas to PHCN, "we push out every standard Cubic feet of gas we produce from our Escravos gas plant to the Nigerian Gas Company.

He said: "We have flare out projects since 1992. Currently we have three flare out projects each will cost over a billion USD. The Escravos Gas to Liquid project will come soon by the end of this quarter and that will push up the delivery of gas up".

On the oil production, Fawthrop said the production in the joint venture is running to about 240,000mbd in both the deepwater and Agbami field.

### Oil prices lose \$2 a drum

OIL fell by nearly \$2 per barrel yesterday to about \$78, dragged down by a rise in the dollar as the euro slid on concerns about the outlook for the European economy and after a surprise jump in U.S. unemployment.

The euro fell to a one-year low against the yen and was down versus the dollar on uncertainty over the ability of the Greek government to cope with its fiscal crisis, while the dollar's trade-weighted index rebounded.

U.S. crude futures for April were down \$1.80 per barrel at \$78.20 by 1420 GMT, after hitting a low of \$77.88.

The contract rose more than \$1 on Wednesday, lifted by comments by U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke, who stressed his commitment to low U.S. interest rates. London Brent crude lost \$1.68 to \$76.41 a barrel.

A firmer dollar makes oil and other commodities more expensive for holders of other currencies and also dragged gold down to near a two-week low. Reuters.



A man refuels his car at a petrol station in Sydney

# Oil majors divided over Nigeria's reforms

By Hamisu Muhammad

THERE is division among the International Oil Companies (IOC) as some of them have openly supported Nigeria's bid to carry out far-reaching reforms in the oil and gas sector while others are opposed to the Petroleum Industry Bill currently with the National Assembly.

Total Upstream said they are ready to work with Nigerian government in the ongoing reforms in the oil and gas sector.

The Vice President, Exploration and Production, Total Upstream Worldwide, Mr. Yves Louis Darricarrere said Nigeria was a very important country in Total's business and that it was ready to continue to invest in Nigeria.

Mr. Darricarrere made this commitment

during a courtesy visit to the Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Dr Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo

Ann Pickard the outgoing Regional Executive Vice President, Shell Exploration and Production, Africa, on Tuesday while delivering a paper at the 2010 NOG, described the PIB as "a cumbersome document that lacks insight into the very basics of our industry." While forecasting a bleak future for the oil and gas industry post-PIB, Pickard also criticized the fiscal provisions of the proposed law which she described as the "harshest in the world".

But Darricarrere said "We want to continue to work in your country; we want to continue to invest. Nigeria is a very important country

in our business."

Contrary to the pessimism expressed by some IOC's concerning the future of investments in the Nigerian oil and gas sector, the Total boss expressed confidence in the future of the partnership between his company and the corporation and its investment in the country, adding: "I have no reason to be pessimistic."

Dr. Barkindo, in his welcome remarks dismissed insinuations that the Petroleum Industry Bill was designed to punish some operators in the Nigerian oil and gas industry.

He urged the Total boss to join the NNPC in building the infrastructure to support the implementation of the PIB when it eventually becomes an Act.

## FG says it spend N40bn to repair pipelines

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Federal Government has said that it spent N40 billion on the repairs of pipelines damaged in the Niger Delta area.

Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Mr. Mohammed Barkindo, who disclosed this at the ongoing Nigeria Oil and Gas (NOG) conference in Abuja, also announced

that the government has set aside N17.3 billion for the repair of the Trans Forcardos and Escravos crude lines in Warri, Delta State.

According to him, 2009 was a turbulent year for the nation due to the damage to the pipelines which caused a drop in Nigeria's crude oil production by more than 1.3 million barrels per day.

He said government is committed to

ensuring that the prevailing peace in the Niger Delta was sustained through the development of the region.

The NNPC boss also said government had changed its policy of giving deadlines to oil companies to halt gas flaring by initiating projects that would end flaring.

According to him, NNPC was working with its joint venture partners to initiate more gas projects that would end gas flaring.

# Business/Telecom



GROUP Exec Director, Glo, Mr. Paddy Adenuga receiving a present from Man Utd Relationship Director, Nick Humphreys

## Sale of NITEL followed due process, NCP insists

PROF. Taiwo Osipitan, Chairman, Technical Committee, National Council on Privatisation (NCP) yesterday reaffirmed that due process was followed in the NITEL bid on Feb. 16, 2010.

Osipitan made the reaffirmation in Abuja while briefing newsmen on media reports credited to the technical partner of the preferred bidder, New Generation Telecommunication Consortium.

That statement naturally put us on alert and we had to go back and look at the papers very well to see whether there was anything amiss along the line.

The technical committee of NCP held a meeting yesterday where we exhaustively examined the documents and the processes which led to the emergence of

the preferred bidder and also the reserved bidder.

"The result of our exercise and the meeting is that due process was fully complied with and there was sufficient transparency in the whole transaction," Osipitan said.

The Chairman added that the statement was credited to China UNICOM which was not a part of the consortium of the preferred bidder.

He further explained that China UNICOM is the parent company of UNICOM Europe, which is the technical partner of the preferred bidder, adding that though the companies were connected, they stood as separate entities.

"Happily we have also

received a letter and correspondences from China UNICOM confirming that they had since confirmed that UNICOM Europe indeed has a working relationship with the preferred bidder.

"We are also in possession of a letter signed by UNICOM Europe indicating their interest to partner with the preferred bidder," he said.

Osipitan stated that the confusion possibly arose as a result of communication gap between UNICOM Europe and its parent company China UNICOM.

According to him, the technical committee has resolved to recommend the results of the bid opening process to the NCP for immediate approval. (NAN).

## Etisalat targets 4million subscribers this year

From Chris Agabi, Kayode Ekundayo and Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

NEWEST entrant into Africa's most robust telecoms market, the Nigerian telecommunications sector, Etisalat said it plans growing its present over 2.6 million subscribers' base to 4 million this year even as it is investing some \$700 million into network expansion this year.

Mr. Steven E. Evans, the Chief Executive Officer of Etisalat who disclosed this in Lagos at a media parley also noted that at the inception the company had planned to spend \$2 billion dollars to grow its network.

He said so far the company last year invested about \$800 million

and by the end of the year, it would have effectively spent about \$700 million that would take the total investment to about \$1.5 billion.

Evans said though the economic meltdown greatly affected telecoms business but was hopeful the industry will pick by 2011 and Etisalat would break even by that same year.

"Overtime we hope to acquire a number of customers to generate sufficient income to make a profit", he said, adding that most of the Etisalat new subscribers would be existing subscribers from other network users rather than fresh telecoms subscribers. The strategy that Etisalat is adopting to woo the customers, he said, hinged primarily on high network quality, robust

products, acceptable pricing regime and good customer experience.

He said though Etisalat is present in all the states of the federation including Abuja, its penetration rate is about 40 percent among the population but Etisalat hopes to reach more Nigerians soon.

According to him, Etisalat basically would be renting telecoms infrastructure of other existing networks rather than build new ones.

By that, he explained that the company would cut cost and deliver more quality service to its subscribers at a reduced price going forward.

"It is a waste of time and resources for us to go and start building say 5000 masts. It is not in the interest of Nigerians and our customers," he said.

## MTN promises to boost science education

By Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

MTN Foundation has promised to commit about N100million into the funding of science and technology education by giving scholarships for 500 indigent students in higher institutions across the country, Ambassador Ahmadu Hamzat, the foundation's chairman has said.

Ambassador Hamzat who disclosed this at the formal presentation of the MTN Foundation Science and Technology Scholarship award certificates and cheques to 98 beneficiaries at the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, also said that the foundation has so far invested more than N930million on its SchoolsConnect and UniversitiesConnect projects.

According to Hamzat, since the future of Nigeria depends on quality science and technology education, the nation's youths should therefore be encouraged to deploy their talents in that direction. He said that the scholarship which is worth N200,000 for each beneficiary annually, would cover the cost of books and tuition. While noting that 98 of the beneficiaries were drawn from higher institutions in the northern part of the country, the foundation chairman advised the recipients not to relent in their efforts to better their current academic performance. He also pledged that the Foundation would continue to give out the scholarship to only those awardees who maintained the required Cumulative Grade Point Average in their particular course of study until they graduated.

"This is the first time the MTN Foundation is granting to students in tertiary institutions and we are very excited by this development. As you are aware, our education portfolio has implemented several initiatives at secondary and tertiary levels of education, with particular emphasis on bridging the digital divide and giving thousands of students access to quality educational resources and reference materials using ICT as a platform to achieve this", he said.

"For MTN, being a telecommunications company, ICT is a veritable tool for communication and economic development. It underscores our belief that the future of this country is dependent on the quality of education in science and technology, and our youth should be encouraged to deploy their talents in that direction", Hamzat added.

Speaking on the occasion, the ABU Acting Vice Chancellor, Prof. Aliyu Mohammed said that the award of the scholarship is in line with the Federal Government's policy of prioritizing science and technology education which he described as the backbone of national development.

Mohammed also advised the Foundation to sponsor professorial chairs in science and technology in the nation's universities, urging the organization to go beyond awarding scholarships by providing employment for the beneficiaries upon graduation.

The Executive Secretary of the MTN Foundation, Ms. None Ogbomah urged the awardees to further improve on their grades so that they would continue to benefit from the scholarship award, adding that this would encourage other students to work harder to excel in their academics.

## Zain introduces 'OgaLine' for SMEs

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

ZAIN Nigeria has announced the introduction of 'OgaLine' from Zain My Business, a unique package that is specially designed to assist and improve the efficiency of mobile usage for business owners and their workforce.

The Chief Executive Officer of Zain Nigeria, Alain Sainte-Marie, said in Lagos that the 'OgaLine' from Zain My Business was a result of extensive research conducted across several Zain markets to uncover what entrepreneurs require from their mobile service provider to support their day to day commercial activities, so they have the peace of mind and more time to grow their businesses.

According to Alain Sainte-Marie, 'OgaLine' from Zain My Business comes with several ground-breaking features that will, for the first time in Africa, allow business owners to manage mobile communication costs throughout their commercial enterprise by controlling both budget and airtime usage, as well as being able to transfer airtime to those who are part of their 'OgaLine' mobile network. He said business owners may have up to 50 people on the service, as the package is sold with an oga and a worker line initially, with the option to increase to 49, the number of worker lines. These proprietors and entrepreneurs, he said, would then be able to manage and monitor their staff or worker mobile phones by using the oga line to send airtime anytime, anywhere to them as 'OgaLine' from Zain My Business is part of Zain's 'One Network' platform that covers 22 countries across Africa and the Middle East.

With the new package, business owners can also determine and allocate exact call time needed for specific business transactions, control budgets, and make mobile calls between 'ogaline' and workers' line at a discounted rate, he said. "We are proud to be the first telecommunications operator in Africa to offer a world class innovation that will empower business owners, entrepreneurs and proprietors to conduct their businesses in an all new, impressive fashion. This is, without a doubt, an extension of our brand promise of a 'wonderful world' to informal - small and medium scale business owners in Nigeria," said Alain Sainte-Marie.

# Business

## Farmers canvass for tax free agric zone

By Idris Ahmed

Farmers in Nigeria have called for a tax free zone to grow and develop the entire agricultural sector.

At an interactive forum hosted by the Presidential

Committee on Tariffs and Fiscal Incentives on agriculture yesterday in Abuja, stakeholders agreed on the need to provide incentives that would help develop the sector.

Chairman of the Com-

mittee Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara State told the stakeholders to come up with a roadmap that would move the agric sector forward.

A cassava farmer Chris Okeke said that to develop

the sector, government should increase tariff on imported goods coming into the country.

He said: "Agricultural industry should be given tax holiday for five years.

There should be five

years tax holiday for tractor companies that are willing to come to the country.

"Government should remove unnecessary barriers for foreigners who would like to come and invest in the country."

Another farmer, Kola Jamodu, who was a one-time Minister of Commerce said agriculture sector should be grown by given incentives to farmers so that the country can be self sufficient.

### Customs: FCT command lauded over N297m revenue

By Sunday Williams

THE Federal Capital Territory Abuja Area Command of the Nigerian Customs Services has received commendation for surpassing revenue expectation and raking in a whopping N297 million in January.

Members of the Maritime Reporters Association of Nigeria who visited the Customs Area Controller FCT Command Alhaji Usman Kankara Bello said Nigeria was proud of the achievement which surpassed last year January's N13million.

President of the association Mr. Leye Ajayi described Comptroller Bello as a hardworking and God fearing man, having worked in Apapa and Tin Can Island ports as the Public Relations Officer between 1989 and 1999 when he was Deputy Superintendent of Customs and later rose to the rank of Assistant Comptroller of Customs.

According to the statement signed by Mr. Eke Chukwuma, PRO of the FCT Command, Comptroller Bello thanked them and told the reporters he was not resting on his oars and urged them to join hand with him to build Nigeria.



MR UK Bello



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## Star Feature

# It's a hard life

In Nasarawa state, a group of men and women survive by breaking the nearby rocks into small bits, which they then sell.

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

**T**HE first handshake you receive tells the story of life among the local miners on the rocks of Ignou in Aligaza, a sleepy, hilly village along the Lafia-Akwanga Road in Nasarawa-Eggon. Blistered palms are a reminder to the people about what they go through to put food on the usually large family table. They are the human quarries, who daily crack the rocks of Ignou, to produce the stones that are used to build cities and towns away from them.

The rocks of Ignou rise from two passing streams - a little outside Nasarawa-Eggon town along the busy federal highway. The rocks are vast, spreading several square metres on the

hilly outskirts of the bursting town. Its owners are the people of Aligaza community of the Eggon tribe.

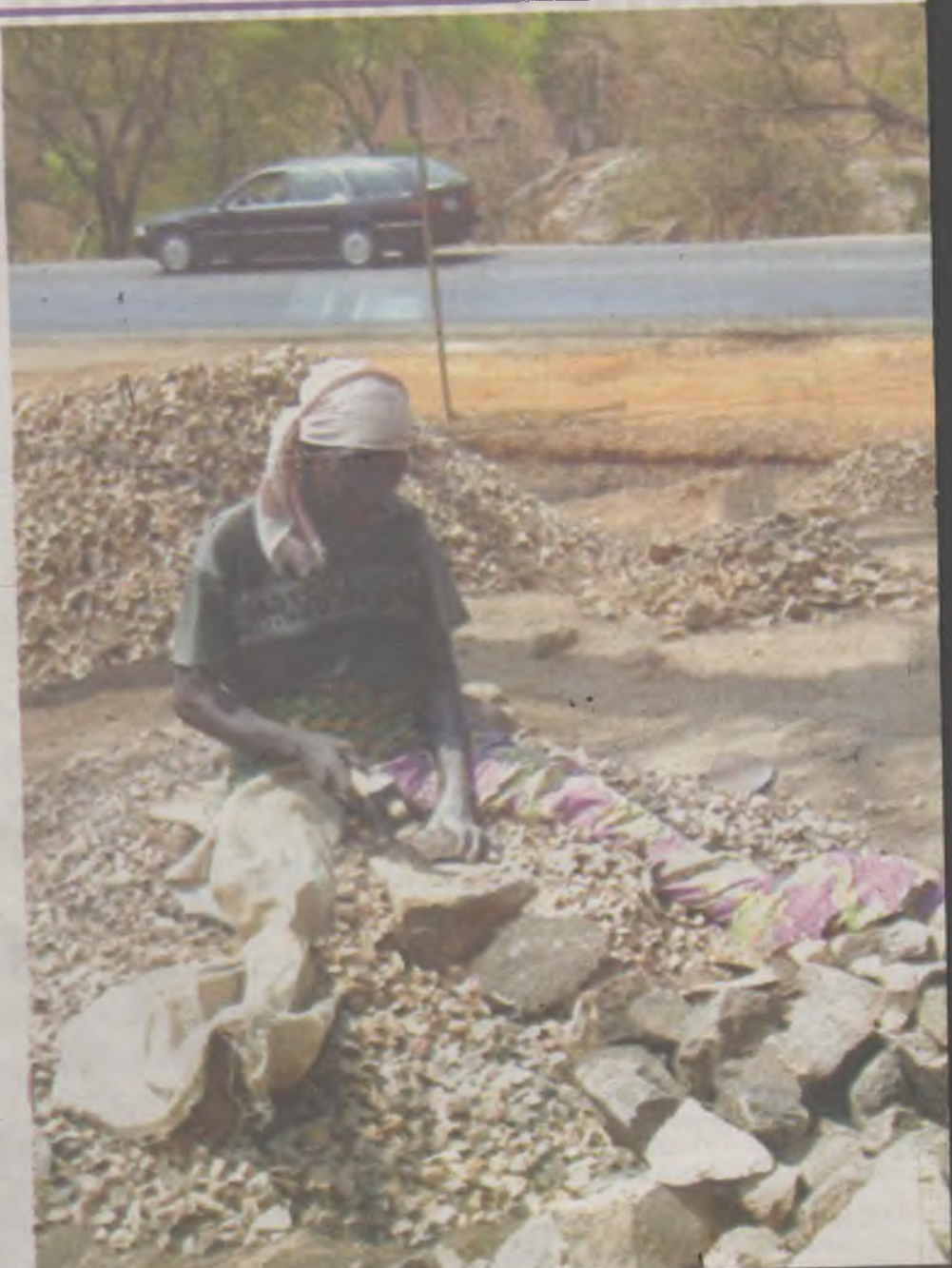
In the distant past, the rocks of Ignou were a place of heathen worship. But Christianity and Islam wiped away the heathen beliefs of the people, leaving them with bare rocks with no social or economic benefits. In recent past, the rocks were carefully avoided by even greedy land grabbers.

**A** few years back, however, Ignou rocks became a beehive of commercial activities when the people woke up one day with the realization that they can crush the rocks, and sell trailer loads of chippings for construction work. Today, the rocks

that were only worshiped by heathens, and later avoided by farmers, have become a major source of income to the people, and a major tax base for the government of Nasarawa State.

**O**ur correspondent was at the rocks of Ignou recently, and captured life among the people of Aligaza who work around the rocks. They said poverty pushed them into turning their bare hands into crushers.

Two of those hands at work at Ignou belong to Hajiya Halima Muhammadu, a septuagenarian and grand mother. She cannot say what quantity her hands have crushed so far, but Hajiya Halima has worked on the rocks for over two years now. She has piled up much



HAJIYA Halima, the septuagenarian, crushing stones at the edge of the Ignou rocks

of the chippings, and has sold much, and is confident that her hands alone have produced the materials that have built mansions for the wealthy in cities. "I come here daily to crush, using my bare hands. I have finished a huge mound of rock alone, crushing with my bare hands", she said.

**T**he crushers have a traditional technology: it involves setting fire on a portion of the rock, using logs of wood that can last overnight; so that the hardness is softened to make way for easy crushing. By daybreak, the crushers would turn up and clear the ashes, after which they will set a sledge hammer on the heated portion, using every ounce of energy in them. This is done by young men who split the mounds in pieces - the size of a football. In most cases, the owners of such mounds are women - most of them elderly like Hajiya Halima, who cannot handle the sledge hammer. So they require the services of the

young men, mostly paid, to do the splitting. The football-sized pieces that fall off the large mounds, are what the women crush into chips, using small hammers.

**H**ajiya Aisha Umar is one of Alhaji Bashir Umar's four wives. The husband - a prominent member of the community, controls a sizeable proportion of the Ignou rocks. The wives, including Aisha and her children have entered the local quarry work to complement the farms which are daily, getting unprofitable because of the perennial scarcity of fertilizer and lack of improved seedlings.

Aisha spends the earliest part of the day on the farm, which she cultivates only at the subsistence level. By the time the sun rises, she leaves to resume on top of the rocks. For years now, the rocks have become her permanent place, and the hammer - her permanent companion. This is even

where she takes her late breakfast, and then, the lunch and her four children are of the crushers. Daily spoke to during the visit.

She said her bare hands alone have crushed and produced tipper loads of granite which she believes are enough to build a complete skyscraper during the two years she worked there. "God gave me the hands so I can use them to get food. So I decided to let them to crush these rocks to provide for the large family", she said.

**H**er first son - Yusuf - is a NCE holder from Nasarawa State College of Education, Akwanga from where he passed out in 2009. The certificate fee of N1,000 hindered him from lecturing the document. He joined his mother at Ignou to crack the compulsory fee for the hard rocks. Like the mother, he told *Daily Trust* that he does not have to look back, but his God-given hands to

“The upper part of his body is massive, with shoulders standing out on the wide chest, with equally large arms. His rock-hard-palms are as wide as can cover an infant's head. His tiny waist and muscular body give him the look of a mature lion. His skin is rough, scary. This is the making of the human quarry activities on the rocks of Ignou. The other youths also look like this.”



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**T**his reporter had a hand-shake with all of them, and the encounter was quite an experience. "The hardness of our palms is the making of the hammer", said Agumu who added that slamming the sledge hammer on the rocks takes all the ability of the upper part of the body, with the legs standing firm on the grounds. "So three years of this kind of job leaves you with this kind of body build".

Mama Jummai Bala is one of the elderly women working at the quarry. Like the other women, Mama Jummai goes about with a bent back, which she blamed on the tortuous job. She said the job is tedious and requires even an old woman to put in all energies, while bending down to crush the mounds to get the required sizes of stones.

There are various sizes of stone the property developer and construction contractors can find at the Ignou site. There are stones for foundation of buildings, as there are the type for drainage, roads and other forms of civil engineering. There are also stones

for beautification designs and lots more. Every corner of the Ignou rocks is filled with heaps of these varieties and sizes of stones, crushed with the bare hands of the people of Aligaza community. "The rocks have a way of disfiguring you. Now I can hardly stretch myself. I go about with a bent back because of this hard job", Mama Jummai said.

