

LIBRARY

DAILY TRUST

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2010

JIMADA AKHIR 6, 1431 A.H.

TRUST IS A BURDEN

www.dailytrust.com VOL. 24 No 33 N150

Yakowa to be sworn-in as Kaduna governor today



Page 2

Jega now RMAFC's acting chairman



Page 25

President to new VP:

Let us avoid friction

By Mohammed S. Shehu

FORMER Kaduna State governor Alhaji Mohamed Namadi Sambo was sworn in as Vice President of the Federal Republic yesterday, with an advice from President Goodluck Jonathan that the new vice president should work to avoid friction in their working relationship. The new vice president was also conferred with a Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) at the swearing in ceremony. GCON is Nigeria's second highest nation honour, after the Grand Commander of the Federal Republic (GCFR).

Speaking soon after the oath of office was administered on Sambo, Dr. Jonathan promised to fully cooperate with him in order to avoid any friction that may cross their ways in the course of carrying out their assignments.

He said, "I promise you full cooperation. The stories of crisis between president and vice president will not arise. I will make sure that we work together as a team. I have the confidence to say that because my history is well known by everybody. So, I have a fair knowledge of areas of disagreement. I was a deputy governor before I became a governor, and I started as a vice president before I became the president."

Continued on page 5



PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan (right) decorates Vice President Namadi Sambo with the National Honour of Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger (GCON) after the swearing-in at the State House, Abuja, yesterday.

EFCC seeks German court order over Siemens

By Boco Edet

ON the very day that former Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) national chair-

man Prince Vincent Ogbu-lafor handed his office over to the deputy national chairman Dr. Bello Haliru Mohamed, trouble brewed

for the new party boss when the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday said it had written a letter to the

Attorney-General of the Federation to use the agreement between Nigeria and Germany and obtain a copy from the German authori-

ties of the judgement by a Munich court. The judgement found two former Siemens managers guilty of bribery to win telecom con-

tracts in Russia and Nigeria. EFCC Chairman Farida Waziri said in Abuja that the Certified True Copy (CTC)

Continued on page 5

Inside Today's Daily Trust

Business

Nigeria's foreign reserves has dropped to \$40.28bn from \$400.38bn at the end of April **25**

News Extra

A fake Swedish air pilot who has been flying jets for 13 years without a licence has been arrested **39**

Politics

ANPP scribe says Gov Shekarau has to go through the mill in his presidential aspiration **49**

Senate probes N5.8bn allocated to ghost agency

Page 4



Shariah Council backs Yarima on marriage

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Supreme Council for Shari'ah in Nigeria (SCSN) yesterday rose from an emergency meeting in Kaduna warning the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and other related matters (NAPTIP) to stop quizzing Senator Ahmed Sani Yarima over his marriage to an Egyptian girl, saying, "Enough is enough."

The agency had quizzed Yarima in Abuja Tuesday for allegedly

marrying a 13 year old Egyptian girl, Marim Maged Eladely.

Addressing newsmen at the end of an emergency meeting, the chairman of the Kaduna State chapter of SCSN, Sheikh Mohammed T. Suleiman, said the grilling of Yarima by the agency was an attack on Islam and Muslims in the country, saying they should stop it in the interest of peace.

"We are urging Yarima not to entertain any invitation from any organization on this issue again. We are solidly behind him

because what he did was in line with Islamic injunctions as contained in Quran chapter 4 verse 2, and we are warning all these agents of the Jews to desist in the interest of peace in the country," he said.

Quoting Section 37 of the 1999 Constitution, the council said Muslims in the country had the constitutional backing to practice their religion without any hindrance and that any attempt to stop them from marrying any girl of their choice including teens should be seen an attempt

to infringe on their right.

"We are calling on Muslims in the country to continue with this practice as it is the teaching of the Quran and the Prophet's (SAW) Sunnah. Any organization trying to stop it is trying to cause crisis in this country. Enough is enough," he said.

He said the council had instituted a legal action at the Federal High Court in Abuja against all organizations trying to infringe on the right of Muslims in the country.

Plateau lifts curfew

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

RESIDENTS of Jos and Bukuru yesterday heaved a sigh of relief as the Plateau State government lifted the curfew imposed in the area following the outbreak of violence in January this year.

Government House Director of Press and Public Affairs Mr James Mannok told our correspondent in a telephone interview that the curfew was lifted completely following a decision reached at the Security Council meeting yesterday.

According to Mannok, the curfew was lifted after consultations on security, stressing that people should go about their normal businesses and be law abiding.

Kano women urge Shekarau to be neutral

HUNDREDS of women under the auspices of the Movement for Ibrahim Khalil 2011 staged a rally in Kano yesterday urging the governor to remain neutral on who succeeds him.

The protesting women marched to the Government House asking the governor to allow justice to prevail by way of ensuring that the ANPP's flag-bearer emerges through constitutional process.

Sheikh Ibrahim Khalil is among the prominent contenders for the governorship under the ruling party in the state. Yesterday's protest by women was however contrary to Khalil's earlier admonition to his supporters that whoever Governor Shekarau anointed as flag-bearer should be supported.

Speaking at the Government House, chairperson of the association, Hajiya Ladidi Ahmed Mijinyawa, said the rally was simply to protest against the imposition of any candidate for the governorship race on the people and that fairness and neutrality should prevail in the emergence of any candidate in the interest of the party.

"All aspirants should be given equal treatment in line with democratic principles in the interest of the party and the state in general", she said.

Responding on behalf of Governor Shekarau, the Permanent Secretary, Government House, Alhaji Mohammed Garba, commended them for the peaceful demonstration to make their position known. He said all contenders to the gubernatorial seat were equal as long they belong to the ANPP. The political atmosphere in Kano has been heated since Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau made public his choice of successor in the 2011 election.



PIC: NAN

FROM left: Chief Medical Director, National Eye Centre Dr. Godwin Adejor, Director of Administration Chief Jonathan Zamuna, Minister of State for Health Alhaji Suleiman Bello, during the visit of the minister to the eye centre in Kaduna, yesterday.

Shell pledges \$2bn to cut gas flaring

ROYAL Dutch Shell PLC announced yesterday that it will spend more than \$2 billion to sharply reduce the burning off of natural gas at its oil wells in Nigeria- gases that when burned contribute to global warming and sicken people living nearby.

In a statement, Shell said its Nigerian subsidiary would use the money to capture the natural gas released at 26 flow stations in the oil-rich Niger Delta. The company said it had planned the work there for some time but funding problems and concerns about security

delayed the projects. Shell said its subsidiary previously spent more than \$3 billion to build similar gas-gathering projects at 32 other flow stations in Nigeria. The collected natural gas will be sold for use by power plants and industries, the company said.

Mutiu Sunmonu, the Managing Director of Shell's subsidiary, said it would reduce the gas released to "the lowest practical volume" but that some gas would still escape and be burned.

"Security and funding conditions permitting, we have a real

chance to progress our flaring reduction plans through these key projects," Sunmonu said in the statement.

Shell, which drilled Nigeria's first oil well 50 years ago, is negotiating with Nigeria to renew its oil leases. While the company remains the largest player in the country, its CEO has said it can no longer count on Nigeria as a major moneymaker as attacks on its facilities continue and lawmakers consider increasing the government's cut on profits. Militant attacks last year let Angola overtake Nigeria as

Africa's No. 1 oil exporter.

The gas fires, known as flaring, are caused by the burning of natural gas that is produced along with crude oil. Environmentalists describe it as one of the largest sources of greenhouse gases which cause global warming. Those living in the Niger Delta say the burning contributes to acid rain and causes respiratory illnesses. Flaring leaves their fishing villages bathed in light at all hours and kill the fish living among the creeks and swamps of the roughly 20,000-square-mile delta.

Yakowa to be sworn-in as Kaduna governor today

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

DEPUTY Governor of Kaduna State Mr Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa is to be sworn in as the governor today following the swearing in of Alhaji Mohammed Namadi Sambo as the Vice President yesterday.

Kaduna State Commissioner of Information Alhaji Saidu Adamu who told our correspondent in Kaduna about the development,

said the swearing ceremony would be held at the Hassan Usman Katsina House at 2.00pm.

He said all arrangements for the ceremony had been concluded. The state's Chief Judge, Justice Rahila H. Cudjoe, is expected to administer the oath office on him. "The Vice President will not be able to attend the ceremony because President Goodluck Jonathan will be travelling abroad and the Vice President

will be in Abuja to continue with government activities," the commissioner said.

Yakowa who was born on the 1st of December, 1948 in Fadan Kagoma, Jema'a Local Government Area, in July 2003, became the Secretary to the State government under the Ahmed Makarfi administration.

Following the demise of the then Deputy Governor, Engineer Stephen Rijo Shekari in July 2005,

he was elevated to deputy governor. With his swearing-in today, he will become the first Southern Kaduna person to occupy the seat.

Meanwhile, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) has dispelled reports that tension is brewing in Kaduna over the coming on board of a Christian governor. A statement issued by the National Publicity Secretary of the forum, Mr. Anthony Sani, said the forum during its

National Working Committee (NWC) meeting presided over by the chairman, retired General IBM Haruna reviewed the situation and observed that the speculation was the handiwork of a few unpatriotic and evil minded individuals. It appealed to media managers to exercise more caution and better judgment in their treatment of stories, especially stories spread through unidentified text messages.

EFCC clears Sambo of corruption charges

By Boco Edet

ECONOMIC and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has cleared Vice President Namadi Sambo of allegations of financial misappropriation against him as Kaduna State governor.

EFCC Chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri said yesterday in Abuja that a law firm, Sadau Garba & Co. petitioned against Sambo.

"We received a petition against

the governor and counter petitions because the people who wrote that petition also had allegations of extortion against them which was handled by the SSS in Kaduna with tapes as proof. We are very conversant with that and we looked into it. Most of the allegations were frivolous and we have a tape recorder to show that those people asked for bribes. It is being handled by the SSS and our office," she said.

The EFCC boss said the anti-graft agency would consider presenting a bill before the National Assembly to deal with petitioners who write falsehood to reduce the "pendant of maligning good people."

The petition written in December 2009 said the Kaduna State government under Namadi Sambo had connived with the legislature to misappropriate a total of N153bn.

It also alleged among other things that Sambo failed to account for the N1.2billion expenditure on the hosting of Under-17 World Cup not captured in the budget.

On the proposed extradition of former governor of Delta State James Ibori, the EFCC Chairman said President Goodluck Jonathan met with a Metropolitan Police officer who visited Nigeria to discuss the matter.

She said though Nigeria has no extradition treaty with Dubai, its legal team would remain in the country to help with relevant documents needed by Met Police to facilitate his extradition to the United Kingdom.

Mrs. Waziri also said she was troubled by reports of alleged corruption in Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and would liaise with the new Minister to initiate a probe into its activities.

Top militants in Abuja to boost amnesty

By Sunday Williams

TOM Polo and Ateke Tom were among scores of top Niger Delta militant leaders who yesterday attended an elaborate post-amnesty re-integration programme where they pledged to ensure peace reigns in the region and also guaranteed uninterrupted production of oil.

Top militant leaders at the event were Tom Ateke; Chief Government Ekpemupolo (Tompolo); Fara Dagogo; Young Shall Grow; Idi Amin; Ebikabowei Victoria-Ben; Boyloaf; Maciver; Osama Bin Laden; Franklin; Sozee; and Pastor Reuben.

They pledged to support the Disarmament, Rehabilitation and Reintegration (DRR) scheme during a session with the Special Adviser to the President on Niger Delta, Mr. Timi Alaibe at the Chelsea Hotel, Abuja.

"We have gone through the modules and everyone agreed that the programme is taking shape, the President of the Ijaw Youth Congress, Dr. Chris Ekiyor, said on behalf of his colleagues.

"A great measure of confidence is now put back into the amnesty process. We will get back to the Niger Delta to key into the new agenda.

"We have extracted commitment to post-amnesty programme from the President and we believe in it. All these freedom fighters were not forced on their part to give commitment not to go back to the creeks. The President is well abreast of the DRR programme. As one of us from Niger Delta, we are left with no choice than to support him.

"The President can go to sleep that he has our support to ensure national unity. Oil production has improved; it will continue to improve because we have faith in the amnesty programme.

"We want a patterned sustainable development in Niger Delta, respect for environment, respect for people's rights and enhanced security."

Speaking earlier, Alaibe said he met with the former militants to show that the implementation of the post-amnesty programme had started.

"We have called the ex-militant leaders to apprise them of the details and the gamut of the planned process of the amnesty programme.

"We will soon be calling their members to camp to start the re-integration process. We will be carrying out programme to ensure that the youths of Niger Delta have a new orientation.



SUPPORTERS of Governor Adebayo Ado-Akala of Oyo State and his Deputy, Alhaji Tanfeek Arapaja, from Ibadan North Local Government Area of the State demanding for a joint 2nd term ticket for them in the 2011 gubernatorial election in Ibadan yesterday.

NDIC pays N3bn to depositors of closed banks

By Idris Ahmed

NIGERIA Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) said it paid N3.3bn out of N5.2 billion to insured depositors of 34 closed banks in the pre-consolidation period as at March ending.

The corporation also said that N6.1bn had been paid out of N11.6bn declared as liquidation dividend during the same period to the affected depositors.

Spokesman of the corporation Hadi Birchi said out of the total deposits of N165.1bn trapped in the 13 banks which were closed in 2006, the corporation has paid N3.5bn insured

deposits and N61.6bn liquidation dividends in 11 of the 13 banks as at the end of March.

He said shareholders of Alpha Merchant Bank (in liquidation), Nigeria Merchant Bank and Pan African Bank had during the same period received N373m, N620m and N293m respectively as liquidation dividend.

He said a dividend of N41.89m had been paid to the creditors of Eagle Bank under the purchase and assumption (P&A) arrangement.

Meanwhile, NDIC has embarked on nationwide verification visits to agent banks which were appointed by the corporation to

pay depositors of banks in liquidation.

The agent banks are Afribank of Nigeria Plc, Bank PHB Plc, Diamond Bank Plc, Fidelity Bank Plc and First Bank of Nigeria Plc.

Others are Spring Bank Plc, UBA Plc, Union Bank of Nigeria Plc, Wema Bank Plc and Zennith Bank Plc.

NDIC has so far visited 344 branches of the agent banks across the six (6) geo-political zones of the country.

The purpose of the verification visits was to confirm compliance by the agent banks as well as to accelerate the process of payment of insured deposits and liquidation dividends.

FEC approves N4bn ICT contracts

■ As Jonathan leaves for Cameroon today

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE Federal Executive Council has approved contracts for the supply and distribution of Information Communication Technology (ICT) equipment worth N3.6billion to schools in the country.

The meeting, which was presided over by President Goodluck Jonathan, split the contracts into two and awarded them to two firms: ZINOX Technologies Ltd. and Global Links.

Briefing State House reporters shortly after the council meeting yesterday, Information and

Communications Minister Dora Akunyili said the council approved the procurement of 100 classmate PC for students, two laptops for teachers for teaching purposes, one unit of server, broadband internet connections with two years of guaranteed bandwidth payment, provision of power supply through solar system, refurbishing and securing of equipment storage room, provision of wireless mesh and charging platforms for each of the selected 290 schools at a unit cost of N12.31m per school in favour of ZINOX with 201 schools to service at the cost of N2.5b and dialup.

Dora said the schools would be encouraged to share these facilities with their surrounding communities on a commercial basis to support maintenance and ensure sustainability.

Meanwhile, President Goodluck Jonathan will visit Yaounde, Cameroon, today to grace the country's 50th independence anniversary celebration and return immediately.

A statement by Jonathan's spokesman Ima Niboro yesterday said the president will attend the event on the invitation of Cameroonian President Paul Biya.

Other African leaders also

expected to grace the celebration billed to hold at the 20th May Boulevard in Yaounde are Liberia's Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, South Africa's Jacob Zuma, Senegal's Abdoulaye Wade, Burkina Faso's Blaise Compaore and the presidents of the five other countries of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEEACA).

President of the African Union Commission (AU) Jean Ping, former UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, and former Nigerian leaders, Generals Yakubu Gowon and Olusegun Obasanjo will also attend the occasion.

Jonathan told not to contest presidency in 2011

By Abbas Jimoh

A founding member of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and former Nigerian Ambassador to Germany Prof. Tunde Adeniran has advised President Goodluck Jonathan not to contest the 2011 presidential election.

Adeniran also kicked against

appointing Minister of Information and Communication Prof. Dora Akunyili as chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

He said the next INEC chairman should be someone who has integrity, knowledge, experience and wide acceptance, saying that Akunyili has most of the creden-

tials but might not be acceptable by many based on her partisan politics.

"My genuine advice is that Mr. President should concentrate fully and firmly in repositioning the country and as a key stakeholder in PDP to work towards repositioning the party for among others the entrenchment of internal democ-

racy," Adeniran said.

He said that Akunyili would be a bad choice going by the agitation for Electoral Reform in the country.

He said, "If you go back to the criteria I mentioned earlier, you will know that even though she is a lady of integrity, she is a wonderful Nigerian and a great achiever and I did say that the criteria are the irre-

ducible minimum. So it may not be right to appoint her as INEC chairman because people will perceive her, even before she takes off, she will be perceived as a likely person who will be partisan." On the crises in his party, Adeniran admitted that the party had not got it right but said there is hope for it to get it right.



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State (left) and his Kano State counterpart Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, at the ANPP NEC meeting in Maiduguri recently.

...gives ministers deadline on action plan

By Idris Ahmed

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has ordered all ministers to submit their action plans for the next one year latest tomorrow, *Daily Trust* learnt yesterday.

This directive was contained in a memo by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Yayale Ahmed to all Federal Executive Council (FEC) members.

A source told *Daily Trust* that the memo directed the ministers to provide detailed action plans to be achieved by them.

Jonathan became the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces on May 5 following the death of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Some have interpreted the directive to mean that Jonathan is bent on contesting the 2011 presidential election even though the Peoples Democratic Party's zoning agreement said the next president should come from the north.

An aide to Jonathan had said that the President would contest the 2011 election, which he later said was his personal opinion.

"By directing the ministers to submit a one year action plan, it shows that he is interested in the election" a source said.

No pressure on me to resign, says PDP Deputy National Chairman

By Muideen Olaniyi

DEPUTY National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Dr Bello Haliru Mohammed has said that there was no pressure on him to resign.

Mohammed was reacting to media reports suggesting that

he has been under pressure to resign from his position as a result of an alleged involvement in the Siemens bribery scam.

He spoke yesterday through his media aide Emeka Nwapka. The PDP Deputy National Chairman said he has nothing to do with the bribery scandal

either in person or by proxy and said he has instructed his lawyers to advise him on the publications.

Nwapka said: "It is not true that there are pressures on Dr Bello Haliru Mohammed to resign.

This is because he does not

believe in media trial. He has had over 30 years of unblemished public service career."

The media report has it that the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is set to quiz the PDP Deputy National Chairman over the 10m euro Siemens bribe.

Senate probes N5.8bn allocation to ghost agency

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATE is investigating the allocation of N5.8 billion in the 2010 budget to the proposed Maritime Security Agency (MSA) which has not been established yet.

The Senate noticed a N5.8 billion allocation to the MSA during debate on general principles of the bill seeking to establish the agency.

Speaking during the consideration yesterday, Senate Presi-

dent David Mark directed that the matter be probed to unravel how a non-existing agency got allocation in the 2010 budget even before its establishment.

Commenting on the allocation, Senator Lee Maeba (PDP,

Rivers) said "Over N5 billion has been appropriated in the current budget passed by the National Assembly for an agency that has not been established.

Vice Chairman Senate Committee on Marine Transport

Senator Umar Abubakar Tafidan Arugungu said there is no such agency in existence.

Mark said the matter should be probed to ascertain how the agency got allocation before establishment.

FG: Weekly council meeting is FEC, not EXCOF

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE Federal Government said the official title of its weekly council meeting of president with ministers should now be referred to as

Federal Executive Council (FEC) not Executive Council of the Federation (EXCOF).

Information and Communications Minister Dora Akunyili disclosed the resolution of the

council yesterday to State House correspondents shortly after the council meeting presided over by President Goodluck Jonathan at the Council Chamber of the State House, Abuja.

She said the resolution was sequel to a note presented to the council by the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice Mohammed Bello Adoke advising the council to adopt the

correct terminology to be used to describe the council meeting.

Adoke argued that there was a rational basis for the preservation of the term 'Federal Executive Council'.

EFCC seeks German court order

Continued from page 1

of the judgement will help the agency to know "for sure who and who got what. We have a list and we have obtained recorded statements from those that their names appeared. We would know who played what role in what."

Nigeria and Germany have a Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty (MLAT) and the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice Mohammed Adoke is empowered to request for a copy of the judgement based on the agreement.

Mrs. Waziri said the case initially handled by the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) was ongoing and operatives had already interrogated four ex-ministers of communication. The ex-Communications ministers so far interrogated include Dr. Mohamed as well as Chief Cornelius Adebayo, Major General Tajudeen Olanrewaju and the late Alhaji Haruna Elewi.

"The amount is not 10 million Euros but 17.5million. The case has been ongoing, it was not reopened but with the conviction in Munich we had to take certain steps," the EFCC boss said.

In a judgement delivered by Joachim Eckert on April 20 in Munich, Michael Kutschenreuter, former financial head of Siemens telecoms unit and the most senior executive was placed on probation for two years and fined 160,000 Euros. A second defendant, the former head of accounting at Siemens' telecoms unit, was placed on probation for a year and a half and was fined 40,000 Euros.

Kutschenreuter had admitted that he covered up slush funds and bribing practices of his employees.

According to the prosecution, the funds were used to bribe government officials and business contacts to win telecom contracts in Russia and Nigeria.

Siemens has identified around 1.3 billion Euros in dubious payments that changed hands between 2000 and 2006. The affair has cost the company around 2.5 billion Euros in fines, investigations and back taxes.

EFCC has also concluded investigation of N2.3billion Peugeot car purchase scam that rocked the House of Representatives in 2008. Human Rights Lawyer Festus Keyamo had petitioned EFCC alleging fraud in the execution of the contract.

Keyamo had alleged that although the clerk of the National Assembly awarded the contract for the supply of the 380 units of 407 ST (Sports) Auto to PAN at N2.3bn, what was eventually supplied was the 407 Comfort Automatic at a total of N1.5bn.

The EFCC chairman said, "We did our investigation and we have since concluded that investigation and the case file has been forwarded to our legal department for further action."



FROM left: Registrar, Nigerian Turkish Nile University, Ahmet Demliko, the university's Vice-Chancellor Prof. Burayim Kapanoglu and Olympiads National Mathematics Centre Steve Oluwaniyi, during a press conference on the activities of the Nigerian Turkish Nile University in Abuja, yesterday.

Let us avoid friction

Continued from page 1

Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu administered the Oath of Office and Oath of Allegiance on Sambo at the Council Chamber of the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Jonathan, who presided over the ceremony, expressed optimism that the new team would work together to project the interest of the country internationally and work with all stakeholders to improve the economy.

He said as a country that was just coming out of military rule for about eleven years, people thought that democracy would be derailed by some of the challenges the country had faced. But he said yesterday's ceremony was an indication that "we have stabilized as a nation."

Earlier in his acceptance speech, Sambo promised to reciprocate the confidence reposed on him by helping Jonathan to actualise his "lofty programmes."

Vice President Sambo said he believed that his choice was hinged on the president's belief that he would utilise his wealth of experience garnered over the years in the private as well as the public sectors and he promised to reflect it the discharge of his duties.

He said, "I have had course to work with Mr President, just as he had said, closely in the National Economic Council, National Independent Power Committee, as well as the PDP building projects as well and several other committees and the experience had been worthwhile."

"We are by providence and fate provided with yet another opportunity to work closely in our current capacities and I believe that it will be the beginning of a partnership that would be beneficial to Nigerians as we shall forge a common front to see to the realization of a credible electoral reform, a sustained fight against corruption, and the rejuvenation of the power sector; peaceful and steady implementation of the blueprint for the resolution of the Niger Delta question and the need to enhance effective security in our dear country."

Jonathan, who presided over the ceremony, expressed optimism that the new team would work together to project the interest of the country internationally and work with all stakeholders to improve the economy.

What Jonathan says on Sambo

"I am not surprised that Sambo, a gentleman we all know has a reputation and a clear record as the immediate past governor of Kaduna State. He is somebody I have worked with before at the National Economic Council level and he has been a member of the committees that I chaired and I find him really worthy to hold this office."

To him, he is not coming to a new terrain, because one of the key responsibilities of the vice president is to chair the NEC and other related bodies and he has been a member, not just a passive member, very active member.

Your Excellency, I congratulate you on this appointment. We all congratulate you and I hope you will bring your wealth of experience to bear.

Our challenge now is to improve the economy. You will be meeting with the economic team regularly to ensure that our promises to Nigerians are kept."

Duties of the Vice President

The 1999 Constitution provides that the Vice President deputises for the President and acts for him in his absence. The specifics however depend

On the functions assigned to him by the President.

The Vice President is by statute a member of the National Security Council, National Defence Council, Federal Executive Council, National Council of State, and is the Chairman of the National Economic Council.

He also chairs the National Council on Privatisation. Under current arrangement, several parastatals of the Presidency are supervised by the Vice President, including the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPPS).

New VP: PDP congratulates Sambo

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday congratulated Arc. Mohammed Namadi Sambo on his assumption of office as vice president.

PDP National Publicity Secretary Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali said Arc. Sambo's confirmation as Vice President is in appreciation of his loyalty to the Nigerian nation and his growing reputation as a team player and a bridge builder.

Alkali stated that his selection is a great source of pride to PDP in view of his performance as Governor of Kaduna State.

He expressed the party's profound appreciation to President Goodluck Jonathan for the choice of a man whose antecedents and accomplishments are in line with the President's vision for a greater Nigeria.

The party wished Sambo a successful tenure as he joins hands with the President to realise the mission of making Nigeria a modern industrialized economy where the rule of law, justice and equity prevails.

Corporate Affairs Commission director dies

By Misbahu Bashir & Sunday Williams

DIRECTOR of Administration of the Corporate Affairs Com-

mission, Malam Bello Ibrahim has died. He died Monday night in Abuja and was buried Tuesday in Kaduna according to Islamic

rites. Before his death, Ibrahim was once a permanent secretary in the old Sokoto State. *Daily Trust* learnt that Ibrahim has

been well and unwell for some time and was flown abroad for medical treatment. He was married with children.

Bankole: House investigating Yarima's marriage

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives has received no fewer than eight petitions over Senator Ahmad Sani Yarima's marriage to an Egyptian girl and has since commenced investigation into the matter.

Speaker Dimeji Bankole said this yesterday while addressing members of the National Children Parliament (NCP) who visited him at the National Assembly in Abuja yesterday.

"I know about eight petitions in the House of Representatives calling that we investigate it. We are doing something. And when it comes to the floor of the House we will also look into it. I know that the Human Right Commission is working hard on this issue and we hope that may be the first time people should put a stop to that kind of attitude," he said.

Speaking earlier, President of the Children Senate Esther Afolayan lamented the poor implementation of the Child Right Act by leaders and the continued cases of violence against children in the country.

"In Jos a lot of children were killed; these are children who would have contributed to the future of this country," she said.

Speaker of the Children Parliament Emmanuel Attah called for the review of the Universal Basic Education UBE Act to include school feeding policy to reduce the death of children as a result of mal-nutrition which is put at 33 percent annually.

Mark tasks ECOWAS parliament on binding laws

By Aisha Umar Agaie

SENATE President David Mark has challenged the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) parliamentarians to enhance their powers.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the first ordinary session of ECOWAS parliament in Abuja, Mark said any parliament that cannot make a binding is not worth its name. "The implementation of ECOWAS protocol is very slow, a lot has been said about this in the past, and the time for its realization is now," he said.

He said the ECOWAS parliamentarians must be proactive and sensitive to the region's common needs and translate its general aspirations into practical realities.

Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament Mahamane Ousmane said the council of ministers and heads of state summit conference will take some steps regarding the question of organisation of elections.

He said the information about food shortages in some countries of the sub-region is alarming.

"We are pleased to note the massive outpouring of solidarity for communities at potential risk of famine. We also must echo their cries of distress and join forces with them to eliminate and potential causes of famine in our sub-region, and in Africa," he said.

Nigeria, Kenya restate commitment to air ties

By Shehu Abubakar

AVIATION Minister Fidelia Akuabata Njeze has said that Nigerian airlines will soon commence flight operations to Nairobi, Kenya, in line with the Bilateral Air Services Agreement (BASA) entered into between the two countries.

This was contained in an online statement sent to Daily Trust by the Principal Information Officer to the minister, Mrs Rhoda Iliya, yesterday.

The statement said the minister told the Kenyan High Commissioner His Excellency Mr. Francis Sigei when he paid her courtesy call in her office in Abuja yesterday.

Mrs. Njeze assured the High Commissioner that the Nigeria was ready to partner with Kenya in the aviation sector to promote trade and investment.

The minister thanked the Kenyan government for relaxing its visa policies which would further promote trade and investment between the two countries.

She assured the ambassador that Nigerian government will look into his request for the commencement of flight operations from Abuja by the Kenyan Airways.

Earlier, the Kenyan High Commissioner solicited for more flight frequencies for the Kenyan Airways on the Lagos-Kenya route.

He also requested for the commencement of flight operations on the Abuja-Kenya route by the Kenyan Airways as a result of high passenger traffic on the Lagos-Kenya route.



FROM left: Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan of Delta State, Oba Okunade Sijuwade, the OOni of Ife and his wife at the launch of a book title "The Traditional Rulers of Delta State" in Asaba, yesterday.

FG inaugurates team on closure of illegal varsities

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Federal Government has inaugurated a 4-man committee on the closure of illegal universities to "safeguard the integrity of education."

The committee, inaugurated by the Executive Secretary of National Universities Commission (NUC) Professor Julius A. Okojie, is chaired by the renowned educationist Professor A. E. Adebowale.

Members of the committee include retired Deputy Inspector General of Police Mr L. N. Ogunua, a representative of the Director of the FCT State Security Service, Mr Abubakar Sadiq and Barrister M. O. Awe as secretary.

The committee is mandated to monitor and advise the NUC on the activities of illegal institutions and

visiting the locations of such institutions in order to initiate their closure processes.

The committee is also mandated to seek the assistance of relevant law enforcement agencies in investigating the locations and operation of the illegal universities, initiate wide and intensive sensitization of the public on the activities of these illegal institutions as well as plan the closure of such sites. Professor Okojie said government is deeply worried about the preponderance of illegal universities and satellite campuses in the country, and will take drastic actions against such varsities to sanitise the education sector.

He said there is a ministerial directive on the immediate closure of all the illegal varsities and prosecution of

their operators.

Responding, chairman of the committee Professor Adebowale said the committee will do everything possible within the ambit of the law to carry out their duties effectively.

Meanwhile, the National Universities Commission has signed a memorandum of understanding with the British Council Nigeria, which Professor Okojie signed for NUC while Mr. Amir Ramzan, Deputy Country Director, signed for the British Council. Under the agreement, series of capacity-building workshops and network activities will be sponsored by the British Council. The training fees covering the cost of the time of its staff facilitators that will be charged is to be paid by NUC and British Council in the ratio of 60:40.

Steel workers may get salary increase

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

MINISTER of Mines and Steel Development has directed officials of the ministry, representatives of the Iron and Steel Senior Staff Association of Nigeria and Workers Union of Nigeria to work out a new template for their salaries and allowances.

This may translate into salary

increase for steel workers across the country.

Permanent Secretary in the ministry Engr. Musa Sheik Goni made the disclosure while addressing the staffers of the National Steel Raw Materials Exploration Agency.

He said the decision was taken at a meeting with the management of the ministry and the representatives of the

two labour unions in Abuja, which was presided over by the minister.

The new template, which is being worked on, will be used to pay the outstanding salaries and allowances of the staff of the Ajaokuta Steel Company Limited and the National Iron Ore Mining Company (NIOMCO) for the months of January, February, March, and April this year.

American lady jailed 2 years over forgery

By Boco Edet & Adelanwa Bamgboye

A Federal High Court in Lagos has sentenced a 25 year old American to two years imprisonment over possession of counterfeit instruments worth \$760,668 (about N114m).

Sharon Denis Thorpe, 25, a native of Raleigh, North Carolina, was sentenced by Justice Akinjide Ajakaiye having pleaded guilty to the 13-count criminal charge preferred against her

by the EFCC.

Before she was sentenced, the court was asked by her lawyer to tamper justice with mercy as she did not waste the time of the court.

However, her Nigerian fiancé, Musediku Kehinde, who was arraigned with her yesterday pleaded not guilty.

Further hearing in his case was adjourned till 14 June when the court would entertain his bail application.

Thorpe was arrested with fake financial documents on Feb. 20, 2010 about to board a Qatar Airline on her way back to her base in North Carolina.

The documents found on her included 42 pieces of Barner Bank cheques, 48 pieces of Citizens Bank cheques, 17 pieces of Fifth Third Bank cheques, 24 pieces of M&T bank cheques, 26 pieces of AmSouth Bank cheques and 15 pieces of Timber Wood cheques that were not genuine.

'Malaria kills more than HIV/AIDS in Nigeria'

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

MALARIA kills more than HIV/AIDS in Nigeria, Head of Pediatrics, Usmanu Dan Fodiyo University Teaching Sokoto Dr. Muhammad Jiya has said.

He spoke yesterday at an interactive forum for doctors and other health personnel in the North-West zone

in Sokoto.

Dr. Jiya noted that malaria accounts for the death of two million children annually, stressing the need to prevent the disease.

Sokoto State Programme Officer, Malaria control programme, Dr Aminu Shehu, said 30 percent of illnesses handled were malaria related.

He expressed concern that many drugs on malaria purchased from medicine vendors were sub-standard. State Coordinator, Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria, Malam Bello Junaidu, urged health personnel to sensitize people on the importance of keeping their environment clean to reduce spread of the disease. He urged people to visit hospitals to address the problem.



Flora Okereke, Head of Regulatory Affairs, Africa & Middle East for British American Tobacco Group, UK (right) with Minister of Information and Communications Professor Dora Akunyili, during the 3rd All Africa Public Relations conference in Abuja on Tuesday.

Atiku's return contravenes PDP constitution - Kugama

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Adamawa State says former Vice President Alhaji Atiku Abubakar did not follow due process in his return to the PDP but went in through a faction which contravenes the PDP constitution.

The state chairman of the party, Alhaji Mijinyawa Umaru Kugama, told newsmen yesterday that the state chapter of the party was not opposed to Atiku's return to but as a former vice president, he should follow due process by writing an application indicating his interest to return but not to be misguided by dupes who claim to be party members.

Kugama denied claims by the former vice president that he (Kugama) and the state governor Murtala Nyako were the ones that brought factions into the party

intentionally as a strategy to divide the PDP membership for selfishness reasons.

He said the party in the state would investigate those responsible for pasting Atiku's posters with the PDP logo, adding that the former vice president, was being dumped by a fake group.

Atiku's posters with the PDP logo were pasted at strategic locations in all parts of the state as part of preparations for his grand reception.

Atiku had earlier told a group of party members who received him at his Jada country home that the controversy surrounding his re-entry into the PDP was politically motivated and would be sorted out in like manner, saying he had fully returned to the fold after consultations with his supporters and that a letter was written to the national secretariat of the PDP after approval by the party hierarchy.

Unilorin expels 26, suspends one

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

TWENTY-SIX students of the University of Ilorin have been expelled for various acts of misconduct.

A statement from the institution yesterday said they were found guilty of allegations of misconduct as investigated by the disciplinary committee.

Some of the expelled students include, Afolayan Habakuku Oluwafikayo of the Linguistics Department, Alokwe Aligameh Adebisi of Counseling & Education, Adewumi Titus Adebisi of History, Olabode Sunday Samuel of Agriculture and Shittu Hammed Adesanmi of Mathematics Department. One Oniyangi Kehinde of the Department of Linguistics and Nigerian languages was suspended for a session.

NDLEA recovers Indian hemp from 78-year old

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

SEVENTY-EIGHT year old Sanni Aratayan, a timber merchant, and five others were yesterday arrested by personnel of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) for being in possession of three tonnes of Indian hemp.

The others arrested with him include Ige, his 17 year old son who is a student of Methodist High School, one Miss Christiana Folorunso and a motorcyclist, Mr.

Niran Adelagun. Others are Yakubu Abdulfatahi and Ige Adegbeji.

Parading the suspects, the state Commander of the agency, Mr. Walter Nicholas, said the arrest would check activities of Indian hemp cultivators. He said, "I am urging the state government to act fast because survey revealed that the state is leading in the cultivation of Indian hemp in Nigeria as 60 percent of the drug currently being produced in the country is from the Ogbesse and other villages around Owo".

Gov tasks traditional rulers on peaceful politics

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

GOVERNOR Emmanuel Uduaghan of Delta State yesterday urged traditional rulers in the country to ensure that politics is played without bitterness in their areas.

