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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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## CBN rolls back Soludo's reforms

By Idris Ahmed

THE Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) yesterday rolled back its former governor Professor Chukwuma Soludo's banking reforms of 2004, saying it is relaxing the capital base requirement for banks by unbundling the present universal banking structure that made it mandatory for banks to have a minimum capital base of N25 billion.

The new structure will commence in a few months time, CBN's Director of Banking Supervision Samuel Oni said at a press briefing after a meeting of the Bankers Committee in Abuja. He said the whole idea of the new structure is to discontinue with the

“ CBN is relaxing the capital base for banks

universal banking licensing regime.

Under the new arrangement, which is similar to what obtained before the banking consolidation of 2005, regional, specialised and non interest banks would emerge with different categories of capital base.

Managing Directors and Chief Executives of banks present at the briefing said they were in support of the proposed structure.

“It is very good to banks and all banks welcome this positive development”, the Managing Directors of

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# Bomb blasts stop Niger Delta confab

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

EIGHT persons who were travelling in a Mercedes Benz car were burnt to death while six others were seriously injured when two bombs suspected to have been planted by militants exploded at the Delta State Government House Annex in Warri just as the Post Amnesty Dialogue organized by Vanguard Newspapers and sponsored by the Delta State

Government got underway yesterday. The police however confirmed only one death.

Three governors, namely Emmanuel Uduaghan, Ikedi Ohakim of Imo and Adams Oshiomhole of Edo were present at the venue, as were Minister for Niger Delta Ufot Ekaete, former Chief of Defence State Gen. Owoye Azazi, Professor Patrick Utomi, PFN President Ayo Oritsejafor, and the Olu

of Warri.

The dialogue came to an abrupt end after the second successive explosion went off, shattering the glasses at the hall and causing pandemonium. The first bomb exploded when the governors and other top dignitaries' convoys were arriving at the venue, which had over a thousand dignitaries seated. Though the impact of the explosion shook the whole venue, the

arrival of the dignitaries who were looking worried however calmed the situation.

Chairman of the occasion Gen. Andrew O Azazi took his address immediately after the national anthem, but barely two minutes after the host Mr. Sam Amuka took his turn, another bomb went off, this time a few meters away from the Government House. The impact this

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PHOTO: NAN



SMOKE billowing from the second car bomb blast on the NPA/DSC Expressway, opposite Delta Government House Annex in Warri during the post amnesty dialogue yesterday.

# Suspected kidnapper killed in Kano

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

A taxi driver suspected of kidnapping was yesterday killed along the Bayero University Kano road in Kano metropolis. Some commercial motorcyclists had raised alarm that he kidnapped three children.

The suspected kidnapper who was identified as Umar Marau-Marau, was forced to stop at Kofar Nai'sa by the motorcyclists, he alighted from his cab and started fighting them, but when he noticed that the motorcyclists could overpower him, he rushed into his cab and zoomed off. The motorcyclists chased him and started shouting

that he was a kidnapper.

As they chased him, it was learnt, he kept pleading innocence. The angry mob however turned deaf ears to his plea and chased him until he reached the residence of the owner of the taxi located at the Gadon Kaya area.

Our correspondent gathered that the motorcyclists told youths in the area that Marau-Marau was a kidnapper. The youths immediately went after him and brought him out of his hideout despite his pleas.

"The mob brought him out from the house and started hitting him with sticks, iron rods and

heavy stones until he died. When he died, they poured petrol on his car and body and set them ablaze. To our surprise, we did not see any kidnapped child," said a witness.

Our correspondent reports that even after the youths had burnt the cab driver and his car to ashes, they kept flogging his remains until his limbs were removed.

A police van with registration number: PF 3941 KN from Rijiyar Zaki Police Division later dispersed the crowd and took the body away. One of the cab drivers who spoke to our correspondent said the deceased was not a kid-

napper, saying the motorcyclists framed him because they had a little misunderstanding.

Public Relations Officer of the Kano Police Command SP Baba Mohammed Azare confirmed the incident, saying the police had already established that the deceased was not a kidnapper. "He only had a disagreement with the motorcyclist, but he was not a kidnapper. If he was a kidnapper, where are the kidnapped children? Can anybody show us the children," he said.

He said the command had intensified search for the culprits. Meanwhile, taxis drivers operat-

ing in the state suspended their services yesterday to protest the killing. The taxi drivers who took their protest to the Kano Government House taxi said they were there to lay their complaints because they were law-abiding citizens who would not take laws into their hands.

Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau calmed them, saying government was touched by the incident. Shekarau who was represented by the Permanent Secretary of the Government House, Alhaji Mohammed Garba Fagge, said government would investigate the matter.



DELTA State Deputy Governor Amos Utuama (left) and Health Minister Babatunde Osotimehin at the Delta Health Book exhibition stand at the 53rd National Council on Health meeting in Asaba, Delta State yesterday.

## 250 shops razed in Maiduguri market fire

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

ABOUT 250 shops at the Bolori market in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital were gutted by fire on Sunday. The fire was said to have started from a tree in the market before spreading to other parts of the market.

This came two days after 1000 shops were burnt at the Damboa market in Damboa Local Government Area of the state. According to the chairman of the market association, Mallam Gana Alhaji Uba, the tree is believed by the traders to have some magical powers.

"I was in my house when someone came to tell me that the market was burning. On getting to the market, we saw the fire coming from the tree", he added. Initially, the Fire Service could not gain access into the market because the gates of the market are too small, but we pulled down one of them so that the Fire Service could enter and put out the fire", he said.

The market leader appealed to Borno State Governor Ali Modu Sheriff to come to the aid of the victims.

When our correspondent visited the market yesterday, he saw people cutting down the tree.

## Senator Argungu faults almajiri system

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THERE is no verse in either the Qur'an or Hadith stating that a Muslim has to be subjected to destitution, poverty and hunger in order to memorise the holy books, Senator Umar Abubakar Argungu said yesterday in Kaduna. He maintained that the present almajiri system is a corruption of the original form.

Argungu who said this at a lecture organised by the Arewa Media Forum yesterday in Kaduna maintained that although the almajiri system had produced prominent Islamic scholars, it had been corrupted.

According to him, there are

about 11 million almajirai in the country now and this has turned the once lofty system of Qur'anic education into another form of modern slavery and the worst form of child abuse.

Argungu said these less privileged children would use their intellects for destructive purposes if they were not taken care of, adding that child destitution was not about tribe, religion or region.

The senator said it was in a bid to save these less privileged children that he and 40 of his colleagues sponsored a bill to establish the National Commission for the Eradication of Child Destitution in Nigeria.

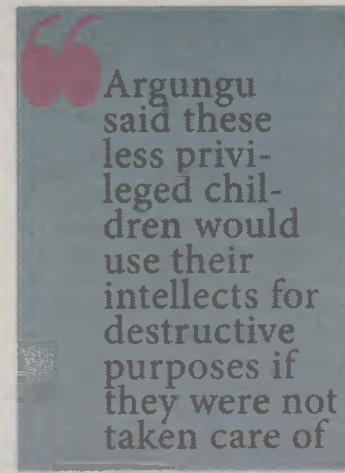
Argungu said criticisms and

suggestions had been made on how the commission should operate without eroding the original concept of the Madrasah system of education which had produced an advanced literary culture and scholars across Muslim settlements in Nigeria.

He said the commission would provide the platform for integrating almajiri schools into western education and collate necessary data to classify and integrate them into primary, secondary and vocational schools.

Governor Ibrahim Shekarau of Kano State represented by Dr Bashir Galadanci, the Commissioner of Communications was the lead speaker. Alhaji

Muhammad Awwal Ibrahim, the Sarkin Zazzau Suleja was the chairman of the occasion.



## Emir of Kano loses wife

From Hisham Habib, Kano

THE wife of the Emir of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero's wife, Hajiya Aishatu Bayero, died Sunday after a brief illness and has been buried according to Islamic injunctions.

The deceased, aged 65 is survived by the emir and many relatives. Hajiya Aishatu Bayero who was also referred to as Hajiya Gaji until her death, held the traditional title of Uwar Soro.

## S/Court stops judgment in Sokoto guber case

By Atika Balal

THE Sokoto State division of the Court of Appeal has been restrained from delivering judgment today in the governorship election petition filed before it by 2007 Democratic Peoples' Party (DPP) candidate, Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi.

Dingyadi had gone to court challenging the eligibility of Governor Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako to contest for the governorship of Sokoto State.

In a motion on notice brought before the Supreme Court, Counsel to Wammako, Chief Wole Olanipekun (SAN), sought an order directing the appellate court, Abuja and Sokoto divisions to stay proceedings pending the determination of applications before the court.

He said if the Sokoto court

of appeal is not restrained from delivering judgment today, they will put the Supreme Court and the case being heard before it in a state of helplessness.

In his application, he is asking the court order striking out the notice of withdrawal of appeal filed by Dingyadi and the DPP against an interlocutory decision at the Kaduna division of the court of appeal.

He asked the court to set aside the order granted in chambers on March 10, on the ground that it violates the applicant's right to fair hearing and was done without jurisdiction.

The Kaduna division of the court of appeal had delivered judgment on April 11 2008 that a re-run election be conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Sokoto State, which Wammako

won.

Following this, the appellants went before an Abuja Federal High Court praying that the judgment of the Court of Appeal in Kaduna be interpreted as excluding Wammako from the re-run election and to declare Dingyadi as winner. But the court ruled against the appellants.

They also filed a similar application before the Abuja division of the Court of Appeal and the Sokoto election tribunal using the same judgment of the Kaduna Court of Appeal as the main ground of their petition and praying on the same terms. Both courts had ruled against the appellants.

Against the ruling of the Abuja Court of Appeal, the appellants filed an appeal before the Supreme Court asking the court to invoke its powers under Sec

22 of the Supreme Court Act and determine a substantive appeal on the merits.

On February 11, Wammako, through his counsel Chief Olanipekun (SAN) filed a motion before the court asking for an order directing parties in the suit to make use of the record proceedings of the lower court as compiled by the applicant for the purpose of the appeal.

He is also seeking an order for stay of proceedings at the Appeal Court, Abuja and Sokoto divisions in the suit which relates to the same matter until the determination of the appeal.

The appellants were said to have withdrawn their appeal on receipt of the said motion and the Supreme Court accordingly dismissed same, but the respondents filed applications before the court to continue.

Counsels to INEC and the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Yahaya Mahmood and Chief Olu-sola Oke have also objected to the withdrawal of the appeal saying it was done in bad faith.

While Mahmood told the court that the law allows parties to oppose as there are outstanding matters between them, Chief Oke said since he has a cross appeal before the court and a pending application, the appellants appeal cannot be dismissed.

Adjourning till April 1, the presiding judge, Justice Dahiru Musdapher said he cannot participate in the hearing because he was witness to a discussion relating to the matter between the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) and the President of the Court of Appeal, as such he will excuse himself to allow the CJN reconstitute another panel.



RED-shirted supporters of deposed Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra wave flags and shout slogans during an anti-government protest outside a military barracks in Bangkok yesterday. Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva rejected an ultimatum by tens of thousands of protesters to dissolve parliament.

PIC: AFP

## ...DPP candidate expresses disappointment

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

SOKOTO State Governorship candidate of the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) Alhaji Maigari Dingyadi has expressed disappointment over the Supreme Court grant of relief sought by Governor Aliyu Wammako to stay action on the case between him and the Governor.

Speaking with *Daily Trust* in Sokoto yesterday, Alhaji Dingyadi said "my party and I are highly disappointed and surprised that the prayer was granted. Under normal circumstances applications on sensitive issues such as this are not entertained".

He said, "This case has been hanging for over a year and now that it is time to deliver judgment some people don't want it because of their selfish interest but judgment has to be delivered no matter the time."

He said their prayer is that at the end of the day, some people will see the truth in the matter and adjudicate accordingly.

He called on their supporters to be patient and law abiding and continue to pray for DPP and Sokoto State.

“This case has been hanging for over a year and now that it is time to deliver judgment some people don't want it because of their selfish interest but judgment has to be delivered no matter the time.”

## Obasanjo weeps, Buhari mourns Lamido

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

FORMER President Olusegun Obasanjo wept yesterday during the condolence visit to the family of Late Lamido of Adamawa Dr Aliyu Musdafa at the royal palace in Yola, Adamawa State capital.

Former Head of State Muhammadu Buhari too paid a condolence visit to the family shortly before Obasanjo's arrival.

Obasanjo who arrived with the former Finance Minister Adamu Ciroma offered his condolence to the family, describing the late Lamido as a man of peace.

He later told journalists that he had tried to resist shedding tears but failed to do so when

he entered the palace.

He said at his age he had thought that he would not weep over the death of anyone but it proved difficult in the case of Lamido's death.

The former president had a good relationship with the late Lamido who was among the people who pleaded for mercy to him when he was facing a death sentence over an alleged coup plot against former Head of State General Sani Abacha.

When Obasanjo was later sent to Yola Prison, just few metres away from Lamido's palace, the Lamido kept assisting him to reduce the severity of his suffering.

The former president arrived in Yola around 12 noon with the former finance min-

ister. They were received by Adamawa State Deputy Governor Bala James Ngillari at the Yola Airport from where they drove directly to the palace, where they were received by Governor Murtala Nyako.

They later moved to the Presidential Lodge for a brief discussion before the former president left the city.

Buhari too paid his condolence visit yesterday at the Lamido palace. He then proceeded to the family house of his in-laws in Yola town for a private visit.

Many dignitaries are still pouring into the city for the condolence of Lamido who was buried yesterday following his death on Saturday evening after a brief illness.

## NJC suspends Bauchi judge over street fight

By Atika Balal

THE National Judicial Council (NJC) has suspended a Bauchi State High Court judge for

indulging in a street fight and physically assaulting a petitioner who works with the Ministry of Works and Transport in Bauchi State.

A statement signed by the NJC Secretary said Justice Idris Habib Shall had attempted to abduct the petitioner, Kassim Danlami Shall into the boot of

his car after assaulting him.

The NJC said it found the conduct of Justice Shall as despicable and contrary to the Code of Conduct for judicial officers of

the Federation as well as the oath of office he had subscribed to.

The statement said Justice Shall has been suspended from office until further notice.

# Tenure Policy: Retired directors fault 'selective application'

By Hamisu Muhammad

DIRECTORS affected by the tenure policy introduced for permanent secretaries and senior directors in the civil service have protested the reinstatement of few colleagues.

The former directors from research institutes described the action as 'selective treatment' by government.

The federal government had in August last year introduced a policy on tenure of permanent secretaries and directors in the federal civil service to parastatals, agencies and statutory corporation of government asking officer who have spent eight years and above to vacate their offices with effect from January 2010.