**T**here's is a life of misery. Responses poured in from every lip when asked by this reporter - the old women in particular, with the youths even cursing the day their mother's wombs brought them screaming into this world. The summary of their responses is that they have only developed blisters in their palms, muscles on their bodies, and hunches on their backs, as there is hardly anything to show for crushing Ignou rocks, which is already more than half consumed by the human quarry activity.

Hajiya Halima found this aspect of inquiry most interesting. She counted the five fingers of her right hand, and added two from her left hand, saying "I have seven children, all grown up, but none of them is wealthy. We are a poor family". She added that five of the children - two ladies and three men, are married and have children, some of which are staying with her. "I am doing this so that my grand children will not suffer", she said, explaining that she wants them to go to

school and find the way into some government office; may be at the nearby Local Government Council in the town of Nasarawa-Eggon, or elsewhere. To Halima, being in government, especially as a politician, means a robust future for one and his or her family.

**H**alima is one of the many rural dwellers who have watched over the years, barely literate men and women of poor beginning - people who had lived everyday of their lives thinking when or where the next meal will come, now living flamboyant lives, because they joined politics and have entered some office. To her, political office affords one the rare privilege or access to some perks that change the life of the occupant, and not the people he or she represents. Most of these people in such offices, including the nearby council at Nasarawa-Eggon, have made it so quickly, and they even flaunt the wealth. But people like Halima have always remained spectators to good life.

**"**I want my grand children to join these people and be rich too, not to stand and watch as me, their poor mother", Halima said as she added "Ami", seeking God to answer her prayers.

The youths were more articulate in their response. They attempted to compute and get the estimate of how much government has taken

from their hands in the name of taxes, these years. "We work here day and night, peeling our skins for government to take taxes for every penny we make here", Bala Halilu said. The state government, according to him, "does not fail to take taxes on every chip, stone or slab we sell here". He added however "and the state government has no infrastructure in the community to justify the taxes that have been collected. Not even a borehole is present here. Our people are suffering various forms of hardship because of lack of infrastructural provisions here. There are no roads, no water, and no electricity. In fact, the state government does not know we exist. The government knows us only when it comes to the paying of taxes, and the tax collectors don't miss this", said Halilu.

**T**he state government rose last month, slapping tax increment on income, which makes income earners like Halilu, Hajiya Halima and the other stone crushers of Aligaza to pay 10 percent of their income, as against the five percent that was initially paid. Government says its decision was to implement the Income Tax Law 2004, which will generate revenue to carry out social services in the state. The people of Aligaza said they are complying with the decision, but hope that government will also meet their development aspiration.

N1,000 for his certificate. He hopes that buyers will come around any day for bulk purchase, so he can raise enough for the document.

**Y**usuf's siblings - the two sisters and a brother are already good at handling the sledge hammer to split the rocks into crushable mounds, and they were handy in coaching him. "it didn't take me time to learn. My sisters and brother taught me quickly. They have been supporting mama to eke out a living from these rocks for the past two years, so they are good on the work", he said.

Bala Haruna 27, is an old hand on the rocks. He is not alone; he has worked with the other male youths whose fame has transcended Aligaza to neighbouring communities, where the local rock crushing business is gaining prominence. They are Halilu Agumu, married with two kids he is training from the proceeds from Ignou; Tanko Agwai, also raising a family from the proceeds, and Hassan Saas, whose wife, Kemina and mother -Hadiza were by his side while he spoke to this reporter. All these youths are drop-outs. Extreme poverty, as they said, pushed them out of schools, and led them into the human quarry on the rocks of Ignou, where they are eking out a hard living.

Agumu dropped out of Government Secondary School in Nasarawa-Eggon to join the trade, when it was just starting three years ago. The upper part of his body is massive, with shoul-



THE blistered palms of five of the people crushing the rocks to make ends meet.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Thursday, February 24, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>				
2ND-TIER SECURITIES	4	0.55	45,971	25,178.34
CAPITAL OIL PLC	4		45,971	25,178.34
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>				
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	21	0.87	1,261,933	1,115,164.24
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	2	0.69	13,000	8,660.00
PRESCO PLC	20	5.32	322,382	1,699,067.92
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	43		1,597,315	2,822,892.16
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>				
AIRLINE SERV. & LOGISTICS PLC	8	2.75	52,610	137,838.20
NIG. AVIATION HANDLING COY. PLC	89	8.36	734,498	6,269,226.37
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	97		787,108	6,407,064.57
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC	7	0.50	280,051	140,025.50
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	23	4.54	700,084	3,229,302.56
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	30		980,135	3,369,328.06
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	240	9.10	10,903,832	101,288,925.31
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	63	2.70	1,967,595	5,311,596.27
DIAMOND BANK PLC	117	9.35	6,865,868	64,037,420.66
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	185	5.99	60,437,428	362,020,193.72
F/CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	65	9.20	1,697,798	15,627,579.60
FIDELITY BANK PLC	132	2.68	7,000,367	18,706,875.33
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	809	14.55	13,431,362	195,261,607.00
FINBANK PLC	70	0.69	6,272,982	4,256,309.64
GT BANK PLC	435	18.06	42,173,109	759,952,931.98
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	56	8.45	1,526,797	12,851,392.38
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	116	2.00	15,145,897	31,104,613.13
OCEANIC BANK INTER. PLC	153	2.08	6,622,669	13,605,066.37
BANK PHB PLC	112	1.91	15,048,142	29,471,378.34
SKYE BANK PLC	133	7.36	6,125,953	44,974,667.84
SPRING BANK PLC	23	0.98	716,593	711,394.34
STERLING BANK PLC	43	1.73	1,966,825	3,422,393.14
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	232	13.01	8,433,721	111,449,195.72
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	225	6.05	8,422,767	51,729,962.03
UNITY BANK PLC	52	1.15	4,993,432	5,722,567.70
WEMA BANK PLC	60	1.15	5,223,283	6,036,023.73
ZENITH BANK PLC	241	15.71	21,902,528	344,039,293.67
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	3,562		246,878,948	2,181,581,387.97
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	67	16.20	1,082,197	17,511,372.86
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	51	50.07	1,085,593	54,336,038.37
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	31	15.78	455,025	7,175,194.58
LAFARGEWAPCO PLC	51	35.20	1,840,729	64,806,265.67
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	200		4,463,544	143,828,871.48
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
AFRICAN PAINTS (NIG) PLC	1	3.49	1,000	3,320.00
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	3	3.52	52,692	194,433.48
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	7	29.74	128,713	3,827,376.62
DN MEYER PLC	17	3.10	388,900	1,205,590.00
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	28		571,305	5,230,720.10
<b>COMMERCIAL/SERVICES</b>				
AFROMEDIA PLC	3	0.55	100,000	55,000.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	14	2.64	415,513	1,096,565.50
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	17		515,513	1,151,565.50
<b>COMP &amp; OFFICE EQUIPMENT</b>				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	1	8.13	2,350	19,874.90
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	10	0.52	267,000	140,300.00
TRIPPLE GEE AND COY. PLC	1	4.37	2,445	10,171.20
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	12		271,775	170,346.10
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	13	2.99	149,830	427,459.30
JOHN HOLT PLC	7	9.28	25,000	220,500.00
PZ CUSONS NIGERIA PLC	63	26.00	732,323	18,966,805.23
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	625	5,175.00
TRANSNATIONAL CORP OF NIG. PLC	117	0.54	29,746,227	15,093,969.12
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	87	43.29	2,479,530	106,932,736.23
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	95	25.00	4,090,012	102,234,679.68
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	383		37,223,547	243,881,324.56
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	60	5.00	1,241,704	6,244,286.96
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	43	28.00	557,298	15,451,051.13
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	5	0.50	75,028	37,514.00
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	108		1,874,030	21,732,852.09
<b>ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY</b>				
CUTIX PLC	7	2.89	68,496	203,218.00
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC	1	0.90	280,000	252,000.00
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	8		348,496	455,218.00
<b>F/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	9	30.60	28,296	903,964.82
BIGTREAT PLC	6	0.81	870,838	705,478.78
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	49	15.80	769,324	12,107,493.18
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	184	12.70	2,438,733	30,741,470.15
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	136	16.00	6,738,314	110,646,514.70
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	90	45.10	1,358,975	61,513,728.45
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	13	7.40	135,200	1,050,504.00
NATIONAL SALT COY. NIG. PLC	54	6.20	1,449,105	9,103,557.94
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY. PLC	16	27.00	42,781	1,112,154.50
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	33	270.00	76,454	20,956,523.09
NORTHERN NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	1	23.00	1,500	36,225.00

Better-Price-Limit Orders An order with a limit price better than the best price on the opposite side of the market. A better-priced buy order has a limit price higher than the best offering. A better-priced sell order has a limit price lower than the best bid. These are available only at the opening.

Google

TANTALIZERS PLC	27	0.99	2,484,575	2,497,855.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	8	0.78	160,738	125,352.60
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	626		16,554,833	251,500,822.21
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	8	1.07	121,600	125,615.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	40	2.40	2,346,130	5,566,341.03
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONS. NIG. PLC	33	27.30	337,556	9,130,163.55
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	15	5.04	40,374	201,545.96
NEIMETH INTER. PHARM PLC	7	1.47	86,250	125,876.00
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	18	0.63	1,675,450	1,039,788.00
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	121		4,607,360	16,189,329.54
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	6	2.75	370,000	944,248.50
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	11	1.54	596,444	900,329.68
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	17		966,444	1,844,578.18
<b>IND/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	3	10.39	6,227	61,522.76
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	5	0.50	361,640	185,320.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	40	4.72	740,144	3,526,933.77
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	31	0.63	10,383,593	6,541,663.59
<b>INFO &amp; COMM. TECHNOLOGY</b>				
CHAMS PLC	79		11,491,604	10,315,440.12
MASSTELCOM INNOVATION NIG. PLC	15	0.71	814,900	580,408.00
STARCOMMS PLC	1	0.50	6,000	3,000.00
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	30	1.95	3,174,246	6,232,843.61
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	100,000	50,000.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC	94	1.03	7,681,610	8,183,008.17
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	8	0.95	1,178,000	1,154,380.00
CORNERSTONE INSUR. CO. PLC	16	0.50	673,241	344,402.91
CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	19	2.95	1,230,963	3,604,040.98
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	7	0.50	515,706	257,853.00
GREAT NIG. INSUR. COY. PLC	8	0.50	2,100,000	1,050,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	32	0.51	1,625,470	837,326.70
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	18	2.24	1,247,940	2,757,100.10
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	19,000	9,500.00
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	3	0.50	355,000	177,500.00
INTER. ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC	34	0.57	4,440,416	2,576,169.20
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	37	0.51	4,640,325	2,365,947.56
LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC	3	0.55	27,900	15,413.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	101,000	50,500.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	4	0.64	255,000	163,200.00
N.E.M. INSURANCE CO. (NIG) PLC	30	0.51	3,542,940	1,846,620.89
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	13	0.74	1,183,790	918,787.20
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	3	1.23	274,821	338,029.83
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	3.61	6,500	22,295.00
REGENCY ALLIANCE INSUR. COY. PLC	3	0.50	5,772,800	2,886,400.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	100,000	50,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	1	0.79	20,000	15,200.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	53	0.50	7,098,837	3,579,112.03
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	15	0.82	2,550,000	2,129,202.34
UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	1	1.10	1,000	1,050.00
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY. PLC	2	0.50	186,962	93,481.00
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INSUR. PLC	27	0.99	871,465	813,771.20
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	440		47,800,686	36,290,291.11
<b>LEASING</b>				
C&I LEASING PLC	29	2.70	956,860	2,487,457.84
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	29		956,860	2,487,457.84
<b>MARITIME</b>				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERV. PLC	111	1.24	2,711,625	3,379,364.01
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	111		2,711,625	3,379,364.01
<b>MEDIA</b>				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	54	0.67	1,261,700	866,367.94
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	54		1,261,700	866,367.94
<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>				
ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC	6	0.65	172,950	112,397.50
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	6	0.50	10,360,000	5,180,000.00
UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	29	0.87	1,184,130	1,072,024.62
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	41		11,717,080	6,364,422.12
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INST.</b>				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	5	0.95	322,119	307,119.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	7	0.59	528,300	311,608.19
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	12		850,419	618,727.19
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
AVON CROWN CAPS & CONTAINERS PLC	1	7.65	1,171	8,513.17
NIG. BAG MANUFACTURING COY. PLC	438	2.34	1,078,868	2,421,936.64
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	5	12.88	245,888	3,167,037.44
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	1	6.99	100	665.00
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	445		1,326,027	5,598,152.25
<b>PETROLEUM (MARKETING)</b>				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	146	47.46	2,349,981	111,467,862.00
BECO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	7	2.24	37,251	79,344.63
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	6	69.79	3,010	214,031.18
CONOIL PLC	25	34.17	57,445	2,060,552.15
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	32	6.00	703,600	4,225,337.00
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	29	97.51	82,763	7,667,315.29
OANDO PLC	14	93.99	7,242	680,675.58
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	12	142.50	19,308	2,800,587.30
<b>SECTORTOTALS</b>	271		3,260,600	129,195,705.13
<b>OVERALL TOTALS</b>	7,081		407,833,032	3,265,198,214.51

# THE HOME FRONT

## In Today's Edition

Women warned of make-up bacteria risk as the average cosmetics bag is found to be four years out of date

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### FEATURE

Cohabitation: A modern form of courtship

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MINISTER of Women Affairs and Social Development Mrs. Salamatu Hussein Suleiman dancing with children's at the Children New Year party she organised recently.

# Treating diabetes during pregnancy

By Ogechi Ohalee and Akor Ojoma

**D**URING pregnancy, various hormones block the usual action of insulin. Insulin is the hormone that enables the body to break down sugar or glucose in the blood to be used as energy. Gestational diabetes or diabetes in pregnancy develops when your body can't meet the extra insulin demands of the pregnancy. It usually begins in the second half of pregnancy, and goes away after the baby is born. Diabetes generally is a condition in which the blood sugar level is high because there isn't enough insulin, or insulin isn't working properly.

A diagnosis of gestational diabetes doesn't mean that you had diabetes before you conceived, or that you will have diabetes after giving birth.

According to Dr. Omoye Akhigbe, a gynecologist at the

Wuse General Hospital, "diabetes can develop during pregnancy in a woman who hasn't previously had the condition, and it affects around two percent of pregnant women. It can lead to problems for the mother and baby if it is not properly controlled."

#### Symptoms

Gestational diabetes doesn't usually cause any symptoms. However, sometimes you may have symptoms of high blood sugar, such as: increased thirst, needing to urinate frequently and tiredness.

However, these are also common symptoms in normal pregnancy. Poorly controlled diabetes in pregnancy puts you at a higher risk of various problems which include:

- a condition called pre-eclampsia, which causes high blood pressure
- premature labor

having too much amniotic fluid

#### Causes and risk factors

No-one knows why some women develop gestational diabetes and others don't, but you are more at risk if you:

- You have previously given birth to a large baby (weighing over 4.5kg/9lb 14)
- Have a family history of gestational diabetes (that is your mother, grandmother or sister had it).
- You have previously had a stillbirth.
- Have polycystic ovary syndrome (PCOS)
- Are overweight or obese.

#### Treatment

Because gestational diabetes can hurt you and your baby, you need to start treatment quickly. Treatment for gestational diabetes aims to keep blood glucose levels

equal to those of pregnant women who don't have gestational diabetes. Treatment for gestational diabetes always includes special meal plans and scheduled physical activity.

In the words of Dr. Omoye, "women with gestational diabetes will need to have more frequent antenatal appointments than those who don't have. It's important that you control your blood sugar level if you have been diagnosed with gestational diabetes. This means regular testing of your blood sugar (glucose) levels, a carefully planned diet and keeping active. Regular moderate exercise, such as walking, can help reduce blood sugar levels and promote a sense of well being".

For you as the mother-to-be, treatment for gestational diabetes helps lower the risk of a cesarean section birth that very large babies may require.

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The Class of '75, G. S. S. Lafia rejoices with you on your well deserved appointment as Permanent Secretary, Bureau for Public Service Reforms (BPRS). Your Appointment is a testimony to your hardwork, brilliance, dogged determination, skillful planning, masterful execution and the grace of Almighty Allah (SWT). We note the tremendous achievements recorded by you in the private sector. Your Appointment as a Permanent Secretary is proof of your commitment to excellence in all that you do. We laud the efforts of the HOSF (Chief S. Orosanye) for insisting on selecting only the best for the service. Wishing you a successful and eventful tenure as Permanent Secretary.

**Dauda S. Kigbu mni**  
Permanent Secretary (BPRS)

**HRH Luka P. Baba**  
Esu Karu  
(for Class of '75, G. S. S. Lafia)

## Women warned of make-up bacteria risk as the average cosmetics bag is found to be four years out of date

THEY might appear innocent components of the female armoury.

But beware. Those trusty pots of eye shadow and tubes of lipstick can be dangerous.

Beauty products, like food, do not last forever.

Over time bacteria can infiltrate them, only to be transferred on to the face and cause irritation or even infection.

But the average make-up bag is a hoarding space for items that are four years out of date, a study shows.

And some women hang on to items for up to 15 years past recommended use-by dates.

Old mascara wands can breed bacteria that lead to conjunctivitis, which causes redness, itching and swelling.

They should not be used six months after opening – but women admit to keeping them for an average of a year.

Expired lipsticks, meanwhile, can make lips dry, irritated and blistered.

And dirty brushes are a breeding ground for micro-organisms that can cause herpes, ringworm and impetigo, an infectious disease that results in blisters.

Five years ago rules were brought in by the European Union requiring all cosmetics to carry advice on when they will

**“But the average make-up bag is a hoarding space for items that are four years out of date, a study shows**

expire.

Many manufacturers responded by adding 'period after opening' symbols to packaging to indicate how many months a product lasts.

But, according to research by Debenhams, 89 per cent of women do not know such information exists, cannot understand it, or simply cannot read the often tiny writing.

So eyeshadow and blusher, which tend to have PAOs of 18 to 24 months, are kept for an average of 180 months – that's 15 years.

And lipstick, with a recom-



**RISK:** Most women are unaware of how their make-up bags can be a breeding ground for bacteria

**“According to research by Debenhams, 89 per cent of women do not know such information exists**

mended life of up to two years, has an average keep-for life of ten.

In addition, 68 per cent of women say they replace make-up or skin products only when they run out, no matter how long that takes.

A further 72 per cent never wash make-up sponges or brushes.

Debenhams has written to

Health Secretary Andy Burnham to push for further legislation to cover the safety of consumers.

Spokesman Sara Stern said: "We wouldn't hesitate to chuck out mouldy or bacteria-ridden food – and the same standards should apply to lotions we put on our skin."

"Beauty is timeless, but unfortunately products are not."

## Just how much of a minefield is godparenting?

By Becky Pugh

**A**S Anna Ford accuses Martin Amis of being a negligent godparent, Becky Pugh examines the pitfalls of modern godparenting.

CAP: Anna Ford has accused Martin Amis (above) of being a negligent godparent to her daughter. Photo: REX

FRAZZLED mothers and fathers often lament the fact that babies/toddlers/teenagers don't come with instruction booklets. This is, of course, entirely untrue: there are mountains of parenting manuals around. But godparenting, on the other hand, really is a murky old minefield.

When your friend bestows upon you the deep, deep honour of being a godparent, what are they actually asking for? I'm not sure that even they have a clear job spec in mind, but possible duties include: babysitting, a lifetime's showering of perky presents, career advice, gainful employment, financial assistance, regular lunches, counselling, religious instruction and an open invitation to your spare room (particularly if you live in London or the Caribbean and the child doesn't).

I am delighted to be godmother to three children, who range in age from two to thirteen. So far I have done little more than attend their christenings, remember their birthdays and Christmas, and – in particularly dynamic years – send them each an advent calendar. I don't know if that's enough, but at least they all know who I am.

The same cannot be said for Martin Amis, who has been accused – in an open letter to another newspaper – of being a negligent godparent, providing godparents nationwide with a whole new growth area for paranoia and self-loathing.

The former newsreader Anna Ford claims her daughter Claire didn't even know Amis was her godfather until she studied the novelist at university and asked her mother about him. After that he came to lunch once, says Ford, and "paid scant attention to Claire, didn't cough up the statutory five bob expected from godfathers" and hasn't been in touch since.

Such are the pitfalls of modern godparenting. With no clear lines of expectation, it is hard to know quite how to go about the task. Magnanimously, the man accused of being a narcissist by Ford has taken the accusation on the chin. "It is true that I am a useless godfather," he says. "I will be writing to (Claire) to offer my apologies and regrets." Better than nothing, I suppose.

Chances are he didn't want the honour bestowed on him in the first place, but that's his tough luck. Being asked to be a godparent is, I think, an offer you can't refuse – your obligation begins the moment the parent decides they want you, not the moment you accept.

However, Jo Bryant, etiquette adviser at Debrett's, takes the opposite view. "If you agree to be a godparent," she says, "you are taking on a huge responsibility. If you think you can't commit to the cause, you should explain why. It is better to be upfront at the beginning than a bad godparent later." The role certainly throws up many a thorny question. Each time I was picked I suspect it was primarily because I am a Catholic (which is fine by me; we all have our specific areas of appeal. Elton John, who has 10 godchildren, is a multi-millionaire with no offspring of his own; Prince Charles, who has at least 33, will be king one day). Does that mean my key function is to make sure these children say their prayers and go to church on Sunday?

Then, as the chief present provider in a child's life, you have to decide whether you plan to give cool, unsuitable presents for which the children will love you and their parents will hate you. Or do you go for pompous first editions that will gather dust for years to come?

Also, can you withstand today's competitive godparent-gifting? I spent months painstakingly arranging for a tiny child's chair to be hand painted in pink and white for my god-daughter's christening, only to discover that her other godparents had set up a trust fund, put down wine and committed to teaching her to drive one day. And so the feelings of inadequacy are fuelled...