Uduaghan said at the lunch of a book titled, Traditional Rulers of Delta State, in Asaba yesterday that peaceful politics is one sure way of guaranteeing peace and stability in the country. "As we move into a critical period of our hard earned democracy whereby elections are around the corner, there is need to ensure and guard jealously, all votes cast in an orderly manner", he said. He added that the book would promote the rich cultural heritage of traditional institutions as well as demonstrate the high esteem in which government holds monarchs and their institutions.



GOV. Emmanuel Uduaghan of Delta State

Demolition displaces Jos traders

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

TRADERS in Jos Terminus Market have been displaced following the demolition of their shops by the Jos Metropolitan Development Board (JMDB) Tuesday night. The popular Abuja Market and the Yan Kwalli Market were also affected by the exercise which took place during the curfew hours. Our correspondent who visited the area

yesterday saw some traders gathering the remains of their goods while others who had nothing to retrieve were seen in groups recounting their losses. A witness told our correspondent that there was a clash between youths in the area and those who carried out the demolition, but that it was brought under control by security agents stationed at the markets. Secretary of the Petty Traders

Association in Jos, Suleiman Yusuf, who spoke on behalf of the association's chairman, Mr Godwin Edward, said they were not given any notice.

"We ought to have been informed, even if it is only one day notice, but we only woke up today to see our property destroyed. We are not against the government, but we should have been notified," he said.

When asked to comment on why the traders

returned to the area after they were sent packing last year, the association's secretary blamed the task force, saying, "They have been collecting money from our members, giving the impression that our stay here was welcome".

Yusuf who said the traders lost goods worth millions of naira, called on members of the association to remain calm and not take the law into their hands. He maintained that

the association was doing everything possible to resolve the issue.

Reacting to the incident, the Director of Information and Public Relations, JMDB, Yakubu Gomos, said the areas were not meant for trading, adding that the traders requested for a secured place where they could trade and government obliged and in October last year, they were moved to the premises of the Jos

Main Market. He added that the traders however abandoned the place after the last crisis.

Gomos who commended the Special Task Force, and other security agencies for ensuring the success of the exercise, added that they had held series of meetings with the leadership of the market unions, insisting that there were notified of the exercise.



PIC: Felix Onigbinde

From left: Chief of Kuru, Emmanuel Kyauta Yepwi, representative of the Managing Director, Union Bank and ED North and Public Sector, Ibrahim Kwagana and AGM Abuja Main Branch, Chris Uzoh at the Union Bank zonal office, Tuesday.

Kogi govt charged on tourism

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State government has been urged to accord priority to tourist centers in the state. The curator of the National Museum in Lokoja, Emmanuel Chike Ara gave the charge Tuesday at an event to mark this year's International Museum Day. He said the state could boost its revenue base and depend less on the Federation Account if its tourist potentials

were tapped. He lamented that most of the relics in the state had been abandoned, saying museums could be used to rebrand the youths.

"Through museums, it would be very easy for people to go back to their roots as most vices in the society today are alien to our cultures. Parents and guardians have a responsibility to educate their children and wards about the culture of their respective areas", he said.

Doctors protest over colleague's murder

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

DOCTORS of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital (UPTH) in Rivers State yesterday protested the killing of one of their colleagues, Dr. Chinda Igondah, by unknown gunmen.

The doctors, who

marched through major streets in Port Harcourt before arriving at the Government House, said Dr. Igondah of the Department of Surgery was murdered on Sunday night while on his way home from work. Spokesman for the protesting doctors, Dr. Chizundu Alikor, called on the state government and the security agencies

to unravel the killers of Dr. Igondah.

Dr. Alikor observed that medical doctors had become targets of kidnapers and that they were being murdered in cold blood.

Responding on behalf of the Rivers State governor, the Commissioner for Health Dr. Sampson Parker condoled the doc-

tors and the family of late Dr. Igondah over the incident, assuring that government would direct security operatives to bring the culprits to book.

He warned that the state government worked hard to attain the level of peace in the state now and would not allow criminals create unnecessary panic in the state.

10 villages get electricity in Sokoto

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE Chairman of Tangaza Local Government Area of Sokoto State Alhaji Aliyu Lumo has said that 10 villages in the council have been

provided with electricity. The chairman, who spoke yesterday while receiving a team of journalist, who were on a monitoring tour of projects executed by local government councils in the state, added that 10 solar-powered boreholes

and wells had also been provided for the people. He added that N81 million was spent on the payment of registration fees and monthly allowances to the indigenes of the area studying in tertiary institutions across the coun-

try. According to him, the local government had executed 114 projects in the period under review. The chairman assured that the council would continue to execute projects that would enhance the well-being of the people.

Beggars demand allowance in Kebbi

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

BEGGARS in Kebbi State Tuesday besieged the Government House to demand for monthly allowance. The beggars who arrived at the Gov-

ernment House at about 3:20 pm, insisted that they must see the governor. After about 2 hours at the gate, the security agents were ordered to allow them into the premises of the Government House. The beggars

then told the Permanent Secretary in the Government House that their visit was to condole the governor over the death of President Umar Musa Yar'adua, who was Governor Dakingari's father in law. But when

the governor eventually came out to see them around 6:58 pm, the beggars' spokesperson, Mallam Bala Kola, told Governor Dakingari that his government should consider a monthly allowance for beggars in

the state. He said the harsh economic situation in the country was taking its toll on them. The governor thanked them for their sympathy over the death of President Yar'adua, but did not comment on their request.

PIC: Felix Onigbinde

Lagos to move occupants out of wetlands

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Lagos State government yesterday called on landlords and tenants living on wetlands across the state to vacate the areas, saying there were illegal occupants. Addressing journalists, the Commissioner for Environment Dr. Muiz Banire said the state government had on many occasions appealed to landlords who have buildings on wetlands to vacate the areas, saying the place was prone to flood. Banire named areas and communities affected to include, Aboru community in Alimosho Local Government Area, Agiliti Community in Kosofe Council Area, Ajegunle Township in Apapa Local Government Area, Makoko Community within Mainland Local Government Area and part of Ikorodu Township.

"If you're living on a wetland, you'll be inundated with water. People of Aboru, Ajegunle, Agiliti, Makoko and other occupiers of wetlands in Lagos are not supposed to be there in the first place. Those areas are already below sea level and no building approval was issued to anyone of them," he said.

He said land in Lagos State is made up of 25 percent of water and another 15 percent wetlands, adding that there was virtually no free dry land in the city.

"In Lagos, many locations have been reclaimed. It has thus become very expedient to regulate this sand replenishment and reclamation of wetlands in the interest of the populace," he added.



FROM left, Secretary General, Transparency Movement, Comrade Umar Farouk; National President of Human Writers Association of Nigeria, Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko, Special Adviser to the President on Relations with Civil Societies, Prince Chimene Ume-Ezeoke, during the civil society leaders' condolence visit to the President through his adviser in Abuja Tuesday

Doma, community strategise on security

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NASARAWA State Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma and the people of Farin Ruwa, a border area between Nasarawa and Plateau State, have brainstormed on ways

to tackle security issues in the area. Doma who was in Kwarra, headquarters of the development area as part of his on going "Meet the People Tour", said there was a need to boost security of lives and property of the people of the

area. A community leader in the border town of Mama, the Madaki Mama Alhaji Audu Lugu on his part said security threats in the area could best be tackled if government provided the

area with basic amenities. The Administrator of the development area, Dauda Ngwai, called for the completion of Farin Ruwa Independent Hydro Power project, saying it would encourage industrial development.

50,000 workers register with NHIS in Adamawa

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

NO fewer than 50,000 workers in Adamawa State have registered for the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), the Secretary of the Adamawa State proposed Health Insurance Scheme Mr Sale M. Shelling has said.

Mr. Shelling, who spoke yesterday at an interactive forum

with stakeholders said the scheme would improve health care delivery for people of the state.

In a paper titled, "The benefit package in NHIS", the North-east zonal Coordinator of NHIS Alh. Abdulsalam Bala said the scheme which is a social health insurance programme, was designed by the Federal Government to improve access to health care. He noted

that in pursuit of a wider coverage of the population, the NHIS had expedited action in the development and perfection of operational framework for extending its activities to other groups outside the formal sector.

He advised all those who registered to visit their chosen hospitals for health care services, saying they had been covered in the

NHIS arrangement.

Dr Ahmed Garba, Zonal Manager, North-east, Total Health Trust, Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) urged NHIS accredited hospitals and clinics to provide qualitative services at all times, saying that was the only way they could contribute to the sustenance of the programme.

Media Trust correspondent loses wife

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Jigawa State correspondent of Daily Trust, Malam Yusha'u Adamu Ibrahim, has lost his wife. Malama Hadiza Yahuza Yusha'u, 30, died of heart attack soon after undergoing an operation around 11:15 pm on Tuesday. Until her death, she was a staff of the Murtala Mohammed General Hospital, Kano.

While expressing shock over the death of his wife of 10 years, Yusha'u recalled that his late wife called him from his Dutse base and complained about abdominal pains. "I ordered that she should be taken to hospital

and took off to Kano immediately," he said. Malam Yusha'u said she was a caring and dedicated wife, who went the extra mile to take care of her family.

"She was a very good wife, she lived in peace with her family and neighbours," he said. Early callers at the family house were staff of the Kano regional office of Media Trust Limited, who prayed to Almighty Allah for the repose of the soul of the deceased and to give Yusha'u, the fortitude to bear the loss.

Late Hadiza is survived by her husband, three children, aged parents and many relations. She has been buried according to Islamic rites.

SANYO
AIR CONDITIONERS

... Japanese Perfection

Proudly Associates in Bauchi with:

A.A. Waziri Nig Ltd 08065550000
AC Okpala Enterprises Ltd 08035002520

Sultan tasks stakeholders on girl-child education

By Akor Ojoma

SULTAN of Sokoto Alhaji Mohammed Sa'ad has called on Nigerians particularly the traditional and religious leaders to support efforts aimed at encouraging girl child education.

Sultan Sa'ad made the call when Community Action for Popular Participation (CAPP) within its Transforming Education for Girls Initiative (TEGIN) paid him an advocacy visit.

According to him Nigerians must do their best to ensure that girls who are not as strong as their male counterparts are adequately educated at all levels.

"We will support all efforts aimed at empowering the less privileged in the society especially the female gender," he said

The team comprising CAPP and Actionaid Nigeria staff visited the sultan to canvass his support in the sensitisation of Religious and Traditional leaders in the North to support girls education and brief him on the findings from the baseline survey CAPP carried out on why girls are being excluded from accessing basic education in the project areas.

Sultan Sa'ad commended the team particularly the women in the team for their impressive turn out which he said is an evidence of their support for the worthy cause.

Nigerian jailed in Malaysia for swapping price tags

From Ibraheem Dooba, Kuala Lumpur

A Nigerian housewife has been sentenced to a year in jail in Malaysia yesterday for deceiving a cashier by switching the price tags of eleven items of clothing.

Adabonyan Abisola Kofoworola, 25, confessed that she tried to cheat the cashier at Carrefour Mega Mall located in Sentul, a main town area in Kuala Lumpur, at 6.20pm on Jan 18.

The court heard that the cash-

ier called one of the security guards at the mall, Osman Musa, 29, and informed him that Adabonyan had switched the barcode of eleven items of her products.

The guard with the help of another woman took Adabonyan to the security office and after checking confirmed that all the items had their barcodes changed.

While pleading for leniency, Adabonyan explained that she wanted to return to Nigeria immedi-

ately to take care of her son and sick parents.

However, the prosecutor, Chief Inspector D. R. Ghanthi Nathan, pressed for a deterrent sentence and requested the court to take into account the seriousness of the offence even if the accused was a first time offender.

The presiding judge, Suriatey Mohamed Yusoff, instructed Adabonyan to serve her prison term from the date of arrest on Jan 18.

Agency holds mock exercise on disaster management

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has held a mock exercise on managing major disasters across the country.

The exercise is based on the International Charter on Space, which is a satellite set to supply data during periods of crisis to states or communities whose population, activities, property are exposed to an imminent risk or is

already victims of disaster.

It is also set to provide a basis for critical information for the anticipation and management of potential crises.

Speaking at the event, NEMA DG Mohammed Audu-Bida said his agency has been nominated as an Authorised User of the Charter for Nigeria and the West African Sub-Region.

Represented by the Director Planning, Research and Focussing of the agency Dr. Charles Agbo, the DG said

the charter secretariat has concluded training for the authorised user and selected project managers from the agency, regional centre for training in Aerospace Survey, Ile-Ife; and National Space Research and Development Agency.

He said more than 10 agencies across the world are part of the charter and "each member agency has committed resources, in terms of satellite data and its analysis to support the assessment of the impact of disasters."



ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA, KOGI STATE CHAPTER

INVITATION FOR TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

The ALGON, Kogi State Chapter is inviting any interested companies for tender for the supply and installation of medical equipment.

Pre-Qualification Requirements

All prospective companies shall be required to submit the following pre-qualification documents.

1. Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
2. Evidence of tax clearance for the past three years.
3. Evidence of VAT registration.
4. Evidence of past experience on similar job.
5. Company's profile.
6. Evidence of financial capability to handle the job, audited accounts for 3 years and bank recommendation.
7. The contractor should be a foreign manufacturer's representative and capable of providing training.
8. Evidence of registration as a contractor with state ministry of works/health.

Collection of Tender Documents

Interested companies are to collect tender documents from the office of the ALGON Chairman, Kogi State Chapter, Lokoja Local Government Area Secretariat with evidence of payment of N50, 000.00 tender fees as from May 20, 2010.

Submission of Tender Documents

Tender documents should be sealed in an envelope and addressed to the state chairman ALGON, Lokoja, Kogi State Chapter stating the company's name and address at the reversed side of the envelop.

All documents should be submitted or dropped inside the Tender Box not later than two (2) weeks of this publication.

Signed:
B. Yabagi
ALGON Chairman,
Kogi State Chapter



FADAMA III COMPONENT IV OF NIGER STATE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT P.M.B. 132, MAITUMBI, MINNA

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

INTRODUCTION

Component IV is a support to the Agricultural Development Programme (ADPs) Sponsored Research and On-farm Demonstrations. The request for Expression of Interest is for the execution of vital consultancy services that will aid the organization in her following specific and limited functions:-

- (a) Support to advisory service provider
- (b) Quality assurance of advisory services
- (c) Training of facilitators
- (d) Sponsored Research and On-farm Demonstration.
- (e) Training of extension staff.

1. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

Consultant firms, Tertiary Institutions and individual with wealth of experience, relevant qualifications and Evidence of Registration with CAC.

2. SUBMISSION OF EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Expression of interest (EOI) must be submitted in three (3) hard copies on or before 11:00 a.m. (Two weeks from the date of this advertisement and Marked with the inscription on the top left of the envelopes "Expression of Interest for consultancy as Service Provider". Late submission will be rejected EOI must be submitted at the office of the Managing Director, and addressed as indicated below:-

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR,
"FADAMA III, COMPONENT IV"
NIGER STATE AGRIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
P.M.B. 132 MAITUMBI, SHIRORO ROAD,
MINNA
NIGER STATE

The EOI will be opened on 3rd June 2010 in the presence of general public and representatives of individuals or organizations (firms) that expressed their interest who choose to attend at 12.00 noon in the Conference Hall of Niger State Agric. Dev. Project, Minna.

3. IMPORTANT NOTICE

Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures as set out in the 2007 procurement procedure manual for public procurement in Nigeria January, 2008. Consultant expressing interest in more than one project should submit separate documentation for each.

(Sgd.)
MANAGEMENT.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



CHIEF Vincent Ogbulafor Ogbulafor presides over PDP NWC meeting

I want to use this opportunity to praise the outgoing chairman of the PDP, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, for the contributions and achievement he brought to the party during his stay as the national chairman of the PDP. Most significantly, he set up a reconciliation committee which brought a lot of aggrieved members back into the party's fold. I wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

This is not a good omen for the so-called largest party in Africa. All these unforeseen circumstances are tarnishing what is left image of this party (PDP). They've lost all the best they had since the 2003 elections. Those remaining are lethargic in political principles.

Yahaya Ibn Idris
ibnidrees@gmail.com

El-Rufai's "arrogance"

MOHAMMED Haruna, may God bless your pen and enrich your ink for this eye-opening article on El-Rufai.

Kamal
kamal4kanam@gmail.com

Man arraigned over attempt to sell 5-year-old daughter

THE authorities should look more closely into this case. Is it just "greed" or are there other underlying issues such as slavery/ trafficking? This is particularly so as the accused are not Nigerian citizens.

The question of the accused getting themselves "a lawyer" seems to be rather out of place as from all indications they are not even capable of maintaining themselves hence the attempt to sell off one child! The NBA, NAPTIP and indeed the Ambassador of the Niger Republic must come into this. It is a very serious and disturbing issue that requires a full and meticulous investigation.

Muhammad Nalya
naiyamd@yahoo.com

Akunyili to be named INEC chairman

SHOULD Akunyili become INEC Chairman, the next election would be worse than that of Maurice Iwu. **Sani Garba Mohammed**
karaye@gmail.com

Sincerely speaking, Professor Dora Akunyili should remain as Information Minister and instead, a more credible person should be appointed as INEC Chairman. I will suggest the former Secretary General of the Commonwealth, Chief Emeka Anyaoku, who is of international repute and credible enough to head the commission. She is an interested party in the Goodluck administration and therefore, in my thinking, she may not be a true neutral umpire to handle the election.

Lamara Garba Azarc
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

We are hoping that the present Nigeria should develop to a stage whereby the appointments of principal offices should be based on merits first and not by following somebody's whims and caprices.

If this appointment should be because she is from the same part of the country with Iwu, then we want the same thing to happen in NNPC.

Secondly, if they think that whenever somebody is being sacked, he should be replaced by someone from his region, they are wrong and if the president did it using that principle, he is also wrong.

Buhari Sani Gusau



PROF Dora Akunyili
sanibuhari@ymail.com

How does "lucky Johnny" expect to get any work done in 12 months with all the pawns constantly swapped around the chessboard daily? Mr. President, enough with the character substitutions: roll up your sleeves, bend your back and fix something for God's sake. Time is your enemy, not your ally.

On a related note, why are Nigerians suddenly insisting that zoning is unconstitutional (though it really is) and should be ditched in 2011, but at the same time accept all these nominations and selections as perfectly acceptable even though the same zoning formula seems to dictate who ends up where in Johnny's administration?

Abdalla Mohammed
neoteny7@yahoo.com

Oh! That would be a big plus for the Jonathan administration. She is trustworthy and forthright but I would fear for her. I hope she takes it and I hope that well-intentioned citizens of Nigeria support her to help us out this mess.

Nse
nseidiong@yahoo.co.uk

Prof. Akunyili is very qualified. If the noise about credible 2011 elections is anything to go by, President Jonathan has certainly gotten a person who will deliver. By the grace of God, Insha Allah, she will conduct a credible election in Nigeria and shame those that blasphemously claim that no one can conduct credible elections in Nigeria. Prof, we wish you Good luck. The local and international community will encourage you and Insha Allah you

will break the jinx of discredited elections in Nigeria.

Kolo
koloxk70@yahoo.com

To appoint somebody from the South-East is not a bad thing, if the principle of federal character is to be maintained. But is Akunyili the best candidate for this job knowing fully well what this lady did during Yar'adua saga? A person for this position must be somebody who has no political bias or sentiment and must not be known to play any major role in any political party. Akunyili is a well known PDP stalwart and a strong supporter of President Jonathan. Secondly, is the INEC chairmanship an exclusive reserve of pharmacists?

Please the government should have a rethink on this decision and choose a credible person who has no political inclination and must be somebody who will be accepted by all the political parties. The neutrality and independence of the INEC chairmanship position is very important if our future elections will be accepted and respected.

Abdullahi Ibrahim
giriabdul@yahoo.com

Appointing a member of the Jonathan 'caucus' as INEC chairman is an indication of what to expect in 2011. I will like to assure them that rigging will not be accepted by Nigerians this time around. Our votes must surely count!

Babangida Dangora
babangidadangora@yahoo.com

Nyako: Jonathan should not contest

"STATE Governors who are members of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) would know how to handle President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan if he decides to contest for presidency in 2011 general elections". No your Excellency, be specific and make a clear cut statement, "northern state governors..." I'm pretty sure some northern state governors will betray their so-called party zoning agreement too. Nigeria's constitution is far above any party's. The incumbent president is fit enough

to vie for his seat again. It's not for anybody to say what or what not he should do. God bless Nigeria.

Eli Fimin
elifimin@yahoo.com

The North must not sabotage the power rotation principle. At the end of a President's constitutional tenure, power must rotate. Constitutionally, a President's tenure ends after two terms of four years each, or by way of impeachment, or by way of resignation, or by way of death in office. In the case of Yar'adua his tenure

ended sadly by way of death and power must now rotate to the South.

Umar Sanusi
umarsanusi@ymail.com

I think we are tired of these sectional sentiments being fanned by our leaders claiming to be protecting the interest of the north. I think we are wiser now and nobody can exploit sentiments to confuse the people again. All we want is somebody who will make lives better for the people, not where he comes from. We are tired of their antics.



GOV. Murtala Nyako of Adamawa State

God bless Nigeria!
Gbenga
prudentiar@yahoo.com

Namadi meets Jonathan ahead today's swearing-in

CONGRATULATIONS, my sincere wish and prayer is for a harmonious relationship with your boss. Bear in mind also that you have to represent your people (masses) well.

Mustapha Baba Adam

adamkontomi1@yahoo.com

Well, obviously there is no going back on Arc. Namadi's occupation of Aguda House and consequently Mr. Patrick Yakowa's swearing-in as the Executive Governor of Kaduna

State. It only goes to show how God works in mysterious ways beyond human understanding and machination or manipulations. Now that a southern Kaduna man is on the saddle (albeit for few months), he should strive to make a huge dif-

ference and justify the fact that our age old agitation for a power shift is worthwhile after all and so that we can answer in the affirmative- 'YES WE CAN'.

Tim Maiyaki
tim_maiyaki@yahoo.co.uk

Nigerian and Greek tragedies

One of the things that give me hope about Nigeria is that in spite of the many wicked, incompetent, unconscionable and directionless leaders we have at all levels of our governance, we also have some ordinary Nigerians who are deeply concerned about the country and wish that it gets its acts together and becomes a land of plenty and prosperity for all the citizens.

One of such good spirited men is a Diaspora Nigerian resident in Germany called Mr. Melford Ita, an expert on electric power supply. You see, Mr. Ita and I 'met' on this humble page some three years back when I wrote a piece addressed to the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua offering him 'crazy' but completely workable ideas on how he can provide electric power supply to power Nigeria's economy.

In the article which was entitled *What Yar'adua should do to give Nigeria Electricity* I suggested to the late president that the lack of power has become a drastic disease requiring a most drastic and unusual treatment. I therefore said, among others, that new or radical thinking was needed to address this number one national need. I then proceeded to offer some crazy suggestions. I submitted that to cripple the efforts of the generator importation lobby who help to sabotage our efforts at getting public power supply, the President should ban generator importation as well as its use in the

You see, Mr. Ita our leaders are perpetually engaged in politics and the search for the most innovative ways to steal public funds

country. To demonstrate his seriousness on the matter, that the generator in the Villa should be the first to be removed.

All generators removed from people's homes with the exception of those in hospitals and schools, should be taken to all the rural areas of Nigeria where they can be put to use to power rural cottage industries while efforts are on to find a lasting solution. Such a crazy move which will inflict some discomfort on the powerful and the not so-powerful in the land, I pointed out, will mobilise all and sundry to seek a solution to the problem. I said also that all embassies in our country should also be banned from the use of generators so that they too will be compelled to help find solution to our power problems; that Diaspora Nigerians should be sought after and recruited in the cause of this urgent national task. I said so many things; some sensible, some may be not too sensible, but all geared towards getting Nigeria electrified.

Mr. Ita read my piece on the internet. He and many other patriotic Nigerians who read the suggestions I offered liked some of what I said. He was obviously excited that he had met in me a patriot and shared with me what he and other Diaspora Nigerians could do to help our country have uninterrupted electricity.

Reading Mr. Ita's enthusiasm, I felt sorry for him and for Nigeria because I knew that our leaders have no time for

Idang Alibi

ldangalibi@dailytrust.com;
08036938729

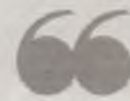
the likes of Mr. Ita. They prefer the kind of Diaspora compatriots who will give them great ideas about where they can hide their loot abroad and how they can launder it.

A few days ago Ita sent me a text message from Germany alerting me to the fact that he had sent something to my email box and that I should try and access it. The following morning I did and there I found the following message which betrays a patriot's deep concern for his fatherland: *Dear Mr. Alibi, greetings. I am following unfolding events in Greece ... currently facing a serious financial crisis. There are serious concerns that if left unchecked, the crisis could spread ... affecting the Eurozone. Greece, beleaguered by heavy spending ... is heavily dependent on tourism and has no real industrial base. Similarly, Nigeria is heavily dependent on oil revenues; with no real industrial base either. Thus, I am hoping you could articulate some meaningful lessons from this Greek tragedy, in order that Nigeria may not find itself facing a similar scenario. Best regards, Melford.*

The first trouble, dear Mr. Ita, is that our leaders do not read. And second, even if they ever get to read some meaningful suggestions from citizens, they do not have the disposition or will to act in the public interest. When some people, some of whom are in government, read that piece of mine, many asked if any one from the Aso Rock Presidential Villa had contacted me to ask if I could be part of the team to help with ideas or efforts that can bring steady power supply to our country following what they considered were sensible and radical suggestions offered in that write-up. Till date, no one from any where did anything along the lines I had suggested. Therefore even if I write something on the Greek tragedy no one is likely to read it and even if they do, to do something about it.

You see, Mr. Ita our leaders are perpetually engaged in politics and the search for the most innovative ways to steal public funds. For them there is not a time for politics and the stealing that goes with it and a time for actual performance. Endless politicking and how to remain in office for ever to loot is the real game of their life. How will this kind of people have time to reflect on the fact that the lack of an industrial base is responsible for the Greek tragedy and see a connection with our dear country and try to avoid a calamity waiting to happen to us?

It takes sober, reflective or contemplative leaders who love their country and its people to sit down and seek to draw lessons from what is happening in Greece. But who of our leaders here will care? Do they even bother to know what has been ailing Greece and that since we share one crucial national characteristic with that country we too can fall a victim? Each of our leaders since Gowon has talked about the need to diversify our economy. Which of them has actually taken the step that will lead to that diversification?



By Shuaibu Usman Leman

Modibbo's furious diatribe

We deem it fit to react to the piece written by former FCT Minister, Dr Aliyu Modibbo Umar, which appeared on Page 12 of *Daily Trust* of Tuesday, May 11, 2010 captioned, *Those dubious awards to governors, etc.*

In the said piece he started by criticizing media organisations for initiating dubious awards to undeserving governors and specifically took a swipe at the Governor of the year award the NUJ gave to Governor Muhammad Danjuma Goje of Gombe State, and for which we have no regret. In fact we are planning to honour more governors, senators and members of the House of Reps that have distinguished themselves, even as we had on several occasions quietly written to governors whom we felt needed to do more in certain areas. The media in Nigeria have done much in holding governments accountable to the masses of this country and will continue to do so.

Modibbo's grouse towards the media and NUJ, actually started in October 2007 when the union petitioned Late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua over his questionable revocation of the title to a piece of land belonging to Voice of Nigeria corporate headquarters, at the Central Area District, Abuja. We then appealed to the president to stop Modibbo from taking over the property which was meant for VON Broadcasting House and Studio

We pleaded with the president to use his sense of sound judgment, fairness, equity and respect for due process to stop these predators

Complex, especially since the then SGF whom we had also complained to had directed FCDA to stop the revocation of the property, but in his characteristic arrogant manner, Modibbo went ahead to reallocate the property to PTDF to construct a library and Alumni Centre. PTDF already had its Corporate Headquarters in Area 11, Garki.

We drew the attention of the president to the fact that the VON project was already ongoing in a sequential format, to wit:

The transmitting station project was located at Lugbe, off airport road. The studio complex, which included studios, mast/antennae systems, production facilities, links systems and administrative office will be located at the Central Area.

That VON had concluded plans with the manufacturer of transmitters for installation and we argued that any change in location would mean a realignment and redesign of plans/coordinates at huge additional cost over runs.

That VON had commenced the

development of the land sequel to the approval granted by the Development Control Office of the FCDA.

Specifically, we mentioned that already the Federal Government had expended the sum of N3 billion and it would not be reasonable to review the contract at that time.

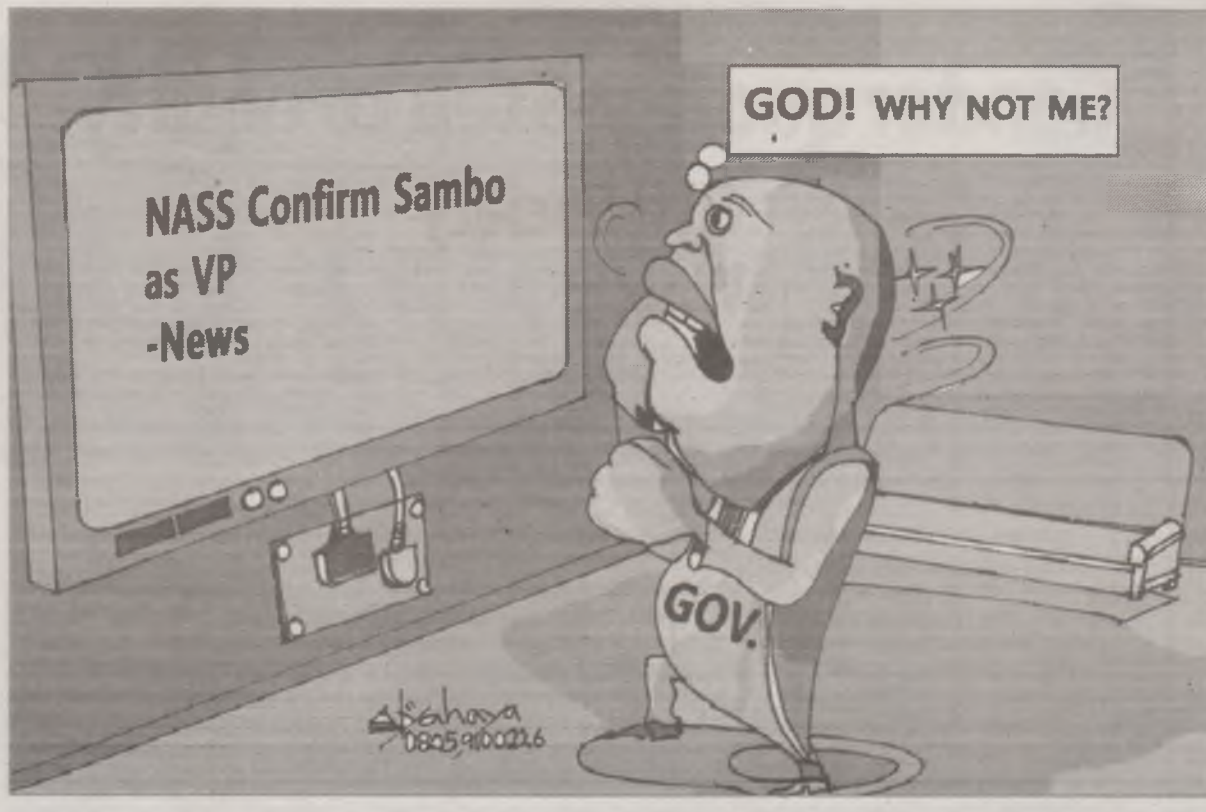
That Dr Aliyu Modibbo ignored the directives of the then SGF, Ambassador Babagana Kingibe and went ahead to reallocate the property to PTDF which quickly removed the VON signboard and replaced it with their own. We told the then president that the action by Modibbo represented a clear disrespect to constituted authority.

The NUJ also respectfully reminded the president that VON was established by Act No 15 of 1991 as the only body empowered to broadcast by radio, Nigeria's views to the outside world and the Corporation relies solely on Federal Government for funds. We clearly explained to the president that this responsibility bestowed on VON is no doubt critical in helping the FG to realize the vision of making Nigeria one of the greatest nations and economies in the world by the year 2020, and that people like Modibbo should not be allowed to sabotage this.

NUJ cautioned that if Dr Aliyu Modibbo and his co-travellers were allowed to have their way, it would result in huge losses of public funds even if alternative land was allocated to VON. We pleaded with the president to use his sense of sound judgment, fairness, equity and respect for due process to stop these predators.

For daring to challenge his authority and for having the audacity to report him to the SGF and the President, Dr Aliyu Modibbo never saw anything good in what the NUJ Leadership did. However we, as a union are conscious of our role in society and we believe that for Modibbo to describe the *Governor of the Year* award we gave to Goje as dubious is the most uncharitable remark by the former FCT Minister whose tenure was the shortest in the history of the FCT because of so many untidy deals, like the VON issue. A minister whose tenure saw a resurgence of land speculators and beggars on the streets of Abuja, the brazen incursions into the city by the banned Okada operators and how the hitherto beautiful landscape in the city was taken over by rubbish and street hawkers. A minister whose exit was followed by many petitions by concerned Nigerians, petitions which are still pending before the anti-graft agencies. This was the journalist who questioned the Union's award to a Governor who relocated FRCN in Gombe from a high density area to a better location and built structures for it. Goje did the same for AIT and NTA in Gombe, yet this Journalist who as Minister of FCT traded VON land in Abuja will have the effrontery of calling our award, dubious? A bad ambassador of the profession who was made Minister and who, unlike the typical journalist, came, saw, but could not make any positive impact.

Leman is national secretary of NUJ



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailystar.com

What, Akunyili as INEC Chair?

The alleged plan to name Professor Dora Akunyili as INEC Chairman by the present administration should be resisted if we are hoping for credible election in Nigeria.

Her choice can only be compared to Nwako Kanu turning being a referee in a football match involving Nigeria and another country with him playing on the

Nigerian side! Who is fooling who?

First, she is a card-carrying member of the ruling People's Democratic Party; then she is a member of the current cabinet. If you now appoint her as INEC Chairman what will Nigerians expect from her? Enough of these deceits please.

Not long ago she was calling for PDP stake holders meeting in Anambra state to resolve the lingering PDP bickering in that troubled state; that was a clear statement that she is now a bona fide member of PDP. With this, a

primary school boy should know that as a card carrying member of a ruling party that cannot conduct one single credible election she naturally shouldn't be appointed to such office or any card-carrying member of any political party in Nigeria for that matter. This is commonsense for God's sake! There are credible Nigerians with no party affiliations that can do far better than all the Akunyilis put together. What is even wrong in asking Justice Uwais to come and practise what he preached?

Ibrahim Suleiman Ibrosloman@yahoo.co.uk

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

PDP's zoning palaver

IN my opinion the zoning formula or rotation or whatever it is called should be dispensed with only when each of the six geo-political zones is given the chance to rule the country. This country belongs to all of us, therefore, let there be no marginalization, domination, etc, of any section of the country. **IBRAHIM Garba (IG) 08035121601.**

Re: El Rufa'i's 'arrogance'

MOHAMMED Haruna, the problem is that many investigations are so inconclusive in Nigeria that those who can't explain the source of their stupendous wealth go about waving their false sense of honesty and integrity on our faces. My dear, it's the honest Nigerians who run for cover when People, Power and Politics are on the move. Have been listening to documentaries on radio and TV these days? Even the dove is not as humble, peace loving and honest as those characters. The looters who are being tried, if at all they are, are all honourable men! **DRISU, Kaduna, 08035760568.**

Marriageable age for girls in Islam?

IT must be stated that the Prophet of Islam, Muhammad (SAW)

married Aisha Bint Abubakar when she was 6 in 620 A.D. It was consummated three years later when she was 9. In fact the marriage was solemnized by Allah (SWT) himself, rather than any Imam. Further also, Ali Bin Abu Talib married Fatima the daughter of the Prophet (SAW) when she was 15 after the Battle of Uhud. Therefore who pegged the age of 18 for a female Muslim to marry?

SANI Umaru Abubakar, Kaduna, 08061615600.

Re: Akunyili to be named INEC chairman

IT is clear to Nigerians that if President Jonathan is to contest in 2011, then there will be no free and fair election in this country, because the number one loyalist of Jonathan would be occupying the seat of INEC. So MR President, just do what you can in the time you have. **TUKUR Abbas, UBA Adamawa, 08030609715.**

Democracy in peril!

THE unconfirmed news that President Jonathan plans to appoint Professor Akunyili as chairman of INEC will

definitely jeopardize and put Nigeria's democracy in peril. Is President Jonathan serious about the future in Nigeria's democracy? Is Akunyili not a PDP card-carrying member? Does President Jonathan think the international community knows not who Akunyili is? Is the justice Uwais electoral reform proposal now a useless document? With due respect, President Jonathan should think twice before taking such sensitive decision. The whole world is watching. **HON. Abbati Bako, Commissioner, KASIEC, 08037037740.**

Bravo!

