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190 MPs move to save Yar'adua

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

NEARLY 200 members of the House of Representatives from the 19 Northern States would foil any plan to impeach ailing President Umaru Yar'adua or declare him medically unfit to hold his office

by invoking Section 144 of the constitution, *Daily Trust* learnt last night.

Rep. Abdul Ningi (PDP, Bauchi State) told *Daily Trust* that the MPs held a meeting in his Apo Legislators' Quarters house in Abuja where they unanimously

agreed that any attempt to invoke section 144 to declare President Yar'adua incapacitated would not be condoned by them.

Ningi said, "The clamour now is for the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to invoke section 144 of the constitution to declare the

President incapacitated. But I tell you that we, the Northern members of the House would resist that attempt".

He added, "We initially thought that with our resolution Vice President Good luck Jonathan can act as President in order to reduce the

tension in the country. But we hear that some people are clamouring for the removal of the President, which we will not accept."

According to him, the MPs would also hold another meeting "this evening (Thursday) to

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PHOTO: SANI MAIKATANGA

FUNERAL prayers for 12 victims of a fire outbreak at Chiranci quarters in Kano yesterday.

Soldiers topple Tandja in Niger

By Mohammed S. Shehu & Aisha Umar with Agency report

NIGER Republic's President Mamadou Tandja's controversial plan to perpetuate his office after the constitutional limit of two full terms came to grief yesterday when the country's military overthrew the regime in a coup. Tandja himself was arrested and detained by the soldiers and at least three soldiers were confirmed dead, military sources told *Reuters* news agency.

Three Nigerien military sources said the coup was led by a soldier named Major Adamou

Harouna. "The coup has succeeded. It is being led by Major Adamou Harouna," one source said. The president and the ministers, who were rounded up as they held a cabinet meeting, were being detained not far from the presidential palace, the sources added.

Earlier in the day plumes of smoke were seen rising from the palace after soldiers attacked the building where Tandja was holding a meeting, sparking several hours of gunfire in the capital Niamey.

Political tensions have been high in Niger in recent months over Tandja's extension of his rule,

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Man loses 12 family members to fire

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

TWELVE members of the family of Alhaji Ahmed Kabiru Boss, a former oil marketing company worker, died late Wednesday in a fire outbreak in their house at Chiranchin Gabas quarters in Kumbotso Local Government Area of Kano State. The dead include four women and eight children. Their remains were buried yesterday around 12:45pm at Dandolo cemetery in Goron Dutse area of the state.

Although all the victims died in the fire, their bodies were still rushed to the Murtala Mohammed Specialist Hospital where they were certified dead by doctors and later deposited at the hospital's morgue.

Family sources said the fire

started from the kitchen around 11:15pm and spread to the adjoining room where the family members were chatting as others were asleep.

Daily Trust learnt that members of the family gathered at the house to attend the naming ceremony of a new born baby. The baby, named Umar, escaped the fire after being thrown out by his mother, Zainab, who was among the victims.

Zainab's mother, Hajiya Hajara Nafada, came from Gombe alongside other family members for the naming ceremony which took place Saturday. The visiting family members would have returned to Gombe yesterday.

According to a witness, Auwalu Mustapha, when the fire broke out, the neighbours gath-

ered and started a rescue operation. He said the victims were yelling for help but they could not be rescued because of the burglary proof attached to the windows.

"Because of the size of the baby, Zainab pushed him through the window to us and remained there to die since she could not escape," Mustapha, a neighbor, said.

The witness told our correspondent that when the fire was successfully put out, the remains of the nursing mother were found with her children and mother. "When we put out the fire, we found Zainab's body glued to her children and mother. She might have cuddled them around her," he said.

Another witness, Abdulsalam Mohammed, said when fire fighters arrived the scene, neighbours

had almost stopped the fire. He added that because of the poor access road to the area, fire service vehicles found it difficult to reach the scene on time.

According to the head of the family, Alhaji Ahmed Kabiru Boss, his wife, Zainab Ahmed Baba, his mother in-law, Hajiya Hajara Nafada, his sister in-law Halima and his daughter, Hauwa, were the adult casualties, while his four children, Usman, Aisha, Fatima and another three-year-old and four other relatives were the minors that burnt to death.

The bereaved said further that one of his children and one other woman jumped down from the upstairs unhurt. "When the boy yelled for help and he jumped down, I held him down and then another woman also cried out:

"Baba Fatima hold me down, I also helped her down. But when I forced open the door to rescue the rest, the fire roared back and forced me down," he said.

The state Commissioner of Police Mohammed Gana who was among the hundreds of people who attended the funeral prayer, prayed for the repose of the souls of the deceased. He said the burglary proof attached to the windows inhibited the rescue operation. Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau was also at the house of the bereaved to sympathize with them. After the weeping head of the family narrated to the governor how the incident occurred, the governor prayed for the repose of the souls of the deceased and for the bereaved to have the fortitude to bear the losses.

PIC: SANI MAIKATANGA

SSS arrest Kaduna naira sellers

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

OPERATIVES of the State Security Service (SSS) in Kaduna yesterday arrested five persons for engaging in the illegal business of buying and selling of new naira notes contrary to Sections 20 and 21 of the Central Bank of Nigeria Act of 2007.

They include Joshua Daniel, Sunday Igwe, Abubakar Musa, Jacob Ige and Sunday Agaba. They were also found violating the mandate bestowed on the CBN in the issuance of a legal currency.

Head of CBN's Branch Security, Kaduna, Malam Atiku Mohammed speaking shortly after the suspects were paraded, said they were arrested as part of efforts to enforce the provisions of the two sections of the CBN Act 2007. He said the sections prescribed as an offence, the selling, buying, spraying and squeezing of the Naira for which a six months imprisonment or a fine option of N50,000.00 or both are prescribed as penalties upon conviction.

According to him, the CBN has consistently embarked on enlightenment and sensitization across the country on the existence of the act, and the consequences for violating the act.

He added that the apex bank along with security agencies would not relent in the effort of sustaining raids on identified points of all forms of such abuses of the Naira.

The suspects were found with a large sum of 5, 10 and 20 Naira denominations. They will soon be charged to court.



A boy receiving blessings from Emir of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero's during Adaidaita Sahu official visit to the emir recently.

Sudden deaths on the rise—Doctor

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE rate of sudden deaths among Nigerians is increasing, the Medical Director of the National Orthopaedic Hospital Dala Dr. Kabir Abubakar has said. He said the trend was as a result of people's inability to manage circumstances leading to such deaths.

Abubakar said this yesterday in Kano while delivering a keynote address at the closing ceremony of a two-day workshop on basic life support for healthcare providers.

The workshop was organized by the hospital management in collaboration with the Emergency Response Service.

He said the workshop was aimed at equipping healthcare providers with knowledge on emergency management. He added that a good number of the lives lost to such situations could be saved through prompt and adequate response.

The Medical Director further said two other common causes of death among Nigerians are road traffic accidents and diseases.

He congratulated participants of the workshop as well as the hospital's host community saying, the workshop marked the inauguration of the hospital as a centre for training on managing emergencies for both healthcare providers and the general public.

Also speaking, the Executive Director of national and international programmes of the Emergency Response Service, Dr Chinez Nwauwa, said the workshop was a continuous process of equipping people from all walks of life with

the skills of handling emergencies of unconsciousness, perspiration and respiratory problems which cause death.

Nwauwa noted that it was important for everyone to be prepared as emergencies happen at any time. She said the process involves the use of user friendly portable equipment which could be operated by anyone with just a simple training, adding that the training also involves students and members of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC).

Liberian President ties Africa's future to leaders' roles

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

LIBERIAN President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf has declared that the success and survival of the people of the continent of Africa depended largely on the men and

women at the helms of authority with the women becoming full participants in the evolution process.

She also said the government of Liberia would seek to foster cooperation between the Uni-

versity of Agriculture, Abeokuta and the Agriculture College of the University of Liberia for faculty and technology exchange, staff development and research.

The first Africa female president dropped spoke at the 17th

convocation ceremony of the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB) where she was honoured with a Doctorate Degree (Honours Causas) of the university yesterday.

She said African universi-

ties had roles to play in the revitalization of the agriculture sector by reforming their curricula to become more relevant and responsive to the changing needs of farmers, the agribusiness community, and other stakeholders.

Operators disagree over FG's aviation bailout fund

By Mohammed S. Shehu

GOVERNMENT'S plan to provide bailout package for the troubled aviation industry may not be achieved following a lingering disagreement among the operators.

The Chief Economic Adviser to the Acting President, Dr Tanimu Yakubu, who gave the indication yesterday, expressed disappointment that after three months of consultation the operators could not approach government with substantial position paper.

Government had in October last year requested a comprehensive document detailing all the needs of the operators that require urgent government intervention; but the industry players failed to harmonise their position in a single document, thereby losing out in the supplementary budget.

The two warring factions of the domestic airline operators are the one led by the Chief Executive Officer, CEO, of Arik Airline, Mr Arumneze Johnson, and the other led by the Chief Executive Officer, CEO, of Overland Airlines, Captain Edward.

While some of the operators are not comfortable with the

Federal Government's direct bailout of the troubled aviation industry in the country, the other group appears favourably disposed to the idea.

The former group is canvassing for the establishment of an intervention fund under the Nigeria Airline Revival Action-Fund (NAIRA-FUND) where domestic airlines can access funds for technical as well as their operational requirements.

But the chairman of Arik Airline, who submitted an independent report on rescuing the aviation sector, urged the Federal Government not to support domestic airlines that are into promotion saying their actions are against robust business growth.

He was of the view that domestic airfares should be increased by over 100 per cent to enable domestic operators make ends meet.

Submitting the report of the "Presidential sub-committee on proffering solutions to challenges facing the airline industry in Nigeria," Edward Boyo, who is chairman of the committee in the report, said the immediate implementation of the report would go a long way in rescuing the troubled airline industry in the country.

Buhari, Atiku, others task Jonathan on electoral reform

By Sulaiman Bisolla & Abbas Jimoh

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has been urged to prioritize electoral reform among the numerous challenges facing the country.

Former Head of States Gen Muhammadu Buhari, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, ex-Governor Attahiru Bafarawa of Sokoto State, and ex-Governor Bola Tinubu of Lagos State, gave the charge yesterday in Abuja.

Arising from a one-day steering committee meeting of the National Democratic Movement, the opposition politicians unanimously resolved that electoral reform is the key to the future of democracy and survival of the country.

Others at the meeting include Chief Olu Falae, Prof. Pat Utomi and Senator Ben Obi among others.

"It is our hope that with an acting president the country will now recover from the encumbrances and face the numerous challenges waiting to be addressed. We wish to urge this leadership to focus on the most critical of these challenges which is electoral reform," said Alhaji Sule Hamma said.

The meeting also condemned the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for 'bugling voters register consistently and

with impunity', calling for immediate commencement of fresh voters' registration that can ushered in a credible voters register.

He said, "INEC has always bugled voters register consistently and with impunity. NDM condemns this criminal activity that has gone unchallenged. The Anambra election where 83 percent of registered voters were disenfranchised and where a governor is said to be elected by only five percent of the registered voters only underscore the urgency for these reforms. Given the fact that the next general election are months away, the steering committee strongly calls on the government to fast track and conclude the process of electoral reform."

On the expected transformation of the NDM into a mega political party, Hamma told Daily Trust that the process was refined with the setting up of a special committee made up of Buhari, Atiku, Bafarawa, Tinubu, Falae, Utomi and Obi to consult within themselves, their followers and other stakeholders to come up with the most acceptable and most inclusive form by which NDM can transform into a political party soonest.

The special committee is expected to submit its report next Thursday when the NDM meets for further development.

Controversy trails planned NITEL sale

By Yunus Abdulhamid with agency report

THERE were clouds yesterday over the \$2.5 billion planned sale of the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) following the denial by China Unicom of involvement in the bid.

Unicom's spokeswoman Sophia Tso told Reuters that there's no involvement of this project from the parent company, the listed company or any subsidiary of the company.

But Usman Gumi, managing director of GiCell Wireless limited and Authorised Representative of the New Generation Consortium Limited, said in a statement made available to Daily Trust that the Chinese firm showed interest in providing technical and managerial support.

He also showed Daily Trust a

document which he said was a commitment letter by the Chinese firm based on a consideration of a minimum of 20% equity participation on terms to be agreed.

Gumi said "the financial backbone of the New Generation Consortium is the Minerva Group of United Arab Emirates and they have what it takes to turn around NITEL and give Nigerians good telecommunication services."

He said the Minerva Group, not China Unicom is the lead financial partner of New Generation Consortium Limited.

However, shortly after the denial of involvement in the bid by Unicom, officials at Minerva FZ, Minerva Traders LLC and Minerva Middle East in the Dubai International Financial Centre told Reuters that they were not involved in the deal. Reuters also

said that calls to Minerva General Trading were not immediately answered.

Spokesman of the Bureau of Public Enterprises Joe Anichebe said the bid is still on. He also corroborated what Gumi said, that Unicom's European office had sent a letter offering technical support should the bid succeed and also the possibility of taking a 20 percent equity stake.

When Daily Trust drew the attention of Gumi about a purported denial of involvement in the bid by the Minerva group, he said: "The Minerva Group which we deal with has no website. Reuters must have contacted the wrong group in Dubai."

He also wondered why people should be skeptical about the transaction, adding that the BPE couldn't have qualified them without passing the necessary process.



PRESIDENT of Niger Republic Mamadou Tandja who was yesterday overthrown in a coup.

Minister lists conditions for power improvement

By Mohammed S. Shehu

UNLESS all the problems militating against the supply of gas to power stations are addressed, government cannot deliver more power to Nigerians, Power Minister Lanre Babalola has said.

The minister said as at December 2009, the country was generating about 3400 mega watts but that has drastically reduced to 2400 mega watts thereby losing about 1,200 megawatts.

He said the capacity to generate 4,000 mega watts has been compro-

mised as a result of lack of gas to the power plants.

Briefing reporters shortly after a meeting of the Steering Council of the National Independent Power Project (NIPP) with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan in Abuja, Babalola said his ministry was talking with the ministry of petroleum resources and Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) through Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) to remedy the situation.

He said there are two basic problems with gas supply; the first one

is the challenges with the pipelines and the pipelines have been compromised from time to time and even the ones evacuating condensates.

Also speaking, Governor Namandi Sambo of Kaduna State said the committee has noted the progress going on in the completion of the power generating plants, the transmission lines, the gas, pipelines, and the distribution networks.

He said some of the projects are expected to start production in the country soon.

Minister: policemen don't know how to shoot

By Turaki A. Hassan

AN average Nigerian police officer does not know how to aim and fire a shot at a target, Minister of Police Affairs Ibrahim Yakubu Lame has said.

Speaking when members of the Senate committee on Police Affairs visited his office on oversight functions, the minister said many police officers lack the necessary

training as specified by the United Nations.

He said although there was an annual recruitment of 50,000 policemen in the country within the last 10 years, there was no corresponding increase in training and facilities, those aspects were neglected by government.

"We have decided that 30 percent of the approved N1.5 trillion naira reform fund will be used for training, re-training and recruitment which will lead to discipline

and adequate reward. We have decided that the minimum salary of a police officer will be N50,000 naira per month," he said.

He said the Nigeria police has met and passed the 'one police man to 400 civilians' target as the force has 370,000 officers.

"But we don't have adequate security infrastructures in place, no technology and the environment so we need more police men. The government has not approved our request for raise the number

to 500,000."

Lame maintained that, as from now henceforth no policeman will be promoted without undergoing training and examination.

Earlier, Chairman Senate Committee on Police Affairs Senator Gbenga Ogunniya (PDP, Ondo Central) said they were on an oversight tour of all police formations to ascertain the level of progress made.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

UBA Deputy Managing Director, Faith Tuedor-Matthews (right) presenting vehicle tracker equipment to Inspector General of Police, Ogonna Onovo (left) in Abuja yesterday. With them is the bank's Relationship Director Dapo Soyemi.

Malaysian terror suspects to be deported

MALAYSIA will extradite nine foreigners detained last month over alleged links with international terrorist groups, officials said yesterday.

Home Minister Hishammuddin Hussein told state media the nine - whom rights activists say are from Jordan, Nigeria, Syria and Yemen - were on the "most-wanted lists" of their home countries and anti-terrorist organisations.

In comments confirmed by his office yesterday he said arrangements for the deportations were being made but did not give a date for their departure.

Malaysia announced last month it had detained the nine foreigners and one Malaysian for "acts of terrorism" and said they were members of a militant organisation tracked down in cooperation with foreign intelligence groups.

However, it has refused to confirm their identities or say which terrorist networks they are allegedly associated with.

Reports have variously said they were followers of the fundamentalist Wahhabi sect, or associated with the Nigerian student accused of trying to detonate explosives on a Northwest

Airlines plane on Christmas Day.

The 10 have been held under Malaysia's Internal Security Act (ISA) which allows for detention without trial and has been used against suspected terrorists as well as government opponents.

Syed Ibrahim Syed Noh, chairman of the Abolish ISA Movement, condemned the deportations and said the government should clarify what the suspects were accused of.

The Abolish ISA Movement has said 50 people were detained on January 21 as they attended a religious lecture on the fringes of the Malaysia capital Kuala Lumpur.

Court remands 108 persons over Jos crisis

By Atika Balal

AN Abuja Federal High Court yesterday remanded 108 persons in prison for acts of alleged terrorism and killing in the Jos crisis which claimed several lives on January 17.

The accused persons were arraigned in batches before Justice D. Okorowo and Justice Gabriel Kolawole who adjourned some of the cases to March 9, 18 and 24 respectively for hearing.

Some of the accused persons include Hasimu Abdullahi, Tijani Umar, Mohammed Sani, Emmanuel Dayaya and Samson Dan.

Meanwhile, 37 persons who allegedly participated in the mayhem were

arraigned before Justice Mohammed Garba Umar.

The suspects were arraigned on a 5-count charge ranging from terrorist acts to illegal possession of firearms and other acts which caused the death of several persons and willful damage to public and private properties.

The suspects however did not take their plea as their counsel challenged the jurisdiction of the court to entertain the matter.

He said the offences were allegedly committed in Jos, Plateau State.

Justice Umar adjourned till March 1 to enable the prosecutor respond to a motion challenging the jurisdiction of the court.

FG increases salary of poly, COE staff

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Federal Government has approved 53 percent salary increase and raised the retirement age for lecturers and staff of Polytechnics and Colleges of Education across the country.

The increase was as a result of persistent demands by the unions operating in the two tertiary institutions including Academic Staff Union of Polytechnics (ASUP), Senior Staff Association in Nigerian Polytechnics (SSANIP), Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASU), Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU), Senior Staff Union of Colleges of Education (SSUCOEN) and the Non-Academic Staff Union of Educational and Associated Institutions (NASU).

Speaking at the signing of agreement between gov-

ernment and officials of the union, Minister of Education Dr Sam Egwu said the core demands of the unions were met after rigorous bargaining and concessions.

Dr Egwu, represented by the Permanent Secretary in the ministry Professor Oladipo Afolabi, said government also approved of the Consolidated Tertiary Institutions' Salary Structure-15 (CONTISS 15) for senior lecturers of both the Polytechnics and Colleges of Education.

He said the two parties also agreed on the need to upgrade some of the polytechnics and Colleges of Education to degree awarding status and ensure improved funding of the institutions.

While commending the unions exploring dialogue rather than embarking on a strike, Dr Egwu said the agreement would be strictly adhered to.

EFCC protests move to halt trial of UBEC directors

By Misbahu Bashir

THE attempt by the four directors of Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) and three others to stall their trial over N787 million contract scam was refused by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The EFCC had filed an amended 64 count charge against Prof. Bridget Omotunde Sokan, former Executive Secretary of UBEC and three directors including Molkat Manasseh Mutfwang, Michael Mtonga Aule and Dr Andrew Ekpunobi.

Three other accused are Intermarkets USA; Intermarkets Nigeria Limited and Alexander John Cozma, a foreign contractor.

Head Media and Publicity of the EFCC Femi Babafemi said Counsel to Intermarkets USA, Intermarkets Nig. Ltd and Alexander Cozma J. O Ogundeye had requested the court to quash the 64 count charge but the prosecution counsel Wahab Shittu informed Justice Adamu Bello, the request was an attempt to delay the trial. The prosecution counsel was in the court with six witnesses.

Group warns against destabilising House

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

A group, Nigeria Youth Awareness Initiative, yesterday warned against causing disaffection in the House of Representatives, saying it would not hesitate to march on the National Assembly if the move is not checked.

The group said the latest plot as published by a national daily was a selfish distraction, adding that the National Assembly, and in particular the Bankole-led leadership of the House, deserves the support of all Nigerians at this critical

moment.

The group in a statement signed by its national coordinator Mr. Femi Akindele Lawson questioned why some members would want to create confusion in the House just because of alleged inducement.

He said: "We will stop at nothing to ensure that the current peaceful atmosphere endangered by the National Assembly resolution to move the country forward after a prolonged logjam over President Umaru Yar'adua health is sustained".



LAGOS State Governor Babatunde Fashola (third right), watching the class prefect, Miss Chidinma Emuchay (left), performing a laboratory test at the ongoing science fair during a visit to the St. Saviour's Schools, Yaba, yesterday. With him are Chairman, Board of Management of the school, Mr. Tom Ogboi (second right) and the head boy of the school, Master Eniola Olajuwon (right).

Soldiers topple Tandja in Niger

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which drew widespread criticism and international sanctions. State radio, which had been broadcasting normally, began playing military music. Witnesses said machine gun and heavy weapons fire erupted in the city at around 12 noon. Four hours later, most shooting had eased.

Hospital sources said at least three soldiers were killed in the clashes. Earlier, a Reuters witness saw five injured soldiers at a hospital. An intelligence officer, who asked not to be named, said the violence was a coup attempt that the presidential guard was trying to put down. A French diplomatic source called the incident a coup attempt but said the fighting was short-lived.

Tandja drew criticism and sanctions after dissolving parliament and orchestrating a constitutional reform in 2009 that gave him added powers and extended his term beyond his second five-year mandate, which expired last December.

The move, which removed most checks on Tandja's authority, abolished term limits and gave him an initial three more years in power without an election, drew international criticism.

“Tandja drew criticism and sanctions after dissolving parliament

West Africa's regional bloc ECOWAS suspended Niger and the United States terminated trade benefits, while former colonial power France also criticised Tandja last year.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) said it has endorsed yesterday's coup d'etat in Niger Republic and called on the coup plotters to quickly restore democracy as soon as possible.

ECOWAS, which has for months been attempting to broker a solution to the deadlock between Tandja and the opposition, said yesterday that it would send a mission to Niger to assess the situation, adding it would impose further sanctions on any group that took power unconstitutionally. Tandja has also faced a rebellion by northern Tuareg-led rebels, though analysts said they were unlikely to be involved in yesterday's events.

Nigeria's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ojo Madukwe, in a statement, expressed concern on the current situation in West African country. He appealed to political leaders in Niger to resolve their differences amicably in the interest of stability and to avert untold suffering by their nationals.

N/Assembly saved Nigeria from coup - Ekweremadu

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE resolution of the National Assembly to make Goodluck Jonathan Acting President may have saved Nigeria from a military coup similar to the one that just took place in Niger Republic, Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu has said. Reacting to the situation in Niger Ekweremadu said "If we hadn't done what we did here, no one can tell what would have happened here. May be our action saved us a similar fate. We surely know how to solve our problems at the right time."

Ekweremadu is the Deputy Speaker of the ECOWAS Par-

liament and Chairman of the ECOWAS Ad-hoc Committee on the Niger and Guinea crises.

"What happened in Niger was a case of President Mammadou Tandja refusing to listen to all of us when we were trying to solve the problem," Ekweremadu said.

Ekweremadu said, "He (Tandja) refused to share power and see what is happening."

He said ECOWAS sent a mediation team led by Nigeria's former Head of State General Abdulsalami Abubakar to the former Nigerien leader "but he refused to shift ground." Ekweremadu hopes the military would bring Niger back to the path of democracy.

Yar'adua: Reps' delegation to submit report Tuesday

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

SPEAKER of the House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole yesterday directed the 5-member delegation that went Saudi Arabia to visit ailing President Umaru Yar'adua but returned without seeing the Nigerian leader to submit its report latest by Tuesday next week.

The House's delegation included Reps Baba Shehu Agaie (PDP), Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP), Patrick Ikhariale (PDP), Moruf Fatai (AC) and Jibril Adamu (PDP).

Although the delegation did not see the Nigerian leader, it was due to submit its 'report' on the floor of the House last Tuesday but it failed to do so and postponed it to Thursday (yesterday).

But the report submission was not on yesterday's schedule of the House. A member of the delegation, Rep Ali Ndume raised a Point of Order demanding explanation from the leader of the team to explain to the House why the report was not on the order paper for presentation as promised.

When Speaker Bankole asked Rep Agaie why the report could not be presented, he said it was not presented because two members of the team, who were yet to return to the country after the Saudi visit, did not endorse it. Bankole directed that the report be presented on Tuesday.

190 MPs move to save Yar'adua

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find a way to confront whoever is clamouring for the removal of the President", adding that some people have brought regional sentiment into the matter.

Meanwhile, the House of Representatives yesterday rejected a Bill which sought to abrogate section 144 of the constitution thereby empowering the National Assembly to declare the President incapacitated.

House deputy Chief Whip Barrister Abdullahi Waziri Tambuwal confirmed last night that a meeting was indeed held, with some 50 House members in attendance. He said more meetings would be held shortly and that the MPs would not allow any more moves against President Yar'adua beyond the resolution to declare Dr. Jonathan as acting President.

Another senior MP told *Daily Trust* that the reason why the Northern MPs were regrouping at this time was due to "the way the person who has been asked to act [i.e. Jonathan] is conducting himself, and also the way people around him are conducting themselves even at this early stage." He said the MPs were particularly angry that Jonathan's first act in office was to punish former Attorney General, now Special Duties Minister Mike Aondoaka, but he refused to punish Information Minister Dora Akunyili for her own acts that embarrassed the government and for engaging Aondoaka in a public exchange.

The senior MP also accused Jonathan and people around him of orchestrating last Wednesday's Federal Executive Council [FEC] resolution to send a 6-man team to visit Yar'adua, preparatory to invoking Section 144 to declare

him incapacitated. Besides, he said, they were aware that Jonathan has already concluded plans to carry out more changes and sack many officials perceived to be loyal to Yar'adua. He said the Northern MPs would stoutly resist these moves.

Chairman of the Northern caucus, Rep Terngu Tsegba (PDP, Benue State) told *Daily Trust* last night that "such meetings are being held regularly", saying the one they had recently was over an issue that would protect the Northern region's interest.

He said, "Even if the northern members met, it was over an issue. It was not on issue of forcing anybody. I don't think anybody has canvassed for the President's impeachment to warrant the northern members to meet".

Also, Rep Mohammed Ali Ndume (ANPP, Borno State) said such a meeting of northern cau-

cus is meant to fashion a way out for the region, pointing out that the one held by the MPs was not a different one.

He said the MPs are more concerned about issues that would move the region forward rather than playing politics with the President's ill health.

The Bill is entitled "A Bill for an Act to Alter the provision of the constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and for other matters connected thereto".

Leading the debate, sponsor of the Bill, Rep Femi Gbajabiamila (AC, Lagos State) said when altered, it would take away the power of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) of determining the health status of the president thereby vesting it in the National Assembly. But majority of the MPs rejected it when the question was put by Speaker Dimeji Bankole.

Kogi varsity workers on warning strike

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

ACADEMIC activities at the Kogi State University, Anyigba, were yesterday paralyzed as the Joint Action Committee of the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) and Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities (SSANU) of the university began a three-day warning strike.

On the university campus yesterday, some members of the unions were seen in groups discussing the development, alleging that several correspondences to the state government over the non-implementation of the salary scale had not received any attention.

A statement jointly signed by the chairmen and secretaries of the unions in Lokoja yesterday read, "The governor's response and position in respect of outstanding arrears and allowances is unacceptable and since it is at variance with his earlier promise to settle the arrears, the congress resolved that anything short of block payment of the balance is not acceptable", the unions said.

SSANU Chairman Comrade Solomon Alfa said the decision to embark on the warning strike was due to government's attitude towards them.

According to Alfa, efforts by the leadership of the unions to prevail on the state government to look into the plight of the workers with a view to resolving the issue failed.

INEC deploys new electoral commissioner, scribe to Kwara

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Independent National Electoral Commission has deployed a new Resident Electoral Commissioner and an Administrative Secretary to Kwara State.

The Commissioner, Mr. Aniedi Ikoiwak, hails from Akwa Ibom State and has served in Bauchi, Baysa and Edo States. Mr. Shadrach Tukura who is the new Administrative Secretary is from the Federal Capital Territory and has served as an Administrative Secretary in Kogi, Nasarawa and Gombe States. Speaking to newsmen yesterday in Ilorin, Mr. Ikoiwak charged INEC workers in the state to be dedicated to their duties. He assured that electoral matters would be handled professionally.

200 Jos crisis orphans dumped in Toro -Rep

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE member representing Toro constituency in the Federal House of Representatives, Alhaji Abdullahi Tela, has alleged that over 200 orphans from Kuru in Plateau State have been dumped

in Toro Local Government Area of Bauchi State.

Tela told our correspondent yesterday in Jos that some of the orphans were in Tilde while a majority of them were kept in Toro town, all in his constituency.

He said three buses belonging to the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies, Kuru took the orphans to Toro and Tilde, adding that they were dumped in nearby villages intentionally to keep them away from the public or relevant authorities that may

visit the scene to assist them.

The legislator said he would inform the National Assembly to assist the orphans who were mainly school age children and appealed to relevant authorities to assist them with basic amenities.



PIC: NAN

FROM left: Governors Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State, Danjuma Goje of Gombe State, Gabriel Suswan of Benue State and Acting President Goodluck Jonathan at the National Integrated Power Project meeting in Abuja yesterday.

Nigeria has highest HIV infected infants-UNICEF

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

NIGERIA has the highest number of new born babies with HIV/AIDS in the world, the United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Chief HIV/AIDS Assistant Director Programme, Ambassador Jimmy Kolker, has said.

Ambassador Kolker said this yesterday when he visited Gombe State Governor Danjuma Goje. He said the statistics showed that the transmission of the dreaded virus from mother to child was

on the increase without the corresponding establishment of Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission centers (PMCTCs) in the country.

He added that statistics had also shown that Nigeria and South Africa had over 200,000 pregnant women infected with HIV/AIDS, but that South Africa was able to reverse the situation by establishing health care facilities which made it possible for the country to provide treatment to about 60 percent of the women. He maintained that Nigeria was only able to cover 11 percent of the targeted

population.

According to him, UNICEF is disturbed by the development, saying that was why a delegation from New York was sent to visit Nigeria and map out a strategy on how to assist in the prevention of the transmission of HIV/AIDS from mother to child.

He however commended the Gombe State government for developing policies aimed at addressing the issue. Ambassador Kolker added that only 5 percent of Nigerians under 15 could access anti-retroviral drugs while in other countries, over 50

percent of people within the same age bracket had access to medication.

Responding, the Governor Goje, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Alhaji Abubakar Sule Bage, said the present administration had built about 15 new secondary health care facilities aimed at addressing the problem. He added that the state had never relented in her efforts to curb the scourge, saying statistics had shown that the prevalence of HIV/AIDS had dropped from 8 to 4 percent in the state.

Sokoto to distribute 30 new Hilux vans to police

Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto. 18-02-10.

AS part of efforts to check the crime rate in Sokoto, the state government has ordered the supply of 30 brand new Toyota Hilux van for distribution to police in the state.

The gesture, according to

the state government was aimed at preparing the police to face the challenges ahead of them in crimes prevention.

Governor Aliyu Wamakko disclosed this yesterday when the new Police Commissioner in the state, Alhaji Muhammed Abubakar paid him a courtesy call at Government House Sokoto.

Wamakko decried the rampant cases of armed robbery especially along Marnuna/Isa/sabo Birni roads adding that the issue has in recent months become a source of concern to government and people of the state.

He urged the new police boss to intensify efforts towards addressing the menace.

The governor noted the need for good working relationship with the police considering the vital role they play towards ensuring the security of lives and property of the citizenry.

Earlier, new police boss expressed commitment to the success of his assignment in the state.



LIBERIAN president Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf (right), with former President Olusegun Obasanjo (left) and Governor of Ogun State, Otunba Gbenga Daniel (middle) after she was conferred with the Doctor of Science, honorary degree, by the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta at the 17th Convocation of the Institution yesterday.

Mohammed: Why I'm challenging my removal as NHIS boss

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

DR. Waziri Dogo Mohammed yesterday told Daily Trust that he resorted to court action to challenge his removal as the Executive Secretary of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) because it was unjustifiable.

Mohammed obtained an Abuja Federal High Court interim injunction restraining the Minister of Health, the Attorney General of the Federation and the NHIS from hindering his performance pending the determination of his case.

The Head of Service of the Federation Stephen Oronsaye had directed Mohammed to resign in line with the new tenure system for top bureaucrats in the public service which came into effect last year.

In the notice of appointment addressed to the Acting Executive Secretary and copied to Dr. Mohammed states: "You are to hand over the office of the Executive Secretary of the NHIS to Dr. Kenneth Korve, General Manager Technical Operation, who has been appointed as the Acting Executive Secretary of the Scheme."

Mohammed said he ought not to have been affected by the federal government's circular with regard to tenured appointments of serving public office holders because he assumed the post as a political appointee.

He said his case was unlike his colleagues in other agencies who were civil servants and also affected by the Civil Service Rules an excuse that was ignored by the board of the NHIS.

Mohammed was appointed Executive Secretary of the NHIS in March 2007 for an initial period of five years. Mohammed, who was until then a Consultant in the Hospital Services Department of the Federal Ministry of Health, applied for leave of absence to enable him serve the scheme in the next five years in line with the conditions of his appointment.

But in a letter signed on behalf of the Health Minister by Dr. H. B. Oyedepo, dated June 14, 2007, the Health Ministry advised thus: "Since you have taken up appointment as Executive Secretary of the NHIS, transfer of service is an appropriate mode of moving from the federal Ministry of Health to your new organization."

New FCT perm sec assumes duties

By Nasir Imam

DR. Goke Adegoroye, the new Permanent Secretary of the FCT ministry, officially assumed duties yesterday.

He was received by FCT Minister Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero who charged the new permsec to bring in his

wealth of experience to bear in the discharge of his official assignment in FCT.

Senator Aliero, who was represented at the occasion by his Chief of Staff, Abubakar Sadeeq Yelwa, described the new Permanent Secretary as a well experienced and highly seasoned administrator.

Dr. Goke Adegoroye expressed his desire to complement the efforts of the FCT Minister and the FCT Minister of State to move the Federal Capital Territory to the new level.

Dr. Adegoroye who hails from Ondo State is the 11th Permanent Secretary of the FCT Administration.

FG places premium on consultation and social dialogue

By Francis Okeke

THE Federal Government places high premium on consultation and social dialogue amongst stakeholders in industrial relations in its effort to promote sound and conducive industrial relations atmosphere in Nigeria. Minister of Labour and Productivity Amb Ibrahim Kazaure said yesterday in Abuja.

Kazaure stated this when he declared open a capacity building workshop for the players of industrial relations in the country.

He noted that the theme of the work-

shop which is promoting industrial harmony in the workplace through social dialogue would provide opportunity for a robust discussion amongst the social partners with a net target of coming out with recommendations that would help the country to achieve industrial peace and harmony for the attainment of socio-economic objectives.

Amb Kazaure, who was represented by Dr. John Olanrewaju, Director-General Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies (MINILS), said social partners need to update their knowledge and skills to ensure acceptable practices in negotiation and con-

flict resolution especially at this time of global economic crisis on the development agenda.

The Minister noted that the present administration is committed to consultation and dialogue as demonstrated in the recent composition of Government-Labour Relations Committee headed by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, the Standing Committee on Labour issues in the Oil and Gas Sector, the National Minimum Wage Committee as well as the ongoing nationwide consultations on the deregulation of the downstream oil sector.

Nigeria reiterates commitment to safe border post

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Federal Government has reiterated its determination to eradicate all forms of illegal Human Trafficking in the country by installing X-Ray machines for detecting persons smuggling across the Nigerian border.

Minister of State for Interior Chief Demola Seriki said this in Abuja when he received the Ambassador of The Netherlands, Mr. Arie Van der Wiel. He said Nigeria and The Netherlands is cooperating to fight cross border crime.

"Nigeria like any other country would continue to fight this battle with dedication despite the limited resources at the government's disposal," he said.

The minister assured that Nigeria would utilize the donated X-Ray Machines by the government of Netherlands for detecting persons smuggling across the Nigerian border. In his Speech, the Netherlands Ambassador said the X-Ray Machines, which his country donated to Nigeria, is to strengthen the fight against the fight against human trafficking.

NITEL sale: Staff call for debt settlement

By Francis Okeke

STAFF of Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) yesterday urged the Federal Government to ensure the payment of outstanding staff entitlements following government's sale of the company to the New Generation Telecommunications.

President of the National Union of Post and Telecommunications Employees (NUPTTE) Comrade Sunday Alasan said in Abuja that "all labour issues particularly outstanding terminal benefits of workers exited as well as unpaid arrears of salaries owed its current staff must be first line charge items on the sums accruing to BPE from this new deal with the Chinese."

He added that "while job creation for qualified Nigerians should not be toyed with and ex-NITEL staff willing to return to work for the company accommodated, we call for vigilance by Nigerian Immigration and other security services to forestall a situation where expatriate quota regulations will be flouted as has been the case in other sectors of the economy."

"Not again should BPE's management, or any other agency for that matter, get away with failure to enforce so-called privatization agreements contracted with benefiting entities."

Alasan said the union was compelled to make the call due to the "debilitating crisis that has continued to plague (NITEL) and the misguided/failed attempts by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to 'revamp' the company."

Rawlings, Chissano for mayors' conference

By Aisha Umar

FORMER Ghanaian President Jerry Rawlings and Former Mozambique President Chissano are expected to deliver goodwill messages at a Mayors' conference scheduled for Abuja between March 4 and 7, 2010.

The Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON) was granted the right to host the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) Pan-African Electoral Assembly tagged 'UCLGA Abuja Unity Congress'.

Mayors from 52 African countries, the executives of UN-Habitat and top officials of United Cities and Local Governments from Europe are to attend the conference.

According to a statement signed by the Chairman of UCLG Pan African Electoral Assembly Local Organising Committee, Mr. Tajudeen Toyin-Oke, the decision to grant Nigeria the hosting right was taken in London early this year, by United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), which is the world organization of cities and local governments.

This, he noted, was in recognition of the significant roles that ALGON, through its National President, Honourable Ibrahim Dasuki Jalo, played in bringing back unity and peace to the African section of the world organization.