Some retired directors from the Raw Materials Research and Development Council challenged the applicability of the new rule in the research institutes, asking for more clarification on how some of their colleagues were recently reinstated while others were ignored.

Two directors were reinstated by the Ministry of Science and Technology in a letter dated January 29, 2010, signed by

the Director (Human Resources Management) Mrs. Mariam Hussaini. The directors are Mr. Godwin Haruna Ogbadu and Anthony Oberafor all from the Sheda Science and Technology Complex (SHESTCO).

In a protest paper, the retired directors said all research institutes operate under the same conditions of service which puts retirement age at 65 years.

"In order to show justice and allow the rule of law to play its role, it is requested that all those directors from research institutes that are operating under the schemes of service and condition of service of the Federal Research Institutes, College of Agriculture and allied Institutions, should be recalled back to their respective duties" the directors said.

When *Daily Trust* contacted an official of the Ministry of Science and Technology he said the ministry has no hand in the reinstatement of the two directors.

The Special Adviser to the Minister of Science and Technology Mr Yunusa Babando said "We acted based on the recommendation from the office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (HOS)".

"Our own is to communicate the decision of the HOS to the affected Parastatal. HOS is in the best position to explain the reinstatement"

At the HOS, *Daily Trust* gathered that already a new circular was issued which allowed the board of respective parastatals to decide on the applicability of the tenure of their directors in the new service rule.

The circular dated October 21, 2009 and signed by the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation Stephen Oronsaye titled: Applicability of Tenure System to Parastatals, Agency and Statutory Corporations of Government, states that; "The provisions of Section 8 in Chapter 2 of the Public Service Rules on leaving the service shall apply to all parastatals, as contained in each parastatal's condition of Service. "All such Condition of Service for parastatals shall be approved by their respective Boards and ratified by the Head of Civil Service of the Federation"

According to the Head, Public Relations Unit of the HOS Mr Tope Ajakaiye said the SHESTCO directors may have been reinstated by their board based on the new circular.

## INEC releases 2011 polls time table today

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) will today in Abuja release the timetable and guidelines for the conduct of the 2011 general elections.

This is coming on the heels of the commencement of the distribution of non-sensitive materials to the six zonal stores in the country.

The time table and guidelines is expected to be released today at a three-day national conference for stakeholders in the electoral process themed "2011 General Elections: Issues and Challenges".

INEC chairman Prof. Maurice Iwu, who told Senate President last Friday that the time table and guidelines would be released today, said that registration of voters will begin in June and end in July while the commission has set-up automatic strategic centers in Jigawa, Ogun and Abia states to serve as data base for the registration of voters across the country.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan will be the Special Guest of Honour and is expected to declare the conference open; while the Chief Election Commissioner of India, Mr. Navin Chawla, will be the Special Guest Speaker and will talk on "Use of voting machine and the concept of staggered election."



EMPTY tables at the meat section of Igbudu Market in Warri, Delta State, as the ongoing strike by Amalgamated Cattle Dealers Association of Nigeria continues over alleged extortion by touts and some security agencies.

## Embattled NHIS boss threatens to proceed with court case

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

DR Waziri Dogo Mohammed has threatened to go ahead with his court case following the reversal of the directive by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan that he be allowed to complete his five year tenure as Executive Secretary of the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS).

Mohammed had earlier promised to withdraw the case following the intervention of the acting president.

In a letter addressed to Health Minister dated 1 March, 2010, the acting president, through the Sec-

retary to the Government of the Federation, SFG, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, approved that Mohammed should complete his five year tenure in line with section 8[1][c] of the NHIS Act.

Mohammed who had earlier obtained a court injunction against his removal wrote to the SGF conveying his appreciation over his reinstatement.

The letter dated 10th March 2009 read in part: "With this development I would like to inform you that I have instructed my solicitor Mr. Emeka Okoro Esq to withdraw the case from the Federal High Court here in

Abuja."

But a new twist has been added to the leadership tussle at the NHIS with a purported counter directive from the Presidency to the effect that the earlier approval by Jonathan for Dr. Mohammed to complete his five year tenure as Executive Secretary of the NHIS had been withdrawn.

The u-turn was conveyed through a letter from the Principal Secretary to the Acting President, Chief Mike A. Ogihadomhe, addressed to the SGF and copied to the Health Minister on March 10, 2010. Speaking with *Daily Trust*, an associate of Moham-

med expressed reservations over the counter directive saying the NHIS boss would be left with no option than to proceed with the court case against his removal if indeed the earlier approval by the Acting President has been withdrawn.

Following his removal from office as Executive Secretary of the NHIS Dr. Waziri Dogo Mohammed headed to court to seek legal redress and obtained an interim injunction restraining the Health Minister, the Attorney General of the Federation and the NHIS from hindering his performance pending the determination of his case.

## Abubakar named Ag executive secretary for NBTE

THE Governing Board of National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) has approved the appointment of Dr Muhammad Abubakar as its Acting Executive Secretary.

A statement signed by NBTE's Head of Media Lawal Hafis said the appointment followed the completion of the second term of the former secretary Dr Nuru Yakubu.

The statement said Yakubu had already handed over to his successor, who was the most senior director in

the organisation.

"Yakubu, during handing over, urged his successor to sustain the momentum of activities in the board.

"Yakubu advised the management to continue to work as a team" and promised to offer advice to the organisation when consulted.

Yakubu commended members of the board, management and staff for the cordial working relationship that existed throughout his tenure, the statement said.

He expressed the hope that similar cooperation would be extended to the new secretary to enable him to succeed, the statement said.

Responding, Abubakar said Yakubu's big shoes would be very challenging to step into but promised not to betray the trust that the board placed in him.

"He pledged his total commitment and readiness to serve, promising to rely heavily on teamwork for reaching decisions. (NAN)



LAGOS State Governor, Mr Babatunde Fashola (middle), Deputy Governor, Princess Sarah Adebisi Sosan (second left), Commissioner for Home Affairs and Culture, Alhaji Babatunde Balogun, the Aladesonyin of Odonoforija and the Secretary, Lagos State Council of Obas and Chiefs, Oba Babatunde Ogunlaja, and the Director, Fire Services, Mr. Julius Ajose, during the commissioning (inset) of the newly procured special fire fighting equipment and rescue vehicles at the Lagos State Fire Service, Alausa, Ikeja yesterday.

## CBN rolls back Soludo's reforms

Continued from page 1

Sky Bank Plc and Fidelity Bank Plc together with the Deputy Executive Officer of Stanbic IBTC Plc said.

CBN said it is redoing the universal banking model. "We are coming up with a banking system structure to look at how we think that banks would begin to do business in terms of assisting the economy and ensuring that depositors' funds are not put into danger," Oni said.

He also said, "We are coming up with a policy that would bring all of those present services and subsidiaries of banks into a financing holding company which is going to be a non operating holding structure model in which a bank would become a subsidiary of that non operating financing holding company."

Banks would be made to concentrate on banking activities under the new setting. Separate licenses would be issued to different categories of banks, he also said. According to him, separate licenses would be issued for a commercial bank, microfinance bank, mortgage bank and or investment bank. Any bank that wants to go international or national would also have a separate license, he said.

There would also be a separate license for banks that would want to concentrate on Small and-Medium Enterprises (SMEs) or funding of agric. "That is the kind of regime that we would want to pursue in the next few months", Oni said.

He said relevant agencies of government such as the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), and the Federal Inland Revenue Services (FIRS) are being briefed on the new development.

Under the present banking system, banks have subsidiaries involved in mortgage, insurance, investment banking among other. These would be separated in the new structure. The new policy, Oni said, is to create room for financial activities to have a model where banks do not divert their capitals and deposits into speculative activities or high risk ventures.

CBN said capital base of the new banking structure would be based on the operating capacity of the emerging banks. "If the banks withdraw from the non-core business it would actually grow the sector.

It would create new opportunities for banks. You may even get bigger institutions that specialise in a particular area, providing genuine jobs for people," Managing Director of Fidelity Bank Plc Reginald Ihejiahi said.

## Bomb blasts stop Niger Delta confab

Continued from page 1

time around shook the whole hall, shattering all the glasses and even that of the governor's main office.

Confusion enveloped the scene as all the dignitaries, governors, other invited guests and even security operatives ran helter skelter, not knowing where to run to. There was confusion everywhere. Security sources later said that the explosives were planted in two cars and parked along the NPA express way, the route leading to the government house and very close to the venue of the conference.

The first explosion was apparently targeted at the convoy of the

arriving dignitaries. Two cars that were passing by shielded the convoy and took the direct hit, killing the occupants and injuring a commercial motorcycle rider and his passenger. The second explosion also affected another car and injured four persons who were close to the spot.

Though men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) were not seen at the venue, the men of the anti-terrorist squad who were present in every corner took to their heels on hearing the explosion but were to later come back to give protection to the dignitaries who were scampering for safety.

State information commissioner Mr. Oma Djebah later

quoted Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan as saying he ordered the evacuation of all participants at the conference to a safe place while the event has been postponed. He however said the state will not be deterred by this action and will continue to deliver the dividend of democracy to the people.

According to him, "The people of the Niger delta will not be intimidated nor be deterred by the cowardly act of a few opposed to a peaceful and non violent approach of resolving the historic grievances of the region".

Meanwhile, a group of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) has

dissociated itself from the current violent act saying they are committed to peace.

According to the group believed to be loyal to Government Ekpemupolo alias Tompolo, they have no hand in the incident as they will continue to support peace in the region, but many feared that a splinter unit of MEND may be responsible for the explosions.

Mr Charles Muka, the Delta Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) said police headquarters in Asaba had received the report of the death of a woman in the explosion, which also injured an undetermined number of persons.

### ...MEND faction claims it bombed Warri

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt, AbdulFattah Olajide & Mohammed S. Shehu, Abuja

A faction of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta [MEND] said yesterday that it carried out the attack because Delta State Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan had described it as a media creation. Its spokesman Jomo Gbomo said in an emailed statement, "Thinking of no better way to announce our continued presence in the Niger Delta to Mr Uduaghan, operatives of MEND today March 15, 2010, successfully breached the security at the Delta state government house in Warri and planted three explosive devices in and around this compound which is the venue of the Vanguard Post Amnesty Dialogue organised by the Vanguard newspaper."

The Joint (Military) Task Force (JTF) spokesperson, Lt-Col Timothy Antigha said he also saw a report on television about the bomb blast, but he refused to comment on the issue. MEND said it had given an alert advising authorities concerned to evacuate the affected area and "the immediate surroundings of the Delta State Broadcasting Corporation... and the primary school bordering the government house annex". It said it also warned motorists not to ply the roads in the area.

According to MEND, Niger Deltans will no longer sit back and watch its wealth being monopolised by Northerners "while deceitful administrations like that of Delta and Vanguard newspapers engage in misleading dialogues. The Vanguard-organized and Delta State sponsored conference is one of such tools of deception. The Niger Delta has been partitioned into oil blocks which have been distributed amongst mostly Northerners while indigenes of the Niger Delta can barely survive. One such example being General T.Y. Danjuma."

MEND also said "it is common knowledge that no southerner can lay claim to an inch of land in the North, so why should we continue to talk as the occupation of our land and theft of our resources by the oil companies and Northern Nigeria persists?"

It also described Niger Delta governors as "shameless and visionless stooges who are more concerned with looting their state treasuries

and seeking a second term in office, even against the wishes of their people". It said it will attack any future assembly "designed to propagate more falsehood."

"In the coming days, we will carry out a number of attacks against installations and oil companies across the Niger Delta and will spread out to companies such as Total which have been spared in the past. We hope the actions which will follow will persuade Mr Uduaghan that we exist outside of cyberspace," Gbomo wrote.

Mr. Gbenga Adefaye, General Manager, Publications and Editor-in-Chief of Vanguard Newspapers said yesterday that the dialogue was "a contribution by Vanguard to promote sustainable peace and development in Niger Delta region and also to ginger governments into action and not misconstrue the current amnesty as the final solution to the Niger Delta agitation for equity and justice."

He said Vanguard had lined up all representatives of all tiers of government to come and discuss their scorecards for development in a way that must ginger all to action. He said, "Vanguard remains committed to peace and development in the Niger Delta and shall pursue this noble initiative after due consultation with all stakeholders. We shall not relent on our pursuit of common good, equity and justice in our federation.

For his part, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday assured oil firms operating in the Niger Delta of safety, saying that the government was on "top of the situation."

He also urged the Niger Delta people as well as indigenous and foreign companies operating in the area to be patient with government, "as it will leave no stone unturned in engendering enduring infrastructural and social development in the region."

Jonathan spoke when he received in audience Mr. Kenneth Yellowe, Chairman/CEO of Global Gas and Refining Limited, in State House Abuja. He said, "We are on top of the situation in the Niger Delta. The problems in the region, being human and development-related, are such that require time to be addressed."

Earlier, Yellowe thanked government for the peace achieved through the amnesty programme.

# Concerns over missing persons in Jos

From Andrew Agbese & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THERE is tension in Jos, Plateau State as no less than four persons have disappeared in the past four days while another was beaten up by some unidentified youths.

Two boys, Munshak Ayiga and Ahok Dimas, both in secondary school were declared missing by the police. The development has given rise to suspicions that people are being killed secretly in Jos.

A group of traders known as the Yan' Kaji Sellers Association in Jos North Local Government Area of the state alleged that one of their members, Mallam Saidu Inuwa Mohammed, was killed at Anguwar Jarawa, Farin Gada in Jos.

Chairman of the association, Alhaji Nuhu Abdullahi, who spoke with our correspondents in Jos, said the corpse of the trader was discovered Sunday after he was attacked by some youths Thursday last week. Our correspondents gathered that

seven soldiers were deployed to the area to look for Malam Sa'idu on the same day, but they could not find him.

The chairman added that, "For three days we looked for him, only to see his corpse on Sunday. He has since been buried according to Islamic injunctions". Similarly, vendors in Plateau state yesterday protested the disappearance of one of their colleagues, Rabi'u Abdullahi and refused to sell newspapers in the state.

Chairman of the Plateau Magazine and Newspaper Distribu-

tors Association (PLAMANDA) Pastor Gabriel Akpesi who spoke with our correspondents said they embarked on the strike to register their grievances over the missing vendor.

He said Rabi'u who was simply referred to as Daru until his disappearance was selling newspapers along Anguldi - Kuru junction (at the weekends) and at NIPSS (during weekdays) in Jos South.

He added that the missing vendor whose phones appeared to have been switched off as he could not be reached was reported

to have ordered for more newspapers from one of the distributors at about 4pm, but on reaching there, the distributor did not see him.