KUDOS to President Jonathan for his nomination of Professor Akunyili to be the INEC Chairman; that was very thoughtful of him.

INNA Audu, Abuja, 08028892020.

Re: Learn from Edo

GOVERNOR Oshiomhole converted to Christianity long ago; read *National Review's* interview with his mother.

MUHAMMAD Abdullah, 08160399796.



By Lawal Mainasara Gabas

Re: Those dubious awards to governors, etc

The former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar, recently came out of the closet to lambast, harangue and disparage governors and others who receive undeserved awards from some newspaper houses.

Reading between the lines, any casual observer could see that Aliyu Modibbo Umar is just like his Aso Villa boss, former President Olusegun Obasanjo, who is known to be vengeful and hardly forgiving.

In the self-deprecating write-up in the *Daily Trust* of May 11, 2010, he stated that "take for instance the awards of Man of the Year or Governor of the Year by media organisations in this country. Not too long ago, Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ) which I used to belong to gave the most laughable award to a state governor whose state is notorious for gangster politics culminating into inflation of contracts, intolerance of opposition, lack of rural development and who regrettably runs the state from Abuja where he is resident. This same governor used his state much needed funds to sponsor live coverage of the ceremony on Nigeria's two major television networks."

Any discerning reader can see that the former minister was referring to his former rival for the Government House, Governor Danjuma Goje of Gombe State, which is also Aliyu Modibbo's home state.

His removal as minister was alleged to have been orchestrated at the state level in order to clip his wings following his perceived growing popularity. But there has been no love lost between him and Governor Goje, something that observers say is his biggest minus.

Lamido Umar Chikaire, who is an elder brother to Dr. Umar Modibbo, and also former Chief of Staff to Governor Danjuma Goje of Gombe State, was some years back stripped off of his traditional title of 'Ajiya' by the Emir of Akko, Alhaji Umaru Muhammad Atiku. No reason was given for the move.

Dr. Umar Modibbo, is also one whom Governor Goje recently accused as the cog that blocked the extension of his administration's developmental drive to Kumo, headquarters of Akko Local Government.

Again Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar stated that, "Recently a CEO of a financial institution was recognized as Man of the Year by a financial newspaper. Subsequently, an avalanche of sponsored adverts congratulating the fellow featured in various newspapers."

Here, one can easily fathom that he was making reference to the MD/CEO of Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), Alh.aji Abdulsalam Ahmed, who is also from Gombe State.

The sponsored adverts on Alhaji Ahmed, was for the recent recognition he received in France for complementing the implementation of the various housing-related reforms concerning the FMBN.

Alh. Ahmed is in the processes of bringing in billions of off-shore funds in order to boost investments in Nigeria's housing sector.

So is it only when people of Gombe are recognised that the former minister picks his grinding axe? Or is it because Dr Aliyu Modibbo Umar has not been recognized anywhere in Nigeria for all the roles he played from being a Special Adviser to his becoming a minister.

Aliyu Modibbo Umar's only achievements as FCT Minister was bringing the 'Boulevard' concept which remained only a pipe dream as it was jettisoned into the dustbin of history by his successor.

Other 'achievements' of the former minister include trading of words with his predecessor, Malam Nasir el-Rufai, over who-got-what in land allocations and struggle for power with his ambitious FCT Minister of State.

Or is it the numerous courtesy calls he presided over at his Investment House office that is what he called "track record of achievement through sterling initiatives"?

Or his famous ranting about being a UCLA graduate of Journalism and being in the corridors of power at the Aso Rock before becoming a minister and finally fading into obscurity as a car dealer somewhere in Kano?

Therefore what the former minister did not probably understand from late Shehu Musa's description of people as "incompetent, morally bankrupt or from poor pedigree" may in actual fact be a reference to Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar.

Gabas wrote from Tangale Waja street, Gombe, Gombe State.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

Legislating the political Godfather

Influence peddling in politics is an age-old tradition. It gave rise to the era of the political Godfather, who is usually recognised as the *eminent grise*, the shadowy but powerful individual who manipulates the levers of power to his advantage without necessarily holding an official position. In Nigeria, the Godfather is someone with much more sinister motive. In fact, so much so that the House of Representatives recently introduced legislation to ban the practice of Godfather and other appellations attached to the conduct of political affairs in the country.

According to the sponsors of the bill, the measure would guard against the abuse of titles in the country's polity. Section six of the proposed bill requires a member of any political party registered in the country not to ascribe to themselves the honorific 'Godfather', 'Godmother', or 'Founder' of a political party.

The legislation also seeks to bar any member of a political party in Nigeria from taking unilateral decisions on behalf of the party. Under the proposed law, political parties would be banned from reserving any position for any particular person in the party.

The outcome of sessions of the House of Representatives' Committee on Intra- and Inter-Party Matters, the bill seeks to prohibit the hijack of political parties by individuals or group. The bill provides for a wide range of penalties for those who contravened its provisions, from suspension and expulsion from the party, to fine of up to ten million naira. It was reported that the House was expecting the senate to take up similar legislation for it to eventually become law.

If the Honourable members of the House of Representatives had been dismayed by the recent experience in the polity of allowing certain individuals to chart the course of governance, we understand their frustrations, and share their feelings of the need to do something to stop unelected persons from exercising such enormous influence.

Not too long ago, the country was treated to the spectacle of such influence peddlers who arrogated to themselves the power to decide whether or not elections would hold, or whether there was vacancy in the presidency for anyone to dare challenge the incumbent.

The problem is that the political patronage system has become the hallmark of political office in Nigeria; access to political office is seen as the surest shortcut to wealth and more power. Those who already have wealth but not political power dispense their wealth in a manner that bring them the power they crave.

It however does not require legislation to fix the Godfather meddlesomeness. Criminalizing the Godfather's will only add to the value of their influence, and make the politicians that much more desperate to seek them. The ability of the political party to deny any role for the Godfather in the conduct of its affairs represents the sum of its capacity to instil discipline within its rank. Any political party fickle enough to allow itself to be 'hijacked by moneybags or the euphemistic Godfathers cannot be trusted to be a genuine partner in a true democracy in which free and fair choice is the norm.

We think therefore that the proposed legislation is not necessary. The political parties should be strong enough to withstand any Godfather onslaught; individual party members who step out of line should be disciplined. They can determine, perhaps with the help of guidelines from a revised electoral law, a way to peg contributions by individuals and organizations. That way no single individual can provide so much money as to feel he/she have a say in determining party policy and, if the party happens to be in power, the direction of government policy. On the whole greater internal democracy may be the best antidote to the phenomenon of Godfathers in Nigerian politics.

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

e-mail: opinion@dailytrust.com

Gender quotas: Step to equity

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

Affirmative action is an issue that has generated considerable interest in gender political discourse. It was revisited at a one day meeting organised by Heinrich Boll Foundation HBF on Gender Quotas in Political Structures on 26th May 2010 at the Denis Hotel Abuja. The meeting was attended by civil society activists, women leaders of the various political parties, consultants and other stakeholders. The meeting began with a welcome address from the Chairperson of the first session; Oby Nwankwo, the Executive Director of Enugu-based Civil Society Research and Documentation Centre (CIRDDOC). She expressed appreciation to the HBF for its support and acknowledged the fact that her organisation had been working with HBF for the past ten years on various development projects. There were paper presentations by experts and the first paper was presented by Nkechi Nwankwo. It was titled 'Gender Quotas in Political Structures: Comparative Analysis of International Best Practices'. She began with an expression of concern that the senate did not pass any of the bills that were designed to promote women's welfare, but advised that they should not be discouraged by the delay.

The second presentation was titled 'Status of Women in Party Structures and Strategies for Achieving Gender Quotas' and it was presented by Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi of a Lagos based Women Advocates Research and Documentation Centre. WARD-C. She underscored the fact that parties are the gate keepers to women's advancement to power. She listed some of the issues that affect women's effectiveness within the parties. They include exclusion of women from political parties which she said is not only a gender issue but also a democratic issue. Party manifestoes and constitutions which include progressive provisions on women but are not implemented.

The presenter then advised that women should come up with strategies to get political positions because those occupying such would never want to give them up. In addition to these she stressed that women aspiring for positions within the party should understand the political context within which the parties exist in order for quota system to work. She further advised that female legislators should be educated on gender issues so they would use them when necessary. After the presentations, participants from the floor made their contributions. Dr. Keziah Awosika of Lagos based Women, Law and Development Centre said a strong women's movement is vital for promoting affirmative action. She lamented the fact that efforts made towards establishing a women's movement in Nigeria have always failed adding that a strong advocacy team at all levels, local, state and national would be required to promote adoption of gender quotas in political structures.

In my contribution, I drew the

attention of participants to the existence of a League of Women Voters which is dormant and should be resuscitated so that institutional memory will be retained.

The institutional foundation which is necessary for promoting the cause will be retained by building on previous achievements rather than starting a new movement. I suggested that current leaders/funders of such movements should be contacted

mended establishing a formidable movement that will amplify the voice of the women. She suggested that female members of political parties should form a formidable pressure group. Ngukwase Surma of Kaduna-based Connecting Gender for Development, reminded the meeting that time was short and would like to know what could be done between now and November when parties would nominate candidates. She said it is important to strategise for 2011 and beyond. The participants observed as follows

- Gender Quotas give speedy increase in women's representation
- It guarantees 'equality of results' for women and men aspirants
- It is in conformity with the notions of equality and representation

After the presentations, participants from the floor made their contributions. Dr. Keziah Awosika of Lagos based Women, Law and Development Centre said a strong women's movement is vital for promoting affirmative action

and brought on board. I underscored the fact that gender quotas have successfully been applied in various countries and cited the Indian example, where a bottom-up approach was used and gender quotas were applied at the Local government level and found to be very effective. I also emphasised that gender sensitive men should be involved in the campaign for adoption of affirmative action and using the document produced by women CSOs at a post Beijing Conference 'A Political Agenda for Nigerian Women' as a strong advocacy tool. The Ministry of Women Affairs and Social development had undertaken to reproduce the document and disseminate it.

Dr. Ego Ezuma, the Woman Leader of the Action Congress (AC) still decrying failed movements said this 'it is pathetic that the men are out to disorganize the women' and that their bills were not passed at the National Assembly because they were not taken seriously. She also acknowledged that women need re-orientation which will enable them to clearly articulate what they want.

She advised that concerted efforts be made to encourage different organisations, women from various political parties and CSOs to network and chart a way forward. Mrs. Nana Dahiru, the Woman Leader of APGA party while decrying the gender imbalance in political structures drew attention of participants to the fact that parties appoint few women as members of their working committees and emphasized the need for qualified women to participate in politics. She advised that those planning to contest elections should also start their campaigns early. Former Speaker of the Benue State House of Assembly, Hon. Margaret Icheen reiterated the need for women to speak with one voice and recom-

-Gender quotas must be compatible with the electoral system if they are to be effective.

-Rules about the implementation of gender quotas must be explicit

-In the case of legislated quotas, institutional bodies should supervise the implementation

Participants then arrived at some specific strategies. They include

-Engaging the women leaders of political parties, party leaders, principal officials, and gender friendly men on gender issue

-Production of advocacy materials such as pamphlets, fliers, fact sheets which would focus on methods for adopting gender quotas and list of countries that have used it effectively

-Hosting a national summit for political parties

-Conducting advocacy visits to political parties on the full implementation of the gender specific provisions of the Parties' constitution and manifestoes, and encouraging parties that do not have to develop one.

-Female leaders of political parties and women NGOs should encourage more women to register as members of political parties

-Target corps members and market women to register and vote

-Engaging the Governors' forum, Governors' wives and female Deputy Governors in the campaign

-Develop a media strategy that would undertake party ranking based on gender sensitive indicators and engaging key columnists across major print/electronic media by supplying them with regular information

-Engaging the Guild of editors, Nigeria Union of Journalists, Nigeria Association of Women Journalists, women editors and newspaper columnists

-Encourage female politicians to network to across party lines.

THE MAGNETIC PULL OF WORLD CLASS



Makes it compelling for our client, an International listed manufacturing company to insist on applications from only world class candidates

For the following positions;



1/ Consumer Marketing Manager - Base : Abuja.

Education and experience: MBA degree or equivalent in consumer marketing. At least 5 years experience as a Consumer Marketing Manager in a professional (FMCG) sales & marketing organization.

2/ Trade Marketing Manager - Base : Abuja

Education and experience: A degree holder with at least 5 years experience as a Trade Marketing Manager in a professional sales & marketing organization.

3/ Field Manager Lagos : Manages the Field Representative team in Lagos Base : Lagos

Education and experience: A degree holder (sales qualification preferably) with at least 5 years experience in managing, motivating and training sales teams.

4/ Field Representative South-South - Based: Port Harcourt but covers South-South

Education and experience: A good first degree in a relevant field with at least 2-5 years sales experience and an understanding of local culture, business practices and languages.

5/ Management trainee - Base : Abuja

Job Description : Needs to be a "computer wizard" and very good at writing reports and business cases in high level English

Education : A good first degree and second degree

Experience, Character and integrity are critical factors in the selection process. Remuneration is very attractive. Please send your C.V. via e-mail within seven days of this publication to:



J K Randle Professional Services

"X KPMG HOUSE"

One King Ologunkutere Street,
Park View, Ikoyi,

Lagos. Email: style@ikrandleandco.co.uk or jkrandleintuk@gmail.com

Tel: 234-1-8181381, 234-1-8952431

CENTRE FOR DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH AND TRAINING (CEDDERT)



CORDIALLY INVITES

The General Public to the Presentation and Launching of the Book,

Impressions and Facts: Nigeria Under General Badamasi Babangida, 1985-1993

Under the distinguished Chairmanship of
Alhaji Abdulsamad Isiaku Rabi
(Chairman BUA Group of Companies)

Special Guest of Honour
General Ibrahim Babangida GCFR, MNI

Chief Host
Vice President, Federal Republic of Nigeria
Arc. Namadi Sambo (FNIA)

Royal Fathers of the Day:
Emir of Zazzau, HRH Alh. Shehu Idris CER
Emir of Katsina, HRH Alh. Abdulmumuni Kabir Usman CFR

Chief Launcher
Chief Anthony Eze

Book Review by
Chief Amuta

Date: Friday 21st, May 2010

Time: 10:00am

Venue: African Hall, International Conference Centre (I.C.C), Abuja

R.S.V.P

0803 311 0955, 0803 066 3082, 0803 702 1285, 0803 062 1403

AFRICA REPORT

Darfur rebel chief detained in Chad

CHADIAN airport authorities are holding the head of Darfur's most heavily armed rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement, denying him access to the Sudanese region through neighbouring Chad, a JEM spokesman, Ahmed Hussein Adam told AFP yesterday.

"When they landed, Chadian authorities confiscated their passports and refused to let them into Chadian territory and ordered them to go back (to Libya)," Adam said, speaking by telephone from London.

"The pilot refused to let them onboard the plane because they did not have the necessary documents. Khalil and his delegation are currently in Ndjamena airport," Adam said.

There was no immediate comment from Chadian authorities. Khalil and his delegation had planned to head to Darfur through Chad, the only passage for them into the war-torn region of western Sudan.

Authorities in Chad are now trying to get Ibrahim and the JEM delegation to the Qatari capital Doha, the venue of recent peace feelers between the JEM and the Khartoum government, Adam said. Those talks were suspended after the JEM accused the army of attacking its positions last month. The government then issued a warrant for the arrest of Ibrahim.

Adam said that by moving the JEM delegation to Qatar, Chad was "pushing the group to sign an agreement which is against the



IN 2008 more than 200 people were killed and hundreds wounded when the JEM attacked Omdurman

interests of the people of Darfur." Adam called on the Chadian government and President Idriss

Deby to "immediately release Khalil and to let him into Darfur... and not to contribute to this con-

spiracy against the movement."

In January, Chad signed an agreement with Sudan to nor-

malise relations, ending years of tension between the neighbouring countries.

Somalia criticises US for putting pirate on trial

A Somali official has criticised the US for prosecuting a man over a piracy incident off the Horn of Africa. Jamaal Cumar, a US-based Somali official, told the BBC there were "serious concerns" over jurisdiction in the case of Abdiwali Abdiqadir Muse.

Mr Cumar questioned the authority of any foreign country to try Somali pirates active off East Africa. Muse, from Somalia, faces 27 years in a US jail after admitting an attack on the Maersk Alabama in April 2009.

He was captured by the US Navy, whose sharpshooters killed three other pirates trying to escape on a lifeboat, saving the captain. He is due to be sentenced in October.

Mr Cumar told the BBC's Network Africa he had been trying to work out why the US would have any authority to try Muse's case and those of several other suspects in custody in the US.

"The Somali government's position has always been that we questioned the jurisdiction of this case," he said.

The Maersk Alabama was carrying aid bound for Somalia when attacked "We felt that it was an exercise in extrajudicial practice of the law and we

asked the US to return those pirates back to Somalia."

Mr Cumar says he wants a UN-backed international tribunal to deal with piracy cases. Somali pirate suspects have been tried in various countries across the world, as Somalia has no functioning central government.

Legal experts have been struggling with the problem of where to try piracy cases for years.

Foreign forces have frequently caught pirates off Somalia, disarmed them and then put them back to sea because there is no local authority to deal with them.

Previous attempts to form an international tribunal have failed because of a lack of funding. During Muse's trial in a federal court in Manhattan, prosecutors described him as a ringleader of a gang of four pirates who seized the Maersk Alabama some 450km (280 miles) off the coast of Somalia.

Court documents said Muse was the first to board the vessel, firing his AK-47 assault rifle at Captain Richard Phillips.

On Tuesday, Muse said through an interpreter: "I am very, very sorry about what we did. All of this was about the problems in Somalia."

Three Darfur aid workers kidnapped

THREE aid workers, including a US woman and two Sudanese nationals, have been kidnapped in Sudan's troubled Darfur region, officials say. The victims were stopped by an armed gang near the town of Nyala, capital of South Darfur state, government minister Abdelbagi Gailani told the BBC.

He said the kidnappers made off with the group's two vehicles, and that they were probably being held for ransom.

This is the latest in a series of kidnappings of aid workers in Darfur. Last month, four South Africans from the African Union peacekeeping mission were kidnapped in Nyala. They were later released.

The US embassy has confirmed the abduction of the American aid worker, and said it was working with its contacts to follow the situation closely.

In the early stages of the Darfur civil war, it was unusual for foreign

nationals to be targeted, says the BBC's James Copnall in the capital Khartoum.

But ever since President Omar al-Bashir was indicted last year by the International Criminal Court for war crimes allegedly committed in Darfur, the situation for humanitarian workers has greatly deteriorated, he adds.

A succession of foreigners has been abducted, with the kidnappers usually demanding a ransom.

In a separate development, a major rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement (Jem), has released 44 prisoners.

The men, soldiers from the Sudanese Armed Forces, were handed over to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). There has been an upsurge of fighting in Darfur in recent weeks, the area as a whole remains very insecure, and the peace process is shaky, our correspondent says.

Middle East

US envoy in new talks with Palestinian president

US envoy George Mitchell and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas yesterday held their first meeting since indirect peace negotiations with Israel were launched earlier this month.

"We gave Americans letters about the situation on the ground, including the murders in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip committed by the occupation against the Palestinian people," Erakat told journalists after the meeting.

In recent days, a Palestinian teenager was shot dead in the West Bank, allegedly by an Israeli settler, and army gunfire killed an elderly farmer in the Gaza Strip, near the Israeli border. The letters also address "the numerous Israeli provocative statements of the last few days," Erakat said, in reference to statements by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other officials that Israeli settlement construction would continue in annexed Arab east Jerusalem.

Following the meeting with Abbas in the West Bank's

political capital Ramallah, Mitchell headed to east Jerusalem with Erakat for further consultations.

"Our discussions with Mitchell revolve around all the final status issues and we will focus on the questions of borders and security during the four months of proximity talks," Erakat said.

Final status issues refer to the core disputes in the decades-old conflict such as the fate of Jerusalem and Palestinian refugees. Mitchell plans to shuttle between Washington, Jerusalem and Ramallah as part of the so-called proximity talks launched on May 9.

He met Israeli Defence Minister Ehud Barak on Tuesday and planned to hold talks with hawkish Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on tomorrow.

The indirect negotiations were first agreed in March but the initiative collapsed within days when Israel announced plans to build 1,600 settler homes in east Jerusalem.



MAHMUD Abbas (r) welcomes George Mitchell to Ramallah



THE 2010 TIGUAN

Welcome to Comfort Zone

Designed to offer the best of all worlds, the new Tiguan will provide high comfort levels, coupled with dynamic driving performance.

FEATURES

- 2.0 TSI engine with 200 hp
- Electronic Stabilization Program (ESP) with Hydraulic Brake Assist (HBA)
- All-season tires
- Fold-flat passenger seat, slide adjustment and recline function.
- Split-folding 60/40 rear seat
- Front and rear head-curtain airbags
- Cruise control



STARTING AT:

₦4,797,000

Available in 3 MODELS

- HIGHLINE S
- HIGHLINE SE
- HIGHLINE SEL

Sold out but more on the way. **SO ORDER TODAY.**

VICTORIA ISLAND | GBAGADA | IKEJA | LEKKI | IBADAN | ABUJA | PORT-HARCOURT | KANO | KADUNA | CALABAR | MAIDUGURI

SALES HOTLINE: 01-8741003, 8528183, 8741045, 8741046, 8520007, 08034799999 | E-mail: vwsales@vwngigeria.com
vwservice@vwngigeria.com

VW FINANCE: 01-8741047, 07028022472, 01-8983296, 01-8520007, 08034799999

Sales • Finance • Service • Spares • Body Shop • Warranty



Volkswagen Centre

Sarkozy asks Muslims not to feel hurt by veil ban

PRESIDENT Nicolas Sarkozy urged French Muslims yesterday not to feel hurt or stigmatised by a planned ban on full face veils that will fine women who hide their faces and jail men if they force them to cover up.

Sarkozy told a cabinet meeting, which approved the bill that could become law this autumn, that France was an old nation that could not allow its vision of women's dignity and public order to be violated by the veil.

Only a tiny minority of Muslim women in Europe wear full veils, called niqabs or burqas, but their numbers are growing. The Belgian parliament has already begun debating a ban there and could also impose it in the coming months.

Iran says UN nuclear sanctions will backfire

THE head of Iran's atomic energy organisation has said newly-proposed sanctions on Iran will not work. Ali Akbar Salehi said the sanctions would lead to the major world powers who back them being "discredited". He is the highest-ranking Iranian official to speak since the proposals were tabled at the United Nations Security Council on Tuesday.

The proposals come just a day after Tehran agreed to trade uranium for ready-enriched fuel for a reactor.

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said the five veto-wielding permanent members had agreed on a "strong" draft resolution.

Midweek Africa

East Africa: Drinking the waters of equity from the River Nile



PRESIDENT Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

By Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

THE River Nile is the longest river in the world and on its shores human civilization dawned aeons ago. It is a river that has marked the lives of the peoples who built the civilizations around it, and none more so than the Egyptians and to a lesser extent, the Sudanese.

So important is the Nile to these two countries, that on the basis of an accord dating back to the colonial period, these two countries get 90% of the water of the River Nile. Writing in the 5th Century BC, the Greek historian, Herodotus, described Egypt as "the gift of the Nile", and that intimate attachment to the Nile remains at the heart of being Egyptian.

But there is a simmering discord about the fairness of the old colonial accord: a 1929 agreement through which Britain, then the colonial power in East Africa, gave Egypt the right to veto upstream projects that affect its water share.

Another accord signed in 1959, by Egypt and Sudan, granted Egypt 55.5bn cubic meters of water every year or 87% of the Nile flow while Sudan got 18.5bn cubic meters or 13% of the remaining flow.

Upstream countries of the River Nile, such as Uganda, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania, want a new and fairer deal, on the sharing of the water; but after 13 years of talks, nothing concrete has been agreed, according to the BBC, which added that a further

three countries were represented at the talks, hosted in Entebbe, Uganda.

There is a split, according to the BBC's Will Ross, that could hamper efforts by all the nine countries involved in the negotiations on sharing the water of the Nile. At the heart of the problem is the fact that for Egypt, water is a matter of national security, in the words of Wyre Davies, reporting out of Cairo.

The Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mona Omar, once said that anything that concerns the Nile "is a national security issue. The Nile is life for Egypt". Furthermore, AFP quoted an Egyptian spokesman, Hossam Zaki as dismissing the Entebbe agreement, saying that it "is in no way binding

on Egypt from a legal perspective.

Egypt will not join or sign any agreement that affects its share of the water of the River Nile. Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda signed the Entebbe agreement, which hoped to get experts to determine how much water each country would be entitled to. Kenya did not sign like Burundi and DR Congo, but it sent officials to Entebbe.

The inequities run very deep in the use of the water of the Nile. For example, Ethiopia is the source of the Blue Nile, which contributes an estimated 85% the river's water but is unable to meaningfully use the water. Sudan and Egypt declined to sign a new deal on the water until they are guaranteed an exact share of the water.

Ahmed el-Mufti, the legal counsel to the Sudanese delegation told Reuters that all the nine countries were close to a deal, so the upstream countries did not have to sign a separate one. El-Mufti added that Egypt and Sudan needed water more than the countries in the fertile region: "They have a lot of rain. This is nature. They do not need the water. Here in Sudan we need the water".

Stanislas Kamanzi, Rwanda's Environment Minister told the media that "Egypt has been requesting to defer the signing of the Cooperative Framework Agreement"; he added that "we couldn't wait any longer, since we have been negotiating for over 10 years". But no one can also deny the fact that Egypt's agriculture and indeed life, has always depended on the River Nile and its water.

The underlying issues include soaring populations that need water and the impact which changing climate patterns are having on the Nile. Experts argue that there are warnings that wranglings over the sharing of the water of the Nile might trigger conflict.

Kenya's Director of water resources, John Nyaro, told the BBC that "if we don't have an agreed cooperative framework, there will be no peace". He added that "where there is no rule of law, the rule of the jungle does not provide peace".

In 2006, the Ugandan government announced that it was cutting the flow of water through its main dam at the point where Lake Victoria feeds the Nile, an action it blamed on widespread drought. The flow was cut by almost a third, to allow the lake to refill, arguing then that it was at its lowest for more than 80 years.

While the World Food Program (WFP) had indicated that there were new patterns of drought emerging in Africa in that period, a few people had also alleged that Uganda was secretly draining Lake Victoria to maintain electricity supplies; it was an allegation rejected by the Ugandans.

There is also the related contradiction of Ethiopian life. Lake Tana in Ethiopia is the source of the Blue Nile and the lake itself is fed by more than 40 tributaries, yet in spite of the abundance of water, Ethiopia is a land plagued by horrific droughts and millions of its people have to depend on food aid.

Again, the Ethiopians complain that they cannot meaningfully utilize the water of the Blue Nile because of the extant colonial agreement about the sharing of the water. Any effort to do so will put Ethiopia on a collision course with Egypt, which currently uses most of the water downstream.

So while Ethiopia is plagued by its regular droughts and handicapped in the use of the Blue Nile, hundreds of kilometers downstream in Egypt, the waters of the Nile irrigate fruits and vegetable farms to produce organic products for the supermarkets of Europe as well as help Egypt to create new towns in the desert all fed on the waters that Ethiopia cannot use, under the colonial water sharing agreement.

Egypt's population has more than doubled since the 1960s, meaning ever more need for water, Ethiopia and other countries upstream also face the same demographic pressures, without having the opportunity to use the water of the Nile.

This was why the Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi argued that "the current regime cannot be sustained. It's being sustained because of the diplomatic clout of Egypt. Now, there will come a time when the people of East Africa and Ethiopia will become too desperate to care about these diplomatic niceties. Then, they are going to act".

There is clearly an impasse in the issue surrounding the equitable use of the waters of the Nile. The Egyptian position has always been that there is no way that it will allow the reduction of its water quota, while the upstream countries want a review.

But breaking that impasse is an imperative so that the water of the Nile which has given rise to civilizations will not end up becoming a source of major conflicts in the years ahead in Africa, a continent already blighted by several resource-related conflicts.

Asia



BAGRAM is run primarily by the US military and is the biggest NATO base in the country

Taliban attacks NATO base in Afghanistan

AN audacious gun, grenade and suicide attack on the largest NATO base in Afghanistan sparked hours of battles Wednesday, killing an American contract worker and 11 militants.

The assault by Taliban militants, one day after a suicide car bomber killed five US soldiers, a Canadian colonel and 12 Afghans in Kabul, highlighted the increasing sophistication and relentless pace of the nearly nine-year conflict. Bagram is run primarily by the US military and is the biggest NATO base in the country.

The Taliban, which is leading the insurgency against the Afghan government and Western troops, claimed responsibility for the attack. The militia said 20 suicide

bombers had taken part, but regularly exaggerates its claims.

"The attack started at around 4:00 to 4:30 in the morning (and) it was concluded at around 10:30 to 11:00 am," the last six hours comprising "light and sporadic" gunfire, Clementson told AFP.

He said a US civilian contractor in "the vicinity of one of the exchanges" was killed along with 11 militants. Of the nine soldiers injured, two had returned to duty and the others were in "stable condition".

Clementson added that at least four of the attackers were armed with suicide vests and that they were killed before detonating their devices. The insurgents had not been able to "breach the base".



BALANCE SHEET

As at 31 December 2009

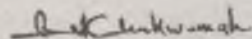
ASSETS	GROUP	GROUP	COMPANY	COMPANY
	Dec 2009	Mar 2009	Dec 2009	Mar 2009
	N'000	N'000	N'000	N'000
Cash and bank balances with Central bank	1,628,730	1,093,298	1,265,364	683,250
Treasury bills	1,458,050	-	1,458,050	-
Assets under repurchase agreement	20,900,000	-	20,900,000	-
Investment securities	46,229,402	40,878,402	46,570,002	41,353,151
Investment in subsidiary	-	-	170,000	170,000
Deferred taxation	2,615,161	1,146,848	2,610,367	1,141,174
Other assets	1,230,576	1,699,059	914,124	1,445,351
Property and equipment	125,652	132,052	78,836	76,982
TOTAL ASSETS	74,187,571	44,949,659	73,966,743	44,869,908
LIABILITIES:				
Secured borrowing	49,336,246	39,627,167	49,343,656	39,631,334
Liabilities against repurchase agreements	20,900,000	-	20,900,000	-
Other liabilities	898,297	254,643	538,918	126,341
Dividend payable	65,774	65,774	65,774	65,774
Taxation payable	70,146	75,303	61,098	56,615
Retirement benefit obligation	24,248	23,438	24,248	23,438
TOTAL LIABILITIES	71,294,711	40,046,325	70,933,694	39,903,502
CAPITAL AND RESERVES				
Share capital	2,065,834	2,065,834	2,065,834	2,065,834
Share premium	107,381	107,381	107,381	107,381
Statutory reserve	878,115	878,115	878,115	878,115
General reserve	(158,470)	1,852,004	(18,281)	1,915,076
SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	2,892,860	4,903,334	3,033,049	4,966,406
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS	74,187,571	44,949,659	73,966,743	44,869,908

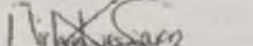
PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT

for the nine months period ended 31 December 2009

GROSS EARNINGS	GROUP	GROUP	COMPANY	COMPANY
	Dec 2009	Mar 2009	Dec 2009	Mar 2009
	N'000	N'000	N'000	N'000
GROSS EARNINGS	8,951,344	9,400,269	8,819,558	8,990,202
(Loss)/Profit before taxation	(3,459,866)	160,430	(3,382,749)	199,557
Taxation	1,449,392	485,682	1,449,392	490,916
(Loss)/Profit after taxation	(2,010,474)	646,112	(1,933,357)	690,473
APPROPRIATIONS:				
Transfer to statutory reserves	-	(103,571)	-	(103,571)
Transfer to general reserves	2,010,474	(542,541)	1,933,357	(586,902)

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ON 28 APRIL, 2010 BY:


MR. CYRIL CHIKWUMA
Chairman


MR. M.K. SAGOE
Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Express Discount Limited:

We have audited the financial statements of Express Discount Limited ("the Company") and its subsidiary company ("the Group") for the period ended 31 December 2009, from which the summarized financial statements were derived, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. In our report dated April 28, 2010, we expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements from which the summarized financial statements were derived.

In our opinion, the accompanying summarized financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the financial statements from which they were derived. For a better understanding of the Company's and Group's financial position and results for the period ended 31 December 2009 and of the scope of our audit, the summarized financial statements should be read in conjunction with the financial statements from which the summarized financial statements were derived and our audit opinion thereon.

Compliance with Section 27 (2) of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act of Nigeria and Central Bank of Nigeria Circular BSD/1/2004

The Company did not pay any penalties in respect of contravention of the provisions of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act of Nigeria and Central Bank Circulars during the period ended 31 December 2009.

Related party transactions and balances have been disclosed in the financial statements in compliance with the Central Bank of Nigeria Circular BSD/1/2004.

Lagos, Nigeria KPMG

28 April 2010



"Illegal" second wife lands Malaysia politician in jail

AN Islamic court sentenced a senior Malaysian politician to a month in prison yesterday for taking a second wife without the permission of his first wife.

Muslims are allowed to take up to four wives in Malaysia and the multiple marriage has become more popular with a "polygamy club" being set up, although it remains a minority practice in the mainly muslim country. But the man must ask the permission of his current wife before taking another, and she must agree before the second marriage is considered legal.

Bung Mokhtar, 51, is deputy president of the parliamentarians' club of the National Front coalition that has ruled Malaysia for 52 years. He was also fined 1,000 ringgit (217 pounds) in addition to the jail sentence.

Hand hacked off in China school knife attack

A student has had his hand cut off and eight others have been slashed in the latest school knife attack in China. According to state media reports, two students have been hospitalised after the incident which saw between five and 10 knife-wielding men burst into a college dormitory in the southern province of Hainan.

It follows a spate of violent attacks targeting schools in China. Five incidents in the last two months have left 17 dead - many of them young children - and another 50 injured.

All of the assailants operated alone, most were armed with knives, and several subsequently committed suicide.



SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISER, DFID NORTHERN OFFICE, KANO

DFID Nigeria (DFIDN) is responsible for managing the British Government's contribution to development in Nigeria, with the objective of supporting governments at federal and state level to reduce poverty in order to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT ADVISER, NORTHERN NIGERIA OFFICE, KANO

This is an externally focused post. The post holder will be expected to spend up to sixty percent of his/her time working with programme service providers, government at the federal and state levels as well as with a range of partner donor agencies.

More specifically, the post holder will:

- Provide Social Development advice and analysis for all DFID programmes in Northern Nigeria, covering Health, Education, Nutrition, Water & Sanitation and Governance
- Lead the £20million State Accountability and Voice Initiative programme in Kaduna, Kano and Jigawa, providing strategic oversight to ensure delivery of the programme in an effective manner
- Provide oversight for the Justice Sector programme - Justice for All, in Kaduna, Kano and Jigawa, ensuring it remains focused on helping the states implement their Justice Sector reform plans
- Be an active member of the DFID Nigeria Gender Action Group, providing technical skills and knowledge for implementing the DFID Gender Equality Action Plan.
- Develop and strengthen working relationships with key partners in Government, traditional institutions and Development Partners, for supporting work on social development issues, particularly Gender, in Northern Nigeria
- Work closely with the Girls' Empowerment Programme - Girl Hub, to provide strategic support, linkages and to be a conduit between the programme and relevant DFID programmes in Northern Nigeria
- Act as coordinator for one of DFID's lead states in northern Nigeria. State coordination includes leading and strategically managing relationships with stakeholders including DFID service providers, politicians, senior officials and development partners.
- Represent DFID Nigeria and be able to explain its programmes and approach to Government officials, Development Partners and general public
- Support the DFID Northern Nigeria Office Management as necessary in a flexible and co-operative manner, engaging where required on corporate and other matters. In particular a focus on Value for Money, Results and Communications will be necessary as the office expands its programme and resources

Travel within Nigeria will be an integral part of the job, with regular travel to Northern States and periodic visits to the Abuja office

Reporting line

The job holder will report jointly to the Head, DFID North Nigeria Office and the Team Leader in the Governance and Social Development Team in the DFID Nigeria office in Abuja.

Qualification and experience

- Experience of working on a social development programme, with a development partner or a service provider/contractor is essential
- Experience of conducting social analysis (particularly in poverty and in gender) essential; experience in working on social policy issues in Nigeria required
- Minimum of Masters level qualification in the Social Sciences or related field. Qualification in Gender Analysis is an added advantage
- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English, computer literacy and working knowledge of the Hausa language
- Experience of working with Civil Society in Northern Nigeria
- Good interpersonal skills; ability to work as part of a team in Kano and another team in Abuja; willingness to travel within Northern Nigeria

Technical and Behavioural competencies

This post requires general knowledge of Social Development issues and Nigeria context specific issues around poverty, inclusion/exclusion, gender and voice.