The African section of UCLG known as United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA) Founding Congress was declared open by Former President Olusegun Obasanjo as the then Chairman of Africa Union in May 2005 in South Africa.

Army, religious leaders parley on Jos cemetery

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

NIGERIAN Army representatives yesterday met with religious and community leaders at the Jos Central Mosque headquarters of the Jama'atu Nasril Islam JNI in Jos North Local Government over the Muslim cemetery in Rusau village.

Army representative, Major B.A. Amakor, who presided over the meeting said they went to seek cooperation to suspend burial at the Rusau village for sometime in

other to allow them to meet with inhabitants and community leaders of the area to find an amicable way of resolving an existing disagreement.

On Tuesday, some youths barricaded the road leading to the grave yard, saying they had banned the burial of corpses in Rusau which led to a disagreement that was contained by security forces.

Major Amakor said on Wednesday, one student was killed as a result of the argument

over the burial ground and students in the area said they would not allow people to continue using the burial ground.

He advised the community members to use the Naraguta burial ground temporarily to sort things out, adding, "You should call the youths to order, to stop abusing and stoning soldiers in some places because soldiers are there to help to maintain peace and not to molest anyone."

If anyone finds a soldier wanting, he should report to the

appropriate authorities through their community leaders", he said.

Major Amakor added that they deployed adequate security personnel in Rusau Village after they received a JNI letter requesting for the deployment and advised those who want to go and repair his damaged buildings to do so.

State Secretary, General of JNI Plateau State chapter Alhaji Alhassan Shuaibu thanked the commandant for his effort to educate the community members on

the importance of peace and said they had accepted his proposal to suspend burial in Rusau. He expressed the hope that the suspension would not be longer than necessary.

Alhassan Shuaibu however said the Rusau burial ground belonged to the Muslim community who bought it with their money and have documents for the purchase, adding that the Naraguta burial ground was a rocky area where it is difficult to dig graves.



FROM right: Minister of Petroleum Rilwan Lukman, Minister of Finance Mansur Muhtar and Minister of Justice, Adetokunbo Kayode during the NIPP meeting in Abuja, yesterday.

Ajibola commission report fair-Madugu

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

FORMER Minister of State for Agriculture Jonah Madugu has described the Prince Bola Ajibola report on the 2008 Jos crisis as fair, saying it had touched on the root cause of the crisis and made recommendations that would bring lasting peace in the state.

He noted that Ajibola is a highly respected jurist of international repute who has handled many responsible tasks all over the world with dignity and respect hence cannot be said to be biased on the 2008 Jos crisis.

Madugu who spoke with our correspondent on phone, said he was not surprised by the kind of reaction the report generated in certain quarters.

The former minister said it would be unfortunate if people do not accept the report because according to him, there must be an end to the investigations while a lasting solution should be found for the Jos crises.

"If they don't accept this report then which one will they accept?" he asked.

Madugu urged all concerned to accept the recommendations of the commission, stressing that a solution must be found to the incessant crises in the state. The Ajibola commission had indicted the Hausa Fulani community in Jos for the 2008 crisis and recommended that a certain leaders be thoroughly investigated by the police.

“If they don't accept this report then which one will they accept?”

Kuru Janta killers were outsiders—survivor

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

A survivor of the killings at Kuru Janta village in Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State, Mallam Adamu Muhammad, said yesterday that those who attacked and killed Fulanis in the village were not residents but outsiders brought in vehicles.

He said the attackers came

with assorted weapons in various Hilux vans whose plate numbers were removed and descended on the villagers, killing men, women and children.

Mallam Adamu, who met the Chief Solomon Lar committee when he came to pick pieces of his belongings from the village, said the attackers showed no mercy towards the Hausa-Fulani

population as they attacked even a pregnant woman who was giving birth to a baby, killing her and the child. He said most of the bodies of people killed were stuffed in wells and sewages, but that it was after the crisis that the bodies were evacuated.

The Solomon Lar committee was at the Kuru Janta village as well as Bisichi and Bukuru mar-

kets to assess the level of destruction that took place during the crisis.

Lar declined a press interview but had informed the traders at the Yan shanu market in Bukuru that his committee had been sent by the Federal Government to look into the recent crisis and find ways of ensuring that lasting peace reigns in Jos.

Plateau teachers suspend strike

From Mahmud Lalo & Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Plateau State chapter of the Nigerian Union of Teachers (NUT) has suspended their indefinite strike following the non implementation of the 27.5 per cent Teachers Salary Structure (TSS) by the state government.

The teachers started strike since June last year. It was called

off in October after the intervention of the Gbong Gom Jos Dah Jacob Gyang Buba and reached an agreement with government to pay them their allowances, but three months after the agreement, government was not able to implement the agreement. The teachers resumed strike on Monday, January 10, 2009 but government insisted that only teachers with NCE certificates would be paid the increase and that they

would know these teachers after a verification exercise.

The chairman of the NUT in Plateau State Comrade Gunshin Yarnling told *Daily Trust* yesterday that they decided to suspend the strike till March 31, 2010 to give government the chance to implement the TSS and to show their appreciation that government paid them their November and December salaries.

They are now waiting for the

January salary which was delayed due to the e-payment system.

Mr Yanling said government approved payments of their 2007 and 2008 leave grants and advised teachers to resume work.

Special Adviser to the Governor on Labour matters Hansi Suleiman said the leave grant had been paid to the teachers, adding that what remained now was the 27.5 per cent the teachers are demanding.

Group opposes second term for Iwu

By Muideen Olaniyi

AN anti-graft group, Movement Against Corruption, MAC, has said the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Maurice Iwu does not deserve reappointment after completing his present tenure.

Imam AbdurRahman Ahmad, chairman of the Movement stated this yesterday in Abuja while fielding questions from journalists.

Ahmad said: "I think Nigerians have spoken. Enough of Iwu! Let him go and rest" Iwu's tenure expires in June this year.

He however added but if you bring an angel to come and head INEC, we are going to have the same problem. With the present system, if you bring an angel and you give him one week, he will become a devil.

According to him, the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan should speed up the process of

reforming the electoral system based on the reports of Uwais Panel ahead of the 2011 election.

He said it is also necessary to reform the party system where people should form a party and be the stakeholders not a few elite, dismissing the proposed mega party. "The nonsense called mega party cannot even work as well under the current situation," he added.

Ahmad lamented the performance of the two prominent anti-

corruption agencies in Nigeria noting that past corrupt public officers are still going about their business unhindered.

He demanded that Acting President should take deliberate and legitimate steps to ensure that the fight against corruption receives fresh bites adding that he should make categorical statement on his vision for ensuring that Nigeria was taken seriously as a country that is willing to combat corruption.

180 Turkish trade delegates to visit Nigeria next week

By Aisha Umar

ONE hundred and eighty Turkish delegation comprising representatives of some of the large companies in the furniture, construction and automobile sectors, among others and high level government bureaucrats will visit Abuja between February 22-24 as part of the programme organized by the Nigerian Investment Promotion Council (NIPC).

A statement from Turkish embassy added that during the visit Turkish businesspeople will hold bilateral discussions with their Nigerian counterparts and participate in the 31st Kaduna trade fair. The delegation will also pay courtesy calls on government authorities in Abuja.

More than 90 Nigerian companies and businesspeople have registered for the Investment Forum so far, with the number of registration increasing every day.

The visit is expected to attract new investment opportunities in Nigeria and Turkey and significantly contribute to the ever increasing bilateral trade between the two countries" it stated.

Akunyili lauds WOTCLEF's fight against trafficking, child labour

By Akor Ojoma

INFORMATION and Communication minister Professor Dora Akunyili yesterday commended the Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) for impacting the lives of women and children.

She made the commendation in her address at the occasion to mark the 10th year anniversary of WOTCLEF in Abuja.

She said the foundation has helped countless women and children in Nigeria through its fight against the menace of trafficking in persons and child labour, adding that several people and wives of political office holders started projects but abandoned them once they are no more in office.

"WOTCLEF has taught us all that service to humanity doesn't end with office," She described Mrs Titi Abubakar, founder of the organization as a woman with a heart of gold whose vision in establishing WOTCLEF not only created massive awareness about trafficking but also the passage of the Anti-Human Trafficking Act and establishment of the Federal Agency called National Agency for the Prohibition of Traffic in Persons and other related offences (NAPTIP).

In her response, Mrs Atiku Abubakar decried lack of support by state government in the fight against trafficking and child labour.



FROM left: Minister of Information and Communications Professor Dora Akunyili; Chairperson, Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) Chief Mrs. Titi Abubakar and wife of the Deputy Senate President Mrs. Nwanneka Ekweremadu, at the 10th anniversary of WOTCLEF in Abuja yesterday.

Senate's constitution review report ready soon - Ekweremadu

By Turaki A. Hassan

DEPUTY Senate President Ike Ekweremadu said the report of the Senate Committee on the Review of the 1999 Constitution (SCRC) will soon be out but did not give a date.

Ekweremadu, who is the Chairman of the committee, however said the proposed recommendations to the Senate are yet to be discussed and agreed upon.

He urged the public not to believe the recent newspaper reports saying the committee has

agreed on a number of aspects of the constitution.

The Senator said the proposed meeting of the Senate and the House of Representatives Committees in Uyo, Akwa-Ibom State, is one of the processes adopted for the discussion of all issues generated by the Committees during the public hearings.

"We are committed to our timeline which is to submit the report within the first quarter of the year. Let me also assure Nigerians that there is a commitment of both Houses of the National

Assembly to push the amendment through and avail it to our country for the conduct of the next general elections."

The committee had at different times said the report would be ready by the first quarter of this year.

A supremacy battle between the two chambers truncated the work of the Joint National Assembly Constitution Review Committee (JCCR) early last year after which they decided to go their separate ways in amending the constitution.

Yar'adua: Group wants ministries probed

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE National Coalition for Greater Nigeria (NCG) has challenged the anti-graft agencies to probe the financial transactions and contracts awarded by min-

istries since President Umaru Yar'adua left the country in November.

President of the group, Taiye Oghogho Garrick who gave the advice yesterday in Abuja said the Economic and Financial

Crime Commission (EFCC) and Independent Corrupt Practice and other related offences Commission (ICPC) to investigate activities of the ministries over allegations of shady deals.

The group also admonished

the Acting President to immediately dissolve the Federal Executive Council because Nigerians have lost faith in them, adding a new cabinet should be made of people with track records.

Cleric urges Muslims to pay Zakat

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Director and Chief Imam of Al-Habibiyah Zakat Foundation, Imam Fuad Adeyemi yesterday in Abuja advised Muslims to pay Zakat to fast track national development.

He was speaking ahead of the maiden public disbursement of Zakat by the foundation to over 40 beneficiaries who are to receive between N30,000 and N100,000 next week in Abuja.

He said the negligent of Zakat contributed in no small way to the recent global economic meltdown with millions of people worldwide losing their wealth and jobs. He added that the religious uprisings in many parts of Nigeria are results of unpaid Zakat.

"It is disheartening that despite the massive human and material resources Allah endowed Nigeria with, the country is still ranked as one of the poorest in the world with living below poverty line. If we pay our Zakat as at when due and disbursed in accordance with Qur'anic injunction, we would not have been this poor," Imam Adeyemi said.

While explaining that only five Muslims donated what would be disbursed, he said that people outside FCT would not be able to benefit as the donors were FCT residents and in line with rules governing disbursement.

"We plan to establish a forum for beneficiaries where they would be trained in a collaborative programme with the NDE and NAPEP among others," he said.

Yuguda appoints 952 aides

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

BAUCHI State Governor Isa Yuguda reshuffled his cabinet with the appointment of 56 Senior Special Assistants, 289 Special Assistants and 607 Personal Assistants. He has

also presented the names of 10 people to the state House of Assembly for screening and approval for appointment as commissioners.

They include former Commissioner for Commerce and Industries and former Marketing Manager of Ashaka Cement

Company, Alhaji Yerima Giade, Alhaji Mustapha Sale Hassan, Alhaji Ahmed Muktar, Engr. Usman Aliyu Mohammed and Alhaji Samaila Ibrahim. The others are Alhaji Sale Idris Abubakar, Abubakar Ubale Ibrahim, Mohammed Yahaya Jalam, Zakari Ibrahim

and Alhaji Tasi'u Mohammed. It would be recalled that the governor recently dropped five commissioners but re-appointed them as Special Advisers with the exception of Dr. Alhaji Bello, the former Commissioner for Health.



FROM left: Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Paul Dike, in-coming President, Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria, Mrs. Iniobong Louisa Usoro and President, Nigerian Society of Engineers, Chief Olumuyiwa Ajibola, at the investiture of Iniobong Louisa Usoro as the 11th president of the association in Abuja yesterday.

Oshiomhole asked to act on tuition fees

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

EDO State Governor Adams Oshiomhole has been asked to look into the hike in tuition fees in the state's educational institutions which caused the recent riot and closure of the Ambrose Alli University, Epe.

A school proprietor, Mr. Kenneth Imansuangbon, made the call Wednesday at the Irrua Specialist Teaching Hospital in Edo State while on a sympathy visit to students who sustained gunshot wounds during the demonstration.

Condemning the increase in school fees by more than 100 per cent, he said since parents

are the ones who bear the brunt of the increase, it would not be unwise for government to consider reducing it. He also condemned the idea of bringing in security agencies in matters that could be resolved amicably, adding, "Oshiomhole during his days as NLC president championed demonstrations and nobody fired a single gun shot at him".

While making a donation to one of the victims, Mr. Isobor Okojie, a 100 level student of the AAU to take care of his medical bills, Imansuangbon however enjoined students to always tow the path of peace in conflicts of such nature. Meanwhile, the Chief Medical Director, Irrua

Specialist Hospital, Prof. George Akpede, has appealed to governments at all levels and philanthropists to come to the aid of accident victims through donations.

Prof. Akpede made the appeal while reacting to the N500,000 donation by Mr. Kenneth Imansuangbon to the hospital to enable it take care of accident victims. Akpede noted that giving brings more blessings than receiving, saying, "It is not the amount but the spirit behind the giving that is important".

He urged well meaning individuals to emulate the Mr. Imansuangbon's gesture by making use of this Lenten season to help the needy.

Police call for arms, warn Jos warlords

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

PLATEAU State Police Commissioner Mr. Ikechukwu Ayo Aduba has appealed to the people of the state who acquired arms to turn them in.

Aduba made the call Wednesday in Jos at the passing out parade of the command's special anti robbery squad (SARS). He said, "Any useful information leading to the recovery of arms illegally acquired will be handsomely rewarded by the police". He said the SARS out-

fit was meant to be a special squad to respond swiftly to any distress call from all part of the state and that three bases had been established for it. Bases one and two are in Bukuru being the hotbed of restiveness while base three will be in Nassarawa Gwom area. He announced 08050375280, 08062956352 and 08038907662 as dedicated distress call numbers of the squad.

Mr. Aduba warned members of the SARS squad to shun corrupt practices, adding that a

monitoring unit would be set up by the command to check its activities in other to ensure that they conform to statutory dictates and ethics of the police force.

The commissioner said displaced persons would be allowed to build or reconstruct their damaged homes without any hindrance or molestation adding, "Let this serve as a clear warning to the warlords to sheath their swords as any form of breach of peace will not be tolerated".

BUK to honour Dangote, Fafunwa, Imam

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

BAYERO University Kano will next weekend award honorary doctorate degrees to the president of Dangote Group Alhaji Aliko Dangote, former chairman of Megatech Telecommunications AVM Nura Imam and former Minister of Education Professor Aliyu Babatunde Fafunwa and Professor Idris Abdulkadir.

A statement from the university's Public Relations Officer Mustapha Zahraddeen said the degrees would

be awarded at the 28th convocation ceremony of the university billed for 26th and 27th February. During the convocation, the statement said, higher degrees, diplomas and honorary degrees would be awarded to deserving people.

"In addition, awards, prizes and scholarships will be given to deserving winners. Also, the Vice-Chancellor Professor Attahiru Muhammadu Jega will give a pre-convocation press conference on 23rd February, 2010," the statement added.

Use Lent to pray for Yar'adua, Christians urged

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

GOVERNOR Mohammed Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State has urged Christians to use the Lenten period to pray for the quick recovery of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

The governor in a statement from the state Bureau for Religious Affairs (Christian matters) signed by the Permanent Secretary Mr. John Waje Bago enjoined them to also use the period to pray for peaceful co-existence in the country.

"We should accept the way of the cross which brought us salvation. We should also use this period to pray for peace in our nation and state. Pray for the president of our country and all the sick. Also, pray for the Haitian nation whose people are devastated by earthquake," Governor Sambo said.

He described the Lenten period as a time of sober reflection on the past and present ways of life.

"It is a period during which the grace of God abounds, forgiveness of sins received and the love of God and neighbours strengthened," he said.

Emir tasks youths on self improvement

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

THE Wazirin Gwandu, Abdullahi Umaru, has enjoined 600 youths recently empowered by the Kebbi State government to utilize opportunity by being useful to themselves and their immediate families and society.

"Our idea is to make you holistic men and women in life. This is the time to appreciate the gesture of government and become good ambassadors of this state in your respective endeavors," he told the beneficiaries at a recent presentation ceremony in Birnin Kebbi.

Obasanjo did not visit Yar'adua — Yakubu

From Hisham Habib, Kano

FORMER President Olusegun Obasanjo did not visit President Umaru Yar'adua, who is recuperating in a hospital in Saudi Arabia as reported, the Chairman of the Governing Board of the National Orientation Agency (NOA) Alhaji Yusuf Yakubu said yesterday in Kano.

He was reacting to reports that the former president was in Saudi Arabia where he saw the ailing president in a critical condition. Alhaji Yusuf maintained that Obasanjo did not see President Yar'adua and that the report was the handiwork of mischief makers. He said he was in touch with people very close to the president and that there was no time the former president visited Yar'adua.

"We are running away from the constitution, that is why we are having problems. The calls asking the president to resign are myopic and indeed unconstitutional. This is not the first time the president of a country is taking ill, yet people are making a fuss about it", he said.

He said Nigerians should strive to protect the democratic process which according to him was under threat.

How Nigerian universities can get global relevance — Emodi

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

NIGERIAN universities have been urged to partner their counterparts elsewhere in the world, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Education Dr. Joy Emodi has advised.

In her lecture titled, "Issues in global competitiveness in university education: The Nigerian university system in competition for relevance" delivered at the 17th convocation lecture of the University of Agriculture Abeokuta (UNAAB), Ogun State Wednesday, Emodi said the partnership could be in offering joint degrees, initiation of academic programmes in emerging scientific and technological areas as well as developing collaborative research projects and exchanges.

She said stakeholders should work hard to improve local access and utilization of modern ICT for teaching, learning, research and publications.

"The federal and state governments as well as the private sector should as matter of national priority invest in enhancing the national high-speed internet backbone while encouraging its application to work and recreation to make service delivery more efficient", she said.

Ex-NITEL workers demonstrate over unpaid entitlements

From Ismail Mudahsir, Kaduna

FORMER workers of the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) yesterday in Kaduna demonstrated over the non-payment of their entitlements.

The former workers who demonstrated at the NITEL quarters in Sabon Tasha in Kaduna metropolis under the NITEL-

MTEL consultative forum, carried placards which read, "Pay our allowances, Hurray NITEL sold, Pay us our money, We are dying".

Speaking to *Daily Trust*, the Coordinator of the forum, Engineer Christopher Okoro, urged the Acting President to direct that their entitlements be paid from the proceeds of the sale of the company.

He decried the non payment of their entitlements by the Federal Government, saying the entitlements given to them by former President Olusegun Obasanjo was the one for dead persons as contained in their conditions of service.

"In NITEL, any staff member who loses his or her life in the course of service will be paid five years pension at once.

But in his way of doing things, the former president forced the dead persons benefit on us. All efforts to resist it were unsuccessful. We are over 8,000. Our situation is very pathetic", he said.

Engineer Okoro said the Federal Government was yet to pay them their October 2006 salaries, redundancy allowance and life pension.



FROM left: Dr. Alhassan Zaku, Minister of Science and Technology, Mr. Nicholas Damashi, out-going Permanent Secretary, Prof. Oye Ibidapo-Obe, President, Nigeria Academy of Science, Prof. Okonti Nduka, President, Nigeria Academy of Education and Prof. Femi Ajibola, President, Nigerian Academy of Engineers, at a meeting between minister and presidents of National Academies and Selected Eminent Professionals in Abuja yesterday.

Federal Poly Bida to verify results

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Federal Polytechnic Bida, Niger State, has concluded plans to embark on the verification of all results tendered for admission into the institution.

The rector Alhaji Abdullahi Sule said this yesterday in Bida at

the matriculation ceremony for the 2,800 students admitted for the 2009/2010 academic session.

"All we want to do is to ensure that the credentials presented to us by the students are genuine, and not fake or forged. This is necessary to maintain our standard", he said.

He added that it would no longer be possible for people to use fake results to gain admission into the institution, saying the authorities would exploit all available avenues to ensure that such persons were caught and brought to book.

Sule advised the students to shun cultism, drug abuse, exami-

nation misconduct, fraud and other social vices.

The rector added that the security committee of the institution had been resuscitated, saying top security officials within and outside the school had been drafted into the committee to ensure adequate security for students.

Sheriff on assessment tour of LGs

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

GOVERNOR Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno State Wednesday led top government officials including those at the National and state Assemblies, commissioners, state party executives, special advisers and assistants, women and youths of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in Borno on a tour of the northern part of the state.

The Secretary of the ANPP in the state Alhaji Yusuf Adamu had in an interview told our cor-

respondent that the tour was not political, but part of a normal government routine because the governor is the chief executive of the state and has the responsibility of going round local government areas to see finished or ongoing projects.

They are expected to visit about eight local government areas in the northern senatorial district of the state.

A source said the governor would also hold talks with key politicians, groups and associations.

Kaduna health workers suspend strike

From Ismail Mudahsir, Kaduna

AFTER paralyzing health care delivery in Kaduna State for three days, striking health workers in the state yesterday suspended the strike after reaching an agreement with the state government.

The suspension of the strike followed a meeting that lasted till Wednesday night and the intervention of religious and traditional leaders. The state's Head of Service Alhaji Habib Balarabe represented the state government while Dr. Williams Ayet represented the

workers.

The state government in the agreement accepted to introduce the new Medical Salary Structure - (CONMESS) for medical doctors and CONHESS for medical health workers in its services and the 23 local governments with effect from March, 2010.

"The Kaduna State government and the health workers union concerned have agreed to continue negotiations on further improvements of the rates under the newly introduced Kaduna State CONMESS and CONHESS."

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



GENERAL T.Y. Danjuma

TY Danjuma donates N15bn to needy

I do not want to know how TY got his money, but I really admire the fact that a Nigerian, who has been blessed with wealth could open up his heart to millions, who the government has done nothing to alleviate their suffering. God bless you, Danjuma. I hope the money gets to those who really need it.

Chima Nwaobia
cnwaobia@yahoo.com

Nigeria, we hail thee. We need more of that.

Mohammed Bashir
allendo45@hotmail.com

God bless you Sir. From multi-billion naira library to health care facilities and now 15 billion naira to charity. I urge the elite in Nigeria to emulate Gen. T. Y. Danjuma.

Debbel Bappa
jsgirei@yahoo.com

May Allah provide you with more.

Abdul Abu Funtua
abuabdulfta@yahoo.com

May God reward the General for his care for the poor.

Bala Musa Toro
balamusatoro@yahoo.com

Beginning of the end: Six-man FEC team to visit Yar'adua

I have no grudge against anyone visiting the ailing president, but there is a need for the visitors to have clear assurance from the hospital authorities that they'll be allowed to see him. Tax payer's money is being wasted in this Yar'adua saga as a lot of money is spent on these trips. Moreover, let this be the final trip for the sake of the country.

Hafizu Murtala
mhafizu@yahoo.com

They are doing this now, because Goodluck is Acting President. They want to impress him.

Abubakar
asslere@yahoo.com

Dr Jonathan, I believe you have a lot of potentials, beware of those hawks around you. But come to think of it, why send a delegation to see the ailing president when we know the obvious, his wife will not allow them to see him.

Eunice
eapinke@yahoo.com

May Allah grant the president a quick recovery. The visit is in order though, belated. Upholding our constitution is the best way out. May we not witness this kind of situation again in Nigeria.

Al-Amin
aminja09@hotmail.com

This is a very good decision by the Federal Executive Council. We hope they will come back with meaningful information for Nigerians to put an end to all the speculations. I wish the delegation a peaceful journey and safe return to Nigeria.

Abubakar Chika Maru



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

I wonder if this sort of thing can happen in a developed country, because we are really suffering in this country. Must Yar'adua rule this nation for this country to move forward? Let us forget our differences and think of a way forward.

Imam Inuwa Gwale
iigimam@yahoo.com

One thing the president's wife and family should know and understand is that, from the day he took the oath of office as president, he ceased to be a private citizen and became a public citizen and property. His life belongs to God Almighty and Nigerians. That is why, we Nigerians are demanding to see our president, dead or alive, in order to know the state of his health. We also pray

for his quick recovery and sympathize with his family.

Ali J. Adamu Chitumu
ajchitumu@yahoo.com

Let us pray that Hajiji Turai allows the delegation access to her husband.

Abdu Isa Kofarmata
kmatagigi@yahoo.com

May God heal him. I think the president should resign and face his health as he prepares to meet his creator. Game over.

To those power hungry hawks seeking power, remember that there is a time to be born and a time to die. To God we shall all return.

Hassan Suleiman
mail4hassan@gmail.com

I think the action of the Federal Executive Council of constituting a six-man team was masterminded by the pro-Jonathan clique, so that they can begin the process of declaring the president incapacitated.

Zanna Bukar Baruwa
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

I have looked at the composition of the ministerial team that will go to Saudi Arabia to see Yar'adua and I have strong objections to the composition of the team. That team does not reflect our famous federal character or quota system. My geopolitical zone is not represented. Is this an attempt to shut out my zone from collecting the fat estate code that will be paid to these ministers? This is not fair. Acting President!

Pita
justpita@yahoo.co.uk

Mantu: Ajibola's report baseless

SINCE Mantu has been indicted by the Justice Ajibola panel of inquiry, he should be removed from the current panel headed by Solomon Lar.

Agyema Ayuba

ayubjuk@yahoo.com

Mantu, don't mind them. God is with you, just go ahead and keep assisting your people in Jos. Don't

stress yourself over Ajibola.

Iro Gusau
iabdulgusau@yahoo.com

Mantu cannot win an election,

even in his own house. He represents the stone age. The VOA must not take him seriously.

Jika A.
jika@gmail.com

Military averts fresh crisis in Jos

IT is very unfortunate. Where are Ajibola, his committee members and the state government officials? They should read the above. Is it the Hausa/Fulanis that are fermenting trouble now or the so called indigenes? If a fellow human being can stop a dead body (and an infant) from being buried, do you expect anything good from him/her? The

Federal Government should wake up.

Ali Umar
alukuram@yahoo.com

Government should do something about this matter, or our Muslim brothers will start making trouble and there will be no peace in the country.

Muhammadu

babadiyashomoh@yahoo.co.uk

Even the dead is not spared from the Beroms. It is rather very unfortunate that this is happening. Federal Government should take a decisive action before this country disintegrates.

Usman Katagum
ulimacong@yahoo.com

Chinese firm gets NITEL for \$2.5bn

I honestly think this is a step in the right direction. Why I was worried about the moribund state of NITEL was because the Federal Government could not get it right. I want to believe that the government has all it takes to right the wrongs at NITEL while still maintaining full ownership.

Obami Edwards
addyzoza@yahoo.com

Thank you Lord, that is why He is God and He is miraculous. God has stepped in and He will surely

complete it in Jesus name.

Musa Routa
musaroutabriston@yahoo.com

When will Nigeria ever grow? Am tired of the way our leaders sell national property to hungry white men in the name of privatization. Please why not give Glo this privilege, at least it is our indigenous company and it has been performing well. Think about this, BPE
Adebayo Ben
bravemind11@yahoo.com

Idang Alibi

idangalibi@dailytrust.com; 08036938729

Will Goodluck Jonathan be that Nigerian hero?

It was one major incident that caught national attention during the governorship rerun election in Ekiti State last year that forced me to realize just how desperately millions of Nigerians yearn for any man or woman to be their hero or heroine.

That incident was the decision of the INEC Resident Electoral Commissioner for Ekiti State Mrs. Adebayo out of what she called a 'Christian conscience', refused to announce what she claimed was a doubtful result from one of the local governments. Since the result would have guaranteed victory for the ruling party, many Nigerians suspected that Mrs. Adebayo was called upon to rig the election in favour of the PDP which is notorious for its rigging ways.

Immediately Mrs. Adebayo communicated her decision, she was eulogized by millions of Nigerians and lionized by the media. She became a national heroine overnight. Nigerians are terribly dissatisfied with rigging and anyone who will have the courage to resist the temptation to rig election in favour of the ruling party must be an extraordinary person. And so the madam became a subject of favourable editorials, news features and signed opinion articles.

But a few days later in circumstances that have not yet been fully explained to

Let Dr. Jonathan act as if he does not desire a second term

Nigerians, the octogenarian was pressured to announce the questionable result. She became a one-week heroine. Just as swiftly as she was proclaimed a heroine, so soon did she become a villain. As soon as she was proclaimed a villain I was moved to do a piece entitled "I want to be that Nigerian hero" one of the unpublished pieces in my library.

From my reading of that incident and the daily expression of many Nigerians, our country people seem to be looking forward with great expectation to that man or woman who will come out boldly one day and say no to some of the major ills fighting against the progress of our society. My countrymen and women want a man or woman, who out of a high sense of integrity will shun the temptation to acquire blood money and say no to corruption; will shun the temptation for self aggrandizement and act in a more selfless manner; who will shun the temptation to favour or toe ethnic, regional or religious lines and party affiliation by doing what is right, fair and just and intended to promote the national cause.

It is clear that we desperately need heroes in this hero-less society where you hardly come across those in the public eye who do something in highly innovative and refreshingly different manner. Everyone seems too ready to fall in line with the same old, bad way things have been done in Nigeria. One leader will come with so much promise but in no time, his ways will not be any different from

those of his predecessors. Each successive leader readily embraces corruption, ethnicity and lack of productivity. No one, it seems, wants to be different. Will Goodluck Jonathan want to be that hero, that Nigerian man or woman that Nigerians expect will break free from the set pattern of infamy and write his name in gold in the minds of Nigerians? Fate has pushed him to a position he never dreamt in his life he will ever possibly occupy. Will he want to play that role destiny seems to have destined him to play for Nigeria?

Nigerians are ready to support any one who desires and is determined to be that hero. Our yearning for a hero is demonstrated in the way Mrs. Adebayo was enthusiastically hailed when everyone thought she will cast her vote on the side of the truth. Some years back, the late Murtala Mohammed gave indication that he wanted to be that hero. When he was cut short by coup bullets, the nation rose up in salute by seeking to name everything nameable after him. Highways, streets, roads, airports and children were named after him. If it were possible some would have named rivers and an ocean in his honour.

The job of becoming a hero in Nigeria is so simple that it is amazing that no one has tried to ever become it. What do Nigerians want of any one they will accept as their hero? 1. Anyone with the courage to truly fight corruption. 2. Anyone who is resolved to do the right thing no matter the temptation to do otherwise. 3. Anyone who can provide power. 4. Anyone who can get the right set of persons as his team to fix Nigeria. 5. Anyone who can bring about the process of getting free, fair and credible election. Let Dr. Jonathan act as if he does not desire a second term. It is the desire to pursue a second term that makes many of our executive leaders fail to do the right thing and instead settle for compromises in order to realize their ambition. I urge Jonathan to, if possible, commit class or party suicide by embarking on an electoral reform. Even if PDP loses the next election, Jonathan would have become the Nigerian hero.

As for a competent team to help him run Nigeria effectively and efficiently, I recommend that Jonathan should quash the politically motivated charges against the duo of Mallam Nasir el-Rufai and Nuhu Ribadu and bring them into his government. Let him appoint el-Rufai to oversee the problematic power ministry or post him to the Niger Delta ministry. Whatever may be el-Rufai's weaknesses, this man has proved beyond reasonable doubts that he is a performer and he has what it takes to cleanse the Aegean stable and move a department forward to fulfil its mandate. He showed his mettle in the FCT and today, his successors' achievements and failures are measured against the high standard he set.

He should appoint Ribadu as IG of Police or take him back to the EFCC. The moment he does that he would have sent a clear and powerful signal to Nigerians and the international community that he is serious about the fight against corruption. That singular appointment will give him great credibility.

He will not need any declaration that he wants to fight corruption. Nigerians will just know it.



By Sahabi Garba

Bafarawa's comment on Buhari

On 4 February 2010 Alhaji Attahiru Dalhatu Bafarawa, former governor of Sokoto State was interviewed by Voice of America (VOA) Hausa Service. The main highlight of Bafarawa's response was that he tried for five years to persuade General Muhammadu Buhari, the presidential candidate of All Nigerian Peoples Party (ANPP) to abandon the party. When General Buhari refused his entreaties he (Bafarawa) packed along with him remnants of the party supporters to form Democratic Peoples Party (DPP).

It was arrogant statement that ANPP was dead when he left with what remained of the party.

Some time ago in Sokoto as governor Bafarawa boasted before members of the Guild of Editors that he scuttled Buhari's presidential ambition.

He parted ways with Chief Don Etiebet who was the chairman of the ANPP. He nudged out Rochas Okorochoa out of the party. He further said in the interview that he tried to teach Buhari politics to no avail. He debunked the mentorship of General Ibrahim Babangida as personal insult to his political clout. He called Governor Wamakko his political student, but every material evidence points to the contrary.

What the co-travellers of Bafarawa in the new contrivance called Mega Party may not understand is that the

The sum of N23 billion has been set aside for the take off of the State University

man is merely exploring political relevance as his Sokoto base continues to weaken. However, soon the veil shall be lifted off the faces of those in the Mega Party to see through the ambition of the man that if he is not in control the house should collapse. Even if he is allowed the bossy posture, woe to the followers who may dare question his self-acclaimed wisdom that has been described as "know all". Our thesis is that the man does not believe in democracy, and has the penchant of snobbery as experienced by the former governor of Borno State, Mallah Kachallah.

Governor Wamakko endured him as deputy governor. But the dominant character of lording it over all refuses to leave him to appreciate that Allah has destined Governor Wamakko to govern Sokoto State now. He served out his eight year constitutional tenure, but at every opportunity he would like to rubbish Governor Wamakko's developmental strides, aided by his hack writers.

They usually make sweeping statements that Governor Wamakko has done nothing; within a short period!

The Government of Governor Wamakko has renovated the Giginya

stadium and is providing sporting facilities across the State to engage the youth meaningfully as a way of diverting their attention from idle pastimes that make them easily manipulative to destructive tendencies.

The administration of Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko (Sarkin Yamma of Sokoto), Executive Governor of Sokoto State provides free medical care for all pregnant mothers. There is also free medical care for children between ages of 1-5 years throughout the State.

The administration purchased 30 mobile clinics that penetrate the remotest parts of the State. These vehicles are provided with medical personnel and medicines to treat patients free. They also provide means of early detection of diseases in communities that would require emergency mobilization from the State Headquarters of the Ministry of Health. Serious cases that cannot be managed by the personnel of the mobile clinics are immediately conveyed to the Specialist Hospital or Usmanu Danfodiyo University Teaching Hospital, Sokoto (UDUTH) for proper management. Over 60 indigenes of the State shall soon graduate as medical doctors from Bulgaria to boost the personnel of the scheme.

The administration in less than two years has constructed 68 classrooms, renovated and fenced various schools across the State. More teachers have been recruited. There is adequate provision of teaching and learning materials in contrast to the past when teachers were forced to provide their teaching materials.

The sum of N23 billion has been set aside for the take off of the State University.

In infrastructural development, the administration has constructed nearly 600 roads across the State. It has completed solar powered boreholes in different parts of the State at the cost of N515, 450,000.00 (Five Hundred and Fifteen Million Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand Naira only).

The flyover bridge that connects Ahmadu Bello Way/Abdullahi Fodiyo/Kano/Maiduguri Roads shall soon be completed. This contract was awarded since September 2008 with completion date of November 2009.

The work has reached 64% completion.

Traders in Sokoto State have been given revolving loan of N2 billion to boost commercial activities of the State. Equally, Governor Wamakko's administration has embarked on Independent Power Project (IPP) to provide 30 megawatts of electricity to shore up power supply in the State to accelerate industrialization by serious entrepreneurs that would harness the abundant raw materials found all over the State.

The State has embarked on massive measures to check menace of desert encroachment that eat up large chunk of farmers' farmland and ever rendered them homeless which contributes to poverty rate of the people. These measures have started yielding positive results.

Garba is of Sokoto Democratic Initiatives.



Your Letters

Nwachukwu-led elders' committee is filled with clueless persons

For inaugurating members to include non-performing members, corrupt ex-governors and other hawks within the party, I knew that the Elders Committee formed by the PDP to 'settle' various disputing State chapters would end up in controversy and then head for the rocks. Coupled with the allegations against its national Chairman being described as destabilizing factor, the Elders Committee indulges in

double-standards.

The Elders Committee went to Akwa Ibom and, instead of solving a simple situation that would have made the party stronger, went into some uncalled-for compromise that led the party into more confusion. In Akwa Ibom one read that it was only one position (State Chairman) of the Party that was in dispute and instead of going by the earlier agreement for the committee's visit, it tilted to one side. In the same token, the Committee went to Oyo State and decided that the whole party executive must vacate for a caretaker committee; what an irony that has created deeper gulf in that State's PDP. The State PDP is still boiling.

PDP is fond of inflicting itself with avoidable controversial

wounds just like what its National Chairman allowed to happen in Anambra where a gubernatorial candidate was forced on the party members. This coupled with anti-party comments by top members; the party was deprived of the ticket. If the party carries on in its present stead of lording candidates over the members and condoning indiscipline or allows sacred cows, then one foresees what happened in Anambra to continue in most States where the PDP presently controls.

The PDP's Nwachukwu-led Elders Committee is made up of confused pack just like PDP itself is confused and lacks internal democracy.

Dr Akin Jamiu, 164 Akilo Road, Ogba, Lagos State.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Yankan baya

THIS is Hausa for ambush. That is what some ingrates have done to the president who is out of the country for treatment outside Nigeria. May Allah bless those who are sincerely praying for him.

BASHIR Mohammed,
07032973413.

The ghost of boko haram

COULD it be the summary execution of *Boko Haram* followers is what is haunting Yaradua? S. U., 07090840153.