He only saw his jacket and some of the papers which he brought back. Akpesi said vendors were like journalists, saying they had the right to go anywhere and do their businesses irrespective of whatever religion they practised. Police Public Relations Officer ASP Mohammed Lerama could not be reached for comments.

## Kingmakers meet today to select new Lamido

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

THE traditional council of Adamawa Emirate will hold a meeting today in Yola to start the process of selecting a new Lamido of Adamawa.

Authoritative sources told *Daily Trust* all members of the council that include the kingmakers have been notified of the meeting scheduled for 11 am at the royal palace.

The meeting comes up three days after the demise of Lamido Adamawa Dr Aliyu Musdafa who buried on Sunday.

At least three of his children and other potential contenders may be eyeing the exalted throne. His first son, Chiroma Adamawa, Barkido Aliyu Musdafa, his second son, former Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service Alhaji Ahmadu Musdafa, who is the Saraduna Adamawa, and the former secretary to Adamawa State Government Adamu Aliyu who is Sarkin Dawaki Adamawa are likely to contend for the post.

## Lamido of Adamawa paid his dues—ACF

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THE late Lamido of Adamawa paid his dues by ensuring the peace and prosperity for his people while he was alive, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) said yesterday in a condolence message. According to the forum, the Lamido's death leaves his family, friends, Adamawa state and the entire nation with warm memories, adding that no one could fill the void that he left behind. The greatest tribute to the departed Lamido, ACF noted, is to reflect what he stood for in our lives.

"ACF prays to Allah to give the people the fortitude to endure what cannot be changed," the statement added.



FROM left: Chairman, Nigerian Agricultural Co-operatives and Rural Development Bank, Chief Gordon Bozimo, Minister of Agriculture, Sayyadi Abba Ruma; Minister of State for Agriculture, Mrs. Fidelia Njeze, after the cancellation of the signing of agreement between Nigeria and China for the supply of agricultural machinery yesterday

## Tertiary institution staff in Yobe suspend strike

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

ACADEMIC and non academic staff of tertiary institutions in Yobe State who embarked on strike last week, yesterday suspended the strike after the state government agreed to implement 30 percent of the Consolidated Tertiary Institutions Salary Scale (CONTISS). The institutions include the Shehu Sule School of Nursing Damaturu, College of Arts and Business Studies (CABS) Potiskum, Ateku Abubakar College of Legal and Islamic Studies (AACOLIS) Nguru, College of Agriculture Gajba, College of Health Technology Nguru and

the Idriss Aloomo Polytechnic Gaidam.

The state government last year approved the implementation of CONTISS for the state university and in February this year, it approved 80 percent of the CONTISS for staff of the state College of Education in Gashua.

Chairman of the Nigerian Labour Congress in the state Comrade Mohammed Bukar said, "Government has agreed to pay 30 percent of the CONTISS and we feel it is a step in the right direction", he said.

He urged the lecturers to be dedicated to their duties to justify the confidence reposed in them.

## '2,300 children, 145 women die daily'

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

A senior programme officer with the Development Research and Project Centre in Kano State, Ubale Ibrahim Rano, has said that over 2,300 children below the age of five and 145 women of child bearing age in Nigeria die every day due to infant and maternal health problems.

Ubale Rano who stated this at the opening of a four day training workshop on 'modified life saving skills for community health extension workers' in Gusau yesterday said the figure indicated that over one million children would die before they reached the age of five, repre-

senting about 10 percent of children who die annually.

He said an estimated 52,900 women died of complications during pregnancy yearly.

The programme officer said the workshop organized by DRPC and USAID was aimed at preparing young health workers to handle deliveries in rural health facilities. He said in the USAID funded programme on leadership development in reproductive health and family planning, the DRPC had created 227 champions among the state executives, local government chairmen, legislature and the judiciary in three focal states of Niger, Sokoto and Zamfara.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

# Two injured in auto crash

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

TWO persons were injured yesterday when a truck carrying bags of maize with registration number

XA- 313 – BSA collided with two other vehicles in Jos, Plateau State. The accident occurred along the CBN road at 11am. A witness told our correspondent that the

accident occurred due to brake failure, saying the brake of the truck failed when it was trying to ascend the hilly road. He added that of the seven persons in the

vehicles, only two sustained injuries. One of the men in the Vectra car sustained a cut on his forehead while an 11 year old boy sustained a cut in his right arm.

At the time of compiling this report, men of the Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) were seen diverting motorists because the road was blocked due to the accident.

## Northern govts tasked on food production

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

THE Agricultural and Allied Employees Union of Nigeria (AAEUN) has called on Northern governors to invest more in food production.

Secretary of the union, Mr. Borna J. Momsisuri, who made the call while speaking with our correspondent in Dutse yesterday said Northern governors needed to make a concerted effort to ensure food production in the region.

Momsisuri said the governors had everything necessary to boost food production in Nigeria because the region was blessed with fertile soil. He added that engaging women in food production would complement government's effort in alleviating poverty.

Momsisuri said the union wanted the governors to introduce a policy that would prioritize food production in their respective states.

## Jos: Army condoles slain soldier's family

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Nigerian Army has consoled the family of Lance Corporal Bitrus Ishaku Chiwar who was killed in Gyel Bukuru, Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State while participating in a Special Task Force set up by the Federal Government to restore peace. Lance Corporal Chiwar was killed on March 8 while separating youths at Gyel in Bukuru and was buried on March 13.

While condoling the family on behalf of the Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Femi Adeoye, described the late Bitrus as a dedicated and disciplined soldier.

Adeoye who prayed God to give the family the strength and fortitude to bear the loss said the vacuum created by Bitrus's death would surely be filled by God, adding that the late soldier had not only contributed in peace keeping mission in Jos, but in other parts of the country. "On behalf of the Nigerian Army, we commiserate with you over this great loss and we also want to thank you for releasing your son to serve our dear nation, Nigeria. We salute his courage, bravery and selfless service", he said.

He enjoined members of his family to pray for lasting peace in Plateau State and Nigeria. Responding on behalf of the family, the deceased's mother, Mrs Shettu Bitrus, thanked the delegation for the visit and prayed God to protect them.

## Sacked Egyptian doctor sues colleagues, Yobe govt

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

AN Egyptian medical doctor in Yobe State says he has directed his lawyer to file charges against 13 doctors from his country who allegedly beat him up and broke his ribs and the Yobe State government for what he called, "Wrongful" termination of his appointment because he revealed that 10 of his 23 colleagues were Diplomas degree holders.

The doctor, Dr. AbdelHameed Mohammed El-Asran, a consultant radiologist said he was claiming damages for the assault by his colleagues while asking the Yobe government for reasons for terminating his appointment without setting up an independent medical panel with experts from the Nigerian Medical Council, the Nigeria Medical Association and selected senior doctors from teaching hos-

pitals to investigate his claims. The state Commissioner for Health Alhaji Idrissa Machinama had announced the sack of El-Asran over what the government called "misinformation", saying the allegations he (El-Asran) raised were "unfounded" because there were no facts to substantiate it. He also denied that 13 Egyptian doctors beat up El-Asran, but noted that there was a scuffle between El-Asran and one other Egyptian doctor.

The commissioner told our correspondent in Maiduguri that after Governor Ibrahim Gaidam received a petition from El-Asran, raising questions on the competence of his colleagues, the governor directed his Special Adviser on Health, Dr Sani Chiromari to investigate the allegation, but found the allegations to be baseless and misleading.

## CENTRE FOR PROMOTION OF SHARI'AH (CPS)

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, KANO.

NO. 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Hadiza House, Zaria Road, Opp. Umar Bn Khattab Mosque, Behind Jifatu Dept. Stores, P.O. Box 2508, Email:shariapro@yahoo.com

## THE UNELDERLY CONDUCT OF NORTHERN CHRISTIAN ELDERS

1. The attention of the Centre for Promotion of Shari'ah (the Centre) has been drawn to a statement in the Nation Newspaper of Sunday, February 28, 2010 at cover page and Daily Trust of Monday, March 1, 2010 at page 8 attributed to Northern Christian Elders Forum (the Elders).

2. It was alleged in the statement that the Elders queried why troops were deployed to the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport without knowledge of the Acting President when President Umaru Musa Yar Adu'a returned from his medical trip abroad.

3. The Elders were also reported to be asking the Federal Government to call the Governor of the CBN to order because according to them, he is causing confusion in the economy of the country. They also called for the removal of Chief of Army Staff, General Abdulrahman Dambazau and the GOC 3rd Armoured Division, General Saleh Maina for allegedly taking sides during the recent Jos Crisis.

4. It is the hope of the Centre that the newspapers did not quote the Elders rightly because the said statement ought not to come from reasonable, let alone elderly men. Elders are supposed to be the repository of wisdom, courage, selflessness, responsibility and discipline. Recently, the Emir of Kazaure and other leaders in Jigawa State exhibited such elderly conduct when some youths were reported to have attacked Christians and their churches because a man was alleged to have been killed by the police. These Elders rose to the occasion and brought the matter under control within a few hours. They also condemned the senseless action devoid of any religious or tribal sentiments. If there are elders like the Emir of Kazaure in Plateau State, Muslims would not have been massacred and expelled from places like Langtang, Garkawa, Yelwan Shendam, Heipang and recently Kuru Karama to mention but a few.

5. If, however, it turns out that the Elders actually made the statement and meant what was reported, their action was certainly irresponsible, callous and deserves condemnation from all well meaning and responsible citizens.

6. The Centre believes that it was a process that brought the Governor of CBN, the Chief of Army Staff and the GOC 3rd Armoured Division to their positions. If at all they are found wanting in their duties, (which we vehemently deny) there is a process for subjecting them to disciplinary measures. It is sad that the Elders want sentiment to govern the issue. If the said persons were Christians, the Elders would have looked the other way. Were the Elders on the moon when the military under the Obasanjo administration sacked Odi and Zaki Biam? We did not hear them calling for the removal of the then Chief of Army Staff and the relevant GOCs. The reason is simple. The President was Christian, the Chief of Army Staff was Christian and the GOCs were Christians. Therefore, whatever they did was right! In the same vein we believe that the reason behind the call for the removal of the CBN Governor is simply because he too is Muslim!

7. In a heterogeneous society like ours, we need to put our sentiments under control. At this time that our country is passing through critical moments even irresponsible politicians do not fan the embers of sentiments by spreading pedestrian rumours and making unguarded utterances that will overheat the polity talk less of elderly men of religion like the Northern Christian Elders.

8. In the interest of peace and stability as well as justice and fairness, we at the Centre hereby call on the Acting President to ignore that call from the so-called Northern Christian Elders because it is unreasonable and senseless.

Signed:  
ALIYU IBRAHIM ALTUKRY  
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

# Labourers' clash leaves one dead in Abuja

By Misbahu Bashir

A clash between two different factions of casual labourers of a Chinese construction firm in Abuja left one person dead and two others wounded.

The labourers clashed at the construction site of the company located in Bwari Area Council.

A witness, Taofiq K. Mohammed, said he works together with the deceased, Ismail Hussein, with a company hired by the Chinese firm for some civil engineering works.

He said a group of casual labourers working with the Chinese firm broke into his office at about 10am on March 10, and vandalised the items inside and beat up all the people inside before they fled.

"We ran out at different directions to save our lives but I and Hussein went to hide beneath a nearby bridge to escape the rampaging gang. They kept throwing pebbles at us until I passed the bridge and hid behind a tree. Hussein jumped into the river and the gang traced and stoned him to death," he said.

He said the labourers searched and located him with

the help of the local people around but he was rescued by policemen. He sustained injuries in his leg his other colleague sustained fracture.

Body of the deceased was drowned in the water and could not be found until the next day.

A senior police officer at the Divisional Police Headquarters in Bwari said four labourers have been arrested in connection with the killing and the matter was transferred to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for more investigation. The body of the deceased was found in the river.

## NITEL staff disappointed with government

By Francis Okeke

WORKERS of Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) yesterday expressed disappointment with the Federal Government for what they termed government's insensitivity to their plight.

The workers urged government to settle their outstanding claims regardless of the "politics" that has trailed several botched attempts to sell NITEL spanning almost eight years.

In a text message sent to Daily Trust, President of National Union of Post and Telecommunications Employees (NUPTE) Comrade Sunday Alhassan expressed disappointment with the turn of events and the nonchalance displayed by government for the workers' welfare.

Government had following controversies surrounding the recent sale of NITEL to New Generations Consortium and other transactions conducted by the Bureau of Public Enterprise (BPE) suspended the DG of PBE Christopher Anyanwu while investigations are carried out.

## ICPC recovers N1.5m from fake officials

By Boco Edet

SOME local government officials across Nigeria were duped of over N1.5million by a group allegedly impersonating the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC).

ICPC said yesterday the money which has since been recovered was collected by the group on the pretext of organizing conferences for local governments.

Those involved in the scam include Adedimeji Michael Roger, Peace Opara and Remison Jimmy.

They were arrested while about to commence one of the conferences tagged 'Proposed ICPC 2010 Nationwide Local Government Visit and Pre-National Orientation on the ICPC Act in the Local Government system' scheduled to hold from March 9-12.

According to ICPC, the circular for the proposed conference was signed by one Mr. Folodun O.B attached to the office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF).

## Nigeria, Brazil unite against racial equality

By Romoke W. Ahmad

MINISTER of Youth Development Akinlabi Olasunkanmi said Nigeria will work together with Brazil to tackle racial inequality and youth problems.

He said this yesterday in Abuja when a delegation from Brazil visited him in Abuja to boost foreign relations among African countries.

The minister said "The inauguration of the Nigeria youth parliament and adoption of the national youth policy to create jobs for youths are part of the strategies put in place by the government to tackle youth problems."

He said the youths are the greatest asset and future of the country because of their population.

The minister also made it known to the delegation that he will be leading Nigerian delegation to Brazil soon for United Nations Habitat Youth meeting to sign a memorandum of understanding on the establishment of comprehensive youth centres in Nigeria which will be funded by the UN.

Head of the Brazilian delegation Mr. Edison Santos thanked Nigeria for the promotion of racial equality in Brazil and said his team is visiting African countries to establish partnership with them.



DISTRIBUTORS of newspapers and magazines lamenting over a missing vendor in Jos yesterday.

## 'Ex-military rulers should benefit from pay package'

By Muideen Olaniyi

FORMER National Auditor of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Godwin Dabo yesterday described the exclusion of former military Heads of State from a pension scheme designed to honour past leaders as a vendetta.

Speaking in Abuja, Dabo condemned the National Assembly over the decision. He said General Yakubu Gowon kept Nigeria as one while General Ibrahim Babangida laid the foundation for modern Nigeria.