Specific competencies required include:

- **Analysis and Use of Information:** Breaking down and simplifying complex data, policy documents and similar information around social development issues will be a major task for the successful candidate. The appointee should be able to assess and interpret information in order to identify the main issues for attention and to inform non-technical colleagues.
- **Planning and Delivery of Work:** The successful candidate needs to ensure that tasks are done to the required standard, meeting the required deadlines. They need to plan their work to meet individual, team and office-wide objectives while achieving high quality and value for money.
- **Communication with others:** The successful candidate will have the responsibility for communicating a wide range of Social Development issues to a diverse audience, including externally to DFID partners and internally to colleagues/staff.
- **Influencing:** The successful candidate will work effectively with a wide range of stakeholders, including Government officials, civil society groups, programme contractors/service providers, traditional and religious leaders as well as other donors. The successful candidate will need to be proficient in building good working relationships, providing a platform for partnership, guidance for implementation, acceptance and support for DFID Programmes.
- **Working with Others:** The DFID Office in Kano is a multicultural team, with Nigerian and UK staff members. The successful candidate will have the cultural sensitivity, team spirit and disposition to work in a multicultural and multidisciplinary team.

Benefits

Remuneration: DFID offers a competitive salary and benefit package. The current starting salary per annum is Naira 7,001,382.

How to apply:

1. If you are interested in applying for this position please send an email to sds@kimberly-ryan.net to obtain the application form. Your completed application form should be sent to m-elawant@dfid.gov.uk
2. The closing date for applications is 3rd June 2010. Under no circumstances will applications be accepted after this date.
3. All enquiries should be directed to Kimberly Ryan Ltd., No. 29 Kampela St, Off Cairo St, Off Adetokunbo Ademola, Wuse II Abuja. 08-8703188.

DFID is an Equal Opportunities employer. Applications are welcomed from all parts of the community, and we actively encourage interest from women, ethnic minority groups and those with disabilities. Selection is on merit.

Only short listed candidates will be contacted

Kimberly Ryan

A HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COMPANY

PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT • OUTSOURCING • PLACEMENT • HR SYSTEMS & STRUCTURES



NIGERIAN TURKISH INTERNATIONAL COLLEGES

"... a right environment for learning"



Would you like to work in a school which,

- ✓ has 16 different branches in 6 different states
- ✓ has more than 3500 students and 500 staff
- ✓ can give you international experience in education sector
- ✓ has won 18 gold, 17 silver and 21 bronze medals in international competitions
- ✓ has standard school buildings, classes and laboratories

Then, you are welcome to NIGERIAN TURKISH INT'L COLLEGE.

Due to increasing number of students and branches of our schools, we are looking for qualified candidates for the following posts;

1. Teachers for all subjects
2. House masters and mistresses
3. Supervisors
4. Non-teaching staff (Electrician, plumber, security, carpenter, cook, driver)

All applications should be sent through mail to the following addresses on or before 5th June, 2010.

ABUJA

NTIC, Ahmadu Bello Way by Kashim Ibrahim Way, Wuse II Abuja. Tel: 09-413 47 31

KANO

NTIC, Madeja Road By Pass By Ring Road, Yankaba-KANO. 07034988405.

LAGOS

NTIC, Off Opebi Road 4A Agbada str., IKEJA Tel: 01 774 95 45

OGUN

NTIC, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway Riverview Estate (behind Compass Newspaper, fatgbem filling station, Isheri, 01-7400915

KADUNA

NTIC, Km9 Kaduna-Zaria road, Rigachukun, Tel: 08037687860, 08075873791

YOBE

NTIC, Potiskum-Damaturu Express Way, Mabudo. Tel: 08037434060

Abuja Day Co-education 09-4134731
Abuja Boys Boarding 09-4139751
Abuja Girls Boarding 09-4139285

Abuja Nursery-Primary 09-4139762
Abuja UFP 08059129977
Nigerian Turkish Nile University 09-4134731

Kano Boys Boarding 064-315040
Kano Girls Boarding 08037011902
Kano Nursery-Primary 08120321508

Lagos Boys Boarding 01-7400915
Lagos Girls Boarding 01-7749545
Lagos Nursery-Primary 01-7749545

Kaduna Boys Boarding 08037687860
Kaduna Girls Boarding 08037687860
Kaduna Nursery-Primary 08075872442

Yobe Boys Boarding 09037434060
Yobe Girls Boarding 08037434060

www.nticnigeria.com

info@nticnigeria.com



NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS LAGOS

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCIES

POSITIONS

1. Director of Administration and Finance
2. Director of Library and Documentation Services
3. Research Associate Professor
4. Senior Research Fellows

Application are invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill existing vacancies in the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs, Headquarters, Victoria Island, Lagos.

1. DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE

The Director of Administration and Finance shall be responsible to the Director-General for the day-to-day administration and for the finances of the Institute and shall act as the Secretary to the Governing Council and also coordinate the activities of the Department's five divisions namely, Establishment and Management Services, General Administration; General Services; Accounts and Finance; Marketing and Distribution Divisions respectively.

QUALIFICATIONS

The candidate must possess a good honours first degree from a recognized University preferably in the Social Sciences, Public Administration etc. A post graduate qualification together with an Advanced Management Training in administration can serve as an additional advantage. The candidate should not be more than 50 years old by 1st October, 2010.

EXPERIENCE

The candidate should have not less than twenty (20) years post qualification working experience in an academic or research institution of comparable standing of which at least eight (8) of the twenty (20) years must have served in a top Management position of not below the rank of an Assistant Director. The candidate must have foresight in order to be able to lead a team of highly motivated Staff, should possess managerial skills to meet the challenges of modern times.

TERMS AND CONDITION OF SERVICE

The Director of Administration and Finance shall hold office for four years in the first instance and may be appointed for a second and final term of four years. The salary is consolidated and the appointee shall enjoy other benefits of the office as may be approved from time to time by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

All appointments will be on permanent basis, would commence as soon as possible. An appointee would be on probation for the first two years and would be considered for confirmation to retirement age thereafter/at the expiration of its terms, to be based on satisfactory performance. Other conditions of service as stated in the Institute Staff Condition of Service.

2. DIRECTOR OF LIBRARY AND DOCUMENTATION SERVICES

The Director of Library and Documentation Services shall be responsible to the Director-General for the activities and maintenance of the Library of the Institute. The Library is a depository to the United Nations, the World Bank, African Union, ECOWAS publications as well as all Agreements and Treaties entered into by Nigeria. It also has an audio-visual archive consisting of tapes derived from the Library's Oral Documentation Project.

QUALIFICATIONS

The candidate must possess a good honours first degree preferably in the Social Sciences and post-graduate Library qualifications can serve as an additional advantage. The candidate should not be more than 50 years old by 1st October, 2010, and should also have to his/her credit publications in reputable journals.

EXPERIENCE

The candidate should have not less than twenty (20) years post-graduation cognate administrative experience, of which at least eight (8) of the twenty years must be in Senior Management position in a large academic or research Library is desirable,

while training and/or experience in Library ICT will be an advantage. The candidate must have foresight in order to be able lead a team at highly motivated Staff.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The same as above for the Director of Administration and Finance of the Institute.

3. DEPARTMENT OF RESEARCH AND STUDIES

The Department coordinates the research activities of the Institute through its five divisions namely: International Politics; International Law and Organisation; International Economic Relations; Security and Strategic Studies and African Politics and Integration.

POSITION AND QUALIFICATIONS

(A) ASSOCIATE RESEARCH PROFESSOR

A good honours degree in International Law or Economics with a higher degree such as doctorate with several publications in local and international journals; with at least 15 year experience not less than 8 years at a University or Research Institution and ability to initiate academic research projects. The candidate should possess research capability and analytical skills in the field of International Law or International Economic Relations;

(B) SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW

A good honours degree in the International Law or Economics with a higher degree such as doctorate with at least 10 years in an academic or research institution;

Ability to initiate and develop research project with substantial scholarly publications in local and international journals.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The terms and condition of service as applicable in Nigerian Research Institutions.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

(A) Candidates are required to submit 10 copies of their application and Curriculum Vitae giving information in the following format:

- i. Post desired
- ii. Full names with surname in capital
- iii. Date and place of birth
- iv. Nationality
- v. Permanent Home Address
- vi. Correspondence Address
- vii. Marital Status
- viii. Number and age of children
- ix. Educational Institutions attended with dates.
- x. Academic and professional qualification obtained with dates
- xi. Research and Publication(s) if any
- xii. Names and addresses of three referees (Candidates should ask referees to write directly to the Institute)

(B) All applications are to be submitted and marked according to post so desires at the top-left corner of the sealed envelope within six weeks of this advertisement.

CLOSING DATE

All applications are to be address to:

The Director-General,
Nigerian Institute of International Affairs,
13/15 Kofu Abayomi Road,
Victoria Island,
Lagos, Nigeria.

Signed:
Prof. Osita Eze
Director-General



TOTAL E&P NIGERIA LIMITED
Operator of the NNPC/TEPNG Joint Venture RC 2979



ENGAGING PEOPLE, SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

Total E & P Nigeria Limited (TEPNG) is a leading Oil and Gas exploration and production Company. The company is in a growth phase, and as part of its expansion activities, welcomes applications from suitably qualified Nigerians for various positions within a number of divisions within the company as detailed below in these categories:

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Information Technology Engineers | 9. Cost Controllers | 18. Drilling Engineer |
| 2. External Affairs Officers | 10. Treasury Officer | 19. Well Engineer |
| 3. Health, Safety & Environment Professionals | 11. Tax Officers | 20. Well Technician |
| 4. Inspection Engineers | 12. Production Engineer | 21. Drilling Technician |
| 5. Mechanical / Maintenance Engineers | 13. Process Engineer | 22. Fluids Technician |
| 6. Instrumentation / Metering Engineer | 14. Lifting Engineer | 23. Survey Engineer |
| 7. Production Chemist | 15. Facilities Construction Engineer | 24. Geosciences & Reservoir Professionals |
| 8. Accountants | 16. Subsea Engineer | 25. Experienced Chief Production Operators |
| | 17. Supply Chain Professionals | |

Interested applicants should visit our website at www.careers.total.com for detailed information. All application forms must be completed online. No paper applications will be accepted.

Tips for navigating the website:

1. If the page defaults in French, click on "English" at the top of the page to change the language.
2. Click on "Vacancies" to open the search page.
3. From the "Country" drop-down menu, select 'Nigeria', scroll to the bottom of the page and click "Search". This will display all the advertised vacancies in Elf Petroleum Nigeria Limited.
4. Click on the position you are interested in to view details of the job description. You can then complete an online application form by clicking on "Apply now" at the bottom of the page.
5. You will be requested to create an account if you do not have an existing one, this is mandatory.
6. Please fill the form accordingly.
7. It is compulsory to cut and paste your CV in the space provided in the application form.

Your CV must include the following details in the order listed:

- Surname, First name, Other names (where applicable)
- Date of Birth
- Contact Address stipulating road/street number(s) only
- Contact Telephone Number(s)
- **Functional Email address as ALL communication will be by email ONLY**
- State of Origin
- Local Government Area
- Details of Tertiary Education: institution, degree obtained, class of degree, period
- Details of Secondary Education: institution, certificate, period
- Details of Primary Education: institution, certificate, period
- Indicate your work / training experience, stating your employer, period, and specific duties/courses/certifications starting with your place of current employment.

The advert closes 2 weeks from the date of this publication. We will enter into correspondence only with short listed applicants. Applicants are hereby advised not to apply for more than ONE position, as doing so may result in automatic disqualification of the application. Similarly, applicants who have applied for any one of these positions in the past 12 months need not apply.

Please note that TEPNG will not take responsibility for any job vacancies placed outside the TOTAL careers website www.careers.total.com.

FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

P.M.B. 27, PANKSHIN PLATEAU STATE

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFICATION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal College of Education, Pankshin wishes to pre-qualify competent, experienced and qualified contractors for the following 2010 Capital Projects.

- Lot 1 Construction of School of Education Phase III
- Lot 2 Construction of School of Art & Social Sciences Phase 2(a)
- Lot 3 Construction of Undergraduate School Phase I
- Lot 4 Construction of Lecture Halls
- Lot 5 Expression of Interest to Offer Consultancy Services for the Development of College Master Plan

2.0 REQUIREMENTS

Interested Companies are required to submit in sealed envelopes, pre-qualification documents for consideration on or before the closing date.

The documents required for pre-qualification include:-

- (a) Company's Certificate of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- (b) Evidence of Registration as a Contractor with FCE Pankshin in the relevant category.
- (c) Company profile and evidence of Relevant/Similar projects executed in the last six years.
- (d) Company's audited account for the last three years.
- (e) Tax clearance Certificate for the past three years.
- (f) Irrefutable Concrete evidence of financial capability to execute and complete the project/Bank reference.
- (g) Ability to complete the project within a specified completion time.
- (h) Evidence of VAT remittance.
- (i) Applications for Lot 5 should in addition to above requirements be accompanied by comprehensive profile of intending firms giving all relevant professional background and evidence of similar works executed in the past.

3.0 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

Pre-qualification documents shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope and marked "Confidential."

Pre-qualification should be specific e.g. (Lot 1 Construction of School of Education etc).

Pre-qualification documents shall be submitted to

**The Secretary,
Procurement Planning Committee,
Federal College of Education,
Pankshin.**

Pre-qualification documents must be submitted not later than two weeks from the date of this publication i.e 20th May, 2010 by 12.00 noon.

Pre-qualification documents shall be publicly opened immediately the same day in the College Boardroom.

Contractors are advised to be present or represented at the opening ceremony and should be able to produce original copies of company Tax clearance certificates, if requested.

Contractors who choose to attend are advised to be seated by 12.00 noon for the opening exercise.

**Signed:
ISTIFANUS KYAKMUT, Mnpr
Public Relations Executive
for: Secretary,
Procurement Planning Committee.**



**ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL ACCOUNTANTS OF NIGERIA (ANAN)
NIGERIA COLLEGE OF ACCOUNTANCY, JOS**

(POSTGRADUATE PROFESSIONAL COLLEGE AND TRAINING ARM OF ANAN) 2010/2011 ADMISSION

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into the Professional and Conversion programmes of the College for the 2010/2011 academic session commencing on the 6th September 2010.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENT

1. PROFESSIONAL PROGRAMMES

- a.) Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) degree in Accountancy of any NUC accredited Nigerian University or any approved Overseas University.
- b.) Higher National Diploma (HND) in Accountancy of any NBTE accredited Nigerian Polytechnic or any recognized Overseas Polytechnic.

Note: (a) that any applicant who is a graduate of an Overseas University /Polytechnic is required to provide a transcript of his/her academic records properly issued and signed by the Registrar of that institution.

(b) That the Professional Programme is run on two bases:

- i) Full-time student basis which is a nine-month programme and;
- ii) Mature student basis which is a two-year programme.

2. CONVERSION PROGRAMME

Holders of B.Sc degree or HND in Business Administration, Economics and Banking/Finance or B.Ed (Accountancy) from accredited University or Polytechnic may be admitted into the Conversion Programmes which, on successful completion of the nine months Programme, qualifies the person for admission into the Professional Class. The Conversion Programme is conducted on full - time basis only at the Jos Campus of the College.

3. METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Requests for Application forms should be made directly to:
The Director - General
Nigerian College of Accountancy,
No. 42T Bauchi Ring Road, Dogon Dutse,
P.M.B 2734, Jos Plateau State, Nigeria.
Tel: 08034518207, 08037032365
Website: www.anan.org.ng
E-mail: infonca@anan.org.ng

Candidates are to either collect Bank Tellers from the Bursary Department of the College to pay N5,000.00 for the forms or enclose a self - addressed and N400.00 stamped envelope measuring 36cmx24.5cm with a bank draft made payable to the Nigerian College of Accountancy, Jos. Personal Cheques or postal Orders will not be accepted.

CLOSING DATE: Only application forms duly completed and returned with all relevant credential not later than 31st August, 2010, will be considered for admission.

NOTE: Candidates are to note that all qualifying credentials will be subjected to verification at source before registration.

**Signed:
Professor A.A. Okwoli, Ph.D, FCNA; ACTI
Nigerian College of Accountancy, Jos
Director General**

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

For Helicopter flights to anywhere in Nigeria and direct flight into Abuja township call:

OAS HELICOPTERS

Maryland Heliport, Ikeja, Lagos

GSM: +234 803 446 3432

+234 705 666 9020

web: www.oas-helicopter.com

E-mail: contact@oas-helicopters.com

Jega now RMAFC's acting chairman

By Idris Ahmed

ALHAJI Salisu Jega from Kebbi State has been appointed as the acting Chairman of the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) by the Federal Commissioners in the Commission, Daily Trust learnt.

The appointment is effective from May 13, a day after the expiration of the tenure of the Commission's former chairman Engineer Haman Tukur and 24 other Commissioners.

Jega joined the Commission as a Federal Commissioner in 2001. His two term tenure of five years each ends in September.

He would retire alongside two other Commissioners, Alhaji Ahmed Iliyasu (Bauchi) and Alhaji Omokayode Anjorin (Lagos).

Jega was born on March 15, 1945 in Illo-Bagudo Area of Kebbi State. He attended Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria where he obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Administration and Master of Arts Degree in Public Administration.

He was also at the International Institute of Public Management, Washington DC, US where he received a Diploma in Financial and Human Resource Management.

Jega started his working career as a senior member of staff of the Nigerian Tobacco Company in 1965. Other appointments he held in the past include: Assistant District Officer in charge of some areas in Sokoto State; Principal Assistant Secretary, Ministry of Health; and Secretary, Sokoto Local Government Council.

His other appointments include: Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources; Secretary, State Executive Council, Sokoto State; and Executive Secretary Sokoto Urban Development Authority.

Between 1981-1988, he was Permanent Secretary in several ministries in Sokoto State before he became Director-General, State Civil Service Commission.

He transferred his service from the state civil service to federal level as a director in 1989.

From there he moved to various ministries that included Ministries of Social Development, Youth and Sports; Culture and Social Welfare; Trade and Tourism. He



ALHAJI Salisu Jega

was the Executive Director, Nigerian Tourism Board.

In 1994, he was promoted Director-General, Federal Ministry of Labour and Productivity from where he moved to Ministry of Petroleum in 1996. It was in the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs that he retired from the service in 1998.

Jega, who held several other positions at state and federal levels, is a member of the

prestigious Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (MNI) and a recipient of the national honours of Commander of the Order of the Niger, CON.

Alhaji Salihu lost his wife of 43 years on Sunday May 16, 2010.

Hafsatu Salihu Jega died at the age of 56 years. She is survived by three children - Aminu Salihu Jega, Abubakar Sadiq Jega and Fatimatu Salihu Jega.

BRIEF

Foreign reserves drop to \$39.8bn

By Idris Ahmed

NIGERIA'S foreign reserves dropped to \$39.8 billion yesterday from \$40.30 billion at the end of April. The reserves were at \$43.57 billion during the same period last year.

Nigeria's foreign reserves hit an all time high of \$64 billion in August 2008 when the international oil price reached a record high of \$165 per barrel.

Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) have consistently maintained that the increase or decrease in the reserves is a function of what goes into it and what comes out of it.

CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi said at the last Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting that the reserves were sufficient to finance more than 17 months of import in the country.

STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Wednesday, May 19, 2010
Index:	27,437.25
Deals:	12,038
Volume:	291,852,811
Value:	N 2,789,924,284.69
Cap.:	N6,670,454,814,230.43

TRUST INDEX

Inflation	12.5%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$38.8bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$4.3bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$70 a barrel
Power Supply	3,700MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N11,010,063.6m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,037,422.5m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.2200%
Treasury Bills	1.3%
Deposit Rate	7.51%
Prime Lending Rate	18.06%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2624	0.2724	0.2824
DANISH KRONER	21.5179	21.6008	21.6837
EURO	182.506	183.1232	183.7404
POUNDS STERLING	213.4638	214.1877	214.9096
RIYAL	39.4267	39.56	39.6933
SDR	216.7481	217.4811	218.2141
SWISS FRANC	130.207	130.6473	131.0876
US DOLLAR	147.85	148.35	148.85
WAUA	217.0431	217.7771	218.5111
YEN	1.5981	1.6038	1.6092

Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N195
Pound	N231
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N198
Pound	N234

Source: S&P Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 6, Abuja.



CBN

Business

How banks stifle credit lines to real sector

By Jibrin Abubakar

NIGERIAN banks have cut credit lines to small businesses; a data from the Central Bank has shown.

The sector has hitherto been considered by bankers as highly risky. This is coming as the apex bank is injecting N700 billion to rescuing small businesses and thus boosting manufacturing sector of the economy. Earlier, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) floated N200 billion agricultural credit scheme in which banks could extend credit lines to farmers at a modest interest rate.

The small business sector got N20.4 billion or 48.8 per cent of the total N41.8 billion loan facility to the

economy in 1992. This is according to the CBN's statistics made available to newsmen at a workshop yesterday in Abuja. The loan facility crashed to 0.17 per cent of the aggregate N7.725 trillion injected into the economy in 2008.

Explaining the reasons for the sharp decline, CBN Deputy Director in the Development Finance Department Mr. Benjamin Adamu fingered the 2004/2005 consolidation exercise as banks tried to shore up their capital base. Earlier, the Nigeria's tax collection agency, the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS), had kicked against a policy where banks contributed 10 per cent of their profits after tax, Mr. Adamu said. As part of the effort

to boost credit facility to the micro, small and medium scale enterprises, the apex bank is guaranteeing 80 per cent of the risk of lending to the beneficiaries. The banks will bear 20 per cent, he said. Several policies have also been introduced by the CBN to growing this sector, he added. Based on the CBN study, he said, there are up to nine hundred thousand registered small businesses in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, *Daily Trust* report that though the sector contributes up to 75 per cent in jobs, its contribution to export earnings is a paltry three per cent while its contribution to the total goods and services produced (GDP: Gross Domestic Product) stood at 10 per cent.

FG to modify gas price

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE federal government is working out modalities to harness generation of electricity for both domestic and industrial use with a modified gas price.

The modification is aimed at enhancing the supply of electricity in the country, Minister for Commerce, Senator Jibril Martins Kuye has said.

He spoke when he paid a courtesy visit to the governor of Kano state Malam Ibrahim Shekarau in his office yesterday. He said even though the government is doing everything possible to address the issue of electricity supply in the country, having enough supply of gas at an affordable price will help in boosting the nation's commercial activities. He was in Kano for the 3rd National

Council meeting on Commerce and Industry.

Kano State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau said the state is determined to continue to maintain its status of being the commerce centre of the country through providing the enabling environment for development of commercial activities.

Shekarau said part of the effort is the provision of the necessary infrastructure that will assist business and commercial activities.

He said the State has embarked upon various projects among which are the multibillion naira Kanawa international market to decongest the existing markets, road network projects, development of the central business district and ICT Park among others.

'Nigeria is left behind in shipping industry'

By Sunday Williams

THE shipping industry is one area that Nigeria is left behind with the benefits only going to foreigners. Bayelsa state Deputy Governor Peremobowei Ebebi has said.

Speaking Tuesday night in Abuja at the 2010 Customs Merit

Award organized by Maritime Media, the Deputy Governor said the shipping industry is so vast with a lot of opportunities but due to the financial implications, the country's investors have not really ventured into it.

He called on the Federal Government to look at the area with a

view to encourage those that wants to invest in the sector.

He commended the Nigerian customs for the wonderful job they are doing and called on the government to look into their welfare and other areas of operations to enable them function well.

He congratulated the awardees

and challenged others to put in their best in order to be recognized in the future award.

Speaking, the Chief Executive Officer of Maritime Media Ltd, the organizers of the award Elder Asu Beks said the idea of the award was to reward hard-working officers who work hard.

He called on President Jonathan to make available N100 billion infrastructure package for the Customs Service, adding that their salaries should be made at par with the Central Bank of Nigeria, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and the Nigerian Port Authority.



Porsche recommends Mobil

www.porsche.com

Strong family values. Pass them on. The full model range from Porsche.

Porsche Intelligent Performance is a principle behind each of our vehicles. This is the only way performance can be made suitable for day-to-day use. The only way that dynamism can offer superiority and safety. 60 years of ideas also means that every innovation is based on a successful tradition and sporty design only makes sense when it follows function. Only then does the fascination of Porsche become reality. The result: a harmonious overall concept. The principle is efficiency. To extract the maximum from the possibilities available. A sporty principle, in fact, which is derived from the race track and is found in each of our vehicles: Porsche Intelligent Performance.



PORSCHE

Porsche Centre Nigeria

Stallion Motors
Telephone 0807 1 911 911
0807 2 911 911
0807 3 911 911
0807 4 911 911

Business

Dangote invests \$680m on Ibese cement plants

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Dangote Group companies said yesterday that it has invested \$680 million in its cement plants in Ibese, Ogun State.

It said the investment is part of its expansion drive geared toward enhancing availability and affordability of cement in the country.

Construction works on the plants have reached an advanced stage and when completed in February next year, it is expected to provide more job opportunities for Nigerians.

At a facility tour to the plant, Deputy Director (Project) of Dangote Cement Company Dr. Ved Sarkari said the construction of the plants is being handled by Sinoma International Engineering Company of Nigeria.

He said 1,300 Chinese and 600 Nigerians are now working on site.

According to him, each of the two plants can produce 6000 tonnes of cement per day, adding that if the plants are working at full capacity, its cement content would last for 90 years.

The installed capacity of the plants is 6 million tones per annum.

He further revealed that the company is in the process of installing 105 megawatts power plant in order to guarantee uninterrupted power supply during production.

Sarkari also said the company's corporate social responsibilities to the host communities are good.

According to him, the cement company recently gave the communities two boreholes as well as build roads and hospitals with a view to giving them a new lease of life.

"Our corporate social responsibilities are not for the communities alone. It is for the entire Nigerians. It is for the growth and development of the country. If the people are happy, we are as well happy", he said.

It would be recalled that three years ago, the company commissioned the \$178 million Obajana Cement plant in Kogi state.

Group condemns proposed increase in electricity tariff

By Zakariyya Adaramola

THE Muslim Rights Concern (MURIC) has condemned the proposed increase in electricity tariff by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), saying it is a reflection of the inhumanity of Nigerian authorities to the masses.

Nigerians learnt last week that a review of the current electricity tariff may be introduced in the third week of May 2010. NERC officials have hitherto declined the percentage of the review.

In July 2009, NERC increased the electricity tariff to 10 percent. Government also plans to withdraw subsidy in 2011 when it expects power generation to have improved substantially.

But MURIC, in a statement signed by its coordinator, Dr. Ishaq Akintola said it is ironical that an increase in electricity tariff is being proposed at a time when Nigerians are still suffering from total lack of electricity supply.

The group said: "The number of generator sets in this country today tallies with the total number of adults who have the capacity to feed and house themselves.

"If Ghana can celebrate ten years of uninterrupted power supply, Nigeria has no excuse whatsoever for failing to possess a virile power generating system. Our leaders have failed us. Where is the 6,000 megawatts by December 2009 being taunted by the Federal Government?"

Confab to review Nigeria's oil taxes

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

OVERVIEW of the oil & gas industry and accounting processes, taxation of different contractual arrangements under existing Petroleum Profit Tax (PPT) rules relating to risk service contracts, production sharing contracts and the Joint Venture (JV) arrangements will come under intense focus at the forthcoming 2010 Oil & Gas Tax School billed to hold in Accra, Ghana.

Stransact Partners (TP), facilitators of the conference say Oil & Gas Tax School will bridge knowledge gap already existing in oil and gas taxation between Africa and developed countries.

Stransact Partners is a transactions and tax services firm known for its knowledge brokerage events on business, management, tax, finance and accounting.

Eben Akinyemi of the Stransact Partners told newsmen in Lagos that the four-day knowledge brokerage workshop scheduled for July 13 to 16 will host about 200 participants in attendance.

Amongst them are companies' accountants, financial controllers, tax managers, tax accountants, legal officers, financial analysts, portfolio managers and credit/investment analysts.



FROM left: Administrator Nigeria Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Mallam Imamudeen; NERC Head Engineering Standard Services Division, Engr. Emmanuel Ezekwere and Managing Director ICS Power Ltd during the NERC constitution of the grid and distribution codes review panels for the Nigeria electricity supply industry, held in Abuja yesterday.

Agric bank changes name to BOA

By Jibrin Abubakar

THE Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) is set to change its name to Bank of Agriculture (BOA), the bank's Executive Director, Business Development Waziri H. Ahmadu told Daily Trust in an interview.

He said the bank is trying to reposition itself to compete with commercial banks.

The NACRDB is a merger between the former Nigeria Agricultural Cooperative Bank (NACB), the defunct Peoples Bank of Nigeria and the Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP).

"We have to change our name. The name NACRDB, to many people, appears like a very long name. So we have gone through long discussions. I believe it is going to be

Bank of Agriculture (BOA). It is shorter and I think a lot of people will welcome that. We are also going to change the colour and the logo of the bank," he said.

The Director who spoke to Daily Trust in Abuja said the bank is also embarking on external rebranding to create new image for itself.

He said the NACRDB is embarking on internal rebranding by embracing the latest information technology to enhance its operations. "We are reviewing our procedures to make sure that we respond promptly to our customers," he said.

He said: "What we are trying to do is to provide for rural farmers but we have been challenged in many ways. We are trying to reposition ourselves to compete with the commercial banks."

He said even though the bank

appears to be weak, it still provides services for some of its customers.

The equity shareholding of the two owners of the bank—the Central Bank of Nigeria and the Ministry of Finance—stood at N20.3 billion instead of N50 billion, he said.

He said funding is not available and that the bank depends on the loans that are being repaid for onward lending to others.

The bank is working with ministries of agriculture and finance to create more funding for it, he added.

The NACRDB provides short, medium and long term financing for the agricultural sector.

Because of the problem of funding, the bank is unable to efficiently run its 201 branches in Nigeria, Ahmadu said.

He said inadequate funding has also affected the bank's patronage.

NERC constitutes panels to review grid, distribution code

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has constituted review panels for the Nigerian Electricity Grid and Distribution Codes required for safe, secure and reliable transportation of electricity in the country.

The two panels were constituted yesterday in Abuja at a workshop hosted by the NERC.

While the Distribution code is a compilation of technical guidelines for efficient, safe and reliable operation of the Distribution system, the Grid Code is for efficient production and supply of electricity in a competitive manner.

Imamudeen Talba, Administrator of NERC, identified electric-

ity consumption per capita as one of the key indices in examining the development of any nation.

He explained that the two codes were developed to change the course of delivering electricity services to consumers and ensure the efficiency of the network as well as safety of utility workers within the industry.

"Since their introduction in 2007, the codes have no doubt addressed their purpose but in the face of emerging challenges in the electricity industry, there is the need to continually review and monitor their implementation", Talba said.

While directing the panels to report and advice NERC on the implementation, compliance

and enforcement of the codes, the Administrator assured that the Commission would continue to support the power sector reform programme to ensure adequate, reliable, safe and affordable power delivery to Nigerians.

The panels are comprised of fourteen members each drawn from representatives of NERC and other relevant experts and stakeholders of the power sector.

The Distribution Code Panel is headed by Engineer Abiodun Ajifowobaje of the Ikeja Distribution Company while that of Grid is chaired by Engineer Akinwumi Bada.

Ikev Chidi and Paul Uchenna Ilondu are to serve the two panels as secretary, respectively.

Business/International



OIL spill at AtlasCrow, Lagos.

'No role for OPEC on oil price fall'

FALLING crude prices are linked to uncertainty about the world economy, not oil supply, and there is no role for OPEC to play at this stage, Algerian Energy Minister Chakib Khelil said yesterday.

He also said that prices would rebound once global markets begin to feel the effect of a 750 billion euro package designed to shore up confidence in euro zone economies.

"As soon as the market realises that the (euro zone) mechanism which has been put in place... is going to work its way through and resolve the economic situation, you are going to see the prices go back up," Khelil said.

"That shows that the prices are not related to supply and demand. They are related to the world economy," he told reporters on the sidelines of an energy conference in the Algerian capital.

"There is no role for OPEC at this stage. Whatever it's going to do is not going to have an impact at this stage because the whole market is tied to the economic fluctuations or economic certainty in the world."

Asked by Reuters if the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries would make any fresh cuts in output quotas, he said: "There is no meeting of OPEC until October," referring to the group's next scheduled meeting.

Oil fell to \$68 per barrel yesterday, with U.S. crude recording its lowest level for seven months. (Reuters)

Africa's oil spills are far from US media glare

OIL gushing from an undersea well in the Gulf of Mexico has damaged BP's reputation and share price but accidents involving other companies in less scrutinised parts of the world have avoided the media glare.

Investors have knocked around \$30 billion off BP's value since an explosion at a drilling rig killed 11 people and began an oil spill the London-based major is struggling to plug nearly a month after the accident happened.

The U.S. media and political machine has turned its full force on BP and U.S. President Barack Obama has set up a commission into the leak which is sending an estimated 5,000 barrels per day (bpd) into Gulf of Mexico waters.

In contrast, the international media has largely ignored the latest incidents of pipeline damage in Nigeria, where the public can only guess how much oil might have been leaked.

The most recent damage in Nigeria, which has not been attributed to militant attacks that have preyed on Nigerian oil infrastructure for years, forced U.S. operator ExxonMobil to relieve itself of contractual obligations by declaring force

majeure on its exports of Nigerian benchmark crude.

The light sweet crude is particularly well-suited for refining into gasoline and is regularly supplied to the United States, the world's biggest oil burner.

Exxon declined the opportunity to give details of the damage, clean-up or repair work.

An industry source, who declined to be named, said 100,000 bpd of oil had leaked for a week from a pipeline that has since been mended.

"If this (the BP spill) were in the Niger Delta, no one would be batting an eyelid," said Holly Pattenden, African oil analyst at consultants Business Monitor International. "They have these kind of oil spills in Nigeria all the time."

BP's share price has fallen around 18 percent since news of the fire at the drilling station on April 20, while Exxon shares were largely unchanged after the force majeure announcement.

The largest operator in Nigeria, Royal Dutch Shell has clashed with the Nigerian government for decades following numerous spills in Africa's largest energy producer.

Shell said in a statement on its website that its Nigerian joint venture cleans up oil spills as quickly as possible, no matter what their cause, but is sometimes delayed by security concerns or because some communities deny access.

The Anglo-Dutch major said the volume of oil spills in Nigeria for its joint venture was almost 14,000 tonnes last year, the equivalent of around 280 bpd, mainly because of militant attacks on facilities.

"It (the U.S.) is without doubt the worse place for BP to lose their political capital," said James Marriott, oil and gas analyst at environmental organisation Platform.

"If the U.S. administration gets aggressive against BP, then it's a problem for them offshore, onshore in terms of shale gas, for conventional gas, refining, some cross-border projects with Canada and further afield."

In the United States, BP's massive spill and the risk of an environmental catastrophe could have implications throughout the industry as it has reopened the debate about deepwater drilling. (Reuters)

Zambia GDP to grow 8%

ZAMBIA'S economy will likely grow by 8 percent in 2010 driven by investment inflows as the global recovery gathers pace. Commerce, Trade and Industry Minister Felix Mutati said

yesterday.

"Zambia will achieve GDP growth of 8 percent this year because of the huge investment inflows, especially from China," Mutati told journalists after meeting officials from the global accounting firm Grant Thornton.

Data from the Central Statistical Office show the economy grew by 5.9 percent last year. A previous forecast from the central bank showed the economy was expected to grow by 7.0 percent.

Analysts' forecasts are

not as optimistic, with a Reuters poll last month showing the economy was seen growing by 6 percent this year, boosted by a rebound in copper prices and a positive outlook for the agriculture sector.

"We are convinced as Grant Thornton that Zambia will be able to attain a growth rate of more than 5 percent. We are seeing a successful recovery and a strong economy," said Ed Nusbaum, Grant Thornton's global CEO.

"The business environment creates ... investment

opportunities which enable capital to be raised to generate a strong GDP going forward," he added.

The government has eased foreign exchange controls over the years and reduced the time it takes to register a business in Africa's top copper producer.

Mutati also said foreign direct investment (FDI) into Zambia jumped to \$1.3 billion in the first quarter compared with \$195 million in the same period in 2009 and way above the \$1 billion the government was expecting for 2010. (Reuters)

Angola central bank sees stable currency

ANGOLA'S kwanza currency should remain stable against the U.S. dollar in coming months on the back of rising foreign exchange reserves, the deputy governor of the central bank said yesterday.