ANAN should rethink Jos venue

I wish to appeal to the management of Association of Nigeria Accountants to shift the venue of their forthcoming examination scheduled for March 2010. The venue of Jos is not suitable now because of the precarious

security situation there and some other areas in plateau state. It would be unfair if not wicked to conduct exams there for now. In fact, even studying for the exam is being hampered by the thought of going to Jos with stories in the newspapers of isolated attacks or of police/preventing same.

JIBRIN Idris, Kano,
08036136767.

Road sense

IT is high time for FRSC to waged full-scale war against over speeding and dangerous overtaking, to save the lives of Nigerians.

AHMAD Sani, Tsafe, Zamfara State,
07039757174.

Let's call a spade by its name

WHAT has just happened by naming someone as acting president is unconstitutional. The ground is being prepared to shove his Oga aside. Just wait and see.

BAFFA, MB, 08099495893.

Where is the president?

GOODLUCK Jonathan should be able to answer the question; if he can't, then why is he acting president?

B, Kofan sauri, 08035872332.

Beware on foreign coach

THE move to hire a foreign technical adviser by the N.F.F. is a welcome development, but the timing is not right and could only amount to waste. Siasia, Amodu and Eguavoen can do well. They should hire a foreign coach after the World Cup with the mandate of qualifying Nigeria for both the Nations Cup and the World Cup. All the so called foreign coaches are after is using the Super Eagles to add to their resume. The problem with the Super Eagles is with selection.

ABUBAKAR Ndana, Kaduna,
08068014505.



By Aisha Hassan Bodinga

On Sokoto medical students stranded in Bulgaria

Sokoto State governor, Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko, must be aware of the unfortunate condition in which 25 students of state that have concluded their medical training in Bulgaria and have been trapped there because the state government is yet to send them flight tickets for their trip back to Nigeria. They are part of a 50-man contingent to the Eastern European country sent by the state under a programme initiated by the Attahiru Bafarawa administration in 2000.

It is disheartening that the state government which spent so much towards their medical training is now allowing such professionals to become destitute in Bulgaria at a time their services are sorely needed in the state's health institutions. This would amount to a waste of public funds, if such laudable programmes are halted at this critical point, just because they were introduced by the Bafarawa administration.

It is a clear case of political short-sightedness where the administration does not see governance in terms of continuity for service delivery, but takes delight in reversing policies of past administrations without regards to the effects such actions can cause on social services.

It's no longer a secret that Sokoto state and north generally lack sufficient and adequate manpower in the cadres of teachers, doctors, engineers and ICT. And this must have informed government's decision to introduce the plan to send a number qualified indigenes of the state abroad to study and practice in such courses with a view to making the state improve its manpower capacity in such critical areas.

Much resources and time were spent by the state government in the past ten years to achieve such feat, only to be reversed now by the current administration.

The students have now graduated and certified by the School of Medicine and other relevant agencies in Bulgaria to practice anywhere in the world, but are left to the mercy of the Nigerian Embassy there and some good Nigerians in that country, while they wait to have their flight tickets back home and contribute their quota to the development of Sokoto State.

There are similar other cases of trained engineers and ICT students who have been stranded for over two years, and are waiting for counterpart funding and scholarship in Malaysia, Indonesia and Bulgaria, simply because officials of the state have refused to listen to their plight.

Some of them have been forced to change their state of origin from Sokoto state so as to be qualified of getting other states to assist them to procure their scholarship. Those who succeeded are in their final year in these countries.

The case of those who have returned to Nigeria is also worth stating here. After completing their internship, nothing has been done since their return over two years ago in terms of their appointment and subsequent posting for primary assignment to enable them attend to patients queuing in our hospitals and health centres, most especially in the rural areas.

The Commissioner of Health and other officials need to address the plight of our indigenes, who are suffering as result of the political differences between Bafarawa and Wamakko.

They should not be made to bear the brunt of such quarrels. The citizens of Sokoto, especially their parents should impress it upon the state government to not only assign those that are already back to their places of primary assignments, but to also quickly rescue those trapped in Bulgaria six months after rounding up their medical programme.

Mrs Bodinga wrote from the Department of Social Studies/Primary Education, Shehu Shagari College of Education, Farfaru, Sokoto aishabodinga@yahoo.com

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

The slash in Abuja land rates

After six months of intense public outcry against last year's steep 900 per cent increase in land rates in the Federal Capital Territory, the Federal Executive Council (FEC) has finally agreed to a 50 percent cut in the announced rates. This was the outcome of a recent meeting of the FEC as announced by the FCT Minister, Adamu Aliero and his Information and Communications counterpart, Dora Akunyili. Although the slash affects land across the board, it is graduated in such a way that beneficiaries in high-brow areas are to benefit more than others in the lower density areas. FEC said that its action would help low income earners find a place within the Federal Capital Territory. We commend this rare gesture of acceding to public demands. The council equally approved refund of monies already paid under the steep rate to those who had concluded the transaction.

This would appear to be a good gesture. However it is one of goodwill that comes after a lot of damage. First is the reality that it took a democratic government more than six months to reverse a decision that it now acknowledged caused a lot of public resentment. It shows how alienated this government is from the people from whom it supposedly derived its mandate.

Second, government acknowledged that the reversal came long after a resolution of the National Assembly calling for it. The principle of checks and balances dictates that where the ministers are insulated from public outcry, it should react appropriately whenever it is prompted by the National Assembly. This is because the national assembly in any democracy is the true representative of the people.

The damage does not end there. The FCT minister again admitted that most of the people who were allotted plots in high-brow areas had sold them to the highest bidder, because of their inability to raise the needed amounts to settle Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA). This means in effect that many a prospective investor may have made a huge loss due to government's recalcitrance.

Government finally agreed that the FCT Minister made an increase that contradicted provisions of the Land Use Act of 1978. This is a serious breach of the law that we believe should be looked into.

All of these call to question the *raison d'être* behind the decision and raises curious posers one of which is whether it was made to sway the public distrust of its decisions? Another poser is whether this decision was taken in order to prevent the National Assembly from carrying out its threat to freeze the budget of the FCT for gross insubordination and its failure to accord it its rightful place in the scheme of things. Questions such as these overshadow the significance of the announcement.

We hope that the refunds approved are paid to those who have lost money without the usual red tape associated with matters at the FCT ministry. We also hope that this reversal is upheld long enough for individuals and the corporate bodies interested in providing housing for the low-income segment of our society to fulfil that desire thereby making the FCT a land for all Nigerians irrespective of social status.

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The West, media and Islamophobia (III)

Cont'd from Wednesday.

“The Soviet Union and something called communism”, he said in his 2003 book, *Killing Hope: U.S. military and CIA Interventions since World War II* “had not been the object of Washington's global attacks..... The enemy was, and remains, any government or movement or even individual that stands in the way of the expansion of the American empire; by what name the US gives the enemy - communist, rogue state, drug trafficker, terrorist...”

Blum goes on to show how between 1945 and 2003, “The United States attempted to overthrow more than 40 foreign governments and to crush more than 30 populist/nationalist movements fighting against intolerable regimes. In the process, the US bombed some 25 countries, caused the end of life for several million people, and condemned many millions more to a life of agony and despair”. More often than not the US did all this in cahoots with the rest of the West.

Even blunter than Blum in identifying the root of terrorism was Dr. Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury and head of the Church of England since 2002. “It is,” he said in a criticism of America's second invasion of Iraq, “possible to eliminate one, two or even a 1000 terrorists, but if you don't go to the cause of terrorism you will never eradicate the terrible phenomenon. And the causes are political, economic and cultural... Not only the United States but the entire West, should make an examination of their conscience, of how they oppress the rest of the world.”

The United State is today the World's sole global power in military terms. In his 2008 book, *Understanding Global Security*, Peter Hough, published a table of the top 10 biggest military spenders in the world.

Top of the league was America which spent \$466 billion on its defence in 2005. Next was China with \$65 billion and then Russia with \$50. The remaining in that order were France, \$45; United Kingdom, \$42.8; Japan, \$41.8; Germany, \$35.1; Italy, \$28.2; South Korea, \$21.1bn; and India \$19.00bn.

Put together, the countries of the world spent \$950bn on their defence. This meant that America alone spent nearly half what the entire world spent on arms in 2005. Chances are with America's new “surge” in Afghanistan the gap has only widened since.

This gap between America and the world simply boggles the mind. America, as pointed out by Harvard Professor Joseph Nye, in an article in *The Economist* of March 23rd 2002, “the only country with both nuclear and conventional forces with global reach.”

Consider how this gap between America and the rest of the world was illustrated in more graphic terms by Clyde Prestowitz in his 2003 book, *Rogue Nation*. Only America, he said, has carriers each of which is “more like a nuclear-powered floating city than a mere ship.” These ships which are scat-

By Mohammed Haruna

tered round the globe, he said, are 1,400 feet long 20 story tall with flight decks 250 feet across. Each carries 70 state of the art fighter jets, is accompanied by a cruise, several frigates and destroyers, one or two submarines and supply vessels.

America, he said, has 13 of these carrier battle groups. “No other country,” he added, “has even one.”

As Blum has shown in his book I have just referred to, America has all too often succumbed to the temptation to use this big stick which it alone possesses. Yet as Malcolm X has observed somewhat obliquely, America has been able to pose as a victim of especially Islamic terrorism, particularly after the 9/11, even though no Islamic country compares with any Western country in the size and use of arms, and only one Muslim country in the world

“You could say the same of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban both of which were created by the American CIA and funded with Saudi oil money in Pakistan to chase the Soviets out of Afghanistan”

- Pakistan - has nuclear weapons among at least eight in the world, mostly Western countries, that are known to possess them.

It has been able to pose as a country, and with the rest of the West as a civilization, threatened by Islamic terror, simply because along with its military domination of the world it also overwhelmingly dominates the world's information and cultural order.

To quote Nye from his article in question, “in terms of cultural prominence the US is far and away the number-one film and television exporter in world”.

America, Nye might as well have added, also dominates other forms of media including newspapers, magazines and, of course, the revolutionary Internet.

It is this American, and by extension, Western, domination of the media world that has enabled the West to portray Islam as a religion of violence even when in the reality the harm caused by Muslim non-state agents of terrorism and even by those America has dubbed “rogue nations” nowhere compares to the harm caused by Western state terrorism in pursuit of their objectives of world hegemony. It is this domination of the global media that has also allowed the Americans and the rest of the West to deny their own roles in creating the terror organizations and some of the state sponsors of terror in the Muslim world that have turned round to haunt them.

Take for example, Saddam Hussein's Iraq which America accused, falsely it turned out, of possessing weapons of mass destruction (WMD). In 1975, America encouraged Iraq to cede the Shat-al-Arab waterway to Iran then under the Shah, who America regarded as an

ally in its fight against communism. When the Shah was overthrown, the same Americans urged Iraq to go to war with Iran over the waterway.

During the course of the war President Ronald Reagan in 1982 removed Iraq from its list of sponsors of terrorism. It also armed Iraq to fight Iran - remember the infamous Iran-Contra? - and even blocked the United Nation's condemnation of Iraq when it gassed Iranians in course of the war.

It is a mark of the success of Western propaganda against Iraq as a Muslim country that a country that could not defeat a militarily second rate power like Iran during the Iran/Iraq war of the eighties in spite of all the help it received from the West suddenly became the biggest threat to the world.

Therefore, when William River Pitt in his 2002 book, *War on Iraq*

said that “Saddam Husain is a monster by any definition but he is our monster (and) as much an American creation as Coca cola and the Oldsmobile,” he couldn't have been more accurate. You could say the same of Al-Qaeda and the Taliban both of which were created by the American CIA and funded with Saudi oil money in Pakistan to chase the Soviets out of Afghanistan.

Yet if you depended on contemporary American and Western media you will never know that America and the West created these organizations to begin with.

How should Muslims tackle this problem of the demonization of their religion by the West?

The first step is to acknowledge that while *Islamophobia* is more propaganda than substance the use of terror against innocent civilians by Muslims is simply indefensible and, in the long run, self-defeating because nothing undermines a cause more effectively than its protagonists practicing the opposite of what they preach. Islam, we say, is a religion of peace. The easy resort to violence whenever we feel offended, especially as has been the case here in Nigeria, can only belie our claim.

Second, Muslims must come to terms with the power of the media. Accordingly, Muslims must begin to invest in the ownership and control of the media, not to launch a counter-propaganda war against America and the West. Muslims must invest in the media to tell the world their own story.

To be concluded.

Being excerpts of a lecture given under the auspices of Gombe State branch of National Council of Muslim Youths Organizations (NACOMYO)



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INTERNATIONAL

Annan urges Kenya's leaders to resolve differences

A panel chaired by former UN chief Kofi Annan that brokered a 2008 peace deal urged Kenya's feuding leaders yesterday to resolve their differences swiftly to save their fragile government.

It called on President Mwai Kibaki and Prime Minister Raila Odinga to "meet urgently in order to agree" on power-sharing mechanisms contained in the 2008 accord, and on a common stance against corruption, the crux of their feud.

An aide to Odinga said the prime minister, currently on a visit to Japan, had already spoken by phone to Kibaki and they had agreed to meet on Sunday.

The African Union Panel of Eminent African Personalities said it was concerned "at the current political impasse in Kenya and the effect this could have on the implementation of the National Accord". On Wednesday, the United States also voiced deep concern over the ongoing row and called for a swift resolution.

The AU panel, under Annan's leadership, brokered an accord following the violence that erupted in the aftermath of disputed December 2007 polls and left 1,500 people dead and a quarter of a million displaced.

The accord resulted in a power-sharing deal between the two poll rivals, Kibaki keeping his job as president while Odinga became prime minister. Odinga had called on Annan to intervene earlier this week after Kibaki overruled his suspension of two



FORMER UN Secretary General Kofi Annan (centre) talks to Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki (right) and Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga in Nairobi.

government ministers pending a corruption investigation. Annan's panel said the coalition government had achieved progress on key issues such as constitutional, land and electoral reform, since it

was formed almost two years ago. "The Panel warns, however, that these achievements could be reversed if the current disagreement is not swiftly resolved," it said in a statement.

Tensions between the premier and the president boiled over at the weekend when Odinga sacked the education and agriculture ministers accused of graft. Kibaki vetoed the move, arguing Odinga

was overstepping his authority. Critics said Odinga was attempting to undermine Agriculture Minister William Ruto, who is likely to be one of Odinga's main rivals in 2012 presidential polls.

Arrests follow I/Coast anti-Gbagbo protests

RIOT police clashed with opposition demonstrators in Ivory Coast yesterday as political leaders held extended talks on forming a unity government charged with getting delayed polls back on track.

Opposition groups demonstrated in several cities in the world's top cocoa producer, where

in the most serious incident, in the capital Yamoussoukro, police used tear gas to disperse protesters and arrested around 10 people.

In Abidjan, scores of youths erected barricades and burned tyres amid growing anger over President Laurent Gbagbo's shock decision to sack the three-year-

old national unity government last Friday, just weeks before the country was to hold its first presidential polls in almost a decade.

"We are protesting the anti-constitutional decision by the candidate Laurent Gbagbo to delay elections," said Souleymane Konate of the opposition coalition RHDP. Witnesses said demonstrators set an empty bus ablaze near government buildings in Abidjan. Another bus was damaged by youths elsewhere in the city.

Yesterday's protests followed an appeal by UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon for calm in the west African country.

Protest marches have taken place in Dimbokro, Daoukro, Bondoukou and other cities since Monday amid opposition charges that Gbagbo was stalling elections.

Demonstrators damaged the pro-Gbagbo coalition's local headquarters in the central city of Dimbokro, said Paul David N'Zi, the president's regional campaign director.

Mogadishu weapons market booms ahead of battle

ISLAMIST insurgents and fighters from Somalia's government forces mingle peacefully at Mogadishu's main weapons market, but both sides are stocking up ahead of a major government offensive.

Civilians have fled the city and many shops have closed down, as the government offensive, supported by African Union troops, is believed to be imminent.

For weapons dealer Abdi Hirsi however, business is brisk. His best-selling item is a Chinese handgun, whose market value has appreciated by 25 percent in recent days. "The Chinese pistol which was going for 560 dollars now fetches around 700," he told AFP. "I'm talking about a brand new one, complete with sealed packaging and all." "If you buy a larger quantity, we can bring the price down a bit or make a serious discount on the ammo," Hirsi said.

The young dealer added apologetically that rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) launchers were out of stock since last week. "But I can get some from other mer-

chants if there's a serious buyer." The market is situated in Bakara, a restive northern neighbourhood of Mogadishu and the mercantile heart of the Somali capital.

An intricate web of narrow alleyways that has chronically provided useful shelter to armed groups, Bakara offers everything from food to textile products, as well as gold, fuel and a vast choice of looted goods. In one corner of the market area is the weapons market, which is known in Somali as Irtoogte -- "sky-shooters" -- because dealers and customers habitually test the goods on the spot.

"Testing is essential to verify that the product is operational, we can't be selling fake guns to people," said 34-year-old Ahmed Mohamed, another arms retailer. Irtoogte was officially closed down by the transitional federal government in 2007 and the Shebab, the rebel group sympathetic to Al Qaeda that controls most of the country, also banned it a year later after capturing the area.



SEVERAL dozens of Ivorian opposition youth man a barricade during a demonstration in Abidjan.

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International

Bomb kills
29 in Pakistan
as US envoy
visits

A bomb blast at a mosque in Pakistan's northwestern tribal belt killed 29 people including some militants yesterday, underscoring the relentless security threat here even as Pakistani-US cooperation against extremism appears on the upswing.

The attack in Khyber tribal region came as US special envoy Richard Holbrooke met with Pakistan's prime minister in Islamabad, the capital.

It also followed revelations that Pakistani authorities have been picking up Afghan Taliban leaders on their soil, and as the US continued a campaign of missile strikes against suspected militants in Pakistan.

The explosion tore through a mosque in the Aka Khel area of Khyber, killing at least 29 people and wounding some 50 others, local official Jawed Khan said. Earlier reports had said the blast occurred in the Orakzai area at a cattle market.

The two areas border one another, and the market is apparently near the mosque. Officials were still investigating whether the explosion was caused by a suicide bomber or a planted device.

No group claimed responsibility, but Khan said the dead included militants from Lashkar-e-Islam, an insurgent group in Khyber that has clashed with another militant outfit known as Ansarul Islam.

Both espouse Taliban-style ideologies.

Earlier this week, officials confirmed that a joint CIA-Pakistani security operation had captured the No. 2 Afghan Taliban commander, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi.

Yesterday, an Afghan official told The Associated Press that around the same time, some two weeks ago, two Taliban leaders from northern Afghanistan also were arrested in Pakistan by Pakistani authorities.

Hezbollah tries to break out of militant mould



HEZBOLLAH members perform during a rally commemorating the 2008 assassination of Hezbollah's top military commander Imad Mughniyeh in Beirut's southern suburbs, Lebanon, yesterday.

THE leader of Lebanon's Shiite movement Hezbollah recently delivered an odd but deeply important political message to his followers: Heed traffic signs and pay your electric bills.

The call may not seem particularly significant, but it was widely seen as the latest sign that Hezbollah — long considered mainly as Iran's militant arm in Lebanon running its own state-within-a-state — is reinventing itself as a more conventional political movement in Lebanon.

The group remains fiercely anti-Israel and is highly unlikely to give up its extensive arsenal of rockets and other weapons. Hezbollah's leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah gave a fiery speech earlier

in the week vowing to rocket targets deep inside Israel, including Tel Aviv's Ben Gurion Airport, if Israel's military strikes Lebanese infrastructure.

But despite the tough talk, Hezbollah seems more concerned these days with its position at home, trying to show it can work with Lebanon's many other factions, some of which oppose any military entanglement with Israel. That means moderating its actions and playing within the system.

The shift was forced by the seismic events that had shaken Lebanon over the past few years, analysts say. In particular, Hezbollah's 2006 war with Israel and 2008 sectarian clashes with politi-

cal rivals raised criticism among some Lebanese that the movement was dragging the country into violent conflicts. Moreover, Hezbollah now has a place in a fragile national unity government, putting further pressure on it to stay in line.

Notably, Hezbollah has not carried out a single rocket attack into Israel since the 2006 war. It has also yet to avenge the assassination of its top military commander, Imad Mughniyeh, who was killed in a 2008 car bombing in Damascus that was widely blamed on Israel. Nasrallah on Tuesday repeated pledges that revenge would eventually come.

Hezbollah "is emphasizing that it also has other roles to play

besides the resistance," said Amal Saad-Ghorayeb, an analyst specializing in Hezbollah. The group is trying to highlight its "nationalist dimension" as opposed to its strictly Islamic or Arab identity.

A key step was Nasrallah's announcement in November of the group's platform, only the second since Hezbollah was founded in 1982 following Israel's invasion.

The new language was strikingly conciliatory. While the group's first platform, released in 1985, called for establishing an Islamic republic in Lebanon, the new manifesto does not mention an Islamic state and underscores the importance of coexistence among Lebanon's 18 religious sects.

Insurgents put up resistance in Taliban town

US Marines pummeled insurgents with mortars, sniper fire and missiles as fighting intensified yesterday in two areas of the Taliban southern stronghold of Marjah, where US and Afghan forces are facing stubborn resistance in an operation now in its sixth day.

Marines traded machine-gun fire after coming under attack by insurgents with rocket-propelled grenades. One Marine company

attacked Taliban positions surrounding them at dawn. Marines and Afghan troops continued to battle "stiff resistance" in different parts of town, a Marine spokesman said yesterday.

"We're seeing more fortified positions. They're standing their ground, essentially," Lt. Josh Didams said. "You don't know where you're going to get a little pop up of insurgents who are going to stay

and fight." The fighting in Marjah has followed a similar pattern over the past few days: relatively light in the morning with sniper fire intensifying through midday before subsiding at nightfall.

But there were also pockets of calm. Families trickled back and shops reopened in a northern part of town as a small measure of normalcy returned to parts of Marjah that are under Afghan and NATO

control. Their donkeys laden down with their belongings, several families could be seen coming back to their homes in a sign that some civilians believed the fighting is over in zones secured by NATO troops. Several storekeepers reopened their shops in the bullet-riddled northern bazaar in the northern part of town, as customers lined up to buy goods for the first time in nearly a week.

This is the biggest offensive since the 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan, and a test of President Barack Obama's strategy for reversing the rise of the Taliban while protecting civilians.

Five NATO service members and one Afghan soldier have been killed since the attack on Marjah, the hub of the Taliban's southern logistics and drug-smuggling network, began Saturday.

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Similarly, many reporters and editors are offered gift and gratification, sometimes with the overt aim of influencing their work. Some of these gifts could be described as "token." If not, it may be offered in ways it would be rude or self-righteous to reject there and then.

In the circumstances, it has become necessary for us to make public our company's policy on gift-taking, so that our numerous readers, newsmakers, advertisers and other well-wishers can help us with its implementation.

It is the policy of Media Trust that its editors and reporters should not solicit for gift or gratification either through begging, flattering, cajoling or blackmailing those they encounter in the course of their work. Where a gift can be graciously declined, we expect our staff to do so. However, where it is pressed on them, they will declare it so that the company can write a letter thanking the giver and donating the gift to charity.

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Office of the Accountant -General of the Federation Abuja

Final notice for the verification and collection of the 5 years Pension Buyout entitlements to staff and Pensioners of NITEL/MTEL

This is to inform all staff and pensioners of NITEL who have not yet collected their entitlements and beneficiaries of Death Insurance Claims since the payment exercise commenced in February 2007, that final verification and payment exercise will be conducted one day in each month from January to March, 2010. The days for the Exercise are 27th January, 24th February and 31st March 2010. Beneficiaries are to come to the Office of the Accountant General of the Federation, Treasury House Abuja, for verification. For the avoidance of doubt those who are to come for this final exercise are as follows.

- i. Next of kin of staff who died on duty who have now secured letters of administration,
- ii. Staff and pensioners living outside the country who could not come during the various payment exercises;
- iii. Staff and Pensioners who have not yet collected any entitlement since the exercise commenced ;
- iv. Death Insurance Claim beneficiaries.

In the case of staff living abroad that may not be able to come for the exercise, they should forward in writing their contact address in their countries of residence. Arrangements are being made to pay them through the Nigerian High Commission and Embassies located in their countries of residence.

Documents to be produced by staff and pensioners for the exercise are:

- i. Letter of first appointment;
- ii. Letter of retirement/Disengagement;
- iii. Identity card;
- iv. Letter of last promotion;
- v. Letter of administration for deceased entitlements and insurance claims only;
- vi. Letter of Identification from NITEL for the Next of kin.
- vii. Payslip for Pensioners

PLEASE, NOTE THAT THIS VERIFICATION AND PAYMENT IS NOT A NEW PAYMENT EXERCISE. IT IS ONLY FOR BENEFICIARIES WHO HAVE NOT YET COLLECTED THEIR ENTITLEMENTS (FIVE YEAR PENSION BUY OUT).

International

Europeans press Israel over Hamas killing row

BRITAIN, Ireland and France piled pressure on Israel yesterday over the use of fake passports by assassins of a Hamas chief last month, as Dubai's police chief said he is sure Mossad was to blame.

At the same time international police agency Interpol issued arrest notices for 11 suspects wanted by Dubai for the killing of Hamas commander Mahmud al-Mabhuh in the emirate.

British Foreign Secretary David Miliband urged the Israelis to cooperate "fully" in investigating the incident, as diplomatic tension mounted with Israel's ambassadors called in for talks in London and Dublin. "We hope and expect that they will cooperate fully with the investigation," Miliband said after Israeli envoy Ron Prosor held talks with Peter Ricketts, the head of Britain's diplomatic service.

"We want to get to the bottom of the issue of the fraudulent passports, or their potential use," Miliband added.

In Dublin, Irish Foreign Minister Micheal Martin announced "frank" talks with Israel's envoy -- usually diplomatic code for angry exchanges -- saying he regarded the use of false Irish passports as "an extremely serious incident"

"Regardless of who was responsible, (Ireland) takes grave exception to the forgery and misuse of Irish passports which could devalue the standing of the passports and potentially put at risk the safety of Irish citizens," it said.

"The (Israeli) ambassador said that he had no information on the matter and would relay the messages he had received to his authorities," it concluded tersely. In France, a foreign ministry spokesman said Paris is "demanding explanations" from the Israeli embassy for the use of a false French passport.

Diplomatic tensions have mounted over Mabhuh's killing after Dubai's police chief revealed that 11 European passport holders -- six British, three Irish, one French and one German -- were allegedly involved. No government has directly accused Israel but speculation about the killers has centred on Israel's Mossad intelligence services, which have used agents with fake passports for such operations in the past. Dubai police chief Lieutenant General Dahi Khalfan Tamim said he was 99 percent sure Mossad was behind the murder. The National newspaper reported.



STUDENTS protest in front of police officers against the visit of Mexico's President Felipe Calderon in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

Mexican leader listens to border city on drug war

PRESIDENT Felipe Calderon promised federal investigations into all complaints of extortion and kidnapping in a Mexican border city overwhelmed by drug gang violence. Calderon made the pledge after meeting yesterday with hundreds of residents of Ciudad Juarez, across the border from El Paso, Texas.

"The city will again become a city of law," said Calderon, who travelled to Ciudad Juarez after meeting with US Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano in Mexico City to discuss the drug war and aviation security.

It was the second time Calderon visited the city since the Jan. 30 massacre of 15 people in a working class neighborhood fueled anger over the government's failure to stem the bloodshed. More than 2,600 people were killed in the city of 1.3 million people last year despite the presence of thousands of federal troops and police, making it one of the world's deadliest cities. Hours after Cal-

deron spoke, gunmen killed the mayor of Guadalupe y Calvo, a town on the other side of Chihuahua State from Ciudad Juarez, said Eduardo Ezparza, spokesman for the state prosecutors' office.

The attackers ambushed Mayor Ramon Mendivil's car on a highway as he headed back to his town from a meeting in Chihuahua city, the state capital. One of his body guards was also killed.

The motive for the attack was not immediately known. The town has seen a burst of violence recently. The bodies of five men were found dumped on a dirt road there last weekend, and on Wednesday, three police investigators were killed hours before the attack on the mayor.

Calderon's government has vowed to implement a new plan that will focus on improving law enforcement in Ciudad Juarez and addressing the social ills feeding organized crime.



The Federal Ministry of Transport
in collaboration with
*The West and Central Africa Memorandum
of Understanding on Port State Control
(Abuja MoU)*

Hosts

The 2nd Ministerial Conference
on Port State Control in the West and
Central African Region & 10th Anniversary
of the Abuja MoU



Theme:

*"Regional Cooperation and Commitment
to the Eradication of Substandard Shipping
and Protection of the Marine Environment"*



Venue: Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja

Date: 23 to 26 February 2010

Time: 10.00am Daily

Events

23rd to 24th February 2010:

7th Committee Meeting of Abuja MoU on Port State Control.

25th to 26th February 2010:

2nd Ministerial Conference of Abuja MoU on Port State Control & 10th Anniversary of Abuja MoU.

for more information visit: www.abujamou-ministerialconference.com

Signed:

Joshua Okpo

Chairman, Local Organising Committee



**POWER HOLDING COMPANY OF NIGERIA
YOLA ZONE**

**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF MANUFACTURERS/
CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS FOR 2010 CAPITAL BUDGET**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

In line with the Federal Government continuous efforts and determination to improve electricity infrastructures and productive capacity, Management of Power Holding Company of Nigeria, Yola Distribution Zone intends to execute some essential Federal Government funded capital Electric Power Projects for 2010 financial year.

Interested, competent and reliable companies are therefore invited to express their intention to execute the projects and/or supply equipment and materials to our Zone through submission of pre-qualification document(s).

1.2 SCOPE OF WORK EXPANSION

- LOT 1: CABLES & KITS FOR NETWORK EXPANSION (UNDERGROUND HT & LT CABLES)**
LOT 1A: Supply of various sizes of HT underground cables
LOT 1B: Supply of various sizes of LT underground cables
LOT 1C: Supply of various termination kits
LOT 2: CONSTRUCTION OF 33KV & 11KV OVER HEAD LINE
LOT 2A: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Yerwa b.u Maiduguri
LOT 2B: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Bulunkutu b.u Maiduguri
LOT 2C: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Yola b.u Adamawa
LOT 2D: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Jalingo b.u Taraba
LOT 2E: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Mubi b.u Adamawa
LOT 2F: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Damaturu b.u Yobe
LOT 2G: Construction of 33KV & 11KV over head line at Potiskum b.u Yobe

1.3 OPERATIONS

- LOT 3: COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT AND SYSTEMS**
LOT 3A: Supply of Communication VHF Mobile Radio and 160AH Batteries (spares)
LOT 3B: Supply of Laptops and printers
LOT 3C: Supply of Plotter and A2 printer
LOT 4: REPLACEMENT OF OBSOLETE SWITCHGEARS
LOT 4A: Supply of power pack, DC-DC Converter and 33kv circuit breaker control module
LOT 4B: Rehabilitation of 1No. 11kv Control Panel
LOT 5: PROVISION OF TEST EQUIPMENT
LOT 5A: Supply of 5KV megger, 10KV megger, Crimping machine (Hydraulic) and 3 phase Gen set (17.5kw)
LOT 5B: Supply of Special PC&M Van
LOT 5C: Standard PC&M tool box and current injection kit (secondary)
LOT 5D: Supply of fibre HT ladders
LOT 6: CONSTRUCTION OF STANDARD STORE AT THE PROPOSED SITE
LOT 6A: Design of standard store
LOT 6B: Construction of standard store
LOT 7: PROVISION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT VEHICLES & CRANES ETC
LOT 7A: Supply of 4x4 double cabin
LOT 7B: Supply of tyres and tubes
LOT 8: PROVISION OF SAFETY TOOLS & KITS
LOT 8A: Supply of safety boots, rain coat, safety helmet, safety belt, fire coat and hand gloves.
LOT 8B: Supply of mechanical tool box, electrical tool box, and pull lift.
LOT 8C: Supply of LT fibre ladders

1.3 MAINTENANCE

- LOT 9: FEEDER PILLAR & RMUs**
LOT 9A: Supply of feeder pillars (not locally fabricated).
LOT 9B: Supply of RMUs (SF6) main and extension.
LOT 10: LINE REINFORCEMENT/REPLACEMENT (REHABILITATION OF O/H HT & LT LINES)
LOT 10A: Supply of distribution materials.
LOT 11: REHABILITATION OF DISTRIBUTION TRANSFORMERS/ SUBSTATIONS
LOT 11A: Rehabilitation of Distribution Substations at Jalingo Business Unit
LOT 11B: Rehabilitation of Distribution Substations at Mubi Business Unit
LOT 11C: Rehabilitation of Distribution Substations at Damaturu Business Unit
LOT 12: TRACE CLEARING
LOT 12A: Trace clearing for 33KV and 11KV lines at Bulunkutu Business Unit
LOT 12B: Trace clearing for 33KV and 11KV lines at Damaturu Business Unit
LOT 13: RECONDUCTORING
LOT 13A: Re-routing of 33kv line across River Benue Jimeta, Yola.
LOT 13B: Expenditure sanctions software with CD

1.4 PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Tenderers are required to submit the following information to be considered for pre-qualification:

- Photocopies of certificate of incorporation/business registration in Nigeria where applicable.
- Photocopies of current company's tax clearance certificate for the last three years where applicable.
- Photocopies of value added tax (VAT) registration certificate and evidence of VAT remittances where applicable.
- Comprehensive company profile including details of management, professional staff and company brochure with convincing proof of competence to undertake the job.
- Evidence of technical, operational and managerial capabilities with organizational chart.
- Company's audited account for the last three (3) years where applicable.
- Verifiable evidence of previous experience i.e. having successfully carried out similar works/supply elsewhere in the last five (5) years where applicable.
- Manufacturing companies must submit evidence of relevant manufacturing capability, facilities and SON/ISO certificates.
- Construction and Engineering companies should have a COREN registered Engineer as one of their Directors.
- Test certificate(s) issued by well-known international standard test laboratory for manufacturers of equipment where applicable.
- Sample of test report of manufactured equipment where applicable.
- Evidence of payment into National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) for company's employees.
- Evidence of having fulfilled all obligations to pay taxes, pensions and social security contributions as applicable in section 16 (d) of public procurement Act 2007.
- Any other relevant document(s) that will place such company on a more comparative advantage.
- All documents submitted will be subjected to verification from the relevant agencies if necessary.

1.5 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENT

The pre-qualification documents should be duly signed by company's Managing Director and spirally bound in two (2) copies and submitted in a sealed envelope(s) indicating the lot(s) as contained in this advertisement and boldly marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR 2010 FGN CAPITAL BUDGET" at the left hand corner of the envelope clearly indicating the name of the company, mailing e-mail address and GSM number. The documents must be delivered by hand to reach the address below:

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PHCN YOLA ZONE
NO. 2 ATIKU ABUBAKAR ROAD, JIMETA-YOLA
ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA**

Two sets (original and a copy) plus soft copy are to be submitted. All information shall be provided in English Language. Submission of pre-qualification shall close at 12.00 noon 30th March 2010. Bid shall be opened on the same day by 2.00 PM in the same address.

NOTE:

- Please note that each lot must be bid for separately.
- Any submission does not comply with the above will not be processed.
- This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of Yola Zonal Management nor shall it entitle responding Contractors to seek any indemnity from Yola Distribution Zone by virtue of such Contractors having responded to this advertisement.
- Yola Zone will carryout verification of all claims by bidders where necessary. Further clarification can be obtained from:
Principal Manager (Procurement)
Yola Zone
No. 2 Atiku Abubakar Road
Jimeta - Yola, Adamawa State
Gsm No: 08054509488
E-mail: dogobelmont@yahoo.com

NOTE: This re-advertisement supersedes our earlier advertisement in Daily Trust, Federal Tenders Journal of 11th and This Day of 14th January 2010.

**SIGNED: MANAGEMENT
PHCN YOLA ZONE**



**POWER HOLDING COMPANY OF NIGERIA
YOLA ZONE**

INVITATION TO TENDER

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Federal Government of Nigeria in its desire to further enhance Electricity Supply in the Country has granted approval to procure Distribution Transformers for reinforcement of Electricity Supply infrastructure in Yola Zone.

Consequently, Yola Zone now invites tenders for the supply of Distribution Transformers for this purpose.

1.2 SCOPE OF WORKS

LOT	DESCRIPTION	QTY
LOT 1	Supply of 500KVA, 11/0.415KVA for Yerwa, Bulunkutu and Jalingo Business Units	30
LOT 2	Supply of 500KVA, 33/0.415KVA for Yola, Damaturu, Mubi and Potiskum Business Units	29
LOT 3	Supply of 500KVA, 11/0.415KVA to Yola Zonal Stores.	27

1.3 TENDER REQUIREMENTS

Tenderers are required to submit the following information to be considered:

- Photocopies of certificate of incorporation/business registration in Nigeria where applicable.
- Photocopies of current company's tax clearance certificate for the last three years where applicable.
- Photocopies of value added tax (VAT) registration certificate and evidence of VAT remittances where applicable.
- Comprehensive company profile including details of management, professional staff and company brochure with convincing proof of competence to undertake the job.
- Evidence of technical, operational and managerial capabilities with organizational chart.
- Company's audited account for the last three (3) years where applicable.
- Verifiable evidence of previous experience i.e. having successfully carried out similar works/supply elsewhere in the last five (5) years where applicable.
- Manufacturing companies must submit evidence of relevant manufacturing capability, facilities and SON/ISO certificates.
- Construction and Engineering companies should have a COREN registered Engineer as one of their Directors.
- Test certificate(s) issued by well-known international standard test laboratory for manufacturers of equipment where applicable.
- Sample of test report of manufactured equipment where applicable.
- Evidence of payment into National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) for company's employees.
- Evidence of having fulfilled all obligations to pay taxes, pensions and social security contributions as applicable in section 16 (d) of public procurement Act 2007.
- Any other relevant document(s) that will place such company on a more comparative advantage.
- All documents submitted will be subjected to verification from the relevant agencies if necessary.

1.4 ELIGIBILITY OF PRODUCT

- Transformers to be supplied must conform With European specifications.
- Transformers must have been in PHCN Network for minimum of 3 years.
- Transformers not supported with shipping documents will not be eligible for procurement.

1.5 METHOD OF APPLICATION

Tender documents are available for collection from the office of:

**Principal Manager (Procurement)
PHCN Yola Zone
No. 2 Atiku Abubakar Road
Jimeta - Yola, Adamawa State**

1.6 SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENT

Interested Applicants should submit their technical & financial bid documents and those stated in 1.3 above in sealed envelopes indicating the Lot (s) and marked "Tender for Supply of Distribution Transformers". Name and mailing address of the Tender Company shall be clearly marked on the envelope(s). The documents must be delivered by hand to reach the following address:

**THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
PHCN YOLA ZONE
NO. 2 ATIKU ABUBAKAR ROAD, JIMETA-YOLA
ADAMAWA STATE, NIGERIA**

Two sets (original and a copy) plus soft copy are to be submitted. All information shall be provided in English Language. Submission of tenders shall close at 12.00 noon 30th March 2010.