All godparents would be wise to learn from Amis's mistake and try to forge some kind of relationship with the child, not least so that if disaster strikes they are well placed to pick up the pieces. But until that moment comes – and naturally one hopes it never will – perhaps the requirements are more straightforward than they seem.

A friend of mine says: "We simply chose our very best friends, whom we both love, as godparents for our children. I hardly expect anything of them except to hang out a bit and maybe give them work experience when they are 18."

Culled from [telegraph.co.uk](http://telegraph.co.uk)

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## Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

### I lack sexual appetite

Please can you explain what my problem is? I have not had any urge to have sexual intercourse for over 4 years now. I only do it to fulfill marital obligations.

Maryam

Lack of sexual appetite or drive (lack of libido) is not unusual in women. Many of the women have no problems with having orgasms. Rather, they have no real desire to have sex and their minds are not turned on by the prospect of love-making.

Fortunately, for many women this lack of libido is only temporary. Some will get over it by themselves, and a lot more can be helped by expert medical or psychosexual advice.

Causes of lack of libido in women?

As is the case with men, lack of desire in women can be of either physical or psychological origin.

Some Physical causes

1. Anaemia, which is very common in women because of iron loss during periods.
2. Alcoholism.
3. Drug abuse.
4. Major diseases such as Diabetes mellitus
5. Post-baby 'coolness',

a term we have coined for the loss of libido that often happens after childbirth. It is almost certainly linked to hormonal changes that occur at this time. The general trauma of childbirth also plays a part - and after having a baby, many women are too exhausted to think about sex.

6. Prescribed drugs, particularly tranquillisers.

7. Hyperprolactinaemia - a rare disorder in which the pituitary gland is overactive and produces more prolactin

8. Other hormone abnormalities, such as abnormalities in the production of luteinising hormone (LH) often cause lack of desire.

Some Psychological causes

These causes are very common. It's understandable that when a woman is having a bad time emotionally, she may lose interest in sex.

Psychological causes include:

1. Depression
2. Stress and overwork
3. Anxiety
4. Hang-ups from childhood
5. Past sexual abuse or rape
6. Serious relationship problems with her partner
7. Difficult living conditions, eg sharing a home with parents or parents-in-law.

Far more important to you is to visit your family doctor or sexuality counsellor who will evaluate your condition in line with some of the problems mentioned above. There aren't

usually any quick fixes. A high proportion of women do eventually achieve a return to normal libido.

### Causes of Hernia among Children

**My second male child who is about 1 year is said to have Hernia that bulges in to his Scrotum. We were advised that he needs to be operated upon. We are scared.**

John

I will explain to you what Hernia is before providing advice.

A hernia occurs when a section of intestine protrudes through a weakness in the abdominal muscles. A soft bulge is seen underneath the skin where the hernia has occurred.

In children, hernia usually occurs in one of two places:

1. around the belly-button (Umbilical hernia)
2. in the groin area (Inguinal hernia)

A hernia can develop in the

first few months after the baby is born because of a weakness in the muscles of the abdomen. Inguinal and umbilical hernias happen for slightly different reasons.

As a male fetus grows and matures during pregnancy, the testicles develop in the abdomen and then move down into the scrotum through an area called the inguinal canal.

Shortly after the baby is born, the inguinal canal closes, preventing the testicles from moving back into the abdomen. If this area does not close off completely, a loop of intestine can move into the inguinal canal through the weakened area of the lower abdominal wall, causing a hernia.

Hernias occur more often in children who have one or more of the following risk factors:

1. a parent or sibling who had a hernia as an infant
2. developmental dysplasia of the hip
3. Undescended testes
4. abnormalities of the

urethra

5. Inguinal hernias occur:

6. In about one to three percent of all children.

7. More often in premature infants.

Why is a hernia a concern

Occasionally, the loop of intestine that protrudes through a hernia may become stuck, and is no longer reducible. This means that the intestinal loop cannot be gently pushed back into the abdominal cavity. When this happens, that section of the intestine may lose its blood supply. A good blood supply is necessary for the intestine to be healthy and function properly.

What are the symptoms of a hernia?

1. Hernias usually occur in newborns, but may not be noticeable for several weeks or months after birth.
2. Straining and crying do not cause hernias; however, the increased pressure in the abdomen can make a hernia

more noticeable.

3. Inguinal hernias appear as a bulge or swelling in the groin or scrotum. The swelling may be more noticeable when the baby cries, and may get smaller or go away when the baby relaxes. If your physician pushes gently on this bulge when the child is calm and lying down, it will usually get smaller or go back into the abdomen.

If the hernia is not reducible, then the loop of intestine may be caught in the weakened area of abdominal muscle. Symptoms that may be seen when this happens include the following:

1. a full, round abdomen
2. vomiting
3. pain
4. redness or discoloration of the area
5. fever

Symptoms of a hernia may resemble other conditions or medical problems.

How are hernias diagnosed?

Hernias can be diagnosed by a physical examination by your child's physician. Your child will be examined to determine if the hernia is reducible (can be pushed back into the abdominal cavity) or not. Your child's physician may order abdominal x-rays or ultrasound to examine the intestine more closely, especially if the hernia is no longer reducible.

Treatment for hernias:

Specific treatment will be determined by your child's physician based on the following

1. your child's age, overall health, and medical history
2. the type of hernia
3. whether the hernia is reducible (can be pushed back into the abdominal cavity) or not
4. your child's tolerance for specific medications, procedures, or therapies
5. your opinion or preference

Inguinal hernia:

An operation is necessary to treat an inguinal hernia. It will be surgically repaired fairly soon after it is discovered, since the intestine can become stuck in the inguinal canal. When this happens, the blood supply to the intestine can be cut off, and the intestine can become damaged.

Inguinal hernia surgery is usually performed before this damage can occur. A hernia operation is usually a fairly simple procedure.

Children who have an inguinal hernia surgically repaired can often go home the same day they have the operation.

There is no cause for alarm; your child can be operated on. Good luck

# Cohabitation: A modern form of courtship

By Lami Sadiq

Just looking at a marriage calendar the other day, I noticed the couple were elderly and could easily pass for my parents; they could have been renewing their vows but they weren't, the couple had just gotten married for the first time.

The calendar read "Naomi and James. We have been like this for 18 years". The couple have had 3 kids in these years, they just never bothered to tie the knot; after all what's in a piece of paper that says 'we are married' when they have lived happily with 3 kids without it.

I was later told the man used to have a wife, and since marrying another woman will have amounted to bigamy, he rented an apartment for Naomi and has been living a double life until the demise of his first wife which forced him to legalize his union with Naomi, the calendar wife.

My grandmother often said that if you want a man to marry you, then wisdom dictates some measures of 'playing hard to get,' and that specifically includes avoiding cohabitation as much as possible. Today however, cohabitation is gradually replacing marriage. It has become the first step live ins take and irrespective of age, culture or religious beliefs, a lot of people are doing it.

I read somewhere that cohabiting helps one figure out what it takes to be married to your partner, so if things do not work out, breaking up would be easy as there will be no need to seek legal or religious permission to dissolve the union. And I thought wow! Who benefits from this arrangement? Definitely not the woman I must say.

I thought that most women lived with their boyfriends because they believe it is a commitment of some sort, or a prelude to marriage; they do not for once think that most men regard it more as a sexual opportunity without the ties of a long-term commitment.

I keep recalling an American psychologist and TV host, Dr Phil's response to a woman who complained that her live-in boyfriend of 8 years and father of her 2 kids had refused to legalize their union. Dr Phil looked sternly into the woman's eyes and asked, "Why buy the cow when you can get the milk for free?"

But when I asked a friend about cohabitation, she looked at me as though I was crazy and boldly said if she didn't live with a man for a certain period of time then she definitely couldn't marry him. "How am I supposed to know if everything is in its right place or he is man enough?" Lizzy asked. But does that necessarily solve the problem? I pondered. May be in some ways as Lizzy asserted, such as whether both parties are sexually productive or not. But on the other hand, for a woman who hopes to leap into marriage from this arrangement, it only tells the man and his relatives how lose or desperate she is (except in certain situations where customs apply).

Even though cohabitation is common in the western world, it is gradually creeping into the African way of life and crippling its values. Sofi Adams an Industrial Attachment staff with a bank in Abuja said



she used to visit her boy friend in Lagos and spend the weekend with him. "He didn't actually ask me to move in because we lived far apart but he used to send money for my flight ticket to go to Lagos for weekends".

The arrangement worked well as Sofi and her boy friend planned to get married after her HND. "We would have married earlier but he insisted I concentrate on my studies and promised to marry me as soon as I graduate from school".

According to her, everything was going so well until the day she went browsing and low and behold! She saw his wedding pictures posted on his face book wall. "He only told me he was travelling out of the country for a few weeks so I wasn't surprised when I couldn't reach him on his phone, unknown to me he had changed his number".

Sofi learnt a few weeks after the wedding that her boyfriend's family didn't approve of their living arrangements, so thought her unworthy. "His sisters were nice to me whenever I visited for the weekend so I never thought his family disapproved of our arrangement which led him into marrying without my knowledge."

While religion and some customs may disapprove of prenuptial living arrangements, some traditions actually encourage it in order to ascertain the fruitful capability of the woman coming into the family. In fact, some extended families insist the woman gets pregnant for the son of the soil before she is welcomed into the family.

"I know that in my place, it's preferable for the woman to get pregnant before the actual wedding so as to ascertain if her womb is fruitful or not" middle aged Oladokun said.

According to him, most girls might have had abortions during their university days and won't tell their partners until they get married. "That is when the doctor tells you that your wife can not get pregnant or that it is dangerous for her to get pregnant due to the numerous abortions she underwent in the past" he explained.

Kate Usigbe is a corps member who thinks living with a boyfriend is very economical. "I did it when I was in UNN (University Of Nigeria Nsuka) and if my present boyfriend had been in this town, I wouldn't have had accommodation problems for he will gladly ask me to stay with

him"

Kate, who now serves in Abuja said there is nothing wrong in two lovers having a temporary living arrangement before they tie the knot. She believes it is the modern form of courtship. "You cannot know if the two of you are compatible by just seeing each other, and asking of his/her likes and dislikes. You have to live with the person to know if he snores or is a slob, or if he is really the neat guy he may have portrayed himself to be, he may lie to you about this vital information and you will never know the truth if you don't live with him."

In cases where the couple decide to part ways due to incompatibility issues, the woman may be more at the receiving end as society frowns at her and sees her action as merely cheap and sacrilegious while the man easily substitutes her for a 'more decent' girl to marry. According to Jibrin Sanusi he will never marry someone who has probably lived with 3 other men in the name of compatibility experiments. "What if you find out after the whole living together experiment that you two are not compatible? To me it is the lady that loses because she will have to pack out, to start looking for someone more compatible".

Gloria Amos believes that once in a while ladies can visit their boyfriends just to spend some time together but totally disapproves of live ins. "Visit for weekends, yes. But not moving makes the arrangement more permanent. You don't have to live with him, but you can sleep over once in a while. That will help you determine whatever you wish to determine".

Gloria added that most girls are trapped in a marriage today due to their failure to determine the competence of their husbands prior to marriage. "I believe in look before you leap because if the man turns out to be impotent you will either get out of the marriage or go into infidelity," she said.

Ibrahim Adara sees the difference between a live in and girls who stay weekends at a boyfriends' apartment. "What is the difference between miss A who lives with her boyfriend over the weekend and miss B who lives with him seven days a week? Most girls fall under miss B category and I don't see the difference between them".

Ibrahim confessed how most men; especially bachelors are merely looking for help with the house chores, the cooking and specifically someone to warm their beds at night without commitment. "They keep them and make them go through abortions and eventually keep her as a concubine while he goes after a young wife in his village."

I have heard that living together decreases the chances of divorce as the couple must have known each other well enough and possibly learnt to accommodate and tolerate one another during their prenuptial experiment. But I for one do not think there is a relationship between prenuptial cohabitation and having a successful marriage. If that is the case, why the high rate of divorce in the so called civilized world?

# Trendy trenches

By Akor Ojoma

**T**HE trench also called trench coat is back on trend though lately it has had a bit of a makeover. It has been redesigned severally since its invention almost a century ago but, for the most part, has kept its classic look. Bright colours and fancy styling have made it more attractive. While the trench is still somewhat popular for men, it has become very stylish for women.

This season, the trench comes in a variety of styles, materials, and colours. Rather than choosing just one for your wardrobe especially with the rainy season at the corner, you may want to choose a variety of inexpensive ones for different occasions.

More so, the variety of textures, colours, and lengths reinforce the need to purchase more than one for the season. One trendy, but still conservative enough for office use, one stylish for a night or an evening out and one for warmer days. In fact you have a lot to choose from to give you that unique and versatile look.

Some fashion experts are of the view that the coolest way to wear the trench is short – on the knee or above – and casually. That means open rather than belted, and with the sleeves pushed up.



# DIGEST

## The great sleep myth: It isn't true we need less as we get older

THE idea that we need less sleep as we get older is a myth, according to researchers.

A study has found that the middle aged and elderly need just as much as the young if they want to keep a clear head the next day.

However, they are more likely to suffer from an interrupted night's sleep because of health problems - forcing them to adapt by catnapping, or coping with tiredness in the day, the research showed.

The findings contradict the long established belief that the amount of sleep we need falls as we approach middle and old age.

Dr Sean Drummond, a psychologist at the University of California, San Diego, said: 'It's a fallacy. The quantity of sleep that we need does not go down as we age, but the ability to sleep in one chunk does get lost.'

According to the sleep researchers, most people need between seven and nine hours every day.

One in 20 needs more than nine hours, while one in 50 can cope happily on fewer than six hours.

Dr. Drummond tested the impact of sleep on 62 volunteers in the laboratory.

They included a group of young people, with an average age of 27, and a set with an average age of 68. Both groups spent two nights in the lab as scientists monitored their sleep patterns.

On the second day they were asked to memorise a list of words while their brains were monitored to see how efficiently they were working.

Dr. Drummond, who reported his findings at the American Association for the Advancement of Science conference in San Diego, found that the performance of both groups was strongly linked to the previous night's sleep.

However, for the older group, it was the amount of sleep they got that had a 'significant influence' on brain function the following day, Dr Drummond found.

'The more sleep last night, the more efficient brain function is today and the better they are able to learn and remember new material,' he said.

'Whereas in young adults, the amount of sleep they get isn't so important.'

What matters more is that sleep is consolidated into a solid chunk, allowing the brain to act as 'a dry sponge, ready to absorb and learn new information.'

Dr. Drummond said older people need as much time in bed as the young but often they simply get used to having less.

'The biggest, most common, most robust change is that we spend more time awake in the middle of the night as we get older,' he added.



OLDER people need just as much sleep, but are less likely to have a restful night, according to a new study

## Airbrushed pictures of models are harming children...



RALPH Lauren apologised to model Filipa Hamilton after a digitally altered image of her showed her with a tiny waist

A leading mental health body has called for warning symbols to accompany airbrushed pictures of models and celebrities to help combat eating disorders.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists said a kite mark on digitally enhanced photographs would raise awareness of how often such manipulation takes place and help stop people trying to achieve 'unattainable physical perfection.'

The college urged the next Government to set up a forum, made up of politicians, experts, and representatives from the media and advertising, for the development of an editorial ethical code.

Consultant psychiatrist Dr Adrienne Key, of the college's eating disorders section, said the media must be stopped from 'glamorising' exces-

sive weight-loss and adding to the psychological and social pressures faced by young people.

She said: 'What we need to do is raise people's awareness of what they are looking at. A lot of people have no idea how much manipulation goes on.'

She said there was mounting evidence to show the role of the media in the development of eating disorders, particularly in adolescents and young people.

And she added: 'The aims of the forum should be to collaboratively develop an ethical editorial code that realistically addresses the damaging portrayal of eating disorders, raises awareness of unrealistic visual imagery created through airbrushing and digital enhancement, and also addresses the skewed and erroneous content of magazines.'

In its 'Call for Action' the college also called for mass media 'role models' with diverse weights, shapes and ages, and a ban on the use of underweight models.

It urged the media to stop publishing 'body critical' articles targeting celebrities for being overweight, underweight or physically imperfect.

Susan Ringwood, chief executive of beat, a charity combating eating disorders, said: 'We welcome this call to action from the Royal College of Psychiatrists.'

'The media is a powerful influence and we know how vulnerable some people at risk of eating disorders can be to its visual images in particular.'

'We know there is more that can be done to make that influence a positive one, and adopting the recommendations of the college's statement would be an important step.'

Sign Language

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Culled from telegraph.co.uk



This is self sacrifice  
Photo location: Atlanta, Turkey, by Robert Ellis  
Culled from 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.

95

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

**Solution to Sudoku 94**

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

News Extra

# Falklands general issues 'hands off' warning to Argentina

## ...We didn't lose 255 lives to walk away now



JORGE E. Taiana (right), the Foreign Minister of Argentina, with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (left) at UN headquarters in New York Wednesday



ANGER: The Union Flag is burned at a protest in Buenos Aires

**A**rgentina ramped up the diplomatic row over the Falkland Islands Wednesday night, dragging the UN Secretary General into the affair.

Ban Ki-moon met the country's foreign minister, Jorge Taiana, as Argentina prepared to table a UN resolution condemning plans for Britain to drill for oil 60 miles north of the islands.

British diplomats were predicting the UN boss would offer to help mediate any discussions - a move they expected the Argentinians to exploit for publicity.

It prompted a furious response from campaign groups and politicians helping to fight for the rights of the Falkland Islands population.

General Sir Peter de la Billiere, a former UK commander who is vice president of the Falkland Islands Association, issued a 'hands-off' warning to Argentina.

**H**e said the country would suffer the 'most unbearable losses' if it followed up the diplomatic skirmishes with military action.

Sir Peter said: 'We have demonstrated our intention to fulfil the islanders' wishes and support them if they are threatened.'

'I can see no reason or justification or political will in the UK to do anything other than that.'

'We did not lay down 255 lives just to give up and walk out a few years later.'

The Government was under pressure last night to take a tougher line, as diplomats tried to brush the crisis under the carpet.

Argentina has already secured a resolution from 32 South American states at a Latin American conference endorsing its claim to sovereignty of the islands, which were ceded to Britain in 1833.

Wednesday night Argentina's Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana claimed to have secured UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's support after the two men met in New York.

Mr Taiana claimed the UN chief was not happy to learn of



GENERAL Sir Peter de la Billiere warned Argentina would suffer the 'most unbearable losses' if it followed up the diplomatic skirmishes with military action

renewed tensions with Britain over its plans to drill for oil off the Falkland Islands.

The foreign minister also claimed the Secretary-General was willing to continue his 'good offices' mission to help resolve the long-running dispute between the UK and Argentina over sovereignty.

A senior Government source said: 'We fully anticipate that the Argentine government will try to cast their meeting with Ban Ki-moon in terms of the Secretary General supporting their cause.'

'We're relaxed about it. He's very reasonable. He sees both sides of it as he has to do.'

British diplomats initially adopted a stance of calculated indifference about the latest sabre rattling, which coincides with Argentinian elections.

'The Argentinians will try to cause trouble, but it is a presentational device not a substantial effort,' one official said.

**B**ut another conceded that diplomats would be happier if Argentina adopted a 'less ranting attitude'.

Wednesday night, diplomats were anticipating Argentina would table a resolution expected to be passed by a simple majority in the General Assembly. How-

ever, any such decision would be non-binding.

Privately British officials are withering about the priorities of the Argentine government - pointing out that the discovery of oil in Falkland Islands' waters ought to have prompted the regime in Buenos Aires to drill in its own waters rather than renew its claims to the islands.

Tory MP Malcolm Moss, who sits on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee, said: 'In true Foreign Office style they seem to be keeping their heads down. There can't be any international challenge about the validity of the Falkland Islands' constitutional status.'



FLASHBACK: British soldiers at San Carlos Bay during the Falklands War

## News Extra

# 'The Nazis took our gold, they should at least thank us'

## ... Greek PM's attack on Germany over debt crisis



**WORKERS' fury:** There is mounting anger in Greece over sweeping pay cuts and tax hikes



**THEODOROS** Pangalos, left, says Germany has no right to criticise Greece over its debt crisis when it's still suffering from Nazi occupation, while Angela Merkel has ignored appeals to help the debt-ridden nation

**G**reece has launched an extraordinary attack on Germany over its debt crisis, accusing the nation of failing to offer compensation for the economic impact of the Nazi occupation.

Deputy prime minister Theodoros Pangalos said the largest EU nation had no right to criticise Greece's finances, especially when the World War II occupation had wrecked its economy and slaughtered thousands.

A German state finance minister said Greece had to help itself out of its precarious fiscal situation and could not expect Germany or the European Union to bail it out.

Chancellor Angela Merkel has so far deflected appeals to promise aid to the heavily-indebted country, despite fears that failure to help could threaten the euro.

But an outraged Mr Pangalos lashed back, saying: 'They took away the Greek gold that was at the Bank of Greece, they took away the Greek money and they never gave it back.'

'I don't say they have to give back the money necessarily but they have at least to say "thanks". And they shouldn't complain so much about stealing and not being very specific about economic dealings,' he said.

More than 300,000 Greek civilians died from starvation during Nazi occupation, while thousands more were killed in reprisals.

The economy was crippled, as foreign trade was suspended, agricultural output ground to a halt, and the treasury had to loan Germany money.

The EU has asked Greece to explain reports that it engaged in derivatives trades with U.S. investment banks that may have allowed it to mask the size of its debt and deficit from authorities ahead of its entry into the euro zone.

But Mr Pangalos said Italy did more than Greece to mask the state of its finances to secure euro zone entry. Greece must prove to Brussels by mid-March that it can meet its ambitious targets to cut the budget shortfall by 4 per cent of gross domestic product this year to 8.7 per cent.

Mr Pangalos said the Greek situation would not have reached this point if there had been stronger leadership within the EU.