"Some of the Senators were mili-

tary governors but they are going to enjoy the benefits. David Mark was a military governor, Senator Joseph kaagerger was a military governor and many of them. There are many of them who were military governors but later contested election and won and today they are in the National Assembly. They too should be excluded because they were former military governors," Dabo said.

He therefore called on the National Assembly to reconsider the exclusion of former military heads of state from the pension benefits.

On the 2011 presidential election which was zoned to the North by PDP, Dabo said there is need for the North to produce a 'sellable and electable' candidate that will not only move Nigeria forward but will also be accepted by all Nigerians.

He advised retired General Muhammadu Buhari not to contest again for failing to clinch to the presidential seat on two occasions. He also called on former Vice President Atiku Abubakar to become an elder statesman because of his involvement in the Olusegun Obasanjo-administration.

## NEMA to compensate plane crash victims

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) said it will compensate victims of Friday's plane crash in Port Harcourt, Rivers State.

NEMA's Director General AVM Muhammad Audu-Bida said in a statement yesterday that arrangements have been made with insurance companies for all NEMA staff involved in the mock exercise that

'turned bloody.'

He said the agency will also compensate non staff participants who lost valuables.

"When I assume office as the NEMA DG, I quickly called on the insurance company to provide an assurance cover to all the staff. So, we will also provide an assurance cover to every stakeholder that work with the agency. I want to assured my staff of adequate support in the cause of car-

rying out their duties," he said.

He said the cause of the crash could not be blamed on the pilot, but said "Investigations are still on to ascertain the cause. However, I do not think a pilot will agree to fly on a plane that was not properly equipped to fly. When investigation is concluded, we will make it public. We will write a letter to the air force authority although I have already contacted the chief of the air staff."

# Fulanis in Ogun deny rumour of attack

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

THE rumour of a planned attack on Ogun State residents by some Fulanis is the handiwork of fifth columnists who are bent on causing disaffection between people in the South-west and the North, the leader of Fulanis in Abeokuta Alhaji Halidu Muhammed has said.

The rumour of the planned attack caused panic in the state at the weekend, with Short Message Sent (SMS) circulating among residents. The messages indicated that some

Fulanis had arrived the state with a plan to attack the people. Muhammed dismissed the rumour, saying such a thing could never happen in the state.

The Fulani leader who spoke with our correspondent in Abeokuta said an emergency meeting was held with the state government on the matter saying, "I maintained there that it was just the wishful thinking of some misguided elements. Since I was born, there has never been such an attack here. It is a lie. Where will we go to if such a thing happens. And I want to believe that if it is

true that our people came into Ogun with weapons, the security agents would have alerted the government. So I urge the good people of Ogun to remain calm. Nothing will happen here, as we have come a very long way and some of us have no other place to run to."

Reacting to the recent Jos crisis, the Fulani leader blamed government, saying if the government had done what was required at the right time, nothing of such would have happened even as he regretted the incident which he said should not be blamed on the Fulanis.

## SNG formed to ridicule Yar'adua —Group

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

A group, the Civil Society Alliance of Nigeria (CISAN) at the weekend alleged that the SNG was formed by former President Olusegun Obasanjo to cause confusion in the country and ridicule the government of President Umaru Yar'adua.

Addressing newsmen in Kaduna, the President

of CISAN Alhaji Rabiu Khalid said the SNG had succeeded in over heating the country's polity.

"Nigeria has been divided into groups and camps. Even in the Federal Executive Council, there are factions. This we all know is a very dangerous development and can truncate our democracy. Instead of saving Nigeria as the name implies, the group's motives is to use

the Acting President as a bait to achieve other selfish purposes," he said.

He called on Nigerians to see the group as a security threat.

He urged Acting President Goodluck Jonathan not to allow himself to be misled, adding that he should remain loyal to President Yar'adua while focusing on programmes that would move the country forward.

## Smuggling hampers growth of industries —Minister

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

SMUGGLING is the major problem affecting growth of Nigerian industries and those involved should put an end to it, Minister of Commerce and Industry Chief Achike Udenwa has said.

The minister said this at the weekend in Maiduguri, the Borno State capital at the launch of the campaign on patronage of made-in-Nigeria goods for the North-East zone. According to him, Nigerians patronized smugglers, thereby encouraging them to smuggle more goods into the country.

This development, he added was creating employment for people in other countries and unemployment in Nigeria. He said Nigerians should help in the fight against smuggling by not patronizing smuggled goods.

"With a population of over 140million people, Nigeria's market is big enough to sustain a bubbling domestic industrial sector if only Nigerians would look inwards", he added.

While regretting that many industries were shut down due to lack of local patronage, he said to remedy the situation, "We must re-orientate ourselves to value what

we produce in order to develop a strong and virile economy."

Udenwa assured investors of the present administration's commitment to address the inadequacies, particularly in the energy sector which had become the greatest obstacle to production.

"Government is strongly committed to the revival of our industrial sector, especially the worst hit like the textile industry. As you all are probably aware, the textile industry used to be the most vibrant sector of our economy, employing at a time over 500,000 people. Cotton was then in abundance in the country with an average annual production of 320,000 metric tonnes or 111,000 metric tonnes and over 125 operating textile companies as well as 72 ginneries," he added.

While appealing to relevant authorities to assist in boosting the production of quality goods, he noted that the quality of Nigerian products had already been certified by relevant regulatory agencies of government such as the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON) and the National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) among others.

## No plans to impeach me —Bauchi Speaker

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Speaker of the Bauchi State House of Assembly Alhaji Abubakar Ahmed Faggo has described as the handy work of detractors, the rumour making the rounds in the state that there was a move to have him impeached. Speaking to newsmen at the weekend in Bauchi, the Speaker said there was no way he could be impeached as he was in control of two third of the House.

"I am not afraid of any impeachment. All I know is that impeachment cannot be carried out on the streets, but on the floor of the House. It is a game of numbers. I know I have more than 2/3. If I have the majority and you bring an issue

of impeachment, then it will not work," he said.

The Speaker also denied an allegation that he was bribed by the 20 suspended local government chairmen in the state to enable them return to their seats, saying in the legislature, the Speaker was not the only person who determined the adoption of resolutions.

He maintained that the allegation was unfounded and challenged anyone with evidence to prove it.

It would be recalled that the chairmen of the 20 local government councils in the state were suspended by the House about five months ago over an allegation of financial misappropriation.

## AC flays Namadi over deregulation

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Action Congress (AC) Kaduna State chapter has flayed Governor Namadi Sambo for drumming support for Federal Government's decision to remove oil subsidy, saying it would aggravate the suffering of the masses.

The party in a state-

ment signed by its Publicity Secretary Barrister Mohammed Musa Soba said, "The recent call for support by the governor at the commissioning of a library at Nuhu Bamali Polytechnic, Zaria was most unfortunate and unacceptable. The statement is a clear indication that Namadi Sambo is detached from the

realities on ground, that is why he is canvassing for extra burden on the masses who can barely survive the harsh economic condition of the country.

"The people of Kaduna State and Nigeria at large deserve leaders who are sensitive to the plight of the citizens," the statement added.



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# VACANCIES

## RECRUITMENT OF GRADUATE TRAINEES AND EXPERIENCED PROFESSIONALS

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- Environmentalist	- T:SC-2
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- Accounts Assistant 1	- T:ACCT-1
- Economist	- T:ECO-1
- Chemist	- T:SC- 4
- Computer Sc/Engineer	- T:SC-5
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- Geophysicist	- T:SC- 7
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### The following are the requirements for Candidates in this Category:

- B.Sc / HND / OND in relevant Engineering, Physical and Management Sciences with a minimum of second class lower or lower credit as applicable
- NYSC discharge / exemption certificate
- Candidates should not be above
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  - 22 years of age by 31st December 2010 for OND holders
- Computer literacy
- Fluency in both oral and written English

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- Civil Engineer	- EXP:ENG-5
- Geologist	- EXP:SC -1
- Computer Sc/Engineer	- EXP:SC -5
- Geophysicist	- EXP:SC -7
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All interested candidates are required to apply online through [www.eraproserve.com](http://www.eraproserve.com) within two weeks of this publication. No other form of application shall be entertained. Double applications will be automatically voided.

# Online Reactions

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



## Detention of Nigerians abroad

IT is a known fact that Nigerian foreign missions have no time for its citizens. When you live abroad, you are on your own. Nigeria is

a no-man country and as such has no citizens. Tell me, how can the foreign missions of a country whose government cannot guar-

antee the lives and properties of its citizens at home, protect its citizens abroad? The Embassy staff will even want to kill you with their

envy when they see you. Nigeria is a hoax and not a country.

**Anthony**  
anthonyhfashion@hotmail.com



**POWER Minister Olanrewaju Babalola**

## Kano market fire very disturbing, Jonathan says

MY heart goes out to the victim of this unfortunate disaster. I pray to Allah to double what they have lost in the fire.

But let me also say that such an incident is indeed a disaster waiting to happen. Judging by the way structures are built indiscriminately, no one needs an expert to tell him that the market is devoid of any safety measures.

As at now new structures are being built in the market...still indiscriminately. We can only thank God that the fire happened at night otherwise the human casualty would have been devastating.

**Sunusi Musa**  
iyando22@yahoo.com  
\*\*\*\*\*

I pray for those who lose their lives and also those who

lost their properties in this incident. I pray that God repays them their loss abundantly and within a in short time and may He forgive those who lost their lives and grant them Al-Jannah Firdaus.

**Musa**  
musashuaib@yahoo.com  
\*\*\*\*\*

Assalamu alaikum, my brothers. I will like to use this medium

to say may Allah give you the fortitude to bear this loss, and may He repay you what you lost (goods)in the course of the fire incident.

As for the others that lost their lives, may their gentle souls rest in peace and may Allah grant them Jannatur fiddaus, ameen. Bissalam

**Abbah A Gumel**  
almuskhal@gmail.com

## Don't expect stable power soon - Minister

IT is unfortunate that a Federal Minister will say this. What's more, it is an embarrassment to the Federal Government and the entire Nation that a country like Nigeria - one of the largest exporters of crude oil in the world - cannot fund its power sector. They've said that the power sector of our country needs \$5 billion U.S dollars to be overhauled...instead of sharing all of the excess crude funds to state governments and the Federal Government, I think each part of it should have been used for the purpose of reviving the power sector. Every state should contribute a portion of their funds over a stated period of time to revive the power sector. Nigerians, we need to wake up to our responsibilities.

**Rabiu Muhammad**  
muhammadrabiu09@yahoo.com  
\*\*\*\*\*

It's totally annoying and discouraging to hear what the Hon. Minister said concerning the situation of power in the country. It shows the level of commitment and passion they have for this country.

**Adepoju Michael O.**  
ola\_wola@yahoo.com



**SHOPS gutted by fire at Sabuwar-Kasuwa market in Bauchi metropolis on Saturday.**

## N150m lost to Bauchi market fire

IS it not strange that a market fire occurred at Kano and Bauchi at almost the same time and both are being associated with power surges? Security officials should

look into the causes of the fire incidents to avoid further occurrence in other places.

**Yusuf Musa**  
hawujfarm@yahoo.co.uk

## NASS: Jonathan sent no Uwais report

CAN the "Honourables" tell the nation how far they have gone with the report, please? Does it have to take the protest of SNG before we know who is sitting on this report? Truth or not, Yayale at least was able to get the NASS

attention on this very much needed Electoral reform. It is time to do the right thing. Let us do it now for the sake of posterity. 2011 elections are around the corner.

**Rasheed Akangbe**  
rakangbe@aol.com

## Confusion trails INEC's rejection of PDP aspirant

A professor an aide to a party chairman?... Ridiculous!

**Hafsat Bida**  
hafsatbida@gmail.com  
\*\*\*\*\*

Ogulafor seems to always get it wrong.

If the PDP cannot honestly

resolve the issue of a resignation and due qualification for a candidate in the FCT, how much do we expect at state and federal levels for elective offices? Nigerians, let us pray!

**Merem Emeribe**  
emeokoro@yahoo.com

## 18 wedding guests perish in Katsina

I simply blame poor leadership for this. Apart from Nigeria, there is no country of similar status in terms of natural and human resources where road are constructed and there is no other alternative for commuters.

There is also no country where about 30 people will board a J5 bus. Again, there is no country where lorry drivers drive indiscriminately on minor roads like Nigeria.

In fact, the issues are just too much and therefore we will only seek for Allah's intervention and pray for the injured and the deceased. God bless us

with good leadership.

**Usman Ahmed Danbaba**  
danbaba1986@yahoo.com  
\*\*\*\*\*

This is really a great tragedy and an unforgettable loss. May Allah (S.W.T.) grant them eternal life and give their families the fortitude to bear the loss, ameen.

I also want to use this opportunity to call on our government to please try and finish all roads that are under construction.

This may reduce the number of accidents occurring across the whole country.

**Abubakar Chika Maru**  
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

## Jos: Solution looking for problem

THANK you for that piece. Please also use this medium to investigate the recent arrest of some people travelling to Maiduguri on the pretext that they are going to Jos to create problems not in the night but at 6.30am. These are itinerant farmers otherwise known as 'yan-chirani' who usually patronize the Dangote vehicles because they are cheaper. They are a common

sight everywhere in the north, especially if you are plying Kano-Abuja route. The Borno state governor should please go and collect his people.

**Bala**  
salisu\_kura@yahoo.com  
\*\*\*\*\*

The question that begs for an urgent answer over the Jos crisis are: Why is it that it is only the

Hausa-Fulani that are continually at war with the Jos People if the Jos crisis- be it branded as political, religious or ethnic - is not a gimmick to achieve a hidden agenda?

I think that if we answer this question honestly and sincerely, we will discover the root cause of these crises.

**Caleb Katwal**  
calzeph.k@gmail.com

## Northern governors mourn Lamidon Adamawa

AS we the people of Adamawa mourn the passing away of our great Lamido, I have no doubt in my mind that the next Lamido will be capable of maintaining the peace and progress that the last Lamido was able to achieve. Adamawa emirate is full of people with honour and dignity from the time of Modibbo Adama and will still continue exist.

May ALLAH (SWT) reward the last Lamido (Aliyu Mustafa) with Aljana and may He bless the next Lamido and give the ability to maintain the peace and progress of Adamawa emirate. Amin.

**Mohamme Tafida**  
mtafida2001@yahoo.com  
\*\*\*\*\*

May the Soul of Lamido Aliyu Musdafa rest in Peace and I spe-

cifically offer my condolences to the Chiroman Adamawa, Barkindo Musdafa, a practical symbol of humility. I pray that Allah will bless the Northern Traditional Community by having Barkindo as the 12th Lamido of Adamawa for his vast exposure and above all his unchallenged moral record.