Bid shall be opened on the same day by 2.00 PM in the same address.

NOTE:

- Please note that each lot must be bid for separately.
- Any tender that is not substantially responsive will not be processed.
- Two set of (Original & Copy) plus soft copy are to be submitted.
- This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of Yola Zonal Management nor shall it entitle responding Contractors to seek any indemnity from Yola Zone by virtue of such Contractors having responded to this advertisement.
- Yola Zone will carryout verification of any claims by bidders where necessary. Hence all necessary Authority and guarantee for verifications must be submitted.

Further clarification can be obtained from:

**Principal Manager (Procurement)
PHCN Yola Zone
No. 2 Atiku Abubakar Road
Jimeta - Yola, Adamawa State
Gsm No: 08054509488
E-mail: dogobelmont@yahoo.com**

NOTE: This re-advertisement supersedes our earlier advertisement in Daily Trust, Federal Tender Journal of 11th and This Day of 14th January 2010.

**SIGNED: MANAGEMENT
YOLA ZONE**

THE GENOCIDE, ETHNIC CLEANSING OF THE FULANI CATTLE REARERS BY THE BEROM, IN PLATEAU STATE

12th February 2010

The Deputy Police Commissioner (SARS)
Force Criminal Investigation Department
Garki, Abuja.

Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders'
Association, Plateau State
C/O Jos Central Mosque
P. O. Box 975
Jos.

Sir,

SUBMISSION OF OUR COMPLAINT, FINDINGS, OBSERVATIONS AND POSITION, TO YOUR OFFICE AS THE OFFICER IN-CHARGE OF THE INVESTIGATION OF JOS JANUARY 17TH 2010, CRISIS

1. Find attached here our complaint, findings and observations on the January 17th – 20th 2010 Jos crisis as it affected our people, the Fulani cattle rearers in Plateau State with particular reference to Jos-South, Barkin Ladi and Riyon Local Government Areas.
2. Also find attached for your necessary action the list of 209 Fulanis- their full names, age, sex and their village areas confirmed killed in these Local Government Areas whom include children, women and men, massacred horrendously and mercilessly as non-combatants in non-combat areas

INVESTIGATION REPORT

1. Following the outbreak of the Sunday 17th to Wednesday 20th January 2010 Jos ethno-religious crisis, non combatant Fulani cattle rearers who included children, women were massacred in cold blood in various ethnic, Christian Berom areas of Jos South, Riyom and Barkin Ladi local government areas. Apart from the fact that almost all the killings of the cattle rearers took place within Berom land, our investigations and findings show that these unprovoked and heartless killings of these innocent herdsmen took place in local government/s officials, such as Council chairmen, State House and National Assembly members, Governor, Commissioners, Permanent Secretaries, Special Advisors etc!
2. One or two examples here will further prove what we are saying – In Du village and Du District of Jos South LGA, which is the seat of Government as well as the seat of the Gbong Gwom Jos, where both Governor Jonah David Jang and the Gbong Gwom Jos, Da Jacob Gyang Buba reside presently was a killing field of cattle rearers where the 27 Fulanis killed out of the 209 took place here under the nose of these two highly placed people, by their kin and kith (Berom). Also from this LGA comes the State's Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice, Barr. Edward Pwajok. The State's Accountant General, Mr. Christopher Davou and the Governor's Special Adviser on Religious Matters, Rev. Gyang Choji, among others. We lost 81 Fulanies in this Local Government Area.
3. Another typical example is Barkin Ladi LGA where the Governor's Permanent Secretary on Security, Mr. I.D. Gyang comes from, the Permanent Secretary, Governor's Office, Mr. Francis Bot and the Women Ministry Commissioner, Mrs. Serah Yusuf. One further interesting sad feature here is the fact that the Fulani suffered their greatest loss in the district and villages of Mr. I.D. Gyang, Mr. Francis Bot and the council chairman, Dr. Fom Dakwak which is Fan District and its surrounding villages such as Pandadi Runji among others, where 112 Fulanis were killed.
4. In Riyom LGA where the Governor's influential Special Adviser on Media, Mr. Dan Manjang comes from, 16 Fulanis were killed. Our investigations and findings found no effort or attempt whatsoever made by any traditional ruler, from the Village head to the Berom paramount ruler (Gbong Gwom), to the councilor, to the council chairman, to the permanent secretary, to the commissioner and finally to the Governor to prevent, stop or mitigate the genocide, before, during or after the crisis.
5. Even after the crisis, silent, secret killings of the Fulanis were still going on as three cattle rearers were killed on January 26, 2010 between Sabon Gidan Kanar and Gero Villages of Jos South which showed that there was no official order to stop the genocide even one week after the crisis had been brought to an end in Jos.
6. We also observed that the killings of the Fulanis took place 48 hours after the cessation of hostilities in Jos, giving the impression that the genocide was well thought out, planned and executed communally

and conspiratorially in these areas.

7. In view of the foregoing, we hereby hold the Governor of Plateau State, the Gbong Gwom Jos, Berom traditional rulers, state government officials, community leaders, State House and National Assembly members, council Chairmen, the Divisional Police Officers, among others, for aiding and abetting the commission of genocide in these areas for their acts of commission or omission which led to this ethnic cleansing of the ethnic Fulani in these areas.
8. We have maintained that these Fulanis as mobile, nomadic cattle herdsmen entirely fall outside the area of the crisis in Jos City and Jos North LGA. They are also people who are not in dispute over any political or land matter with any Berom in these areas where they were savagely exterminated through the most brutal ways and means. This is clearly a case of genocide and gross violation of national and international law, triable by the International Criminal Court (ICC). We urge this court to so take over this case and try these people, after the investigation of the Nigeria Police.
9. Finally, we hereby call on the Governor to carry out his threat of Tuesday, January 26th 2010 where he threatened thus: "that perpetrators would be dealt with decisively" which he promised on his state broadcast to the people of Plateau State, by immediately arresting and handing over these alleged killers to the Police for prosecution. Anything short of this will further expose the Governor's involvement and his tribal people in the commission of this heinous crime against humanity as part of the Berom so-called agenda.

SUMMARY OF GENOCIDAL KILLINGS

1. Jos-South Local Government Area
- 81 cattle rearers whom include children and women were killed
 2. Riyom Local Government Area
- 16 cattle rearers, all children were killed
 3. Barkin Ladi Local Government Area
- 112 cattle rearers, which include children (2,3,4,5 years) women, old men were killed
- Total cattle rearers killed by the ethnic Berom = 209

CC:

- The President, Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs
- The President, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN)
- The Minister of Police Affairs
- The National Security Adviser
- The Chairman, Senate Committee on Police Affairs, NASS
- The Chairman, House Committee on Police Affairs, NASS
- The Chairman, Nigeria Governor's Forum
- The Chairman, Northern Governors' Forum
- All National and International Human Rights organizations.

SALE BAYARI

Secretary, Sultan's Cattle Rearers/
Farmers Conflict Resolution Committee

MALLAM NURU MUHAMMAD

State Chairman
Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders' Assoc.
Plateau State.



THE ASSOCIATION OF ACCOUNTANCY BODIES IN WEST AFRICA (ABWA)

MARCH 2010 ACCOUNTING TECHNICIANS SCHEME (WEST AFRICA) EXAMINATIONS

The Accounting Technicians Scheme, West Africa (ATSWA) Examinations (all parts) will be held in member countries on March 16 & 17, 2010 under the Council of the Association of Accountancy Bodies in West Africa (ABWA). The Examinations will be held in Nigeria in the following centres: Aba, Abeokuta, Abuja, Ado-Ekiti, Akure, Awka, Benin-City, Calabar, Enugu, Ibadan, Ilesha, Ilorin, Jos, Kaduna, Kano, Lagos, Maiduguri, Makurdi, Oko, Onitsha, Owerri, Ogbomoso, Port-Harcourt, Sokoto, Umuahia, Uyo, Warri, Yenegoa and Yola. The Institute reserves the right to transfer any candidate from his or her chosen centre to another centre.

MODE OF REGISTRATION FOR MARCH 2010 EXAMINATIONS

Registered students of the Institute will be required to enroll for March 2010 diet and subsequent Examinations through the ICAN website www.icanexamsonline.org/ats.

Candidates are expected to pay their Examination fees and other levies. (e.g. Annual Subscriptions, Special Levy, etc.) up to date, obtain a PIN VOUCHER at any of the banks listed below; complete and submit their Examination Forms online. The Insight and Study Packs will be made available to candidates at the district office of ICAN in the respective centres outside Lagos while those for Lagos will be made available at the point of submission at 25, Association Avenue, Ilupeju, Lagos.

DIRECTIVES FOR ONLINE REGISTRATION

- Check and print your Examination/Financial Status on www.ican-ngr.org before obtaining a pin voucher. The printed copy should be presented to the bank officer to obtain teller for an appropriate pin voucher.
- Pay the correct fee for the level being applied for at any of the banks listed below and obtain a PIN VOUCHER, the amount of which must tally with the amount on your Examination/financial status report.
- Open ICAN website www.icanexamsonline.org/ats and Click on March 2010 Examination Application Form.
- Enter your STUDENT REGISTRATION NUMBER, PIN NUMBER and SERIAL NUMBER.
- (a) Upload a scanned soft copy (JPEG format, 20kb maximum file size) of your passport photograph (white background) is required for the online registration.
(b) Upload a scanned soft copy of your signature
- Complete the Online form and click on submit.
- Print the following after clicking on submit:
 - Completed online examination form (two copies);
 - Examination Time table, centres and their addresses;
 - Examination offences and disciplinary measures;
 - Examination warning to all candidates.
 Note that (c) and (d) above should be thoroughly digested and applied as appropriate.
- Visit the website three days after online submission of the examination form to confirm your enrolment.
- Proceed to the ICAN District Society (displayed on our website www.ican-ngr.org or www.icanexamsonline.org/ats) nearest to you with copies of your completed online examination form and Exam/Financial Status for the collection of a copy of the Insight and your Study Packs. Lagos centre candidates should collect their copies from our Ilupeju Office at 25, Association Avenue, Off Obafunke Bus Stop.

STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATIONS QUESTION PAPER

The Examination is in three (3) parts. Each part has four (4) papers. Candidates must complete a part before attempting the other parts of the Examination.

The Examination papers will have two (2) sections. Section 'A' will have multiple choice and short answer questions and Section 'B' will have essay-type questions.

CREDIT SYSTEM

Candidates will be credited with any subject passed in Parts I, II and III. Candidates are expected to pass all the subjects of a particular part of the Examinations before proceeding to a higher level. Candidates are to register for all the four (4) subjects in a part at any sitting. However, candidates can register for 1, 2, or 3 subjects if others have been previously passed or exempted.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

- The banks will close the sale of Pin Vouchers to candidates on **Monday, 01 March 2010**, while registration online will end at 12noon on **Wednesday, 03 March 2010**.
- Candidates will not have access to the Examination website after **03 March 2010**.
- Candidates wishing to defer their sitting to September 2010 Examinations after submitting their forms must apply to the Institute on or before **02 March 2010**. Application received after this date will not be processed.
- No refund will be made to candidates on Pin Vouchers wrongly purchased.
- Candidates will not be allowed to sit for the Examination at centres other than the ones indicated on their form except with the approval of the Institute.
- Application for change of Examination centre will not be processed after **02 March 2010**.
- Candidates are to ensure the accuracy of the information on their forms. The passport photographs must be the true semblance of the applicants and must be of white background.
- Candidates may download the ATS Insight, Examination time table, dockets and other instructions from the ICAN website.
- Candidates must come to the Examination hall with the docket downloaded in (8) above.

Candidates may seek assistance by contacting the Help Desk through the following telephone numbers and e-mail address:
roarowoio@ican.org.ng, wbodunde@ican.org.ng, ats@ican.org.ng,
 07027664886 and 017747660.

EXAMINATIONS FEE FOR MARCH 2010

LEVELS	AMOUNT (N)			
	4 PAPERS	3 PAPERS	2 PAPER	1 PAPER
PART I	15,370	13,770	12,170	10,570
PART II	15,970	14,320	12,470	10,720
PART III	18,470	16,345	14,220	12,095

EXAMINATION TIME TABLE FOR MARCH 2010

DAY/DATE	TIME	PART I	PART II	PART III
TUESDAY 16/03/2010	9.30a.m. - 12.30pm	Basic Accounting Processes & Systems	P & P of Financial Accounting	Preparation & Audit of Fin. Statements
	2pm-5pm	Business Law	Information Technology	Management
WEDNESDAY 17/03/2010	9.30a.m. - 12.30pm	Economics	Quantitative Analysis	Cost Accounting
	2pm-5pm	Communication Skills	Government Accounting	Preparing Tax Computation & Returns

The designated banks for candidates in Nigeria are:

FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC
 21/25 Investment House Broad Street, Lagos
 95 Obafermi Awolowo Road, Abeokuta
 48 Melechi/Challenge Road, Ibadan
 Ajaye, Ajah, along Lekki-Epe Expressway, Lagos
 2, Bauchi Road, Campus, Jos
 Erija Street, Ilesha
 1, Alagbaka Road, P.M.B. 707, Akure
 10 Alakija Street, Jibowu, Yaba Lagos
 41, Wani/Sapele Road, P.M.B. 1020, Warri
 10, Lagos Street, Kano
 Yakubu Gowon Way, Kaduna
 New Bridge Road, Makurdi
 Abdullahi Fodio Road, Sokoto
 1, Oron Road, Uyo, Akwa Ibom
 42, Galadima Aminu Way, Jimeta, Yola
 Amorata Road, Yenegoa
 No. 1, Burma Road, Apapa
 1, Savage Lane, Apapa Road, Ebute Metta, Lagos
 2, Asa Road, Aba
 Akinwale Street, Tackie Square, Ogbomoso
 6, Azikiwe Avenue, Awka

ECOBANK PLC
 44, Old GRA, Aba
 1, Okpara Street, Off Water Works Road, Abakaliki, Ebony State

7A, Secretariat Road, Gwagwalada, Abuja
 Plot 2306, Susea Crescent, Off Herbert Macaulay, Zone 4 Wuse, Abuja
 258, Nnebisi Road, Asaba
 35, Poly Road, Aweti
 Opposite Govt House, Awka, Anambra State
 55 Akpakpava Road, Benin
 12 Mary Slessor Avenue, Calabar, Cross River
 31A Okpapa Avenue, Enugu State
 No 24 New Court Road, Dugbe, Ibadan
 19, Ahmadu Bello Way Road, Jos
 Bik PB5, France/Court Road
 Elizade Plaza, 322A, Ikorodo Road, By Anthony Bus stop, Lagos
 13-15 Wharf Road, Apapa, Lagos
 House 22, 2nd Avenue, Festac, Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos
 118, Agege Motor Road, Mushin, Lagos
 67, Awolowo Road, S/W, Ikoyi, Lagos
 3, ire Akari Estate Road, Isolo, Lagos
 130, Broad Street, Lagos
 13, Old Ojo Road, Maza Maza, Lagos
 21 Ijaye Road, Ogba, Lagos
 30-32, Ojupegba Road, Surulere, Lagos
 22 Herbert Macaulay Street, Ebute Metta, Lagos
 302 Herbert Macaulay Way, Sabo, Yaba, Lagos
 58A, Adeola Ojukwu Street, Victoria Island, Lagos
 Plot 14, Kashi Ibrahim Way, Maiduguri

87, Ghoko Road, Makurdi, Benue
 24, Port Harcourt Road, Onitsha, Anambra State
 69, Douglas Road, Owerri, Imo State
 Akuru Ibiyan Road, Umuahia
 32, Oron Road, Uyo Akwa-Ibom State
 106, Mbiama-Yenegoa Road, Yenegoa
 2, Junction Road, Kaduna Kaduna State
 Off Mbano Junction, Port Harcourt
 Fleet House, Oluobasanjo Road, Port Harcourt
 39 Deco Road, Warri, Delta State
 20/21 New Market Road, Commercial Area
 527, Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, Ijaye Ojokoro
 45, Anwardual Carriage Way, Asaba
 22, Ahmadu Bello Way, Kaduna
 237, Idiroko Road, Ota
 226, Gbagada Residential Scheme, Gbagada Oshodi Expressway, Lagos
 8, Joel Ogunnaike Street, Ikeja, Lagos
 114, Ogudu-Ojota Road, Ogudu GRA, Lagos
 19A Oba Akran Avenue, Ikeja, Lagos
 33, Secretariat Road, Ado Ekiti, Ekiti State
 Plot 8 Trans-Amadi Industrial Layout, Port Harcourt
 Bookshop Building, Unitag Akoka, Lagos
 39-40b Tafawa Balewa Square Onikan Lagos
 Shop F1-5/36-40 Iketa Shopping Complex Ygc Ajah
 Plot 3, Bishop Abiodun Cole Street, Vi, Lagos
 122, Abayomi Bus Stop Iwo-Road Ibadan

Beside Inaolaji Shopping Complex, Agodi Gate, Ibadan

OCEANIC BANK

73/75 Tinubu Street, Ibara, Abeokuta
 Igbo Street, Ado Ekiti
 264, Nnebisi Rd. by Federal Medical Centre, Asaba
 Akpakpava Street, Ikpoba Benin
 Plot 22 M/Muhammed Way, Calabar
 49b, Idi-Ape, Iwo Road, Ibadan
 19, Commercial Layout, Murtala Muhammed Way, Ilorin
 Motorway, Opposite 7up Building, Alausa, Lagos
 15, Ilire Road, Surulere, Lagos
 Good Shepherd House, Opp. Alausa Secretariat, Lagos
 383, Herbert Macaulay Street, Yaba, Lagos
 Winners Chapel, Canaan Land, Oita
 Redemption Camp, Lagos- Ibadan Express Way
 333, Trans Amadi Layout, Port Harcourt
 33b, Saint, Michael Road, Aba
 Sapele Road, Warri

INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC
 ALL THEIR NIGERIAN BRANCHES

The Executive Secretary
 Association of Accountancy Bodies in West Africa
 Akintola Williams House
 Plot 2048, Michael Okpara Street Off Olusegun Obasanjo Way, Zone 7
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OR
 The Registrar/Chief Executive
 The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria
 Plot 16, Idowu Taylor Street
 Victoria Island Lagos.
 Tel: 01-2617638, 2614235, 2622394, 7642295

OR
 The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (Annexe)
 25, Association Avenue, Obanikoro Bus-Stop, Ilupeju, Lagos
 Tel: 01 7740627, 01 470 5336, 7747660, 7642297, 7642298
 Website: www.ican.org.ng

CONCERNED YOBE PEOPLE FOR DEMOCRACY AND JUSTICE

Head Office: No. 11 Maiduguri Road, Near Central Mosque Damaturu, Yobe State
Re: Yobe Governorship: ANPP/INEC VS Usman Albishir

By the time you are reading this piece, the Apex Court in the land would have been in session to dispense finally (or would have dispensed finally) with the appeal filed by the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) over the Yobe State Governorship Election matter.

For the records, the ANPP/INEC appeal sought to challenge the decision of the Court of Appeal, Jos which granted an extension of time for Senator Usman Albishir to appeal the judgment of the Federal High Court Maiduguri, which had declined jurisdiction in the matter regarding the decision of the ANPP to field a candidate for the 2007 governorship election in Yobe State.

Except for the insinuations against the Nigerian judiciary and the sense of desperation displayed by a nondescript, self-styled group called 'Concerned Yobe Citizens for Justice' in an advertorial published in the Daily Trust of yesterday (Thursday), there wouldn't have been any need for this riposte, given our confidence in the judiciary to do their work and to remain unimpeded by sentimental verbiage on the pages of newspapers.

The group referred to above, which claimed to speak for justice but which displayed no respect for the judiciary, tried to cast doubt on the integrity of the justices of the Supreme Court, suggesting that the Yobe governorship matter had stalemated for 'too long' with litigations 'being slowed down by some delay games'.

In our opinion, this is crying wolf where none exists. If there was any delay in dispensing with the Yobe governorship case; that delay was caused fully and squarely by Senator Usman Albishir, who was so desperate on the matter that he engaged in what the Supreme Court earlier described as 'Forum Shopping' or abuse of court process in a ruling the Apex Court passed in December 2007.

Senator Albishir, it was, who went to the Federal High Court, Kaduna after he had gone to the Court of Appeal, Jos to appeal the ruling of the Federal High Court Maiduguri, which had declined jurisdiction. Instead of waiting to follow the processes of appeal in Jos, Albishir went to a court of coordinate jurisdiction (in Kaduna) and got a ruling over a case already decided by a similar court.

The late Senator Mamman Ali, then governor of Yobe State appealed the Kaduna Federal High Court ruling at the Court of Appeal, Kaduna. The Appeal Court set aside the ruling of the Federal High Court on the grounds of the abuse of court process and lack of jurisdiction.

When Albishir went to the Supreme Court to challenge the ruling for of the Court of Appeal Kaduna, the Supreme Court told him in no uncertain terms that he appeared desperate to get a judgment that was favorable to him and that he engaged in 'Forum Shopping'. The Supreme Court then suggested as an

'orbiter' that he should return to the Appeal Court, Jos. It is not our intention to go beyond the pale of public comment at this point since the Supreme Court will this morning dispense with the case finally.

It suffices to say, however, that the accusation of delay on the part of the judiciary was unfounded since the judiciary dealt with only those cases that are before the courts and that have met the requirements of the processes of court.

The group's 'prayer' that the Supreme Court should 'deliver justice without fear or favour' only goes to show that the Albishir camp was either scared of the facts of their case or simply doubts the capacity and integrity of the Supreme Court justices to do their work. Otherwise, at this material time, the self-styled 'Concerned Yobe Citizens for Justice' should simply have tarried awhile and waited for the Apex Court to deliver its ruling.

Let it be said that the Supreme Court will only work with the facts and submissions before it. And the facts and submissions before it are clear and unambiguous: The ANPP and INEC want the Apex Court to determine whether or not the Court of Appeal, Jos had erred in its ruling to give Senator Albishir an extension of time to file an appeal for which he had earlier engaged in the abuse of the process of court, as has been made clear by the Supreme Court itself back in December, 2007. Any other issues not within the purview of the Court will naturally not be entertained by it.

It also, by the way, strikes us as odd that both the chairman and secretary of the so called Concerned Yobe Citizens for Justice, which claimed to speak for justice in Yobe State, come from the same local government area of Fika. If charity should begin at home as the saying goes, this alone goes to show that the group does not represent justice at all. Where is justice when two individuals from the same local government area constitute themselves to promote personal interests in the name of the people of a state constituted into 17 local government areas?

As we await the ruling of the Apex Court, it is our considered opinion that the ANPP in Yobe State, as currently constituted, is not divided within itself. The party has continued to wax strong, with many hitherto aggrieved members joining in to push the development agenda espoused by Governor Ibrahim Gaidam forward.

The governor has said time and again that his door remains open and that the task of transforming Yobe State is not only the responsibility of the government but that of the entire people of the state.

So, while the people of Yobe continue together in unity and development, self-seeking ideologues will find that they are alone in the promotion of their self-interests.

Signed
Babangida Ibrahim
Chairman



BAYERO UNIVERSITY, KANO

(Office of the Registrar)

BUK/VC/IPRP&P/14

February 17, 2010

28TH CONVOCATION CEREMONY

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Attahiru Muhammadu Jega, OFR wishes to invite all the graduands, their guests and the general public to the Pre-Convocation Lecture and the Convocation Ceremony.

Major Events are as follows:

Pre-Convocation Lecture

Topic: *Nigerian Banks: What Went Wrong and the Way Forward*

Speaker: The Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Mallam Sunusi Lamido Sunusi

Chairman: His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babatunde Fashola SAN

Date: : Friday, 26th February, 2010
Time: : 4.00 p.m.
Venue: : Convocation Arena, Gwarzo Road, New Campus, Bayero University, Kano

Convocation Ceremony

Award of Honorary Degrees, Higher Degrees, Degrees, Diplomas and Prizes.

Conferment of Honorary Degrees on:

1. Alhaji Aliko Dangote, CON
2. Professor Idris Alhaji Abdulkadir
3. AVM Nura Imam, CFR (Rtd.)
4. Professor Aliu Babatunde Fafunwa CON

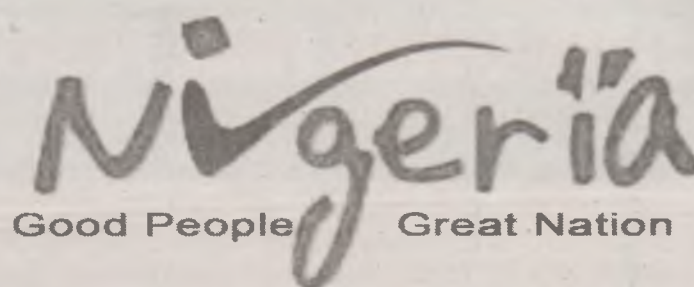
Date: : Saturday 27th February, 2010
Time: : 9.00 a.m.
Venue: : Convocation Arena, Gwarzo Road, Bayero University, New Campus, Kano.

Alumni Dinner/Cultural Night

Date: : Saturday, 27th February, 2010
Time: : 7.30 p.m.
Venue: : Convocation Arena, Gwarzo Road, Bayero University, Kano.

Graduands would be required to pay a total sum of non-refundable fee of **₦1,200** for a copy of order of proceedings and Academic Gown from 23rd to 26th of February 2010.

Signed
Habiba A. Adeiza (Mrs.)
ACTING REGISTRAR



APPOINTMENT OF EVENT MANAGERS

The Federal Ministry of Information and Communications invites interested and reputable companies with relevant experience to apply for appointment as **Event Managers for Nigeria @50 website**.

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- VAT Registration Certificate.
- Audited annual financial report of the company for the last three years.
- Letter of Reference from company bank.
- Company's comprehensive profile including CVs of key officials.

Completed applications should be submitted in sealed envelopes to the office of the Deputy Director Procurement, Federal Ministry of Information and Communications, 9th Floor, Radio House, Central Area, Abuja on or before 3rd March, 2010.

Signed:

M. B. Suleiman
 Ag. Permanent Secretary
 For: Federal Ministry of Information and
 Communications

16th February, 2010

BUSINESS

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PIC: JIBRIN ABUBAKAR

BUSINESSMEN transporting agricultural produce in a truck along Zuma rock in Niger State, Wednesday.

BRIEF

Oando rights Issue closes today

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

OANDO'S 20 billion rights issue which opened on Jan 25, 2010 is closing today after a four week run. The rights issue is expected to be successful bearing in mind the scramble by the company's shareholders to take up their rights.

The rights issues appears to have ignited interest in the capital market which has been at a very low ebb owing to the stock market crash which saw investors losing trillions of naira. The rights issue which was pegged at N70 offered investors N24 instant gain from the N93.99kobo it stabilized before it was put on technical suspension at the commencement of the offer.

The rights issue surprisingly dared a bearish trend in the last couple of months which saw a lot of companies putting on hold plans of getting listed or embarking on initial public offers. Some of those appears rejuvenated by Oando's offer and are said to be currently dusting up plans to follow the Oando example.

"We are waiting to see how investors react to the Oando right issue, but so far the feelers we are getting is very positive, but we are waiting for its conclusion before decide to approach the market to access funds" revealed a top official of a company who pleaded not to be named.

Senate probes N328m missing funds at IST

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate will soon commence investigation into the alleged N328 million missing funds at the Investment and Securities Tribunal (IST) uncovered by office of the Auditor General of Federation and the external auditors to the tribunal.

Speaking to Daily Trust yesterday on the matter, chairmen of relevant Senate Committees in the matter said they have received a petition from the Concerned Capital Market Stakeholders accusing the IST of financial impropriety.

Speaking on the matter, Chairman Senate Committee on Public Accounts, Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan (ANPP, Yobe North) said his committee has received the petition and will soon commence action.

He said: "Though the petition concerns the capital market, we have

received it and we are going to look at it. But we have not taken any action yet."

Also confirming that the petition has reached the Senate, Chairman Committee on Capital Market, Senator Ganiyu Olarenwaju Solomon (AC, Lagos West) said: "We have received the petition and we are going to do something about it."

Auditor General of Federation and the External Auditor (Ugochukwu Nwankwo & Co) that audited the accounts of the IST between 2004 and 2009 said they uncovered about N328 million unaccounted for by the Tribunal. The two bodies said that the Tribunal did not put in place full compliments of accounts of its financial operations for the periods even though set of accounting records were in place.

In its petition the Concerned Capital Market Stakeholders said they want the Presidency, National Assembly, the Economic and Finance Crime Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt

Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC) to investigate the fraud.

The External Auditor said apart from the overhead payment analysis from which monthly, quarterly and annual management reports were drawn, "Management accounts were not prepared for capital, overhead, personnel and revenue account transactions of the Tribunal for the financial years of 2004 to 2007." The Auditor said that several payment vouchers submitted for audit were devoid of the requisite transaction support documents needed to substantiate payments.

In his report, the Auditor General revealed that no record of revenue transaction was produced for audit. It said that comments of the External Auditor in the management letter revealed that requisite accounting documents/records and formal accounts were not maintained for revenue.

Trust Index

Inflation	→	12.3%
GDP	→	6.90%
Budget	→	N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→	\$42.1bn
Excess Crude Acct	→	\$4.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→	6%
Banks	→	24
Oil Price	→	\$76 a barrel
Power Supply	→	2,500MW
Oil output per day	→	1.9m bpd
Broad Money Supply	→	N10,730,793.1m
Credit to Private Sector	→	N10,155,442.0m
Inter-Bank Rate	→	2.2600%
Treasury Bills	→	2.645%
Deposit Rate	→	12.56%
Prime Lending Rate	→	19.03%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES			BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES		
2/12/2010			BUYING		
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)		
CFA	0.2897	0.2997	0.3097	DOLLAR.....N151	
DANISH KRONER	26.8799	26.971	27.062	EURO.....N207	
EURO	200.1899	200.8681	201.5462	POUNDS.....N242	
POUNDS STERLING	230.5512	231.3322	232.1132		
RIYAL	39.36	39.4934	39.6267	SELLING	
SDR	226.2265	226.9929	227.7592	DOLLAR.....N152	
SWISS FRANC	136.5655	137.0281	137.4907	EURO.....N209	
US DOLLAR	147.6	148.1	148.6	POUNDS.....N244	
WAUA	226.801	227.5693	228.3376		
YEN	1.6378	1.6434	1.6489		

Source: S&J Bureau de Change, Wise Zone 4, Abuja.

Stock Market Index	
Date:	Thursday, February 18, 2010
Index:	23,1125
Deals:	7,127
Volume:	323,278,597
Value:	N1,750,565,211.83
Cap.:	N5,567,115,706,079.25

Business

NITEL sale faces hitches

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE declaration of the New Generation Consortium as the proffered bidder for the sale of Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) may end up as a charade if the denial by Chinese firm, Unicom, announced as part of the group is anything to go by.

The New Generation consortium (formerly Telefonica) was on Tuesday declared the preferred bidder in Abuja by the National Council on Privatization (NCP) after bidding \$2.5 billion for the government-owned telecom outfit.

"There's no involvement of this project from the parent company, the listed company or any subsidiary of the company," Reuters quoted Unicom spokeswoman Sophia Tso to have said in an emailed statement.

NITEL is not strange to controversy. The word has trailed it since the idea to take it off the control of government commenced in 2001.

BPE statement

The BPE spokesman Mr. Chigbo Anichebe said: "Usman Gumi has issued a statement. We have also asked him (Usman Gumi) to share the letter of commitment from the partners with the media."

The consortium statement

A statement issued by the Authorised Representative of the consortium Mr Usman Gumi yesterday in Abuja said the Consortium was a special purpose vehicle to acquire NITEL.

He said: "Naturally, we would have financial and technical partners."

According to Gumi, the financial backbone of the New Generation Consortium is the Minerva Group of United Arab Emirates.

He said: "They have what it takes to turn around NITEL and give Nigerians good telecommu-

However, officials of the Minerva FZ, Minerva Traders LLC and Minerva Middle East in the Dubai International Financial Centre said they were not involved in the deal.

nication services."

The Minerva Group, not China Unicom is the lead financial partner of New Generation Consortium Limited," he said.

However, officials of the Minerva FZ, Minerva Traders LLC and Minerva Middle East in the Dubai International Financial Centre said they were not involved in the deal.

Other consortium members are: GiCell Wireless Ltd, a Unified Access Service Licencee, Sumatra Star GT Limited and



NITEL building

BGL Private Equity Ltd. China Unicom (Europe) Operations Limited who supported the bid, confirmed that it will provide technical and managerial support and would consider a minimum of 20% equity participation on terms to be agreed.

Assuring Nigerians that New Generation Consortium Limited will turn NITEL around; Mr. Gumi noted that the consortium has several other strategic partners with whom New Generation Consortium Limited has signed Memorandum of Understanding, including GIT Affinalia in association with Ring South Europa, Spain, and Xtra Telecom/Phone House Group, FiberHomes technologies, Huawei Technologies Limited, Operators of the National Rural Telephony Program in Nigeria and China Academy of Telecommunications Technology.

Nigeria has overtaken South Africa to become the biggest telecoms market in Africa with more than 62 million subscribers and is one of the fastest growing in the world, making it a potentially attractive country for foreign players.

But early reports of Unicom's participation in the Nitel bid had surprised many, Reuters reported, as the company has little experience in overseas mergers and acquisitions. Unicom's state-run parent owns about 20 percent of PCCW, Hong Kong's former tel-

ephone monopoly, but has made few if any forays outside Greater China.

Chinese telecoms carriers in general have been receptive to selling strategic stakes to other major global carriers, but have largely focused operations on their own lucrative home market, the world's largest, with about 750 million subscribers.

The reserve bidder in the NITEL sale was Omen International Ltd (BVI) with a bid of \$956 million.

According to the information provided by the BPE, GiCell Wireless Limited was incorporated in January 2006 and has its corporate headquarters in Abuja, Nigeria. It was established to provide efficient and affordable telecommunication services in niche markets, particularly in the un-served rural areas and under-served urban centers. Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC) granted it a Unified Access Service License.

Gicell, Nigeria partner

Gicell, it said has built CDMA 450 network along Yola-Biu route in (Adamawa and Bornu States), Calabar-Obubura route in Cross River State and Ilorin-Yashikera routes in Oyo and Kwara States. It has built a transmission network backbone for voice and broadband data services to cover 405 communities and is expected to reach 30% of the population of the four sub regions. The network is

designed to cover the geographical territories of four Local Government Areas in Adamawa State, two in Cross Rivers State, four in Kwara and two in Oyo state.

China Unicom, technical partner

China Unicom (Hong Kong) Limited (formerly known as "China Unicom Limited") was incorporated in Hong Kong in February 2000 and was listed on the New York Stock Exchange and the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong on June 21 2000 and June 22, 2000 respectively.

On 1st June 2001, the company was included as a constituent stock of the Hang Seng Index. On 7th January 2009, Unicom Group was granted the license to operate 3G digital cell business with WCDMA technology by the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China.

Minerva of Dubai, finance

The Dubai Office of Minerva controls the Group's activities in Africa, Asia and the Middle East and operates in the U.A.E. The Group's core businesses include: Trade and finance, investment management, medical supplies and services, construction, telecommunications, educational services and supplies, legal services, oil and gas marketing, transport and shipping and aviation (lease, services, supplies etc.)

This is the second privatization transaction the BPE boss Chris-

topher Anyanwu is supervising, after assuming office following the sale of SAHCOL under what the House of Rep committee on Privatization described as not-transparent.

After three failed previ-

Chinese telecoms carriers in general have been receptive to selling strategic stakes to other major global carriers, but have largely focused operations on their own lucrative home market, the world's largest, with about 750 million subscribers.

ous attempts to sell NITEL, the renewed effort to dispose it started in 2008.

NITEL WORKERS

NITEL workers whose hope had been raised by the transaction last Tuesday may wait longer to know their fate. They are being owed salaries of more than two years now.

The BPE, with the approval of the (NCP) appointed BNP Paribas to provide advisory services towards the search for a new core

Continue on page 31

Business

NITEL sale faces hitches

Continued from page 30

investor. According to the BPE, the transaction was to be completed in February, 2009. But that was not to happen. A consortium of banks including UBA, Union bank, Intercontinental and Wema Bank, among others, had claimed ownership of NITEL upon hearing of plans to sell it to out to a new owner. The group said Transcorp borrowed about N75 billion from it to finance the NITEL purchase, which was yet to be paid back. The federal government last year paid back the loan after a final revocation of Transcorp's holding.

At the expiration of the deadline on August 28, 2009 for the submission of applications, the Bureau received 13 Expression of interests (OIs) from the following prospective bidders: Brymedia (W.A) Limited; Galaxy Backbone Plc; MTI Consor-

Room Due Diligence. This development raised the number of prospective bidders to 14.

The bidders were: MTN Nigeria Communication Ltd; Etisalat Nigeria; Brymedia (WA) Ltd; Finetek.com/Ericsson consortium; Omen International Ltd (BVI); MTI Consortium; Telefonica Consortium; Globacom Nigeria Ltd; Conau Ltd; Dansacom Technologies Ltd; Adison Consulting; Foneama.com; AFZI/Spectrum Consortium; and Fugar Technologies Ltd.

The NCP has approved that NITEL/MTEL be sold as a whole or unbundled as market forces will dictate and preference will be given to bidders who desire to acquire NITEL/MTEL as a single entity, he said.

The unbundled units were NITEL fixed lines, Transmission Backbone, MTEL, SAT-3 and the CDMA network.

Disqualification of Globacom and MTN

Following the advice of the Nigerian Telecommunications Commission (NCC), BPE had announced at a pre-sale conference of NITEL held last month that all existing telecom operators in Nigeria with GSM license wouldn't be allowed to buy M-TEL alongside NITEL, as that would cripple competition in the industry.

It was on this ground that Globacom was disqualified for bidding for the whole of NITEL, acting Chairman of NCP Technical Committee, Prof Taiwo Osupitan said on Tuesday.

The nearest bid to the preferred bidder's was \$956 million (N142.4 billion) by Omen International Limited (BVI), which earned for it the position of reserve bidder. Should the latest controversy be true, analysts are of the opinion that the federal government may resort to falling back on them to avoid the rigors of starting the whole process again and the continued embarrassment NITEL has caused Nigerians.

Telecom giant MTN Nigeria had bid \$25 million (N4billion) for SAT-3. It refused to alter the bid in the second round, which made it to eventually lose out to the apparently huge and unexpected \$2.5 billion bid by New Gen Consortium for the whole of NITEL and its components.