'The quality of leadership today in the Union is very, very poor indeed,' he said, adding that it had been better in the 1980s when Jacques Delors headed the European Commission and Helmut Kohl, Francois Mitterrand and Margaret Thatcher were in power in Germany, France and Britain.

Mr Pangalos' attack on Germany comes as Greece was paralysed by a second general strike in just two weeks.

Police fired tear gas at demonstrators in Athens during a large protest march against government austerity measures designed to tame Greece's massive debt.

Violence erupted as protesters hurled rocks and plastic bottles near parliament.

An estimated two million Greeks joined the strikes, crippling almost all activity in the country, with schools, government offices and airports closed. The 24-hour walkout is the first joint strike called by public and private unions, representing half of Greece's workforce of five million, since the Socialist government won elections in October.

**T**he capital was adorned with posters and flyers calling on Greeks to strike to the slogan 'People and their needs above markets!'

Some shops had their shutters down and Athens' chaotic traffic was quieter than usual.

People at waiting for buses complained about the disruption to public transport. All but emergency flights to and from Greece were grounded and ferries were at a standstill.

The protesters' main complaints are against a public wage freeze, tax rises and the raising of the retirement age that are part of the government's austerity plan.

Civil servant Michalis Korileos, 36, said he was striking over wage cuts.

'I am striking because others stole the money and we are the ones who are going to pay.'

'They are cutting my allowances and I have two children to raise, it is difficult.'

Greeks are prone to take to the streets in demonstrations that can turn violent, but opposition to the austerity measures has so far been largely symbolic.

Opinion polls show most Greeks want to give the government time.

### SO WHAT DID HAPPEN TO GREECE DURING THE WAR?

Every year on October 28, Greeks celebrate Ohi Day. It marks the anniversary of Mussolini's 1940 ultimatum demanding Axis forces be allowed to occupy "strategic locations" in the country or face war.

Greece's prime minister Ioannis Metaxas is said to have answered with a single Greek word: ohi, meaning 'no'.

Within hours Italian troops stationed in Albania, then an Italian protectorate, attacked the Greek border.

But the invaders were pushed back deep into Albania, forcing Germany to intervene on its fascist ally's behalf on April 6, 1941.

Helped also by neighbouring Bulgaria and Italy the Nazis overwhelmed Greek, British and Commonwealth forces in a rapid Blitzkrieg operation.

The occupation was divided between Germany, Italy, and Bulgaria, with a collaborationist government installed by the invaders.

The period brought about terrible hardships for the civilian population.

More than 300,000 died from starvation, thousands more through reprisals, and the country's economy was ruined, which is what Greece is complaining of today.

As well as raw materials and foodstuffs being requisitioned, the collaborationist government was forced to pay the cost of the occupation and grant a "war loan" to the German Reich.

At the same time Greek Resistance, one of the most effective resistance movements in Occupied Europe, was formed.

These resistance groups launched guerrilla attacks against the occupying powers and set up large espionage networks.

They helped successful raids by Allied special forces.

Classic films such as *The Guns of Navarone*, *Escape to Athena* and *They Who Dare* dramatise wartime events.

The Greek islands are a particular focus of movies.

The more recent *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* documents the Italian occupation of Cephalonia.

By late 1944 German forces began withdrawing from the Greek mainland as Soviet forces advanced into south-eastern Europe and threatened to cut them off.

When liberation came in October 1944, Greece was in a state of crisis, which soon led to the outbreak of civil war between rival partisans.

## News Extra

A young mother was thrown off a bus and accused of indecent exposure after breastfeeding her hungry six-week-old daughter.

Amy Wootten was travelling home with Emily when the driver threatened to call the police if she didn't get off at the next stop.

The 25-year-old was left 'humiliated' after being forced out into the rain with her baby and made to pay for a taxi to complete her journey.

She was ordered off the Bristol bus after the driver said a complaint had been made on the busy 4.30pm route.

Ms Wootten, who was on her way home to Stockport from Bristol city centre on Tuesday when the incident happened, said: 'The bus driver told me someone had said I was indecently exposing myself and said stop or get off my bus.'

'It was like he was suggesting I was doing horrendous things. But I was being quite discreet about it.'

'I couldn't believe it. I explained that I was only feeding my baby and not exposing myself and the driver said "can you get off my bus please".'

'We were told to get off the bus, in the rain, at a stop without a shelter and I was still a 20-minute bus ride away and couldn't have walked home.'

'I felt completely and utterly humiliated because it was a packed bus.'

Miss Wootten, who relies on bus travel as she cannot drive, said no passenger raised concerns directly with her.



**HUMILIATED:** Amy Wootten was asked to leave the bus for breastfeeding Emily

'If I hadn't fed her, Emily would have screamed and we would probably have had more complaints from people on the bus,' she said.

'I was showing a tiny bit of breast, but is it any different to showing your arm or your foot?'

'I was absolutely horrified but more cross for my baby girl.'

The learning support assistant said she has breastfed Emily on buses before and although another passenger had made a

comment there had been no reaction from the driver.

It comes despite a national campaign encouraging mums to breastfeed because of the protective effects on them and their children.

An initiative in Bristol sees restaurants, cafes and other public places signing up to show they welcome breastfeeding mums.

It was also the first city in the country to complete one of the stages for the Unicef Baby

## Breastfeeding mother thrown off bus for 'indecent exposure'

Friendly award.

After complaining to First, Miss Wootten received an apology and was sent flowers and gift vouchers.

She said: 'I would like them to have a bit of tact and compassion.'

'I have really struggled breastfeeding Emily and had so many problems but was determined to do the right thing for her.'

'It just makes you really reluctant to feed in public.'

'Emily is my first baby and it is only in the last two weeks I have had the confidence to feed her in public rather than sitting in a feeding room.'

First spokesman Karen Baxter said drivers would be given guidance to prevent similar incidents happening.

She said: 'We are aware of the incident that occurred on Tuesday evening and have already expressed our sincere apologies to Miss Wootten for the distress caused as a result of it.'

'We have launched an inves-

tigation into exactly what happened.'

'As a company we accept that breastfeeding mothers have the right to feed their children when they are hungry, and understand that from time to time it may be necessary to do this while travelling on the bus.'

'We have already taken steps to ensure that this message is communicated to all our staff, so that similar issues do not arise in future.'

The breastfeeding development manager for NHS Bristol, Nicki Symes, said: 'There are about 200 venues around the city that welcome breastfeeding.'

'We have not approached transport providers as part of the scheme but it is something we will need to do.'

'I feel very sorry for this mother, as we support a woman's right to breast-feed in public.'

'It is really disappointing that this has happened and I would be happy to speak to the bus company about their policy.'



**MANY** women are still finding themselves on the wrong end of hostility if they breastfeed in public.

It comes despite a national campaign encouraging mums to breastfeed because of the protective effects on them and their children.

An initiative in Bristol sees restaurants, cafes and other public places signing up to show they welcome breastfeeding mums

# PROPERTY

property@dailytrust.com  
HOTLINE: 07041632079

## Minister says waste-to-wealth is key to devt

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Hassan Muhamad Lawal has said that Nigeria's ability to turn waste to wealth is key to infrastructural development especially in the area of building.

He said this yesterday at the annual technical workshop and seminar with the theme, "Alternative Technology as a Way of Reducing Construction Cost" organised by the Nigeria Institute of Building, Abuja chapter. Represented by the Director of Building in the Min-

istry, Bldr. Ali Bukar Fatoma said Nigeria needs to look inward and explore her abundant human and natural resources in which the ministry has a key role to play especially in search for alternatives technology to reduce building cost.

He noted that partnership is needed with all stakeholders in the building profession, saying developers and bankers should team up with the ministry in order to reduce the Nigeria's housing deficit.

"the ministry is creating enabling environment to invite stakeholders in the building industry especially

developers, bankers and professionals to co relate with us to produce more houses.

Already we have about 16 million housing deficit across the nation and Government cannot afford to produce all these houses without collaborating with stakeholder.

He added that alternative technology is necessary which will be developed internally to reduce cost of building, adding that the ministry has been encouraging builders through updating of skills and knowledge, research and attending and organising conferences and seminars.



THE new office complex of safeline microfinance bank, an arm of the FRSC in Wuse II, Abuja

## N1.9bn for MDGs projects in Niger

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Millennium Development Goals office in Niger state has received N1.9 billion for development projects, the Director General Alhaji Hassan Nuhu has said.

He said the project, which is to be executed in different phases across the state, was counter funded by the federal government and the state government. The state paid N1 billion in excess of the fifty-fifty arrangement.

He said this at a press conference yesterday in Minna where he disclosed that the projects are to alleviate the infrastructural facilities for people in the state.

Speaking on water supply, Nuhu said that the state government has earmarked 52b- water across the state for rehabilitation adding that the sum of N185 million has been set aside to take care of the project.

He also mentioned that a total of eleven water works will undergo comprehensive reinvigoration process at the cost of N200 million as he mentioned that a total of 25 solar powered boreholes and another 75 hand pumps for the 25 local government areas of the state.

## Zamfara solid minerals factory gulps N5bn

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE Integrated Solid Minerals Factory established by Zamfara State Government last year has commenced test running of its machineries to ascertain its operational ability.

Governor Mahmud Aliyu Shinkafi, who stated this while answering questions from newsmen, said the all installations of the factory which was started ten months ago has now reached stage of completion and will be commissioned next month.

He said the factory was a joint partnership with a Chinese firm which contributed

machineries amounting to N3 billion while the state government contributed N1.5 billion in addition to construction of roads, office facilities and water supply.

He explained that when the factory starts operation it will process all types of minerals found in Zamfara as the state is blessed with highest concentration of mineral deposits in the country. According to him, the Federal Government would be paid royalties while Zamfara would enjoy 13 percent derivation like other littoral states that are enjoying it from oil.

The governor said eight buying points of

solid minerals would be set up where youths would be employed to supply the raw materials for processing, adding that thirty trailers of solid minerals are expected per day. He stated that the project will go along way with the state programme of youths empowerment aimed at providing employment opportunity for them.

The minerals to be processed are iron ore, tantalite, manganese, gypsum, precious stones, granite and gold among others. Government has established in Kaura Namoda and Maru local governments with the aim of wealth creation and contribution to the national economy.

## Hearing begins on destruction of farmland

From Adelanwa Bamgboye

AN Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) at the Lagos State Citizen's Mediation Centre has commenced hearing of a petition written by Kaselu Eleki farmers and land holding family of Eleki Village, Ibeju Lekki Local Government Area of Lagos State against Adiva Properties over an alleged destruction of their farmland.

The farmers through their lawyer, Kayode Bankole had on January 2010 in a petition demanded N495 million as cost of the

property destroyed.

During the hearing of the petition co-coordinated by a qualified mediator, Mrs. Ladega of the Lagos State Citizen's Mediation Centre, representatives of the aggrieved community and that of Adiva Properties discussed under a peaceful atmosphere.

Highlighting the plights of the community, their lawyer Kayode Bankole alleged that part of the properties destroyed were plantation of economic crops amongst which are rubber, coconut, kolanut, Iron

wood (meant for railway sleepers), bamboo and sugar cane.

According to their lawyer, the community had been on the farmland over four hundred years ago and used the disputed land for farming, dwelling and hunting ground. He said the people of the community enjoyed the tranquility of their community until sometime in 2006 when some persons operating under the name and style of "Adiva" in the company of a few white men and about 180 well armed policemen invaded their property and brought bull-

dozers thereafter to destroy the front part of the property and started constructing a wall fence thereafter.

According to the aggrieved farmers, complaints were made to the police authorities and by the time the policemen were withdrawn from the property covering about 224 hectares of land, they discovered that all their crops, plantations, shrines, places of hunting and abode have been destroyed completely.

The matter has been adjourned till March 2 for continuation of hearing.

## Property



property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

## NAF hanger project for completion Sept

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE new Commander, 227 Wing, Nigerian Air Force (NAF), Ilorin, Air Commodore Peter Gbujie, has disclosed that the Ilorin Multi-million naira Aircraft Maintenance Hanger of the Nigerian Air Force project will take off in the next two weeks and be completed in six months.

The new Commander, disclosed this while discussing newsmen yesterday on a courtesy call to Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara State in his office at the Government House, Ilorin.

The new Air Force Commander, who resumed duty in the State about a month ago, told the Governor that the 227 NAF wing had given all necessary support to ensure the commencement of the hanger project. Air Commodore Gbujie thanked Dr. Saraki for his unalloyed support to the 227 NAF wing, which he said, now has an array of activities after the wing came out strong from comatose some years back. Responding, the State Governor, Dr. Bukola Saraki assured the commander of government continuous support and cooperation to enhance the operation of the unit.

Dr Saraki expressed delight that the hanger project will take off soon and completed in a record time.

## Keffi-Akwanga highway gets speed breakers

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

RELIEF has come the way of the people of settlements along the accident-prone Keffi-Akwanga Road as the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development has approved the construction of speed breakers to control speeding vehicles against avoidable accidents.

Daily Trust observed, last week, men of Kokona Local Government Council working on the speed breakers at Garaku and Sabon

Gida, with men of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) supervising. A visit, yesterday to those settlements showed that work had completed.

Council chairman, Alhaji Basiru Abubakar Sharubutu confirmed the council got the approval of the federal ministry to construct the speed breakers at Garaku and Sabon Gida, although he refused to say more on the project.

Daily Trust recalls that the road at the point of Garaku and Sabon Gida has been a nightmare because of speeding vehicles. Only

recently, violent youths – in hundreds, who took to riot to protest the killing of one of their kinsman by a hit and run driver at Garaku, held up traffic on the federal highway, forcing the minister for information, Dora Akyunyili and the NTA Director General, Usman Magawata, to break their journey.

The convoy carrying the two high profile personalities, among other travelers along the ever busy road, was held up for hours before truckloads of armed riot policemen forced the rioters away and removed the barricades.



FISHERMEN in action during the popular Nwonyo Fishing festival in Ibbi, Taraba State

## Taraba's tourism devt efforts

By Shehu Abubakar

TARABA state has concluded plans to develop some identified tourism potentials in the state with a view to attracting foreign and local investors as well as to develop the state. As a way of attracting visitors to the state, the state government is set to commence the construction of hotels at strategic towns in the state, develop and enlarge the Nwonyo annual festival in Ibbi to an international fishing festival and develop other tourists' attraction centres to international standard, Chairman of the state tourism board, Professor Sa'ad Abubakar had said.

Professor Abubakar told Daily Trust in an exclusive interview that Taraba state has a lot of tourism potentials that could not be explored due to neglect of the sector by successive administrations in the state. He however, commended the present administration in the state for making efforts to explore the tourism potentials in the state which he said will not only put Taraba state in the right position but will also serve as a means of generating revenue for the state.

"This is the first time that a tourism board is being established for the state. The board was established by the present administra-

tion of Governor Danbaba Suntai and i am the pioneer Chairman of the board. That can tell you the extent of neglect tourism has suffered under past administrations in the state. So, we have been busy trying to make sure that the ground work for the development of tourism in the state is embarked upon. We have a committee that is working on the potentials of tourism in the state. Early last year (2009), we had the Nwonyo festival in Ibbi which for the first time, was publicised nationally.

"During that festival, we had a catch of 211 kilograms of fish. These are some of the areas we are working towards improving as part of our tourism potentials in the state. We have selected four local governments where government will put in a lot of energy and resources to provide modern facilities for tourists' attractions. Ibbi, Jalingo, Gashaka and Sardauna local governments were the areas we selected for the pilot scheme on tourism development in the state. We selected Gashaka because of the game reserve. There is a federal game reserve that is located there. We selected Sardauna because of the Plateau. There is a conducive place there for people to go and enjoy themselves.

"The Rest House there is being renovated so that we could get

a good place for people to relax when they come. In Jalingo, we are going to work on a park. We intend to enlarge it and provide mod-



GOV. Suntai

ern recreational facility. We also intend to build a five-star hotel for people when they come. We selected Ibbi because it provides a place for an international fishing festival. We hope to provide sporting facility like a golf course and build a 3-star hotel there. We noted that on the day of the fishing festival in Ibbi, people had to drive from Jalingo, Jos, Makurdi and other parts of the country to

Ibbi and depart almost immediately because there was no befitting hotel for guest in the area," he said.

Professor Abubakar said the state may likely involve the private sector in the development of tourism in the state because of the huge sums involved. He said though the state has concluded the study on the tourism development in the state, the entire project is still on the drawing board as funds for its execution is yet to be appropriated. He said for the state government to be able to attract private investors into the tourism sector of the state, efforts must be done to ensure that some tourism related projects are put in place to show government's seriousness and commitment.

On the poor road condition in the state, Prof Abubakar said the federal government own roads in the state are in bad shape even though the Jalingo to Makurdi and Jalingo to Jos roads are in good condition. He said the Jalingo to Gashaka road which is also a federal road is in terrible state of disrepair. He said effort is being made by the state government to repair all the federal roads leading to the state as a way of attracting tourists to the state.

"The airport in Jalingo is about to be completed. When completed, the airport will assist immensely in the area of tourism because it will serve as a very conducive means of travelling to the state for those that can afford it. Taraba has all that it takes to attract tourists but for the serious neglect that sector suffered from successive administrations. Now that we are trying to do what has not been done in the area of tourism all these years, i assure you that Taraba will soon take its rightful position in the area of tourism in the country. Another advantage the state has is the peaceful nature of the state and the rich cultural heritage of the people.

"Taraba is one of the very few states in this country where you have people from different religious, ethnic and cultural background without any complaint. We do not have record of any form of crisis in Taraba despite the numerous tribes and divergent religious believe of the people. We also have different weather in the state at a time. When you go to Gembu for example, the weather there at any given time is entirely different from the weather at Jalingo. The state is a place anybody would like to visit and relax," he said.



# FERMA urged to repair federal roads in Kano

From Jaafar Jaafar

THE Kano State government has appealed to the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA) to repair some failed sections of federal roads to reduce the alarming rates of accidents on the highways.

The state Commissioner of Projects Monitoring and Evalu-

ation, Alhaji Ibrahim Garba made the appeal when he hosted the Northwest Zonal Director of FERMA, Engineer Oluwafemi O. Obikoya in his office. Alhaji Garba particularly called on the FERMA to rehabilitate the failed sections of Maiduguri and Zaria roads, which were known for causing road accidents. He lamented that in the desperate attempts of drivers to avoid the death traps, accidents occurred resulting in huge losses

of lives and property.

The commissioner cited the recent multiple accidents involving about four trailers and trucks along the Maiduguri Road which he described as a serious cause for concern.

Garba, therefore, urged the FERMA authorities to accord this appeal the necessary urgency with a view to saving the lives and property of the people using these federal roads.

## FG tasks contractors on S/East roads

By Nasir Imam

THE Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Hassan Muhammad Lawal, has called on contractors handling federal road projects in Imo and Enugu States in the South East geopolitical zone to deploy more men and materials to the projects.

He gave the directive last week in Owerri and Enugu while inspecting federal road projects in the two States.

He said this would enable the contractors to optimize the current dry season for large scale construction work. Dr. Lawal lamented that the contractor handling the Aba-Owerri road in Abia and Imo States had overly stretched his resources over too many projects at the same time, with the result that his pace of work was unacceptably too slow. He warned that if the current dry season was not fully utilized by the contractor, the onset of the rains within a few months from now, will affect the likely completion date for the project.

Meanwhile, the scheduled tour of other road projects in Ebonyi State by the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development has been put off as a result of the obstruction of the link road from Enugu to Abakaliki as a result of communal clashes in Ezillo, Ishielu.



DR Nse Abasi Akpan, Commissioner of Education, Akwa Ibom State (centre), flanked by Mrs Ronke Bello, Assistant National Coordinator, SchoolNet Nigeria (right) and Mr Lade Ibraheem, Public Relations Executive, MultiChoice Nigeria at the launch of 10 more MultiChoice Resource Centres in Akwa Ibom public schools, held at the Cornelia Connelly College, Uyo on Tuesday.

## Lawal's devt efforts in Nasarawa commendable – Abubakar

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

Alhaji Shamsudeen Abubakar is a development stakeholder in Nasarawa State. In this interview with Daily Trust, he threw more light on the ongoing rehabilitation of urban roads in the ancient town of Keffi, the ongoing work on Akwanga-Lafia Road and other projects awarded by the Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development, concluding that the minister, Dr. Hassan Mohammed Lawal who hails from the state has a vision which no leader of the state has ever had.

**K**effi is undergoing aggressive urban renewal with the massive rehabilitation of roads. It was difficult to know whose project it is until you rose with some information sometime ago that the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Dr. Hassan Mohammed Lawal actually initiated the project. As a close associate of the minister, can you throw more light on this, talking about the scope of the project, why Keffi and not any other place?

The Honourable Minister is a progressive. He has the interest of the nation, his constituency and everybody at heart at all times. As soon as he assumed office as minister in that sector, he saw himself in a very strategic position with the opportunity to practically demonstrate that he believes in the progress of the nation and his

state. It has been his dream that if he finds himself with the opportunity to transform Nigeria, he can do all his best to achieve it. It is this dream that propelled him first of all, initiate the project to rehabilitate and strengthen the dangerous curves along Akwanga-Lafia Road which have claimed many lives. This dangerous road could not be strengthened for the past many decades by the successive government. But when he came on board, he decided that his dream to end the nightmare on that road must be achieved.

Remember that the former governor of Nasarawa State, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu is a close associate of former President Olusegun Obasanjo, yet he could not use his closeness to influence a project to end the nightmare on that busy road. But Dr. Lawal was able to bring this project - to practically go down on his knees before his colleagues at the Federal Executive Council to see reason to approve his memo for this project so that Nigerians will not have to go through that nightmare which has become a common feature on that road, so that his people in Nasarawa State will not have to be witnessing scenes of death because of fatal accidents. The work on these dangerous curves is ongoing, it is quality job and would soon be completed. It will be a mile stone in the history of the roads sub sector of our country.