**Tasiu Muhd Ringim**  
tmringim@gmail.com

## Tribute

# Lamido Aliyu Musdafa

## ...The monarch who lived on high principles

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

Because Nigeria's system of governance provides that traditional rulers should serve any government in power, the tendency is to view all of them as mere government appendages who parrot the policies of the incumbent leaders, regardless of the interests of the ordinary man. Late Lamido Aliyu Musdafa often chose to be different.

The 11th Lamido of Adamawa, who died on Saturday evening in his own room in his palace, was a broad-minded monarch who accommodated various shades of opinions but stood firm on high principles, close watchers of his reign told *Daily Trust* in Yola yesterday. From the colonial days through to difficult civil war period up to the present-day politics, they say, Lamido exhibited his firmness on principles at difficult times. He sometimes took risks to defy high forces and do what he believed was in the best interest of his people, they reveal.

One of such instances was his stand against former President Olusegun Obasanjo's bid to elongate his tenure in office. He campaigned against it discreetly in a very effective way, observers say. Lamido himself came close to admitting playing such a role at a discussion with an audience in his palace shortly after the death of Sultan Muhammadu Maccido. "My last encounter with him (late Sultan) was when we discussed on the way to end the political crisis," he told them, referring to the third term debacle. Sources say Lamido was only being modest; he actually worked hard with the late Sultan and several other leaders to abort Obasanjo's bid.

And he didn't do so because of any personal grudges against the former president. Observers insist that the two had a very good personal relationship and that indeed Lamido was among those who were instrumental to saving General Obasanjo's life from former Head of State General Sani Abacha when he was found guilty of involvement in an alleged coup plot in 1995.

And when Abacha insisted on at least incarcerating the old general, Lamido tried to make prison life less difficult for him. He was discreetly assisting him while he was serving his sentence in Yola Prison, located just a few metres away from Lamido's palace. Obasanjo himself admitted this in 2001 when as a president he visited the prison. He said Lamido



THE late Lamido of Adamawa, Alhaji Aliyu Musdafa

had been so helpful to him while in prison that he even offered to install an air-conditioner for him in his prison cell. But, he said, he turned down the offer.

But perhaps the strongest credential that put Lamido on the side of humanity was his efforts to avert Nigeria's civil war in the 1960s – and when the tragedy failed to be stopped – his role in saving Igbos' lives in his domain.

"Lamido Aliyu Musdafa was among the traditional rulers from the North and South who put tremendous effort to pull Nigeria from the brink of war. However, while the war went on he helped in preventing the massacre of innocent civilians and held their abandoned properties in trust until they returned," says Yakubu Abdullahi Yakubu who wrote his biography *The Chronicles of the Golden Age*.

One wouldn't easily understand how heroic Lamido's action was at that time until he heard about the story of the intrigues of some of his detractors at the time who tried to twist what he did to portray him as someone who was helping Northerners' enemies. One wouldn't also readily comprehend the impact of his action until he heard the stories of some of those he had saved or assessed what they have now become.

One particular episode requires recall here. Among the innocent lives that Lamido prevented murderous thugs from taking away at that time are those of the then Yola postmaster and his wife. They are the parents of the then small kid who has now become a professor of literature in

the United States, radical newspaper columnist Okey Ndibe. Okey is likely to miss Lamido as much as Lamido's own biological children.

I witnessed their emotional encounter in 2008 when Okey visited Lamido to thank him for what he had done. It was like a meeting of a father and son after over three decades of split. Okey was still a kid when Lamido played the Saviour role, but his parent had furnished him with the details and encouraged him to take a look of the past. He began making efforts from the US to see if he could come and meet Lamido. He eventually got to me through his friend Modibbo Kawu, Media Trust's African Editor, and asked if I could assist. I contacted one of Lamido's closest aides, Sarki Jakada, who secured an appointment and facilitated a meeting with the monarch. Lamido received Okey warmly, in a very informal way, discussed with him freely and told him how he related with his father and narrated many more things that Okey never knew before. He told me he was really surprised by Lamido's retentive memory, and amazed by his legendary humility. By the time Okey was leaving Yola he looked clearly a fulfilled man. This was just a single encounter in what was a daily occurrence in late Lamido's everyday life.

There are, however, some people who did not see Lamido in such light. They claimed that he suppressed some members of the other ruling houses to ensure

the dominance of the emirate by his Yelwa ruling family or that he favoured one particular candidate over the other or one political party over the other. But, observers say, such claims were hardly made publicly or backed with obvious evidence.

There was a particular incident I came across as a very young reporter in 1994. Senator Mahmud Waziri, one of the most influential politicians in the state at that time, contested for the seat of Constituent Assembly to represent Adamawa Central Zone but lost to former top civil servant Abubakar Girei (not to be confused with Senator Abubakar Girei). Mahmud Waziri felt that he wasn't defeated fairly and accused Lamido of backing Girei. He wrote a petition against Lamido and one of his aides that I can't remember now brought a copy to me, requesting me to report the matter. I saw it as a big story and sought to balance it with Lamido's side. I spoke to some people close to the Lamido who denied the allegations but were unwilling to make comments publicly. I went to the palace and met Emirate Council Secretary Dahiru Yerima who wanted nothing to do with it. But after my persistence he agreed to take me directly to the Lamido himself. Even as a young chap, I was really amazed with how warmly and humbly Lamido received me. I wasted no time in telling my mission, explaining that I only needed his side to balance my report.

He too denied the allegations, but told me that as a tradition, he didn't respond to such kinds of

claims made against him. However, he said, I should go and make my own independent investigations and report the facts to the public.

With my then little knowledge of Adamawa's political intrigues, limited contacts, inexperience in investigative journalism and time constraint of daily news reporting, it was difficult for me to get to the truth of this matter. Worse still, Mahmud Waziri left Yola shortly after the petition was delivered to me, and as such I couldn't go and ask him probing questions. I was confused with what to do, but eventually I decided to go ahead with my story.

I reported that Mahmud Waziri had accused Lamido of partisanship and that he was not fairly defeated at the polls. I, however, added that, although Lamido had declined to comment on the matter, people close to him as well as the victorious candidate Abubakar Girei – whom I had spoken to earlier – had denied Waziri's allegations.

After my report some people in Yola said that I committed a blunder by reporting unsubstantiated allegations against Lamido, and that I would run into trouble with the palace. But the palace neither complained to me nor showed any hostilities towards me. In fact, our relationship even strengthened and I always get good cooperation during any professional engagement with the palace. The strength of the relationship was very clear even on private issues as shown in the instance cited above on how easily I helped secure Okey Ndibe an appointment with Lamido when his attempts through other presumably stronger channels failed to do so.

It was Lamido's tolerance and accommodation of different shades of opinions that endeared him to many people and made him achieved so much in so many areas.

"As a man of peace, statesman and royal citizen, Lamido Aliyu Musdafa worked together with 13 heads of national governments and 21 military and civilian governors for the desired progress of the nation and his state in particular," says Yakubu.

Yet neither the different forms of governments and personalities he had worked with nor his liberal attitudes towards other tendencies deterred him from standing firm when issue of high principles is at stake. It is an additional trait that needs to be added to him, apart from the "icon of peace" medal that many people have now given him posthumously.



## Your Letters

### Utterances like these don't help

I want to know when Nigerians should start realizing that their utterances can make or mar the nation and its populace. Each time there is a situation, Nigerians try to give it either ethnic or religious colourations.

In the recent unfortunate Jos crisis that sent about 400 harmless and hapless Nigerian citizens to their early graves, many reports read in the media referred to it as 'reprisal attack'. That was a subtle way of justifying the unfortunate action that took place.

Statements by clerics and students do not help matters either. A faction of NANS said to be headed

by one Imeobong, operating from Uyo had shouted fire. In the same vein, one Bishop Bassey in Uyo said to be the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Chairman for Akwa Ibom State had on page 7 of *Daily Sun* of March 9, 2010 was quoted as "warning the federal government to find immediate and lasting solution to anti-Christian violence or else Christian youths would be asked to return fire for fire". This is not the best from a Christian bishop.

In another matter in *Daily Trust* of March 9, 2010, on page 9, fifty-four Muslim organisations from across the country led by Supreme Council of Shariah in Nigeria (SCSN) issued a communiqué which urged the Acting President to reverse the composition of members of the Presidential Advisory Council which had

a northern and a south Christians as Chairman and Deputy Chairman respectively. They in addition alleged discrimination whereby Muslims are not encouraged to join the military whose heads they argued are presently occupied by Christian Officers. To them I want to remind that there was the voted all-Muslim MKO Abiola-Kingibe Presidency, annulled by a Muslim headed military government; and also at a time, all the heads of the military organisations were headed by only Muslims.

All these people and their way of reasoning should not becloud our progress. They should watch their utterances and stop putting the nation on the edge every time.

**Geoffrey Nnadi, University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri, Borno State.**

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### Don't be left behind

THE world is changing and anyone who thinks he can live alone is sleeping through a revolution. We must learn to live together as brothers or we will perish together as fools. We should pray for peace to reign in our country and wish our president a quick recovery.  
**ABDULLAHI Isah Jimeta, Rigasa, Kaduna, 08033045358.**

### Thinking aloud

FIRE gutting down market in Kano, Gen. Dambazzau's state; another fire in Bauchi, where Jang claimed the Fulani that allegedly attacked Dogo Nahawa came from; yet another fire Borno State, where Gen. Maina (the GOC in Jos) hails from. Could all these be coincidence, or just happen-

stance?  
**ISA MB, 08099495893.**

### Too many market fires

THESE fire outbreaks, why do they happen only in northern markets? Please someone should investigate the causes of these late night outbreaks.  
**HALIMA, 07068291856.**

### Own up please!

MINISTER for Power should consider stepping down honourably and quietly, if he cannot provide "stable power soon".  
**A. Tambawal, Abuja, 08035896490.**

### Weaking naira

IN most of economies like those of the United States, United King-

dom and Saudi Arabia, \$1, £1 and R1, respectively can buy tangible things, but it is different in Nigeria, where the single naira is irrelevant.  
**MUBARAK Umar Usman, Gombe, 07035055848.**

### Quick take

WHY is Plateau Governor Jang not complaining over what happened way back in January?  
**M D Hassan, Sokoo Road G R A, Bauchi, 07090842287.**

### Help!

WHY would NECO collect candidates' money for the forthcoming exams on Thursday and Friday when their website announced that closing date was the preceding Wednesday?  
**FELIX K., Abuja, 07036494739.**



By Ugo Jim-Nwoko

## NAPEP: Poverty reduction or fiscal irresponsibility?

One of the achievements of the country in the current democratic era is the enactment of the Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007 (FRA). This was one of the conditions for the debt relief granted Nigeria by the Paris and London Clubs of Creditors. President Obasanjo, mindful of his record of financial malfeasance left office on the 29th of May 2007, without assenting to the Bill to become law. This presidential duty was performed by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

The whole idea of the FRA is to institute a legal framework for the effective regulation of fiscal policies, government spending and revenue generation by public agencies and kick start a fiscal regime that will plug all loopholes through which public resources are looted or wasted. The FRA also seeks to allocate public resources to address the enormous poverty and infrastructural decay bedeviling the country. The FRA is made as a law to provide for the prudent management of the nation's resources, ensure long-term macro-economic stability of the national economy, secure greater accountability and transparency in fiscal operations within a medium term fiscal policy framework and the establishment of the Fiscal Responsibility Commission to ensure the promotion and enforcement of the nation's economic objectives and for related matters.

Central to the economic objectives of the Constitution which the FRA promotes is the issue of poverty reduction. Chapter 2 of the Constitution states clearly, in section 14 subsection 2 (b), that the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government. Therefore, it would amount to neglect of governmental duties for the state to allow majority of its citizens languish in abject penury and sub-human living conditions. How secure would a people feel when despite their competences, they cannot secure a meaningful employment in their economy?

This question is pertinent in the light of the FRA and the embarrassing disclosures at the meetings between the Director-General of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Dr Magnus Kpakol and the Senate Committee on Public Accounts, where documents that recorded the N2.4 billion procurement transactions of NAPEP, the government agency responsible for the eradication of poverty has been declared missing and cannot be accounted for. This is perhaps a euphemistic way of communicating the mismanagement of huge national resources which would have improved the living conditions of many Nigerians. If NAPEP mismanaged N2.4 billion against the interests of the poor masses it was meant to protect, it leaves every sane observer wondering what would become of public resources at the disposal of other public functionaries in the country with higher responsibilities.

Despite the operation of the FRA and the activities of the Federal Inland Revenue Service, the public Treasury lost the sum of N240 million unaccounted Withholding and Value Added Tax which could have helped government render better services. The whole picture tells a story of public office holders who pay lip service to the relevant laws of the land in their day to day official duties and conduct; particularly when such laws are meant to serve the interest of the common people. Development partners and experts, well-meaning Nigerians who made efforts and contributions, in terms of advocacy, resources and knowledge support to the passage and enactment of the FRA and the Public Procurement Act 2007 had hoped that the laws would have made our public functionaries to desist from their old ways of excessive spending, unsustainable indebtedness and outright stealing of public money.

The operation of the Acts was expected to enhance service delivery, reduce poverty, and guarantee adequate standard of living, sustainable economic growth, good governance and institutionalization of democracy. It is by ensuring due process in public expenditure management that the FRA and Public Procurement Act can address poverty and corruption. Therefore, it is my humble opinion that the Senate discards the flimsy reasons being adduced by the Director-General of NAPEP, and get to the root of the matter as regards the contract documents and agreements for the N2.4 billion Keke NAPEP contract. The contract documents cannot be missing and the Director-General still goes on implementing the procurement transaction.

This financial recklessness in an agency that should address poverty should be looked be thoroughly examined in the light of the Public Procurement Act. And if there were violations of the law, the perpetrators should be brought to justice through the penal sanctions of the Public Procurement Act.

**Jim-Nwoko wrote from Flat 2 Plot 17 Yaoundé Street Wuse zone 6 Abuja.**

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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## Cost of treating public officials abroad

**O**ne important national cause that the unfortunate politicisation of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's ill-health has thwarted from pursuing is a vigorous national agitation for the establishment of international-standard medical facilities and institutions in the country. Their absence often necessitates the treatment of some of senior public officials in medical institutions abroad, at huge cost to the public purse. It has also helped to obscure a rigorous questioning of the propriety of these officials seeking medical solutions abroad when other citizens die because the medical facilities at home here are in poor state.

While the President was in Saudi Arabia for treatment of his heart condition, the PDP National Chairman, Chief Vincent Ogbulafor, who led a delegation of the ruling party's stalwarts in what was supposed to be a goodwill visit to the President, also took a detour to India to tackle his sight problem.