Other bidders were

Brymedia Consortium (\$551million) and AFZI/Spectrum Consortium (\$376million). Brymedia had bid an incredibly low \$100,000 (N15 million) in the first round.

It is instructive to note that the bid opening was

done live on Television and Radio. The House of Representative Committee on Privatization and commercialization led by Hon. Abass Braimah were present. The Senate committee chair on Communication was also present.

They all gave their blessing to the entire process.

China has not been secretive about its economic interest in Africa in recent years particularly in Nigeria. It interest vary from oil to other areas. Europe and the United

States seem not pleased about the development anyway.

The coming days would definitely unfold the true status of both sides in this transactions and how it impact the fortune of moribund NITEL.

The coming days would definitely unfold the true status of both sides in this transactions and how it impact the fortune of moribund NITEL.

tium; Metro PCS Communications Inc; Finetek.Com/Ericsson Consortium; Globacom Ltd; Etisalat Nigeria (EMTS); ANAS Network Services Limited; MTNL Limited, India; Omen International Limited (BVI); Telefonica Consortium; Summit Group; and MTN Nigeria Communications Limited.

Upon the evaluation of the harvested proposals, eight out of the 13 companies qualified for the Due Diligence stage, the BPE had said.

Prior to the end of the due diligence, six additional prospective bidders— Foneama.com, Dancom Technologies Limited, Adison Consulting Limited, AFZI/Spectrum Consortium, Conau Limited and Fugar Technologies Limited— joined the process upon payment of the stipulated access fee of \$25,000 for the Data



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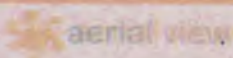
LAFOS: 23 - 24 February

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Business/Agric

C'ttee to review police pension set up

By Sunday Williams

FOLLOWING the outcome of recent verification of all police pensioners and other beneficiaries in its payroll, the Police Pension Office (PPO) has set up a

verification committee to review the exercise with a view to drop those who do not participate in the nationwide census.

Director of PPO, Malam Atiku Abubakar told newsmen yesterday in Abuja while appraising the

outcome of the recent nationwide headcount of all retired police officers as well as widows and next-of-kins of deceased officers' estimated at over 20,000 in the police pension payroll.

He said the Committee will

among other functions review the entire exercise, appraise all issues arising from it and come up with recommendations on measures and strategies for improving subsequent exercise.

He said that the success

recorded in the census had further encouraged his office to continue with other plans in conjunction with its supervising ministry to improve the police pension administration system and also maintain its status as the best in the country.

I respect Senate -Kpakol

By Sunday Williams

THE Senior Special Assistant to the President and Coordinator of NAPEP Dr Magnus K Kpakol has said that he has never been disrespected to the Public Account Committee (PAC) and by extension the Senate as claimed by the members of the committee when he appeared before them recently.

Addressing newsmen yesterday in Abuja on the event that transpired between him and the Committee, the Senior Special Assistant said NAPEP has high respect for the National Assembly and its Committees and has enjoined excellent relationship with them.

He said when they received invitation from the Committee to appear before it to answer some queries from the Auditor General Office, they asked for more time to be able to get all the relevant documents since the issues are dated back to 2006 while others had to do with other states outside the head office.

He said: "We were not in a position to get all the documents together and needed time to review the queries and get right information for the Committee. We asked the committee to give us more time but they did not give us adequate extension but instead, asked us to come just six days later and we wouldn't have gotten adequate information."

He said instead of not appearing before the committee, they decided to honour the date in respect to the venerable institution of the National Assembly to explain matters directly to the Chairman of the committee.



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SPECIAL MEETING

NESREA TO MEET WITH TELECOMMUNICATION OPERATORS

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2. NESREA has the mandate for the protection and development of the environment, biodiversity conservation and sustainable development of Nigeria's natural resources in general and environmental technology including coordination, and liaison with relevant stakeholders within and outside Nigeria on matters of enforcement of environmental standards, regulations, rules, laws, policies and guidelines.
3. NESREA Act empowers the Agency with the responsibility of enforcing all environmental laws, guidelines, policies, standards and regulations in Nigeria, as well as enforcing compliance with provisions of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) on the environment to which Nigeria is a signatory.
4. It has become necessary for the Agency to convene an urgent meeting with all telecom operators in Nigeria with a view to finding pragmatic and effective solutions to increasing public complaints about indiscriminate installation of masts and base stations and especially public concerns about the risks to human health, safety of property and the environment. This meeting is also a follow-up to the one-day Interactive Session with the Telecommunication industry organized by NESREA and the Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC) at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, on 8 September, 2009.
5. In the light of the foregoing, the Agency is pleased to invite the Chief Executive Officers of all telecommunication companies operating in Nigeria to a Consultative Meeting at which far reaching decisions to make the operations of these companies environmentally sustainable in the country shall be taken.

Venue: NESREA Conference Room, NESREA Headquarters, 4 Oro Ago Street, Off Muhammadu Buhari Way, Garki II, Abuja.

Date: Wednesday 24th February 2010.

Time: 11:00am Prompt.

Dr. (Mrs.) Ngeri S. Benebo, JP
 Director General/CEO
 NESREA.



NIGERIAN FILM CORPORATION

HEADQUARTERS

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The Nigerian Film Corporation will undertake a Nation Wide Verification Exercise of Retirees on the Corporation's Payroll from Monday, 22nd February, 2010 to Friday, 12th March, 2010.

The Verification Exercise will take place in 6 geo-political zones of the country as follows:

S/NO.	ZONE	DATE	VENUE
1.	South-West Zone	24 th - 25 th Feb., 2010	Nigerian Film Corporation, Lagos Branch Office, National Theatre Annex, Iganmu, Lagos.
2.	South-East Zone	26 th - 27 th Feb., 2010	New Court Hotel, Opp. New Heaven Primary School, Upper Chime New Heaven, Enugu
3.	South-South Zone	1 st - 2 nd March, 2010	Mina Hotel Ltd., Leventis Bus Stop, G.R.A., Port-Harcourt.
4.	North-West Zone	4 th - 5 th March, 2010	Aso Motel, 14, Muhammadu Buhari Way, Former Wharf Road, Kaduna.
5.	North-East Zone	8 th - 9 th March, 2010	Maiduguri International Hotel, Damboa Road, Maiduguri.
6.	North-Central Zone	11 th - 12 th March, 2010	NFC Headquarters, 218T Liberty Dam Road, Jos.

Retirees are to choose the closest zone to where they reside for the purpose of the Verification Exercise and they will be required to complete the Verification Form and also submit the following documents:

1. Letter of Retirement
2. 4 recent passport size photographs
3. Statement of Bank Account in which monthly pension are being paid.

Retirees are to note that anyone who fails to turn up for the exercise or to give any acceptable explanation will cause his/her name to be deleted from the payroll.

The Corporation count on your co-operation for the success of the Verification Exercise, please.

Contact Nos.: 08034543655
 08036813210

Secretary
 NFC Staff Pension Board of Trustees.

Business/International

Toyota faces new US investigation

JAPANESE carmaker Toyota is facing a new US investigation into complaints of steering problems in its Corolla model.

The investigation is expected to be opened on Thursday and will involve an estimated 500,000 vehicles.

It is already facing an investigation into whether it was quick enough in recalling cars over problems involving accelerator and braking systems.

Toyota said on Wednesday that it was looking into complaints of power steering problems with the Corolla.

January 2010, US: 2.3m Toyota vehicles recalled due to accelerator pedal problems (of those, 2.1m already involved in floor mat recall)

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) says it has received more than 150 complaints about possible steering problems in the 2009-2010 Corolla.

Toyota sold nearly 1.3 million of the models worldwide last year, including about 300,000 in the US.

Toyota is facing another

US investigation into whether it was quick enough in recalling millions of cars over problems involving accelerator pedals and braking systems.

It has denied any cover-up and says it will "co-operate to provide all the

information they have requested" on the US inquiry.

The saga began in the US with reports that accelerator pedals were getting caught under the floor mats.

The Japanese car giant

began recalling vehicles potentially affected by that problem in October last year and Toyota then redesigned the mats.

The floor mat issue affected a number of vehicles in the US, but not in the UK.

Later, separate acceleration problems were found to be caused by the pedal sticking.

This was then followed by the recall of about 436,000 hybrid vehicles, including the Prius model, over brake concerns. BBC.



Wal-Mart sees lower sales in US

WAL-MART, the world's largest retailer, has seen sales fall in its home market and said that conditions in the US remained "challenging".

Overall sales, including its overseas businesses, rose 4.6% to \$112.8bn (£72.4bn). Net profit rose 22% to \$4.63bn from \$3.8bn a year ago.

UK supermarket Asda, which is owned by Wal-Mart, reported a 4.6% rise in sales in the quarter.

Asda chief executive Andy Bond said the group had beaten its sales and profit targets for the three months and the full year.

However, he also said that the company had become "too promotional" in 2009. "Be in no doubt that Asda will return with force to our 'Every Day Low Prices' model in 2010," he said. Shares in Wal-Mart fell 0.8% in pre-market trading as the results fell below analysts' expectations.

"We expect continued strong growth from International this fiscal year," said Mike Duke, Wal-Mart president and chief executive.

Global markets: Dollar rises broadly; stocks lower

THE dollar rose broadly while stocks and oil slipped on Thursday as stronger U.S. economic data raised the prospect of the withdrawal of monetary stimulus, while an IMF plan to sell more gold hit commodity-linked stocks.

Mixed results from European financial firms also weighed on the region's shares, while the euro remained under pressure from persistent concerns over Greece's debt woes.

Wednesday's upbeat data on the housing and industrial sector and evidence that the Federal Reserve had discussed strategies to withdraw some of its emergency stimulus highlighted a more favourable outlook in the United States, compared with the euro zone where a lingering debt crisis is set to weigh on growth.

"The Fed minutes have helped the dollar as they were perceived as hawkish," said Johan Javeus, currency strategist at SEB in Stockholm. "Whereas before there was a sense that the (European Central Bank) would be ahead of the Fed in raising rates it now looks increasingly likely that the Fed will move before the ECB."

The dollar .DXY rose 0.3 percent against a basket of major currencies while the euro lost a third percent to \$1.3560 EUR=. The MSCI world equity index .MIWD00000PUS fell 0.3 percent after hitting its strongest level in almost two weeks on Wednesday.

The FTSEurofirst 300 index .FTEU3 dropped 0.1 percent. French bank Societe Generale (SOGN.PA) fell after it reported fourth-quarter net profit below the previous three months' while insurer AXA (AXAF.PA) almost quadrupled annual net earnings.

Emerging stocks .MSCIEF fell half a percent while emerging Asian stocks .MIAPJ00000PUS lost 0.7 percent.

The premium investors demand to hold 10-year Greek sovereign debt rather than Germany's rose to a one-week high of around 338 basis points .GR10YT=RR EU10YT=RR.

Greece, whose debt mountain is set to reach 120 percent of gross domestic product, needs to sell some 53 billion euros in debt this year, including at least 20 billion in April and May, and is looking for EU support to reduce its borrow-

ing costs.

Prices of bund futures FGBLC1 fell 23 ticks, but two-year euro zone government bond yields fell as low as 0.958 percent EU2YT=RR, the lowest since the euro's inception, due to expectations euro zone interest rates would stay low for longer.

Commodity prices and related stocks and currencies were hit by a combination of a stronger dollar and the International Monetary Fund's plan for a phased sale of 191.3 tonnes of gold earmarked in its plan to raise new resources for lending.

Gold slipped to \$1,100 an ounce XAU= while basic resource shares were the biggest underperformer .SXPP in Europe. Oil fell 1.1 percent to \$76.48 a barrel CLC1 while the Australian dollar fell almost half a percent to US\$0.8951 AUD=.

Crude is still up 5.4 percent since the start of the month CLC1, pushing Russia's rouble to 13-month highs and prompting the country's central bank to move the boundary of its floating trading band for the first time since November. REUTERS.

GLOBAL stock report

Europe / Africa	UK time	index value	change	%
London				
FTSE 100	Thu 13:50	5288.53	11.89	0.23
FTSE 250	Thu 13:50	9338.94	9.02	0.10
FTSE 350	Thu 13:50	2767.81	5.78	0.21
FTSE All Share	Thu 13:50	2707.44	5.51	0.20
FTSE Techmark	Thu 13:50	1739.40	7.08	0.41
Pan European				
FTSEurofirst 300	Thu 13:50	1014.29	0.81	0.08
DJ Eurostoxx 50	Thu 13:50	2755.50	6.75	0.24
Amsterdam AEX	Thu 13:50	322.02	1.11	0.34
Frankfurt				
Dax	Thu 13:50	5643.06	5.28	0.09
MDax	Thu 13:50	7536.36	5.36	0.07
SDax	Thu 13:50	3645.47	0.39	0.01
TecDax	Thu 13:50	813.00	0.12	0.01
Paris Cac 40	Thu 13:50	3720.96	4.25	0.11
Brussels Bel 20	Thu 13:50	2499.02	13.82	0.55
Madrid IBEX				
	Thu 13:50	10428.80	69.80	0.66
Zurich				
SMI	Thu 13:50	6601.49	33.89	0.52
SPI	Thu 13:48	5684.66	32.96	0.58
Moscow RTS	Thu 13:50	1398.09	27.18	1.91
Johannesburg				
All Share	Thu 13:50	27047.44	145.14	0.53
FTSE 100	5297.25up	20.61	0.39%	
Dax	5658.28up	9.94	0.18%	
Cac 40	3729.51up	4.30	0.12%	
Dow Jones	10309.24up	40.43	0.39%	
Nasdaq	2226.29up	12.10	0.55%	

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Thursday, February 18, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)				
2ND-TIER SECURITIES								
CAPITAL OIL PLC	11	0.63	506,181	316,004.03				
SECTORTOTALS	12		506,331	316,332.53				
AGRICULTURE								
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	27	0.95	1,436,018	1,398,513.10				
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	6	0.78	61,300	45,975.00				
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COY. PLC	1	21.62	432	8,873.28				
PRESCO PLC	4	5.21	10,300	53,638.00				
SECTORTOTALS	38		1,508,050	1,506,999.38				
AIR SERVICES								
AIRLINE SERV.& LOGISTICS PLC	3	3.04	175,500	533,520.00				
NIG. AVIATION HANDLING COY. PLC	79	8.19	1,370,391	11,270,963.96				
SECTORTOTALS	82		1,545,891	11,804,483.96				
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE								
DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC	5	0.50	168,800	84,400.00				
INCAR NIGERIA PLC	2	1.97	114,069	224,715.93				
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	23	5.50	118,873	656,113.59				
SECTORTOTALS	30		401,742	965,229.52				
BANKING								
ACCESS BANK PLC	217	9.42	8,701,753	80,456,309.65				
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	76	2.64	5,276,422	13,943,996.36				
DIAMOND BANK PLC	145	9.50	21,185,071	198,099,153.20				
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	296	4.72	24,586,243	111,029,467.59				
F/CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	87	9.35	3,333,993	31,316,834.74				
FIDELITY BANK PLC	127	2.59	3,404,554	8,895,199.12				
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	836	14.79	9,768,654	144,489,919.16				
FINBANK PLC	88	0.77	6,097,222	4,740,612.13				
GTBANK PLC	454	18.03	6,731,774	121,431,261.82				
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	67	8.77	1,288,166	11,199,088.10				
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	97	2.01	3,448,626	6,778,209.11				
OCEANIC BANK INTER. PLC	134	2.09	5,253,943	10,978,738.82				
BANK PHB PLC	92	1.97	2,358,391	4,656,295.88				
SKYBANK PLC	196	7.40	5,941,218	43,968,603.77				
SPRING BANK PLC	26	1.08	1,075,974	1,148,819.08				
STERLING BANK PLC	64	1.92	3,280,956	6,247,546.86				
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	241	13.60	7,472,727	99,559,341.46				
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	177	5.95	4,147,514	24,538,829.94				
UNITY BANK PLC	34	1.00	3,393,658	3,402,110.22				
WEMA BANK PLC	51	1.15	986,085	1,143,861.90				
ZENITH BANK PLC	204	15.70	2,544,820	39,850,416.89				
SECTORTOTALS	3,709		130,277,764	967,874,615.80				
BUILDING MATERIALS								
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	101	16.05	1,213,653	19,455,108.44				
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	25	50.01	131,736	6,595,190.72				
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	68	15.69	4,513,349	70,519,947.33				
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	27	34.99	164,831	5,716,987.10				
SECTORTOTALS	221		6,023,569	102,287,233.59				
CHEMICAL & PAINTS								
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	4	3.36	56,854	200,126.08				
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	5	25.78	78,800	2,034,350.00				
DN MEYER PLC	15	3.80	282,821	1,074,719.80				
I.P.W.A. PLC	1	1.32	50,000	66,000.00				
NIGERIAN-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC	1	15.04	11,268	161,019.72				
SECTORTOTALS	26		479,743	3,536,215.60				
COMMERCIAL SERVICES								
AFROMEDIA PLC	2	0.51	328,000	167,280.00				
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	4	0.50	122,500	61,250.00				
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	13	2.65	231,767	623,817.30				
SECTORTOTALS	19		682,267	852,347.30				
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIPMENT								
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	3	0.55	610,000	335,500.00				
TRIPPLE GEE AND COY. PLC	1	4.37	2,000	8,320.00				
SECTORTOTALS	4		612,000	343,820.00				
CONGLOMERATES								
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	9	2.85	76,138	209,543.03				
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	72	26.25	1,557,786	40,890,756.65				
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	57	0.50	11,268,780	5,634,647.50				
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	54	42.00	227,030	9,586,149.70				
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	94	25.00	607,806	15,196,781.55				
SECTORTOTALS	286		13,737,540	71,517,878.43				
CONSTRUCTION								
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	39	5.34	670,132	3,576,991.90				
G. CAPPALC	1	14.46	4	54.96				
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	28	28.00	252,127	6,896,714.72				
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	9	0.50	1,456,500	728,250.00				
SECTORTOTALS	77		2,378,763	11,202,011.58				
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY								
CUTIX PLC	2	2.96	60,000	169,200.00				
SECTORTOTALS	2		60,000	169,200.00				
F/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO								
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	15	30.60	25,330	804,322.90				
BIG TREAT PLC	11	0.87	634,829	552,201.23				
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	94	15.65	1,123,820	17,425,317.67				
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	188	12.75	1,906,310	23,974,722.10				
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	122	15.55	3,690,153	58,107,941.79				
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	148	46.02	1,113,779	52,048,132.32				
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	11	6.40	100,666	662,505.56				
NATIONAL SALT COY. NIG. PLC	32	6.49	772,741	4,930,783.22				
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY. PLC	17	27.10	28,469	739,927.45				
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	48	268.00	67,521	18,263,142.26				
NORTHERN NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	2	21.80	2,800	59,514.00				
TANTALIZERS PLC	35	0.88	2,257,448	2,001,418.10				
UTC NIGERIA PLC	5	0.75	6,888	5,372.64				
SECTORTOTALS	728		11,730,754	179,575,301.24				
HEALTHCARE								
EKOCORP PLC	1	5.58	6,250	33,187.50				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	12	1.12	81,365	88,180.20				
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	34	2.28	1,357,347	3,044,782.38				
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	20	26.50	236,589	6,269,643.50				
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	21	4.80	108,430	516,181.36				
NEIMETH INTERPHARMS PLC	17	1.40	208,255	288,070.01				
U/DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	44	0.69	4,880,000	3,125,560.71				
SECTORTOTALS	149		6,878,236	13,365,605.66				
HOTEL & TOURISM								
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	1	2.45	10,000	23,300.00				
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	15	1.62	787,735	1,256,536.05				
TOURIST COY. OF NIG. PLC	1	5.28	800	4,016.00				
SECTORTOTALS	17		798,535	1,283,852.05				
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS								
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	2	11.26	6,714	71,839.80				
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	20	0.50	858,868	429,434.00				
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	33	4.99	841,776	4,168,467.68				
SECTORTOTALS	55		1,707,358	4,669,741.48				
INFO & COMM. TECHNOLOGY								
CHAMS PLC	20	0.75	1,392,002	1,039,429.18				
STARCOMMS PLC	20	2.15	1,599,669	3,376,353.68				
SECTORTOTALS	40		2,991,671	4,415,782.86				
INSURANCE								
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	4	0.54	50,187,810	27,101,417.40				
AIICO INSURANCE PLC	112	1.00	4,411,567	4,436,269.43				
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	10	1.00	1,210,000	1,200,400.00				
CORNERSTONE INSUR. CO. PLC	39	0.51	6,298,785	3,216,855.13				
CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	35	3.00	3,409,294	10,241,591.14				
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	9	0.50	574,249	287,124.50				
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	66	0.51	16,321,680	8,381,273.10				
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	18	2.22	5,270,980	11,713,685.40				
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	70,000	35,000.00				
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	24,000	12,000.00				
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC	39	0.54	6,674,352	3,621,690.08				
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	39	0.51	3,962,065	2,025,754.80				
LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC	11	0.57	1,215,000	670,000.00				
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	2	0.64	20,500	13,120.00				
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC	47	0.53	7,726,650	3,981,912.09				
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	19	0.70	1,465,318	1,042,810.10				
REGENCY ALLIANCE INSUR. COY. PLC	2	0.50	100,900	50,450.00				
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSUR. PLC	5	0.50	522,400	261,200.00				
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	25	0.55	1,931,281	1,063,306.36				
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	2	0.75	55,000	41,400.00				
UNITY KAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	1	1.27	3,000,000	3,810,000.00				
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY. PLC	12	0.50	773,785	386,892.50				
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INSUR. PLC	24	1.00	852,182	851,014.56				
SECTORTOTALS	524		116,077,798	84,445,166.59				
LEASING								
C&I LEASING PLC	18	2.60	177,543	454,330.79				
SECTORTOTALS	18		177,543	454,330.79			</	

THE HOME FRONT

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FEATURE

Is pregnancy before marriage now the accepted norm?

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Postpartum depression

By Akor Ojoma

THE birth of a baby can trigger a lot of powerful emotions, from excitement and joy to fear and anxiety. But it can also result in something you might not expect — depression. Many new moms experience the baby blues after childbirth this refers to a mild form of depression which may last for a few hours or, at most, for a few days and then it disappears.

An estimated 10 percent of new moms experience a more severe form of emotional distress known as postpartum depression. Rarely, an extreme form of postpartum depression known as postpartum psychosis develops after childbirth.

Postpartum depression isn't a character flaw or a weakness. Sometimes postpartum depression is simply part of giving birth. If you have postpartum depression, prompt treatment can help you manage your symptoms — and enjoy your baby.

Symptoms

According to health experts at Mayo Clinic, signs and symptoms of depression after childbirth vary depending on the type of depression.

Baby blues

Signs and symptoms of the baby blues — which last only a few days or weeks — may include: mood swings, anxiety, sadness, crying, lack of concentration and trouble sleeping.

Postpartum depression

Postpartum depression may appear to be the baby blues at first — but the signs and symptoms are more intense and longer lasting, eventually interfering with your ability to care for your baby and handle other daily tasks. Signs and symptoms of postpartum depression may include: Loss of appetite, insomnia, intense irritability and anger, overwhelming fatigue, loss of interest in sex, Lack of joy in life, feelings of shame, guilt or inadequacy, severe mood swings, difficulty bonding with the baby, withdrawal from family and friends and thoughts of harming yourself or the baby.

Postpartum psychosis

With postpartum psychosis — a rare condition that typically develops within the first two weeks after delivery — the signs and symptoms are even more severe. Signs and symptoms of postpartum psychosis may include: Confusion and disorientation, hallucinations and delusions, paranoia and attempts to harm yourself or

the baby

Causes

There's no single cause for postpartum depression. Physical, emotional and lifestyle factors may all play a role.

- Physical changes. After childbirth, a dramatic drop in estrogen and progesterone may contribute to postpartum depression.

- Emotional factors. When you're sleep deprived and overwhelmed, you may have trouble handling even minor problems.

- Lifestyle influences. Many lifestyle factors can lead to postpartum depression, including a demanding baby or older siblings, difficulty breast-feeding, exhaustion, financial problems, and lack of support from your partner or other loved ones.

Prevention

If you have a history of depression — especially postpartum depression — mention it to your doctor as soon as you find out you're pregnant. Your doctor will monitor you closely for signs and symptoms of depression. Sometimes mild depression can be managed with support groups, counselling or other therapies. In other cases, antidepressants are recommended — even during pregnancy. After your baby is born, your doctor may recommend

an early postpartum check up to screen for signs and symptoms of postpartum depression. The earlier postpartum depression is detected, the earlier treatment can begin. If you have a history of postpartum depression, your doctor may recommend antidepressant treatment immediately after delivery.

If you're feeling depressed after your baby's birth, you may be reluctant or embarrassed to admit it. But it's important to tell your doctor. If the signs and symptoms of depression don't fade after a few weeks or if they're so severe that they interfere with your ability to complete everyday tasks, call your doctor. Early intervention can speed your recovery.

Left untreated, postpartum depression can interfere with mother-child bonding and cause family distress. Children of mothers who have untreated postpartum depression are more likely to have behavioural problems, such as sleeping and eating difficulties, temper tantrums and hyperactivity. Delays in language development are common as well.

Treatments

Treatment and recovery time vary, depending on the severity of your depression and your individual needs.

Baby blues

The baby blues usually fade on their own within a few days



Left untreated, postpartum depression can interfere with mother-child bonding and cause family distress

to weeks. In the meantime, get as much rest as you can. Accept help from family and friends. Connect with other new moms. Avoid alcohol, which can make mood swings worse. If you have an underactive thyroid, your doctor may prescribe thyroid medication.

Postpartum depression is often treated with counselling and medication. Antidepressants and hormone therapy have also proven effective treatment options. With appropriate treatment, postpartum depression usually goes away within a few months. In some cases, postpartum depression lasts up to a year. It's important to continue treatment after you begin to feel better, however. Stopping treatment too early may only lead to a relapse. Postpartum psychosis however, requires immediate treatment, often in the hospital.



Fiscal Responsibility Commission

Exciting Career Opportunity

The Fiscal Responsibility Commission is a body created to enthrone a regime of prudent, ethical and effective management of public monies and resources across all tiers of Government.

NOTICE OF TEST

There will be a test for all those who applied for employment with Fiscal Responsibility Commission on Saturday, 27th February 2010 at the following centres:

Abuja	National Women Development Centre Plot 33, Abubakar Tafawa Balewa Way Opposite Central Bank of Nigeria Central Business District, Cadastral Zone, Abuja.
Lafia	Federal College of Agriculture Jos – Lafia Road Lafia
Gombe	Federal College of Education (Technical) Ashaka Road Gombe
Enugu	Institute of Management and Technology (IMT) Enugu
Portharcourt	Holy Rosary Girls Secondary School No 1 Isaac Boro Street Old GRA Portharcourt
Ibadan	Loyola College Old Ife Road, Ibadan
Kaduna	Police College Kaduna Independence Way Kaduna

Applicants are to take to the venue:

1. Invitation for test sent by Nexia to applicants
2. Biro
3. One recent passport photograph
4. Means of identification (National ID card, Drivers licence or International passport)

Important Notes

- Only contacted applicants will be allowed to write the test
- Accreditation will commence same day between 9am to 11.30am
- All applicants are expected to be seated for the test by 11.30am

Visit www.nexianigeria.com for more enquiry and details.



Nexia Business Solutions is a multi-skilled and multi-disciplined global firm committed to technical and professional excellence. The firm is a member of Nexia International, a worldwide network with offices in over 100 Countries.



Women trade homemaking for job market

By Ahmad Salkida

CENTURIES ago, the family institution was indeed a place for kindness, love and support for one another. There were no arguments as to the roles and responsibilities of each member of the family. The men were the breadwinners while the women stayed at home and cared for the children and household chores. Together, the parents inculcate into their children value system that are beneficial to the entire society. But apparently, over the years, this idyllic picture painted above has been shattered.

All over Nigeria, women are increasingly becoming bread winners. They engage in all sorts of menial jobs, such as construction, farming, trading, fishing and lately in the urban areas, many women have traded homemaking for a place in the job market; leaving the guidance of their children to school teachers

and day-care workers that are increasingly becoming substitute parents.

Interestingly however, a significant number of the women caught up in this 'clash of civilization' have not abandoned their traditional roles of cooking for the family. As the child bearer with the sole task of childcare, these have placed women at a more disadvantaged position than men especially when the men die; Mary Bitrus, a mother of three and widow living with HIV in Abuja implied.

Mary, who is making sacrifices despite her HIV status, just to ensure her children have enough to eat said when she and her husband came down with the virus she quit her job as a civil servant while her husband continued with his job as a Police officer.

"I was caring for him, myself and our last child who was infected and when he couldn't

stop drinking alcohol he became so sick and unable to work again before he died. My youngest child died later on. Now I manage my family with this provision store", she said

The International Community of Women Living with HIV/AIDS states that women living with HIV experience many of the same things but also experience living with HIV and AIDS differently. The lives of rural and urban women are not the same. Often the expectations placed on women by society echo our traditional role as women.

"We are seen as only caregivers to our partners, children and families. We are expected to always put the needs of others before ours. This is not good for us, for our health and wellbeing. It means not only are we fighting a virus, but we are also challenging the system which sees the needs of our children and our partners as more important than our needs as women".

A study conducted in the southern part of Nigeria by one Oruwari Y. found out that in Nigeria the economic contributions of women working in the informal sector is often greater, even when considered separately from the value of their household and reproductive work than that of husbands employed in the formal sector. The survey revealed that women funded 55 percent of household expenditure on average.

“ Together, the parents inculcate into their children value system that are beneficial to the entire society. But apparently, over the years, this idyllic picture painted above has been shattered

FRAGMENTS

By Safiya I. Dantiye
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Before the 'auctioning' of women

THE attempt of wanting to make marriage easy in order to address the so-called expenses that prevent young people from getting married is one that has been done by some societies. This is a trend people will continue to see until a solution is finally found.

I wasn't in the least surprised when Jakusko Local Government Council in Yobe State restricted the dowry for maidens to N10, 000 and N5, 000 for divorcees. The authorities said in the story of Weekly Trust, February 13, 2010, that they arrived at the decision so as to curtail social vices like prostitution and having children out of wedlock. According to the story, the local government said the suitor could only give not more than five wrappers in one suitcase, it also said however that he could later on buy 10 boxes and give to his wife once she is in his house if he likes.

Also recently, Illela Local Government Council in Sokoto State banned extravagant expenditure in marriage, naming and funeral ceremonies. Purchase of associated clothes, food items for brides-to-be has also been banned. It pegged the bride price to N4, 000, equivalent 'rubi dinar', the minimum amount to be paid as dowry.

After I read the story of the Jakusko, I said a prayer and implored God to help women retain their integrity, because some men have already started taunting women as a result of the story, it was even a subject of a cartoon. I overheard one man say, "If your wife offends you, you can just go to Yobe State with N10, 000 and get another wife or even N5, 000 depending on your pocket or choice. You can even threaten her with such a marriage, and before you know it she will become very obedient." There are many factors to consider before such grave and fundamental decisions as 'auctioning' of women are carried out, because this is exactly what the decision is doing to women. And I wonder why they can't just line up women in the market square and ring bells for auction.

The general belief is that things like 'kayan lefe', that is suitcases of clothes and cosmetics are what prevents or delays marriage, while the actual problem is what stares almost everybody in the face in the country; and it is joblessness. But due to our culture and system of extended family, in many cases as soon as a young man wants to get married, the 'lefe' is more or less put together by contributions from aunts, sisters, brothers and other relatives.

Some relatives or parents can even provide accommodation. But the point is can the husband maintain a family? If the answer is no, then his problem is not 'kayan lefe' or dowry, it is lack of doing anything to have an income. And I find it curious that the Illela and Jakusko Local Governments were silent on who provides the furniture and the kitchen wares, which we all know are provided by the bride's parents; but they should make their stand on it now with their new laws. These local government councils should have thought of creating jobs for their young men, so that they can take care of their family when they get married. Assuming many young men eagerly save N10, 000 and marry their sweethearts, what happens if they can't take care of the wives, and rather become a liability to their (husband's) parents?

As people say, it is not getting married that is the problem, it is 'yau da gobe', that is taking the responsibility of the wife. And what if she becomes pregnant, and so on?

If indeed such a ridiculous decision should be taken, then enlightenment campaigns should be done for men and women, the parents and the young people. The men should be told that the law was made not for them to degrade and abuse women and the women should not see it as such. But now some men will be very happy, wanting to marry and divorce as many women as possible, as if women are going out of fashion, even as they are now being 'auctioned' like common property.

One woman once complained that her son refused to pursue his education further after secondary school. He was riding 'achaba', commercial motorcycle, and before long he told her that he wanted to get married. She asked him how he could get married without having a concrete means of income. And such is the problem, our young men should get up and get means of livelihood while the government at all levels should create jobs, if only to save women the humiliation of being 'auctioned' since the men are so poor to maintain a family, yet they hide under the guise of a high bride price.

Health interactive

Write in confidence to healthinteractive@hotmail.com; www.healthinteractive.wordpress.com or send a text message to 080-89972539 or P.O.Box 14807, Kano, Nigeria

Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

Having repeated discharge

I am 21 years old and normally have a repeated vaginal discharge almost on a daily basis. Please is it a problem or not? I am confused.

Laraba M

This question is collapsed in to one response. I received 6 related to the same issue. We need to know the difference between normal vaginal discharge and abnormal vaginal discharge? Having a vaginal discharge is normal? Let me explain further, so that you will be able to differentiate types of vaginal discharges and know when you have an abnormal vaginal discharge.

Vagina provides a route from the outside to your uterus (womb) and the rest of your internal reproductive system. The natural acidic nature of it acts to prevent infections. The acidic nature is caused by natural, good, bacteria produced by your body. When your vagina is healthy, the vagina keeps itself clean and in a healthy state by producing secretions of normal vaginal discharge. The natural balance of the vagina can be disrupted by anything that interferes with its normal environment.

What is normal vaginal discharge?

First it's important to understand that all women experience some amount of vaginal discharge. Glands in your vaginal and cervix produce small amounts of fluid that flows out of your vagina everyday taking with it old cells that line the vagina. Your normal vaginal discharge helps to clean the vagina, as well as keep it lubricated and free from infection and other germs.

A normal vaginal discharge does not have a foul odor and usually has no odor at all. Normal vaginal discharge often appears clear or milky when it dries on your clothing; occasionally you may notice white spots or a normal vaginal discharge that is thin and stringy looking.

Other things that may cause changes in the appearance or consistency of your vaginal discharge include:

1. Your menstrual cycle.
2. Emotional stress
3. Pregnancy
4. Any prescribed or OTC medications you take including hormones such as in the Pill
5. Sexual excitement
6. Breastfeeding
7. Ovulation.
8. Your diet

Other things that can upset the natural balance of your vagina and lead to vaginal infections include

1. Vaginal douches
2. Feminine hygiene products

3. Perfumed or deodorant soaps
4. Antibiotics
5. Pregnancy
6. Diabetes
7. Presence of another infection

Your menstrual cycle has a significant effect on the type of vaginal discharge you experience throughout the month. Do you know you're more likely to experience vaginal infections just before or during your period? This is because the pH balance of your vagina varies during your monthly cycle causing the acidic level of your vagina to be at its lowest point a few days before and during your period. About halfway between your periods an increase in vaginal discharge that appears clear is normal. This increased wetness and clear vaginal discharge is an indication of ovulation.

Some signs that may indicate an abnormal vaginal discharge and infection include:

1. Changes in color, consistency, or amount
2. Constant, increased vaginal discharge
3. Presence of itching, discomfort, or any rash
4. Vaginal burning during urination

5. The presence of blood when it's not your period time
6. Cottage cheese-like vaginal discharge
7. A foul odor accompanied by yellowish, greenish, or grayish white vaginal discharge

If you have a vaginal discharge along with any of these signs, consult your health care provider for diagnosis and treatment. Vaginal discharges are common. The most common vaginal infection is Bacterial vaginosis. Vaginal yeast infections are also very common and over-the-counter treatments are available; however, it's important to never self-diagnose a vaginal yeast infection unless you have previously been diagnosed by your health care provider. Another common vaginal infection is called Trichomoniasis.

What are test tube babies?

I will like to go for test tube babies. I have been married for seven years without issues. What is the meaning of test tube babies?

Ms F

Some women or couples are not able to deliver children due to many factors.

It is based on that. Scientists and doctors have invented a special technique i.e. test tube baby or I.V.F (in vitro fertilization) and embryo transfer.

In this system of fertilization, the egg is fertilized outside the woman's body and is then transferred inside the uterus. Women up to the age of 38 can get it done.

Getting a test tube baby is a time consuming phenomenon and also expensive technique. Being costly, this procedure is tried only after all other available options to conceive have failed.

It can be tried on females with

1. Faulty fallopian tubes
2. Or if no eggs are formed in the ovaries
3. If the male partner does not produce enough motile sperms to cause fertilization.

Method of In Vitro Fertilization

The procedure starts by taking various tests and detailed ultrasound is carried out. Proper

semen analysis is also done. Injections are given to produce eggs.

Then an egg is taken from the ovary by a very thin needle through vagina.

This is done under great medical supervision and takes around 30 minutes.

Now this egg is placed in the incubator before it is fertilized, till the time sperms are collected from the male partner and washed. After this the patient is allowed to go home.

Fertilization is then done in especially prepared fluid medium and after 12 hours the egg starts dividing into cells. About 48-72 hours later, the embryos become ready for transfer. The embryos are kept under observation for 2-3 days and then the best-selected embryo is transferred into the lady's uterus and allowed to grow into full pledged pregnancy. When the pregnancy is confirmed, regular check-ups as per normal pregnancy procedures are done.

Successful pregnancy results in about 65% cases have been confirmed, however about 35% of the recorded IVF recorded couple taken babies home.



Is pregnancy before marriage now the accepted norm?

By Maureen Onochie

SOME decades ago any woman caught sleeping with a man who is not her husband is seen to have committed an abomination in the eyes of her parents and the entire society. This is because she is expected to get married as a virgin. TODAY however, the rate at which ladies get pregnant before marriage is alarming; it raises a lot of questions. Some now believe it is a normal thing to do and no longer feel embarrassed when they have children before walking down the aisle. SUCH people possibly see pregnancy as the easiest bait to get a man for marriage and they would go any length to achieve this, including deceiving the man about their safe periods. Once the lady realizes she is pregnant, she tries to persuade him to marry her with her major excuse being she cannot have an abortion.

Surprisingly some men also think it is important for them to get their fiancées pregnant before marriage; this they claim is to ascertain their fertility. They too have accepted it as the normal thing to do.