SHAMSUDEEN Abubakar

Secondly, I want to say that the road linking Abaji to Nasarawa town is being worked on because the minister ensured that the difficulties being faced by Nigerians on that road end. Also, Nasarawa-Loko Road which has caused many accidents because of the deteriorating nature, after it was abandoned for more than two years due to lack of funding; the minister was able to see to it that funds were made available to award a project on that road. Today, work is on going on that road. Also, the deteriorating Lafia-Obi Road, another dangerous road which has gone terribly bad in the past 10 years, has attracted the attention of the federal government through the minister. Today the reality as far as that road is concerned is that it will soon be worked on to return vehicular traffic on it. So also is that case with Lafia-Doma Road which constituted a serious prob-

lem particularly at the Lafia end because of flood at that point, has attracted federal attention and by God's grace, very soon, the project to rehabilitate that road will soon commence.

Also in the area of rehabilitation of urban roads, the minister has thrown his weight to see that Keffi which your question is particular on gets good roads through massive rehabilitation. But the minister is not going to stop at the rehabilitation of Keffi roads, which by God's grace, has already been completed. Work will soon commence on the metropolis of Lafia, the state capital, courtesy of our son, the minister who is not going to bed until he the state of roads in the entire country is improved on. The minister wants his presence at FEC to impact on Nigeria through his transformation projects. He also wants his Nasarawa, his own state which has not had any good federal presence to also get an impact this time. He will certainly leave a legacy because of works.

What do you think informed the minister's decision to move into Nasarawa towns with projects when he should have concern himself with federal roads? There is a state government in place, as there are Local Government Councils in place. Could not these levels of government made provisions for these roads?

Those vested with the responsibility have failed the people of Nasarawa State. They are not

doing anything to transform the state, and you must have seen that from them that they have no intension of rehabilitating these roads, may be because of their ineptitude and lack of vision, or because of corruption. But the Honourable Minister is a progressive like I said earlier, and it worried him that Nasarawa urban centres have no good roads. Now let me throw light on this project so that Nigerians don't start thinking the minister is robbing Peter to pay Paul. That is not the case with the project. There is a provision under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for urban rehabilitation. There are funds for that purpose through MDGs. Successive governments may not have used that provision judiciously, but on assuming office as a minister, Dr. Lawal decided that the funds must be applied to the latter. Let me inform you; for the past 30 years, Keffi has not seen good roads; we have experienced a lot of hardship despite having produced a governor for eight years. We have roads that are completely impassable. It is amazing that Keffi which is a historical town, a gateway to Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and Keffi which has all it take to be a model urban centre in the country has been abandoned in the hands of neglect by both the state and the local governments. So for us in Keffi, the minister's intervention came timely and we appreciate him for that.

# Congratulations

Frontier club Congratulates Its Former Chairman Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi on a Well Deserved Award of **EXCELLENT LEADERSHIP** by African Leadership Magazine Based in France



Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi Shaking hands with Alhaji Bamaga Tukur at the Award Presentation Ceremony in France

## LULU HAS COME ALONG WAY:

- Team Manager, Pioneers FC/ FCDA F.C. of Abuja 1981- 1983
- Board Member & Chairman FCT FA 1983-1988
- 2nd & Later 1st Vice Chairman NFA 1999-2002
- Director of Sports, FCT Sports Council 2004-2006
- President, NFF 2006-Date.

Trust Islamic Forum

In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

# Should we celebrate eid-ul-Maulud?

**M**AULUD Nabbiy is a term used to refer to the observance of the birthday of prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) which falls on the 12th of Rabi' al-Awwal, the third month in the Islamic calendar. The term Maulud is also used in some parts of the world, such as Egypt, as a generic term for the birthday celebrations of other historical religious figures such as Sufi saints.

The earliest accounts for the observance of Maulud Nabbiy can be found in eighth-century Mecca, when the house in which prophet Muhammad was born was transformed into a place of prayer by Al-Khayzurani (mother of Harun al-Rashid, the fifth and most famous Abbasid caliph). The early celebrations included elements of Sufic influence, with animal sacrifices and torchlight processions along with public sermons and a feast. The celebrations occurred during the

day, in contrast to modern day observances, with the ruler playing a key role in the ceremonies. Emphasis was given to the Ahl al-Bayt with presentation of sermons and recitations of the Qur'an. The event also featured the award of gifts to officials in order to bolster support for the ruling caliph.

The first public celebrations by Sunnis took place in twelfth-century Syria, under the rule of Nur ad-Din Zangi though there is no firm evidence to indicate the reason for the adoption of the Shi'ite festival by the Sunnis, some theorise the celebrations took hold to counter Christian influence in places such as Spain and Morocco. Theologians denounced the celebration of Maulud as unorthodox, and the practice was briefly halted by the Ayoubites when they came to power, becoming an event confined to family circles. It regained status as an official event again in 1207 when it

was re-introduced by Muzaffar ad-din, the brother-in-law of Saladin, in Arbil, a town near Mosul, Iraq.

The practice spread throughout the Muslim world, assimilating local customs, to places such as Cairo, where folklore and Sufic practices greatly influenced the celebrations. By 1588 it had spread to the court of Murad III, Sultan of the Ottoman Empire. In 1910, it was given official status as a national festival throughout the Ottoman Empire. Today it is an official holiday in many parts of the world.

**Legality of Maulud**  
Islamic scholars are divided on whether observing Maulud is necessary or even permissible in Islam. Some see it as a praiseworthy event and positive development, while others say it is an improper innovation and forbid its celebration. A number of Islamic scholars,

such as Muhammad Alawi al-Maliki, Gibril Haddad, and Zaid Shakir, all subscribing to the Sufi movement, and Yusuf al-Qaradawi, the primary scholar of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, have given their approval for the observance of Maulud. They cite hadith where prophet Muhammad (S.A.W) recommended fasting on Mondays, as that was the day he was born and also the day prophecy descended on him. They suggest that fasting on Mondays is also a way of commemorating prophet Muhammad's birthday. However, there is division among them on the lawfulness of the methods of the celebrations. Most accept that it is praiseworthy as long as it is not against sharia (i.e. inappropriate mingling of the sexes, consuming forbidden food or drink such as alcohol, playing music etc). Notable scholars who consider Maulud to be bid'ah and

forbid its celebration include Sheik Muhammad Taqi Usmani, a Hanafi scholar from Pakistan who has served as a judge on the Shariah Appellate Bench of the Supreme Court of Pakistan and subscribes to the Deobandi movement, and Sheik Abd-al-Aziz ibn Abd-Allah ibn Baaz, who was the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia subscribing to the Salafi movement. Although all agree that the birth of prophet Muhammad was the most significant event in Islamic history, they point out that the companions of the prophet and the next generation of Muslims did not observe this event. Furthermore, they highlight that prophet Muhammad did not observe the birth or death anniversaries of his family and loved ones, including that of his first wife Khadijah bint Khuwaylid, nor did he advise his followers to observe his birthday.

## Al-Habibiyyah disburses Zakat in Abuja

By Abbas Jimoh

**THE** Deputy Imam of the Abuja National Mosque, Sheik Abubakar Sadeeq, has advised the 34 recipients of the maiden public disbursement of Zakat by the Al-Habibiyyah Zakat Foundation to utilise what they got to create wealth so that they could also be rich enough to pay Zakat to needy Muslims.

Speaking at the ceremony yesterday, Sheik Sadeeq said the importance of Zakat cannot be over emphasized as it was mentioned in the Holy Qur'an 82 time alongside the obligatory prayer (Salah).

"Those who benefited from today's disbursement should not have it in mind to come back to seek for it again, it is better that they use what they have now to get to the level of paying Zakat themselves," he said.

Some of the beneficiaries were given between N30, 000 and N100, 000, while others received motorcycles, grinding machines,



FROM left: Chief Imam of Al-Bibibiyya Islamic Society, Fuad Adeyemi, Proprietor of As-Sanushyiah College of Education, Odeomu, Osun State, Alhaji Surajudeen Adeyemi and one of the beneficiaries of Al-Habibiyyah Zakat Foundation, Malam Ibrahim Mana, during the disbursement of zakat fund to beneficiaries in Abuja.

and deep freezers among others and the tuition fees of four recipients were also paid at the event.

Director and Chief Imam of Al-Habibiyyah, Imam Fuad Adeyemi, said poverty, hunger,

insecurity among other man-made and natural calamities, are results of unpaid Zakat, regretting that many Muslims especially in Nigeria either do not pay Zakat or are ignorant of its payment.

## ASK YOUR IMAM

**Is it true that when one spouse enters the paradise he or she will take the other spouse into Jannah also?**

**I**f one spouse is admitted to Paradise, that does not necessarily mean that the other will also be admitted. The fate of the wives of Nooh and Loot (peace be upon them) is sufficient to prove that this view is mistaken, because they both went to Hell even though their husbands were Prophets.

Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "Allah sets forth an example for those who disbelieve: the wife of Nooh (Noah) and the wife of Loot (Lot). They were under two of our righteous slaves; but they both betrayed them (their husbands by rejecting their doctrine). So they [Nooh (Noah) and Loot (Lot)] availed them (their respective wives) not against Allaah and it was said: 'Enter the Fire along with those who enter!'" [al-Tahreem 66:10]

Ibn Katheer said: "Allah says, 'Allah sets forth an example for those who disbelieve' meaning, the fact that they may mix with Muslims or live among them will be of no avail to them and will not benefit them before Allaah, if faith does not enter their hearts. Then Allaah mentions the example and says, 'the wife of Nooh (Noah) and the wife of Loot (Lot). They were under two of our righteous slaves' meaning, two Prophets and Messengers; they were with them and in their company night and day, eating with them, being intimate with them, and interacting with them in the closest way; 'but they both betrayed them' means, with regard to faith and belief, because they did not share their faith or believe that they were Messengers of Allah. So that did not help them at all and it did not ward off harm from them. Hence Allah says, 'So they [Nooh (Noah) and Loot (Lot)] availed them (their respective wives) not against Allaah' meaning, because of their kufr. And it was said to both wives, 'Enter the Fire along with those who enter!'" (Tafseer Ibn Katheer, 4/394).

But there is the hope that if one of the spouses enters Paradise and is of a higher status than his spouse or children, Allah may cause them to join him.

Children may benefit from the righteousness of their parents by being raised in status to join them in Paradise, if they enter it. Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "And those who believe and whose offspring follow them in Faith, — to them shall We join their offspring, and We shall not decrease the reward of their deeds in anything. Every person is a pledge for that which he has earned" [al-Toor 52:21] And Allah knows best.

## Adegbite to chair MMPN's symposium

By Muideen Olaniyi

**THE** Secretary-General of Nigeria Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs (NSCIA) and Seriki and Baba Adinni of Egbaland, Dr. Abdullateef Adegbite is expected to chair the annual symposium of the Abuja chapter of the Muslim Media Practitioners of Nigeria (MMPN)

tomorrow at the National Mosque. A release jointly signed by the Chairman and Secretary of MMPN, Alhaji AbdulRahman Balogun and Abbas Jimoh respectively said discussions at the symposium themed 'Islam and Terrorism' would be led by the Vice Chancellor of University of Ilorin, Prof. Ishaq Oloyede. Other discussants at the sym-

posium expected to commence by 11.a.m are Mallam Abdulfatah Adeyemi, Sheikh Tajudeen Adigun Bello who is the Imam of Fuad Labibidi Mosque Zone 3, Imam Hussain Zakariyyah of Uthman Bin Affan Mosque Wuse 2 and Hajia Aisha Umar Yusuf who is a member of Daily Trust Newspaper's Editorial Board.

# CITY NEWS



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## Court orders DNA test over child's paternity

By Usman A. Bello & Lami Sadiq

AN Abuja Customary Court yesterday ordered one Friday Ugwoke and Deborah Okpeh to undergo DNA test to ascertain the paternity of a child.

Deborah had on February 4, approached the court alleging that Friday impregnated her after making love to her but denied responsibility of the pregnancy.

Responding, Ugwoke informed the court that although he had an affair with Deborah, he was not the father of the child because he uses condom whenever he makes love to her.

The case was then adjourned to enable the court and both parties ascer-

tain the cost of DNA test.

At the resumed hearing, Friday was informed that it will take N59,000 to carry-out such test and he urged the court to give him two months to source for the money.

"I will not be able to raise such amount of money in a short time because I receive N15,000 monthly and need two months to raise the money," Ugwoke said.

After listening to the Friday, Judge Omavuezi E. Oniovosa ordered them to submit themselves for DNA test and gave Friday one month to source for the money so that the test can be carried out.

The case was adjourned to April 13 for hearing.

# 17-year-old seeks divorce over husband's temper

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A 17-year-old wife has filed a divorce suit against her husband at an Abuja Upper Area.

The teenager complained of her husband's temper and alleged that he turns her into a punching bag at any slightest provocation.

Mrs Ikilima Aminu lamented in court that her parents pushed her into early marriage with Aminu Lawal, adding that it is time for her to opt out and begin a fulfill-

ing life, which she desire.

According to her, after junior secondary school, her parents forced her from their house and made her marry early, which she accented too helplessly.

"My parents were so particular about marriage and I was forced to marry against my wish two years ago and since then the man has been maltreating me," she alleged.

Mrs Aminu informed that when she filed the case, she was asked to pay for summon service to enable

the court serve her husband at Abaji and approached her parents, who declined to assist her with the money.

The teenage accused her father of once instructing her husband to take her to the police station when he reported her behaviour to him, saying that since then he has continued to treat her like a slave in the house.

"I now leave with an aunt and my hope is to go back to school, so that I can be educated in order to assist other helpless teenagers in my situation," she added.



PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

SCHOOLS' principals joining hands with GSS Nyanya's Principal Hajiya Hassana Nuhu (centre) to cut the school's silver jubilee cake yesterday.

## GSS Nyanya holds silver jubilee, inter-house sport

By Abubakar Yakubu

GOVERNMENT Secondary School (GSS) Nyanya, yesterday celebrated their silver jubilee as well as their 12th annual inter-house sports competition.

The school's Principal, Hajiya Hassana Nuhu, while welcoming guests, emphasized that 25 years in the history of GSS Nyanya is a landmark, which calls for celebration.

She solicited for assistance towards the construction of a school hall as well as a befitting language laboratory in order to make activities towards teaching and learning effective.

The principal recalled that the school started in Phase 1 Primary School Nyanya with students in Junior Secondary School 1 and remained there till September 1993, when it was finally moved to its present location with few blocks of classrooms.

According to her, the school has developed over time with various structures erected as well as equipped properly to make both teaching and learning conducive for both teachers and learning.

She said GSS Nyanya has now become a source of emulation to other schools, adding that it has won awards such as best school May 2007 in the use of global components, first position in Shell football cup competition 2007/2008, third position in 2007 Sage Nigeria National Competition, second position in Milo Basketball competition for both male and female categories in 2007/2008, first prize in a one minute video coverage by Consumer Protection Board in 2009, first position in trash to treasure inter-school competition in 2009 and first prize in Shell art competition in FCT in November 2009, among others.

Highlights of the event were presentation of gifts to pioneer staff of the school including the first principal, Mr Jimiko Danjuma Habakkuk; cultural dances by students of the school; march-past by various houses in the schools; basket ball competition between Abaji and Kwali Houses.

At the end of the sporting event, AMAC House came first, followed by Abaji House, while Kuje House came third.



AMAC House students during a march-past to celebrate GSS Nyanya's inter-house sports yesterday.

# Bizman jailed for N1.8m fraud

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court recently sentenced a businessman to six months imprisonment for defrauding one Ayodele Annex Okolo of N1,846,000.

Maikayau Ibrahim was jailed for deceiving the complainant that he would purchase a Honda CRV jeep for her, after collecting money and failing to bring the car.

Police prosecutor, Mohammed

Ahmed had earlier told the court that on February 18, 2010, one Ayodele Annex Okolo of Education Trust Fund, Maitama, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused defrauded her.

He said instead of refunding the money, the accused converted it to his own use, thereby committing offences punishable under Sections 312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded

guilty and begged for leniency.

Based on his plea, the prosecutor asked the court to try the accused summarily, citing Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

In his ruling, Chief Magistrate Binta Mohammed sentenced him to six months imprisonment or to pay N10,000 as fine.

The magistrate informed the accused to appeal to a higher court if she wants her money refunded to her.

## Man jailed two weeks for gambling

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court Wednesday sentenced a 26-year-old man to two weeks imprisonment for gambling at Wuse market.

The man, Ikechukwu Nwagwa was reported to have committed the offence on February 21, 2010 and subsequently arrested by a team of policemen.

Prosecutor Emmanuel Hoseni told the court that on February 21, a team of police detectives from the Area Commander's office, Maitama, Abuja, arrested the accused for gambling in public.

He said the cards the accused used to gamble and N1,000 were

recovered from his possession, adding that he confessed to the crime during police investigation, thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 405 of the Penal Code Law.

When the one-count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty, saying he took to gambling after the seizure of his second-hand goods by the Abuja Environmental Protection Board's task force.

"I am the only child of my parents with a wife and a child, who all depend on me for their daily needs and if I am jailed, nobody will cater for them," he pleaded.

Magistrate Emmanuel Iyanna sentenced him to two weeks imprisonment or to pay N2,000 as fine.

## Driver accused of damaging car

By Lami Sadiq & Usman A. Bello

THE police on Tuesday arraigned a commercial driver, Mukaila Agbaje, before an Abuja Upper Area Court for allegedly damaging a car.

Police prosecutor, Ayuba Ambi, told the court that on February 21, one Abubakar Ali of Diamond Bank reported to the police that in June 2009, he entrusted a Nissan wagon vehicle with registration number X 0653 KWL to the accused for commercial purpose.

The prosecutor said the accused promised to remit N10,000 to the complainant on weekly basis but failed to do so, adding that he travelled to Ondo State with the vehicle in December 2009 without the complainant's consent.

He explained that the accused also converted N80,000 belonging to the complainant to his own use and left the damaged car in Ondo State and came back to Abuja.

The prosecutor told the court that the offences are punishable under Sections 322, 312 and 327 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he denied them and requested for bail.

Judge Umar Kagarko granted him bail in the sum N100,000 with a surety in like sum and adjourned the case to April 12 for hearing.

In another case, a 25-year-old man, Emenike Anioto, was arraigned for allegedly attempting to steal hospital chairs.

Police prosecutor, David Udeh, told the court that on February 21, one David Nogodu, a security man attached to Wuse General Hospital, arrested the accused and brought him to the police station as he tried to steal chairs from the hospital.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied it and sought bail, saying he only tried to pass the night at the hospital.

Magistrate Grace Omayader granted him bail in the sum of N2,000 with one surety in like sum and adjourned the case to March 15 for hearing.



FIREMEN during a demonstration exercise at UTC Shopping Centre, Garki, Abuja recently.

## Family of six accused of assaulting police officer

By Usman A. Bello, Romoke W. Ahmad & Olotu Samuel

A father and his five children were yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly assaulting a police officer while carrying out his duty.

The arrested family members, Sabin Nnaji, Vitalis Nnaji, Rita Nnaji, Chinyere Nnaji, Joseph Nnaji, Cynthia Nnaji and Ifeayi

Nnaji, were accused of beaten up a police officer and injuring him when he went to invite them to the police station over a complaint from one Tony Oguche of Kpekyegy, Jikwoyi, Abuja.

Police prosecutor, Sanni Serki, told the court that Tony reported to the police that the accused released his three dogs and inflicted injuries on his two children, adding that when a police officer went to invite the first

accused to the station, he and his children beat him up and tore his uniform.

The prosecutor stated further that the accused persons later pursued the complainant's wife, Elizabeth Oguche and her younger sister, Ada to the road and beat them to a state of unconsciousness.

"During police investigations, it was discovered that the accused was keeping unlicensed

and unvaccinated dogs, adding that the police had to send a reinforcement team before he was arrested," the prosecutor added.

The first accused person pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

Chief Magistrate, Ahmed Sani Shuaib, granted him bail in the sum of N50,000 with a surety in like sum and adjourned the case to March 8 for hearing.

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

PIX: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU



DRUMERS entertaining guests during an event in Abuja yesterday



GBAGYI cultural dancers displaying at Nyanya yesterday



HAJIYA Hassana Nuhu, principal of GSS Nyanya, taking a throw into the basketball's net yesterday.



HOLY Family School pupils at the OO Safewomb International Foundation workshop in Abuja Wednesday.



ROTARY Gwarinpa's Club President, Ama Umoren, during an interactive session with students of Junior Secondary School Gwarinpa Estate recently.

## NGO donates items to elderly people, less privileged

By Akor Ojoma & Sunday Ejike Benjamin

A Non-Governmental Organization, Amazing Grace Foundation against Family Violence and Elders Abuse (AGFAF-VAEA) yesterday donated items to elderly people and several vulnerable groups in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Items donated consisted of cash, wrappers, bags of rice and other food items.

Addressing recipients, the founder as well as chairperson of the NGO, Barrister M.I. Obegolu, said the foundation focuses on victims of family violence and elders' abuse.

"The elders are becoming an endangered species in this country and children now abandon the vulnerable elders at home to die prematurely of hunger or lack of care.

Non-payment or irregular payments of pensions and gratuities have taken their toll on the elders," she lamented.

Obegolu also said the aims of the NGO which comprise of seven departments is to among other things create awareness, enthrone respect for elders and family values as well as the protection of the rights of women and children who are often victims of family violence.

## Aliero's wife, Shettima, others to receive award

By Nathaniel Jonah

THE FCT minister's wife, Hajiya Zainab Adamu Aliero, Minister of Interior, Dr. Shettima Mustafa and other eminent Nigerians have been selected for an award by the Agriculture Graduates Association of Nigeria, AGAN, for their immense contributions to the development of the sector.

Speaking to newsmen in Abuja, the National President of AGAN, Comrade Egbuta Michael, said the conferment of life fellowship, fellowship and associate membership awards of the association to carefully selected men and women was because of their contributions to nation's building and agricultural development.