The President is known to have a long history of kidney problem. All this while, he should have thought of establishing a well-equipped, staffed and provisioned kidney hospital in any part of the country which could also have provided the opportunity to other Nigerians who may find themselves in similar condition. If such a hospital existed here, a huge capital outflow from our country for kidney and kidney related treatment abroad would not arise.

In the case of the President's treatment in Saudi Arabia which lasted over three months, the nation may not get to know the full cost but when we consider the actual medical fee and other associated expenditures such as the parking fees for the presidential jet and air ambulance that were on permanent standby in the airport; the back and forth of the air vehicles from Nigeria and Saudi Arabia; the cost of keeping a retinue of aides in Saudi Arabia to attend to the President; the cost of airfares and estacodes of various high official delegates and delegations who went to visit him and several other hidden costs, the burden on the taxpayer can best be imagined.

**T**his is unfair because we are supposed to be living in a democratic society where the ethos of egalitarianism is supposed to reign. And it is very unwise for particularly those who are the symbols of our statehood to become patients in foreign hospitals because it is fraught with security implication. What is more we can easily establish, staff and equip world class medical centres here at home which will not only attend to the high and mighty in the land but also to other citizens who are also deserving of medical attention when they fall sick. And such facilities can be established at a minute fraction of what it may cost to treat just one big person, such as the President, abroad at public expense. Why do our leaders not think of doing so?

The recent case of our President should be a wake-up call to those in position of authority to make our hospitals truly centres of health care excellence. Qualified medicare experts many of whom are employed abroad should also be encouraged to set up their practices in the country to boost local capacity. The truth of the matter is that with our endowments if our leaders display the needed will we can indeed set up many first-rate medical facilities and our country can become a medical tourism destination for many less endowed countries in the sub-region.

However, since our governing elite are unwilling to set up medical institutions here at home, it has become necessary to advocate a change in policy which will now require that public officials who go abroad for treatment should do so at private expense. Perhaps, this will compel them to have a rethink and pay attention to the healthcare needs of the Nigerian people.

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## Sokoto: A time for cool heads

**F**or those who do not know it, I have always had a sentimental attachment towards Sokoto, a city nestled in glorious serenity on the fringes of the Sahara. As a Muslim, Sokoto not only resonates with me as the seat of the Caliphate, it was once my state capital as well when Niger was still part of the old North Western State.

I recall with nostalgia, the nights I spent playing in the sand with friends on those cool nights under the brilliant moonlight opposite our house very close to the then Sokoto Cinema, a few minutes walk from *Tashar Illela*.

Sokoto also appeals to me for another important reason. Before the bloody clash involving Shiite Muslims a few years ago, Sokoto had always managed to retain its poise as a peace-loving city, at a time others like Kano, Bauchi, Maiduguri, Kaduna, and now, Jos, lost their innocence when they erupted with ethno-religious conflicts that claimed thousands of victims.

Four decades after our departure, the city has somehow managed to retain the same degree of tranquility, whether under civilian or military administrations. Like the rest of our cities, Sokoto has not escape the ram-paging effects of mass poverty in the wake of the general economic decline that followed the oil boom and the gradual disappearance of competence and integrity in the corridors of power. But somehow, in Sokoto, Muslims and Christians as well as different ethnic groups seemed to have found a perfect way to live in peace and harmony despite the provocative nature of the social elements they confront on a daily basis.

**S**adly, like everything Nigerian these days, the peace and tranquility for which Sokoto has become renowned, is today threatened by developments in the political realm as I write. Dark clouds now threaten the peaceful co-existence of residents of over the final resolution of the electoral petition brought against the incumbent Governor Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako, by the DPP candidate Alhaji Maigari Dingyadi, which seeks to nullify his election on a technicality.

At issue is the stance taken by the National Judicial Council under the Chairmanship of the CJN, Justice Alloysius Katsina-Alu. The Court of Appeal seemed prepared to deliver its judgement on the eligibility of Governor Wammako to contest the re-run election on the 24th of February last month, on the strength of a directive from the NJC following a petition it received from the incumbent governor, which accused the court of bias. It alleged that the

## Muhammad Al-Ghazali

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President of the Court of Appeal influenced the panelists to reach a decision against Wammako.

Had the Court of Appeal proceeded to deliver judgement on the case "even if Sokoto is to be engulfed by fire" as planned today, only God knows what would have looked like presently, given the threats and counter-threats from both sides of the political divide on the case.

Mercifully, the Supreme Court ruling obtained by the defendant yesterday, now appears to have deferred the worst case scenario, at least for now. But it is not an easy situation by all means. Coming on the heels of the events in Jos, and Abuja, the permutations are the worst things for Nigerians to contend with today.

As expected, opinion is sharply

the Chief Justice of the Federation.

For me personally, it tells volumes on the integrity of the panelists that one party in the case appears to be so conversant with the judgement that it is yet to deliver, to the extent that it is willing to go the whole length of the judicial cycle to stop it.

My other worry in the unfolding events is that few on both sides, are contesting the governor's popularity, or the fact that he won the re-run elections. The entire issue boils down to a simple technicality, which, in the end, is sure to offer scant consolation for both the purists and the political thugs in our midst.

The choice for the peace-loving folk of Sokoto state today is not an easy one, obviously. Those who braved the elements to vote risk losing their man to the interpretation of a clause in the party constitution. For impartial observers the scenario is pretty much the same. The issue here is not about the incumbent governor's popularity, or the fact that he was genuinely elected in the re-run election.

What is as clear as delight is that

My other worry in the unfolding events is that few on both sides, are contesting the governor's popularity, or the fact that he won the re-run elections

divided on the matter even among lawyers. There are those who claim the NJC has no powers to order the Court of Appeal to stay action on the case. Others like Itse Sagay and Olisa Agbakoba contend that the CJN was within his rights to intervene. A former President of the Nigeria Bar Association also backed the CJN, stating "If an allegation of wrong-doing is levelled against a Justice or Justices, and in line with the disciplinary control of the court, there might be need for the CJN to act."

Whatever may be the case, opinion remains sharply divided over the matter. For ordinary columnists on the fringes, the case is also dangerous waters because it is so easy for one to be accused of bias for whatever reason.

Still, it is a sign of the times we live in that the integrity of the learned men on the bench could so easily be called to question. From whatever angles we look at the case, this is a matter boding on confidence for both the office of the President of Court of Appeal and that of

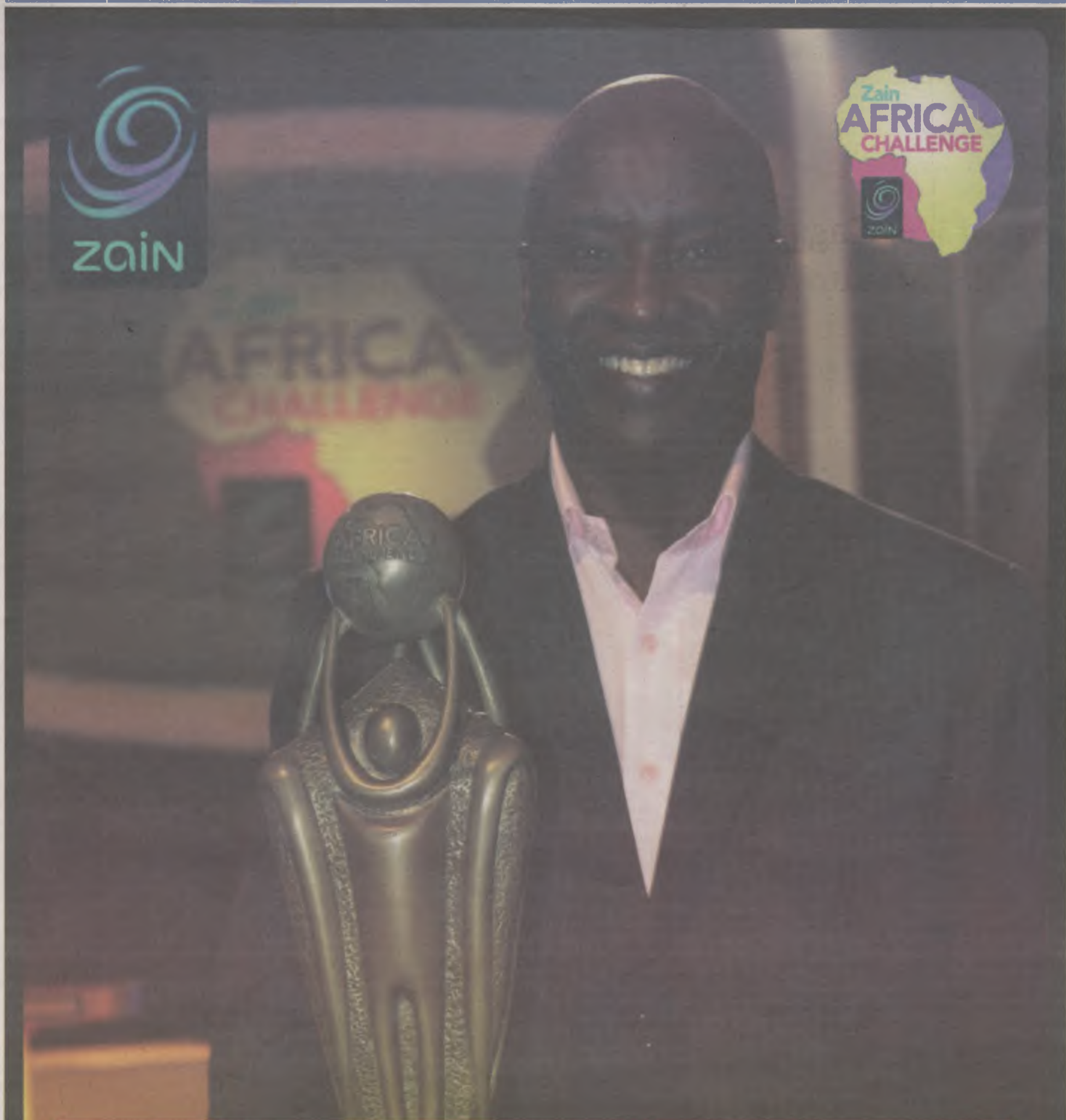
Dingyadi's sole and most potent source of strength in this sordid affair hinges on that simple technicality, which alleges that the governor was not correctly nominated to run against him. We are not dealing with a case of electoral rigging of the type experienced elsewhere that robbed the people of their votes and much of their dignity also.

That is why any decision reached by the judicial system that tends to go against the popular will is sure to generate intense emotion and even violence in this case. What we risk, in essence, is the nullification of the election of a governor among scores from the PDP whose victory was never tainted by allegations of rigging, all because of a clause in the constitution of a party not renowned for the soundness of its internal democracy in the first place!

**T**hat is not to deny Dingyadi his right of appeal, of course. He is fully within his rights to do so. Still, the grave situation we are confronted with today is such that all peace loving Nigerians must applaud the decision of the Supreme Court, which foreclosed the delivery of a contentious decision on this case for now.

The nation and its constituents have gone through a lot lately. What we need to avoid is yet another social upheaval to rock our consciousness. At times like these, what the nation needs is a little common sense from even the pampered members of the bench.

A former President of the Nigeria Bar Association also backed the CJN, stating "If an allegation of wrong-doing is levelled against a Justice or Justices, and in line with the disciplinary control of the court, there might be need for the CJN to act."



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# INTERNATIONAL

## Ivorean ex-rebels vow to disarm before vote



IVORY Coast's Prime Minister Guillaume Soro talks to reporters in Yamoussoukro

IVORY Coast's former rebel New Forces, led by Prime Minister Guillaume Soro, yesterday pledged to disarm before a presidential election slated for late April or early May.

FN leaders, who control the north of the divided west African country since a foiled coup bid against Gbagbo in September 2002, met at the weekend in their headquarters town of Bouake in central Ivory Coast.

The FN "commit themselves to DDR," or disarmament, demobilisation and reinsertion of former fighters, "one month" before the holding of the presidential election, they said in a statement sent to AFP.

"I ask Ivorians to be patient and above all calm because disarmament will take place in line with the (peace) accords... We made a commitment, we will apply it," Soro said in the text.

"The question of disarmament should not frighten anybody," he added, warning that it will be a "long process". The last peace accord, signed at the end of 2008, provides for the disarmament of FN members who will not have been demobilised nor made part of the joint brigades to be formed with the army to oversee the presidential poll.

President Laurent Gbagbo's Ivorian Popular Front party (FPI) regularly calls for the rebels to be

disarmed before an election.

Elections have been postponed seven times since Gbagbo's mandate ran out in 2005, the latest delay coming in February when the head of state scrapped both the government and the Independent Electoral Commission (CEI).

He accused the latter of fraud in compiling the electoral roles.

Soro now heads a new government and a new CEI has gone to work, leading the mediator in the peace process, Ivory Coast's President Blaise Compaore, to say that the presidential election is now due in "late April-early May."

Soro has called for the election to take place by June.

## ...as ANC youth leader is convicted of hate speech

A South African court yesterday found the youth leader of the ruling African National Congress guilty of hate speech, after he said President Jacob Zuma's rape accuser had "a nice time". According to court papers, Julius Malema told university students in Cape Town last year that: "When a woman didn't enjoy it, she leaves early in the morning.

Those who had a nice time

will wait until the sun comes out, request breakfast and ask for taxi money." Malema, known for his fiery rhetoric, was speaking about the woman who accused Zuma of rape in 2006, a charge on which he was acquitted. "This court is satisfied that the utterances by the respondent... amounted to hate speech. The uttered words constitute harassment," magistrate Colleen Collis said, according to the

Sapa news agency. Malema was taken to a South African equality court by the Sonke Gender Justice group, which advocates against gender-based violence.

Collis ordered Malema to make an unconditional public apology within two weeks and pay an amount of 50,000 rand (about 7,000 dollars, 5,000 euros) to a centre for abused women within one month.

## S/Africa's Zuma to visit Zimbabwe

SOUTH African President Jacob Zuma is set to visit Zimbabwe this week in a new bid to ease political tensions between President Robert Mugabe and Premier Morgan Tsvangirai, his office said yesterday.

Zuma will make a three-day trip to Zimbabwe on Tuesday to "facilitate the removal of obstacles which hinder the full implementation" of the power-sharing agreement, his office said in a statement.

The unity government formed in February last year has been fraught with power struggles, which saw Tsvangirai boycott cabinet for three weeks in October.

The stand-off was later resolved by the Southern African Development Community (SADC) regional leaders at a special summit in Mozambique, tasking Zuma with helping the parties resolve their differences.

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## International

# Vietnam releases leading dissident from prison

VIETNAM released one of its leading democracy activists from prison yesterday after the dissident Catholic priest spent three years and suffered two strokes in solitary confinement, his lawyer and sister said.