According to Gbenga Kolade, men do this because a lot of girls have made covenants knowingly or unknowingly with spirit husbands and their wombs are used to seal such covenants thereby destroying

“Surprisingly some men also think it is important for them to get their fiancées pregnant before marriage; this they claim is to ascertain their fertility

their chances of bearing children when they eventually marry. “Some have had several abortions it becomes impossible for them to bear a child while others are not fertile. In order to avoid problems that may occur after marriage due to childlessness you have to get the lady pregnant before you go ahead with the wedding”, he said.

Some ladies have the intention of remaining pious before marriage but along the line when a man walks up to them and makes all sorts of promises like a marriage proposal, they succumb to their sexual advances. Then the story changes and the men begin to give excuses why they cannot marry them. Reverend Father Peter Bakwaph said

“Some ladies have the intention of remaining pious before marriage but along the line when a man walks up to them and makes all sorts of promises like a marriage proposal

most ladies find it difficult to leave the men who deflowered them because they entered into a blood covenant by that union which is meant to be within the precinct of marriage.

He said every Christian doctrine is against ladies who get pregnant before marriage as well as men and women who

indulge in sex before marriage.

“In the Roman Catholic Church it is referred to as fornication and it is a mortal sin. The Roman Catholic Church is not only against sexual intercourse but anything that can lead to the act. The church sees pregnancy before marriage as a sin because the sixth commandment says

“Any lady that is betrothed to a man is supposed to be a virgin before her marriage because she is yet to sign a contract with her husband

“thou shall not commit adultery which is also applicable to fornication as is written in several parts of the Bible”

According to him, nowadays people have missed the ideology behind the use of the white wedding gown and covering of the face with a veil by the woman on her wedding day. He said the gown symbolizes purity and the use of the veil signifies that they have not met before.

“Any lady that is betrothed to a man is supposed to be a virgin before her marriage because she is yet to sign a contract with her husband. This makes her pure until she is formally joined to her husband and this is the only reason why she should put on a white wedding gown and cover her face with a veil on her wedding day”.

Mrs. Theresa Onuchukwu is a mother who said getting pregnant before marriage is not only ungodly but irresponsible. “I always advise youths to avoid such acts before they get married”, She said She condemned men who impregnate

“She condemned men who impregnate women purposely to test if they can have children

women purposely to test if they can have children. “They are not just testing man but God. It is also foolish for any lady to try trapping a man with pregnancy in order to get him to marry her. She might end up not having a happy marriage when she finally gets married to him”.

It is unfortunate that in this present day, a lady is seen as old fashioned if she is still a virgin at the age of 21. Some men now bluntly say they cannot marry a virgin because it is no longer in vogue. As such, some people don't even bat an eyelid if they see a heavily pregnant bride standing before the altar in a white wedding gown with her face all covered up.

The right thing for every lady to do is to protect her integrity by waiting to get into her husband's house before taking in. It is not right before God and man to get pregnant before the marriage. By so doing, she saves herself many problems that come with pregnancy before marriage such as denial of paternity by the man or single motherhood among others.



'The number of Internally Displaced Persons in the country is alarming'

Hajia Hadiza Sani Kangiwa is the Commissioner of the National Commission for Refugees (NCFR). In this interview, she speaks on the intervention of the commission in the recent Jos crises and its other activities. Excerpts:

By Akor Ojoma

You were recently in Jos following the crises there, how were you able to handle the cases of internally displaced persons?

AS soon as they fight erupted, we immediately intervened, and as at the time we arrived we were able to locate about 8 camps, the NDLEA centre, Police Staff College, Air-force Base, Multy troupes training, GOC Rukuba barracks, Cocin, Catholic, Baptist and Rudan Pri. School camp, Bukuru B division, and J.N.I (Central Mosque). All in all we were able to conduct a head count of about 23,950 Internally Displaced persons (IDPs). Some IDPs had also relocated to villages like Boto, Lere, Toro and Maganmani Gamau which are in the Bauchi /Jos border and they were about 7,876 IDPS making the total number of internally displaced person from the crises 31,886. Out of this population 35% are women while children were 30%. The elderly constitute 15%, and men and others 20%. So we can see that women and children form the bulk of these IDPS. We

We also provided assorted drugs and medication and water storage facilities like tanks to allow them access to water

provided them food items like vegetable oil, rice, Garri, cartons of indomie, and sugar and other non food items like blankets, mats, mattresses, clothing for women and children and several other items like stoves, plates and buckets etc and also sanitary materials like, disinfectants, detergents and sanitary pads for the women. We also provided assorted drugs and medication and water storage facilities like tanks to allow them access to water. We ensured that the items were distributed directly to the camps that I mentioned because we were particularly concerned because of the nature of the crises and some people were not able to know and also because of the magnitude of the situation we had no time to waste. We quickly formed distribution committees which included the mem-



HAJIA Hadiza Sani Kangiwa

bers of the displaced communities themselves. We handed the items over to them to distribute to the affected communities.

As soon as we returned to Abuja, we have also been contacted by several organizations and individuals to collect donations but since we are not mandated to collect money from them, we provided them with the needs assessment which they used to contact the people and assist them. They were able to contact the distribution committees and ensure that whatever they bring is distributed to the displaced communities.

What is next after your intervention especially with houses still burnt, husbands, parent and other loved ones dead and people are still afraid to return to their homes?

The next course of action is protection and security of lives and property. Every citizen in the country is entitled to security. This is a serious issue which needs concerted efforts by the federal,

state and local Government Areas as well as the people themselves. It goes beyond providing them with materials to help during the crisis. Right now we have children who are out of school because their schools have been burnt and there are those whose schools were not affected during the crisis but cannot go to school because Internally Displaced persons who have lost their homes have taken over their schools. These people have lost their homes and have nowhere to go.

What is the index of Internally Displaced Persons generally in the country?

The case of internally displaced persons in the country is alarming. Over half a million Nigerians are Internally Displaced. It is a sad situation. There were people displaced during the 2008 Jos crises who were still handling before the recent crises erupted. In fact we were just about to open a skills acquisition centre for them. There are also some communities in the country dis-

placed as a result of border disputes and boundary clashes. We also have those who have been displaced as a result of natural disasters like flood in addition to those that have been displaced by other conflicts. The crises in Jos erupted in January, the first month of the year, we just wish these will be the first and last of such conflicts this year.

Do you have cases of refugees from other countries?

We have not received any since this year and we do hope that with several elections coming up in the West African sub region, they would all be peaceful and not lead to conflicts that would bring about displacement of persons. We also hope that the several elections coming up in Nigeria whether gubernatorial or local government this year and even the presidential election in 2011 will be peaceful too. We also hope that the much talked about global warming will not cause displacement in the country.

What are the challenges fac-

ing the commission?

Funding is the major challenge for the commission. Secondly, there is need for synergy and collaboration between the commission and NGOs or other agencies and interested persons handling displaced persons during crises. There is need to coordinate more with the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) so that whatever relief they take to the displaced persons is what is really needed at that time and will be life saving, not something you take to them for the sake of taking. There is also the need for synergy and collaboration between the commission and other groups so that there will be a synergy.

There should be a stakeholders meeting with all the various actors concerned to chart unanimous way of reaching these people and not haphazardly. With effective coordination and collaboration there will be transparency. The case of people making claims as to donations can be substantiated and ironed out.

DIGEST

Woman who suffered 18 miscarriages finally gives birth to her 'little miracle'

A woman who suffered 18 miscarriages trying for a baby described her joy today after giving birth to a 'little miracle'.

After 13 years of trying, Angie Baker finally gave birth to a baby girl, Raiya, following pioneering treatment.

Ms Baker, 33, from Peacehaven near Brighton, said: 'She's my little miracle. I can't explain how I feel. I'm overwhelmed. It seems like a dream and I still have to pinch myself. She's perfect in every way.'

Raiya was born on December 9 last year, weighing 7lb, and is now a healthy ten-week-old girl.

From the age of 20, Ms Baker's miscarriages took place one after another, between five and eight weeks after conception.

Doctors told her it was 'just one of those things' but Ms Baker was convinced she must have a treatable problem.

She said: 'Emotionally it was a rollercoaster. Every time I got pregnant I was hoping this was the one and it wasn't going to end in a miscarriage.'

'I never gave up. I was desperate for a baby, so I persevered.'

She said she was encouraged by the fact she fell pregnant so easily and said: 'Deep down I always thought it would be a little problem that could be cured.'

She discussed the possibility of adoption with her partner, Lee Gibson, a martial arts instructor.

But then, after 17 miscarriages, her best friend's mother read a newspaper article about Dr Hassan Shehata who was doing pioneering work at Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust.

She contacted him for help in 2006 and was referred for treatment.

Precious moments: Ms Baker said she is revelling in her role. 'I absolutely love it,' she said. 'I can't

believe she's here and she's mine'

Dr Shehata, a specialist in recurrent miscarriages, said: 'Eighteen miscarriages is a huge number. This is the most unusual case I've come across.'

'You're more likely to win the lottery than have 18 miscarriages through bad luck. Therefore there must be an underlying cause.'

A specialist test, available only at Epsom, in Liverpool and in Chicago in the U.S., showed she was suffering from a fairly common problem, thought to affect about 15 per cent of women.

Ms Baker had high levels of a subtype of white blood cell, known as natural killer (NK) cells, which are responsible for protection from viruses.

Because Ms Baker's NK cells were too aggressive, rather than protecting the pregnancy they mistook the foetus for a foreign body and attacked it.

Emotionally it was a rollercoaster. Every time I got pregnant I was hoping this was the one and it wasn't going to end in a miscarriage

Dr Shehata's treatment, using steroids, is pioneering because it starts before conception and the doses involved are higher than previously used.

Ms Baker fell pregnant for an 18th time but her troubles were not over.

During the pregnancy it was discovered she was diabetic and the high sugar levels caused by the steroids resulted in another miscarriage.

Dr Shehata said: 'The emotion that goes with every miscarriage is huge. Every time it's heartbreaking. A lot of people would give up so it's an amazing story in itself that she persevered.'

'She's always smiling and she's willing to try and that makes life easier. She's a dream patient.'



LITTLE miracle: Angie Baker with her daughter, 10-week-old Raiya

The doctor was able to adjust her levels of insulin and the next time her pregnancy was successful.

Ms Baker said she is revelling in her role, blessed with a baby who

sleeps from 10pm to 6am.

She said: 'I absolutely love it. I enjoy every moment. It's so precious. I can't believe she's here and she's mine.'

Asked about her partner, Mr Gibson, 31, a karate and kickboxing instructor with the Sama Organisation, she said: 'He dotes on her. She's his little princess.'

Origin of cosmic explosions discovered



THIS is from the Chandra X-Ray Observatory and shows evidence from Nasa's Chandra X-ray Observatory and the Magellan telescopes

ASTRONOMERS who have long used supernovas as cosmic markers to help measure the expansion of the

universe now have an answer to the nagging question of what causes the massive stellar explosions.

'These are such critical objects in understanding the universe,' said Marat Gilfanov of the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Germany, describing his team's study.

'It was a major embarrassment that we did not know how they worked. Now we are beginning to understand what lights the fuse of these explosions.'

Most scientists say Type Ia supernovas are formed when a white dwarf star - the collapsed remnant of an old star - becomes unstable after it exceeds its weight limit.

Instability could come from the merging of two white dwarfs or accretion - a process in which the gravity of the star draws in enough material from a sun-like companion.

Using Nasa's Chandra X-ray Observatory, Gilfanov and his team studied the supernovas in five nearby elliptical galaxies and the central region of the Andromeda

galaxy.

'Our results suggest the supernovas in the galaxies we studied almost all come from two white dwarfs merging,' said Akos Bogdan, the co-author of the study, also of Max Planck.

'If the supernova were produced by accretion, the galaxies would be roughly 50 times brighter in x-rays than actually observed.'

Further study will be needed to determine if merging is also the primary cause of supernovas in spiral galaxies.

Pinpointing a possible supernova prior to the explosion is also extremely difficult, the researchers noted.

Pairs of white dwarfs are incredibly difficult to find. And once the white dwarfs spiral into distances when they are about to merge, it takes just a few tenths of a second for them to explode.

Culled from Telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Brains for sale? Some people could use some now.

Photo location: St. Louis, USA, by Chris Echsner.

Culled from www.signspotting.com



You've overstayed your welcome
Photo location: Dongguah Ferry Terminal, China, by Poom Chantha
Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

SUDOKU

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

90

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

Solution to Sudoku 89

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

Solution to Easy Crosswords

76

S	M	E	L	L		O	P	R	A	H							
T	O	D	A	Y		W	O	D	D	E	D						
A	R	I	S	E		N	E	W	S	M	E	N					
G	E	T	S			B	E	T	S		S	A	O				
E	N	E				H	E	R	S		J	I	L				
D	O	D	G	E	R	S			P	I	N	T	A				
						W	A	G			G	E	M				
S	A	F	E	R		D	E	S	I	S	T	S					
E	R	I	N			C	O	L	T		N	R	A				
E	B	B				G	L	U	T		B	O	A	T			
M	O	B	I	L	E	S			M	A	R	D	I				
						R	E	V	E	R	E		G	R	E	E	N
						R	E	E	K	S		M	E	R	R	Y	

News Extra

Argentina warns UK as Falklands row escalates

... British warships now patrol the coast of Argentina

Argentina has warned Britain it 'shouldn't be complacent' and that it would defend its sovereignty in the territorial dispute off the Falkland Islands.

However, Buenos Aires insisted it did not mean a repeat of the 1982 Falklands war. The South American country has said it will take its dispute over plans by UK firms to explore oil off the islands to the United Nations.

Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana is to meet Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in New York next Wednesday.

The Foreign Office said it was watching the situation 'closely' but insisting that the seas around the Falklands were controlled by island authorities.

'We have no doubt about our sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and we're clear that the Falkland Islands government is entitled to develop a hydrocarbons industry within its waters,' junior minister Chris Bryant.

'The Falkland Islands territorial waters are controlled by the Islands' authorities. We remain focused on supporting the Falkland Islands government in developing legitimate business in its territory.'

A navy warship was yesterday on patrol off the Falkland Islands in the midst of a diplomatic row between Argentina and Britain over the disputed territory.

Type 2 destroyer HMS York is spearheading the British presence in the Falklands as the row over oilfield drilling due to begin next week deepens.

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) denied reports yesterday that the York was sent to the region as a deterrent to Argentina, which this week asserted its control over shipping in the region.

It arrived in the waters off the islands as Argentina warned it would take 'adequate measures' to stop British oil exploration there.

Buenos Aires insisted it did not mean a repeat of the 1982 Falklands war - but warned London that it 'shouldn't be complacent', and said it would defend its sovereignty.

Refuting claims that appeared in The Sun, the MoD said that the York was replacing another ship in the region during a routine



TYPE 2 destroyer the HMS York is patrolling waters off Port Stanley



BRITISH Prime Minister Gordon Brown



ARGENTINA President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner

rotation.

The newspaper claimed yesterday that the ship was sent as a 'deterrent'.

But the MoD said the UK's existing 'deterrence' was not being increased and UK force levels were being maintained.

The Sun also reported that survey vessel HMS Scott and oil supply tanker RFA Wave Ruler were en route to the islands.

An MoD spokesman said the additional frigates were relieving other vessels and completely routine.

He added: 'The Govern-

“Buenos Aires insisted it did not mean a repeat of the 1982 Falklands war

ment is fully committed to the South Atlantic Overseas Territories which include the Falkland Islands.

'A deterrence force is maintained on the Islands. That deter-

rence force comprises a wide range of land, air and maritime assets which collectively maintain our defence posture.

'We have a permanent presence in the South Atlantic including one frigate/destroyer, a patrol vessel, a survey ship and a replenishment vessel. We also have 1,076 service personnel on land.'

A senior Navy source reportedly said the ship would 'discourage the Argentines from trying anything with our shipping.'

'If they do, the Navy are there

to stop them.'

Angry at Britain's effort to start oil and gas exploration off the islands' waters, Argentina announced on Tuesday that all ships sailing to the islands must hold a government permit.

'Any boat that wants to travel between ports on the Argentine mainland to the Islas Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands...must first ask for permission,' Cabinet chief Anibal Fernandez said.

The announcement means Argentina will be able to control all traffic from South America towards the islands, including vessels carrying drilling equipment and an oil rig due to begin exploration by early next year.

Britain sought to 'unilaterally and illegitimately exploit natural reserves that belong to Argentina, and Argentina will take adequate measures to defend its interests and its rights,' said Deputy Foreign Minister Victorio Taccetti.

Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Taiana will meet Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the UN headquarters in New York next Wednesday to protest Britain's plans, a ministry source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

The Foreign Office shrugged off the demand yesterday, insisting that the seas around the Falklands were controlled by island authorities and would not be affected by the decree.

The Foreign Office said it was watching the situation 'closely'

'We have no doubt about our sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and we're clear that the Falkland Islands government is entitled to develop a hydrocarbons industry within its waters,' junior minister Chris Bryant told the AFP.

'The Falkland Islands territorial waters are controlled by the Islands' authorities. We remain focussed on supporting the Falkland Islands government in developing legitimate business in its territory.'

Several British companies are poised to begin exploration using an offshore rig, while Desire Petroleum has licensed six areas where it predicts 3.5 billion barrels of oil and nine trillion cubic feet of natural gas can be recovered.

News Extra



GOODLUCK Jonathan's rise to power has been described as "meteoric"



SOME say Nigeria's new president is a lucky man because of his name

By Elizabeth Ohene

I have been thinking of names, people's names that is. This has doubtless been set off by the events in Nigeria where the Vice-President, Goodluck Jonathan, has been elevated to the position of acting president.

The naming of a child here in Ghana is part of an elaborate ceremony.

The name would be carefully chosen because it is believed that whatever you are called should immediately advertise the circumstances of your birth and influence your life.

For a while, and this is shown among Ghanaians of a certain age, the influence of the churches was strong in determining what names parents gave their children.

The churches frowned on names other than what were so-called Christian names - and these were often names found in the Bible or those that were English and German (the missionaries that came to Ghana were mostly English and German).

Fashionable peak

My part of the country ended up with a lot of names like **Wisdom, Courage and Peace** but gradually, it became acceptable to be christened with a name that is in a language other than English.

After a while, people started dropping their Christian names and often you would be sympathetic that their owners had the courage to drop them.

You do not really want to go through life being called **Zinzen-dorf**, as my music teacher was called.

The Africanisation of names hit a fashionable peak in the 1960s.

The most dramatic one being

What is in people's names?

a certain Congolese coup leader Joseph-Desire Mobutu who became Mobutu Sese Seko etc etc.

Congo became Zaire and Upper Volta became Burkina Faso, which I understand is supposed to mean the land of upright people.

Repulsing evil spirits

But in truth the Christian names do not pose as much trouble as the surnames.

For example, it turns out an

children would be so repulsed by the names they would leave them alone.

So we got **Rubbish Dump, Ugly, Smelly and Big Tree.**

years ago.

After the third day I had to ask him why he was called **Mistake.**

He told me he only discovered he had a strange name when he

changing the name when he was 16 and then decided he wouldn't, thinking that if his mother felt it was an appropriate name, then he would carry it with pride.

And so he remained **Mistake.**

When I met him, he was doing quite well with his life.

I have heard some say that the acting president of Nigeria is a lucky man and this is because of his name.

He became governor of Bayelsa State when his boss, the governor, was impeached for reasons we shall not get into now and now he is seating on the presidential seat of Nigeria because his boss, President Umaru Yar'Adua

“After the third day I had to ask him why he was called **Mistake**”



JOSEPH-DESIRE Mobutu changed his name to Mobutu Sese Seko Kuku Ngbendu Wa Za Banga and Congo's to Zaire

Some brave parents dared to be different and named their children **Prosper, Handsome**, and a not too subtle, **My Enemies Shall Perish.**

Good luck

But probably the most difficult name I have come across was a young man I met in Zimbabwe,

went to school aged six and his mates started teasing him mercilessly. He came home and asked his mother for an explanation; she hesitated and told him she would explain it all on his 15th birthday.

His mother then went and died when he was nine.

He said he contemplated

is a touch unwell.

The acting president of Nigeria will certainly be needing a lot of good luck wishes and let me be among the first to say, "Your Excellency, Mr Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, good luck."

Culled from bbc.co.uk

News Extra

Plans for all-night Robert Mugabe birthday bash 'are insensitive'



ROBERT Mugabe: His 86th birthday is set to be celebrated with an all-night party

Plans to hold a lavish all-night birthday party for the Zimbabwean president, Robert Mugabe, have been condemned as insensitive to the suffering of the country's people.

Mugabe's 86th birthday will be celebrated next week with an "extravagant overnight gala" starring local and international musicians, the *Zimbabwe Times* reported.

"If this is private money, it's none of my business. However, if it's government money then it's better spent on school textbooks."

The paper said Anywhere Mutambudzi, a retired army major who is an official with the information ministry, would organise the event - being held in Bulawayo - which would run from 6pm on 26 February until 6am the following day.

It quoted Mutambudzi as telling state television: "The gala will feature all major local, as well as some foreign, musicians from the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa."

Mugabe, whose birthday is on 21 February, shows no signs of slowing down or willingness to relinquish power to Morgan Tsvangirai of the Movement for

private citizen's birthday when basic services are starved of funding, it would be the worst degree of insensitivity and disregard for the needs of the people of Zim-

no competent state would do such a thing."

David Coltart, the education minister in the power-sharing government, said: "If this is pri-

money then it's better spent on school textbooks."

Coltart, a member of the MDC, added that "all the most flamboyant displays of wealth are inappropriate" at a time when government spending on education was paltry.

Raymond Majongwe, the secretary general of the Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe, said he did not object to the celebration in principle but added that an extravagant cost would "not be in order" when the union's members were being forced to take industrial action.

Since 1986, Mugabe's birthday celebrations have been organised by a Zanu-PF youth group called the 21 February Movement, initially modelled on scouting and aimed at promoting children's rights.

Last year, the president celebrated his 85th birthday with a week of parties costing hundreds of thousands of US dollars.

The events included a banquet, a gala dinner, a public feast and a concert at which dozens of animals were slaughtered.

More pomp and ceremony is expected for the 30th anniversary of Zimbabwe's independence from Britain in April - also signifying Mugabe's 30 years in power.

The MDC said last week that fresh elections may be needed after the latest efforts to end deadlock with Mugabe in the one-year-old unity government ended in failure.



PRIME Minister Morgan Tsvangirai

Democratic Change (MDC), his rival in Zimbabwe's unity government. Opponents criticised the party plans at a time when Zimbabwe's teachers are on strike over pay and around nine in 10 people are unemployed.

Simba Makoni, a former senior member of Mugabe's Zanu-PF party, said: "I'm not aware of the source of the money, but I suspect that state resources will be funnelled to this event improperly."

"If they use state funds for a

babwe.

"It would be an act of gross negligence and incompetence ...

private money, it's none of my business.

"However, if it's government

"More pomp and ceremony is expected for the 30th anniversary of Zimbabwe's independence from Britain in April - also signifying Mugabe's 30 years in power"

PROPERTY

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Chief surveyor acquires map printers

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Surveyor General of the Federation, Surv. Austin PC Njepuome at an interactive session with journalists on Wednesday disclosed that it has acquired modern state of the art digital surveying equipments worth several millions of naira for the execution of most of its functions ranging from the stage of data capture to data presentation and to produce geospatial products such as administrative maps, electronic national atlas, gazetteer of geographic place-names, road maps and other

thematic maps.

The Surveyor General showed journalists the latest acquisitions, which includes HP Scitex TJ8350 which can produce thousands of digital maps all day in the largest size ever imagined. According to him, the machine is the first of its kind in Africa and the Middle East.

He said that with the latest technology at their disposal, they can now effectively provide national geospatial standards digital maps and execute mapping of all areas of explorations and exploitation of solid minerals, oil and gas, forestry and other

national resources and ecologically impacted areas such as desertification, gully erosion and land degradation.

Surv. Njepuome promised that Nigerian maps that are not readily available in the market is going to be a thing of the past as they have begun mass production of national certified maps for the public use. He called on the general public to come to (OSGOF) for administrative map of Nigeria both hard and soft copies, topographical map sheets of Nigeria, Gazetteer of Place Names in hard and soft copies, road map of Nigerian in hard and soft copies and the National Atlas.

GM wants geographic mapping system for water agency

MANAGEMENT of Imo Water Development Agency (IWADA) has called for the provision of a geographic mapping system and computerisation of the agency to enhance water supply.

Mr Emeka Ugoanyanwu, the General Manager of IWADA, made the call in Owerri on Thursday in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

He urged the state government to procure a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the water agency so as to be able to verify water facilities and consumption pattern.

Ugoanyanwu said the GIS would help development partners to assist both the state and local governments to plan for the water needs of the populace.

The general manager added that the system would also assist in verifying claims of water facilities in the state.

"This is because in Imo today, you will find water schemes executed either by the local or state governments 500 metres away and non is functional," he said.

Ugoanyanwu called for the employment of professionals to sustain water supply efforts.

He appealed to the government to provide modern, drilling equipment and geographical instruments to assist the water agency to be abreast of latest digitalisation in water drilling. (NAN)



ONE of the modern hi-tech map equipments acquired by the surveyor-general's office

New president for women engineers sworn in

By Nasir Imam

THE Association of Women Engineers (APWEN), yesterday in Abuja swore-in Engr. (Mrs.) Iniobong L. Usoro, as its new President.

At the investiture ceremony, President Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE), Engr. Olumuyiwa A. Ajibola said data available reveals that more women are more interested in the engineering profession although only 15 percent

of university engineering students are female worldwide.

He therefore said there is the need to do more to bring awareness among our female students about the importance of pursuing a profession in engineering because women make the difference in any profession and are usually among the best.

The NSE President said APWEN should continue to encourage girls at secondary school level to embrace science

subjects especially mathematics, physics and chemistry which will qualify them to read engineering in the university.

In her inaugural speech, the new President of APWEN, Engr Iniobong Usoro said her administration will partner with NSE branches across the country to ensure that branches of APWEN are inaugurated across the country as a way of bringing women engineers together in the country.

She said the association will

embark on a campaign to sensitise more Nigerian female students to take to engineering.

"We are intervening by sensitising the youths especially the female child in secondary schools through career talks, lectures, scholarship awards, mentoring, provision of science equipment and more. We shall sustain the advocacy for more girls to participate in the study of engineering as there is no gender bias in the profession"

African Shelter to invest in housing in Nigeria

By Mustapha Suleiman

AFRICAN Shelter, a group that is into housing provision across the African continent, yesterday paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of State Housing and Urban Development, Mrs. Grace Ekphwire.

The group led by its Execu-

tive Director, Mr. Alassane Bar said that they are in the country to familiarise with the housing policies in the country with a view of investing in the housing sector in the country.

Bar described Nigeria as a country with vast population hence the need for adequate hous-

ing investment to cater for the vast population of Nigerians.

"The first objective of this visit is to have great interaction with the ministry and all relevant operators to help us develop a very convenient strategy in Nigeria. Since the beginning of Shelter Africa we have invested millions into hous-

ing in several African countries. This year we expect to finance 20 projects with Nigeria prominent in our programme," he said.

Responding, Mrs. Grace Ekphwire said that Nigeria is in dire need of more houses for its teeming population which necessitated the Federal Government decision to part-

ner with the private developers and other stakeholders to ensure that housing deficit in the country is reduced to the barest minimum.

she added that the Administration's Land Reform is also to allow Nigerians have easy access to land to build more houses.



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ONE of the Dubai properties up for sale

Gaidam approves 2km road for state varsity

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State has approved the construction of a 2km long road within the premises of Bukar Abba Ibrahim University, Damaturu in order to provide access roads for staff and students.

Commissioner for Information Barrister Bala Haladu who stated this in Damaturu yesterday said the road construction will include 1.6km dual carriage and 0.4km single lane.

In a related development, the National University Commission (NUC) has approved 18 pro-

grammes being offered at the Faculty of Arts and Social Management and the Faculty of Science of the university.

Vice Chancellor of the institution, Professor Musa Alabi who disclosed this while declaring open, orientation programme for the newly admitted students of the university

said the institution would commence law courses by October this year.

Professor Alabi said the university now has over five hundred undergraduate students with hundreds of others in pre-degree programmes.

He explained that the university

which took-off in 2006 was suspended in 2007 by late Governor Mammam bell Ali because of acute shortage of facilities and physical infrastructures but that following the construction of additional classes, laboratories, lecture theatres and hostels for students, the university was re-opened last year.

'Nigerians can own property in Dubai with \$250,000'

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

DUBAI based independent property development company, The First Group, specialising in emerging property markets has said that Nigerians can now acquire luxury property in Dubai between \$250,000 and \$300,000 just as it disclosed that it has established a satellite office in Lagos to drive its overseas property developments and meet clientele demand in Nigeria.

Currently, the group has eight projects underway worldwide, including Dubai Sports City, Tecom and Ras Al Khaimah. In total, the firm is responsible for a pipeline of over 3,400 property units under construc-

tion. About 40 per cent of its investors and prospective customers are said to be Nigerians who have invested across all ranges and come from all walks of life.

The group, a British owned company set up more than 20 years ago, has its headquarters in Dubai with satellite offices in three other locations, namely London, Moscow and Almaty, the capital of Kazakhstan.

According to the chief operating officer, Rob Burns, the company offers a variety of buildings in sought-after locations, and the opportunity to invest in the residential, commercial and hotel sector. The accommodation features leisure facilities and can

be fully managed as part of their rental programmes.

According to Burns, a flat in any of the areas starts from between \$250,000 and \$300,000 and with an initial 10 per cent payment. The rest, he said is spread across two years on quarterly payment basis

The First Group as a leading property developer in Dubai and provider of solid investments in the United Arab Emirates

He said Dubai also enjoys one of the highest hotel occupancy rates in the world. Investing in Hotel Apartments like the one we offer at The First Group is ideal for overseas property investors, allowing you to enjoy capital appreciation, steady income

and even giving you the option to stay in your property every year. Investors who opt for the 'Wealthbuilder' programme can sit back while The First Group manages every aspect of the investment, from the purchasing right through to management and lettings.

"Dubai also enjoys one of the highest hotel occupancy rates in the world. Investing in hotel apartments is ideal for overseas property investors, allowing you to enjoy capital appreciation, steady income and even giving you the option to stay in your property every year. The First Group manages the investment from the purchase right through to management and lettings."

'Why we want to a new market in Bukuru'

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Chairman of Jos South Local Government Area, Da Moses Dalyop, has reiterated the commitment to build a six block of twenty shops each in Bukuru Main Market that was burnt down during the recent crises that affected Jos and environs.

Mr Moses Dalyop told newsmen yesterday in Jos that "the shops in the market belongs to the local government, that the traders are in the shops as tenants and the council had already awarded the contract and they gave adequate notice to the traders to vacate their shops in other to build modern shops for them

that will be locked in the evening and opened in the morning in other to provide them with adequate security of their properties"

The chairman said before they embarked on the project the unfortunate crises affected the state and even the market was burnt down during the crises adding that "we held three differ-

ent meetings with the traders and we told them their intention to clear the debris and remove some dilapidated shops not that we want to demolish their shops but we will clear the debris before we embark on the projects and we all agreed, everybody left the meeting smiling.

He said the council allocated

a temporary place for the traders to stay and continue with their business pending the completion of the construction of the new Bukuru Modern Market adding that when the building of the new market is completed the traders that have shops in the market will be the first to be allocated with shops.



Rep tasks coy over road construction

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

CHAIRMAN, House of Representatives Committee on Special Duties, Hon. Samson Osagie, has tasked PEEAVING Nigeria Limited, a firm handling the rehabilitation of N580 million earth road to do a solid job or face the wrath of the law.

The project, awarded by the Federal Ministry of Works, is the 11 kilometres of the 72 kilometres road which spanned

Agbor in Delta State and Orhionmwon in Edo State, terminates at Oghara, home town of former governor of Delta State, Chief James Ibori.

Leading other members of the committee to inspect the 11 kilometres road, Osagie said that it is very important that the contractor carry out a very good job, because, "Anything short of that you will be running fowl of the law."

The lawmaker who is representing

Orhionmwon/Uhunmwode federal constituency in Edo State said, though the contractor had assured that the job would be completed within three months in lieu of the nine months approved by government, "needless to be in a hurry to do the job because if it gets bad again nobody can tell when government will be able to get it done."

Hon. Osagie who declared no vacancy in his seat, lamented that just

last year the same work was about to be awarded at N200 million, is now costing government N580 million. On the possibility of abandoning the job midway, he said, "As far as I am concern, no contract, whether local, state or federal in my constituency shall have the opportunity to abandon any projects. I will keep the contractors on their toes and they must do the job for which they have been given."

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

Sokoto awards N140m Shuni road contract

SOKOTO State Government has awarded a N140 million contract for the re-construction of Shuni-Dange-Mabera road in Sokoto metropolis.

Malam Dahiru Maishanu, Commissioner for Information, told newsmen at the end of the State Executive Council (SEC) meeting on Wednesday.

He said the government had already paid 30 per cent of the amount to MSCGC Nigeria Limited, the contractor handling the project.

He said the government awarded the contract because the road had been the major problem of the people in the area, especially during rainy season.

He said compensation would be paid to people whose houses, shops, economic trees, land and fences would be affected by the project.

Maishanu also said the government had taken steps to address all the basic needs of the people in the area to ensure smooth take off of the project.

According to him, the government will not embark on new projects in the first quarter of the year until all ongoing capital projects are completed.

"We have so many ongoing projects in the areas of water, roads health and education, among several others," he said. (NAN)



APAPA wharf, Lagos, viewed from the Marina.

Nigerian roads as death-traps: Challenges confronting the works ministry

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE dilapidated state of Nigeria's major highways is something many commuters remember with nightmares as it has led to several avoidable road accidents, premature deaths and permanent disabilities of road users across the nation.

The gaping potholes and narrow roads that need to be dualised; and long overused roads are the same all over the country with successive administrations doing little or nothing to make our major roads safe and motor able for Nigerians who depend largely on land transportation for both human and goods transportation, largely due to the high cost of air transportation and unavailability of rail transportation.

The present administration in its seven point agenda has road construction and rehabilitation as one of its cardinal programmes.

And of course if the huge amount of money committed which runs into billions of naira is anything to go by, Nigerians deserves nothing less than good motor able roads as never before.

The Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development Dr. Hassan Muhammad Lawal recently disclosed to journalists that the budget allocations for

road constructions and rehabilitations by the present administration cannot be equalled by any regime in the history of the country.

Suffice it to say, if the words of the Works Minister whose ministry is saddled with the responsibilities of road construction, rehabilitation, maintenance and contract awards, is anything to go by, then there must be a corresponding output or result by giving the country the best roads ever in the history of the nation.

One needs not be told that our roads are still death traps and much is still being expected to be done by the government at all levels to ensure that our roads are fixed and Nigerians are safe from avoidable road accidents that have become a recurring decimal in many parts of the country without exceptions.

Dr. Hassan Muhammad Lawal is quoted to have said during his Ministerial press briefing recently that, "The thrust of the 2010 budget of the Ministry is to adequately fund the on-going projects and maintain funding in the subsequent years so that they can be delivered on schedule and the condition of the Federal road networks greatly improved. The momentum will be maintained in



DR Hassan Lawal

the subsequent years so that the Federal Roads network will be restored to good condition in the long term."

Dr. Hassan Muhammad Lawal mentioned that inadequate funds for some key projects like the dualisation of the Kano-Maiduguri and Abaji-Lokoja roads under the Presidential Initiative Projects (PIP) has hampered the timely completion of these projects. He also added that the contract for the dualisation of Ibadan-Ilorin Road Section 1 (Ibadan-Oyo), which was expected to be completed in 2009, was not provided for at all in the 2009 appropria-

tion.

Still hammering on the issue of inadequate funding of key road projects he said that many departments and programmes in the Ministry, have been stalled due to delay in the payment of severance benefits to disengaged officers; the arrangement of capacity building and training programmes for all cadres of staff; acquisition of desirable working tools in some departments; non availability of project vehicles for sites, property and projects inspection including media inspection tours; and inadequate provision for projects like the Federal Lands Information Systems (FELIS) and compensation vote.

Apart from the issue of inadequate funding, he further mentioned the "Excessive Axle Loading" caused by excessive loading of heavy trucks as a primary cause of premature failure of roads. He lamented that trucks are imported from all over the world without checking their carrying capacity in order to comply with the allowable axle loads, adding that there is need to provide weigh bridges on major roads and enforcing compliance by the Nigerian Police force and FRSC, saying weigh bridges are being installed in Lagos and Kaduna states and that

they are being expected in other locations before the year runs out.

The minister did not stop here as he decried the over reliance on roads as the primary means of inland transportation, carrying over 90 percent of all freights and passengers.

According to him, "this has put a lot of stress on the road network causing premature failure. There is therefore, the need to revive the railway, so as to supplement the roads in the inland movement of goods and services."

He called for an institutional framework to separate the functions of the Ministry as a policy making organ from that of an executing agency; functions that are now combined by the Ministry.

"In line with international best practices, it is proposed to establish a Federal Roads Authority (FRA) as an executing Agency; a Road Fund (RF) that will derive its source of road funding from fuel levy, international transit fees and a Road Board (RB that will be responsible for disbursement of funds for road rehabilitation and maintenance on a continuous basis without waiting for budgetary provisions from government. This membership of the RB will comprise stakeholders in the road transport industry."

Trust Islamic Forum

In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

Which is a greater sin: Atheism or polytheism?

ATHEISM, in modern terminology, means denying the Creator altogether, denying that He exists and not acknowledging Him, may He be glorified and exalted. The universe and everything in it, according to their claims, came about purely by chance. This is a strange view which is contrary to sound human nature, reason and logic, and is contrary to simple logic and indisputable facts.

As for shirk (polytheism or associating others with Allah), it implies belief in Allah, may He be glorified and exalted, and affirmation of Him, but it also includes belief in a partner to Allah in His creation, who creates or grants provision or brings benefit or wards off harm. This is shirk al-ruboobiyyah (ascribing partners to Allah in His Lordship). Or it means belief in a partner to whom some kind of worship is devoted as an act of love and veneration, as it is devoted to that person or thing as it should be devoted to Allah, may He be glorified and exalted. This is shirk al-'ibaadah (associating others with Allah in worship). By studying these two deviations, we may see that each of them involves sin and evil which tells us that they are bad and we see how Allah described them as being like dumb animals.

Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): "Have you (O Muhammad) seen him who has taken as his ilaah (god) his own vain desire? Would you then be a Wakeel (a disposer of his affairs or a watcher) over him? Or do you think that most of them hear or understand? They are only like cattle nay, they are even farther astray from the Path (i.e. even worse than cattle)" [al-Furqaan 25:43-44]

"And surely, We have created many of the jinn and mankind for Hell. They have hearts wherewith they understand not, and they have eyes wherewith they see not, and they have ears wherewith they hear not (the truth). They are like cattle, nay even more astray; those! They are the heedless ones" [al-A'raaf 7:179].