According to the group, the event is slated to hold on March 6, 2010 in Abuja.

Comrade Egbuta who traced the activities of the Association to 2005, also added that the organization has served as a formidable voice for all graduates of agriculture in Nigeria.

The group commended the FCT Administration for donating six hectares of cultivated farm land to Bwari Area Council, stressing that the efforts of the administration has helped in contributing to uplifting and attaining food security agenda of the federal government.

Other imminent Nigerians selected for the award include Minister of Labour, Senator Ibrahim Kazaure, Executive Secretary of FCDA, Engr. Sani Alhassan, Mazi Sam Ohuabunwa, Chief Executive of Neimeth Pharmaceutical PLC and Gbenga Makanjuola, Chairman House Committee on Agriculture.

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## Inside Politics

# Fake voters bloated Anambra voters' register – Victor Umeh

IN this interview with our correspondent in Awka at the weekend, national chairman of the All Progressives Grand Alliance (APGA) Chief Victor Umeh says the 1.8 million voters of Anambra State are more imagined than real. How did they come about?

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

**C**OULD you x-ray the last election in Anambra state that your party won?

The result of the election wasn't be a surprise to anybody who is sincere and objective. I have always said that if the people are allowed to vote the candidate of their choice, APGA will carry the day. And that is what happened. As a party, we are happy that Anambra people expressed their unflinching confidence on the ability of the incumbent Governor to consolidating his achievements in their own interest. We are happy that the votes of the people of Anambra State really counted in determining who INEC declared winner of the election.

**B**UT some voters and observers have criticized the outcome of the election saying INEC did not tidy up the election. They said Governor Obi did not win the required local government areas to be declared winner of the election. They also alleged that APGA did not come out clean the election?

I don't agree with you that APGA did not come out clean. Immediately the result was declared, I addressed the press and left to meet the Governor with whom we went to thank our leader Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu at Nnewi. The election was never controversial. Neither I nor the governor slept. We kept vigil as the results were coming in Saturday night, and by 5am we had won in 15 local governments. We scored 25 percent clearly in 15 local governments by our own calculation. And by about 10 minutes past 5am, Sunday morning, I had sent text messages to a lot of people that we had won the election.

So, the claim that all our opponents are crying blue murder is not correct because most of our opponents had accepted defeat and congratulated the Governor. Only Dr. Chris Ngige of Action Congress refused to accept defeat. And that is also not a surprise. The issue of not being able to get 25 percent in 2/3 of the local governments, which is 14 out of 21, is not true. His Excellency, Governor Peter Obi had fulfilled all the constitutional requirements to be declared winner in this election.

**T**he truth is that, Ngige had discountenanced invalid votes in the election. And

that was what produced the misleading results for him in two local government areas of Anambra East and Anambra West. What he is saying now is that the constitution said you must score 25 percent of the total votes cast in at least 2/3 of the local governments in the state. But I think he is not being sincere to himself. If you go through the result sheet which INEC declared finally, you will see 3 columns. The first column is the total valid votes, the middle one is rejected votes, and the final one is the total votes cast. Add the rejected votes and total valid votes cast in the election and you will get the figure he is relying on in his calculations, which is completely erroneous. An invalid vote is no vote; a rejected vote is no vote. If you want to calculate whether a candidate in the election scored the mandatory 25 percent in a particular local government, what you would do is to add the votes shared by all the candidates in that local government, then apply to the score of the candidate against the total to see if the candidate scored 25 percent or a quarter of the votes cast in that local government. Section 179(2) of our constitution did not talk about invalid votes but total number of the votes cast. Of course the constitution wouldn't have anticipated that an invalid vote would be part of the votes cast in any election. That is because it was not attributed to any candidate. The construction of that section of the constitution envisages that the votes cast in an election were shared among all the candidates that contested election in the respective local governments. That is the total votes cast.

In summary, an invalid vote means a void vote. It is not credited to anybody. You cannot express void in the erroneous calculations Ngige went into.

In the petition filed by Governor Peter Obi challenging his election in 2003 here in Awka, Justice Nabaruma tribunal calculated in a table the votes polled by each of the candidates and also calculated the percentage of the scores by each of the candidate. Void votes and invalid votes were not included in that calculation. And that was the judgment that went to the court of Appeal and survived.

The same thing happened in Edo State, where Oshiomole challenged the declaration of Osunbor as the duly elected Governor of Edo State. Incidentally Oshiomole is from Action Congress, Ngige's



CHIEF Victor Umeh

party. Our brother Justice Peter Umehadi who tabulated it used the scores credited to the candidates to determine if each candidate scored the 25 percent required by the constitution in any of the local government areas. So there is no ambiguity in this matter.

**Y**OU were in the vanguard of agitation of credible voter's register, yet it was alleged that the Anambra register was manipulated. What would you say to this?

The noise being made about voters' register is unnecessary because it is not a new issue. In 2007, the incident occurred in the voters' register. For instance, in Ondo State, the name of Mike Tyson appeared in the voters register. Prior to the Anambra election, the issue of voters register had been trashed out and we expressed anxiety over the manner INEC conducted the updating of the register last year. I alerted the public about the print out from Nnewi South where in Ezinifite, we saw the picture of Gani Fawehimni and Chief Jim Nwobodo. We also saw Chief Alex Ekwueme's name with somebody's picture. I had said that the only problem we, would encoun-

ter in this election apart from INEC doing the right thing, is the voters register. INEC did not say from day one that they did not have a problem with the voters' register. Blames should not go to INEC alone but politicians in the state who injected fraudulent names into the register. Some of them used calendar to take photographs of people to inflate voters' card register.

Some politicians were said to have stockpiled up to 60,000 voters cards in their house. And they are now shouting blue murder. You will understand that some people are just being economical with the truth. They said we have 1.8 million voters. Where are those people? These are the fraudulent registration they did in an attempt to beef up their numbers ahead of the election.

If you get the final voters register, you will find that local governments like Idemili North and South have 105,000 and 104,000 voters. The challenge has been for the people registered to come and vote. We faced the challenge on the Election Day. We insisted that only those with voter's card bearing the image of the voter would be allowed to vote. We educated our agents on that because we

suspected that some politicians wanted to use none existing voters to massively rig the election. INEC did not pay lip service to the fraudulent registration exercise. They sacked 10 INEC Officials for being compromised in the registration exercise.

However, some people could not see their names in the voters register. It is not a new thing because it was raised even before the election but all the candidates subjected themselves to the election. The Action Congress candidate knew all these flaws and subjected himself to the election.

In any case, nobody gained any advantage over the other in terms of missing names in the register. Everybody went to the same election under the same circumstance. There was no attempt to disenfranchise people who wanted to vote the Action Congress candidate Dr. Chris Nwabueze Ngige and allowed people who wanted to vote for His Excellency Governor Peter Obi to go and vote. It was a general problem in the state.

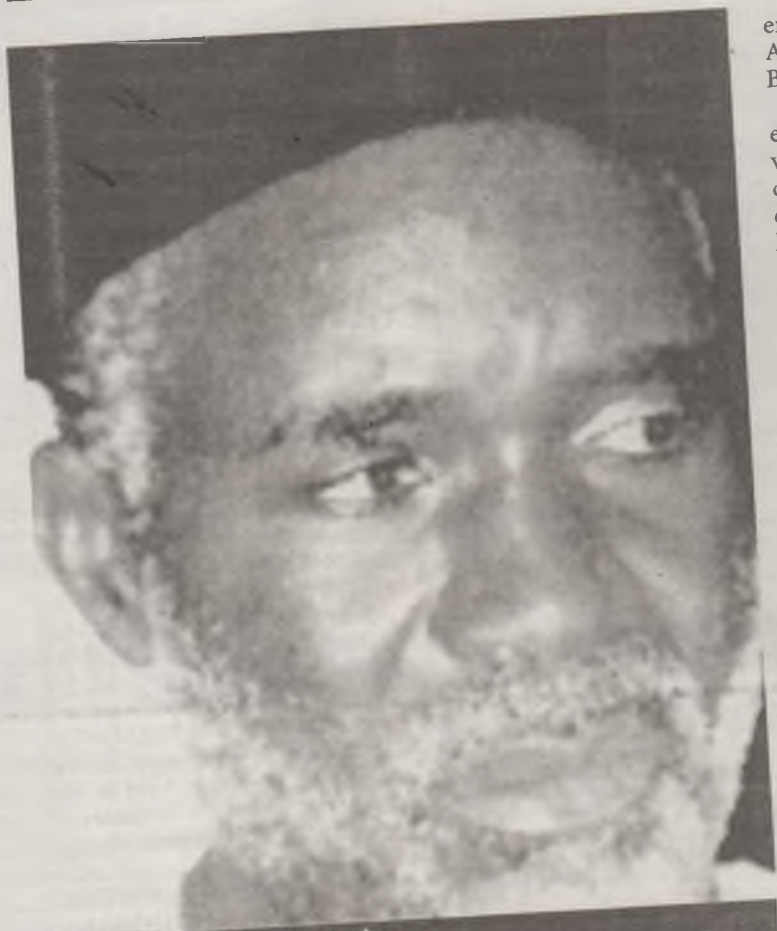
**P**rof. Chukwuma Soludo initially congratulated Obi but later said he is going to court. How would you describe that. Also, what lessons do you think Anambrians learnt in this election?

Having accepted defeat when the election result was announced, it was immoral for Soludo to open new fronts and attack the results of the same election. This has continued to create doubt as to his character. But I won't say he is challenging that result, so to speak. He congratulated the Governor and disappeared. On Thursday, the Director of his Campaign Organization, one Chris Udechukwu, was credited to have faulted the calculations of INEC. And because such came from a Director in Soludo's Campaign Organization, people screamed that Soludo was challenging it. As we speak Soludo is in London. He has gone home. That's where his family is. He has gone to have a deep rest.

So how can he challenge the election when APGA defeated him in his own home town, Isuofia community? He lost in his home town, lost in his local government and didn't win in his entire Senatorial Zone. So, on what pedestal would he stand to challenge the election when he won in only two local government areas in the North? I don't believe he is challenging the election.

## Inside Politics

# As impeachment fever rattles Adamawa LG bosses



GOVERNOR Murtala Nyako

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

**F**EAR of uncertainty is now gripping some local government chairmen in Adamawa State following the flurry of impeachments sweeping across the state. No fewer than three chairmen have lost their seats in recent time, even as the Adamawa State chapter of the Association of Local Government Chairmen of Nigeria (ALGON) has asked them to remain in office. The association said the impeachments were unconstitutional.

The relationship between local government chairmen and their councillors in Adamawa State have deteriorated rapidly following allegations that, at the slightest provocation, some chairmen often

threaten to see that they ensure the recall of some councillors.

The latest round of impeachments came less than four months after an amicable resolution of a rift between the chairmen and their councillors. Crisis within some councils erupted shortly after the chairmen won their case against the state House of Assembly on the controversial one year tenure enacted by the lawmakers earlier.

*Daily Trust* gathered that the threat and counter threat of removal now dangling over many of the chairmen and councillors has put many of them in a dilemma. The chairmen already impeached are those of Guyuk local government Engr. Kube Dwana, Mayo-Belwa local gov-

ernment council Alh. Umaru Abbo and Mubi South Engr. Bitrus Habshi.

Investigation reveals that efforts by some chairmen to prevent the impeachment of their colleagues by requesting an influential person in the government house in Yola to intervene failed to yield fruit. Governor Murtala Nyako was said to have snubbed the idea when he was approached.

An impeccable source also disclosed that the chairmen had approached the Lamidon Adamawa Dr. Aliyu Mustapha pleading with him to persuade the councillors to stop the impeachment moves. While the Lamido, according to the source, was trying to resolve the conflict, some chairmen sneaked to Abuja to lobby some PDP stakeholders to intervene. Some of the stakeholders were alleged to be the brain behind the impeachments. Many supporters of the impeached chairmen insist that the state lawmakers and Abuja based PDP stakeholders are the persons behind the masks in the impeachment saga in Guyuk, Mayo-Belwa, Mubi South and other local government areas.

Disturbed by the spate of impeachments across Adamawa State local governments, the state chapter of the Association

**“NO fewer than three chairmen have lost their seats in recent time, even as the Adamawa State chapter of the Association of Local Government Chairmen of Nigeria (ALGON) has asked them to remain in office.**

of Local Government Chairmen of Nigeria (ALGON), has asked all the recent three impeached chairmen in the state to remain in office. The association said the impeachments were unconstitutional carried out.

While fielding questions from newsmen, the state president of ALGON who is also chairman of Dems Local Government Council Mr Felix Tangwami said though the local legislative councils were free to perform their constituted roles, ALGON did not find the spate of impeachments as pleasing because they fell short of constitutional requirements.

Mr. Tangwami alleged that the allegations raised against the impeached chairmen were not only weak but lack merit. They did not call for impeachment, he said.

The ALGON boss noted with concern that most of the allegations were basically administrative, and products of a break down in communications while the issues of financial misconduct 'were not reasonable charges worthy of impeaching the chairmen.

The ALGON president said the processes employed in the impeachments were faulty. "Councillors are not judicial officers or policemen or accountants, therefore for any allegation filed against a chairman to be substantiated, an independent body must verify them," he said.

"A council chairman cannot be impeached on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations. Any allegations must be verified by an independent body to be appointed by the Chief Justice of the state," he stressed.

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

In the meantime, leadership of the ruling Peoples Democratic

Party (PDP) in the state has described the spate of impeachments across the Adamawa councils as unfortunate.

State secretary of the party, Mr P.P. Elisha told newsmen in Yola that the impeachments do not in any way undermine the cohesion of the party in the state. He expressed optimism that the crisis will be resolved using the internal conflict mechanism of the party. He said that prominent stakeholders are working to broker peace.

Governor Murtala Nyako has for the first time denied that he was behind the impeachments, saying there is no way government could be happy with the development.

Speaking through his special adviser on local government affairs Alhaji Abdurrahman Bobboi, the governor explained that he was doing everything possible to ensure harmonious working relationship between the arms of government at the state level and local government levels.

He stressed the need for the executive and the legislative arms of local government councils to learn to work towards actualising their mandate through providing democracy dividends to the electorate, stressing that any crisis should be resolved amicably for the benefit of the people at the grassroots.

The governor's aide also advised the impeached chairman to seek redress in court if they feel that the process that removed them was faulty.

With the spate of impeachments rocking the local governments in Adamawa State, one of the questions many observers are asking is: who are behind the development? Another question which will be answered in the coming months is what the development portends for the polity in 2011?

## Kogi 2011: Okun strengthens move for guber seat

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

OKUN leaders from the Kogi West Senatorial District have resolved to consolidate the move to produce the next governor of Kogi State.

This resolution was contained in a communiqué made available to our correspondent by the National Executive Committee of the Okun Development Association held in Kabba recently.

The association noted that the creation of the proposed Okun State out of the present Kogi State would create an enabling

environment for Okun people to relate with the other ethnic groups in the state.

It also resolved to enhance the economic fortunes of the Okun people by setting up the Okun Chamber of Commerce, Industry, Mine and Agriculture and the Okun Investment Fund.

The association, however, called on the chairmen of the six local government councils in Okunland to urgently arrest the incidence of armed robbery operations on the highways in their domains and liaise with the various community development associations to re-orient the youths.

## Fayose gets LP membership card

THE former Governor of Ekiti State, Chief Ayo Fayose, on Thursday assumed membership of the Labour Party (LP) when he was presented with its membership card.

Mr Akin Adesuyi, the Chairman of the party in Afao/Araromi Ward in Irepodun/Ifelodun Local Government Area, presented Fayose with the card number 1020725 in his country home in Afao-Ekiti.

Adesuyi explained that the presentation was to formerly endorse Fayose as a

member of the party in the state.

In his response, Fayose assured the party that he would ensure its victory in the 2011 general elections.

He also promised to mobilise his supporters to ensure that the party won in all the local government areas of the state.

"Today, I have joined the Labour Party officially and I am ready to work for the success of the party in the state.

"I will ensure the stability of the party as well as its

victory in the 2011 general elections in the state," Fayose said.

He said that he would officially declare for the party on Friday at the party's congress in Ado-Ekiti.

Fayose also said that he was not defecting to Labour Party to contest for any position. "I have not declared to anybody that I want to contest for any position at the Labour Party.

"My primary concern is to build up the Labour Party to an enviable position in the state. (NAN)

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**Nigeria:**  
James- +2347058033525  
Mrs. Onoviona - +2348051288849

E-mail- [jammyconnect@yahoo.com](mailto:jammyconnect@yahoo.com)

## AL-KALIFA GLOBAL CENTRE FOR CAPACITY BUILDING

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration as an Incorporated Trustees under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

**The Trustees are:**

1. Anas Khasifa	-Businessman
2. Umar Dada Paiko	-Teacher
3. Dr. Suleiman Zibir	-Medica
4. Muhammad Sani Katu Esq	-Legal Practitioner
5. Haj. Maryam Uthman	-Housewife
6. Muhammad T. Suleiman	-School Proprietor Teacher
7. Haj. Zahra' U.S. Turaki	-Housewife
8. Muhammad Bin Uthman	-School Proprietor/Teacher
9. Dr. Jummai A.M. Audi	-Lecturer/Legal Practitioner
10. Haj. Habiba Sule Kolo	-Businesswoman

**Aims and objectives:**

- To establish a centre for skill acquisition and training of indigent Nigerians
- To counsel Nigerians on marital issues with a view to reducing domestic violence
- To establish orphanages with a view to decongesting the streets of homeless Nigerians
- To empower widows, orphans and other indigent Nigerians in the area of training, skill acquisition and financial assistance
- To establish schools for orphans and indigent Nigerians

Signed: Secretary

## JAMA'ATU ANWARUL PAILA ISLAMIC ORGANISATION

This is to notify the general public that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Act, Cap. 59 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 1990.

**THE TRUSTEES ARE:**

- Mal. Ahyu Lawal
- Mal. Adamu Muhammed
- Mal. Bashir Nuhu

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- Rendering of humanitarian services to Muslims and the general public
- Establish Islamic Schools
- Conducting Wa'azi, Zikr and Bege

Any objection(s) to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 240, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Garki, Abuja within twenty eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
M.B. Idris  
& Co. Legal Practitioners)  
Suit B4 Al-Zamyr Plaza  
No. 11 Isa Kaia Road, Kaduna

## LOSS OF PASSPORT

I the undersigned **Antoine Bou Harb**, Lebanese National declare that I have lost my passport whose number is **RL1337128** issued in Beirut.

I will be very grateful to anyone who finds this passport to call me on my phone number **08035950491** or to hand it to the nearest police station or to the Embassy of Lebanon on the following address:

**Embassy of Lebanon**  
Plot 762 Lake Chad Crescent  
Maitama-Abuja

## In the Light of Truth The Grail Message

"LET MY WORD become alive within you; for this alone can bring you that benefit which you need, enabling your spirit to ascend to the Luminous Heights of the Eternal Gardens of God."

Abd-ru-shin

Grail Centre Madalla, Madalla Suleja Road 08054183304

## CENTRE FOR DISPUTE SETTLEMENT

This is to inform the general public that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied matters Act 1 of 1990.

**The Trustees are:**

1. Alh. Mohammed M. Bappa	-Director
2. Hauwa Hamisu	-Consultant
3. Sa'adu Aliyu	-Consultant
4. Fadimatu S. Belet	-Consultant
5. Alh. Umaru A. Shehu	-Consultant
6. Barr. Amina Bello	-Secretary

**AIMS & OBJECTIVES**

- To provide a platform where dispute will be resolved so as to decongest civil cases in court.
- To restore the culture of respect and obedient to persons in authority.
- To enlighten public on the importance of being obedient to law and order.
- To obtain a society of integrity and mutual understanding.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the registrar -General, Corporate Affairs Commission plot 420 Tigris Crescent Maitama District Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Barr. Amina Bello  
Secretary

## VOICE OF THE THRONE MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

The General Public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

**THE TRUSTEES ARE:**

- Evang. Grace Akwashiki - Chairman
- Enoch Anzaku - Member
- James Maichibi Phillips - Secretary

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

- To establish churches anywhere the spirit of God directs.
- To promote prayer ministries.
- To preach salvation to the world.
- To carry out healing and deliverances to the society.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs commission, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:  
Secretary

## GLOBAL NETWORK FOR PEACE BUILDING

This is to inform the general public that the above named Non-governmental organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the companies and allied matters act No 1 of 1990.

**The trustees are:**

1. Mr Godwin M Iboko	- Chairman
2. Mr Samuel Ogah	- Member
3. Bar Christopher Iboko	- Secretary

**Aims and Objectives**

- To contribute to peace building for a stable society
- To contribute to the progress and rapid development of the society.
- To work towards stimulating the Youths for self reliance.
- To contribute towards crisis management and rescue of victims of natural/artificial disasters.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198 Maitama, Abuja within 28 days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED  
BARR CHRISTOPHER IBOKO  
SECRETARY

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[emwaigroup@yahoo.com](mailto:emwaigroup@yahoo.com)

Signed:  
IBRAHIM YAHAYA  
For: Emwai Company Ltd Kaduna

## CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as **MISS HAUWA ISA** now wish to be called **MRS HAUWA GAMBO ISA**. All former documents remain valid, N.Y.S.C and general public take note.

Former named **MOHAMMED MUSA ALIYU** in Daily Trust of 22-february is now **MOHAMMED MUSA KAFARATI**. Authority concern and general public take note.

I formerly, **NAFIU IBRAHIM BRAIMAH** wish to be **NAFIU IBRAHIM ISIAKA**. Former documents remain valid. University of Jos and the general public to note.

I formerly **MISS ALO OLUWASOLA MOROHUNSOLA**. Now wish to be called as **MRS ADEMOYEGUN OLUWASOLA MOROHUNSOLA**. All former documents remain valid ADEKUNLE AJASIN UNIVERSITY AKUNGBAAKOKO, ONDO STATE public take note.