"In the second quarter

we began witnessing some stability in the kwanza, bolstered by an increase in our foreign exchange reserves," said Ricardo Viegas on the sidelines of a parliamentary session. "We are confident that the next few months will bring more stability." (Reuters)

Data from the Central Statistical Office show the economy grew by 5.9 percent last year.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
ADSWITCH PLC	5	2.00	39,160	74,404.00
CAPITAL OIL PLC	5	0.50	98,500	49,250.00
SECTOR TOTALS	10		137,660	123,654.00
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	28	0.98	2,552,509	2,455,828.82
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	33	0.79	1,194,492	931,035.15
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	21	15.40	2,790,325	42,889,833.86
PRESOCO PLC	20	6.18	215,170	1,329,750.60
SECTOR TOTALS	101		6,752,496	47,606,448.43
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERV. LOGISTICS PLC	23	3.03	926,313	2,788,618.98
NIG. AVIAT. HAND. COY PLC	149	13.26	788,163	10,398,137.08
SECTOR TOTALS	172		1,714,476	13,186,756.06
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	1	0.50	30,000	15,000.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	35	5.00	667,116	3,411,105.90
SECTOR TOTALS	36		697,116	3,426,105.90
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	183	9.71	6,078,484	58,767,636.07
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	68	2.10	2,697,801	5,735,774.78
DIAMOND BANK PLC	86	8.15	4,580,653	37,355,060.36
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	62	5.62	692,149	3,876,977.82
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	63	8.61	17,855,821	153,532,257.81
FIDELITY BANK PLC	126	3.00	5,602,338	16,453,589.84
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	701	15.00	14,213,862	213,454,729.34
FINBANK PLC	96	0.55	8,110,944	4,426,450.51
GTBANK PLC	409	17.45	8,637,728	151,046,357.74
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	51	10.40	5,744,391	59,737,650.60
INTERCONT. BANK PLC	79	1.77	4,046,639	7,251,688.68
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	153	1.61	7,416,726	11,841,338.05
BANK PHB PLC	56	1.53	1,950,707	2,918,221.45
SKYE BANK PLC.	142	8.74	8,756,537	75,855,801.48
SPRING BANK PLC	9	0.87	38,563	33,305.24
STERLING BANK PLC	41	2.19	1,825,748	4,028,562.12
UNT BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	253	12.90	16,618,677	214,484,392.97
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	178	5.30	2,008,882	10,764,724.45
UNITYBANK PLC	15	1.11	390,760	433,743.60
WEMA BANK PLC	46	1.07	2,651,133	2,743,223.29
ZENITH BANK PLC	397	15.20	3,607,709	54,701,330.53
SECTOR TOTALS	3,214		123,526,252	1,089,442,816.73
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	66	22.55	476,723	10,752,735.58
BENUCE CEMENT COY PLC	36	70.00	121,923	8,513,524.27
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	74	21.79	1,237,400	27,050,246.00
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	6	41.05	631,217	25,773,435.84
SECTOR TOTALS	182		2,467,263	72,089,941.69
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	18	7.74	425,916	3,298,623.04
CHEM/ALLIED PROD. PLC	4	32.70	65,000	2,125,500.00
I. P. W. A. PLC	1	1.09	700	763.00
NIG.-GERMAN CHEM. PLC	1	14.29	199	2,702.42
SECTOR TOTALS	24		491,815	5,427,588.46
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	2	4.18	150	597.00
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	59	29.56	360,622	10,688,793.29
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	8	0.50	629,000	314,500.00
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	141	55.00	1,771,866	98,407,585.89
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	114	24.60	4,816,288	118,988,950.40
SECTOR TOTALS	324		7,577,926	228,400,426.58
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	40	7.85	215,333	1,638,902.60
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	13	57.00	111,376	6,346,425.50
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	4	0.50	15,202	7,601.00
SECTOR TOTALS	57		341,911	7,992,929.10
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	10	47.14	10,267	469,022.55
BIG TREAT PLC	14	0.86	195,920	168,137.20
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	210	30.70	3,470,050	106,767,918.80
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	335	23.67	5,359,661	129,793,203.07
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	106	19.94	2,066,350	39,989,146.79
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	85	70.10	2,944,770	206,156,217.35
HONEYWELL FLOURMILL PLC	41	8.50	1,369,981	11,697,319.30
NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC	61	9.70	1,990,784	19,490,823.35
NIGERIAN BOTT. COY PLC	16	36.50	46,278	1,649,328.40
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	34	341.00	118,541	40,113,857.71
N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	2	33.58	12,337	394,907.37
TANTALIZERS PLC	25	0.95	2,349,300	2,252,215.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	7	1.52	166,142	252,535.84
SECTOR TOTALS	946		20,040,381	559,194,630.79
HEALTHCARE				
EKOCORP PLC	1	5.58	439	2,331.09
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	9	1.71	33,680	54,898.40
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	22	3.33	335,548	1,102,339.28
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	21	29.00	140,253	4,073,836.25
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	22	7.22	182,400	1,278,354.00
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	2	3.08	15,000	43,950.00
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	19	0.73	1,420,700	1,037,111.00
SECTOR TOTALS	95		2,128,020	7,592,820.02

What is Common Shares or Common Stock

Securities that represent part ownership in a company and generally carry voting privileges. Common shareholders may be paid dividends, but only after preferred shareholders are paid. Common shareholders are last in line after creditors, debt holders and preferred shareholders to claim any of a company's assets in the event of liquidation.

Google

HOTEL & TOURISM				
KEJA HOTEL PLC	23	2.20	4,099,320	9,018,504.00
SECTOR TOTALS	26		4,129,320	9,121,104.00
INDUSTRIAL/DOM. PROD.				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	3	10.20	20,770	217,191.70
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	4	0.50	19,500	9,750.00
VITAFIAM NIGERIA PLC	15	6.72	209,100	1,410,985.79
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	4	0.50	168,231	84,115.50
SECTOR TOTALS	26		417,601	1,722,042.99
INF. & COMM. TECHN.				
CHAMS TEL	19	0.76	1,597,621	1,198,464.38
MAS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	2	0.50	11,000	5,500.00
STARCOMMS PLC	31	2.22	465,072	1,019,796.60
SECTOR TOTALS	52		2,073,693	2,223,760.98
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INS. PLC	1	0.50	25,000	12,500.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	96	1.36	2,816,068	3,875,219.84
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	11	1.27	3,023,000	3,835,760.00
C/NERSTONE INS. CO. PLC	20	0.76	2,824,700	2,145,172.00
CUST/ALLIED INSUR. PLC	30	3.59	1,461,740	5,246,154.10
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	41,000	20,500.00
GREAT NIGERIA INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	11,000	5,500.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	8	0.73	189,000	137,870.00
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	47	2.46	6,149,959	15,346,713.14
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	558	279.00
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	2	0.50	70,000	35,000.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	36	0.57	2,174,557	1,255,914.44
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	33	0.50	2,388,750	1,194,375.00
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC	2	0.65	9,000	5,850.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	29,500	14,750.00
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	26	0.51	896,054	451,898.33
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC	48	0.59	3,976,274	2,350,003.49
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	9	1.15	354,808	401,401.88
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	7	4.00	127,087	520,371.80
STACO INSURANCE PLC	19	0.50	893,906	446,953.00
STAND/ALLIANCE INS. PLC	20	0.53	1,151,240	601,484.80
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	18	0.73	496,495	362,441.35
UNIV/INSURANCE COY PLC	6	0.50	251,000	125,500.00
INTERCONT. WAPIC INS. PLC	7	0.70	185,000	129,950.00
SECTOR TOTALS	452		29,545,696	38,521,662.17
MARITIME				
JAP/OIL & MARIT/SERV. PLC	196	1.96	8,356,754	16,407,438.72
SECTOR TOTALS	196		8,356,754	16,407,438.72
MEDIA				
AFROMEDIA PLC	10	0.61	793,079	491,818.10
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	34	0.91	164,200	149,422.00
SECTOR TOTALS	44		957,279	641,240.10
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS/LOANS PLC	52	0.50	10,312,253	5,169,100.66
RES/SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	5	0.50	1,300,500	650,250.00
UN/HOMES SAV/LOANS PLC	28	0.84	950,102	800,380.68
SECTOR TOTALS	85		12,562,855	6,619,731.34
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	29	0.96	45,292,745	42,169,721.06
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	6	0.77	122,200	94,930.00
SECTOR TOTALS	35		45,414,945	42,264,651.06
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MANUF. COY PLC	5,024	3.50	5,938,393	20,577,678.02
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	1	14.84	6,000	84,600.00
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	5	5.71	61,000	331,230.00
POLY PRODUCTS (NIG.) PLC	1	3.45	15,000	49,200.00
SECTOR TOTALS	5,031		6,020,393	21,042,708.02
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	81	40.02	274,698	10,951,239.58
BECO PETR. PROD. PLC	11	1.33	133,300	177,289.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	4	76.93	10,200	823,854.00
CONOIL PLC	30	52.48	63,367	3,171,183.28
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	45	7.75	1,023,597	7,980,495.30
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	13	150.90	6,184	979,792.96
OANDO PLC	308	123.99	6,861,552	851,857,749.31
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	26	242.00	314,066	75,408,612.41
SECTOR TOTALS	518		8,686,964	951,350,215.84
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	9	8.94	137,731	1,232,059.60
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	12	7.21	4,193,260	30,155,401.80
SECTOR TOTALS	21		4,330,991	31,398,521.40
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP/DEVEL. COY PLC	14	21.52	124,867	2,781,820.99
SECTOR TOTALS	14		124,867	2,781,820.99
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	3	0.95	50,800	46,228.00
SECTOR TOTALS	3		50,800	46,228.00
TEXTILES				
UNITED NIG. TEXTILES PLC	3	1.42	12,144	16,394.40
SECTOR TOTALS	3		12,144	16,394.40
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	31	18.17	604,940	11,276,268.65
SECTOR TOTALS	31		604,940	11,276,268.65
OVERALL TOTALS	12,064		296,415,103	3,322,709,999.61

GAINERS

NESTLE	16.00
TOTAL	6.00
CAP	1.55
OKOMUOIL	0.70

LOSERS

OANDO	4.51
GUINNESS	3.99
CADBURY	1.61
UACN	1.50



NATIONAL EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL

Dr. Nnamdi Azikiwe Way, P. M. B. 159, Minna, Niger State.

CLOSING DATE OF REGISTRATION FOR THE NATIONAL ENTRANCE EXAMINATION INTO SS1 OF FEDERAL UNITY SENIOR SECONDARY COLLEGES (NEEFUSSC)

The National Examinations Council (NECO) hereby informs the general public that the closing date of the above earlier scheduled for Friday 21st May 2010 has been extended to Friday 28th May 2010. Be informed that on that date, the web-site will be closed at **12:00 mid-night**, with no further access to it. Interested members of the public are advised to avail themselves of this one week extension.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The National Entrance Examination for Admission into SS1 of Federal Government Unity Senior Secondary Colleges (NEEFUSSC) will be held throughout the Country on **SATURDAY, 5th June, 2010**.

(1) ELIGIBILITY:

Pupils in their final year of the Junior Secondary (i.e. JS 3 students/upper Basic 3) are eligible to sit for the examination. Private candidates who have completed JS 3 are also eligible to sit for the examination. However, a private candidate will have to provide evidence of having completed JS3. Such evidence shall include JSS certificate, school testimonial issued by the principal. A letter issued by the school principal will suffice for candidates in JS3 who may wish to make their private arrangements for registration.

(2) ENTRY PROCEDURE:

- (A) Registration for the 2010 National Entrance Examination will be strictly on-line
- (B) Heads of School Based Candidates will collect carbonized Entry Schedules from respective NECO Zonal/State Offices for completion. The entry schedules are in triplicate.
- (C) Private Candidates can obtain scratch cards from any

NECO Zonal/State Offices for their registration.

(D) To register for the examination, a candidate must pay the sum of **N2,800 (Two thousand eight hundred Naira) only** in Bank draft at the NECO office in the State he/she intends to sit for the examination.

(E) SUBMISSION OF ENTRY SCHEDULE AND PURCHASE OF ON-LINE REGISTRATION CARDS BY SCHOOLS:

- (i) Two copies of Entry Schedules and appropriate fees will be submitted to respective NECO Zonal/State Offices to collect on-line registration cards for the candidates.

To Register a candidate:

- ✓ Click on www.mynecoexams.com
- ✓ Enter your Pin number and Serial number
- ✓ Enter your registration details and upload your passport photographs
- ✓ Print your Photocard to obtain your registration number

(3) STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION:

The papers for the examination will consist of the following:

PAPER I: English Language
Mathematics
Integrated Science
Social Studies

PAPER II: Numerical Aptitude
Verbal Aptitude
Spatial Aptitude

(4) LIST OF FEDERAL UNITY COLLEGES

Below is the list of Federal Government Colleges, Federal Government Girls Colleges and Federal Science and Technical Colleges for Candidates to choose from.

STATE	CODE	COLLEGE	STATE	CODE	COLLEGE	STATE	CODE	COLLEGE
ABIA	01	FGGC UMUAHIA (GIRLS ONLY) FGC OHAFIA (BOYS & GIRLS) FSTC OHANSO (BOYS & GIRLS)	KADUNA	14	FGC KADUNA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC ZARIA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC KAFANCHAN (BOYS & GIRLS)	RIVERS	27	FGC PORTHARCOURT (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC ABULOMA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC AHOADA (BOYS & GIRLS)
ADAMAWA	02	FGC GANYE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC YOLA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC MICHIKA (BOYS & GIRLS)	KANO	15	FGC KANO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC MIN-JIBIR (GIRLS ONLY)	SOKOTO	28	FGC SOKOTO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC TAMBUIWAL (GIRLS ONLY)
AKWA-IBOM	03	FGC IKOT-EKPENE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC IKOT-OBIO-ITONG (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC UYO (GIRLS ONLY)	KATSINA	16	FGC DAURA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BAKORI (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC DAYI (BOYS & GIRLS)	TARABA	29	FGC WUKARI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC JALINGO (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC JALINGO (BOYS & GIRLS)
ANAMBRA	04	FGC NISE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC ONITSHA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC AWKA (BOYS & GIRLS)	KEBBI	17	FGC BIRNIN-YAURI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC GWANDU (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC ZURU (BOYS & GIRLS)	YOBE	30	FGC BUNI-YADI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC POTISKUM (GIRLS ONLY)
BAUCHI	05	FGC AZARE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BAUCHI (GIRLS ONLY)	KOGI	18	FGC UGWOLAWO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC KABBA (GIRLS ONLY)	FCT	31	FGC KWALI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BWARI (GIRLS ONLY) FGGC ABAJI (GIRLS ONLY) FGGC GARKI (BOYS ONLY) FGC RUBOCHI (BOYS & GIRLS) FSTC OROZO (BOYS & GIRLS)
BENUE	06	FGC VANDEIKYA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BOKO (GIRLS ONLY) FGC OTOBI (BOYS & GIRLS) FSTC OTUKPO (BOYS & GIRLS)	KWARA	19	FGC ILORIN (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC OMI-ARAN (GIRLS ONLY)	BAYELSA	32	FGC ODI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC IMIRINGI (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC TUNGBO (BOYS & GIRLS)
BORNO	07	FGC MAIDUGURI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC MONGUNO (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC LASSA (BOYS & GIRLS)	LAGOS	20	KING'S COLLEGE LAGOS (BOYS ONLY) FGC LAGOS (BOYS & GIRLS) QUEEN'S COLLEGE LAGOS (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC YABA (BOYS & GIRLS)	EBONYI	33	FGC OKPOSI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC EZZANGBO (GIRLS ONLY)
CROSS-RIVER	08	FGC IKOM (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC CALABAR (GIRLS ONLY)	NIGER	21	FGC MINNA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BIDA (GIRLS ONLY) FGGC NEW-BUSSA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC SHIRORO (BOYS & GIRLS)	EKITI	34	FGC IKOLE-EKITI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC EPON-ALAYE (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC USI-EKITI (BOYS & GIRLS)
DELTA	09	FGC WARRI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC IBUSA (GIRLS ONLY)	OGUN	22	FGC ODOGBOLU (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC SHAGAMU (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC JEBU MUSHIN (BOYS & GIRLS)	GOMBE	35	FGC BILIRI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BAJOGA (GIRLS ONLY)
EDO	10	FGC IBILLO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC BENIN (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC UROMI (BOYS & GIRLS)	ONDO	23	FGC IDOANI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC AKURE (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC IKARE-AKOKO (BOYS & GIRLS)	NASARAWA	36	FGC KEFFI (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC KEANA (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC DOMA (BOYS & GIRLS)
ENUGU	11	FGC ENUGU (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC LEJJA (GIRLS ONLY)	OSUN	24	FGC IKIRUN (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC IPETUMODU (GIRLS ONLY) FSTC ILESA (BOYS & GIRLS)	ZAMFARA	37	FGGC GUSAU (GIRLS ONLY) FGC ANKA (BOYS & GIRLS)
IMO	12	FGC OKIGWE (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC OWERRI (GIRLS ONLY)	OYO	25	FGC OGBOMOSO (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC OYO (GIRLS ONLY)			
JIGAWA	13	FGC KIYAWA (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC KAZAURE (GIRLS ONLY)	PLATEAU	26	FGC JOS (BOYS & GIRLS) FGGC LANGTANG (GIRLS ONLY)			

(5) CLOSING DATE FOR REGISTRATION:

Registration closes on Friday, **28th May, 2010**.

Signed: Promise N. Okpala
Registrar/Chief Executive

Star Interview

JAMB 'll break dichotomy in education -DG

Securing admission for multitude of candidates who annually seek admission into tertiary institutions, is a big challenge for JAMB to contend with. The Director General of JAMB, **Professor Dibu Ojerinde** says in this interview with **Maureen Onochie** that the introduction of Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) was to break the dichotomy between university degree holders, and holders of the Higher National Diploma. He adds that the 2009 and 2010 admission exercise is still on, because the body is still cross checking the work of the Universities. Excerpts:

What was your experience while conducting the first Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME), and how can you compare it with previous examinations?

The conduct of the UTME was not as bad as I thought it would be. The only difference between it and other examinations is that we have more candidates for the UTME. The University Matriculation Examination (UME) used to be on its own. The candidates of the UME, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education, were not as much as the candidates for the UTME. Now we have more centres to cover, and more towns to cover. We have more people to work for us, and more invigilators and supervisors. We produce more question papers, and invariably, more security men, unlike when we conducted the other examinations. We had to amalgamate questions from both the Polytechnics and Colleges of Education, with the questions from the Universities, which makes it different. We also had to combine the syllabus and the brochures. So, to me, the difference is in the organization, not in the activities which we carried out in the field.

Can you give us the statistics of candidates who applied for entry into the Universities, in comparison with those who applied to Polytechnics and Colleges of Education?

The candidates who chose universities as their first choice were very many. But incidentally, those who chose the Colleges of Education as first choice, were more than those who chose Polytechnics as their first choice. That was what we discovered.

What are the statistics of those who passed, compared to those who failed in the recent UTME?

There is no pass/fail dichotomy as such. But I can tell you that over 40 percent of the candidates scored over 200, while about 800,000 representing 65 percent, scored from 180 and above. By the time we do the re-analysis and meet with the policy makers, we will be able to give more details.

There is a style of marking in JAMB where a candidate ticks

three wrong answers, then some marks will be deducted from the total score. Is this not a factor leading to mass failure?

In JAMB we don't do that. In testing someone, such is not done, because someone may make a guess, and if the person guesses right, it's quite okay. If the person omits it, you cannot penalize the person. In psychometrics, that principle is wrong. However, if you want to do that type of arrangement, you should tell the student before time. This type of system is usually done in certain type of examinations. There are two types of examinations where one can use such system. One is called non-reference testing, and the other is criterion testing. The criterion testing says that if you don't know it, don't guess. But in the non-reference testing which we do, guessing is allowed. I am not promoting guessing because it might not help them.

However, if one is wrong, the person doesn't get punished for that. An instance of where such system of criterion testing is used, is the typing and short-hand type of examination, where the examiner will give an instruction saying 35 words per minute. If it is so, then if you make more, then you pass and if you make less, then you fail. Therefore if you guess, then the examiner will fail you, and if you get any one wrong, your mark will be deducted.

Is post-UME still relevant? Do you think it should be scrapped?

Even if it is relevant, we must now standardize it, and that is what the minister is working on. The standardization of post-UTME has to be revisited. Like I told some people earlier, we have made the mistake already, and it is going to be difficult to correct it. The best way to do it now is to standardize it, and the minister has said that she is looking for a way to standardize the post-UTME. Probably the examination summit she is calling for will solve the problem.

What changes have you brought into JAMB?

I brought quite some changes into JAMB. First of all, I improved the E-registration system. Secondly, I improved the system of the release of results,

to the extent that we release the results as early as possible. Thirdly, I have made sure that all my staff members are all committed to this work that we are doing. Fourthly, I have brought my staff up with the spirit of punctuality, to the extent that when you come in, you do a thumb print. We now know when one comes to work and when the person leaves. Technology wise, I have made an improvement. We now have 29 brand new scanners. I saw only three when I came into JAMB. The scanners are the instruments we use in picking the information on the answer sheets. These are the reasons why the results are



PROFESSOR Dibu Ojerinde

coming out on time. We now have what is called the hand-held metal detectors which we use in screening candidates into the exam hall. This is the first time JAMB is doing that. For the examination, we have also introduced materials for the candidates like calculators, sharpeners, pencils and erasers. This is the first time this is also taking place. Within the last three years since I came into JAMB, we have initiated the building of our auditorium, and we have completed it. When I came in, the building of the computer centre was in progress. But I am happy to say that I started and completed it. It was not started before I came in, although the drawings were there. But when I came in, I said we should start it and it worked.

Another change I have made is that all the offices in the headquarters here have been renovated. When one goes round, the person will see that the offices are new. We changed rugs to tiles, and we partitioned the offices that have to be partitioned. For generators, I made sure that more have been installed, to the extent that each block has its own generator, so that no other block will disturb the other, especially the computer centre. I don't allow anything to affect the generator in the computer centre, because that is the very nerve of JAMB. On the issue of the online system, we do not only have the online checking of results in place, but I have

also introduced the issue of online change of course, and university, collection of admission letters and so on. There is no need to come to the JAMB office to check for anything. You can check for anything now online. I think these are some of the things I can remember for now.

Comment on the role of JAMB in the admission of candidates?

After the conduct of the examination, we compile the results. We arrange them in order of merit and then give them to the universities, who will now conduct the post-UME and bring the results back to us. We make sure that they adhere to the criteria for admission. There are three criteria - 45 percent merit. That is to say they must adhere to merit. Catchment area is 35 percent, then 20 percent goes to less educationally developed areas, because we want them to have opportunities to go to school.

The 35 percent for the catchment areas is because since the institutions are in various areas, we want the people who come from that area to have a feel of the presence of the institution in their area.

If the institutions don't adhere to it, we tell them to go back and make sure they adhere to it, so that everybody is given a chance. It is supposed to be a universal thing. Such is also done to state institutions too.

Now that JAMB has combined all the examinations into one body, to be written once a year, what else should we expect from the body?

There are many more things to do. The admission procedure is a big job. Now we will be meeting with about 390 institutions over admissions. Do you believe that the admission of 2009 and 2010 is not yet finished, because we are still scrutinizing the work of the universities? In fact, we are busy throughout the year. We have to set questions, we have to do validation. We have to do trial testing, and we do item banking. We also organize workshops for our coordinators, invigilators and supervisors, so that they will know what to do. It is not just a one day exam, but what goes into the one day exam is a lot. As soon as the exam is through, results are released, then the preparation for admission begins. We have policy meetings, we have technical meetings and we will have the meetings, with universities, polytechnics and colleges of education. We have a lot to do round the year.

I want to emphasize that the issue of two examinations in a year is gone.

People say that the UTME is not the reform expected in JAMB, is there any room for modification?

The UTME is part of the reform in JAMB. What I expect people to ask is why the UTME? I can tell you that UTME is a necessity, because we want to increase access in tertiary education. If we don't increase access, then why are we in JAMB? We want to make sure that more candidates go to tertiary institutions. But the dichotomy that has been going on all along is not helping the situation, because we want to make sure that everybody knows that they are coming from the same background, which is the SSCE level into the tertiary institution. That one goes to a university and the other goes into a polytechnic and the college of education, is just a chance and they have been given the same chance, and we believe that they can perform.

Also we believe that technical education should be given a boost. A lot of people run away from technical education, and we want them to come back to it. Technical and vocational education is very important. People keep thinking that the technical and vocational education, are for the "ne'er do well." But it is not true. We want to see how we can improve the technical and vocational education. Even in the teacher education sector, we want good materials to go into it. We are saying that the cut-off point for the colleges of education, polytechnics and universities will be the same this year. It is only if we don't have candidates any more, before we can go lower than the national cut-off point. It is very important that people know that the UTME is necessary for quality and for breaking the dichotomy, leading to an increase in teacher's education, in vocational education and technical education. UTME is important, and it is one aspect of the reforms. We want to see how we can bring about changes in our tertiary education system.

It is very important that people know that the UTME is necessary for quality and for breaking the dichotomy."

Sign Language



Cor blimey, thought they use human hair.
Photo location: Beijing, by Mark Sullivan
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

SECTION SIXES

In this puzzle, form six common 6-letter words by selecting one letter from each of the six sections of the diagram, keeping the letters in their numbered order. Choose the first letter of your first word from section 1, the second letter from section 2, and so on. The first letter of each word will advance clockwise around the diagram; that is, the first letter of the second word will be found in section 2, the first letter of the third word in section 3, etc. As a help, the first letter of the first word is given. Each letter will be used once and only once, so it's a good idea to cross off each letter as you use it.



- 1. P _____ 4. _____
- 2. _____ 5. _____
- 3. _____ 6. _____

SOLUTION TO CHAINLINKS

ilama, amaze, zebra, brash, shear, earth, thank, ankle, legal.

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.

153

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

Solution to Sudoku 152

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

labour report

Muslim group trains 50 youths on self empowerment, HIV/AIDS awareness

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

A community based group called Women Initiative for Sustainable Community Development (WISCOD) has recently trained 50 youths on self empowerment and HIV/AIDS awareness in Jos.

The youths who comprised of men and women were drawn from various communities where they were trained in peer groups are expected to return to their immediate communities to impart the skills they were taught at the four day training which took place at the Jos Central Mosque.

Speaking with our correspondent at the closing cere-

mony of the programme, State Coordinator and a resource person at the event, Amina Ahmed said the essence of the programme was to give the youths a wakeup call to stand up and be self dependent by pursuing their ambition through the right part in order to empower themselves.

She added that the group which targets youths and women organized the four day training to acquaint them with the skills of attaining their goals within a stipulated time by setting a time frame for their vision.

On health related issues which occupied the centre stage at the training, Ahmed said "WISCOD intends to enlighten the youths through what we refer to as STARS, meaning, 'Start Taking AIDS Risks Seriously' where we enlightened

them on the need to be aware of the disease, not to discriminate against those who are tested positive and on issues of stigmatization". She added "through such training they will go back to their communities and relay such messages which we hope would make impact on the general populace and thereby creating a favourable environment where those tested positive will associate freely and people will show them love and care which they lack in most instances".

According to her, lack of correct and adequate information exposes the victims of HIV/AIDS to stigmatization and discrimination issues adding that the group has been in constant touch with religious and community leaders in order to succeed in their quest.

...As FCT NLC trains members on negotiations

By Francis Okeke

THE Federal capital Territory (FCT) Chapter of the Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) yesterday issued certificates to its members who underwent training in industrial bargaining and negotiations.

Chairman of the Abuja Chapter of NLC Comrade Zakari Adams said the training became necessary following the increasing spate of disillusionment with various government policies that will "adversely" affect workers.

Adams added that the training will also enhance workers ability to grasp what is expected of them as workers and their role in moving the nation forward.

He said "with the education of our members, we intend to achieve a lot because we believe that if you have an enlightened followership, the job is easier for you than when you have an ignorant followership which makes the job hectic

for you.

"You see, there is an important need for workers to be given some rudiments of education of what is expected of them in their workplaces.

"Again, even when there is an emerging issue, they should be able know how to go about it; the protocols involved in going about demanding for their rights. Without education, they won't be able to know this and we think it is imperative that they have this workshop."

The president also called on government to expedite action on the proposed national minimum wage urging the committee set up by government come up with what Nigerians desire so as to motivate the workers. He asked the FCT Administration to hasten the payment of rent arrears owed teachers and the completion of outstanding 50% monetisation arrears for workers

"You know that the issue



FCT NLC Chairman Comrade Zakari Adams presenting a certificate to one of the graduates Mr. Unwuchola Okpomo

of monetisation arrears is still there; while some workers have got the 50% last year, they are yet to

receive the balance of 50% which were told by the government that all have been captured in the 2010 budget.

"It is our ardent hope too that as soon as the budget is assented to and made operational, that

this arrears will be paid to the workers in the interest of industrial harmony," he added

Abuja artisans lament low patronage

By Francis Okeke

ARTISANS in Abuja yesterday said the advent of the rainy season has seen patronage of their various skills taking a nosedive just as they called on government to include them in minor repairs in government owned buildings and establishments.

Isiyaku Audu, a mason from Sokoto State said he has been working in Abuja for the past three years but this period has been the worst in terms of patronage.

Audu who comes to the FCT everyday from Mararaba in neighbouring Nasarawa State said "we see a lot of construction activities in the city but unless you work for any of the numerous construction companies around, you are left behind. "Unless the government want us to die of hunger or for some of us to take to crime, they should please bring laws that will reserve some of the jobs for people like us."

Auwal Garba who hails from Zaria in Kaduna State and has been coming to Abuja since 2005 said business has "gone down" and hopes that things will improve for the sake of his two wives back in Zaria.

"You can see my paint brush is very new and clean which shows that I have not worked since the beginning of this week."

NITEL workers rebel against leaders

By Francis Okeke & John Chuks Azu

WORKERS of the Nigeria Telecommunication Limited (NITEL) and Mobile Telecommunication (Mtel) Tuesday rebelled against their leaders following what they termed sell out by their leaders who met with Minister of Information and Communication Prof. Dora Akunyili in her office at the Radio House in Abuja.

The workers under the aegis of Senior Staff Association of Transport, Communication and Statutory Corporations (SSASTAC) staged a protest at the Radio House insisting government must pay their salaries that have not been for 25 months.

Before the meeting between the leaders of the union and Prof. Akunyili which ended with both sides agreeing to write a letter to President Goodluck Jonathan and

meeting with him, the workers who were carrying placards said they were "ready to sleep in the premises of Radio House" until they receive their pay.

Shortly after the meeting when SSASTAC President General Comrade Adetunji Adesunkanmi was addressing his members, most of them interjected telling reporters that were there "we don't know who to trust and we can't leave here until our money is paid.

They said their leaders "only want to see Jonathan and nothing else because he might give them money. Besides, what would they even tell the President that is new?"

"We don't trust them and we don't like them at all they have been cheating us since and they even conspired with government and chased out the real unionists from work. Fortunately for those sacked, they have

been settled and we are still here with nothing to show for it."

Most of them said their members refused to join the protest when they heard of the calibre of people who would lead the protest.

But the when asked about the issue of crisis in SSASTAC, union President General Adetunji said there was no crisis at all but "that people are justifiably angry with the situation but we are doing our best."

He added that "it is not true that they don't trust me. All these things you can expect where you see a lot of people. People are aggrieved and a hungry man is an angry man. You cannot rule out this hostility and if you see people reacting, it is normal in the society."

However, no time was given for when the union would meet the President but the workers hope it won't exceed next week.

FEDERAL MORTGAGE BANK OF NIGERIA

STOP THE DETRACTORS!

Monday, 17 May 2010

Honourable Nduese Essien
Minister of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
Headquarters Mabushi
Abuja

Dear Sir,

We write to endorse your admirable commitment to the rule of law in Nigeria. We believe that a major focus of your administration is to ensure that the national policy on housing and urban development evolves around sustainable liquidity for the housing finance sector to ensure that all Nigerians own or have decent and safe accommodation at affordable cost.

To this end, the current Management and Board of Directors of Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN), that bear responsibility to raise the quality (in tenor and cost) and quantity of funds from the capital market to meet the mortgage-financing need of Nigerians have been working doggedly to achieve this laudable objective.

The latest audited accounts of the FMBN released on Friday April 16, 2010 by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) reveals that the Management and Board of the apex mortgage bank in the country had performed excellently in the following areas:

- Profitability (over 3000%)
- Income increase (over 100%)
- Expenditure reduction (over 100%)

The new focus of FMBN necessitated its evolution into a viable secondary mortgage institution with the capacity to become an active player in the capital market. Additionally, the FMBN has transformed from a mono-product entity operating the NHF into a multi-product organisation, a viable secondary mortgage and well-established capital market institution. In the light of the above facts, we want to bring the following observations to your notice:

1. Mr. Abdusalam Yahaya Ahmed, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of FMBN, has widened the functions of the institution to encourage the emergence and growth of viable secondary mortgage market to service the needs of housing delivery in all parts of Nigeria. While this move has paved the way for the capital market to be linked with the mortgage market, it has encouraged the development of mortgage institutions at local, state and federal levels. The collection, management and administration of the National Housing Trust Fund in accordance with the provisions of the National Housing Trust Fund Act have also been made easier.

2. To meet its strategic objectives in the short-term horizon, the Management and Board of FMBN have poised to pursue the consolidation of capital market activities with issuance of subsequent tranches of its N100 billion bond.
3. The apex mortgage bank also sought support for legal and regulatory framework review which includes: Amendment and replacement of unfriendly housing-related laws to ease mortgage transactions in Nigeria; and the sponsorship of draft securitisation and power of sale bills for passage into law.
4. Consolidation of NHF collection and funding operations to improve efficiency and effectiveness of financing workers/contributors' homeownership was also paramount objective of the current Management and Board of Directors of FMBN.
5. The pursuit of government approval for commencement of matching contributions by employers to complement workers' contributions and compliance with statutory contributions by banks and insurance companies as provided by the NHF Act became a major routine of Mr. Abdusalam Yahaya Ahmed and his indefatigable team of managers.
6. Efforts aimed at debt recovery of non-performing loans to improve the bank's profitability and financial position was on the high ebb.

Under the current Management and Board of Directors of FMBN, new products are being developed for the Nigerian housing sector. These include mortgage and title insurance to ensure housing affordability for Nigerians, development of products that will cater for the neglected non-salaried informal sector which constitutes up to 85 percent of Nigerians, and rental market development in Nigeria to provide decent housing people unable to afford mortgages.

Apart from the fact that the apex mortgage bank explored the international capital market and foreign investors to source offshore funding for housing finance for the first time in the history of the FMBN, the Bank also secured a bond from the Debt Management Office to support its secondary mortgage and NHF lending operations. It is on record that the FMBN consistently met its repayment obligations during the initial credit extension, in confirmation of its status as a prime credit

customer and sterling financial institution.

In view of the FMBN's impressive performance in the management of the National Housing Fund, Eight States of the Federation resumed participation in the Scheme within the last 12 months, to bring the total to 26 (twenty six). These are Niger, Kaduna, Cross River, Imo, Bayelsa, Plateau, Zamfara and Oyo States. Other states as well as notable private sector firms have indicated interest to rejoin in order to enjoy the benefits of the Scheme. In addition a total of 24,633 new contributors have been registered to bring the total to 3,439,275.

Within the last 24 months, the FMBN has recorded total NHF collections of over N20 billion which accounts for over 37 per cent of cumulative collections of over N53 billion collected from inception of the Scheme in 1994.

Since the appointment of its new Management in May last year, the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria has adopted an innovative strategic refocusing aimed at revolutionising the Nigerian housing finance sector. Internally, since the last quarter of 2009, FMBN has embarked on a bold re-branding programme to overhaul its image and inculcate a new corporate culture better suited to meet the housing needs of Nigerian driven by the conviction that '*...everyone deserves a home*'.

The apex mortgage banking concern was encouraged that the re-branding programme has generated a lot of enthusiasm, support and goodwill from within and outside the bank especially from the contributors to the NHF Scheme, estate developers, international investment partners and other stakeholders. The re-branding programme aims at refocusing and repositioning FMBN as the foremost secondary mortgage and capital market institution in the Africa.

Again, it addresses its desire to emerge as a strong and virile financial institution better equipped to exploit housing financing opportunities through offshore funding and those existing in the local and international debt markets.

It marks the end of paradigm paralysis that beset the bank for over 30 odd years and the shift towards modern corporate governance, excellent service delivery. The re-branding programme will culminate with the official launch of the new brand in a few weeks' time.

It is therefore in the light of this new spirit that the FMBN Board reviewed a major element of the National Housing Fund (NHF) loan operations in response to numerous requests by the contributors:

- An increase in the maximum loan amount per contributor to N15 million from N5 million.

With a mission to ensure that Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria is upgraded to an organisation with capacity to supply the mortgage markets with sustainable liquidity for the advancement of homeownership among Nigerians anchored on mortgage financing, Mr. Abdusalam Yahaya Ahmed undoubtedly set out with strategies to achieve the feat.

Mr. Abdusalam Ahmed acted as managing director and chief executive officer of FMBN for a period of one year from April 2008 and in view of his excellent performance on the job, his appointment as substantive managing director and chief executive of the apex mortgage banking regulator was confirmed by the Presidency on April 3, 2009.

In recognition of this bold efforts aimed at transforming housing finance into a robust and dynamic sector of the Nation's economy within the first 10 months of the tenure of the new management of FMBN, the Bank has been conferred several Prestigious Awards through Mr. Abdusalam Yahaya Ahmed.

Among these awards include one from *African Leadership* for African Star Excellence Award in Mass Housing 2009. He also emerged FINANCIAL STANDARD MAN-OF-THE-YEAR 2009 while HOUSING MAN OF THE YEAR 2009 was conferred on him by the publishers of HOUSING NEWS.