Authorities released Father Nguyen Van Ly from a prison near Hanoi at 4 a.m. and drove him in an ambulance back to his hometown of Hue, his sister, Nguyen Thi Hieu, told The Associated Press.

"I'm very glad to see him out of prison and pleased to see that he is in better health than he was when

I last saw him," Hieu said.

In 2007, Father Ly was sentenced to 8 years in prison for disseminating anti-government propaganda during a dramatic trial in which police muzzled him for shouting anti-communist slogans and accusing Vietnamese officials of practicing "the law of the jungle."

Father Ly is one of Vietnam's best-known human rights activists and has spent more than 15 years in prison since 1977, according to Freedom Now, a Washington-based law firm that serves as Ly's international counsel.

"We're beyond delighted that Father Ly has been released," said Maran Turner, Freedom Now's executive director. "But Vietnam still has many human rights challenges. The government is still imprisoning many other activists."

In recent months, Vietnam has sent 16 democracy activists to jail in one of its harsher crackdowns on dissent. Some observers have speculated that the crackdown is part of political jockeying ahead of next year's Communist Party congress.

Turner said she was not sure

why the government had decided to release Ly now. "It's hard to understand what moves governments to finally do the right thing," she said. "This has been a long time coming."

Vietnamese government officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

Officials at the US embassy, which has pressed for Ly's release, said they had seen reports that Ly was paroled so that he could seek medical treatment.

"If those reports are true, it would be a welcome humanitarian gesture," said David Moyer, an

embassy spokesman. "We don't yet have any specific information about the conditions of his release."

Father Ly is partly paralyzed on the right side of his body but can walk with a cane, according to his sister, who said he is staying at the Archdiocese of Hue, where priests planned to call doctors to assess his health.

He suffered strokes in July and November and for a time was unable to walk, Turner said. Before his release, he received treatment in a Hanoi hospital, where he was watched by five guards, she said.

## Bin Laden's son calls on Iran to free his siblings

ONE of Osama bin Laden's sons has called on Iran's supreme leader to release members of his family believed to be under house arrest there since they fled Afghanistan in 2001, according to a letter posted yesterday on the Internet.

Khalid bin Laden's statement accused Iranian authorities of mistreating about 30 siblings, saying they had been "beaten and repressed."

The letter, which was dated early January, appeared to have been written shortly after news reports surfaced about one of his sisters who escaped from her Iranian guards and reportedly is taking refuge in the Saudi Embassy in Tehran.

It has long been believed that Iran has in custody a number of bin Laden's children who fled Afghanistan in 2001 following the September 11 terror attacks on the US, most notably his sons, Saad and Hamza, who were thought to have held positions in al-Qaida. But Iran never confirmed it, and claimed to have been surprised to discover 17-year-old Eman was at the Saudi Embassy.

Little is known about Khalid bin Laden, who is said to be in his 20s and believed to have been with his father in Afghanistan until 2001. The letter identified him as Sheikh Khalid, a reference to a holder of an esteemed religious position.

Iranian officials have said they knew bin Laden's daughter was at the Saudi Embassy but denied knowledge of how she got to Iran or when. Tehran also has never confirmed it was holding other members of the bin Laden family.

Saudi officials have said they were mediating the girl's release but there has been no further word about her.



ANTI-GOVERNMENT protesters shout slogans as they ride motorcycles to the main gates of the 11th Infantry Regiment headquarters.

## Thai PM rejects protesters' call for new elections

THAILAND'S prime minister, backed by a formidable military force, rejected an ultimatum to dissolve Parliament yesterday as tens of thousands of red-shirted protesters vowed to splatter the seat of government with their own blood if their demands weren't met.

Organizers of the demonstrations in the Thai capital said they're requesting that thousands of protesters donate a small amount of blood to meet their stated goal of 1 million cubic centimeters, or more than 260 gallons (980 liters).

"The blood will be taken from the body and democratic soul of the Red Shirts," said a protest leader, Natthawut Saikua, referring to the popular name for the protesters.

He said they would start recruiting medical staff for the blood drive today morning.

They threatened to pour the blood on Government House if their renewed demand was rejected by 6 p.m. Tuesday (1100 GMT).

A Red Cross official expressed concern over the hygiene of drawing blood from so many people and noted that such a large quantity "could save a lot of lives," if it weren't destined to be spilled. Organizers planned to draw between two and 20 teaspoons of blood — 10 to 100 cubic centimeters — from each donor. That would require between 10,000 and 100,000 people — roughly the crowd's peak size — to participate.

In the first reported violence of the protests, two soldiers were

wounded when four grenades exploded inside the compound of the 1st Infantry Regiment, known as the King's Own Bodyguard, said army spokesman Col. Sansern Kaewkamnerd.

He did not blame the demonstrators, who were not in the area, but said there has been intelligence that some elements had been planning such attacks. The grenades were fired from an M-79 launcher, he said.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, the key target of the massive demonstration, earlier said he could not give in to the protesters' demand to dissolve Parliament by midday but left room for compromise.

The demonstrators marshaled around the heavily defended 11th Infantry Regiment headquarters

where Abhisit has been hunkered down in recent days, but after the deadline passed they began a march back to their main encampment.

"Asking for the dissolution of Parliament before noon in exchange for a halt to the demonstrations, we all agreed it can't be done. However, it doesn't mean the government coalition parties and I won't listen to their ideas," Abhisit said on nationwide television.

Some 100,000 Red Shirt protesters had been camped out along a boulevard in the old part of Bangkok, though there number had visibly fallen yesterday. A force of more than 50,000 soldiers, police and other security personnel has been mobilized in the capital area.

## International

# Kenya is not opposing Ethiopia water project - Envoy

By Aisha Umar Agaie

*ETHIOPIA is blessed with water and is able to use it to generate enough power for itself for more than a decade now. The country is now determined to complete Gilgel Gibe III, a water dam project of over \$1 billion in conjunction with Salini construction company and start exporting power to its neighbouring countries like Sudan, Kenya, Djibouti and even Egypt. Ethiopia will not only export to its neighbouring countries but will extend to other countries in Europe. The Ethiopian ambassador to Nigeria, Sulieman Dedefo in an interview with Daily Trust explained the position of the project.*

**C**an you respond to media report on Ethiopia hydro-dam project that is likely to devastate the life of Kenyans living in the area?

There are populations who live along and on the coast of these river, it is acceptable that hundreds of thousands people depend on the river both in Ethiopia and Kenya the natural impact of this river on the lives of this population is preising, the government of Ethiopia as part of its effort to mobilize its natural resources to the betterment of the life its people has planned to construct five different power generating stations, the three phase of the power generating station has been completed but the first project is called Gilgel Gibe I, and has been antiquated years ago and operational at this moment, the second project Gilgel Gibe II was also inaugurated recently and has become operational, the unique feature of this Gilgel Gibe II is that there is no any dam at all, its generated 420 Megawatts by water, its takes from Gilgel Gibe I through 26 kilometres panel and by modern technology applied to it, so it is the first of its kind to generate this much energy without any dam.

The third project of Gilgel Gibe III is on its way at this moment, one third of it has been completed, it is expected to be operational in 2012 after two years, Gilgel Gibe III located in the middle of the river at a mountain area, it is said to be one of the longest hydro dam in the world in terms of height, it is expected to generate about 1800 megawatts which will highly maximise the power generation of the country.

The benefit of the success of Gilgel Gibe III will not only be for Ethiopia but also other neighbouring countries, as you know Ethiopia is water field of Africa because water runs from Ethiopia rivers to many neighbouring countries, it is part of our effort to maximise the power generation



ETHIOPIAN Ambassador to Nigeria Sulieman Dedefo.

which will benefit many neighbouring countries like Sudan, Kenya, Djibouti and even Egypt. In the strategy to export energy to far countries like Europe, Golf and South Africa, Ethiopia Electric Light and Power Cooperation have many projects in pipeline at this moment which one of them in Gilgel Gibe III, the location of Gilgel Gibe III there are no inhabitant at this moment because it is mountain area, the population is below the location of Gilgel Gibe III.

**T**he people living alongside of Gilgel Gibe III River depend on the river by using primitive way of agriculture, they are traditional farmers, and the products they produce do not extend family feed. This project is part of Gilgel Gibe III river development master plan, the river is not as some claim to be, it is not planned to put down or cause restriction on the population living alongside the river but it is planned to change the life of the people.

The Gibe river development master plan is an inclusive master plan, which is supposed to physically change the life of the people and secure the populations from any type of damage of over flooding, the river over floods small areas around it every year and takes many lives and

damage properties. The inclusive master plan will change the life of the people living along the river, transform from traditional to modern producers, so there is no way Gilgel gibe III can harm any village both in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Some environmentalists have claimed that Gilgel Gibe River will reduce the amount of water in the river but environmentalist who made the claim are neither Ethiopians nor Kenyans but are from the west, who are enemies of development and claimed to be more concerned than us, because they want to see us in dark always and be dependants always on the developed worlds.

Kenyans are part of the development activities and have signed a deal to purchase power generated from Gilgel Gibe Rivers, so Kenya's are not opposing our activities. There is no any impact on the development of this rivers, the outcome of this development project will aid development.

The development of the river will develop the lives of the people who traditionally dependant on the river, there will be training centres to make this traditionalist agriculturalist people, modern agriculturalist.

Also research centre will be build in the area, so how does this transform to devastating the life of the people living in the area.

We are not building a nuclear power which will damage the environment, this people cannot complain of development in there area. The paradox aspect of it that the hydro-dam is not planned to irrigate any land, it does not have pattern of irrigation and no water is diverted from the river coast, the water in its full capacity will be led to its natural coast.

The dams planed to irrigate land for this people are not yet under construction; Gilgel Gibe III does not have any irrigation pattern, so it cannot minimize the size of the water.

The complain we here is baseless and it is not scientific and Gilgel Gibe III does not have any scientific impact on the lives of the people both in Kenya and in Ethiopia, and does not have any negative ecological impact and harm to life.

Gilgel Gibe III will bring about export of power to Kenya, and bring down the price of electricity in Kenya, so they don't have objection to the project, other neighbouring countries like Rwanda, Sudan.

**Who are the constructors of this dam?**

The constructor is a foreigner, Salini Construction Company, who is based in Ethiopia for the past three decades and Salini is also in Nigeria, they are

also partner of development for Nigeria as well.

**For how long has the project been on and how much has Ethiopia invested on the project?**

The project has been under construction for the past two years and expected to be completed in 2012.

One phase of the project has already been completed and successful. I do not have exact figure of what was spend on the project, but it is above \$1 billion.

**After completion, will the project become your major source of income and how?**

Yes, it is not going to be our major source of income alone but we will have a stable power supply, even though Ethiopia has always had a stable power provision for a long period, but because of the short of rain last year we encountered power shortage for five to six months, we faced serious crisis, in fact we had to terminate activities of industries for a period of time, we have ambitious plan to electrify our rural village, thousands of rural areas get electricity every year, so this has raised emergence of Industrial development and caused high demand of power, which is why we are directing all our resources, all our capacities to maximize the generation of power in Ethiopia.



### CODE OF CONDUCT TRIBUNAL

Plot 89, Sector Centre B, Cadastral Zone B 16, Jabi District, Abuja.  
P.M.B. 149, Abuja Nigeria.

#### INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE VARIOUS PROJECTS UNDERLISTED

The Code of Conduct Tribunal hereby invites expression of interest from public firms/organizations of good repute to apply for execution of the underlisted projects in the Headquarters office, State & Zonal offices and official residences located in Abuja.

1. Supply and Installation of Fire-fighting Equipment in the Headquarters office, Abuja
2. Supply and Installation of furnishing (Phase III) in the Headquarters office, Abuja
3. Supply & Installation of 250KVA Generator Plant in the Headquarters office, Abuja
4. Supply & Installation of office Equipment
5. Provision of Motor Vehicle Shade in the Headquarters office, Abuja
6. Completion of Renovation Works in States & Zonal offices of the Tribunal
7. Renovation of three ( 3 ) Essential Houses located in Abuja

#### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

Interested firms/companies are by this advertisement invited to submit pre-qualification document with other relevant documents such as:

- Comprehensive company Profile
- Copy of Certificate of Incorporation
- Copy of Tax Clearance Certificate ( 3 ) three years
- Evidence of payment of VAT
- Copy of Audited Account for the last three years
- Evidence of similar job done with satisfaction. – All to be submitted within two-weeks of this Publication to : **Secretary, Tenders Board, Code of Conduct Tribunal, Plot 89, Sector Centre B, Jabi – Abuja on or before 2pm Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2010 – which is also the Tenders opening day and time. All Tenderers are invited.**

NB: Tenderers should note that *only pre-qualified firms* would be invited to submit financial bids. The Tribunal reserves the right to reject any or all prequalification document.

**SIGNED:**  
**HON. CHAIRMAN, CODE OF CONDUCT TRIBUNAL**



### EU – SUPPORT TO ROUTINE IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME IN KANO (SRIK)

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#### OF A WORKS TENDER PROCEDURE

**RENOVATION OF LGA COLD STORES FOR THE EU-ASSISTED SRIK PROJECT IN ALBASU, BICHI, DALA, DAMBATTA, DAWAKIN KUDU, GAYA, KIRU, NASSARAWA AND TOFA LGAS OF KANO STATE**

1. **Publication reference**  
EU- SRIK/9 ACP UNI 010/OPE1/009/LWT
2. **Date of publication**  
20<sup>th</sup> March 2009
3. **Programme**  
EDF
4. **Contracting authority**  
EU-SRIK Project, Infectious Diseases Hospital (IDH), #5 France Road, Sabon Gari, Kano
5. **Other information**

The tender procedure has been unsuccessful, because no qualitatively or financially worthwhile tender has been received

#### Notes:

Should a new tender procedure be launched for this project, a new procurement notice will be published.

Natural or legal persons interested should not therefore send proposals or requests for information at this stage.

## VACANCIES

Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University and a global leader in improving healthcare for women and families, seeks suitable candidates for the following positions:

**Title:** Chief of Party, HIV/AIDS PREVENTION, CARE AND TREATMENT  
**Reports to:** JHPIEGO/Nigeria Country Director  
**Location:** Abuja, Nigeria

#### Responsibilities:

The Chief of Party's responsibilities will include:

- Providing programmatic leadership and direction to insure technical, strategic, and financial integrity of a large U.S. government-funded health project
- Having knowledge of HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment especially interventions for prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT)
- Coordinating all activities and managing project personnel
- Cultivating strategic relationships and alliances with other PEPFAR partners
- Being responsive to and responsible for relationship with the Government of Nigeria and ensuring that program activities are moving forward the national HIV/AIDS response in Nigeria
- Being responsible for overall relationships between JHPIEGO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and international and local partners to ensure smooth implementation.
- Leading annual work planning processes in close collaboration with CDC and the project team
- Ensuring that the project meets set targets
- Managing information dissemination among the project team
- Providing written reports to CDC with updates on program activities as described

Candidates must be fluent in English, have an advanced degree, and a minimum of 10 years of related experience.