I formerly **ABIGIAL OMOLOLA AWOBIYI**, now **MRS ABIGIAL OMOLOLA MEMEH**. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.  
RC NO. 67785 SP NO. 58334

Formerly known as **MISS RITA FATU OKEWU**, now wish to be known as **MRS. RITA FATU SANMI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS **MOHAMMED MURTALA SALEH AKWAKI** NOW WISH TO BE ADDRESS AS **MUHAMMAD MURTALA SALEH**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION, OFFICE OF THE ACCOUNTANT GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I FORMERLY ANGELA ONYAOLE DANIEL NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS **MRS ANGELA ONYAOLE ALUH**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I, formerly known as **YUSUF KARIM** now wish to be called **JOESEF TIMOTHY KARIM**. All former documents remain valid General public take note.

I, formerly **AGRINYA HELEN OGEYI** now wish to be addressed **MRS IPONLE HELEN OGEYI**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and General Public take note.

I, formerly **JOY MHUNGUR AHUR** now wish to be known as **JOY MHUNGUR AYU**. Former documents remain valid. Zenith Bank Plc and general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS DIANA NANA YAKUBU** now wish to be known as **MRS DIANA NANA OYEKAN**. Former documents remain valid. University of Abuja and public take note.

I, formerly known as **SULE LIMAN JEGA** now wish to be known as **SULEIMAN IMAM JEGA**. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS VERONICA NNEKA OPARA** now wish to be addressed as **MRS VERONICA NNEKA ECHENA**. Former documents remain valid. Oceanic Bank, general public take note.

I, formerly **MISS UWADILEKE UGOCHI LINDA** is now known as **IBE UGOCHI LINDA**. Former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ALI DAUDA MARYAM** now wish to be known as **MRS YAHAYA DAUDA MARYAM**. All former documents remain valid. Ahmadu Bello University Zaria and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS JENNIFER ALI OBELLEY** now wish to be known as **MRS JENNIFER ALINAH WAZIRI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **AK WANDAYE AUGUSTINE AKWANDAYE** now to be called **AKWANDAYE WACKSON AUGUSTINE**. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS RASHIDAT ABDULRAHEEM** now wish to be called **MRS RASHIDAT ABDULRAHEEM NURUDEEN**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## SPORT

NOC election: Gara  
Gombe withdraws  
case against Ndanusa  
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# Eriksson: I am happy to be here

■ NFF to interview Lagerback today

FORMER Mexico and England coach, Sven-Goran Eriksson, yesterday in Abuja appeared before the interview panel looking for a foreign technical adviser for the Super Eagles.

The Swede's appearance made him the fourth to be interviewed by the panel put together to make a final shortlist of three coaches.

Eriksson who led the England team to a goalless draw in a first round group match with Nigeria's Super Eagles at the 2002 World Cup finals in South Korea/Japan however refused to grant any interview after emerging from the interview room.

He only commented about the weather, refusing to comment on what went on during his moments with the panel.

"It's a nice weather, and I am happy to be here. But you will have to wait. I can't comment now, maybe later," he said.

No member of the panel led by Mr Patrick Ekeji, Director-General of the National Sports Commission (NSC) and member of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on Super Eagles' qualification for the 2010 World Cup, was on hand to comment on the interview process.

Mr Tunde Aderibigbe, a employee of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) who is working with the panel, however confirmed that former Sweden coach Lars Lagerback would be interviewed today.

"Lagerback's appearance before the committee will round the session off," he said.

Lagerback is scheduled to

appear before the panel today by midday, to make him the fifth and last of the coaches to be interviewed, and the panel is to immediately make a final shortlist of three.

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) had made an initial shortlist of five foreign coaches, namely Peter Taylor, Ratomir

Djukovic, Louis van Gaal, Guus Hiddink and Bruno Metsu.

Hassan Shehata and Giovanni Trapattoni were later added to it, before three fresh candidates in Lars Lagerback, Glenn Hoddle and Sven-Goran Eriksson emerged.

Taylor, van Gaal, Hiddink, Shehata and Trapattoni later dropped

out of contention due to various reasons, ahead of this week's interview process.

While Metsu and Djukovic were interviewed on Monday, it was Hoddle's turn on Wednesday, while Lagerback's appearance before the panel today, will round off the interview session.

The NFF Executive Commit-

tee is scheduled to meet from 7pm today at its Glass House secretariat in Abuja to make its choice from the final shortlist of three, and then announce the appointment.

The chosen foreign coach will lead the Eagles to the 2010 FIFA World Cup finals in South Africa scheduled for June 11 to July 11.



FORMER England manager Sven Goran Eriksson was interviewed by the NFF panel yesterday for the Super Eagles coaching job.

## Hoddle, Eriksson visit Glass House

By Orkula Shaagee

GLENN Hoddle and Sven-Goran Eriksson yesterday visited the Nigeria Football Federation Glass House secretariat to meet NFF President Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi and also assess the secretariat.

The visit yesterday by the two former England coaches was

the first by the coaches that have turned up for the interview, as Bruno Metsu and Ratomir Djukovic who were interviewed on Monday left Abuja immediately after the interview without visiting the NFF secretariat.

Hoddle, who was interviewed on Wednesday, was the first to visit the Glass House in the morning where he met with Sani

Lulu behind closed doors for over one hour before leaving with his entourage which included FIFA Players Agent John Shittu.

Thereafter, came Eriksson, who alongside his agent met with the NFF chiefs at 2:00 pm after his interview earlier in the day at Nicon Luxury Hotel.

The outcome of the visit was not made public, but Trust-

sports learnt that it was part of the coaches' lobbying strategy to get the nod to handle the Eagles.

Meanwhile, NFF Technical Committee Chairman, Taiwo Ogunjobi has explained the rationale behind the decision by the interview panel to grant a late audience to Eriksson.

According to Ogunjobi, the chance given Eriksson is a proof

that the interview sessions for all the coaches are transparent and no one on the panel is rooting for any particular manager.

"We want to be transparent and we want to tell Nigerians that we are not favouring anybody but that we are fair enough.

"We want to give everybody equal chances and show that we can deliver," he said.

# Kanu's life story set for the big screen

SUPER Eagles captain and Portsmouth striker Nwankwo Kanu is set to release a book and film about his life in September, Bella Naija, a Nigerian celebrity news site, has reported.

Lion Heart: The Kanu Story is a documentary feature directed by BBC London-trained Nigerian director Bayo Awolaja, and produced by Neil Oyenekan. It is executive produced by the Portsmouth forward as well as by Lighthouse, IBST Media, Worldwide Management Ltd. and Connect Marketing.

Kanu was diagnosed with a heart condition during a routine medical at Inter in 1996 just after leading his country to win a gold medal at the Atlanta Olympics.

He was successfully treated at a clinic in the United States, enabling him to return to football.

The 33 year-old thereafter set up the Kanu Heart Foundation to help African children who have been diagnosed with heart

defects.

"It's not just about Kanu and his story, but Lion Heart: The Kanu Story is a film with a strong message that will greatly touch audiences across the globe," said director Awolaja. "Because

**It's going to be a three-dimensional documentation of Kanu's story according to Kanu, his fans, and his critics too**

despite the fact that his role as a great sportsman is emphasised, the salient themes in the movie revolve around determination,

overcoming tribulations, triumphing over life-threatening obstacles and circumstances in life to soar to heights of iconic greatness.

"This film isn't just about Kanu the footballer. We intend to reveal the Kanu story through interviews with all the world renowned players, coaches, administrators.

Also his wife, his childhood friends, his doctors and those people that played very important roles in his life [will be interviewed].

"It's going to be a three-dimensional documentation of Kanu's story according to Kanu, his fans, and his critics too - it's definitely going to be compelling and well-balanced because we intend to highlight the challenges he's encountered and how he overcame them in order to inspire many young Africans with his exceptional story of hope, determination and success," the producers said.



SUPER Eagles skipper Nwankwo Kanu will release a book and film about his life in September

## Eagles have more respect for foreign coaches – Shittu

By David Ngobua & Orkula Shaagee

AS the Nigeria Football Federation continues its search for foreign coaches for the senior national team, FIFA players licensed agent John Shittu has said Super Eagles players have always shown greater respect for expatriate coaches, even when such coaches are not better than their Nigerian counterparts.

Speaking to sports journalists yesterday in Abuja at the Nicon Luxury hotel, where Englishman Glenn Hoddle is being interviewed for Eagles job, the football agent said experiences in the past proved clearly that the players showed more commitment and dedication when coached by

is the system. Unfortunately, we believe so much in this white colour thing. When Bertie Vogts came in, I don't think he is better than Amodu but at least the players respected him for one reason or the other.

"I don't think the players had a lot of respect for Amodu. If you look at the team that went to Angola, we have few decent players there but unfortunately, there was no definite formation. Everybody was just playing their way."

Shittu stressed that when a team has a good manager that can instill discipline and confidence in the players, everything works perfectly.

"When you have a manager that will instill discipline and tell the players this is how I want you to play, it makes a whole lot of difference."

And this is always what happens to Mikel. People keep saying he never goes forward but each time he tries to do so, you see the coach jumping up and he has to restrict himself to specific instructions. That is part of the discipline on the pitch.

"Amodu lacks the capacity to enforce discipline on the field and in camp so what are we talking about? And this is what we need a foreign coach to bring to us."

The players agent said out of the four coaches who are left in the race for Eagles job, anyone assigned the responsibility will be able to make a lot of difference because he will be accord more respect by the players more than if an indigenous coach were in charge of the team.

**Eagles players have always shown greater respect for expatriate coaches**

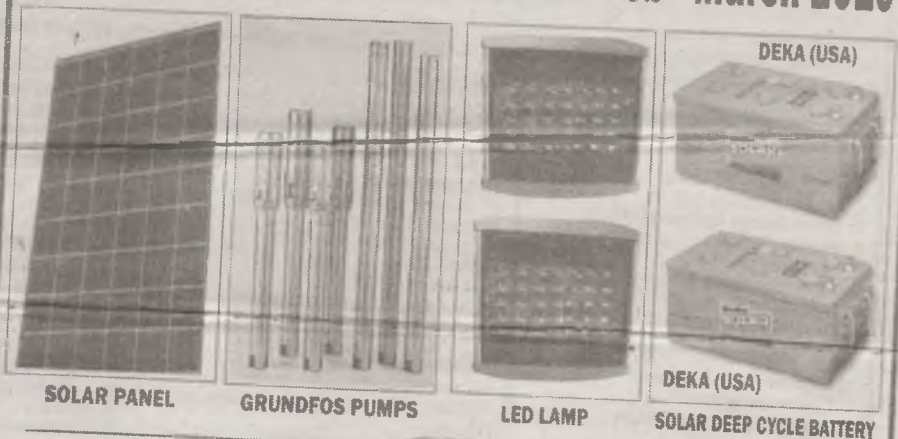
a foreign coach.

Shittu noted that under Amodu Shaibu, the players simply refused to adhere to instructions because he is an indigenous coach just as he maintained that the coach himself lacked the professional competence to instill discipline in the players.

"Personally, I believe Amodu is a good man but professionally, there are few things he lacks. May be it is the country. May be it

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# NOC election: Gara-Gombe withdraws case against Ndanusa

By David Ngobua

FORMER Gombe State Football Association Chairman, Alhaji Shaibu Gara-Gombe yesterday withdrew the court case he instituted against the Nigeria Olympics Committee and Minister of Sports, Engineer Sani Mohammed challenging the minister's eligibility to contest for the presidency of the Nigeria Olympics Committee.

Speaking to journalists yesterday in Abuja, Gombe said after due consultation and patriotic considerations, he decided to withdraw the case against the sports minister and the NOC in the interest of the nation.

"I have decided this morning (yesterday) to withdraw the court case I instituted against the minister of sports and the Nigeria Olympics Committee, NOC. The decision to withdraw this case is a product of a prolonged pressure and consultation. Immediately after the case was first mentioned in court, I was approached severally and in various quarters.

"In this country's judicial system, when a case starts, nobody knows when it will end. At the end of the day, my prayers may not be

granted. At the end of the day, either the minister or the NOC may be found wanting. Now the issue is that we have three important international competitions, namely the Commonwealth Games, All Africa Games in 2011 and then 2012 Olympics Games.

"These competitions which will come in quick succession are expected to be mid-wived by the

**“He said he did not fight Ndanusa as a person but the institution”**

same NOC. The competitions will no doubt suffer seriously if there is a vacuum in NOC. To fill the vacuum, the case in court must be dispensed with. If not, the coordination of Nigeria's participation in the competitions will not be possible. I have taken all these factors into consideration”.

He said even as he is bound to enjoy public sympathy and commendation, if in the end, the country is embarrassed by any sanctions by IOC, such popularity may turn into condemnation because he will forever be on the wrong side of history.

Gombe said he is not in any way disturbed by derogative comments that have continued to trail his decision to withdraw the case which he personally instituted without prompting from any one.

"I am not bothered by any comment. Everybody is entitled to his or her opinion just as I am entitled to mine. Those people who have been making such negative comments cannot claim to love Nigerian sports more than I do. Those who feel so aggrieved by my decision to withdraw the case should take up one of the numerous cases of corrupt practices in Nigerian sports and continue in court”.

"This case has been in public domain for so long. I want to ask how of these people who are today calling me names ever come to court in solidarity with me? None of them did. Did any of them even put a phone call across to me to encourage me? Never”.



NDANUSA

He said he did not fight Ndanusa as a person but the institution which he represents just as he maintained that if tomorrow another minister is appointed and there is any reason for him to take legal action over any contentious matter, he would not hesitate to do so.

Gombe however expressed happiness that the court case while it lasted proved clearly that nobody as far as Nigerian sports is concerned has the right to get up and do anything and still get away with it.

## Nigerian football is hopeless - Williams

WITH appointment of a foreign technical adviser for the Super Eagles ahead of the World Cup in South Africa uppermost in the minds of most Nigerians, others reckon there is no point discussing Nigerian football, since it has become a big disappointment.

Former chairman, Nigeria Football Association, Anthony Kodjo Williams stated in an interview with *brilafm.net* that it is a waste of time talking about the round leather game in Nigeria.

"I've said all I want to say about Nigerian football and I don't want to talk again. I am not interested. I've got other things to do than

**“I've got better things to do than give myself headache about Nigerian football”**

talk about Nigerian football. "It's just a waste of time. I've got better things to do than give myself headache about Nigerian football. There's no point talking about a mess. It's a total failure," Williams said.

### LAKE CHAD RESEARCH INSTITUTE (LCRI), FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES, P.M.B. 1293, MAIDUGURI

## RE: STAFF VACANCIES: INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT:

Following the advertisement of various vacant senior positions in the Lake Chad Research Institute, Maiduguri, and the subsequent receipt of applications for those positions, the LCRI Governing Board has approved the short-listed candidates for interview. Accordingly, the following short-listed candidates are hereby invited for interview on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010 at 10.00am each day at the Maiduguri International Hotel, Stadium Road, Maiduguri.

#### Borno State :

<p>1) <b>Assistant Director (Research):</b> 1. Dr. Baba Gana J. Kabir 2. Jidda Mallam Bukar 3. Dr. Zakari G.S. Turaki 4. Dr. A.T.S. Bibinu 5. Umeh Gibson Nwabueze (Ph.D) 6. Aishatu Hamza 7. Nkeki Kamai 2) <b>Chief Research Officer (CRO):</b> 8. Joshua Daudu Kabeh 9. Gambo Joji Shinge 10. <b>Asst. Chief Lab. Technologist:</b> 11. Dr. Ibrahim Abdul - ABU 12. Hamza Sunday Akidarju 13. Lawan Gana Wakil 14. Angarawai Ignatus Ijantuku 15. Abdullahi Adamu 16. Muhammad Abdu 17. Dr. Yahaya Yakubu 18. Muhammad Bukar Mele 3) <b>Principal Research Officer (PRO):</b> 19. Jesse Silas Mshelia 20. Ezekiel Y. Waba 21. Muhammad Saleh Gaya 22. Peter Auta Gwaski 23. Abdullahi Baba Imam 24. Baba Gana S. Baba Gimba 4) <b>Senior Research Officer (SRO):</b> 25. Goni Makinta 26. Iliya Bagudu Amaza 27. Alkali Usman Umara 28. Olajide Abraham Olayinka 29. Ibrahim Shuaibu Alhaji 30. Bukar Saleh 31. Baba Gana Abubakar 5) <b>Research Officer I (RO I):</b> 32. Umaru Musa Adamu 33. Musa Umaru Gololo 34. Usman Mailafiya Muhammad 35. Madawaki Bilyaminu 36. Abbas Zannah 37. Muhammad Mai Jir 38. Bukar Usman 39. Abdallah Awana 40. Rahila W. Christopher 41. Nuhu Batangalang</p>	<p>42. Senator Eniola Phillips 43. Fatimah Goni Ahmad 44. Taibu Muhammad 45. Bukar Alhaji Bukar 46. Ibrahim Musa 47. Mairo Muhammed Danjuma 48. Umara Goni Usman 49. Ibrahim Bukar Galadima 50. Abubakar Bala Askira 51. Amina K. Dapchi 52. Abbas Milinda Gadzama 5) <b>Chief Lab. Technologist:</b> 53. Dibal Arhyel Wandali 54. Ileoma Olusegun Emmanuel 55. Joshua Onyebuchi Ogbanna 7) <b>Asst. Chief Lab. Technologist:</b> 56. Dingari C. Ndurwa 57. Adamu Hauwa Shallangwa 58. Bulama Mustapha 8) <b>Principal Lab. Technologist:</b> 59. Ma'aji Abba Bashir 60. John I. Ogbuka 61. Adamu Danjuma B. 62. Yakaka Ahmadu Ma'aji 63. Anuga Anthony Ode 64. Muhammad Adamu Gona 9) <b>Senior Lab. Technologist:</b> 65. Hauwa Maina Bukar 66. Okoro Marcellina Chinenye (Mrs.) 67. Edward Wahirah Philip 68. Anawo Stephen Omanawo 69. Modu Umara Gana 70. Hamidu Ishaku Hamma 71. Abubakar Musa 72. Esther Yohanna 10) <b>Laboratory Technologist:</b> 73. Baba Fugu Muhammad 74. Muhammad Goni 75. Falmata Bukar Busami 76. Jidda Muhammed Saleh 77. Akuta Anthony 78. Musa Samaila 79. Shetima Abba Kyari 80. Abodunde Yemisi 81. Mustapha Umar Sanda 82. Baba Mala Mustapha</p>	<p>83. Baba Gana Muhammad 84. Aishatu Mustapha 85. Odii Emmanuel 11) <b>Chief Admin Officer (CAO):</b> 86. Paul M. Yahaya 87. Baba Gana Shettima 88. Eliya Pius Okoh 89. Madami Baba Gana 90. Gabriel Sunday 91. Umar Agid 92. Baba Mala Jato 93. Yasugami Bukar 12) <b>Principal Admin Officer (PAO):</b> 94. Bukar Tijjani 95. Jidda Abba Tamin 96. Egbinola Y. Oyeladun 97. Muhammed Abubakar Dabo 98. Maina Grema 99. Bukar Shettima B. 100. Mala Abba Kyari 13) <b>Senior Admin Officer (SAO Estate):</b> 101. Bukar Muhammad Tijjani 102. Sadiya Usman 103. Kamule Alhaji Mustapha 104. Kyari A. Mala 105. Alhaji Awaisa 106. Muhammed Nur Abba 107. Yagana Muhammed Dapchi 14) <b>Admin Officer I (Legal):</b> 108. Omigbo John Okwudin 109. Sulayman Kashim 110. Bulama Alhaji Mallam 111. Baba Gana Bukar 112. Maryam Aliyu 113. Sadatu Lami Mu'azu 114. Mala Mustapha 115. Aisha Abubakar Sadiq 116. Abubakar Mustapha 117. Fatima Bukar Ashemi 118. Hadiza Grema Mustapha 119. Modu Aji Babagana 120. Nura Bello Wala 15) <b>Admin Officer II:</b> 121. Kyari Alhaji Malla 122. Abubakar Aikali 123. Gujibawa Mustapha Bintube</p>	<p>124. Dagash Mustapha Haruna 125. Muhammed Kagu 126. Baba Gana Shehu 127. Abubakar Baba 128. Gona M. Jir 129. Alhaji Bukar Umar 16) <b>Chief Planning Officer:</b> 130. Itodo Dan Obaje 131. Abdul Ben Dada 132. Garba Jummai Samuel 133. Shettima Muhammed Aji 17) <b>Senior Planning Officer:</b> 134. Tijjani Mamman 135. Bukar Sanda 136. Kabir Abiso 137. Babale Zanaib G. 138. Bature Felicia S. 139. Monday Adama 18) <b>Planning Officer I:</b> 140. Abba Gana Modu 141. Muhammad Musa 142. Baba Gana M. Abalcha 143. Yahaya Aminu 144. Umara A. Mustapha 145. Alhaji Audu Muhammad 146. Alhaji Bulama 147. Alhaji Bukar Mustapha 148. Yahaya Hassan Gaya 149. Adejumo Jacob Adegoke 150. Muhammad Musa Alhaji 19) <b>Chief Accountant:</b> 151. Yau Mai Adamu 152. Mustapha Alhaji Bukar 153. Bassi Hauwa Amos (Mrs.) 154. David Esther (Mrs.) 155. Ahmed Aminu Aliyu 156. Mrs. Janada A. Mshelia 157. Manga Bakari Muhammad 20) <b>Principal Accountant:</b> 158. Hajja Gana Mai Denbe 159. Rawa Mallam Mustapha 160. Bukar Kulbu Mallam 161. Abbas Muhammad Izge 162. Lawan Gana Agid 21) <b>Senior Accountant:</b> 163. Talatu Babale</p>	<p>164. Malla Grema 165. Ahmad Ishaq Imam 22) <b>Accountant I:</b> 166. Akale I. Chinyere 167. Babir Sale 168. Yagana M. Jir 169. Usman Mele 170. Goni Musa 171. Daiyibu Muhammed 172. Felix Gabriel 23) <b>Chief Librarian:</b> 173. Muhammad Yakubu Tong 174. Shehu Auwalu 175. Umar Bulama Yoksa 24) <b>Senior Librarian:</b> 176. Yusuf Muhadeen Salihu 177. Yakubu Yunusa 178. Hassan Emmanuel 179. Okakwu Paul 180. Ahmad Muhammed Girei 181. Zanna Bukar 25) <b>Librarian I:</b> 182. Baba Muhammad 183. Hadiza Muhammed Danjuma 184. Hussaina Ibrahim 185. Mari Hauwa Muhammad 186. Hadiza Aliyu Abdullahi 187. Ali Gambo 26) <b>Senior Library Officer:</b> 188. Muhammad Amin Abdullahi 189. Itako Emmanuel 190. Zannah Bukar 191. Bashir Lawan 27) <b>Higher Library Officer:</b> 192. Hajja Toma Zanna 193. Ayuba Pindar 194. Ajus Musa Ali Marte</p>
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Candidates are advised to come along with the Original Copies of their Credentials. Please note that ONLY Short-listed Candidates will be entertained.