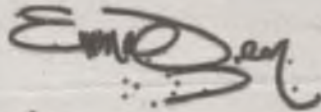
Also, his selection as a member of the prestigious 2009 FS 50 DRIVERS OF CHANGE IN CORPORATE NIGERIA, an annual publication of FINANCIAL STANDARD, was informed by major strides and achievements in 2009.

We, therefore, believe that the call to reconstitute the board of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) is counter-productive and is capable of derailing the good intentions of the current Management and Board of Directors of FMBN. No doubt, it is not in the collective interest of Nigerian workers who have been conscientiously contributing to the National Housing Fund.

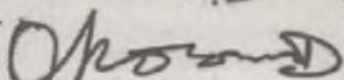
SIGNED:

For: BOARD OF MONITORS FOR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

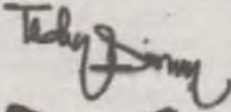
Chief Emmanuel Adekunle Obey
President



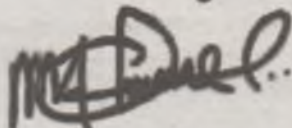
Sir Chukwuemeka Odogwu
Chairman, Board of Trustees



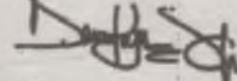
Alhaji Tadiq Shehu Duruni
Secretary-General



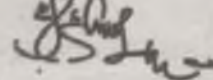
Mr. John Jerry Ushansa
Publicity Secretary



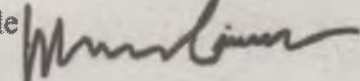
Mrs. Christiana Orebe Ijayiola
Financial Secretary



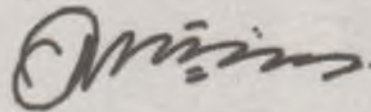
Alhaji Simpson Shagaya
Treasurer



Mr. Tunji Matthew Omodele
Ex-Officio



Mr. David Iretila Awolaja
Ex-Officio



CC: CHAIRMAN, Senate Committee on Housing
CHAIRMAN, House Committee on Housing
The Attorney General of the Federation

EDUCATION

E-MAIL: education@daillytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371

How 8-year-old girl assist pupils with school fees, books

After several failed attempts by governments to assist children of the poor to realise their potentials through sound and quality education, an eight-year-old primary four girl of Stella Maris Nursery and Primary School, Miss Adaobi Chinakandu Ozomgbachi, says she is determined to ensure that poverty does not become an impediment for female children of the poor to acquire knowledge.

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

FOR the eight-year-old Little Queen of Aso 2010, Miss Adaobi Chinakandu Ozomgbachi, there is no alternative to education, especially for a girl-child.

Miss Ozomgbachi, a primary four pupil of Stella Maris Nursery and Primary School, Abuja, is an indigene of Eziagu South local government of Enugu State, and was crowned Little Queen of Aso 2010 on March 28.

Few weeks after her coronation, she commenced educational enhancement programmes with particular emphasis on building the capacity of the girl-child in order to ensure that female chil-

dren of the poor are not out of schools on account of poverty.

Her pet project, Promotion of Girl-Child Education in Nigeria, was initiated considering that over three million children are said to be hawkers in different parts of the country and that out of them, over 1.5 million do not go to school at all, their daily routine is to carry their wares to motor parks and markets to sell and make return to whoever sent them.

On May 14, she paid school fees for 10 pupils of L.E.A Primary School Pyakasa whose parents could not afford. Specifically, Miss Ozomgbachi paid the school fees of Deborah Kuwo, Theresa Danjuma, Maryam Paul and Zeci



MISS Adaobi Chinakandu Ozomgbachi with pupils of Future Lights Academy Nursery and Primary, Pyakasa, Abuja.



MISS Adaobi Chinakandu Ozomgbachi with one of the beneficiaries of her scholarship scheme.

Yakubu for three years; Adamu Khairat, Adama Blessing and Shado Afiniki for two years, and Yakubu Tonabeth, Haruna Pollina and Blessing Abague for one year.

The beneficiaries commended Miss Ozomgbachi for the intervention, without which they would have been thrown out of school.

Apart from payment of school fees, Miss Ozomgbachi also distributed 5000 books and pens to the pupils of the L.E.A Primary School and their counterparts in the Future Light Academy Primary School, and promised to build block of classrooms and mini library in remote villages of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) and her state of origin, Enugu.

Miss Ozomgbachi said she is determined to help less-privileged girls who cannot go to school and encourage parents on the need to allow their girl children to be educated so that they can be great leaders tomorrow, stressing that it is a well-established fact that when a male child is trained, just one person has been trained but when a girl child is trained a whole family is trained, consequently the society and even the whole nation.

The Little Queen of Aso 2010 also visited the village head of Pyakasa Malam Abdullahi Mohammed to inform him about her humanitarian project on the promotion of girl-child education.

The village head said he was impressed with the activities of the young girl, adding that her activities indicate that she is pas-

sionate about the welfare of her contemporaries who are from poor families.

The Little Queen of Aso 2010 spoke to *Daily Trust* thus:

What informed your decision to embark on girl-child education project?

Because when you train a male child only one person is trained but when you trained a female child the whole family is trained, consequently the whole nation is trained. As the Little Queen of Aso 2010 I am determined to fight the battle and discrimination against children in the society.

Giving scholarships and books to school children is capital intensive, how do you intend to sustain the project?

Yes it is capital intensive but I want to thank God for his support for the kick-off of the project but I want to appeal to stakeholders, government agencies, international organizations and well-meaning Nigerians to help in sustaining the project.

In what specific areas do you think stakeholders and well-meaning Nigerians can assist in your pet project?

Because of the high level of poverty in Nigeria, I want them to

assist us in this project in many ways, especially in the area of provision of materials like books, pens, school uniforms and payment of tuition fees to the children of the poor.

At eight years, how do you feel assisting children of the poor?

I feel very good, it is amazing meeting them face to face and putting smile on their faces. Although it is very challenging but I'm enjoying it because I like to eradicate poverty, most especially among children.

Do you intend to proceed with the gesture beyond your tenure?

Yes! I will continue because it is what I enjoy doing.

What specific activities do you intend to do within the shortest possible time?

I will address a world press conference on Wednesday June 16, 2010 to mark the famous Day of the African Child in Nigeria. I will also officially unveil my pet project in Abuja on Saturday, June 26, 2010. It will be done in collaboration with stakeholders, ministries, agencies, international organizations and well-meaning Nigerians.

“Miss Ozomgbachi paid the school fees of Deborah Kuwo, Theresa Danjuma, Maryam Paul and Zeci Yakubu for three years; Adamu Khairat, Adama Blessing and Shado Afiniki for two years, and Yakubu Tonabeth, Haruna Pollina and Blessing Abague for one year.

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

E-MAIL: campusroundup@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371



NIGERIAN students at the Limkokwing University of Creative Technology, Malaysia, shortly after a special prayer session for the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

NANS holds conference on revitalising education

By Maureen Onochie

THE National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) said it will organize a two-day campaign to address issues that will help save the nation's education sector.

THE campaign, scheduled to take place in Benin City between May 27 and May 28, has two themes "Symposium on Academic Reform (ACAREF)," and "Save Education, Save The Future of Nigeria (SESAFUN)."

Kano varsity dissolves SUG over fear of unrest

From Abdullah Abdullah, KUST

THE Student Union Government (SUG) of Kano State University of Science and Technology (KUST) has been dissolved over fears of causing disharmony among students and hindering academic activities on campus.

Campus Roundup learnt that the dissolution is with immediate effect, and that all activities of SUG stand suspended.

However, other students' associations, societies and clubs within the campus are allowed to proceed with their normal activities, but they are warned not to engage in

actions and activities that are capable of causing disunity among students.

Management of the university said any student or group of students that attempt to violate rules and regulations of the institution will be dealt decisively in accordance with the university's rules

...As elections hold today at FUTY

From Bonita Bislam, FUTY

ALL is now set for the forthcoming elections into the Students Union Government (SUG) of the Federal University of Technology Yola (FUTY) scheduled to today, May 20, 2010.

Caretaker Committee Chairman (CTC) Mamza Edward Joshua told Campus Roundup yesterday said everything has been put in place in order to ensure a credible election.

"The vice chancellor has approved a huge amount of money dedicated for the success of the election. That is to say there is no problem in terms of logistics for the election. Then when it comes to security, we have our student security and the school security to ensure all that all the polling units is well secured," he said.

He also said that he has declined series of meetings with

the aspirants in order to avoid putting himself in any compromising position which to him is tantamount to election failure.

In his contribution concerning the issue of security and logistics, spokesperson of the caretaker committee Samuel Oloyede said "in terms of security and logistics everything is set and we hope that the problem that happened last semester will not repeat itself. If you look at the formation of this year's election, it is only the post of the president and director of socials that are bitterly contested where four candidates each are contesting. Every other office is unopposed. So we might not have much problem."

Meanwhile, hostel elections were organised yesterday while the departmental Student Representatives Assembly (SRA) and that of the executive council will concurrently hold today.

Ibrahim emerges new DVC for Adamawa varsity

THE Senate of Adamawa State University Mubi has conducted a historic election, which saw the emergence of the Dean of Faculty of Science Dr Saidu Ibrahim as the Deputy Vice Chancellor (DVC) of the university.

The election was conducted between Dr Ibrahim and the Dean of Faculty of Agriculture Dr Neils Shelleng, who scored

23 votes and five votes respectively.

A total of 28 Senate members voted in the election, presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the university Dr Alkasum Abba.

In keeping with procedure and regulations, the two contestants were nominated by the Vice Chancellor and the election was conducted through secret ballot system.

NGO donates canoe to UNILORIN

From Kassim Mufta'u, UNILORIN

A non-governmental organisation, Evergreen Planters, has donated an eight-seater canoe to the University of Ilorin to enhance the exploration of the university's dam.

The organisation also promised to supply Abura tree seedlings to beautify the banks of the university dam.

These were contained in two letters addressed to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Professor

Is-haq Oloyede and signed by Mr. Giwa Bisi Rodipe of the organisation.

While commenting on the International Workshop held a couple of days ago, the Evergreen Planters said that the university's conference has bro-

ken the myth surrounding long missing link between research and development in Nigeria.

The organisation said that the jatropa plant is used to treat cuts, ringworm and mouth odour and the workshop of the

University of Ilorin will solve the economic problem of long gestation of tree planters by providing avenue for mixed cropping of Jatropa with trees, a move and this will provide early earnings for tree planting farmers.

Mr. Rodipe noted that the workshop has opened the eyes of his organisation to the industrial usage of the Jatropa plant, and appealed to the university to extend its research to the chemical and medicinal properties of the plant.

News Extra

Bangkok has become a raging battleground as the army stormed a fortified protest camp and toppled the Red Shirt leadership, enraging demonstrators who fired grenades and set fires that cloaked the skyline in a black haze.

Seven leaders of anti-government protest group the Red Shirts surrendered to authorities yesterday, and the army declared itself in full control, but the violence continued.

Surreal scenes of warfare erupted soon after dawn in one of the ritziest parts of the capital - a city of ten million people - as troops armed with M-16s converged on the central business district.

The chaotic end to the Red Shirt campaign is certain to deal a heavy blow to the economy and tourism industry of Thailand.

The Red Shirts are demanding the ouster of Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva's government, the dissolution of Parliament and new elections.

At least 42 people have been killed, most of them civilians, in a week of violence in Bangkok as the military attempted to blockade the protesters, who have been camping out for more than four weeks.

Seven top Red Shirt leaders turned themselves in, saying they could not see their supporters being killed anymore.

'Brothers and sisters, I'm sorry I cannot see you off the way I welcomed you all when you arrived here. But please be assured that our hearts will always be with you,' Nattawut Saikua, a key leader, said as he was being arrested.

'Please return home,' he urged supporters.

Another senior leader called for protesters to give up and go home.

'I apologise to you all but I don't want any more losses. I am devastated too. We will surrender,' Jatuporn Prompan said from



THE body of an anti-government protester lies on the ground. At least four people have been killed, prompting senior Red Shirt leaders to end the sit-in

Thai protest leaders surrender after deadly army assault on Bangkok camp

- Seven top leaders of the Red Shirts surrender to police
- But enraged protesters refuse to give up and target a ritzy shopping mall
- Red Shirts set fire to the Stock Exchange building and TV station headquarters

a stage in the protest camp.

Government spokesman Panitan Wattanayagorn declared the first stage of the army operation to secure the area around Lumpini

Park successful.

But the advance was stalled by sniper fire from protesters. Bullets

Cont'd on page 39



ANTI-GOVERNMENT protesters set fire to tyres near the Pratunam crossroads in Bangkok yesterday morning. Thai troops opened fire into their fortified encampment, killing at least four people

Why are they fighting?

The anti-government protesters, known as the Red Shirts, have demanded that Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva resigns, dissolves parliament and calls new elections.

Drawn mostly from the rural and urban poor, the protesters are supporters of ousted premier Thaksin Shinawatra deposed in a coup in 2006.

Thaksin - also formerly owner of Manchester City football team - is currently on the run after being accused of corruption.

Many of his supporters hail from the impoverished north and north-east.

They accuse the government of colluding with the royalist elite and meddling with the



PRIME Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva

judiciary to bring down previous coalitions.

The Red Shirts say Abhisit's coalition government came to power through manipulation of the courts and the backing of the powerful military.

They claim it symbolises a national elite indifferent to their plight.

News Extra

Fake Swedish air pilot flies passenger jets for THIRTEEN YEARS without a licence

A fake Swedish air pilot has been fined £1,700 (about N363,800) and banned from flying for 12 months after confessing to flying passenger jets for an astonishing thirteen years without a licence.

Thomas Salme, 41, was made a captain three years after conning his way on to the flight deck of Scandinavian airline Air One.

He was arrested at Amsterdam's Schipol airport in March - while seated in the cockpit of a Corendon Boeing 737 carrying 101 passengers just minutes from take-off.

Officers, who were alerted by a Swedish tip-off, said the man had once had a commercial pilot licence, but it had expired and it never qualified him for passenger flights.

He claimed that he had also flown British, Belgian and Italian airlines, though it is unclear which ones.

Last month he was fined £1,700 (about N363,800) and was banned from flying for 12 months by a Dutch court - which noted that in the entire 13 years, he had never caused an accident.

Salme said he secretly trained



FAKE Swedish pilot Thomas Salme in an interview with Sky News Monday

himself at night on a full-scale flight simulator - and created his own licence with a photocopier.

'I got the crackpot idea to apply as a co-pilot at a real airline so I made myself a Swedish flying permit with a logo out of regular white paper,' he told German magazine Focus.



A Boeing 737 from the airline Corendon. The Swedish pilot was preparing to take off with a similar plane when he was arrested

'It wasn't laminated, and looked like something I'd made at home,' he said.

'It was surprisingly easy. The documents look different everywhere in Europe. An Italian airline doesn't know what a Swedish licence looks like. And you can forge all the IDs you need.'

He told the magazine that a friend who worked for Scandinavian airline SAS let him use their flight simulator at night.

At the time he was working for SAS as a maintenance engineer. 'I'd train there for two or three

hours at a time - at least 15 to 20 times over one and a half years,' he told Focus.

Officers, who were alerted by a Swedish tip-off, said the man had once had a commercial pilot licence, but it had expired and it never qualified him for passenger flights.

Thai protest leaders surrender

Cont'd from page 38

flew overhead and several grenades exploded near the soldiers, forcing them to pull back and take cover briefly before pushing forward.

By mid-afternoon in the capital, the army announced it had gained control of the protest zone and the operations had ended - nine hours after troops launched the pre-dawn assault.

'Police officers and soldiers have now stopped their operation,' army spokesman Colonel Sansern Kawekamnerd said.

Despite the army statement and the surrender by the leaders, many enraged protesters refused to give up.

Rioting spread to other previously unaffected areas of Bangkok and the northeast of the country.

Earlier yesterday, sharpshooters with armored shields took up positions on an elevated rail track as troops marched past upscale apartment buildings and a hospital to retake the area around manicured Lumpini Park, which has



TROOPS, trailed by journalists, run for cover. Three foreign reporters have been shot during the military operation, one of whom is thought to have died

been under the control of the so-called Red Shirt protesters camped there for weeks.

The move to surrender came after soldiers rammed armoured

vehicles into tyre-and-bamboo barricades in a crackdown after a week of deadly clashes, killing at least five people, including Italian freelance photojournalist Fabio

Polenghian. Three foreign journalists are also believed to have been shot during the operation.

The violence in Bangkok, a popular stop for tourists head-

ing to Thailand's world-famous beaches, has caused concern internationally and raised doubts about the stability of this South-East Asian nation.



BAUCHI STATE PDP PATRIOTIC GROUP: OUR CALL TO SENATOR BALA ABDULKADIR MOHAMMED TO RETURN TO PDP



We the underlisted, representing the entire members of the Bauchi State Peoples Democratic Party Patriotic Group wish to use this medium to condole, congratulate and thank His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (GCFR) President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. We condole His Excellency on the death of the former President Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua. We congratulate him on his assumption of office as the President and Commander-In-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and wish to sincerely thank him for the confidence he reposed in our Son, Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed (Kauran Bauchi) for appointing him the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory. We hereby assure His Excellency of our total support and commitment towards his success as the President of our dear Nation. We pledge our unalloyed loyalty to the Federal Government under his leadership.

Based on our conviction of the sterling qualities of the Minister of the Federal Capital Senator Bala Mohammed as one of the founding fathers of our great party the P.D.P and his total commitment to peaceful co-existence and development of Bauchi State in particular and the Nation as a whole, we find it extremely necessary and timely to do everything humanly possible to request Senator Bala to return to the PDP where he originally belonged. In our determination of making our move a reality we have embarked on very high level consultations with various stakeholders in Bauchi State and beyond.

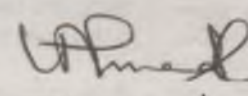
In line with the above therefore, various sub-committees are being set up to actualize the return of Senator Bala to the PDP. It is our belief that Senator Bala's return to PDP will add more value and re-invigorate the activities of the Party in Bauchi State. It will also be a leadway to the assurance of PDP's victory at 2011 elections IN-SHA-ALLAH. It is our wish to use this medium once more to solicit for the co-operation and understanding of all PDP patriotic members in this regard.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Alh. Abdulmalik Mahmood - Baraden Katagum | 26. Alh. Uba Nana - Garkuwan Ningi |
| 2. Alh. Kaulaha Aliyu - Member BOT PDP | 27. Alh. Bala Hadith |
| 3. Alh. Umaru Dahiru - Baraden Bauchi | 28. Alh. Bello Arabi |
| 4. Barr. Habibu Aliyu | 29. Alh. Ali Garu |
| 5. Amb. Adamu Jumba | 30. Alh. Abdullahi Aliyu Bono - Zannan Bauchi |
| 6. Senator Baba Tela | 31. Alh. Ladan Isa Shagari |
| 7. Hon. Abdul Ahmed Ningi - Walin Ningi | 32. Alh. Muhammed Hassan |
| 8. Alh. Shuaibu Ahmed Ningi - Madakin Ningi | 33. Alh. Garba Magaji Kwankiyel - Madaucin Bauchi |
| 9. Alh. Haruna Alfa Ahmed - Talban Jama'are | 34. Alh. Yahaya Muhd Miya |
| 10. Alh. Sule Abdulkadir Doguwa | 35. Alh. Musa Abdullahi |
| 11. Hon. Kawu Labaran | 36. Alh. Maijama'a Muhammed Bununu |
| 12. Hon. Sani Ahmed Toro - Yariman Toro | 37. Alh. Muhammed Tukur Adamu |
| 13. Hon. Hamisu Mu'azu Shira - Sarkin Fadan Katagum | 38. Alh. Bala Mai Auduga |
| 14. Hon. Isa Musa Matori - Gado-da-masun Bauchi | 39. Mr. Elisha Gwamis |
| 15. Hon. Farouk Mustapha | 40. Mr. William Wadni |
| 16. Hon. Aminu Muhammed - Dan Malikin Bauchi | 41. Alh. Hamzah Akuyam |
| 17. Hon. Seth Karfe | 42. Alh. Suraj Dada |
| 18. Hon. Yakubu Dogara - Member HOR (Dass/Bogoro/T.Balewa) | 43. Alh. Haladu Jalli |
| 19. Hon. Tata Umar - Member HOR (Zaki) | 44. Musa Dan Turaki Dass |
| 20. Rt. Hon. Tanko Ibrahim Jalam - Jarma' of Misau | 45. Alh. Danlami Dan Fulani - Sarkin Dawakin Dass |
| 21. Hon. Lawal Yahaya Gumau | 46. Alh. Yusuf Garba Alkaleri |
| 22. Alh. Hassan Muhammed - Sarkin Arewan Bauchi | |
| 23. Alh. Musa Liman - Sarkin Dawakin Bauchi | |
| 24. Alh. Sunusi Babban Takko - Barayan Bauchi | |
| 25. Alh. Mahmud Adamu - Barde Kerarriya Bauchi | |

LONG LIVE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA!
LONG LIVE BAUCHI STATE!
LONG LIVE OUR GREAT PARTY PDP!
LONG LIVE FCT MINISTER!


HON. ISA MUSA MATORI
(GADO-DA-MASUN BAUCHI)


HON. FAROUK MUSTAPHA


HON. UBA NANA
(GARKUWAN NINGI)

ENVIRONMENT environment@dailytrust.com HOTLINE: 07041632079

Christiana Figueres appointed new UN climate chief

BAN Ki-moon officially announces experienced climate talks negotiator from Costa Rica as successor to Yvo de Boer

Secretary-general Ban Ki-moon yesterday appointed Christiana Figueres of Costa Rica as the new UN climate chief. She is an expert on climate negotiations and the daughter of the country's former president.

Figueres, who has been a member of Costa Rica's negotiating team on climate change since 1995, will replace Yvo de Boer as executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

De Boer, who has guided the troubled climate talks for nearly four years, announced his resignation in February, saying he will step down on 1 July to work in business and academia.

Ban expressed gratitude to de Boer, who is from the Netherlands, "for his dedicated service and tireless efforts on behalf of the climate change agenda," UN spokesman Martin Nesirky said.

There had been speculation that the South African tourism minister Marthinus van Schalkwyk was favourite to get the job, but Figueres succeeded among a field of candidates from developing countries.

Figueres, 53, will take the helm just five months before 193 nations reconvene in Cancun, Mexico, in December for another attempt to reach a worldwide legal agreement on controlling greenhouse gas emissions.



CHRISTIANA Figueres

NESREA prevents another toxic import

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) has for the second time prevented the importation of hazardous waste into Nigeria.

Director General of the agency Dr. Ngeri Benebo stated this yesterday at a press briefing in Abuja.

She said that the agency received an email alert on the 11 May, from Mr. Marc De Strooper, Controller of Waste Transit, Federal Environmental Inspectorate of Belgium alerting the agency about the intended shipment of hazardous wastes into Nigeria.

She said that the alert indicated that the shipment originated from Germany and the proposed shipment contained two trucks,

a Mercedes with chassis no. 908108 and a Scania with chassis no: 340614 parked with used fridges, most of them containing CFCs, used compressors, used tyres; used televisions sets and used rug.

She said that the notification further informed that the items were inspected and considered as hazardous wastes to be transported illegally. "The waste materials were parked in Mercedes and Scania trucks on March 2010 by Olabisi Olusoga of 1 Muhlenhof, 50997 Koln-Godorf, Germany, to RMR-Shipping Terminal Antwerpen, Port of Antwerp, Belgium. The Consignee for the Mercedes Truck only indicated 300 pieces of used electronics fans and 80 pieces of used motor engine. It however concealed the used refrigerators containing CFCs, the used tyres and used television sets."



AN artistic sculpture in a garden near Mabushi, Abuja

Unilorin to receive tree seedlings

By Mustafa Abubakar

A non-governmental organisation, Evergreen planters, has promised to supply Abura tree seedlings to beautify the banks of the University dam and has already donated an 8-seater canoe to the University of Ilorin to enhance the exploration of the dam.

The organisation also in a letter addressed to the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Ilorin, Prof. Is-haq Oloyede, and signed by Mr. Giwa Bisi Rodipe of the organisation, Evergreen Planters said that the Unilorin Jat-

ropa conference has broken the myth surrounding age long missing link between research and development in Nigeria.

Mr. Rodipe, who wrote on behalf of his organisation said that the Jatropha plant is used to treat cuts, ringworm and mouth odour and the workshop of the University of Ilorin will solve the economic problem of long gestation of tree planters by providing avenue for mixed cropping of Jatropha with trees, a move and this will provide early earnings for tree planting farmers.

He said the workshop has opened the eyes of his organisation to the industrial usage of the Jatropha Plant and appealed to the University to extend its research to the chemical and medicinal properties of the plant.

He also expressed his wish that the research on Jatropha will bring the vision of the Vice-Chancellor on the acclaimed 'Goldmine Plant' to reality and place the regime of the Vice-Chancellor and the University on higher pedestal of meaningful national growth and development.

Computers analyse environmental factors in diabetes

By Nasir Imam, with agency report

LIKE many complex diseases, diabetes results from the interplay of genetic and environmental factors. To examine genetic risk factors, scientists pore over the human genome sequence. Environmental factors have been trickier to pin down because there is no way to evaluate them comprehensively.

Now, researchers at Stanford University present what they call an environment-wide association study (EWAS) or to systematically examine the contributions of hundreds of factors in the development of Type 2 diabetes. This "envi-

romics" approach, which mirrors genome-wide association studies, harnesses high-speed computers and publicly accessible databases.

The first-of-its-kind study, which was funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), appears in the May 20, 2010, issue of PLoS One. The article is titled An Environment-Wide Association Study (EWAS) on Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus.

The authors examined 226 separate environmental factors like nutrition and exposure to bacteria, viruses, allergens and toxins. They found that certain factors, notably a pesticide derivative and the environmental contaminant

PCB, were strongly associated with the development of diabetes. Other factors, including the nutrient beta-carotene, served a protective role.

The scientists describe their work as a demonstration that computational approaches can reveal as much about environmental contributions to disease as about genetic factors. They posit that the technique could be applied to other complex diseases like obesity, hypertension and cardiovascular disorders.

The authors acknowledge that many challenges remain, including the fact that, unlike the genome, "the environment is boundless."

Environment



environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079



POLAR bear travels submerged in icy water

Yobe to establish desertification research centre

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE vice chancellor of the Bukar Abba Ibrahim University, Damaturu, Professor Musa Alabe, says the institution will establish a centre of desertification study as a way of improving the environmental condition of the states in the Sahel region.

The Vice Chancellor, who stated this in Damaturu while taking round the university some visiting lecturers from the Bayero University Kano, said another centre which will be carrying out research on conflict resolution

will also be established.

He said the move becomes necessary because Yobe State is one of the worst hit by the effect of environmental degradation occasioned by desert encroachment and other unfavourable condition.

"This why our university is interested in conducting research on how to halt the damaging effects of some negative environmental conditions and one of the ways is to have a centre where scholars and students would engage in findings and documentations," Professor Alabe said.

In a related development, the commissioner of environment, Alhaji Wakil Sarki, said one thousand seedlings of gum arabic have been distributed to each of the 17 local government areas in the state as part of strategies adopted to improve the condition of the environment.

At present, the desert moves at 0.6 kilometres per annum in Yobe State and the commissioner said with the mass planting of trees that can withstand the harsh weather in many parts of the state, "we are optimistic that the situation will be improved."

Stakeholders seek code of practice for water

By Tina A. Hassan

RISING from an emergency national stakeholders meeting with the Minister of Water Resources Obadiah Ando, stakeholders have approved an earlier suggestion that a code of practice for the construction of water wells should be a part of policies of the ministry.

The code of practice, if put in place, would address the problem of water pollution, water sanitation and hygiene and also serve as a guide other stakeholders in the sector.

The meeting which was attended by the 36 states commissioners of water resources, federal agencies and other stakeholders also focused on the institution of a National

Water Resource Bill that would serve as the primary regulator of water resources management in the country in order to bring an end to harmful water use.

The minister told the Commissioners to go back to their states and implement the outcome of the meeting.

He "We want to see results when you get back to your states", this according to him would encourage President Jonathan to give the ministry the required support in achieving its set target.

The meeting also discussed the negative impacts of climate change on water resources and best practices at mitigating the impacts.

The commissioners noted that Nigeria's Hydrological Services Agency (NIHSA)

activities in hydrological forecasting of extreme hazards such as climate change effect, floods and drought needs to improve.

They advised the implementation of the funding formula of 3% by the Federal Government and 1.5% by States and FCT in the annual budgets for Water Resources development to fund hydrological activities and services in the country, as well as access to the National Ecological fund for hydrological activities and services.

Most of them urged the minister to institute capacity trainings from time to time so that stakeholders can stay abreast of global changes in water sanitation and hygiene and water programs.

Imo passes new law on deforestation

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

IMO State House of Assembly has passed a new law increasing fines for offenders of indiscriminate bush burning and illegal felling of trees in the state.

The house presided over by the Deputy Speaker Jonas Okeke agreed that hence forth burning of bushes and illegal felling of trees in the state would attract a fine of N5000.00 and N7,000.00 respectively.

The house said that the fine for illegal felling of trees was increased from N100 to N7000 while the fine for indiscriminate bush burning was increased from N25 to N5,000.

In their debate at the committee of the whole house before final passage, Hon Bede Eke, representing Ngor Okpala constituency, in his contribution suggested that agency should added in the new law assuring that the house do not stand to lose anything.

Hon. Josephat Emenaha, representing Njaba constituency, decried that deforestation have posed difficulties in addressing erosion menace in all part of the country, urging members to take the bill seriously.

He said the original bill as reflected in edict 1985 have witnessed disobedience from people owing to its obsolete nature, adding that the penalty should be increased to serve as deterrent to people with intention of perpetrating the act.

The chief sponsor of the bill and the Majority leader, Hon John Egbuchulam, told newsmen that the essence of the bill was to control indiscriminate bush burning, illegal felling of trees and deforestation.

Kogi govt commended on erosion control

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State government has been commended over the on-going erosion control work in Ankpa Local Government Area of the state.

The Onu Ojokpu, Alhaji Muhammed Idris, gave the commendation during a visit to the Chairman of the local government council Mr. Vincent Baba in his office.

The traditional ruler observed that the state government's efforts in the control of erosion in Ajobe and Ankpa had helped to prevent the loss of lives and property.

Idris, who also commended the council chairman for his developmental strides, prayed God to give the present administration of Governor Ibrahim Idris the wisdom to carry out its lofty goals.

The council chairman thanked the traditional ruler for the visit and called for more support, stressing that traditional rulers' role in governance is invaluable.

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Man caught trying to strangle lover in hotel

By Ogechi Ohalee

BUT for the timely intervention of a group of girls and policemen from Utako Police Station, a girl (names withheld) would have been strangled to death in a hotel room at Wuse 2, Abuja, by a man called Alhaji yesterday.

When policemen and the victim's girlfriends broke into the hotel room, the man was on top of her.

The victim, who was covered in her blood, said the man collected N250,000 from her with the promise to return it at a fixed date but kept deceiving her until she impounded his

car with the help of some hefty men.

She said when the man approached her for friendship, he made her believe that he had estates in Abuja and was a rich businessman in Kano.

"People told me that 'Alhaji' is a fraudster but I didn't believe them and submitted myself to his love making because he promised me many things that were never fulfilled," she said.

She said 'Alhaji' called her very early in the morning to see him in a hotel at 12.30pm, adding that immediately she entered inside his room, he pounced on her.

"He beat me thoroughly and later placed the rope of a robe around my neck in a bid to strangle me to death," she said.

The girl said before going to meet her lover, she had arranged with her friends to call her at a certain time and if no response, rush down to rescue her.

Reacting to the incident, Esther Audu, a spokesperson for the hotel, said they heard noise and thought it was the usual argument between couples but were surprised at what was seen when the room's door was forced open.

"If not for the timely intervention of the police, death would have occurred in that room as

what happened was a sorry sight and we would have prevented the incident if informed earlier," she added.

At Utako Police Station, the suspect denied using a rope to strangle her, adding that the victim was a bed mate, who brought her friends to fight him.

The Divisional Police Officer of the station confirmed the incident and said the suspect's character will be investigated.

"It is unfortunate. We are trying to calm the lady down and make sure she is fine as it is unacceptable to treat a lady the way the man handled her," the police officer said.

Driver jailed for being in possession of stolen cement

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court yesterday sentenced a 27-year-old driver to four weeks imprisonment for being in possession of 14 bags of cement suspected to have been stolen.

Malam Nura Sani of Gishiri village, Abuja, committed the offence on May 16 and was arrested by one Wilson Innal-egwu, a police officer.

Police prosecutor, Ahmed Mohammed, had earlier told the court that on May 16, the police patrol team stopped a Gulf car driven by the accused that was loaded with 14 bags of cement.

"During police interrogation, the accused could not give satisfactory accounts of how he came about the cement and thereby committing an offence punishable under Section 219 (A) of the Penal Code," the prosecutor said.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty, saying the cement actually belonged to a passenger who contracted him to use his car to carry them to a place.

"When the police stopped us, the owner of the cement jumped out of the car and ran away to an unknown destination," the accused narrated.

He said some policemen fired shots at him but the owner still escaped.

Magistrate Hadiza Shagari convicted him of the offence and sentenced him to four weeks imprisonment or to pay N1,000 as fine.

She also ruled that the car and the 14 bags of cement in the police custody be brought to the court.



PIC: OGECHI OHALEE

SCENE of an accident at Wuse 2, Abuja.

Court halts Lugbe's demolition

By Usman A. Bello

AN Abuja High Court sitting at Lugbe Tuesday halted the planned demolition of some structures at Lugbe community by officials of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA).

Justice Olukayode Adeniyi ordered the FCDA to refrain from carrying out the exercise pending the determination of a substantive suit before the court.

The FCDA had on May

14 served a seven-day notice to Lugbe residents to move out the homes.

The community's Counsel, Kolawole Olowookere had approached the court to stop the proposed demolition of the residents property.

When the substantive case came up for hearing on Tuesday, the FCDA and attorney-general's counsels raised preliminary objections and urged the court to dismiss the suit.

Mr Felix Obiamalu, counsel to the FCDA said

the court lacked jurisdiction to entertain the matter, an argument, while Mr Abubakar Sani, counsel to the attorney-general also adopted that position.

Reacting, the Counsel to Lugbe residents urged the court to discountenance the objections, arguing that both defense counsels have given no reasons why the suit should be dismissed.

Justice Adeniyi adjourned ruling on the preliminary objections to June 21.

Sacked FCTA workers seek re-instatement

By Nasir Imam

FORMER staff of the FCT Administration, who were prematurely retired or dismissed from work during Nasir el-Rufai's administration, have called on the new FCT minister to re-instate them.

The ex-staff revealed that late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua had in the past directed all ministries and extra-ministerial departments to review their cases.

Some of the sacked workers have gone to court and secured judgment in their favour.

Justice A.M. Talba of the Federal High

Court, Abuja had on March 11 ordered the FCTA to re-instate 135 of such affected staff.

"The then FCT minister during Yar'adua's regime, Dr. Aliyu Modibbo Umar set up a committee to review our cases and the committee has completed its work since 2008 with recommendations that some of us should be re-instated, which was approved," a sacked staff said.

They therefore appealed to Sen. Bala Mohammed to temper justice with mercy and look into their file titled "Appeal for Re-instatement" which has been pending in the FCT minister's office for the past three years.

Corps members hold seminar on Legal Aids

By Mustapha Suleiman

A one-day workshop for lawyers and legal officers in the National Youths Service Scheme (NYSC) was yesterday held at the NYSC Orientation Camp at Kubwa.

In his address at the workshop, NYSC Head of Legal unit, Barrister A.T Ibrahim said the workshop is aimed at bringing together corps lawyers serving in different parts of the country in order for them to brainstorm on the activities of the Corps Legal Aids Scheme.

He said that the scheme is one of the numerous community development groups in the NYSC and was initiated in 2006.

"It came into existence as a result of the promulgation of the Legal Aid Decree No. 56 of 1976, now Legal Aid, Cap 205 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004.

"The group is charged with the responsibility of providing free legal assistance and advice to indigent citizens of their host communities, who are either unemployed or employed but earn meagre salary or persons who cannot otherwise afford the services of private legal practitioners," he said.

He said over the years, lawyers in the scheme have been mandated to carry out periodic visitations to the states in order to access the success or otherwise of CLAS in the states with assessment records showing that the group has done so well.

"It is note worthy here that the group not only take up cases but also carryout social visits to prisons where they present the inmates with essential items for their personal use. The successes recorded so far are not without challenges and these vary from one state to another. It is therefore in the light of this that the legal unit under the director-general's office decided to organise this workshop to bring together the different CLAS groups in the states so as to brainstorm and find a way to achieve greater success," he explained.

In his speech, the NYSC Director-General, Brigadier General Maharazu Ismail Tsiga commended the group for contributing tremendously to the advancement and development of the society.