Nevertheless, the atheist who denies the existence of Allah and rejects His Messengers and disbelieves in the Last Day, is in a greater state of kufr and his beliefs are more reprehensible than the one who believes in Allah and the Hereafter, but he

associates something of His creation with Him. The former is stubborn and arrogant to an extent that cannot be imagined or accepted by sound human nature. Such a person would transgress every sacred limit and fall into every sin; his worldview would be distorted to an inconceivable level. Yet many scholars who discussed the issue of atheism doubted that this has deep roots in the hearts of the atheists, and they affirmed that the atheist is only professing atheism outwardly; deep down he believes in one God.

Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah said a great deal which indicates that this group of atheists who deny and reject the existence of God are in a worse state of kufr than the mushrikeen who associate partners with Him. We will quote a little of what we have come across:

He (may Allah have mercy on him) said: Kufr (disbelief) means not believing in Allah and His Messengers, whether it involves rejecting or it consists of doubt and uncertainty about the issue or ignoring the issue altogether, out of envy or arrogance or following whims and desires that divert a person from following the Message. However, the kaafir who rejects and disbelieves in a state of greater kufr, although the one who rejects and denies out of envy, even though he believes that the Messengers brought the message of truth, is also in a state of kufr. Majmoo' al-Fataawa, 17/291

He also said: The one who denies the Hereafter but believes that this universe is created is described by Allah as a kaafir. The one who denies it and says that this universe existed from eternity is a worse kaafir in the sight of Allah, may He be exalted. Majmoo' al-Fataawa, 17/291

He said (may Allah have mercy on him) refuting those who deny the Divine attributes: (Denying the Divine attributes) implies complete denial which reaches the point that says: There is nothing that must exist and cannot have not existed. If he believes that and says: I do not affirm either existence or non-existence, then the answer to that is: Suppose you state that verbally and in your heart you do not believe either of the two; rather you turn away from knowing Allah and worshipping and remembering Him, so you never

remember Him, worship Him, call upon Him, put your hope in Him or fear Him; (in that case) your denial of Him is worse than that of Iblees who (at least) acknowledged Him. Majmoo' al-Fataawa, 5/356.

And he (may Allah have mercy on him) said: The arrogant one is the one who does not acknowledge Allah outwardly, like Pharaoh. He is in a worse state of kufr than them (meaning the mushrik Arabs). Iblees, who enjoins all of that and loves it and is too arrogant to worship his Lord and obey him, is in a worse state of kufr than them (the mushrikeen), even though he was aware of the existence and might of Allah, just as Pharaoh was also aware of the existence of Allah. Majmoo' al-Fataawa, 7/633

He also said: The view of the philosophers -- those who say that the universe is eternal and that it is dependent on that which inevitably must exist -- came from the minds and hearts of those who worshipped heavenly bodies and made images of them on Earth, such as Aristotle and his followers. This view is worse kufr and is more misguided than that of the Arab mushrikeen who believed that Allah created the heavens and the earth and everything between them in six days by His will and power, but they attribute falsely without knowledge sons and daughters to Him (cf. al-An'am 6:100) and joined others in worship with Allaah, for which He had sent no authority (cf. Aal 'Imraan 3:151). Similarly, the permissive people, who do not believe in any command or prohibition at all and refer to the Divine will and decree as an excuse for their evil deeds, are worse off than the Jews, Christians and Arab mushrikeen, because even though the latter are kaafirs, they still believe in some kind of command and prohibition, and the promise and warning (i.e., the Hereafter), but they had partners with Allaah (false gods) who instituted for them a religion which Allaah had not ordained (cf. al-Shoora 42:21), unlike the permissive people who ignore all laws altogether. They are only pleased with whatever suits their whims and desires, and they get angry on the basis of their whims and desires; they do not get pleased for the sake of Allah, or angry for the sake of Allah, or love for

the sake of Allah, or hate for the sake of Allah; they do not enjoin that which Allah has enjoined and they do not forbid that which Allah has forbidden, unless that suits their whims and desires, in which case they do it for that purpose and not as an act of obedience to their Lord. Hence they do not denounce what takes place of kufr, evil doing and sin unless it goes against their whims and desires, in which case they will denounce it, prompted by their devilish nature and not prompted by sharee'ah and love of Allah. Hence the devils plunge them deeper into error, and they never stop short (cf. al-A'raaf 7:202), and the devils may show themselves to them and address them and help them with some of their whims and desires, as the devils used to do with the mushrikeen who worshipped idols. Majmoo' al-Fataawa, 8/457-458.

Shaykh Ibn Baaz (may Allah be pleased with him) said: It is shirk to worship something other than Allah completely; that may be called shirk or kufr. Whoever turns away from Allah altogether and directs his worship to something other than Allah, such as trees, rocks, idols, the jinn or some of the dead, those whom they call awliya' ("saints"), worshipping them or praying to them or fasting for them, and forgetting Allah altogether -- and this is the worst kind of kufr and shirk. We ask Allah to keep us safe and sound.

The same applies to denying the existence of Allah and saying that there is no God and life is material, like the Communists and atheists who deny the existence of Allah. These are the worst disbelievers among mankind, the most astray, the most involved in shirk and the most misguided. We ask Allah to keep us safe and sound. Majmoo' Fataawa Ibn Baaz, 4/32-33

He also said (may Allah have mercy on him): Meat slaughtered by Communists is haraam and is like the meat of the Magians and idol worshippers; in fact their meat is even more haraam, because their degree of kufr is greater due to their atheism and denial of the Creator (may He be glorified and exalted) and His Messenger, and other kinds of kufr. Majmoo' Fataawa Ibn Baaz, 23/30. And Allah knows best.

ASK your Imam

I am a 34-year-old woman, and I am not married yet. The issue of marriage is becoming really confusing to me, and I need your advice. I believe that marriage is a matter of qadar (destiny); whether the person will get married or not, and to whom he or she will be married and when. However, my mother told me that I have to show up in all social events so that guys see me. Also, she suggested that I should go to an Arab country, because there are higher chances of finding guys there, and someone might introduce me to a guy. What should I do? Should I wait and see what Allah has decreed for me, living in any part of the world, or go to an Arab country and attend social gatherings so that people could see me and introduce me to someone?

Sister, you should know that we do not know what has been destined for us. Our duty; therefore, is to do our job by taking all the means possible and within our capacity. In case of marriage, we should do our best before saying that is a qadar or not. As the saying goes, "When there is a desire, there is an effort required." This applies to your case -- you are supposed to take all means available to find your partner.

You need to make du'aa' (supplication) that Allah makes everything easy for you. However, do not forget the advice of Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon

him), "Whenever a person you're satisfied with his character and faith approaches you for marriage, accept him" (At-Tirmidhi).

It is true that marriage is part of Allah's qadar. However, we ought to take all means possible to achieve our goals. That is why we are responsible for our actions and we will be held accountable on the Day of Judgment.

Social interaction while abiding by the rules of Islam is one way of seeking marriage in a lawful way. That could be through Islamic events, volunteering, and assisting in youth or mosque activities, etc. You should try to be present in the Islamic gatherings.

In addition, through your social network or friends and family members, you can ask to be introduced to whomever interested. There is no harm even if a woman introduces herself to a man, as the Mother of the Believers Khadijah (may Allah be pleased with her) did with the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). I am not asking you to do the same, but I am just explaining that it is not a shame, and taking lawful means to get married should not be a source of embarrassment.

As for going to an Arab country, it is not a bad idea, but it is your choice that you will have to make. I ask Allah to make things easy for you.

May Allah guide all of us to what pleases Him!

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Another journalist dies in Abuja

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Nigeria Union of Journalists Abuja Council was on Wednesday morning thrown into mourning when news of the death of Cosmas Elaigwu of News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) was announced.

The death of Cosmas, brings the total number of journalists death recorded so far within the week to three.

Silas Utin of Capital FM station died while taking his bath over the weekend, while Efenji Efenji, an ex-AIT reporter was killed at Karu on Sunday.

Elaigwu according to family sources complained of slight illness on Tuesday and went to the hospital.

"On Wednesday morning, he asked to be served tea and died before taking breakfast," a relative said.

Our reporter learnt that late Comas was among the journalists that followed officials of the Independent National Electoral Commission to Awka, Anambra State to monitor the just concluded Anambra governorship election.

At the NUJ Abuja Council yesterday three condolence registers were opened for the journalists that died.

Garki traders abort fire lecture midway

By Abubakar Yakubu

A fire lecture organised for traders by the Abuja Markets Management Limited (AMML) at UTC Shopping Complex at Area 10 was yesterday terminated midway when traders left the practical session to open their shops for business.

Trader of the market who arrived for the day's business met the entrances to the market locked, while one of the market executives holding a megaphone was seen announcing that the lecture will hold at the back of the market.

The lecture began after 10 am with addresses by the representatives of the bosses of AMML and FCT police but the police representative was fast to read the minds of

the traders by given a short speech.

The FCT police commissioner's representative, Commissioner Umar U. Shehu, advised the traders to purchase fire preventive equipment and obtain the relevant phone numbers of fire officers and the police in case of emergency situations.

Shehu then narrated an incident that happened years ago when he was the divisional police officer of Wuse Police Station.

He said when Wuse market was burning; a trader rode his bike into his burning shop and died there.

The police officer then advised the organisers of the event to be brief with the lectures as he knows the traders are itching to go back to their businesses.

Traders hailed the police officer

for his observation before the officials of the Federal Fire Service began the lecture that touched on the proper arrangement of goods in their shop as well as removal of combustive materials from areas that have excessive heat.

Principal Fire Officer 1, Ben Ownuaibe advised the traders to buy fire preventive equipment in their shops as well as not to panic during fire incidents but to crawl on the ground while tracing their way out of the shops exist doors.

"Do not tie your baby on the back while crawling to the door but put the child on your belly and immediately you leave the shop close the door and window of the shop in order to confine the fire to the place," he explained.

Mr. Ownuaibe advised the traders to buy fire preventive devices such as blankets and dry chemical powder fire extinguishers in their shops.

The fire officer took the traders on a demonstration exercise by lighting fire in a bucket and using the blanket as well as the extinguisher to put out the fire.

The traders who appeared restless did not wait for any more lectures and dashed out of the venue to open their shops for the day's business leaving the fire officers helpless.

"Nigerian's attitude to fire prevention is poor and can you imagine that a lecture that was supposed to last for one hour thirty minutes was aborted in twenty minutes," a fireman lamented.

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU



FIREMEN demonstrating how to put out fire at UTC Shopping Complex yesterday.

Two ladies accused of dressing half naked

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

TWO ladies in their early 20s were yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly dressing half naked and constituting themselves into public nuisances.

The accused persons, Adah Idoko from Benue State and Bucky Augustine from Kabba, Kogi State, were arrested at about 2 am along the Jabai expressway

by a police surveillance squad attached to Jabai Police Division.

Police prosecutor Sani Yusuf told the court that on February 18, 2010, a police surveillance squad led by one Christopher Akaakuma, an inspector, arrested the accused persons for dressing half naked.

"They were arrested for dressing half naked and wandering along the street of Jabai, thereby committing an offence punish-

able under Section 193 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor stated.

He said during police interrogation, none of the accused persons could give any satisfactory account of themselves or their mission at such early hour of the day.

When the one-count charge was read to the accused persons, they admitted dressing half nude in the public at the early hour of the morning but denied con-

stituting themselves into public nuisances.

"We just came down from a cab and as we were about to enter a night club, the police arrested us," the second accused person (Bucky Augustine) explained.

Based on their not guilty plea, the prosecutor who did not object to the accused persons bail requests asked the court for a hearing date.

In his ruling, Chief Magistrate

Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo granted each of the accused persons bail in the sums of N50,000 with reliable sureties in like sums.

He also ruled that the sureties must show evidence of means of livelihood and reside within the court's jurisdiction as well as swear to affidavits to produce the accused persons in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 9 for hearing.

Nyanya traders reject old naira notes

By Doris Afoma West

TRADERS at Nyanya were yesterday seen rejecting the old notes that consisted of the five, ten and 50 naira denominations. The traders, who collected

only the polymer types of the affected denominations, said they do not have the time to go to banks to exchange money.

Adebisi, a food vendor, refused to sell food to a school girl who held the old type of fifty naira.

"The deadline to change this type of notes is March ending and I cannot leave my business and waste my time in the bank because I want to change money," she said.

A water vendor yesterday

also refused to collect the old ten naira notes and asked for the new type.

The vendor advised officials of the Central Bank of Nigeria to put up exchange centres in various communities so that it can

be easy to change old notes with new ones.

"This is the only remedy to stop the rejection of such notes because traders are afraid of going to the banks to sleep," he said.

Fou'ad Islamic Academy holds inter-house sports competition

By Hussein Yahaya & Misbahu Bashir

THE third inter-house sports competition of Fou'ad Labidi Islamic Academy, Wuse, Zone 3, Abuja was held yesterday with a call on Nigerians to cultivate the habit of participating in sporting activities in order to ensure good health.

The school's Principal, Hajia Hadiza D. Joda, disclosed that sports is an integral part of the school's curriculum which does not have only academic value but also moral, physical and emotional values that builds up the totality of an individual.

She said in view of the importance of sporting activities to effective learning, the school has been taken part in various sports competitions including the ongoing Governor Yuguda's competition, organised by the Abuja Private Schools' Sport world.

The principal noted with satisfaction that the school has maintained a brilliant academic standard since its establishment in 1995, adding that efforts are on to address problems of space confronting the school.

Earlier, the school's governing board's Chairman, Senator U. K Umar, represented by Dr Ismail Jun-

aidu, assured that the board is working hard to address the various problems confronting the school and commended the management for what he called a job well done.

The Parents Teachers Association (PTA) Chairman, Alhaji Mohammed Kabiru Suleiman, described the school as one of the best in the modern day schools system considering its outstanding results in public examinations.

Highlight of the sporting event was the emergence of Abubakar Hous as the overall winner, while Usman House came second followed by Aliyu House.



PIC: HUSSEIN YAHAYA

STUDENTS at Fou'ad Labidi Islamic Academy's inter-house sports event in Abuja yesterday.

Driver jailed for crashing master's car

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court yesterday sentenced a 30-year-old driver to six months imprisonment for crashing his employer's car into a tree.

The driver, Timothy Ali of No 70 Ebutu Ukiwe Street, Jabi, Abuja, was jailed for driving his boss' car without seeking his consent and crashing it.

Police prosecutor Rimak Kefas had earlier informed the court that on February 14, 2010, the accused dishonestly drove the complainant's car to an unknown destination and

in the process crashed it along the road.

"The accused crashed the complainant's Toyota Corolla car (2008 model) with registration number RY757AAA and committed an offence punishable under Section 327 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor stated.

He said the accident left the vehicle's head light, tie rod and front bonnet badly damaged, adding that the cost of the damage is not yet known.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and told the court that he drove the car to some places within

Abuja without the consent of his employer.

"I agree that I have committed an offence but beg the court to have mercy on me because I have a wife and three children, who depend on me for their daily needs," the accused pleaded.

After the plea, the prosecutor asked the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code and also urged the court to order the accused to repair the damaged car.

Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo sentenced the accused to six months imprisonment or to pay N25,000 as fine.

BWARI AREA COUNCIL, FCT

P.M.B. 5032, Wuse, Abuja

OUR REF: BAC/ADM/1460/1/010/L.03

DATE: 19/02/2010

RE: TENDER INVITATION

The general public, prospective/intending companies and contractors are hereby informed that **Project B** of our earlier advertisement ref: BAC/ADM/1460/1/010/L.02 dated 18/02/2010, which reads:

B) Rural Road:

Rehabilitation of Bwari – Igu – Kawu Road, Phase I, measuring 7km in length, to include Grading, Filling, Compaction Works, as well as the Construction of Concrete Culverts, **has now been changed to: Surface Dressing of Bwari – Igu – Kawu Road, Phase I, measuring 7km in length, including all other Civil Engineering Works.**

Please, tenderers and the general public are to note that the date of closure of tenders and all other information contained in the first advertisement of 18/02/2010 still remain valid.

We regret any inconvenience the above change might have caused.

Signed:
Tenders Board

AEPB sensitises residents on waste bins

By Usman A. Bello & Olotu Samuel

THE Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) yesterday advised residents of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to provide waste bins in their premises.

The board's Director, Abubakar Shehu Yabo, stated this while sensitizing residents of Banex Plaza and Wuse 11 on the need to have waste bins in the premises.

He said the sensitiza-

tion exercise became necessary due to the manners in which residents dump waste indiscriminately within their surroundings, thereby causing discomfort to other residents and passersby.

He explained that getting waste bins to properly dispose refuse will make refuse evacuation easier for waste contractors and effectively make the city clean.

"When you littered the surroundings with waste, it will be difficult for contrac-

tors to evacuate it and keep your environment healthy," he reasoned.

He warned that after the sensitization, any resident who fails to provide waste bin in his premises will be issued a court summon, adding that the board is determine to enforce the law.

The director also advised against bush burning and called for closer collaborations with the residents in ensuring that the territory is clean.

Driver remanded over cyclist's death

By Romoke W. Ahmad & Usman A. Bello

THE driver of a vehicle with registration number XL 310 AAA was yesterday remanded in prison custody for allegedly

causing the death of a cyclist.

The accused, Christopher Asogwu of Gauraka who was arraigned before Karu Magistrate Court was remanded pending the determination of his bail application.

Prosecutor Ali Otijele told the court that the accused person committed the offence on February 13 2010, while driving along Nyanya -AYA road at the police check point.

He said the accused hit one

Auwal Abubakar on his motorcycle, which led to his death and committed an offence contrary to Section 5 of the Federal High Way Act.

The accused person pleaded not guilty after listened to the

charge and denied killing the cyclist.

Chief Magistrate Ahmed Shuaib ordered that the accused be remanded and adjourned the case to March 4, 2010 for hearing.

Aliero pledges support for Abaji council boss

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

FCT Minister Muhammad Adamu Aliero Tuesday pledged his support for Alhaji Musa Yahaya Muhammed and called on the entire residents of Abaji to cast their votes for him during the forthcoming council polls so that he can continue with his programmes as chairman of the council.

Aliero stated this during the flag off of the Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) campaign in which the incumbent Abaji council boss is seeking re-election.

The minister, who was represented by his Chief of Staff, Alhaji Abubakar Sadiq Yalwa, disclosed that the FCT Administration has so far contribute the sum of

N800 million towards the construction of a dam in order to solve the perennial water problem in Abaji.

He said orders have been given to the Satellite Town Department of the FCT Administration to complete the Agyana-Gurara road with asphalt and commended the residents for their peaceful co-existence.

Our reporter learnt that a large number of members and executives of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), including its former chairman and vice in the council defected to the PDP.

In his address, the FCT PDP Chairman, Alhaji Alhassan Gwagwa, expressed happiness with the new members and assured them of equal treatment.

Coy donates working aid to AEPB, police

By Usman A. Bello, Romoke W. Ahmad & Lami Sadiq

A waste evacuation company in Karu, Abuja, Mahaj Cleaner yesterday donated working aids to the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) and the Nigeria Police Force in order to enhance their work.

Items donated consisted of two traffic stands, 20 reflective jackets, 21 waste bins as well as four signposts.

Manager of the company, Muhammed Okoliko, while presenting the items said the items were donated as part of the company's social responsibility to the public, adding that traffic stands and reflective jackets will assist the Karu Police in traffic control of the area.

"The waste bins, signposts will be mounted at strategic locations and major streets within Karu to help control littering of the streets with waste, poor sanitation habits as well as to ensure a clean environment," he said.

Meanwhile, AEPB's Director, represented by his Personal Assistant, Akin Ala-

wode, advised residents to make judicious use of the items and cultivate proper sanitary culture so that it will be easier for the contractor to evacuate waste effectively.

He said waste bills will soon be served on residents of the area and advised them to pay their bills properly in order to enable the board serve them better as well as sustain the programme.

The personal assistant also advised the residents to form neighbourhood sanitary forums, where environmental problems can be ironed out, adding that it will breach the gap between the board and residents in respect to environmental issues.

He appealed to other organization and individuals to emulate Mahaj Cleaners in complimenting government's efforts, adding that the residents should participate in the forthcoming monthly environmental sanitation.

The Karu Divisional Police Officer represented by Assistant Superintendent Usin E. Usin commended the company for their gesture and promised to make effective use of the items.

Suspected fake journalists to be arraigned today

By Hussein Yahaya

ABOUT 11 suspected fake journalists arrested in various functions around Abuja will be arraigned at an Abuja magistrate court today.

Our reporter who was at Life Camp Police Station yesterday saw nine of the suspects comprising of eight males and a female in detention.

Other suspects are said to be scattered around other police cells in Abuja.

The latest clamp down on fake journalists was as a result of a joint committee inaugurated for the purpose few weeks back that has both police officers and journalists as members.

FELICITATION



Dr. Ibrahim Jalo Daudu

(New Appointed Federal Permanent Secretary
State House Abuja)

The Management and entire staff of M.C Mohammed & Co Gombe heartily rejoice with you Dr. Ibrahim Jalo Daudu on your recent appointment as Federal Permanent Secretary State House, Abuja.

Really, your appointment did not come to us as a surprise considering your track record, wealth of experience, hard work, dedication to duty as well as commitment to the service of your country. The new position will further give you more ample opportunity to contribute positively to the development of your great father land.

We appreciate the fatherly role of His Excellency, Governor Mohammed Danjuma Goje (Sarkin Yakin Gombe) over your appointment. Furthermore, we thank the people of Gombe State, North East Sub-region and the country at large for all the support and prayers that lead you through.

May Almighty Allah (SWT) guide and protect you in all your future endeavor,
Ameen



Alhaji Mohammed Chindo

CEO/MD M.C Mohammed & Co General Merchant
Supplier and Distributor for Ashaka Cem Plc. Opposite
Old Market Gombe Block A.2 P.O.BOX 638 Gombe
G.S.M No 08035879932

ABU ZARIA 1979 REUNION DINNER

GRADUATES OF B.Sc ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION REUNION DINNER:

This is to inform all the above graduates that a **REUNION DINNER** is being organized to hold on Saturday 1st May, 2010 in ABUJA,

Please contact any of the following for details:

Zakari Mohd Sada
08033118833

Nasiru Kuliya
08058297369

Reginald Ihejiahi
08033137077

Lawal Kankia Ibrahim
08036401955

KEBBI HEALTH SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT 11(KBHSDP II) CREDIT NO.4522-UNI
Bid Name: Procurement Of Works Bid NO.KBHSDP/AF/WKS/NCB/2010/001
EVALUATED BIDDERS

S/N	NAME OF BIDDER WHO SUBMITTED BID	LOTS BIDDED FOR	BID PRICE (AS READ OUT) AT THE BID OPENING	NAME & EVALUATED PRICES OF EACH EVALUATED BID.
	Dakora Int Ltd.	3	N25,710,875.00	
		4	N14,160,390.00	
	Bash Global Company	3	N25,148,635.00	19,691,104.40
		4	N14,760,062.00	16,171,016.20
	Guaranty Construction Ltd.	1	N 24,659,237.54	
		2	N1,824,158.42	
		5	N130,201,340.50	
	X Matrix 369	1	N26,192,720.00	
		2	N20,154,010.00	
		5	N45,986,370.00	
		6	N17,150,000.00	
	Bright Stone	1	N25,762,710.00	
		2	N19,302,354.00	
		5	N50,066,210.00	
		6	N16,333,000.00	
	KUO Nig Ltd	1	N23,208,830.00	19,727,505.50
		2	N19,749,610.00	17,653,239.00
		3	N23,208,830.00	19,691,104.40
		4	N19,749,610.00	17,653,239.00
		5	N54,467,440.00	49,020,696.00
	Bussiness Gold Ltd	1	N32,287,688.50	31,642,130.73
		2	N25,234,580.78	23,468,180.13
		4	N25,090,103.65	23,637,598.46
		5	N57,922,008.00	57,342,767.92
		6	N24,923,000.00	24,923,000.00
	ZAHRA Int Ltd.	2	N28,085,390.00	
	UAK	5	N11,939,000.00	13,479,550.00
	Buhaf N	1	N24,664,750.00	
		2	N20,054,010.00	
		5	N57,915,332.00	
		6	N15,760,000.00	

REJECTED BIDDERS

S/N	NAME OF REJECTED BIDDER (S)	LOTS BIDDED FOR	BID PRICE (AS READ OUT AT THE BID OPENING	REASON(S) FOR REJECTION
1	Dakora Int Ltd.	3	N25,710,875.00	NON RESPONSIVE/NO BID SECURITY
		4	N14,160,390.00	
2	Guaranty Construction Ltd.	1	N 24,659,237.54	NO BID SECURITY
		2	N1,824,158.42	
		4		
		5	N130,201,340.50	
3	X Matrix 369	1	N26,192,720.00	NO BID SECURITY
		2	N20,154,010.00	
		5	N45,986,370.00	
		6	N17,150,000.00	
4	Bright Stone	1	N25,762,710.00	NO BID SECURITY
		2	N19,302,354.00	
		5	N50,066,210.00	
		6	N16,333,000.00	
5	Zahra Int Ltd.	2	N28,085,390.00	NO BID SECURITY

Bid Name: Procurement Of Goods, Bid NO.KBHSDP/AF/GDS/NCB/2010/001

S/N	NAME OF BIDDER	LOTS BIDDED FOR	BID PRICE (AS READ OUT
1	Crystal Laboratory Products Ltd	1	N 10,361,700.00
		2	For the 4 Lots
		3	
		4	
2	Hali Shuab Scientific Ltd	1	N1,041,000.00
		2	N4,412,450.00
		3	N272,600.00
		4	N1,215,000.00
3	Umrak Global Investment	1	N 786,000.00
		2	N10,394,020
		3	N272,600.00
		4	N1,738,100
4	AT & S Investment	1	N2,134,000.00
		2	N2,978,618.5
		3	N891,000
		4	N2,227,500

AWARDED BIDDER

LOT NO	NAME AND ADDRESS OF AWARDED BIDDER	BID PRICE (AS READ OUT AT THE BID OPENING	FINAL BID PRICE
1	KUO Nig Ltd D. 10 FEHINTIOLU, ADANKOLO NEW LAYOUT, LOKOJA	N 23,208,830	N 19,727,505.5
2	KUO Nig Ltd D. 10 FEHINTIOLU, ADANKOLO NEW LAYOUT, LOKOJA	N 25,148,635	N 19,691,104.4
3	BASH GLOBAL CO. LTD P.O. BOX 01, KOKO, KEBBI STATE	N 25,148,635	N 19,691,104.4
4	BASH GLOBAL CO. LTD P.O. BOX 01, KOKO, KEBBI STATE	N 14,760,062.00	N 16,173,016.20
5	KUO Nig Ltd D. 10 FEHINTIOLU, ADANKOLO NEW LAYOUT, LOKOJA	N 54,467,440.00	N 49,020,696.00
6	UAK GENERAL VENTURES 27, EMIR HARUNA ROAD, BIRNIN KEBBI	N 11,939,000.00	N 13,479,550

Bid Name: Procurement Of Goods, Bid NO.KBHSDP/AF/GDS/NCB/2010/001

S/N	NAME OF BIDDER	LOTS BIDDED FOR	BID PRICE (AS READ OUT	NAME & EVALUATED PRICES OF EACH EVALUATED BID.
1	Crystal Laboratory Products Ltd	1	N 10,361,700.00	
		2	For the 4 Lots.	
		3		
		4		
2	Hali Shuab Scientific Ltd	1	N1,041,000.00	N1,041,000.00
		2	N4,412,450.00	N4,412,450.00
		3	N272,600.00	N272,600.00
		4	N1,215,000.00	N1,215,000.00
3	Umrak Global Investment	1	N 786,000.00	
		2	N10,394,020	
		3	N272,600.00	
		4	N1,738,100	
4	AT & S Investment	1	N2,134,000.00	N2,134,000.00
		2	N2,978,618.5	N2,978,618.5
		3	N891,000	N891,000
		4	N2,227,500	N2,227,500
5	NAME OF REJECTED BIDDER (S)	LOTS BIDDED FOR	BID PRICE (AS READ OUT AT THE BID OPENING	REASON(S) FOR REJECTION
1	HALI SHUAIB	1		/NO BID SECURITY
		2		
		3		
		4		
2	AT & S INVESTMENT LTD	1		NO BID SECURITY
		2		
		3		
		4		

Inside Politics

S/Court decides on Yobe guber tussle today

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE Supreme Court will today decide whether the Yobe State governorship tussle involving the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) and the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) on one hand and Senator Usman Albishir on the other will continue or not.

INEC and ANPP had filed an appeal at the apex court towards the end of last year challenging the decision of the Court of Appeal, Jos which granted an "out-of-time" opportunity to Senator Albishir to challenge his alleged wrongful substitution with late Governor Mamman Ali after he had won the ANPP governorship ticket in 2007.

INEC and ANPP insist that the Appeal Court had erred in its decision to grant Albishir the chance to file his appeal 'out-of-time'. The plaintiffs (INEC and ANPP) had during a hearing in October last year contended that Albishir did not meet the requirements of the law to be given such an opportunity.

Albishir had equally filed a counter motion, asking the Supreme Court to take the position of original jurisdiction and dispense with the matter 'once-and-for-all' on the ground that the case was taking too long to be resolved.

Senator Albishir and late Mamman Ali were the two contenders for the ANPP gubernatorial ticket in Yobe State during the party's primary election ahead of the 2007 guber polls. Though Albishir was said to have won the election, the ANPP national headquarters substituted him with late Ali after he (Albishir's) name appeared in the EFCC list which indicted a number of politicians.

Albishir thereafter challenged the decision of the party at the Federal High Court in Maiduguri which declined jurisdiction and referred him back to the ANPP for reconciliation.

Shortly thereafter, Albishir was at the Court of Appeal, Jos but before the case could be decided, he proceeded to the Kaduna Federal High Court, where he got a

favourable judgment that directed INEC and ANPP to endorse his candidature.

That was when Senator Ali challenged the ruling at the Court of Appeal in Kaduna which set aside the judgment of the Kaduna Federal High Court on the grounds of "lack of jurisdiction and abuse of the court process".

Not satisfied with the judgment, Albishir went to the Supreme Court and appealed the Kaduna Court of Appeal's ruling. But the Supreme Court ruled that the judgment of the Court of Appeal, Kaduna was in order and directed him to go back to the Court of Appeal in Jos and pursue his case afresh.

That was when the Court of Appeal, Jos granted him "out of time" opportunity, a development which INEC and ANPP are presently challenging at the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court is likely to take a decision today, which will swing either way. If the Court upholds the decision of the Appeal Court in Jos, it will



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam

afford Albishir the opportunity to file "a fresh appeal" challenging his substitution with late Mamman Ali and by extension, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam who

inherited the litigation from his predecessor. However, the court may also end the matter if it quashes the decision of the Appeal Court.

PDP probes Soludo's loss

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE National Vice Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) (Southeast) Chief Olisa Metu has set up a committee to look into the circumstances surrounding the defeat of its governorship candidate in Anambra State, Prof. Chukwuma Soludo.

Members of the committee which has Dr Akachukwu Nwankwo, Special Assistant to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, as Secretary are all former governors of PDP from Anambra who are still members of the party, present and past National Assembly members, past and present Speakers of the State House of Assembly and National Working Committee (NWC) members among others.

The committee was announced at a meeting organized by the Minister of Information and Communication Prof Dora Akunyili at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja which ended in the early hours of Wednesday.

Metu, who said the committee was mandated to look into the crisis in Anambra State PDP which led to the party's defeat, expressed hope that the committee would work hand in hand to reposition the party in the state.

"I must tell you that we had some problems in terms of unity of the party. Some of our members worked for the incumbent governor, Peter Obi," Metu said adding that "Our resolve is to work and support the candidate of our party in the last election."

Akunyili had, in her opening remarks, said the meeting was meant to chart a way forward and to ensure that the party performed very well during the forthcoming local government elections as well as the 2011 elections.

"We are not here to castigate anybody or apportion blames because that will not help genuine reconciliation which we need very badly. We are here to brainstorm and chart a way forward for our party so that together we can build a strong party structure which will guarantee success in the upcoming local government elections and 2011 general elections," the minister said.

The meeting was attended by former Anambra state governor Chinwoke Nmbadunju, Chief Arthur Eze, Dr George Moghalu, Chief Felix Oli, Chief Joseph Okonkwo, Barr Stella Odife, Sir Simon Okeke, Dan Chuke and members of the National Assembly, among others.



PROF. Chukwuma Soludo

2011: Buhari meets Kebbi ANPP exco

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

TWO times presidential candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP), General Mohammed Buhari yesterday held a closed door meeting with Kebbi State officials of the ANPP in Kaduna.

The meeting which was meant to review Buhari's defection from the ANPP as well as the way forward, was held at the Gombe Jewel Hotel, Kaduna and lasted till around 4: pm, Daily Trust gathered.

Speaking to our correspondent shortly after the meeting, the chairman of the ANPP in Kebbi State, Alhaji Musa Abubakar, said General Buhari explained to the gathering why he had to leave the ANPP.

"We all came to Kaduna to know the

reasons why the General left our party. And during the meeting, he took his time to explain to us the reasons why he left. We are satisfied with the reasons he gave to us and as soon as we get back to our respective states, we are going to discuss our next step," he said.

The chairman said Buhari's exit from the party will certainly affect fortunes of the party in the 2011 election draws nearer.

"I doubt if the party will not die because most of its supporters, especially at the grassroots are in ANPP because of Buhari. Now that he has left, they are likely to follow him. ANPP will die," he declared.

He urged voters to vote wisely and protect their votes in 2011 in order to entrench true democratic practice in the country.

DPP wants quick resolution of Sokoto guber appeal

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Democratic People's Party (DPP) yesterday urged the President of the Court of Appeal, Hon. Justice Isa Ayo Salami and the Sokoto State Governorship Election Appeal Panel under the Hon. Justice M.D. Muhammad to see to the immediate dispensation of the Sokoto State governorship election appeal.

Acting Director of Publicity of the DPP, Abubakar Ateeku Yusuf, alleged in a statement in Abuja yesterday that the Peoples

Democratic Party (PDP) is working assiduously to ensure that the case is unnecessarily delayed in order to subvert the course of justice.

"The shenanigans by the PDP to make the Appeal Court President to suspend the process and set up a new Appeal Panel to look into DPP's appeal de novo should not be allowed to see the light of day as it will not bolster the course of justice. We hold the view that the judgment cannot continue to be put on hold," the statement said.

"This is why we are calling on the President of the Court of Appeal, the Hon. Justice Isa Ayo Salami and the Sokoto State Governorship Election Appeal Panel under the Hon. Justice M.D. Muhammad to show courage and rise to the occasion by proceeding without further delay to deliver the judgment in good conscience," it added.

The DPP and its candidate Alhaji Maigari Dingyadi have been challenging Governor Wamakko's eligibility to stand for the election.

OPEN PETITION TO THE PRESIDENCY, NJC, NBA AND ALL NIGERIANS OF GOOD CONSCIENCE

SOKOTO APPEAL PETITION JUDGEMENT; BULLYING AND BLACKMAIL OF THE JUDGES OF COURT OF APPEAL TO PAVE WAY FOR PDP VICTORY.

The pending judgment of the court of appeal on Sokoto gubernatorial election will be another major test case for the "rule of law and due process mantra" of the Ag. President Goodluck Jonathan regime as the pendulum of justice swings in the legendary case of Sokoto State would determine whether Nigeria is really rule by Law or by men who seat on the law. (In the beginning, it would be recalled that Alhaji Muhammadu Magari Dinyadi, DPP gubernatorial Candidate in the 2007 gubernatorial election of Sokoto State filed a petition against the election of Alhaji Aliyu Wammako of the People Democratic Party.

Alhaji Aliyu Wammako was conscripted two weeks before the general election as the People's Democratic Party (PDP) gubernatorial candidate ahead of Mr. Muktar Shagari who was the original PDP candidate prior to the imposition of Wammako. This action contravened the Electoral Act of 2006 and clearly violated section 187.91) of the Constitution that mandates any candidate to be fielded by any party to be a member of such political party at least 60 days before the election. Wammako was known to be an ANPP flagbearer before the shady negotiation that forced Muktar Sahagari to abandon his ambition and reluctantly agree to become a running mate to less competent candidate.

Alhaji Aliyu Wammakko in a rally at Sokoto on Monday, 15 February 2010 bragged openly that nothing can unseat him from his illegally occupying position because everything in Abuja has been "settled".

In a desperate move to perpetuate the fraudulent and illegal occupation of the Sokoto Government House, it was learnt that plans have already been concluded to manipulate the judgment of the Court of Appeal. An unconfirmed source said that arrangements are currently underway at the highest judicial level to order the removal of the Judges presiding over the Sokoto election appeal petition because of the inability of the PDP to manoeuvre them in their favour. The reason for their removal will be based on the purported petition written by Alhaji Wammako of the PDP alleging that some of the Judges have collected bribes from the opposition. As an interested party, we cannot dismiss this rumor because of the antecedent of the ruling PDP Government. However, it is our great conviction that the Ag. President Goodluck Jonathan will correct the wrong of the past by allowing Justice to reign once again in Nigeria.

It shall be recalled that the Sokoto people have been denied justice several times despite Alhaji Wammako's obvious ineligibility to contest in the 2007 election and the consequent nullification of his election (with a mandatory fine of fifty thousand Naira awarded against him). There is no doubt in the fact that the immediate removal of these incorruptible Judges was the only option left after all attempts to bribe and unduly influence the President of the Court of Appeal failed. It is also rumored that Hon. Justice Isa Ayo Salami, President of the Court of Appeal has refused all entreaties and monetary inducements to pervert the course of justice; he has firmly stood his ground against all these moves by the ruling party.

In addition, there has been tremendous pressure from one of serving PDP Senator from Sokoto State and Chairman of one Senate's most influential Committees. Alhaji Wammako has contracted the Senator to use his influence as the Senate Committee Chairman to ensure that the decision of the Court of Appeal is in favour of the ruling party. The Senator claims that he was instrumental in the appointment of Justice Ayo Salami. According to him, it's payback time.

It was noted that Alhaji Wammako resorted to the option of blackmail as a last option after all avenues to influence the judgment had been exhausted to no avail. The petition to the Nigerian Judicial Commission (NJC) will serve as an excuse for the removal of the Judges by the CJN since they could not be influenced in any way. Alhaji Wammako quickly petitioned the, NJC alleging without any

concrete proof that the presiding Judges have received bribes from the opposition.

It is very important to note that the entire world is watching carefully and any attempt to tamper with Justice may further destabilize our already heated political system. It is also important to call the attention of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to this current issue because this is a challenging opportunity for Dr. Jonathan to write his name in gold by changing the 'do or die' political orientation of the PDP and allowing the rule of law to prevail in our polity. It is the responsibility of our Judiciary to ensure that justice is done to everyone irrespective of political party affiliations and social status.