Signed:  
Executive Director  
Lake Chad Research Institute,  
Maiduguri

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## MADRASATU NURIL ISLAM

The general public is hereby notified that the Centre named above has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Alhaji Muhammad Sambo
2. Alhaji Muftau Bukoye Oloyede
3. Malam Adamu Ibrahim
4. Alhaji Musa Abdullahi
5. Malam Hussaini Haruna
6. Barr. Musa Abdu

**Aims and Objectives**

1. To preach and teach Islam
2. To promote, disseminate and propagate Islam education and culture
3. To organize Islamic Da'awah (Lectures and Symposia)

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, P.M.B. 198, Garki - Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Barr. Musa Abdu  
Solicitor

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The Original Letter of offer and old C of O of Plot 33, Dakibiyu District, Abuja with Old file No. BN290 bearing Usman Sule Ejembi has been missing since 2006. All efforts to trace them have proved abortive.

The general public and in particular the Abuja Geographic Information System (AGIS). Take note.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the Loss of Offer for Accelerated Development Programme within the FCT with File No. MISC 85644, File No. 420 CBD, CAD Zone A00 belonging to ASADA Group Limited is missing. All efforts to trace the said document proved abortive. If found return to the nearest Police Station. AGIS, general public and other agencies should take note.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified that the original offer of statutory right of occupancy belonging to Hadiza M. Kolo in respect of Plot No. 3130 with 61241 sqm Cadastral Zone F01 of Kubwa, Abuja has got missing. All effort made to trace the said document proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest Police Station or undersigned, General Public should take note.

Hadiza M. Kolo  
No. 3 Desmond Tutu Street,  
Asokoro, Abuja

## CITY OF PRAISE MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Austin Imoogbore Uzoyare
2. Courage E Sewi Aizebamwan
3. James Odion Uzoyare

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ to the whole world.
2. To organise seminars, crusades and conferences for teaching of the word of God.

Any objection to this 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:

Rosemary N. Emovon

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NIGERIA HEAD OFFICE:

\* Zone B block # Suite 10 ASPRAMDA Trade Fair Complex Badagry Express Way, Lagos.  
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## TOTAL RIGHTS VOLUNTEER CENTER

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. Lawrence Oguogo
2. Prof. Edwin Nwogugu
3. Jika Altch
4. Justice John Aneke (Rtd)
5. Dr. Ngozi Oguogo

**Aims and objectives:**

1. Protection of Human Rights.
2. Promotion of Human Rights.
3. Creating awareness (Human rights Awareness)

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Secretary

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The general public is hereby notified that the original letter of conveyance of provisional offer in respect of Plot No. F83 Nyanya Phase 1B, Abiya with file no. MZTP/BO/176 belonging to Musa Ahmadu Kida, has got missing which were inside a handbag. All efforts made to trace the said document proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest Police Station or under-signed, AGIS and general public should take note.

Signed:

Musa Ahmadu Kida  
No. 13 George Innih Crescent, Zone 'E' Apo  
Legislative Quarters, Abuja

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the Original Right of Occupancy No. 1775 located at Kalampe B07 Layout belonging to MAYFABARS COMPANY LIMITED measuring 3828.39m<sup>2</sup> is declared missing. All efforts made to trace the missing documents proved abortive. If found, please contact Ahmed Adamu of Wuse Zone 1, Abuja or the nearest Police Station.

## HARMONY ESTATE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION, ISHERI NORTH, LAGOS

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mr. Festus Awosika - Chairman
2. Barr. Olanrewaju Falola - Secretary
3. Brigadier-General Adadapo Adebayo
4. Mr. Adeniyinka Fabosade
5. Mr. Adebawale Balogun
6. Mr. Albert Oyedepi
7. Mr. Mike Omilani
8. Mr. Gbenga Ogunsakin
9. Mr. Ehis Tony Inoghe

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. To foster unity and co-operation amongst members.

Any objection to this 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. Olanrewaju Falola

## KADO ESTATE JUMA'AT MOSQUE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. SHAHID (DR) SULAIMAN S. GUMMI
2. IMAM SAIDU KIJMA TGGI
3. MAL AHMAD MUHD TUKUR
4. ENGR SANIK HALIR
5. ALHAJI FARUK SULAIMAN (FARISMAN)
6. ALHAJADAMU BAKO
7. ALHAJI MANNIR SHEHU
8. ALHAJI HALIMU MUHAMMAD
9. MALAM KACALU AMUNGUNO

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. TO PROPAGATE ISLAM AND PREACH PEACEFUL WAY OF LIFE
2. TO PROMOTE ISLAMIC ETHICAL VALUES AND IDEAS AMONG ALL MUSLIMS
3. TO FOSTER CORDIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OTHER MUSLIMS ORGANIZATIONS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE OPTIMUM UNITY.

Any objection to this 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:

A.R GIDADO ESQ  
A.R.G. DANMALLAM BORGU & CO  
08038498744

## ASSOCIATION OF UZOUWANI TIMBERS MARKET TRADERS

This is to inform the general public that the above named association has applied for registration with Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mr. Christopher Ajogwu
2. Chief Ezenwannadi Frederick
3. Mr. Vincent Anabonam
4. Mr. Thomas Ogbonna
5. Mr. Oti Emmanuel
6. Mr. Okolo Tobias
7. Mr. Cigbobe Kevin
8. Mr. Hyginus Anwa
9. Mr. Niako John
10. Mr. Boniface Ngana

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. To promote peace, co-operation and to foster unity and understanding.
2. To seek and advance the interest of members in all matters of social, economic and general welfare.
3. To maintain the principle of freedom, equality and justice.

Any objection to this 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:

Management

## CLEMENT AND COMFORT OGUNLANA FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Chief Clement Oluwole Ogunlana
2. Prof. Benard Eronmonsele Aigbokhan
3. Mrs. Modupe Sorinola
4. Mrs. Opeyemi Abobe
5. Engineer Ayodele Ogunlana
6. Mr. Festus Ologoke Olaolu
7. Mr. Tony Akintade

**AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:**

1. To cater for the education of indigent children in primary and secondary schools.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:

Secretary

## GOLDEN ECHOES ENTERTAINMENT FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation 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. Anthony Enahoro Osagiede
2. Mrs. Christiana Osagiede

**Aims and objectives:**

1. To create spiritual music that uplifts and opens every listener's awareness.
2. To establish a school of music for all who love heavenly sounds symphonies
3. To engage in magazine publication of world's most uplifting music as a means of bridging the inter-faith divide.
4. To promote public awareness programs on the importance of listening and creating sweet heavenly sounds.
5. To promote opportunities for the individual who seeks to experience heavenly sounds while still living in the physical world.

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:

Aminatu Ekemba Ibe  
08033137990  
Abuja.

I, formerly known as **FABOYA LARAI** now wish to be called **YOHANNA LARAI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **OYERINDE FUNKE BEATRICE** now wish to be called **MRS AINA FUNKE BEATRICE**. All former documents remain valid. **NYSC headquarters** and General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS NKECHI JUSTINA UMEJIAKU** now wish to be known as **MRS NKECHI TINA AUGUSTINE MAKOZI**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS AMINA JUMOKE BAKARE** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS AMINA ISTIFANUS GYERE**. All former documents remain valid. **Ahmadu Bello University** and General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS. CHIGOZIE LILIAN MUONANU**, now wish to be known as **MRS. CHIGOZIE LILIAN ILOH**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

**THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE**

# Mavericks too strong for Lakers

THE Dallas Mavericks overcame the absence of Caron Butler to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 101-96 on Wednesday in a clash of NBA divisional leaders, extending their NBA winning run to five games.

Butler, a key part of a seven-player trade with Washington this month, missed the game because of a bad reaction to medication. Without Butler, Dirk Nowitzki and Jason Terry picked up the slack by scoring 22 of the Mavericks' final 23 points. Nowitzki finished with 31 and Terry with 30.

Los Angeles' Kobe Bryant scored 20 points and moved into 13th place on the career scoring list. Bryant, who passed Reggie Miller, has 25,298 points.

Bryant missed a 3-pointer that could have tied it with 25 seconds left.

In Houston, Dwight Howard was 11 for 11 from the field and had 30 points and 16 rebounds to help Orlando beat

Howard scored all of his points in the last three quarters, as he sat out almost the entire first period after committing two quick fouls. He had his 19th straight double-double to break a tie with Shaquille O'Neal for the franchise record.

Aaron Brooks led Houston with 24 points.

In San Antonio, Manu Ginobili scored 26 points and made a spectacular block on Kevin Durant's would-be dunk late in the fourth quarter, leading San Antonio over Oklahoma City.

Ginobili's crucial block in the final minutes helped stop Durant's streak of scoring 25 points or more at 29 games.

Durant had 21 points and 12 rebounds.

Tim Duncan had 19 points and 15 rebounds for the Spurs.

In Toronto, Andre Miller had 18 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds to lead Portland over Toronto.

Brandon Roy added 20 points for the Trail Blazers.

Hedo Turkoglu scored 24 points for the Raptors who failed to top 100 points for the first time in 21 games—a streak that had extended back to Jan. 6.

In Salt Lake City, Carlos Boozer scored 20 of his 33 points in the second half to help Utah

defeat Charlotte.

Deron Williams added 20 points and 12 assists for the Jazz, which has won 14 of its past 16 games to move within half a game of Northwest Division-leading Denver.

Gerald Wallace scored 27 points for Charlotte.

**“Bryant scored 20 points and moved into 13th place on the career scoring list.”**



KOBE Bryant of Los Angeles Lakers, right, shoots against Jason Kidd of Dallas Mavericks on Wednesday at the American Airlines Centre in Dallas, Texas.

## Djokovic, Melzer rally to advance in Dubai

DEFENDING champion Novak Djokovic rallied past Ivan Ljubicic 2-6, 6-4, 6-0 Thursday to advance at the Dubai Championships.

Djokovic was down a set and 4-4 against former finalist Ivan Ljubicic, who had 14 aces. But Djokovic won the next eight games and will face Marcos Baghdatis in the semifinals.

“After losing the first set comfortably, I tried to hold my serve,” Djokovic said. “I knew that at a certain point he’s going to miss (a) couple of first serves, and that was my chance.”

Jürgen Melzer overcame Marin Cilic 7-6 (8), 7-5 to reach the semifinals. Cilic looked in control with a 4-1 lead in the second set but Melzer held serve and Cilic started making errors on a windy afternoon.

It marked the first time this year that Cilic did not reach the semifinals. He won titles in Chennai and Zagreb - including a win over Melzer in the semis. He also made it to his first Grand Slam semifinals at the Australian Open.

“Of course, it’s a little bit disappointing. I think that I

could go a little bit further,” the sixth-seeded Cilic said. “I had my chance to make something and to win a few more matches. But also, the other guy played well. Melzer deserved it.”

Melzer advanced to his second semifinal of the year.

“Well, to be honest, I think I was a little lucky to hold serve at 4-1,” he said. “He played

**“It marked the first time this year that Cilic did not reach the semifinals.”**

really fantastic from when he just started the match. But after that I mixed it up a little

bit, played a little serve-and-volley and served better.”

Melzer will face seventh-seeded Mikhail Youzhny, who beat Janko Tipsarevic of Serbia 6-3, 6-4.

Tipsarevic, a day after upsetting Andy Murray, was never in contention against Youzhny. He was 0-for-3 in break-chance opportunities.

“I knew he would be a little tired after last night’s tough match against Murray, so I just wanted to make him run a bit,” Youzhny said. “The plan seems to have worked.”

Elsewhere in Acapulco, top-seeded Venus Williams reached the quarterfinals of the Mexican Open, defeating Kaia Kanepi of Estonia 6-4, 6-4.

Fernando Verdasco, the top seed on the men’s side, advanced earlier in the day with a 6-4, 6-3 victory against Lukasz Kubot of Poland.

Both second-seeded players also advanced in the clay-court tournament.

Agnes Szavay of Hungary beat Renata Voracova of the Czech Republic 7-5, 6-1, and Fernando Gonzalez of Chile defeated Victor Hanescu of Romania 7-6 (2), 3-6, 6-1.



DJOKOVIC

## Zheng Jie upset at Malaysian Open

CHANG Kai-Chen of Taiwan crushed Zheng Jie of China 6-2, 6-3 to reach the quarterfinals of the Malaysian Open yesterday.

The 19-year-old sent the No. 3 seed packing days after No. 2 seed Li Na was knocked out by Germany’s Tatjana Malek on Monday. Both Zheng and Li Na reached the semifinals of the Australian Open last month.

Chanelle Scheepers reached her first WTA quarterfinal after defeating Tatjana Malek 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 in the second round.

The 26-year-old South African was given a scare by Malek before eventually prevailing in two hours, 27 minutes.

The first set belonged to Malek, who had sensationally knocked out second-seeded Li Na of China in the first round on Tuesday. The German broke her opponent twice but Scheepers fought back in the second set.

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Adamu Adamu  
adamuadamu@dailytrust.com

## In Praise of the Abonta

In history, numbers could be altogether deceptive; but they had more often proved decisive. And in the history of Nigeria nowhere had fewness in numbers proved more decisive in shaping the future than in the case of Kwararafa. That indefinable and, for several centuries, unconquered empire reserved the right and ability to hit, conquer and almost at will destroy the Hausa States and torment even the great Borno Empire.

That's the way it was with Jukuns—long was their reach, quick their strike, short-lived their victory, and rapid their retreat. That was how they conquered the North. Had they but turned their attention southwards, the Igbo nation of villages would have become their vassal, and the cities of the Yoruba race would have been their tributaries. Had it been launched, no army could have stopped a Kwararafa quest to the coast.

They came, they saw, they conquered—but they always went away, galloping, bidding bye, saying, "Ya-ka-sai" a name that has stuck in Kano as a permanent testimony to their temporary over-lordship. The Jukun were too few to hold onto the vast territories they easily subdued. So, they always relied on coming back next time.

But when next they came after independence, it was not with a cavalry or in great members. Only one person came—General Theophilus Yakubu Danjuma, the **Abonta of Wukari**. Instead of coming, they gave the nation their own son. And wasn't it only fitting and proper that a scion of such martial ancestry should become the most famous fighting man of the nation, the most celebrated Chief of Army staff that Nigeria had ever had?

And just as the Jukuns had in the past conquered the nation with force of *arms*, General Danjuma has today reconquered the same territory with force of *alms*. Within the last few years, General Danjuma had spent almost a billion Naira to help fight and win an election in which he thought the salvation of the nation lay; and he built and gave away a complete teaching hospital to Nasarawa State University; and funded an extensive intervention programme in education, healthcare and poverty alleviation. His largely unadvertised liberality to religious causes was even more extensive and longer-lasting. But last week he did the ultimate—he gave away the princely alms of 15 billion Naira in charity to the nation's poor.

The whole nation applauded, marveling at the nobility of mind that could part with such a fortune, a nobility of mind that could only have sprung from the kind of contentment that corrupt riches couldn't give their owner.

But a few sneered, asking where the General got all that money from, conveniently ignoring the fact that he had himself given the answer while announcing the unprecedented philanthropic act. He mentioned the sale of one of his assets—an oil bloc—that fetched him \$2.5 billion. Those who sneered could perhaps pick their quarrel with a system that issued oil blocs, but they could not in all honesty pick one with the person who, of all the plutocrats—the established moneyed classes and the nouveau riches—had made the best use of it.

Doubtless, the possession of stupendous wealth in a prebendal nation of thieving elite could make one look almost like a suspect. But we were all aware that during the regime of General Murtala Mohammed something like a probity peer-reviewed mechanism was in place to check on and keep members of the Supreme Military Council in line.

After Murtala's death, it was General Danjuma and one or two others who kept the standard intact, at one time even having to check the corrupt proclivities of then Head of State General Olusegun Obasanjo. And today to the sneerers, he has become the victim of that suspicion, envy and general pessimism: and, in this General Danjuma is a typical example of a person becoming a victim of his own success. But the truth is that, in Nigeria, with or without an oil bloc, anyone with half of his influence, a third of his seriousness and a quarter of his hard work, could have amassed multiples of what General Danjuma today owns.

Meanwhile, as General Danjuma was giving away his billions, a text message was making the rounds extolling his act, and unfavourably comparing the billions he had given

away with the unsuccessful effort by His Eminence the Sultan of Sokoto to raise 7 million Naira, that is, less than 0.05 percent of what the General gave away, to help the victims of the recent Jos crisis. The text ended by listing Muslim plutocrats and asking where they were and where their own Naira was. And what a great irony it would have been had General Danjuma turned his attention to that matter of the victims and beaten the Muslim plutocrats even at that!

Perhaps Richard South had General Danjuma in mind when he said, "If there be any truer measure of a man than by what he *does*; it must be by what he *gives*;" because, as has been said: as the purse is emptied, so is the heart filled—and then how numerous are the lives that are thus touched and the hopes that are lit up! General Danjuma can be favourably measured on both scales; because he *does* everything with seriousness, and he has now *given* what no one in the nation has given away before.

Recently, during a discussion on the national condition the details of which *This Day* misreported, and which, in his column, Mohammed Haruna tried to correct, one elder noted the hyper-enthusiasm of one of the members in pressing the pre-eminence of General Danjuma, and, in an effort to douse it, he called on the member to appreciate the fact that there were many others who would argue in the opposite direction with validity and equal passion. The member reluctantly accepted, clearly upset but trying hard not to show it that anybody could fail to see what he had seen. In the end that member must have been delighted that everyone saw the light.

It certainly stands in no need for demonstrating that General Danjuma is a first-class patriot, an utterly selfless person who could, and did, give his life for this country on several, real life-threatening occasions; who, while himself remaining in the background in self-denial, had made and unmade presidents for the country, an officer whose word is his bond and with whom you always knew where you stood.

While Haruna said many names were mentioned at that meeting, it ended with the clear understanding that the choice was General Danjuma unless he rejected, which he did. His choice should have been obvious because none of those mentioned could have regarded competition to him; and secondly, he better than anyone of them, would have provided the degree of firmness required by the occasion. His apolitical stance, his avoidance of office, his decision to, in fact, retire from everything would seem to have made him the ideal choice that wouldn't threaten anybody's, but serve everybody's, interest.

This was no office-seeking opportunity; it was a mission of national salvation, as we saw it: a situation with a new acting president clearly at his wit's end, surrounded by an unending array of overbearing, scheming godfathers and god-brothers. It would otherwise have been an insult to offer the vice presidency to General Danjuma, because high is he above this or that office.

If the qualification for the office is being a Northerner, no one alive is more qualified for it than General Danjuma; because he is not just a Northerner to the core, here he is first among non-equals. And if Northern-ness were a spiritual brotherhood, Danjuma would be a canonized saint while many of those who reckoned themselves so would belong to the class of irredeemable sinners, slouching it out, as it were, in Nigeria's Slough of Despond.

Wasn't it remarkable and indicative of the stuff he was made that General Danjuma would be chosen by our self-appointed panel that was virtually all-Muslim to be Vice President in a situation that would have produced a Christian-Christian ticket, not long after a crisis that had inflamed religious passions across the country?

And in the end, it was the elder at the meeting who, in summing it all up, delivered the clincher when he said, "The greatest strength of General Danjuma is that both those who like him and those who dislike him believe he is a very serious person; and they will see seriousness in anything in which they see his hand." And that type of seriousness was what Nigeria needed but had always lacked. In the end, this nation should be commiserated with that it has not had the good fortune of being under his presidency, not just vice-presidency.

## SPORTS REPORT



PORTSMOUTH manager Avram Grant

## Black Friday: Kanu's Pompey to go into administration

Portsmouth will be docked nine points on Friday when they become the first Premier League club to be put in administration.

The cash-strapped club which has two Nigeria internationals, Nwankwo Kanu and John Utaka on their payroll, have endured a nightmare season and off the pitch - and this

latest blow all but firms their relegation to the Championship. However, a bright note is that they are expected to go bust.

Pompey owner Ram Chainrai and fellow investor have been in London continuing talks with representatives of different groups in buying the



JOSEPH Yobo

## Yobo, Yakubu refused permission to fly to Po

Everton defender Joseph Yobo and his mate and fellow-countryman Yakubu were refused permission to travel to the rest of their club squad to Wednesday evening, according to a report in the Daily Mirror.

The Toffees face Sporting CP in Lisbon on Wednesday night in the second leg of their Europa League tie. The two Nigerians were apparently refused permission to fly because officials were unable to find their documents.

However, the pair later flew out to Amsterdam with Everton fans. They are not said to be concerned about the

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