He said that the group has executed various programmes successfully in the FCT and other states of the federation.

Student drowns in pond at Lugbe

By Ogechi Ohalee

THE corpse of a 16-year-old student was yesterday morning discovered floating on a pond, constructed by Julius Berger along Airport road, Lugbe, Abuja.

According to a friend to the victim's family, Sir Kyari Mele, the student Jubril Abba Jato went to school on Tuesday morning and never returned home.

"We complained to the police

and decided to check if he went near the pond and discovered his school bag near it," Mele said.

He said the family made efforts to contact Julius Berger but they refused to assist them.

Father of the dead student, Malam Abba Jato, said when he waited for his son until night of that day, he reported the incident at Lugbe Police Station.

He said a worker of Julius Berger informed the school authority early Wednesday

morning that some kids were seen playing inside a pond and a school bag seen near the place, adding that he rushed to the scene with family member and discovered it was his son's school bag.

"Julius Berger created the pond and didn't make any provision to prevent children from playing near such a dangerous place," he lamented and vowed to sue the company for its insensitive.

He said the company's safety

officer refused to assist his family but rather watched them drain water from the place to retrieve the boy's body.

When our reporter spoke to Julius Berger safety officer, he said the company did not create the pond and that he was at the place to see what happened as a Nigerian.

At the Lugbe Police Station, Inspector Usman said that the case has been reported to the police.

PIC: ZAINAB SHEHU



A bad road at Nyanya-extension, Abuja.

...As NYSC aid group frees 2 prisoners

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

TWO prison inmates, Dabo Jonathan and Sunday John were on Monday freed from Kuje Prisons after an NYSC Legal Aid Community Development Services group provided them with legal representation to settle their fines.

Director-General of the aid, Mrs. Nwaka Laetitia Akinlami, said the agency was set-up to help the poor and the less privileged cadre of the society with legal support so that they can always have access to justice.

She noted that the

agency had offices across the federation including the FCT, and advised the freed inmates to live a descent life by contributing to the country's development so that they do not return to prison.

Responding, the Deputy Comptroller of Kuje Prisons, Mohammed Ibrahim, expressed happiness at the released of the inmates, noting they could still contribute meaningfully to the development of the society.

He thanked the NYSC legal aid group for their mission and urged them to extend the gesture to other prisons in the country.

'Family stress drove me to steal money'

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 38-year-old office attendant yesterday in a sorrowful voice told a magistrate that the need to feed his five children and wife drove him to steal his employer's money.

Samuel Iliya also told the court that he earns N20,000 monthly salary, which is not enough to take care of his family's responsibility.

"The pressure became too unbearable and I decided to spend part of the 3,290 Euros (about N714,800) given to me by my employer to carry out some duties.

He told the court that he bought a motorcycle with part of the money, while the police recovered 1,500 Euros from him after his arrest.

Police prosecutor, Emmanuel Adikwe had earlier told the court that on May 6, one Margret Agnocha of Hole19 Group reported to the police that on May 5, the accused disappeared with 3,290 Euros belonging to the company.

The prosecutor said N690,000 was meant to be deposited into the company's bank account, while N11,300 was for the company's managing director's DSTV subscription and N13,500 for the payment of the company's internet.

The prosecutor also informed the court that a motorcycle valued at N63,000 was recovered from the accused, adding that the offences he committed are punishable under Sections 312 and 322 of the Penal Code.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for leniency.

Holding brief for Magistrate Rose Mary Kanyip, Magistrate Abdul Dogo sentenced him to three months imprisonment without option of fine for breach of trust.

The magistrate ruled that the contents on the police report was not enough to indict the accused for cheating, adding that the evidence are not sufficient to charge the accused person for cheating.

He also ruled that the accused pay N300,000 as compensation to the complainant and advised the complainant to institute a civil case against the accused in case he was not comfortable with the compensation.



PIC: OGECHI OHALEE

A traffic policeman removing the fallen part of a vehicle at Central Area Abuja recently.

Police deny detaining children

By Hussein Yahaya

THE police yesterday denied detaining the two children of Mrs Rosemary Onyeario, who they said is being investigated over an alleged fraud case of N6.4 billion reported by Zenith Bank Plc against one Leonard Okoh Iduwe at the office of the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG) Zone 7 Command.

Deputy Commissioner of Police I.E. Yerima in a

statement yesterday said the children's mother Mrs Rosemary Onyeario's arrest was necessitated by her alleged involvement in the case and because of compelling evidences as well as facts at the disposal of the police.

"Mrs Onyeario received and benefited to the tune of N2.5 million for the role she played in the commission and perfection of the fraud, while four exotic vehicles bought with part of the fraudulent money were

traced to her," he said.

Yerima also stated that two of the exotic cars were recovered from the woman's possession while the others are being traced to other locations in Abuja where they are hidden.

The police officer said Mrs Rosemary was arrested alone and her two children smuggled into the police station by relatives, who visited the suspect while in detention.

According to the statement, the husband to the

suspect came and the children were handed over to him but he craftily and mischievously smuggled back the children to the station under the pretence of visiting, adding that the refusal of the husband and the relatives to remove the children from the premises of the Zonal Command is an attempt to sway public sympathy and opinion in their favour in order to pervert the end of justice and cast aspersion on the investigation so far.

Director denies issuing N12.8m dud cheques

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A middle-aged director yesterday in court denied issuing two dud cheques of N6 million and N6.8 million to Iwuga Nathaniel and Anthony Nnayelugo, respectively.

Mr. Danlami Olusoji, director of Mososoj International Nigeria Limited,

was alleged to have issued the dud cheques on January 27.

Police prosecutor, Usman Jibril, an inspector, told the court that on January 27, the accused issued a dud cheque of N6 million in favour of Iwuga Nathaniel and another dud cheque of N6.8 million to Anthony Nnayelugo.

He said the cheques were

in respect of some building materials supplied to the accused person's associates.

"The accused knew full well that there was no money in the account but criminally issued the two dud cheques, which were contrary to Section 1 (b) subsection 1 of Dishonest Cheque Act," he added.

When the one-count charge was read to the

accused, he denied it and requested for bail, which made the prosecutor ask for a hearing date.

Chief Magistrate David Ochimana granted the accused bail in the sum of N500,000 with a reliable surety, whose address must be verified by the prosecutor and the court officials.

The case was adjourned to June 17 for hearing.

Electoral reforms: Group calls for implementation of Uwais report

By Romoke W. Ahmad

AN Abuja based group, National Coalition for Greater Nigeria yesterday called for the full implementation of Justice Uwais report on electoral reforms to ensure credible elections in 2011.

The group also called on the newly sworn-in president to pursue the reforms in the power sector in

order to place Nigeria on the part of improved electricity supply within the next six months.

Leader of the group, Taiye Oghogho Garrick, also called on government to empower the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission's (EFCC) Chairman, Farida Waziri to further apprehend and prosecute corrupt government officials.

"We call on the National Assembly to review the EFCC Act and empower their operatives to carry fore arms to defend themselves," he added.

The group commended the choice of Nmadi Sambo as vice-president and urged the Peoples Democratic Party to allow every Nigerian contest for their party's presidential ticket for the 2011 elections.

Three artisans arraigned over theft

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police Tuesday arraigned a carpenter, driver and an auto-mechanic before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing N300,000 belonging to one Uche Okereke. Tajudeen Anima-saun, Mustapha Mohammed and Ajadu Isa, all of Jayi village, Abuja, were reported to have jointly committed the offences on May 15.

Police prosecutor, Emmanuel Adikwe told the court that on May 15, one Uche Okereke of Galadima Corner Shop, Gwarimpa Estate, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused conspired with 11 others, now at large, to steal his money.

He said the accused kept the money in a dustbin in order to keep it away from thieves, adding that unknown to the younger brother of the complainant; he threw the refuse together with the money into a refuse truck.

According to the prosecutor, when the complainant got to know about it, he immediately ran after the truck, in order to know where the refuse would be dumped.

He said the truck driver

demanded for N6,500 to fuel the truck so that he could drive them to the dumping ground, where the truck's content would be dumped. "The driver deceived the owner of the money to follow him to Tipper Garage, in order to search the refuse for his money," the prosecutor said.

He stated further that the accused persons conspired with one Musa and 10 others, all now at large, to run away with the money after it had been found, adding that the offences committed by the accused persons are punishable under Sections 79 and 287 of the Penal Code.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they denied them and requested for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Idayat Akanni granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reliable surety in like sums, who must be residents within the court's jurisdiction and must swear to affidavits to produce the accused persons in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to May 6 for hearing.

Unit 7, Eriko Bonpet Plaza, Herbert Macaulay Way, Wuse, Abuja, FCT
098702650
www.msnnigeria.org

MARIE STOPES
Nigeria

SUBJECT: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PARTITIONING OF OFFICES, GENERAL REPAIRS AND SUPPLY OF OFFICE FURNITURE

Marie Stopes Nigeria (MSN) is a registered service delivery organization that provides safe motherhood and child spacing services. MSN was invited to work in Nigeria by the Federal Ministry of Health in order to support work focused on the attainment of key Millennium Development Goals related to infant and maternal mortality.

MSN is looking for suitably qualified and experienced constructors to undertake the following work at MSN's Centre of Excellence located at Erisco Bonpet Plaza, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, FCT -

1. Partition the current space to create four (4) separate offices and supply office furniture as directed
2. Undertake general maintenance work on existing partitions
3. Supply and install 2 Split unit air conditioners (1.5hp)
4. Reinstall an existing air conditioner at the Centre (5000hp which needs to be repositioned within the Centre)

Interested parties should attend a briefing session at the Centre of Excellence between 10-11am on May 24 2010 after which MSN will be accepting bids up to 5pm on Monday May 31 2010. Bids should be hand delivered to the MSN Support Office. Please telephone 0803 453 5797 for further information

DISCLAIMER

This is to inform the general public that I ILIYASU. N. MOHAMMED, a staff of Arewa Hotels (Dev.) Limited is not an Executive Director of A.P.M. Hospitalities Limited as is being claimed by the company.

The Bauchi Hotels Limited, Corporate Affairs Commission and the general public to please take note.

Signed:
ILIYASU. N. MOHAMMED



ROGO LOCAL GOVERNMENT COUNCIL, KANO STATE

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER

Rogo Local Government Council is to carry out developmental project for the socio-economic and other infrastructural developments in the area. Its is therefore Advertising the below mentioned project for prospective bidders on the following:-

1. Construction of **FIVE PILLAR MINI BRIDGE AT BAGOZAKI RIVER (7X15 METERS)** along Kwanar Jajaye Road, Rogo Local Government, Kano State

QUALIFICATION

All interested bidders must submit the following qualification criteria requirements:-

- a. Registration with CAC
- b. Registration with state's work Registration Board in relevant category;
- c. Company's Audited Accounts for three years;
- d. Evidence of Tax Clearance for three years;
- e. Evidence of Financial capability and/or Banking support;
- f. Experiences and Technical Qualification of Key Personnel;
- g. Record of previous projects executed and evidence of knowledge of the industry; 20%
- h. Equipment, plants and technology capacity;
- i. Annual Turnover;
- j. Evidence of settlement of PAYE and order withholding taxes;
- k. VAT Registration and evidence of past VAT remittances;
- l. Local resource utilization;
- m. Community and Social Responsibility support

All interested Bidders must submit their applications for pre-qualification to the office of the D.P.M. Rogo Local Government Secretariat, Kano not later than 21 days from the date of this advertisement.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

The Local Government shall not bear the cost of preparation and submission of application for Pre-Qualification, the local government is neither committed nor obliged to undertake the work described in this advert.

Signed:
MANAGEMENT



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA NIGERIAN TREASURY BILLS

TENDER NOTICE

Notice is hereby given by the Central Bank of Nigeria that the Federal Government of Nigeria Treasury Bills of 91 and 182-day tenors amounting to N5,106,559,000 and N30,000,000,000 respectively would be issued by Dutch auction on Thursday, 27/05/2010

All Money Market Dealers should submit bids through the CBN TEMENOS INTERNET BANKING between 9.00a.m and 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 26/05/2010.

Each bid must be in multiple of N1,000 subject to a minimum of N10,000. Authorized Money Market Dealers are allowed to submit multiple bids. A bid may be for authorized Money Market Dealers own account, Non-Money Market Dealers or interested members of the public. The result of the auction would be announced by 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday, 26/05/2010. The Bank reserves the right to reject any bid.

Allotment letters would be issued for successful bids on Thursday, 27/05/2010, while payment for the successful bids should be made to your account with Central Bank of Nigeria not later than 11.00am on Thursday, 27/05/2010.

*The Bank reserves the right to vary the amount on offer in line with market realities prevailing as at the period of auction of the Nigerian Treasury bills.

Government Securities Office
Financial Markets Department
Central Bank of Nigeria
Abuja



JIGAWA STATE GOVERNMENT MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Block 40-42 Old Secretariat, P.M.B. 7017, Dutse, and Jigawa State, Nigeria

LIST OF PRE-QUALIFIED BIDDERS

A. PREAMBLE

Reference to our recent advert in the Daily Trust and Daily Triumph news papers of 16th April, 2010 and which called on interested Bidders to forward their firm profiles for participation in 2008/2009 ETF INTERVENTION PROJECTS

B. LIST OF PROJECTS TO BE EXECUTED

- Lot 1 - Construction of 2Blocks of 3Classrooms at GGSSU GWARAM.
Lot 2 - Construction of 3Blocks of 3Classrooms each, one each at GDSS B/KUDU, GGASS B/KUDU and GSCS DUTSE.
Lot 3 - Construction of 2Blocks of 3Classrooms each, one each at GDSS GADADIN and GSSU RINGIM.
Lot 4 - Construction of 2Blocks of 3Classrooms each, one each at GDSS MAJE and GDASS AMINU YUSIF.
Lot 5 - Construction of 3Blocks of 3Classrooms at SAISHADEJIA.
Lot 6 - Construction of 2Blocks of 3Classrooms at GSS FANTAI.
Lot 7 - Construction of 2Blocks of 3Classrooms each, one each at GSS MAIGATARI and SSS LAUTAI.
Lot 8 - Construction of 2Blocks of 3Classrooms each, one each at GDSS BABURA and GGSS RONI.
Lot 9 - Supply of 1320 sets of 3 seater desks, 110 sets to each of the following schools GGUSS GWARAM, GSCS DUTSE, GDSS B/KUDU, GDSS JAHUN, GGSS M/MADORI, GDSS FAMFO GOMA, GGASS BIRNIWA, GSS FANTAI, GSS TAURA, GSS MAIGATARI, GSSU RINGIM and GDSS GUMEL.
Lot 10 - Supply of laboratory equipment and materials at GSS BASIRKA, SSS K/HAUSA, GSS TAURA, GGSSU GWARAM, GSS M/MAMDORI and SSS LAUTAI.
Lot 11 - Supply of Instructional Aids and Delivery Equipment, Facilities and Materials at GSS AUJARA, GDSS AUYO, GGSS GARKI, GC B/KUDU, GSS FANTAI and GGSS KAZAURE.
Lot 12 - Supply of Workshop Tools and Hand Machines at GSTC B/KUDU, GSTC HADEJIA, GSTC KARKARNA and GSTC RINGIM.
Lot 13 - Procurement of Nos Various Titles of assorted Text books for Library Development at GSCS DUTSE, GSS AUJARA, GDSS WUNTI, GGSS M/MADORI, GSS RONI, GSS MAIGATARI, GC B/KUDU, GSS BASIRKA, GSS M/MADORI, SSS K/HAUSA, GSS (U) RINGIM and GGSS KAZAURE.

C. LIST OF PRE-QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS

The following contractors have been PRE QUALIFIED based on the technical criteria set up under Due Process Procedures:-

S/N	FREE QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS
1	Abusaiba Investment Ltd.
2	Idi Aliko and Sons Enterprises
3	Aklan Construction Services
4	Toitel Nig. Limited
5	Yanduna Ventures Nig. Ltd
6	Nasiriya Chrome Furniture
7	Solid Builders Nig. Ltd
8	Modi Investment Co. Ltd
9	U.Y.K. Nig. Ltd.

1. Short listed Contractors may obtain bidding documents at the cost of N20,000.00 (Twenty thousand Naira) upon submission of a written application from the Account Department of the Ministry of Education Science & Technology, Block 40 42, Old Secretariat, Dutse; from 9:00am to 5:00pm (Monday Thursday) and 9:00am 1:00pm (on Fridays).

2. Method of payment shall be in cash or certified Bank draft payable to Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, Dutse. Document will be collected by hand and no liability will be accepted for loss or late delivery. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address above.

3. Completed bidding documents should be submitted on or before 12:00 noon prompt of 3rd June, 2010 to the Department of Planning, Research and Statistics of the Ministry and bid - opening commences immediately, at the Ministry's Conference Room.

SIGNED
MANAGEMENT



John Snow, Inc (JSI) and its partner The Futures Group International (FGI) have immediate openings for one M&E Resident Advisor in Abuja and three State-based M&E Technical Advisors (Lagos, South-east and North-west) under MEASURE Evaluation Phase III. This is a worldwide United States Agency for International Development (USAID) cooperative agreement, awarded to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The project is carried out through sub-agreements with JSI, and The Futures Group International, Tulane University, Management Sciences for Health, and ICF Macro. Its objective is to improve and institutionalize the collection and utilization of data for population, health and nutrition programs. MEASURE Evaluation Phase III covers child, survival and nutrition, maternal health, malaria, HIV/AIDS and STI, infectious diseases, and family planning/population. The technical activities of the MEASURE Evaluation include: facility and population-level surveys to assess the impact of health and population programs, technical assistance in developing, implementing and evaluating health information systems, research into improvements in routine data collection and use, and training in theory and methods for monitoring and evaluation of health/population programs at national and sub-national levels.

Project activities are currently underway in multiple countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Visit the project website for more information: <http://www.cpc.unc.edu/measure/>

In Nigeria, MEASURE Evaluation is providing technical assistance, training and capacity enhancement for host country institutions and USAID implementing partners (IPs) in support of improved monitoring and information systems. The project is supporting the development of M&E systems for HIV/AIDS and Orphans and Vulnerable Children in the National Action Committee on AIDS (NACA), Federal Ministry of Health National AIDS/STD Control Program (NASCP) and Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development as well as to National Malaria Control Program in conducting a survey on utilization of ITN in Nigeria. It is also assisting Nigerian health institutions to improve the use of M&E data for program and policy decisions.

We are seeking qualified candidates for the following positions:

Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor

Overall Responsibilities: The main duties for this position include technical assistance for field-based M&E, capacity building, and knowledge management for government of Nigeria agencies and other stakeholders responsible for monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS interventions. This will include assistance to National AIDS Control Agency (NACA) with the implementation and refinement of the Nigeria National Response Information Management System (NNRIMS). The M&E Advisor will work closely with USAID/Abuja, in-country implementing partners, other donors including UNAIDS, the World Bank and the GFATM, national GON counterparts in the Ministry of Women's Affairs and Social Development and in NGOs working on M&E activities. The Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor will work in partnership with the Country Coordinator and other in-country staff and will be supported by other US-based MEASURE Evaluation technical staff as necessary to implement the MEASURE Evaluation scope of work in Nigeria. This position will be based in Abuja, Nigeria (with 40-50% in-country travel to the states and LGAs). The Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor will be supervised by the Country Coordinator/Senior Resident Advisor.

Specific Responsibilities:

- Provide timely and high-quality technical assistance to host country counterparts and institutions consistent with MEASURE Evaluation's Nigeria workplan;
- Provide technical assistance to the host country counterparts in data collection, entry, analysis and reporting among multiple partners. This includes support to improve reporting, data quality, and information use.
- Provide leadership in collaboration with other RAs and state level technical advisors in the implementation of activities relating to supportive supervision and data quality guidelines, protocol and training.
- Work collaboratively with other RAs in the training and implementation of supportive supervision and data quality guidance for strengthening the HIV/AIDS M&E system.
- Support NACA, the Network of Civil Society Organizations, and other stakeholders to operationalize the community-based activities monitoring module within NNRIMS.
- Coordinate, monitor and evaluate approaches for HIV/AIDS which harmonize core indicators, data collection, entry, analysis and reporting among multiple partners.
- Oversee the preparation of technical reports, operational plans, the development of tools and training materials and carry out formal capacity building activities in monitoring and evaluation to scale up and expand community sector HIV/AIDS M&E systems of host country institutions.
- Document best practices emanating from the implementation of HIV/AIDS M&E systems consistent with MEASURE Evaluation's Nigeria workplan;
- Advise and support counterpart agencies such as NACA and the Network of Civil Society Organizations, sectoral Ministries as well as other stakeholders working on the HIV/AIDS Community-based activities M&E system to design and implement special studies to complement routine collection of information for measuring program intervention outcomes/impacts.
- Assist to develop and disseminate reports and materials based on routine and non-routine data sources linked to decisions on HIV/AIDS program performance, priorities and future direction especially in community program interventions;
- Facilitate the use of community level data and information among stakeholders for program and policy decision making, awareness raising and advocacy;

- Working with the Country Coordinator, prepare the MEASURE Evaluation annual workplan, budgets, quarterly and annual progress reports
- Perform other duties commensurate with training and experience evolving from emerging needs in Nigeria and as assigned by the supervisor

Qualifications

- Advance degree (MPH, MA, other) in public health or related fields.
- Familiarity with the Nigerian HIV/AIDS program.
- At least 5 years work experience in monitoring and evaluation, especially of HIV/AIDS. Experience in family planning/reproductive, maternal and child health or infectious disease control programs is also desirable;
- Experience in the development and/or on-going operation of routine health information systems (RHIS) and/or in the conduct of quantitative research activities in terms of planning, implementation and data analysis;
- Demonstrated ability to link data to program, service delivery, and/or policy-level decision making;
- Interest and experience in the development of capacity strengthening, including training programs, for developing country professionals;
- Demonstrated experience in delivering presentations and/or facilitation of workshops or meetings and/or training others in elements of monitoring and evaluation.
- Demonstrated ability to work effectively and harmoniously with other project staff, host country counterparts, USAID, consultants, other donors and international organizations.
- Ability to work independently and to manage various projects on a daily basis with minimal supervision;
- Excellent writing and communications skills in English
- Computer literacy with experience in word processing, spreadsheet and statistical packages, database management, GIS and graphics software desirable).

3 State M&E Technical Advisors (SMETA) -- based in Lagos, South-East and North-west

The Technical Advisors will provide technical assistance and training to Nigerian organizations in support of monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS and reproductive health programs in the specific state. This will include assistance to SACA, other sectors (e.g. health, education) for operationalization of the state level M&E activities that are responsive to need of stakeholders. Work closely with state counterparts in ensuring effective implementation and refinement of the Nigeria National Response Information Management System (NNRIMS) and integration of HIV/AIDS M&E system into the National Health Management Information System (NHMIS). The Technical Advisor will work closely with other implementing partners at the state to ensure effective coordination of M&E activities. The Technical Advisor will work in partnership under the supervision of the Country Coordinator to implement the State specific scope of work.

Specific Responsibilities

- Assist with coordination of State M&E technical working group including presiding over monthly coordination meetings between government and implementing partners
- Assist with advocacy and resource mobilization among stakeholders/donors in the state as necessary.
- Provide supportive supervision to state level M&E personnel
- Assist state level M&E personnel to conduct supportive supervision of LGA and health facility personnel for
- Data quality assurance
- Promotion of appropriate use of data for decision making
- Assist with planning and coordination of M&E and reporting with other sectors (Education, Women's Affairs, etc.)
- Conduct M&E capacity needs assessments and build capacity as needed for M&E in State Ministries and in local LGAs
- Assist with periodic reporting to GON, USAID, Global Fund, etc.
- Assist State M&E personnel to conduct period data quality audits of priority HIV/AIDS indicators in the state
- Assist State M&E personnel in the production and dissemination of periodic bulletins and annual statistical reports to promote the appropriate use of data
- Assist in the coordination of computerized data systems for HIV/AIDS reporting, e.g. DHIS and LHPMIP. Where necessary, develop mechanisms and protocols for data sharing and interoperability
- Determine the need for, and facilitate the provision of external technical assistance from either Nigeria or US as needed
- Coordinate with the NHMIS on integration of NNRIMS data elements (as necessary and where appropriate)
- Pilot 3-interlinked Systems for HIV/AIDS, TB/HIV and PMTCT (if feasible and appropriate)
- Computer Literacy with experience in word processing, spreadsheet and statistical packages, database, GIS and graphics software desirable).
- **Qualifications:** 3-5 years experience in Monitoring and Evaluation in HIV/AIDS programming. Experience working with local partners, including NGOs and CBOs and knowledge of the local context essential. Familiarity with USAID and PEPFAR programs preferred.

Method of application:

- Please forward suitability statement and resume (CV) as a single MS Word document within 10 days to: mandejobs@gmail.com and measure_projects@isi.com
- Only applications sent electronically (i.e. by e-mail) will be considered.

Please note that due to the large numbers of applications (a) we are able to consider only applications which follow our instructions above, (b) Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

MEASURE Evaluation is an equal opportunity employer and has a competitive compensation package.



Invitation for Bids

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GIRLS' COLLEGE, MONGUNO,
BORNO STATE

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST BASIC PROJECT
(STEP-B PROJECT)
IDA CREDIT No. 4304-UN1

PROCUREMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT, CHEMICALS, TEXTBOOKS, INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS, ELECTRIC GENERATOR AND ICT EQUIPMENT
(IFB No. STEP/B/FGGCM/GDS/NCB//01/2010)

ISSUANCE DATE: Thursday, May 20, 2010

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 591 of 2nd July, 2007.
2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for the Supply of Science and Technical Equipment, Chemicals, Textbooks, Instructional Materials, Generator and ICT Equipment; Contract No. STEP/B/FGGCM/GDS/NCB//01/2010)
3. The SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST-BASIC PROJECT Federal Government Girls' College, Monguno now invites sealed bids from eligible and Qualified bidders for the procurement of the following:

Lot No.	Description of Item.	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Delivery Location
1.	Science and Technical Equipment.	Various	2.5% Bid Price	90 days	FGGC, Monguno, Borno State.
2.	Chemicals and Reagents	Various	2.5% Bid Price	90 days	FGGC, Monguno, Borno State.
3.	Textbooks and Instructional Materials	Various	2.5% Bid Price	90 days	FGGC, Monguno, Borno State.
4.	Generator (30 KVA).	1	2.5% Bid Price	90 days	FGGC, Monguno, Borno State.
5.	ICT Equipment.	Various	2.5% Bid Price	90 days	FGGC, Monguno, Borno State.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)**, a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Project Office, Federal Government Girls' College, Monguno Borno State and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below, between the hours of 8.00 am to 4.00pm Mondays to Fridays, excluding public holidays.
6. Qualifications requirements include:
 - Evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar items proposed for the last 5 years.
 - Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability, and adequate working capital.
 - Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10, 000.00) only in Bank Draft in favor of STEP-B Project Federal Government Girls' College, Monguno Borno State. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or by courier services on request.
8. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before Monday, June 21, 2010 at 2.00 pm. **Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will not be accepted.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below on Monday, June 21, 2010 at 2.00 pm. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security of 2.5% of bid price in Naira or its equivalent a freely convertible currency.
9. Bidders may bid for one or more complete lots as award will be based on individual lots. Any bid submitted for incomplete lots will be declared non-responsive.

10. The address referred to above is:

The Project Manager,
Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project (STEP-B),
Federal Government Girls' College,
Monguno, Borno State.
PM-08059638765, PO-08033175994, FO-08033830475
E-mail: stepbornofgacmonguno@yahoo.com

Signed
Project Manager.

KEBBI POLITICS: DESPERATE POLITICIANS ON THE PROWL AS GOVERNOR DAKIN GARI DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

Be careful what you wish for. From their humble ambitions of controlling state apparatus to those of becoming flower pots at the corridors of power, the Land of Equity conspirators wishes are now crazy horses. By their nature, conspirators are incurable optimist, who always believe that they can get away with their crime. In Kebbi State, the conspirators or the "group" fortified their optimism, who protected themselves with money and hoodlums. Astonishingly all of them are products of parents who wishes them well in life, by naming them after good people, but the worship of mammon is the choice they made themselves.

They have, true to their character and style believed that their mastery of election manipulation, deployment of money to fix election result and contest would always guarantee them political visibility and electoral success.

Since these insane antics have failed to fly, desperation has taken the better part of them leading to actions that could at best expose the inner workings of their mind and the actual hidden agenda in seeking political office.

It was unbelievable that people who are supposed to be taken seriously and accorded recognition as responsible citizens of this country could engage in such criminal acts, in spreading lies against the state and later some paid up association went to some newspapers to make advertorial as they were swayed by monetary inducement not minding the security and economic implication of such reckless advertorials. Any one that could engage in such a bizarre and odious act of spreading dangerous and blunt lies against the state can go to any length. Why the do-or-die attitude to seeking power, if actually the intensions are right? Their game plan, carefully choreographed, was to create a hoax of insecurity thereby creating fear in the minds of Kebbi citizens but unfortunately it was picked early through the good network of intelligence and concerned citizens in the state. The ultimate aims was to make Kebbi state ungovernable.

The government would have to be up in arms against these political desperados because we all know the security and economic implication of such nefarious acts in the state. The government of Kebbi state would have to take necessary legal action against the media houses that allowed those agents of darkness to use them in spreading the diabolic falsehood while waiting on the security agencies to fish

out the sponsors who are presently hiding under the fingers of anonymity. The media houses that consistently provided support base for these diabolic acts refused to understand that there are rules and ethics in the profession, however cash and carry journalism does not operate in a decent society.

It would amount to dereliction of duty on the side of Kebbi citizen should we not expose this tiny cabal that operate with such impurity as if they are above the law. The civilized approach is for aspiring candidates to sell ideologies to the electorate but not to blackmail, threat, media terrorism and rumour mongering. Power belongs to the people and those people who believe in appropriating it deviously seldom get it. These criminals have refused to appreciate that the emotion of Kebbi state people are being heavenly tasked by their unending criminal antics. We must remind them that civilized conduct, reliance on due process and respect for public opinion are virtues that cannot be subjected to the auctioneers hammer.

Poor and criminal upbringing, repulsive conduct and questionable pedigree cannot be hidden. They are like stigma and whoever carries it requires more than the power of crisp naira notes to have proper cleansing. Light and darkness cannot meet and since Kebbi state is in the hands of God, no weapon formed against Dakin Gari, the Government and people of the state would prosper. For avoidance of doubts, there is no iota of truth in the rumour being peddled against Dakin Gari, it only exist in the imagination of the warped minds who are incorrigible merchants of confusion. Kebbi people should be vigilant and watch out for more of such rumour because the devil does not give up easily. As for these enemies of the people, the game is up and there will be no hiding place for them any longer.

The desperados forgot that nobody was born to be significant or insignificant, they also probably forgotten that apart from the fact that we are all meant to be part of the history as we must one day leave footprints, you can only continue to remain significant if you have made positive impactful impression recognized and appreciated by citizenry. They have also forgotten history had already placed them in their correct position ex – this and ex – that.

The footprint they made in the game of life of disrespect and recklessness would continue to make them insignificant un-noticed, unheralded and uncelebrated. It is recognized that

they could no more do what they used to based on the kind of picture they carry. Let them realize that the time of reckoning is now as the Kebbi people now live in times of great changes.

The people of Kebbi now like history placed the conspirators in their correct position upon frustrated in the game of life, living in place of not their choices, doing jobs they don't enjoy, it is the writers hope that in the end they are buried in the grace of nothingness and at best their names only appear as footnote in history. Life is therefore not just how long you had been as what or whom but how much you positively impacted in both history and the wellbeing of the common.

To cap it all, the Kebbi political conspirators had keys with wrong notches they did not know why they have sense organs altogether, hence they failed to correctly exploit potentials within them. They thought life is measured by duration and not performance. The tragedy is that time is off for them, whittles blown and there is no time to give whatever dream a second chance.

As for the peoples mandate Alh. Saidu Dakin Gari we suggest that he is not detracted as he has all the experience, the resources and the courage to place Kebbi up and flying within and beyond the Federal republic of Nigeria. One can never be significant and enter record of who is who except he dares to be different. Hence the incumbent may not have time for mundane or mediocre issues nor listen to any voice of failure instead he should be willing to carry the criticism of hardships as he wish to foster socio economic development of the new Kebbi State. Regardless of the conspirator's action Dakingari should not sacrifice the good picture of the state development on the alter of either blackmail or whatever threats. It is our believe that those who give power to the opinion of critics such as conspirators rarely reach success avenue.

Your good course of action as the whole life is about good destiny and the current assessment is that the cap fits you and suits the teaming electorates of Kebbi State. Let the conspirators realized that the sky is too wide for stars to collide.

CONCERNED CITIZENS

**SIGNED
ALHAJI ABDULLAH MUHAMMED LAMBA
S. A. ON INFORMATION**

Inside Politics

ANPP ticket: Shekarau has to go through the mills – Spokesman

The National Publicity Secretary of All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), Emma Eneukwu, in this interview in Abuja, sheds light on some critical issues affecting the party including the loss of many party stalwarts. He also speaks on the presidential aspiration of Governor Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano. Excerpts:



EMMA Eneukwu

By Abbas Jimoh

MANY people attribute the low level of activities in the ANPP to the exit of governors who moved to the PDP. How correct is that assumption?

It is not as a result of their cross-carpeting. The movement of governors from one political party to another is a Nigerian factor. In Igbo adage, they say it

is he that carries the palm kernel that the god follows. Most of the governors did not win, but they got there through rigging and they know that if they remained in ANPP, the system will not favour them. We in ANPP have to sweat before winning the election because we are not the ruling party. We don't have the machinery to rig them into office. So, what do you think if PDP assures them of their comprehensive rig-

ging machine?

It appears that joining the Government of National Unity was the first step that pushed the governors and other top politicians out of the ANPP?

That is not true, in 2007, when Aliero defected to PDP there was no Government of National Unity. When the governor of Jigawa State went to PDP, there was no GNU. People misunderstand the GNU. We went into the GNU to preserve the unity and stability of this country. We cannot seek the collapse of this country because we were not declared winners. We joined the GNU to keep the country united. First of all, we knew that Nigeria was sitting on a cage of gun powder, and if we started contesting the result of the election, we could cause a lot of bloodshed in the country.

So, in other to make sure that at least we maintain peace and stability in this country, we agreed to work with this government for the betterment of Nigeria. When we were joining the GNU, we insisted on the reform of the electoral system and we are happy today that Nigerians are talking about it all over today.

Do you believe that the electoral reform is being sincerely carried out?

Well, I wouldn't know their

heart but they have promised that they would do it. We take them by their word; we are not God.

Many observers say the exit of Buhari from the ANPP has severely deflated the support base of your party. How do you react to this view point?

It's not true that exit of Buhari had caused any problem in our party. It never affected us. Buhari was in our party but was more interested in the party when it was election time. He was not so much interested in building the party; he was only interested in election and the party got use to that. When he left the party, ANPP didn't feel dejected at all because he was not making contributions that could affect the growth of the party. He only surfaces to pick the presidential ticket and after that he disappears. Indeed he got our ticket twice and ran for the presidency unsuccessfully. So if he goes to another party to try his luck there, I don't see anything wrong with that. Buhari came to our party in 2002, when we have nine governors. At the time he was leaving, we had only three states. So, I don't understand.

Is that why you assured Governor Ibrahim Shekarau the ticket this time?

No we've not. We have not assured anybody our ticket. Our ticket will only be won at the primaries and whoever wins, takes the ticket. You know, we are not the party in government. We cannot use the country's money to pursue our election. Our primaries will be very transparent so that we can bring out the best.

Whoever that emerges becomes our candidate.

You lost another big fish in Yobe State, Senator Albashir and many people feel ANPP is heading for electoral doom in that state...

People are free to air their views. Albashir ran with Mamman Ali (late) in our party's primary but something happened along the line and Mamman Ali was given the ticket of the party. He won and become governor. Albashir went to court and at the end of the day, he lost out. We know what he [Albashir] did during the elections. He never supported the party in the election, but we won. So, whether he goes to PDP or remains in the ANPP would not make much difference. Our concern is the people at the grassroots.

We are concerned with what they think about the candidate of the party?

Have you zoned the presidency to a particular zone or is it thrown to all parts of the country?

This is not the question I can answer because the highest body that decides on such issue is the NEC. The NEC will do the zoning. I say that the presidency or whatever is zoned to this side be amount to usurping the function of the NEC. Therefore I'm not in the position to answer such a question until NEC meets. But from what has been happening in the party, once the chairman of the party is from the South, the Presidential candidate may go to the North. We are coming closer to a convention.

Apa State is antics for 2011 – Onjeh

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

AN Action Congress (AC) aspirant for Benue-South senatorial seat, Mr. Daniel Onjeh has called the renewed agitation for the creation of Apa State as "mere antics for 2011", saying the agitation comes up only during election periods and dies as soon as elections are over. He said it is agitation by a section of the Idoma people with a majority not involved.