The question on everyone's lips is this: will Sokoto people get justice like their compatriots in Edo and Ondo States? The answer to this lies in the hands of the judges of the appeal court who will determine the fate of Wammako and the entire people of Sokoto State. The Nigerian judiciary has played a very important role in the sustenance of our fragile democratic process by upholding the truth as exhibited by those courageous judges, involved in the landmark judgments involving Anambra (in the case of Peter Obi v Ngege of the PDP), Edo, Rivers and Ondo States, even at the peril of their personal lives. The entire world is waiting on the case of Sokoto to see whether these judges will make history by writing their names in gold and laying an enduring judicial legacy for our frail democracy. "Their names will not be forgotten in the history of their Land; those who ruined it and those who saved it".

A fraudulent judgment in favour of Wammako will be a tragic abortion of justice: not only would this wrongdoer go unpunished he would also reap bountifully the fruits of his unwholesome labour - a five-year term comprising a standard four-year term plus the 12 months of illegal tenure he enjoyed during the prosecution of the petition against his illegal return at the 14th April 2007 election. Effectively, while those candidates who legitimately contested and won their elections as Governors in the 14th April 2007 elections will vacate their offices in 2011, Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko would remain Governor of Sokoto State for another year as a reward for being an unqualified candidate at that election. And come 2012, he would still be entitled to contest for another 4 years as Governor. This must not be allowed to happen.

It is our joint/communal responsibility to save our nascent democracy. Our appeal goes to the Nigerian media of which many journalists have paid the supreme price of their lives in the struggle for democracy. The Nigerian Labour Congress, (NLC) should stand firm in support of the truth. The Nigeria Bar Association, NBA should not fold their arms at such a time as this. The Conference of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP), under the leadership of Alhaji Bakarabe Musa, should fight to save our multi party system. We call on all civil rights organizations - (CD, CLO, NANS, CDHR, AREWA, OPC, MASSOB) - and opinion leaders like Femi Falana, Prof. Wole Soyinka, Chief Olisa Agbakoba and other prominent Nigerians who have long served as voices of Nigeria's conscience to speak up on the Sokoto issue and condemn the judicial sacrilege being committed by the PDP.

"Every onlooker is either a coward or a traitor" - Frantz Fanon

Oludare Ogunlana,
Director Organization and Strategy for New Democratic League

Cc;
Ag. President Goodluck Jonathan
President, Nigeria Judicial Council
President, West African Bar Association
Media

TRUST CLASSIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Management of the Grace and Gold School, Abuja hereby announces the schools common entrance examination for candidates seeking admission into Junior Secondary School (J.S.S 1) 2010-2011 academic session. Examination venue school premises, the Grace and Gold School, Plot 1158 Cadastral Zone B2, Durumi District, beside Old Federal Secretariat Complex, Area 1, Garki, Abuja. Examination Date: Saturday 20th March 2010 Examination Time: 9.00am Admission forms are available at the school premises Signed: Management.

AUCTION! AUCTION! AUCTION!

On behalf of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, the General Public are hereby inform that there is going to be a public auction of **Vacuum Truck, Folk Lift, Site Lamp Holders, Table Vice, Anvil W/shop equipment etc at ETD, Pollution Control Centre, Warri.**

Date: 25/2/2010
Time: 10:00am
Licensed Auctioneers
Naraguta Ventures
08036813077, 08030792006

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly addressed as **KHADIJA JUMAIL ABUBAKAR** now to be known as **KHADIJA JUMAI ABUBAKAR EJENAVI**. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **RAMATU UMAR**, now wish to be known as **RAMATU YAHAYA MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. FAAN and the general public should take note.

I, formerly **MISS OKORO CONFIDENCE**, now **MRS OKENKWU N. CONFIDENCE**. All former documents remain valid. Public take note.

Formerly **MISS VICTORIA DIGGA** now **MRS VICTORIA EZEKIEL KIYA**. Former documents remain valid. UNIBUJA, N.Y.S.C and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **EJUMA AMEDU IKWUE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS EJUMA AMEDU NKWAZEMA**. All former documents remain valid. NBA and general public note.

I, formerly known as **MISS EMEM ASUQUO EFFIONG** now **MRS EMEM UNYIMEABASI DANIEL ETUK**. All former documents remains valid. The general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS AISHA ABISOLA SALIU** now wish to be address as **MRS AISHA ABISOLA ADEWUMI**. All documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I, formerly known as **ADAMU BALARABE SHEHU** now wish to be known as **IBRAHIM ADAMU SHEHU** Former documents remain valid. NSCDC and public note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ELEOJO OYIBI** now wish to be known as **MRS ELEOJO STELLA BALEY**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I, formerly **MISS JOAN TIRWYN HASSAN** now wish to be known as **MRS JOAN TIRWYN FAJEMISIN**. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS FRANCA OBIAGERI IKPEAZU** now wish to be known as **MRS FRANCA OBIAGERI T. BARNABAS**. All documents remain valid. Oceanic Bank and General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MOSES ZHIYA** now wish to be **MOSES ZHIYAAGUMA**. Former documents remain valid.

HAJARA: Formerly known and addressed as **HAJARAT SALIHU** now wish to be known as **MRS. HAJARAT KABIRU**. All former documents remain valid. FCTA Health and Human Services Secretariat, Hospital Management Board and the general public please take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as **UMMI SANI OSMAN** now wish to be known and addressed as **UMMI SANI USMAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public to please take note.

I **ROSEMARY ENINEKIT** wish to be known now as **MRS ROSEMARY VINCENT FAGA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and the general public should take note.

I, formerly known as **ADAMU MUSA** wish to be known and called **UDEME UBON ESSIEN**. Former documents remain valid. NSCC and public note.

I, formerly **MOHAMMED ABUBAKAR YUSUF**, henceforth be addressed **MOHAMMED ABUBAKAR**, former document remains valid. ATBU Bauchi, NYSC, public take note.

I formerly **VICTORIA IDOWU AFOLABI** now wish to be called **MRS VICTORIA IDOWU EMMA-JOSEPH**. All former documents remain valid RCCG take note.

I, FORMERLY KNOWN AS **MISS OKOH CHINEDU MARIA**, NOW TO BE KNOWN AS **MRS ZAIBE CHINEDU MARIA**. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAINS VALID. NYSC AND GENERAL PUBLIC TAKE NOTE.

I formally known as **MISS RABI MUKHTAR GETSO** now wish to be called **MRS RABI MUKHTAR GETSO**. All former document remain valid, BUK and general public to note.

I formally **SARKI HARUNA RINGIM** now wish to be called **SARKI HARUNA**. All former document remain valid, BUK and general public to note.

I, formerly known as **BARR. (MISS) IJEOMA NKECHINYERE ALISI**, now wish to be known and addressed as **BARR. (MRS.) IJEOMA CASMIR NWANKWO**. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Bar Association and general public take note.

COMMUNITY CHURCH OF CHRIST IN NIGERIA

This is to notify the general public that the above named organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Pastor Yusuf Samaila
2. Evangelist Ayuba Abasiya
3. Audu Nyatau
4. Yusuf Danmore
5. Idi Bako
6. Yusuf Emmanuel
7. Daniel Abasiya

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To glorify God through worship and preaching the gospel to all people in their mother tongue.
2. To establish and plant churches for the propagation of the gospel of Christ.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **F.M Kwede Esq.**
(Solicitor to the proposed organisation)

In the Light of Truth The Grail Message

"Learn to observe attentively and to use properly the currents in this Creation, which bear the Will of God, and thus God's Justice in pure form. Then you will again find the true humanity which has been wrested from you."

Abd-ru-shin
Grail Centre Madalla, Madalla Suleja Road 08054183304

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of Original Copy of Letter of Offer of the Term of Grant/Conveyance of Plot No. D1015F of about 1000sqm in Mpape II Layout, belonging to **Mr. Joseph Illisah** issued by Federal Capital Territory Administration Urban and Regional Planning Department, BAC Zonal Planning Office dated 19/02/2007 is declared missing. All effort made to trace the said document proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station.

FAKE PROOF AND QUALITY AWARENESS INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Chief Stanford Onyinmba
2. Mr. Obinna Iweajurwa
3. Lady Chanty Ezenwa
4. Chief Val Mbamala
5. Chief Uzochukwu Chidiebere

Aims and objectives:

1. To raise national consciousness on the hazards of patronizing fake, adulterated and substandard goods.
2. To assist government agencies in ensuring the dissemination of information on the eradication of unwholesome consumables.
3. To make the public alive to the dangers of marketing adulterated items.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed: Chief (Hon) Stanford Onyinmba
Chairman

BEAUTIFUL GATE HANDICAPPED PEOPLE CENTER

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Engr. Solomon Chikan
2. Dr. Joseph Alaghu
3. Ms Rahila Gowon
4. Evang. Iliya Chundusu
5. Prof. Danny McCain
6. Mr. Ayuba Gulwan

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To encourage enactment of handicapped friendly legislation
2. To encourage self help among disable persons
3. To ensure comprehensive rehabilitation of disabled persons

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Dawang Jacob Peter
(Barrister/Solicitor)

GREEN RIGHTS INITIATIVE IN AFRICA

This is to inform the general public the above named Initiative has Association to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Prof. Ben Ayade - Chairman
2. Dr. Francis Ayade - Member
3. Mr. Keith Sherman - Member

Aims and objectives:

1. Creation of environmental awareness campaigns, community development support, skills acquisition training of youths and rehabilitation programmes.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Barr. Martin Odey
08033902007

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

I Mr. **OLOKPO AUDU** of Federal Office of statistic loss the acknowledgement letter with file no. 80424 dated 02/05/07 and conveyance of provisional approval with ref: no KAC/FCDA /LP&S/80-424 in respect of plot no. 845 of about 940 sqm in AA 1 ext situation in Kuje Area council FCT - Abuja bearing Dr.D.M. YASIKA. All efforts to trace the missing vital document proved futile. If found please contact this GSM Number 08037877924 or nearest police station.

I formerly known as **LADI HASSAN** now to be called **ZARA HASSAN**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS MAUREEN EDWARD PAMNI** wish to be called **MRS MAUREEN HOSEA JOEL**. Former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I, formerly **ANENEH ANULIKA**, now **MRS CHIJINDU ANULIKA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to take note.

I, formerly **PATIENCE DAVID**, now wish to be **MRS PATIENCE IME DANIEL**. All former documents remain valid. BUK, NYSC and the general public take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

Missing of original copy of re-certification acknowledge for Plot 1014, File No. TR10029, Cadastral Zone A09 GUZAPE District.

Signed: **IBRAHIM DAHIRU BOBBO**
(Owner) 08036516677.

SPORT

Woods's timing
of statement is
selfish, claims Els

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Amodu fights back

■ Says he wants to assist foreign coach

FIRED Nigeria coach Shuaibu Amodu has staged a big fight-back, insisting that going by his contract he is still in charge of the country's team and will work under a new foreign coach for the World Cup.

"As at this moment, I know and the NFF know that I still remain the authentic chief coach of the national team and I have not been demoted," said Amodu.

"I have achieved so much in

"I have achieved so much in terms of coaching that I think the only problem I have is that I'm not a white skin."

terms of coaching that I think the only problem I have is that I'm not a white skin. Otherwise I can claim to be one of Africa's best in coaching."

Amodu argued that Article 10 paragraph 2.6 of his contract with the NFF states the football association could employ a foreign coach for the national team, who he as chief coach will work under.

"I'm ready to work for the good of the country, because I believe that there is no magic that any coach no matter his pedigree can do under three months with the present team," said Amodu.

Amodu insisted he would choose the same squad he took to the recent Nations Cup in Angola were the circumstances to be the same.

He defended his choice of a half-fit Obafemi Martins ahead of Michael Eneramo and also picked Nwankwo Kanu to lead



DEMOTED Super Eagles coach Shaibu Amodu still wants to sit on the bench and assist the foreign technical adviser at the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa.

the Eagles to the World Cup in June.

Amodu was sacked as Nigeria coach earlier this month after the Eagles finished third at the Nations Cup in Angola.

The NFF is currently shopping for a foreign coach to lead

the country to the World Cup in South Africa in June. Top officials are in London to talk with several short listed candidates including Bruno Metsu and Ratomir Djukovic.

Amodu was deployed to handle the country's B team ahead of the

Championship of African Nations (CHAN) qualifier against Niger Republic next month.

In the meantime, one of Amodu's assistants with the Super Eagles, Daniel Amokachi, has teamed up with the Eagles B team training in Abuja.

"The NFF is currently shopping for a foreign coach"

Nigeria drops Kanu, Yobo for 'younger blood'

FOR next month's World Cup warm-up against Paraguay, Nigeria will parade a far younger team than the one that featured at the recent Africa Cup of Nations following a decision to call up players not beyond 28 years of age.

This means players like skipper Nwankwo Kanu, Joseph

Yobo, Danny Shittu and Seyi Olofinjana will not be involved in the Paraguay friendly slated for March 3 in London.

The technical department of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) will therefore call up players from the country's Under-17 and Under-20 teams for the London friendly.

"We have listed some very young and promising players from the age-grade teams to join those who are already in the Super Eagles, but we are only going to use players not more than 28 years for the match against Paraguay," said deputy secretary-general of the NFF technical department, James Peters.

"We are therefore considering players like Emmanuel Sani, Fortune Chukwudi and a host of players within the 28 years age bracket."

Players like Rabiu Ibrahim and Obiora Nwankwo from the Under-20 also have a good chance of making the squad for the Paraguay clash.



KANU

Ojo-Oba charges NPL on credible poll

By Orkula Shaagee

NFF General Secretary Dr. Bolaji Ojo-Oba said yesterday that all that the Federation wishes for the coming election of Board Members of the Nigeria Premier League is credibility and transparency.

Speaking in Abuja during a visit by members of the NPL Elec-

approved for the election, and at all times, think of what is best for Nigeria football. Do not disenfranchise anyone, as that will be very bad".

Chairman of NPL Electoral Committee, Mr. Tony Rafua said the Committee decided to pay a visit to the NFF Secretariat in full recognition of the Federation as football's only regulatory body in the Nigeria sovereignty.

"We have immense regard for the NFF as the regulatory body, and we want to assure you that everything we will do will be transparent. The media will be invited to witness the screening in order to ascertain our openness".

Enyimba FC boss, Mr. Felix Anyansi-Agwu is Vice Chairman, with Mr. Tony Ogola, Mallam Muazu Suleiman, Prince Oladimeji Thompson and Honourable Awalu Baba-Jada as Members. Secretary is Alhassan Yakmut, also the Executive Secretary of NPL.

The NPL elections will hold on March 3 and March 4.

Screening of the candidates for Board Membership will take place on Friday and Saturday while screening for vice chairman and Chairman will be done from Wednesday next week.

We want to assure you that everything we will do will be transparent

toral Committee, Ojo-Oba urged the panel to ensure a level-playing field for all candidates in order that sponsors will be convinced that the Board has credibility.

"The NPL is an affiliate of the NFF, but we have no wish to dictate to the organization on a daily basis. However, we are steadfast in our call for very credible, transparent election that will bring honour not only to NPL but the NFF as well."

"It is important that you follow the guidelines that have been



MARIA Verchenova of Russia reacts on the 16th green during round one of the Honda LPGA Thailand at Siam Country Club Plantation yesterday in Chonburi, Thailand.

Heavyweights qualify for Niger's wrestling q-finals

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

SEVEN wrestling heavyweights have qualified for the quarter finals stage of the ongoing traditional wrestling championship in Niger Republic. The quarter final is scheduled to commence on Saturday in the state of Zinder, which is the host for this year's event.

The quarter finalists are Laminu Maidabba from the state of Agadez, Lawalli Isihu from Tili'aberi, Halilu Sumaila, from Dosso, Muhammadu Annafi from Tawa, Umaru Bindigau from Maradi, Tasi'u Ibrahim from Diffa and Bala Haruna from the state of Zinder. Niamey, the capital of Niger Republic, lost out of the national championship on Monday.

Similarly, the final stage of the inter-state category of the competition will be held today.

A clash yesterday between the state of Maradi and Tawa ended in 5-5 draw, while Diffa with six winnings, won against Agadez with two. The final stage of the competition will be closely watched, as three times champion Bala Haruna and defending champion Laminu Maidabba are still in the contest. Nigeriens and wrestling fans will want to see if one of the champions will win the sword trophy again, or lose the contest altogether.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

THE APOSTOLIC RESTORATION IMPACT GLOBAL OUTREACH

This is to inform the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Rev./Dr. Ejirofor Josiah Ozzoude (President/General Overseer)
2. Barr. (Mrs.) Imelda Ngozi Anire (Secretary/Legal Adviser)
3. Bishop Edet Nfom (Spiritual Adviser)

Aims and objectives:

1. To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus to all nations.
2. To organize crusades, seminar, revival and Bible teaching worldwide.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. Imelda Ngozi Anire

FOUNDATION FOR PEACE AND THE RIGHTS OF MAN

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Prof. Victor Benjie Oshoto
2. Paul Usoro (SAN)
3. H.E. Mrs. M. Y. Katagum
4. Mrs. Ngosi Nwadiuko
5. Dr. Davo Olagunju
6. Mr. Jide Odewale
7. Tunde Ipinmisho

Aims and objectives:

1. To organize enlightenment programs for peace and the rights of man.
2. To ensure the welfare of members.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

AFRICANS FOR AFRICA INITIATIVES

This is to inform the general public that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Idumafa Jegede
2. Egonaron Jegede
3. Osawamoto Jegede

Aims and objectives:

1. To cater for the poor, orphanage and the needy.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

M. A. Nurudeen & Co.,

Legal Practitioners,

Plot 728 Hukari Close Area 8 Garki, Abuja
08056474028

GREATERFAITH GLOBAL EVANGELISM MINISTRY CRUSADES

This is to inform the general public that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Rev./Dr. Ejirofor Josiah Ozzoude (President/General Overseer)
2. Barr. (Mrs.) Imelda Ngozi Anire (Secretary/Legal Adviser)
3. Bishop Edet Nfom (Spiritual Adviser)

Aims and objectives:

1. To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus to all nations.
2. To organize crusades, seminar, revival and Bible teaching worldwide.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. Imelda Ngozi Anire

GREATERFAITH APOSTOLIC CHURCH WORLDWIDE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Rev./Dr. Ejirofor Josiah Ozzoude (President/General Overseer)
2. Barr. (Mrs.) Imelda Ngozi Anire (Secretary/Legal Adviser)
3. Bishop Edet Nfom (Spiritual Adviser)

Aims and objectives:

1. To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus to all nations.
2. To organize crusades, seminar, revival and Bible teaching worldwide.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. Imelda Ngozi Anire

PROPERTY FOR SALE

HOUSE FOR SALE

- A - DUPLEX
- 5 - BEDROOM
- 2 - NOS OF SITTING ROOMS
- ATTACHED WITH
- 3 - BEDROOM BOYS QUARTERS
- 2 - WATER BORNE HOLE
- BIG FISH POND AND A COMMERCIAL LAND IN JABI

CONTACT:

HONEY ORSAMONI (NIG) LIMITED
08039197356, 09-7821427, 08059713195

CHANGE OF NAME

1. Formerly known as MERCY ESSIEN ETOK now wish to be known as MERCY EKERE NELSON. All former documents remain valid, general public to note.

1. Formerly MISS ROBERTS RONKE OMOLOLA now wish to be known as MRS OKUBADEJO RONKE OMOLOLA. Former documents remain valid, general public to note.

1. Formerly MERSHAK THERESA SATHI now wish to be known as THERESA SATHI. Nkomo State. Public notice to note.

1. MISS MADONNA NNA MADAM SHIDALI now wish to be MRS. MADONNA N. AINIK A. NYSC. public take note.

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Cabanas to leave intensive care

PARAGUAY striker Salvador Cabanas was set to leave intensive care on Wednesday three and a half weeks after being shot in the head in a Mexico City bar.

The 29-year-old forward of Mexican club America, who still has the bullet lodged in his brain, has been able to move more parts of his body, one of his doctors said.

"His progress has been very positive, he has managed well without the drip and his movements have been more agile and stronger," Dr. Ernesto Martinez told a news conference.

"He even wants to get up, but we haven't let him because of the effort he would have to make.

"This means we can take him out of intensive care and put him in a room and the risk of death is diminishing."

Police are still looking for a suspect in the shooting, believed to have occurred during an argument over America's results and Cabanas's form in the bathroom of the bar in the early hours of Monday, January 25.

Doctors have said that having the bullet still in his brain would not impede Cabanas, a key player in Paraguay's successful qualification for this year's World Cup in South Africa, from playing again.

In the World Cup starting on June 11, Paraguay face world champions Italy, Slovakia and New Zealand in Group F.

Inter's Balotelli says no to Ghana

INTER Milan's Mario Balotelli has no intention of playing for Ghana, the Italy-born forward has said.

The 19-year-old grew up in Italy but is of Ghanaian descent and would be eligible for a call-up because he has never played for the Azzurri at full international level.

"I have never thought of playing for Ghana. If I go with a national team it will be Italy," Balotelli told a youth seminar.

Ghana coach Milovan Rajevac has said he wanted to convince the Italy under-21 forward to play for his team at June's World Cup in South Africa.

Italy coach Marcello Lippi has so far avoided picking Balotelli, whose on-field antics have angered his coaches, rival players and opposition fans.

He has also risked the wrath of his own Inter supporters by admitting he is an AC Milan fan and appearing in the stands at their Champions League defeat by Manchester United at the San Siro on Tuesday.

"I see nothing strange about it," Inter president Massimo Moratti told reporters.

Vidic wants to stay at Man. U

Insists there is no bust-up with Ferguson

NEMANJA Vidic insists he is happy at Manchester United and has not fallen out with Alex Ferguson.

The Old Trafford boss is concerned about how long the defender has taken to shake off a calf injury, but Vidic says he is determined to return to the side as quickly as possible.

Real Madrid are lining up a €20million summer move for the 28-year-old and United would consider selling if the defender is unwilling to sign a contract beyond 2012.

"I have never had a conflict of any kind with Sir Alex Ferguson and rife speculation that I want to leave United is completely untrue," Vidic told Belgrade newspaper Vecernje Novosti.

"I have a contract until the summer of 2012 and I have every intention of seeing it through to the very last day.

"United have made me the player I am today and there is no substance whatsoever in rumours that I have been looking for a move away to either Real Madrid or AC Milan."

Nevertheless, Ferguson appeared angered when Vidic withdrew from the side that were beaten 1-0 by Leeds in the FA Cup. When asked to explain the absence, the boss said: "You'll have to ask him."

And Ferguson this week suggested he was growing tired with how long the former Spartak Moscow defender had been out of action, saying: "He has been training for the past ten days but doesn't feel he's ready to be part of the games."

"That's something we have to be patient with, which we are doing at the moment."



NEMANJA Vidic, left, insists he is happy at Old Trafford and has not fallen out with Alex Ferguson.

Vidic missed their 3-2 win at Milan in the Champions League on Tuesday but hopes to be fit for the return leg at Old Trafford on March 10.

"I can't wait to get back on the pitch and although I've had a long layoff, I feel strong and fit again," he said.

"I think I will return to action very quickly and hopefully I will be back to my best as soon as I

am picked in the starting line-up again.

"We got a great result at Milan but we have to raise our game for the return leg and I am sure we can."

Ferguson insists he wanted Vidic to stay at Old Trafford, but Madrid, Barcelona, Inter and AC Milan are circling.

Real sporting director Jorge Valdano has been working on a

deal since before Christmas and is believed to have told the Bernabeu board that an agreement has been reached on a €20m fee.

Fulham's Chris Smalling has already been bought for €10m and will join in the summer, and United are looking closely at Benfica's David Luiz, Palermo's Denmark centre back Simon Kjær and Porto's experienced defender Bruno Alves.

Cash-strapped Pompey seek permission to sell players

PORTSMOUTH have asked the Premier League for permission to sell players outside the transfer window.

However, the move will depend on their request being sanctioned by the Football Association and Fifa as well as the Premier League.

Portsmouth want to sell some of their players in order to pay their bills and the Premier League has confirmed that it has received a formal request from the cash-strapped club.

A spokesman for the club said: "I can confirm we have put in a request to the Premier League to sell players out-

side the transfer window. It is something we are exploring."

Pompey have not identified any specific players for sale but reports suggest the Algeria international Nadir Belhadj, the midfielder Kevin Prince-Boateng and the young defender Mark Wilson could be made available.

But Portsmouth face a race against time to gain permission to sell anyone. While the Premier League and the FA may make an exception for Pompey, it is unlikely Fifa will sanction the move.

The club are still understood to be in negotiations

with two interested buyers but any deal will have to be done swiftly if either of the parties

Portsmouth want to sell some of their players in order to pay their bills

involved is to come to Pompey's rescue.

The club face a winding-up petition from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs over an unpaid £11.7m tax bill on March



SULAIMAN Fahim, Portsmouth boss

I and will require a major injection of cash if they are to avoid being wound up. Portsmouth lodged their statement of affairs with the High Court yesterday in an attempt to prove they are still a solvent company.

Woods's timing of statement is selfish, claims Els

ERNIE Els has criticised Tiger Woods for choosing today to break his silence having taken an indefinite break from golf in December following his admission of marital infidelity.

The world No1 is making a statement in Florida while the WGC-Accenture Match Play Championship, the biggest event of the year so far, is being held in Tucson, Arizona.

"It's selfish," Els told a reporter from US magazine Golf Week. "You can write that. I feel sorry for the sponsor. Mondays are a good day to make statements, not Friday. This takes a lot away from the golf tournament."

The event's sponsor, Accenture, was one of the first companies to dump Woods after the revelations about his private life emerged following his 27 November car crash.

Another player in Tucson, not wanting to be named, felt the same way as Els. "That was the first thing we all thought of, like he is sticking it to Accenture - and that the PGA Tour is part of it all," he said, drawing reference to the fact that Woods has been given use of the Tour's headquarters to say what he wants to say without taking any questions. "It's like Tim [Finchem, the PGA Tour commissioner] has lost his head. He wants Tiger back in the worst way and so he lets this go on. I mean, we all want to see Tiger back, but this doesn't look good."

Sergio García of Spain agreed that "the timing of it is not the best, but he has to do what's best for him, I guess."

Rory McIlroy, the new world No7, said in the press conference following his first-round victory: "He's got to come out at some point. I suppose he might want to get something back against the sponsor that dropped him."

Woods' agent, Mark Steinberg, has pointed out that when his client addresses a small gathering of "friends, colleagues and close associates", plus a few reporters and one TV camera, the golf will not have actually started at Dover Mountain in Tucson.

He claimed he had called one of Accenture's executives to give a "heads up" and made sure the statement would come "well outside the tournament's TV window. Accenture couldn't have been more supportive".

On Els' remark, Steinberg



TIGER Woods, left, criticised by Ernie Els, right, for choosing today to break his silence having taken an indefinite break from golf.

responded: "It's always good to get your information right before

“He wants Tiger back in the worst way and so he lets this go on.”

commenting. It's strictly a timing issue. There is a very good reason [for Friday] not do it next week." Steinberg, though, refused to say what that reason was.

"Maybe we can put the whole tournament on hold for 10 minutes to watch," was Geoff Ogilvy's rather sarcastic reaction to Woods's statement. "The only thing I will say about it is that I would like to see him answer some questions.

"If he answers some questions then that would make it real because he wouldn't be working off a script. But it's a start - and he's got to start somewhere."

David Toms, the 2001 US PGA champion, added: "We're

all going to be interested in what Tiger has to say. It's a huge topic in the locker room, around the lunch tables, everywhere we go. We all want to know as players what he's going to do. We hope that he's OK and that he comes back soon."

As well as "discussing" the past, Woods is also expected to address his future. He has not played since winning the Australian Masters in November - just before he drove into a fire hydrant and tree outside his Orlando home in the early hours.

Baltacha sets up Sharapova tie

ELENA Baltacha has advanced to a South Cup quarter-final against Maria Sharapova in Memphis after a straight-sets victory over Canada's Valérie Têtreault.

The British No1 beat Têtreault 6-4, 6-4 in the second-round match to extend her winning streak to seven matches.

She joined Anne Keothavong in the last eight in Memphis. The Londoner progressed with an emphatic 6-3, 6-1 win over the Portuguese teenager Michelle Larcher de Brito.

Baltacha rose to a career-high ranking of No70 on Monday after winning the ITF Dow Corning Classic in Michigan. Sharapova, the No1 seed, trounced Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the US 6-1, 6-1.



BALTACHA

Campbell accuses ref of obstructing him

SOL Campbell has accused the referee Martin Hansson of blocking his path in the build-up to Porto's second goal in Arsenal's 2-1 Champions League defeat last night.

The defender claimed the referee prevented him from defending the indirect free-kick that led to Falcao's winning goal after Lukasz Fabianski had picked up a back-pass and given the ball to the referee.

Campbell was also furious that the Swedish official had awarded the free-kick in the first place, penalising him for the backpass. "I accidentally touched the ball back to [Fabianski] and he's picked the ball up," Campbell claimed. "They have gone to take it quickly and [the Porto player] has picked the ball up. But afterwards the referee is in front of me and basically giving them an advantage. It's not good."

"I can't get in front of the ball. He's basically blocked me to get to the ball," he added. "It was better than a penalty because there was no goalkeeper in goal, what can I do?"

Hansson attracted notoriety when he took control of the World Cup playoff between France and the Republic of Ireland in November and failed to spot Thierry Henry handling in setting up what proved to be the decisive goal for William Gallas.

Arsenal will see off Porto - Fabregas

CESC Fabregas is adamant Arsenal can still fight their way past Porto and reach the quarter-finals of the European Cup.

The Premier League side suffered a controversial 2-1 defeat at the Estadio do Dragao last night to leave their hopes hanging in the balance. Their reserve goalkeeper, Lukasz Fabianski, had an evening to forget, first pushing Silvestre Varela's cross

into his own net before giving away a free-kick when he picked up a back-pass from Sol Campbell that set up Porto's second.

They had managed to score what could be a crucial away goal through Campbell's header, however, and Fabregas is confident that all is not lost ahead of the second leg at the Emirates, in a fortnight's time.

"It is going to be hard for us

in the second leg but I am still confident we will prevail in the end," the Arsenal captain said. "We will just have to see who's strongest on the night." Porto lost 4-0 at Arsenal in the group stages last season, and were beaten home and away by Chelsea earlier in this European campaign.

Fabregas added: "We knew Porto had a very quick and tal-

ented team, but the truth is we allowed them to score two very easy goals. You just can't let that happen at this level. Now we are 2-1 down and we are going to have to fight our way back."

As well as missing their first-choice goalkeeper Manuel Almunia because of a finger injury, Arsenal were also without William Gallas, Alex Song, Andrey Arshavin and Eduardo.

THE FRIDAY COLUMN

Adamu Adamu

adamuadamu@dailytrust.com

For those who cannot speak

There are times when a crime is not a crime. If someone with a gun and several rounds of ammunition goes berserk and opens fire on innocent passers-by on a busy street-corner in a Nigerian city and kills several persons, there is no doubt that the man has committed a series of murders for which he should hang, be executed or be committed to prison for life. Right? Wrong.

In Nigeria, the truth is that if the gunman is a police officer, he will go scot-free and may even be promoted—and wait his chance to kill another day. That apparently was what happened in Maiduguri and other places during and in the aftermath of the Boko Haram crisis. Perhaps this was really nothing new, because it might have been happening in circumstances like this; but to think that this could happen when the so-called rule of law reigns!

In fact, it was not in the election that he didn't win; it was not in his serial budget failures—to present it on time or implement it according to the law; and it was not even in his frequent absence on AWOL medical trips, or even the current unconstitutional, extended absence that President Umaru Yar Adua failed to meet his own self-proclaimed standard—almost a personal motto—of respect for the rule of law. It was in the order he reportedly gave for the liquidation of members of the Boko Haram religious group that Yar Adua failed the rule of law test when it was at its most crucial and when its violation was most irreparable and costly.

"Shoot them at sight!" was the order he was reported to have given from his hospital bed—an order that he didn't have power to give and which the police are under obligation to refuse to obey when given.

Even in times of ancient warfare, though today's collateral damage bombers wouldn't be bothered, there were taboos no soldier dared breach—the killing of the aged non-combatant, the killing of the disabled, the killing of women and the killing of children. Two poor, unkempt and frightened young, disabled cripples painfully hopping along on crutches couldn't have posed lethal threat to anyone in the world except to the Nigerian Police Force that found them so and killed them without the order of court or some competent legal authority.

And that is the best definition of an extrajudicial killing: deliberate killing in cold blood not authorized by any previous judgment pronounced by a competent court of law.

Nigerians have the right to expect a police officer in the new democratic dispensation to be able to cope with all dangerous situations with required firmness and with courtesy, and respect for the rights of people—to be effective and at the same time protect individual rights; threaten and use force without descending into abuse of person; maintain public order without restricting individual liberty.

But how is it that despite the coming of democracy and the passage of laws by the legislature, and all the noise about the rule of law, human rights guaranteed in law are violated with impunity? And what was responsible for the zeal and zest of those policemen killing those poor souls? Souls that should have been rehabilitated but were instead given live bullets.

Clearly, something other than concern for maintaining law and order must have been at work and was responsible for the extreme muscular enthusiasm and trigger-happiness displayed by the policemen in the execution of that cowardly, bloodcurdlingly cold-blooded murder of the helpless and unarmed, the disabled and the under-age at point-blank range. This is stuff straight out of a police state, and is destined for a pride of place in the world policing Hall of Shame.

This democracy is not the plaything of politicians; it is the communal enterprise of all Nigerians—and the killers we saw in the *al-Jazeera* clip pumping lead into defenceless minors are not the police that a democratic Federal Republic of Nigeria deserves or should tolerate. Everyone in this country must learn his democratic duty to the nation and do it. Both police and soldiers must be subordinate to civil authority and be bound by their codes of operation and by the law of the land. Too many innocent people had been felled by police high-handedness and downright irresponsibility—at checkpoints and any place where discharge could be accidental or, indeed, incidental to the matter at hand; but, more especially, during crises—communal, ethnic or religious—when the crime is

buried along with its evidence.

Unfortunately, the Nigerian Police Force believes too much in the power of the bullet. But a bullet is nothing; it is just a small piece of metal travelling at great speed. It can take a life, of course, but that is all it can do; it can never solve the problem. Nigeria's security leadership must therefore resist the temptation to throw bullets at every crisis and think that the relative calm that ensues is equal to a solution. It is not. It is the calm before the storm.

According to Amnesty International, only if its 14-point programme for the prevention of extrajudicial killings is put in place can the barbaric practice be prevented and be permanently outlawed. Among other things, the programme calls for the condemnation and criminalization of the killings by governments; openness in matters of detention and freedom of access to detained persons; restrictions on the use of force; and compensation for victims and prosecution for perpetrators, including members of the police involved in extrajudicial killings.

The situations when force may be lawfully used are only six: in self defence or for the defence of others; in the prevention of serious offence against persons; in the protection of assets involving national security; in the protection of assets dangerous to others; in the arrest or apprehension of persons; or to prevent their escape. And even in these situations, force may only be used when all other lesser means—verbal persuasion, show and threat and use of physical force and the presentation of deadly force—have been exhausted.

And the law criminalizing extrajudicial killings is a law that cannot be suspended under any circumstances whatever the exigencies at hand; and under that law, no police operative can invoke an order from a superior as excuse for his own participation. Every killer must face the consequences of his actions and every superior officer must be made to suffer the consequences of all his ultravires orders. If there is a lack of political or moral will to punish culprits, the international community should reserve the right to help right the wrong by any means necessary. The shameful behavior of the nation's policemen in the Boko Haram crisis stands in violation of at least the following five articles of the **Code of Conduct for Law Enforcement Officials**, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations, by way of resolution 34/169 of December 17, 1979:

Article 1: Law enforcement officials shall at all times fulfill the duty imposed upon them by law, by serving the community and by protecting all persons against illegal acts, consistent with the high degree of responsibility required by their profession.

Article 2: In the performance of their duty, law enforcement officials shall respect and protect human dignity and maintain and uphold the human rights of all persons.

Article 3: Law enforcement officials may use force only when strictly necessary and to the extent required for the performance of their duty.

Article 5: No law enforcement official may inflict, instigate or tolerate any act of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, nor may any law enforcement official invoke superior orders or exceptional circumstances such as a state of war or a threat of war, a threat to national security, internal political instability or any other public emergency as a justification of torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Those policemen haven't demonstrated professionalism, they haven't respected or protected human dignity, and they have used deadly force when it was absolutely unnecessary; and they are an embarrassment and a shame to police ethic and to the nation. And they must be prosecuted and punished.

But today, eight months since the Boko Haram incident, no policeman had been arrested or charged, and the matter would have just died like all the other extrajudicial murders before it, had the foreign television not aired it. Luckily, at least the officers and sharpshooters on the *al-Jazeera* video clip were clearly identifiable; and it was clear to all viewers that the victims presented no danger to the police or the gathering crowd or to anyone else; their shooting was premeditated and their killing unjustifiable by any kind of logic or law. And it is a crime and it must be treated as such.

SPORTS REPORT



ANDY Roddick

Roddick reverses Blake run

Andy Roddick reversed a run of three successive defeats to fellow American James Blake with a hard fought 6-3 4-6 7-6 first round victory at the Memphis Championships.

Top-seeded Roddick had served for the match at 5-4 in the final set but Blake broke him to extend the battle, before Roddick capitalised on three errors in the tie-break to take it 7-3.

Roddick, who lost the final of the San Jose Open to Fernando Verdasco last week, utilised his powerful serve throughout and finished the match with 22 aces and converted 76 per cent of his first serves.

The American, who is defending the title in Memphis, was one of the few seeded players to advance yesterday with third seed Radek Stepanek beaten 7-6 7-5 by Latvia's Ernests Gulbis in the second round.



EMMANUEL Adebayor

CAS dismisses Togo appeal

The Court of Arbitration for Sport has dismissed an appeal from the Togo soccer federation to be included in the qualifying draw for the African Cup of Nations.

Sport's highest court made the decision yesterday, two days before the draw in Lubumbashi, Congo. The 2012 tournament will be co-hosted by Gabon and Equatorial Guinea.

Togo will not be included after soccer's African governing body suspended the nation from the 2012 and 2014 African Cups. The team's bus was attacked by gunmen and two officials killed during last month's tournament in Angola. While the team agreed to remain in Angola and play, the Togo government ordered the players home.

Togo is still appealing its suspension to the CAS and hearing is scheduled for the spring. If it wins, Togo could be included in a new draw before qualifying starts in September.