Onjeh, former leader of the West African Students' Union (WASU) told *Daily Trust* yesterday that he is not against Apa State, but said the agitation for the creation is one that must be genuinely pursued, "and not to be cornered by the same cabal of politicians who have touted it in the last three general elections for the purpose of remaining in power against the interest of the generality

of the people of Benue-South".

Onjeh criticized last week's visit of the movement for the creation of Apa State to the House of representatives in Abuja where the group presented its memorandum. He said "for how long shall we be fooled as a people? Is it not ridiculous that the much touted Apa State's memorandum is just going to the National Assembly when the Senate has concluded the proposal for constitution review?"

"The drums of deception are being rolled out again, the decoy is back. Yes, we need Apa State, but this quest transcends parochial interest of a individual or group. It must be agitated for, with genuine intent and purpose. Let us change our dance steps this time around for change 2011", Onjeh added.

Izuogu says his quest for PDP chair not do or die

By Muideen Olaniyi

FORMER governorship candidate in Imo state, and a stalwart of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Dr. Ezekiel Izuogu, has declared that his desire to become the national chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is not a do-or-die affair.

Izuogu, however, said in a statement that finally that a time like this in the history of the party and the nation, the PDP needs a competent, experienced, focused and incorruptible personality to lead the party. The aspirant said he has the pedigree needed to midwife a new PDP that will be a pride to the members and all Nigerians. He said he would lead the party in a way that internal democracy would be the norm rather than the exception.

Aliyu urges Jonathan to conduct credible election in 2011

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

GOVERNOR of Niger State Dr Muazu Babangida Aliyu has called on President Goodluck Ebele Jonathan to conduct credible elections in 2011 as he said the moves will place his name in the list of honourable leaders of the country.

Aliyu stated this on Monday in Minna at the commissioning ceremony of Nigerian Television Authority (NTA), Minna where he stated that President Jonathan should toe the path of honour by ensuring that there is a level playing ground in the 2011 general elections.

"If President Goodluck Jonathan gives us credible elections in 2011 then he would have immortalised himself in the annals of great leaders of Nigeria with credibility and interest of the country at heart.

"We as a country should ensure that there is credible elections in 2011 and it must start across the divides in the country from the leaders to the common man on the street", he said.

He also said that while the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has the right to adopt the present zoning system, it is not part of the Nigerian constitution to zone during elections.

He however reiterated that the party has the prerogative to adopt whatever policy it deem fit, adding that leadership is given by Allah and not by the understanding of men.

Inside Politics

The politics of Jang's reconciliatory efforts

By Andrew Agbese, Jos

GOVERNOR of Plateau state, Jonah Jang, surprised not a few people last month, when he, in a manner quite unusual, decided to be contrite by reversing some thorny decisions of his administrations to appease persons or groups he has offended in the three year tenure of his administration.

Jang had in one fell swoop capitulated on issues he had been so emotional about and had said in the past were foreclosed and irreversible that many are beginning to wonder whether the volte-face was real.

The governor had ordered that the Plateau State University which he closed down soon after he assumed office be reopened. He also recalled the 57 local government directors of personnel management and directors of finance supplies whom he sacked in the early days of his administration for alleged embezzlement. The governor also swore in of Daniel Kungmi as chairman of Mikang local government in accordance with the directive of the court. Kungmi was wrongly substituted after the PDP primaries for local government elections in 2008. In addition to these, Jang reviewed the salaries and emoluments of traditional rulers in the state. His administration had previously ordered the salaries of traditional rulers be reversed to their pre 1999 status.

Jang had initially felt very strongly about these issues and had sworn in most instances not to look back despite the protests and condemnations that greeted the announcement of each of those measures.

Many observers have looked at the decision to reverse these measures almost at the same time as a move to score a political point. Jang's U-turn on these issues is coming just months before the primary election of the PDP and less than a year to the general elections of 2011. In fact some political analysts say the reversals are likely to be reversed again as soon as the governor secures a second term.

But the state commissioner of information Gregory Yenlong who announced some of the measures maintained that the governor was seeking genuine reconciliation with

the people. He said as a proof of the genuineness of the gesture, Jang is even planning to relocate from his country home residence, from where he has been operating since 2007, to the deputy governor's lodge centrally located in a more accessible part of the town so that people can access him easily.

But opposition politicians in the state think otherwise. Former deputy chairman of a faction of the PDP in the state, Solomon Dalung says he does not see any tincture of sympathy for the people in some of the reversals announced by the governor. He said they were "desperate tactics of a desperate politician to hoodwink the people on the eve of election."

The manner each of the issues was treated in the past by the state governor did not help matters.

On the issue of the closure of the state university, Jang had made it clear even while campaigning for governorship that maintaining the university was not his priority. He wasted no time in closing down the institution which had already admitted over 300 students. He argued that the university was being sustained with local governments' funds and such funds could be freed and made available for the more pressing issues of primary and secondary school education.

When the vice chancellor, Professor John Wade, took the government to court over the issue and explained that the institution could be self sustaining as it has attracted various grants, fellowships, support from other institutions, the governor insisted he was not going back on the decision. He said the institution lacked basic infrastructure to function.

The state House of assembly took over the matter and passed a resolution that the state governor should reopen the school. The resolution was passed since last year but government turned deaf ears until this year when the state university

“As a proof of the genuineness of the gesture, Jang is even planning to relocate from his country home residence, from where he has been operating since 2007, to the deputy governor's lodge centrally located in a more accessible part of the town so that people can access him easily”

appeared among institutions to benefit from allocations from the state government.

On the 57 directors, Jang had on taking over the reins of power sent them on compulsory leave without pay and after much tussle between the state government and the directors, the state government dismissed them after a state executive council meeting which accused them of embezzlement.

The directors went to court and insisted on their innocence. Realising that it mishandled the matter, the state government later commuted their dismissal to suspension and advised them to appear before a judicial commission of inquiry which was then probing the last administration.

The commission had itself been stopped by the court and the directors maintained their suit. In April this year, the state government which was preparing to appeal the judgment that acquitted the directors announced that it was recalling the directors and dropping all charges against them.

The reversal of the decision not to swear in Daniel Kungmi as chairman of Mikang local government also came as a surprise. Kungmi had won the PDP primaries and was warming up for the general election when his name was all of a sudden substituted with that of another.

When he went to court to challenge his substitution, he was suspended from the PDP for taking the party to court. Kungmi later went to the election petition tribunal and got judgment in his favour, and again won when the judgment was appealed against. In spite of his victory in the court, however, the state government refused to swear him, arguing that the case instituted at the normal court was still pending and that it preferred to rely on that judgment.

But last month, Governor Jang, without further complicating the matter reversed the decision and



GOV. Jonah Jang

beckoned to Kungmi to come to the Rayfield government House to be sworn in, which he did.

The governor has also been on a cold war with traditional rulers who were not happy with him for cutting their take home pay. The order was interpreted as a demotion for many of them whom the previous administration of Chief Joshua Dariye had upgraded and caused to exist by giving them new districts and chiefdoms.

This issue too had dragged as the state governor insisted on handling the matter his way by asking that all issues connected to the development be channelled to a committee which he set up for that purpose. Many had been reluctant to appear and submit memos to the committees as they insisted that the issue was a clear one that does not require the labyrinth of bureaucratic bottlenecks to reverse.

The governor seems to have listened to the line of argument by announcing the review of the emoluments of the first class chiefs in the state and further that work is on that of the others. There was more: he also announced that their palaces would be refurbished with other provisions made for them.

Yenlong also explained that

the state government never at any time demoted the traditional rulers.

Many politicians in the state have reasoned that the moves are connected to the bid by the governor to win the hearts of the people for a second term ticket.

Jang had since 2008 confirmed he is interested in vying for the position of the governor again, but has been criticized for being too high handed. The commissioner for information confirmed that the state governor is out for reconciliation but says it is informed by the need to promote peace and unity of the people of the state.

With the level of suspicion that has greeted Jang's volte face, others who have issues with the governor have also positioned themselves to benefit from the new breeze of forgiveness that is blowing. They include primary and secondary school teachers, as well as local government employees which the state government has threatened to fire.

If the gale does not go round, there are indications that the gesture may be held in contempt by the intended beneficiaries like the local government directors have done by refusing government's offer and at last winning in the courts.

Senate to swear in Igbeke Tuesday

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

LEADERSHIP of the Senate has yielded to pressure and agreed to swear-in Mr. Alphonsus Igbeke on Tuesday as senator representing Anambra North zone. The Enugu Appeal Court had directed that he be sworn in as senator.

Briefing newsmen yesterday on the U-turn, Chairman Senate Committee on Information and Media, Senator Ayogu Eze, said the decision to administer oath of office on

Igbeke is as result of advice by the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice, Mr. Mohammed Bello Adoke (SAN).

Eze said: "We had to seek for legal clarification from the AGF and he said unless there is a notice of stay of execution, the motion on notice is not enough to stop the swearing in of Igbeke. We have resolved to follow the best part of interpretation of the law and we invited him to take oath of office but he was not around."

He said due to some activities that will be engaging senators outside the National Assembly yesterday, "we will not sit; we hope that all things being equal, he (Igbeke) will be sworn in on Tuesday. Based on persistent calls by Nigerians, we had to seek for clarification and since the Chief Law officer of the country has spoken to us, we have no reason not to agree."

Igbeke was absent when he was invited to take the oath of office yesterday but he later explained that it was because he was not formally dressed for the event.



THE BODY OF BENCHERS OF NIGERIA

REFORM COMMITTEE OF THE LEGAL PROFESSION

PUBLIC NOTICE:

At the January 2010 meeting of the Honourable Body of Benchers of the Legal profession in Nigeria, the Body resolved:

- a) to carry out a thorough review of the Legal Education Act, 1962, the Legal Practitioners Act, 1962 and laws and regulations regulating every aspect of the law profession in Nigeria and to make recommendations designed to reform the law profession in Nigeria so as to bring it up-to-date and in line with tested and accepted standards of the law profession in the global village in which we now live.
- b) to work with the Nigerian Bar Association, the Judiciary, office of the Attorney General of the Federation and its parastatals and the Council of Legal Education so as to provide an agreed reform recommendation for the law profession and to produce draft Bills for implementation of the recommendations which upon approval by the Body of Benchers shall be submitted to the President of Nigeria through the Hon. Attorney-General of the Federation for enactment into law.

to and, hereby elect as Chairman of the Reform Committee, Alhaji A.G.F. Abdul-Razaq, SAN OFR former Chairman and Doyen of the Body of Benchers assisted by Chief T.J.O. Okpoko SAN to consult widely among members of the Legal Profession and to take necessary steps to implement these resolutions.

To give effect to these resolutions of the Honourable Body of Benchers, two working committees have now been inaugurated.

Committee 'A'

- (i) Chief Richard A. Akinjide, CON, OFR, SAN former Attorney General of the Federation is Chairman of Working Committee 'A' which is to take on reform of

the Legal Practitioners' Act, and

Committee 'B'

- (ii) Alhaji Abdullahi Ibrahim, OFR, SAN former Attorney General of the Federation is Chairman of Working Committee 'B' which is to deal with the reform of the Legal Education Act.

The working committees have taken off.

Memorandum, proposals and suggestions are now invited from the Nigerian Bar Association - headquarters and branches, stakeholders including litigants, Trade Unions, Commercial and Industrial Unions, Employers Association, Political parties, members of the Judiciary, public spirited persons throughout the country and all those interested in the orderly development of the profession.

All memoranda, proposals, suggestions and contributions are to be addressed to:

The Secretary,
Body of Benchers,
Court of Appeal Complex,
Three Arms Zone,
Abuja, Nigeria.

Email:- sadivaturakij@yahoo.com

It is advised that all contributions, suggestions, proposals and memorandum should be sent to the Secretary, within 20 days of the publication of this notice.

Dated at Abuja, this 19th day of May, 2010.

Chief G.N. Uwechue, SAN
(Chairman)
Honourable Body of Benchers
Abuja.



AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA

(Office of the Vice-Chancellor)



INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT FOR THE POST OF REGISTRAR OF AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY, ZARIA

The Governing Council of Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, hereby announces that the position of **REGISTRAR**, of the University will soon be vacant and so invites interested and qualified individuals to submit applications as per below:

2. THE JOB

The Registrar is a Principal Officer of the University responsible to the University Governing Council through the Vice Chancellor for duties as Chief Administrative Officer that include:

- (a) Keeping in a safe custody all records of the University;
- (b) Arrangement for the conduct of examinations;
- (c) Serving as Secretary to and be responsible for executive action arising from decisions of the Governing Council, the Senate, and such other bodies as the Statutes may prescribe or Vice-Chancellor may direct;
- (d) Serving as member on various academic and administrative committees as may be prescribed by law or the relevant University authorities;
- (e) Assisting the Vice Chancellor in the general administration of the University.

3. QUALIFICATION

Candidates should possess a good honours first degree in the liberal Arts, Humanities or related discipline. Possession of relevant post-graduate degree/diploma and registration with suitable professional bodies would be an added advantage. Candidates are expected to have served for at least fourteen years (14) in sufficiently Senior Administrative capacities in the University system or in comparable establishments. Suitable candidates are

expected to be knowledgeable about the operation of the University system, and competent to advise and take executive action on matters of planning, design and management in realization of the cardinal objectives of teaching, research and community service. Computer knowledge and application are mandatory.

4. CONDITION OF SERVICE

The remuneration and conditions of service are as applicable to posts of Registrars in all Nigerian Federal Universities, and as may be determined by the Council and the Government from time to time.

5. METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates are required to submit 15 copies each of application letter and comprehensive curriculum vitae (attaching photocopies of relevant credentials) under confidential cover in an envelop sealed and marked "**POST OF REGISTRAR, ABU, ZARIA**", and addressed to the following:-

The Vice-Chancellor,
Ahmadu Bello University,
P. M. B. 1045,
Zaria,
Kaduna State.

6. REFEREES

Candidates are advised to request three of their referees to forward reports on them under confidential cover to the Vice-Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria. All applications and Referees Reports on them should be submitted not later than 6 weeks from the date of this publication.

Professor Abdullahi Mustapha, FPSN
Vice-Chancellor

SPORT

Portsmouth
offer Kanu
new contract

Page 56



Nigeria's top golfer, Abdullahi, dies in auto crash

From Ayegba Israel Ebije,
Minna

NIGERIA'S number one professional golfer Ali Abdullahi lost his life yesterday while travelling from Abuja to Minna for a professional golf tournament slated to begin yesterday.

Abdullahi, who is also the number one in West Africa, died alongside two co-travellers in the auto crash before Paiko, a local government area in Niger state less than twenty kilometres away from Minna Township.

The two co-travellers who

Championship.

According to eyewitness, Abdullahi and the two others who were on their way to Minna for the championship died when they had a tire bust from the impact of running into a pothole which spiralled the car out of control.

The eyewitness further stated that the tire of the Toyota Avalon car with registration number CL 641 RBC which the victims were travelling in tumbled over several times hitting an oncoming Peugeot 206 with registration number BQ 206 RSH.

Trustsports gathered that the golfers died on the spot while the two other occupants of the other vehicle were seriously injured and are receiving treatment at the emergency unit of the Minna General Hospital.

Speaking to Trustsports on the incident, the coach of the Minna Golf Cantonment Club, Segun confirmed that they were to start a tree day championship which is supposed to have commenced yesterday and end on Sunday.

According to Ahmed Ibrahim, leader of the rescue team of the Federal Road Safety Corps disclosed that a total of N100,000 was found on the victims, adding that other foreign currencies were also recovered.

He confirmed that the remains of the deceased have since been deposited in the mortuary of the Minna General hospital.

Abdullahi, who is also the number one in West Africa, died alongside two co-travellers

died with him were simply identified as Christian, a golfer, and Bernard, who is 'Caddie' to Abdullahi.

Abdullahi had just returned from Cameroon on Monday where he went for a championship in which he emerged as the winner of the West African professional



ABDULLAHI... Nigeria's number one professional golfer was killed in a ghastly motor accident along Minna road yesterday.

10 T/Tennis stars depart for Moscow championship

TEN table tennis players who will represent the country at the World Team Championships in Moscow, Russia, are expected to depart the country for the competition on Friday.

Segun Oguntade, Secretary, Nigeria Table Tennis Federation (NTTF) said yesterday in Lagos that the country team for the May 23 to May 30 championship comprises five male and five

female players.

"They were selected based on their current form. We monitor their recent performances through the website in addition to their past record," he told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos.

The male players are Segun Toriola and Monday Merotuhun who are in France, Seun Ajetu-mobi and Bode Abiodun who are

Portugal-based and home-based Aruno Quadri.

The female players are Funke Oshinaike who plays in Germany and home-based Ganiat Ogundele, Janet Offiong, Atinuke Olaide and Edem Offiong.

Oguntade said the players had been on intensive training in Ibadan for the championship.

He explained that the local players would depart Nigeria on

Friday aboard an Emirate Airline with six officials, including the federation's President Abdulwahab Omotose and Abolarin Tinuoye, the physiotherapist.

Others are coaches Ndem Richard, Akoja Oluwole and Sunmola Lateef.

He said that arrangements had been concluded for the foreign-based players to join the rest on Saturday.

Oguntade expressed confidence that the team would do well in Moscow based on their level of preparation, exposure and performances.

"Some of them participated in Pro-Club Tour Qatar and German Open and with the recent participations in the opens, they will stand out among other countries at the tournament," he added.

Eagles to leave Saturday

THE Super Eagles will now travel to London on Saturday following the 24-hour shift of the team's Send Forth Dinner in Abuja.

President Goodluck Jonathan is expected to present an address at the reception which will last 90 minutes inside the Congress Hall of the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja on Friday evening.

The Nigeria team will now depart for the United Kingdom through the Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport, Abuja, and officials say they will train on Sunday ahead of the friendly international against Saudi Arabia national team in Austria on Tuesday.

The 30-man playing squad will then try Colombia for size in London before Coach Lars Lagerback come up with his final list of 23 players for the World Cup finals.

The final squad has an opportunity of a real test against the North Korea team, when both teams try out in South Africa on June 6.

Nigeria's first match at the World Cup is against Argentina on June 12, followed by games against Greece on June 17 and against Korea Republic on June 22.

Lulu gets another award

NFF President Sani Lulu Abdulahi and some Members of the NFF Executive Committee were at the weekend decorated with traditional attire of the Tiv people of Benue State in recognition of the present NFF administration's commitment to improving the profile of Nigeria football at home and internationally.

At the meeting of football stakeholders in the North Central geo-political zone, where Lulu and his lieutenants were endorsed for a second term of office, NFF 1st Vice President Amanze Uchegbulam, Executive Committee Member Taiwo Ogunjobi and General Secretary Bolaji Ojo-Oba, were also honoured by the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria, Benue State chapter.

The quartet were then handed the Tiv's traditional weapons of war, which a Benue SWAN chieftain explained as "weapon for you to go to the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa and conquer".

Back in Abuja, the Hope Arewa Development Initiative, an umbrella body of 53 youth organizations in the northern part of the country, presented the 2010 Arewa Inspirational Leadership Award to the NFF President in his office.

The award ceremony had taken place in April but the NFF President was absent as he was outside the country. The glittering plaque was eventually presented to him on Wednesday by Mallam Mohammed Kaula, Secretary on behalf of the Initiative's President, Engineer Ahmed Umar.



DAVID Oliver, right, of US and Dayron Robles of Cuba, left, compete in the Men's 110 meters hurdles during the colourful Daegu Pre-Championships Meeting at Daegu Stadium in Daegu, South Korea, yesterday. Oliver won the race at 13:11

Ukah optimistic on new national team

...as hockey championship kicks off

From Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

THE President of the Nigeria Hockey Federation (NHF), Mr. Pat Ukah has expressed confidence that a new national team would emerge at the end of the Club championship which kicked off in Lagos on Tuesday.

Four male and four female teams are currently locking heads in the Atlantic Conference going on at the National Stadium, Lagos.

The teams are from Lagos, Delta, Rivers and Bayelsa with Rivers State showing lots of promises in the female category.

Speaking to TrustSports, the

President said that with what he had seen the nucleus of the new

Two Regional teams would now meet to decide who is the national champion

national team would emerge at the end of the championship.

He tipped Rivers State to win the Atlantic Conference because it has in its fold about six national players.

He disclosed that the Savannah Conference matches would start in Abuja in a fortnight adding that the board would at the end select players from the participating team to form two Regional teams.

"The two Regional teams would now meet to decide who is the national champion," he said.

Ukah added that players that are picked during the final would later don the colours of Nigeria at

African Hockey Championship in Lusaka, Zambia later on in the year.

He pointed out that hockey is back for real and called on past players save the game in the country by coming to their aid just as IEI, Union Bank and Coca Cola are doing.

Ukah explained that plans are in the pipeline to revive past championships such as Jerry Useni tourney, Sani Abacha and Yar' Ardua tournaments.

He said he was impressed with standard of play exhibited by the players and hope to see more at the Savannah Conference in Abuja.

SWAN writes IOC on NOC delayed election

From Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

The national secretariat of the Sports Writers Association of Nigeria (SWAN) has protested to the International Olympics Committee (IOC) on the delay in the conduct of elections into the new board of Nigeria's National Olympic Committee (NOC), seven months after the expiration of the tenure of the last board.

SWAN in a statement signed by its National President Saidu Abubakar and addressed to IOC President Jack Rogge and Association

of National Olympic Committees of Africa (ANOCA), urged IOC to take immediate action to save the nation's sports sector from total collapse.

According to the statement, all efforts to conduct fresh elections into the board have been frustrated by the outgoing NOC executive led by Engineer Habu Gumel.

It therefore appealed the IOC to intervene and puncture moves by the Gumel-led board to perpetuate itself in office, even as its tenure expired seven months ago; stressing that the move would not only

stagnate sports development in the country, but also lead to further decline in the fortunes of sports in Nigeria.

"We members of the above association in Nigeria (Sports Writers Association of Nigeria) with concern wish to draw your attention to our present predicament in the Olympic movement with the prayer that you use your good office to arrest the situation and take immediate action.

"We are concerned that after the expiration of the tenure of the present Executive Committee led

by Engineer Habu Gumel since November 2009, no election has been held to usher in new Executive Committee members. Painfully, there is no plan for such because every move to hold any has been frustrated by the expired board.

"Mr. Preside not, if you do not intervene, the continuous play by the present leadership of the NOC to perpetuate themselves will not only further stagnate the wheel of progress of the Olympic movement in Nigeria, but shall also entrench the dwindling fortunes of sports in Nigeria", the statement said.



FOCUS ON: FRANCE



Any hope for *Les Bleus* in post Zidane's era?

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

FRANCE was one of the four European teams that participated at the inaugural World Cup in 1930 and are one of seven national teams to have won the competition, which they did in 1998 when they hosted the Cup.

They defeated Brazil 3-0 in the epic final. France and England share the record of having one World Cup victory. France has also won two UEFA European Football Championships, winning the first in 1984, led by Ballon d'Or winner Michel Platini, and the most recent in 2000, led by FIFA World Player of the Year, Zinedine Zidane.

Following France's 2001 Confederations Cup victory, they became, along with Argentina, the only national teams to have won the three most important men's titles organized by FIFA: the FIFA World Cup, the FIFA Confederations Cup, and the Olympic Tournament. France's triumphant years began during the late 1990s because of the generation of Zinedine Zidane. This team started off well by reaching the semi-finals of UEFA Euro 1996. After the competition, Coach Aime Jacquet adopted a very defensive strategy, which was often ridiculed by French supporters.

Jacquet stepped down after France's World Cup triumph and was succeeded by his assistant, Roger Lemerre, who guided them through UEFA Euro 2000. Zidane cemented his FIFA World Player of the Year form, scoring a direct free kick in the quarter-final against Spain and a golden goal penalty in the semi-final against Portugal. In the finals, France defeated Italy 2-1 in a come-from-behind victory.

France, however, failed to maintain that pace in subsequent tournaments. Although they won the Confederations Cup in 2001, France suffered a stunning goalless first round elimination in the 2002 FIFA World Cup, possibly due in part to an injury to their key playmaker, Zidane. One of the greatest shocks in World Cup history condemned France to a 0-1 defeat to debutantes, Senegal, in the opening game of the tournament. After France finished bottom of the group, Lemerre was shown the way out. France struggled in the qualifiers for the 2006 FIFA World Cup. This prompted Domenech to persuade "golden generation" members, Claude Makelele, Lilian Thuram, and Zinedine Zidane out of international retirement to help the national team qualify.

That was France's first successful World Cup qualification since 1986 (France received automatic berths in 1998 and 2002, as hosts and defending champions). The team was greeted with modest expectations as it entered the World



Franck Ribery will be the key for Raymond Domenech's side



Thierry Henry's class will be instrumental for France at the mundial

Cup tournament.

The team had a slow start in the group stage and were in danger of being eliminated drawing their first two matches. However, France found their form and won their final group match to advance to the knockout rounds. There, Zidane scored or assisted in every game of the knockout rounds, contributing to the team's appearance in the final. At home, when news came of France's victory, there were mass celebrations at the Eiffel Tower and Arc de Triomphe. France took on Italy in the final and despite the loss they suffered in the penalties shoot-outs, Domenech's job was secured and extended to 2010 World Cup. Since then, things have not been rosy for Domenech and his men, thus struggling to stamp their authority in the World football of recent. Their qualification was extended to the playoff stage, where the controversial 'hand' of the team captain, Thierry Henry, won the World Cup ticket for them at the expense of Ireland.

SQUAD

The era of Patrick Vieira, Laurent Blanc, Youri Djorkaeff, Didier Deschamps, Marcel Desailly, Zinedine Zidane, Robert Pires, Thierry Henry, Lilian Thuram, Fabien Barthez, Emmanuel Petit, Frank Leboeuf, Christian Karembeu, Christophe Dugarry, Laurent Blanc, Bixente Lizarazu ended and left France groping in the darkness.

In spite of the poor rating of France by the book makers, Domenech's army went on to conquer all the teams in Germany, except the eventual winner, Italy. But, what followed later has left a bitter taste in the mouths of most French football fans, most of who have been calling for the sack of Domenech. Their World Cup qualifying campaign is far from satisfactory. Presently still, France can be said to have a great team on paper. Their players ply their trade in the biggest clubs of the world (Real Madrid, Chelsea, Arsenal, Barcelona and others), so the squad has potential to win the World Cup. France have a great attacking team with Anelka, Ribery, Henry, and Gourcuff. But, of recent, the Les Bleus have not found the good balance central defence. Gallas is good but Abidal is not a central defender and now Gallas is battling with match fitness, having just come back from injury. The defence where Thuram used to hold sway may pose a serious headache for Domenech in South Africa.

ROAD TO SOUTH AFRICA

It is an understatement to say that France had a very rough ride to South Africa. Not the greatest way to qualify it must be admitted. Thierry Henry's handball has been broadcast all over the world and a lot of people think that France should not be in South Africa.

France has always struggled to

qualify to these big events, but is here for the fourth time in a row, a record for the country. They made a bad start by losing to Austria, but were unlucky in Romania, where they only managed a draw and salvaged a point against Serbia where France played with ten men after Lloris was sent off in the 8th minute.

Against Ireland in the play-offs, France had the opportunities to score two goals at Croke Park but were in danger of being eliminated in Paris. We all know what happened next. During the play-offs against Ireland, Henry was involved in a controversy in the second leg of the game in the Stade de France on November 18, 2009. With the aggregate score tied at 1-1 and the game in the extra time, he used his hand twice to control the ball before delivering a cross to William Gallas, who scored the winner. France are there to win the World Cup. They have the players to do it, maybe not the coach though. But for sure, France will be a team to avoid and do not fear any team. The key will be Ribery. If he is at full strength, then Les Bleus will not be far from the title again.

DANGER MEN

Following the retirement of Zinedine Zidane, it was expected that Ribery would succeed him and become the national team's talisman. He went scoreless for almost a year and a half before converting

a penalty shot against England on March 26, 2008 at the Stade de France. Bayern Munich winger, Franck Ribery, has had a difficult season because of injuries. For a lot of observers he is the true leader on the pitch. France encountered a lot of difficulties to qualify because Ribery was not there, this is for sure. Since joining Bayern, Ribery has been recognised on the world stage as one of the best French players of his generation. The previous talisman of Les Bleus, Zinedine Zidane, has described Ribery as the "jewel of French football". No doubt, he is a player that will, to some extent, determine how far France will go in South Africa.

Very classy player for both country and clubs, Henry is an old horse that is still capable of performing some magic. South Africa 2010 is his last challenge in the national team jersey. He is simply the top goal scorer in the history of Les Bleus (51 goals) and should be the leader of the team in the Mundial. South Africa will be the first World Cup Anelka has ever participated in and definitely he will be motivated to perform well in the event that will be his first and the last. He is a leader on the pitch as his exploit in Chelsea has shown in the last two seasons.

COACH

Raymond Domenech's tactical strategies, perceived as poor and his team's slow start in the 2006 FIFA World Cup (recording draws against Switzerland and South Korea before finally defeating Togo) had seen him placed under further pressure. However, France turned the corner after the victory against Togo and started to play the passing possession football in which they were renowned for in their triumphs in 1998 FIFA World Cup and UEFA Euro 2000. They shone in the knockout round, which included impressive victories over favoured Spain, Brazil, and Portugal. France lost the final to Italy in a penalty shootout following a 1-1 draw after extra time. France's successful tournament caused the pressure on Domenech to be lifted slightly. Recalled golden generation veterans Zidane and Thuram earned spots on the All-Star Team, with Zidane being awarded the Golden Ball for the best player of the tournament.

WORLD CUP HISTORY

- 1930 Round
- 1934 Round
- 1938 Quarterfinals
- 1954 Round 1
- 1958 Third place
- 1966 Round 1
- 1978 Round 1
- 1982 Fourth place
- 1986 Third place
- 1998 Champions
- 2002 Round 1
- 2006 Runners up

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

kawumodibbo@dailytrust.com 08059100368 (SMS only)

The open political space and its enemies

About two weeks ago, ex-governors, under a platform called "Governors' Forum 2007", paid a "surprise" visit to the House of Representatives, and "DEMANDED (not 'requested'; my emphasis!) a return to the two party system that was prevalent during the ill-fated Third Republic in Nigeria". Those on the journey of demand included Chris Ngige, Achike Udenwa, Abubakar Audu Peter Odili, Abdullahi Adamu and Adamu Aliero; they were led by Victor Attah. *Thisday* newspaper of May 5, 2010, reported that "the delegation expressed disgust at the over-crowded political turf and urged the House to slash down the fifty-seven political parties in the country to a 'bearable number' before the 2011 elections". In response, Speaker Dimeji Bankole said there was "an indication that the House was thinking in that direction.... The House of Representatives is prepared to prune down the number of political parties...."

Since that visit, a lot has taken place on the anti multi-party track in the House of Representatives. On Thursday, May 13, 2010, *The Nation* newspaper reported a "rowdy session" in the House "as proponents and supporters" of a two party system "battled to have their way". Minority leader, Mohammed Ndume proposed an amendment to Section 80 of the Electoral Act, seeking the addition of Section 80(2) that "will make provision for two political parties in the country". The report added that "a deafening shouts of 'two, two' by members of the House followed the suggestion. It took more than 20 minutes to restore order in the chamber as members continued to shout 'two, two' with some displaying this with their fingers" The following day, May 14, *The Punch* newspaper reported a new twist; while some continued their support for two parties, others came out for five as a 'middle course'. The report said most PDP governors did not like the idea of two parties, because "the proposal may consume the PDP. There are many aggrieved people in the PDP right now who are certainly going to seize the opportunity to form a vibrant opposition"; therefore governors told their members "not to rush into accepting the two-party proposal".

So far, the idea has not been settled one way, but other elements of the political elite, like Bola Tinubu and Chief Akande of the Action Congress, have consistently supported a two-party system by fiat, such as Babangida's contraptions of SDP and NRC. It is instructive that the governors who went to the House of Representatives have no democratic antecedents. They did not participate in the struggle against military dictatorship but were beneficiaries of the Nigerian people's struggle against tyranny; however, they are instinctively wedded to the narrowing of the political space, hence championing the reduction of the number of political parties in Nigeria. Let us be clear about it. Historically, there has always been a tendency towards two broad political coalitions within the Nigerian ruling class. In the First Republic, there were the NNA and UPGA coalitions, literally replicated in the Second Republic, when the NPN juggernaut was opposed by the PPA alliance of the other four political parties in the country. By military fiat, Babangida herded politicians into two parastatals called SDP and NRC, to better control and eventually, stifle the political space during his dictatorship.

While the earlier traditions we spoke of did not assume the presumptuousness of closing the political space to smaller parties, the Babangida example which the political clowns hanker for, was not an advertisement for democracy,

given its bastard origins within the wombs of military dictatorship. Those who "demanded" for legislation by fiat, to close the space, also deceive themselves. The Electoral Act is not superior to Nigeria's Constitution, which guarantees the right of Nigerians to freely form political parties. It was a victory that Gani Fawehinmi won in the Supreme Court for lovers of an open democratic space in Nigeria. I checked these facts with Femi Falana last Thursday, and he added that the African Charter of Peoples and Human Rights states it clearly just as protocols of ECOWAS. Given that background, why are our political elite so enamoured of an anti-democratic instinct of narrowing the political space to exclude social and political forces uninterested in their politics of brigandage, looting of national resources and massive rigging of elections? If there are 100 political parties, isn't that the price to pay for an open democratic space? The Indian political space, for example, is very plural, and many small and a few very big political parties compete to run states and the country. That is why Indian ballot papers are very long to accommodate these parties; however there is a consensus for democracy, therefore elections are managed responsibly.

The Babangida example which the political clowns hanker for, was not an advertisement for democracy, given its bastard origins within the wombs of military dictatorship

The Nigerian political elite wants to impose a two party system by fiat, to consolidate the political space in the hands of two groups of bandits who hold the monopoly of looting Nigeria but periodically change baton amongst themselves, while the people are bystanders used to choose between the two groups of robbers. We must insist on plural politics in an open democratic space. Let a thousand flowers bloom, as the Chinese say. In a democracy, political parties can exist to win states or even local government areas, after all, all politics is really local. We don't improve democracy with just two political parties committed to nothing, just as we know our elite stand for no great ideas for national transformation. There is the serious level to democracy, but there is also the comical, which cannot be ignored, even in the context of ruling class hegemonic projects. In Britain, there is for example, the Monster Raving Looney Party, regularly appearing in electoral contests it can never win, but remains to let off political steam! Then there are smaller parties dedicated to causes like the environment. That is the meaning of democracy in action! We should not let them take away the space of open political party formation from the Nigerian people; many Nigerians died to earn us that space, at a time when the politicians visiting the National Assembly or making the laws to close the political space, were cosily in bed with military dictatorship.

Doctor Saraki at 77: The riddle of Gbemisola Saraki's Governorship posters

I spent last weekend in Ilorin, and my departure on Monday coincided with the celebration of Dr. Abubakar Olushola Saraki's 77th birthday. However the main issue was the takeover of Ilorin by posters of Gbemisola Saraki, announcing her plan to be governor of Kwara in 2011. The poster is a makeover edition of the senator: Muslim *Hijab* plus a new-found stress of Islamic name: RUQAYYA. Well, the standing order in Kwara PDP is that candidates should not come out with posters yet; but she is not just any candidate. Like the early bird which eats the choice worm, Gbemisola Saraki is already off the mark! Will Bukola Saraki hand over to his sister, in the first COMPLETE CONQUEST of a people by one family that Africa has ever known? What is the role of Dr Saraki, the father, in the unfolding scenario in Kwara? These hazy issues will become clearer in the weeks ahead. A Happy Birthday, *Wazirin* Ilorin.

SPORTS REPORT



NWANKWO Kanu

Portsmouth offer new contracts to Kanu

Portsmouth has offered new contracts to Super Eagles captain, Nwankwo Kanu and nine other players including David James and Hermann Hreidarsson following their relegation from the Premier League.

Ricardo Rocha is the other experienced player offered a new deal. The others are reserves.

Portsmouth said it offered the contracts "to build a strong squad capable of challenging

for the championship title."

The salaries are likely to be considerably lower than those on offer from Premier League clubs since Portsmouth owes creditors more than 100 million pounds (\$143.5 million).

Portsmouth released Angelos Basinas, Jamie Ashdown, Steve Finnan and OJ Koroma. They also let loan players Jamie O'Hara, Hassan Yebda, Aruna Dindane and Frederic Piquionne rejoin their home clubs.



ROMARIO has lunged himself into politics

Romario to run for Congress in Brazil

The Brazilian soccer star Romario is taking up a new game — politics.

The Brazilian Socialist Party says he will be one of its candidates for a seat in Congress in the October general elections. Romario's campaign coordinator says the former striker wants to concentrate on such issues as health and education.

In 1994, Romario led Brazil to the 1994 World Cup title and was voted the world's best player.

He joined the Brazilian Socialist Party last year. Campaign coordinator Marco San said Tuesday that Romario's candidacy to the lower house of Congress will be ratified at the party's convention in June.