**Title:** QUALITY ASSURANCE/CLINICAL SERVICES ADVISOR  
**Reports to:** Chief of Party  
**Location:** Abuja, Nigeria

#### Responsibilities:

- Work with the Chief of Party to ensure that measurable outcomes of a large U.S. Government-funded HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment program are in alignment with PEPFAR and Government of Nigeria goals.
- Serve as a senior technical resource for JHPIEGO in the areas of quality HIV/AIDS services, especially prevention of mother to child transmission interventions.
- Develop and conduct technical assistance and oversee QA interventions, and monitor and maintain the technical quality of activities and products in all aspect of the project work as it relates to HIV testing, CD4 testing, EID and issue of ARVs in agreement with national and international standards.
- Identification of opportunities for improving the quality and performance of health workers and facilities
- Write, co-author and otherwise support the documentation of project results in conferences and publications.
- Participate in staffing assessments and analyses in order to better understand needs and realities
- Oversee, conduct, or participate in performance needs assessments
- As a part of setting desired performance and during project planning, work with M&E staff to develop indicators and M&E plans which feed data to a comprehensive HR information system

#### Required Qualifications:

- Medical doctor, nurse, or equivalent health profession or professional with specialization in health (e.g. MPH, MPA or other relevant degrees)
- Minimum of five years experience in the area of quality and performance improvement with support approaches and methodologies in RH, HIV/AIDS and /or other technical areas
- Minimum of 5 years of experience working for a health organization, in or close to service delivery activities.
- Demonstrable capacity to establish quality assurance programs for HIV/AIDS
- Minimum of five years experience in a senior position providing technical assistance/ training to health facility clinical staff, institutions, or NGOs in HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care.
- Familiarity with the MOH structure, functions, and leadership
- Documented experience designing and implementing health programs for improving service delivery
- Excellent verbal, written and presentation skills

**Title:** Strategic Information ADVISOR  
**Reports to:** Chief of Party  
**Location:** Abuja, Nigeria

#### Responsibilities:

The Strategic Information Advisor responsibilities will include:

- Ensuring that the measurable outcomes of a large U.S. government-funded HIV/AIDS prevention, care and treatment program are in alignment with PEPFAR and Government of Nigeria goals
- Assisting the Chief of Party with development, implementation, and quality assurance for monitoring and evaluating the project's activities
- Monitoring prevention of mother to child transmission (PMTCT) and counseling and testing (CT) service delivery activities
- Training public sector service providers, program managers, and information officers in monitoring and evaluation of service delivery and in training and information monitoring systems
- In collaboration with the program team, ensuring that necessary monitoring and evaluation planning, budgeting, and management activities occur to facilitate smooth and efficient program functioning
- Capturing and documenting program results, successes, challenges and lessons learned for reporting to CDC

Candidates must have at least 7 years of related experience with a degree in related courses; an advanced degree will be highly desirable.

Jhpiego offers competitive salaries and a comprehensive employee benefits package including: medical and dental plans; paid vacation, holidays and sick leave; personal accident insurance; 403(b) retirement plan; life and disability insurance; travel insurance; education assistance plan and more.

Please send a cover letter and resumes to [appaccess@yahoo.com](mailto:appaccess@yahoo.com) within 5 days of the date of this publication. For further information about Jhpiego, visit our website at [www.jhpiego.org](http://www.jhpiego.org)

**Note: The successful candidates selected for these positions will be subject to pre-employment background investigations.**

*JHU is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer*



### Invitation for Bids (IFB)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST BASIC PROJECT  
(STEP B PROJECT)  
FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, MINNA  
CREDIT No.4304-UN  
DATE OF ISSUE: 16<sup>th</sup> March, 2010

Procurement and Installation of WiFi Equipment and Bandwidth Expansion in Two Campuses IFB No. FUTM/GDS/NCB/01/10

- This Invitation for Bid follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue no.591of 2nd July 2007.
- The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the Procurement and installation of WiFi Equipment and Bandwidth Expansion in two Campuses, at the Federal University of Technology, Minna.
- Federal University of Technology, Minna STEP-B now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the procurement and installation of the following:

LOT NO.	ITEM DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY	DELIVERY PERIOD	LOCATION
1	BANDWIDTH EXPANSION & MAINTENANCE (8mbps)	SIX MONTHS	2.5% OF BID PRICE	60DAYS MAXIMUM	FUT MINNA, BOSSO AND GIDAN KWANO CAMPUSES
2	PROCUREMENT AND INSTALLATION OF HIGH PERFORMANCE WIRELESS NETWORK(WIFI) EQUIPMENT.	VARIOUS	2.5% OF BID PRICE	60DAYS MAXIMUM	FUT MINNA AND BOSSO /GIDAN KWANO CAMPUSES

- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB), a procedure specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procure under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is opened to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
- 'Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from FUT MINNA, Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project (STEP-B) at the address below and inspect the Bidding Document from 8:00am to 4:00pm Mondays to Fridays.(excluding public holidays)
- Qualifications requirements include:
  - Evidence of previous project executed involving similar Equipment proposed for the last 5 years.
  - Audited financial statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capacity of the Bidder in term of Profitability and adequate working capital.
 A margin of preference for eligible national contractors shall not be applied; Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of non refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10,000.00) only. The method of payment will be Bank Draft in favor of Science and Technology Post Basic Project, Federal University of Technology, Minna. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of Bidder or by courier service on request.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before 2:00pm on Thursday 22nd April, 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids, will be opened in the presence of the bidder's representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at 2:00pm on 22nd April, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by Bid Security of 2.5% of Bid price in a freely convertible currency or bank draft from a reputable Nigeria commercial bank.
- The address referred to above is:
 

The Project Manager, STEP-B Project Office,  
UBR Office, Main Campus (Gidan Kwano),  
Federal University of Technology, P.M.B. 65.  
Minna, Niger State,  
Nigeria.  
e-mail: [damuazu@futminna.edu.ng](mailto:damuazu@futminna.edu.ng)  
GSM: 08029043710(PM) 08051540378(TO),  
08089165356(CO) 08033789875(PO) 08037024610(M&E)

Signed  
Project Manager

### NATIONAL EAR CARE CENTRE NO. 3 GOLF COURSES/INDEPENDENCE WAY, P.M.B 2438, KADUNA

#### ADVERTISEMENT FOR ADMISSION INTO THE POST-BASIC ENT NURSING COURSE 2010/2011 SESSION

Applications are invited from suitable qualified candidates for admission into the Post-Basic ENT Nursing Course. The course is being run by the School of Post-Basic ENT Nursing, National Ear Care Centre (NECC), Kaduna

#### COURSE DURATION: 1 Year

#### ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Candidates seeking for admission into the programme must:-

- Must be a Registered Nurse, with a minimum of two (2) years experience.
- Possess a minimum of five (5) O' level GCE or SSCE/NECO in Mathematics, English, Physics, Chemistry and Biology for those that graduate from 2005 upwards while those beyond will possess five (5) Credits in any subject including English and Science subject.
- Have correct Practicing Licence by the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria.
- Evidence of Experience in E.N.T Unit of a hospital is an advantage.

#### CONDITIONS FOR ADMISSION:

Selection of candidates will be based on academic qualifications and performance at an entrance examination and oral interview both of which will take place on 5<sup>th</sup> June, 2010 at the **SCHOOL OF POST-BASIC ENT NURSING**, within the School of Health Technology premises Tudun-Wada, Kaduna Opposite Main Campus of Kaduna Polytechnic at 9:00am.

#### METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Interested candidates are to obtain application forms from NECC, No. 3 Golf Course/Independence Way, Kaduna or Office of the Principal, School of Post-Basic ENT Nursing, T/Wada, Kaduna on payment of non-refundable sum of three thousand five hundred naira only (N3,500.00) by cash or bank-draft in favour of "National Ear Care Centre, Kaduna." Completed application forms together with copies of credentials should returned to: **THE MEDICAL DIRECTOR, NATIONAL EAR CARE CENTRE, NO. 3 GOLF COURSE/INDEPENDENCE WAY, P.M.B 2438, KADUNA OR THE PRINCIPAL, SHOO OF POST-BASIC ENT NURSING, SCHOOL OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY COMPLEX OPPOSITE MAIN CAMPUS OF KADUNA POLYTECHNIC T/WADA, KADUNA.**

Please note that. Only those who are successful in the entrance Examination/Interview and present evidence of sponsorship and or release from their respective instructions will be considered for admission.

For further Inquiries: - Tel 062-210811 - 2, 415540 Fax: 062-211639 GSM: 08032101698, 08036025974, 08036063930, 08054948588

Signed:  
M.A Bonat  
For: Medical Director



Nigeria

## INTERNAL/EXTERNAL

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT Nigeria

The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNDP/UNAIDS) invites applications from qualified Nigerians for the following UNAIDS positions:

**Post Title:** Administrative / Programme Clerk  
**Level of post:** G4  
**Type of contract:** Fixed Term Appointment  
**Location:** Abuja  
**Duration:** One Year (with possibility of renewal)  
**Closing date:** 30 March 2010

**Post Title:** Driver  
**Level of post:** G2  
**Type of contract:** Fixed Term Appointment  
**Location:** Abuja  
**Duration:** One Year (with possibility of renewal)  
**Closing date:** 30 March 2010

For further details on the job description and application process, please visit [www.ng.undp.org](http://www.ng.undp.org) and submit applications.

UNAIDS, a smoke-free environment, is an equal opportunity employer.

Qualified women are encouraged to apply.  
Only short listed candidates will be contacted.



**NIGERIAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION**

NNPC Towers, Herbert Macaulay Way, Central Business District,  
P.M.B. 190, Garki, Abuja - Nigeria.

## STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM ON GAS TO POWER

**Theme: Achieving Alignment For Delivering  
Gas To Power In Nigeria**

The management of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) invites all stakeholders in the Gas and Power sector of the economy to an all-important stakeholders forum holding as follows:

**Date: Monday, 22nd and Tuesday, 23rd March, 2010**

**Venue: Federal Palace Hotel, Lagos**

**Daily Session: 10.am Daily.**

This is a very important forum for stakeholders to gather and discuss practical solutions to Nigeria Gas to Power challenge.

Chief Executive of the underlisted companies must be present with their position papers.

**Nigerian Gas Company (NGC)**

**Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN)**

**Nigeria Electricity Regulations Commission**

**Nigeria Independent Power Project**

**NAPIMS**

**Gas and Power Division of NNPC**

**Exploration and Production Division, NNPC**

**Shell**

**Exxon Mobil**

**Chevron**

**Agip**

**Total**

**Addax**

**For enquiries, please contact**  
Office of the Group General Manager  
Group Public Affairs Division  
Block A, 1st floor  
NNPC Towers  
Central Business District, Abuja.

**Announcer: NNPC MANAGEMENT**





# NAFADA LOCAL GOVERNMENT

## GOMBE STATE OF NIGERIA

### APPRECIATION

On behalf of myself and the entire family of ALHAJI AHMADU NAFADA (BABA AGEGE), wish to express our profound appreciation and special thank to thousand of sympathizers who shared with us the moment of our grief by paying a condolence visit in person or through representation in Nafada and Kano, over the death of our Mother, Hajija Hajara Ahmed Nafada and eleven others following the 17th of February, 2010 fire disaster in Cheranci Dorayi Quarters, kano.

Special thanks to:-

1. His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Gombe State, Alh. Muhammadu Danjuma Goje (Sarkin Yakin Gombe)
2. His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Kano State, Alh. Ibrahim Shekarau.
3. The Deputy Speaker Federal House of Representative, Hon. Usman Bayero Nafada and members of his entourage.
4. The Deputy Governor of Gombe State, (Dr.) John Liazaru Yorjo (Dandarman Waja).
5. H.R.H Alh. (Dr.) Ado Bayero Emir of Kano.
6. First lady of Gombe State, Hajia Fatima Yelwa Goje and her entourage.
7. Her Excellency, the wife of the Deputy Governor of Gombe State.
8. All Senators from Gombe State.
9. Chief Justice of Gombe State and High Court Judges.
10. Grand Khadi of Gombe State and Hon. Khadis.
11. Hon. Members of House of Representatives representing Gombe State.
12. Dr. Ibrahim Jalo Daudu, Permanent Secretary, State House Abuja.
13. Speaker of Gombe State House of Assembly.
14. All Hon. Members Gombe State House of Assembly.
15. Member of Gombe State Executive Council.
16. Commissioner of Police Gombe State.
17. Director S.S.S, Gombe State.
18. ALGON National President, Hon. Dasuki Ibrahim Jalo.
19. Local Government Chairmen Gombe State.
20. Chairman of Tarmuwa Local Government Council, Yobe State.
21. Chairman of Darazo Local Government Council, Bauchi State.
22. Chairman of Misau Local Government Council, Bauchi State.
23. Chairman of Kumbotso Local Government Council, Kano State.
24. Chairman of Fika Local Government Council, Yobe State.
25. Chairman of Biu Local Government Council, Borno State
26. Special Advisers to the Executive Governor of Gombe State.
27. Senior Special Assistants to the Executive Governor of Gombe State.
28. PDP National Publicity Secretary, Professor Ahmed Rufa' Alkali
29. PDP Chairman, Gombe State, Mr. Jack G. Gumpy and other PDP Executives.
30. Personal Assistants to the Executive Governor of Gombe State.
31. Chief of Staff Government House Gombe.
32. Chairman and Members of Civil Service Commission, Gombe State.
33. Chairman and Members House of Assembly Service Commission, Gombe State.
34. Chairman and Members of Judicial Service Commission, Gombe State.
35. Chairman and Members of State Independent Electoral Commission, Gombe State.
36. Chairman and Members of Local Government Service Commission, Gombe State.
37. FOMWAN, Gombe State Chapter.
38. PDP Women Wing, Gombe State Chapter.
39. Nigerian Prison Service, Gombe State Command.
40. Jama'atul Izalatil Bid'a Wa'ikamatis Sunnah, Gombe State.
41. Jama'atul Nasirul Islam, Gombe State.
42. Nigerian Union of Journalists (NUJ), Gombe State Chapter.
43. H.R.H. The Emir of Gombe.
44. H.R.H. The Emir of Fika.
45. H.R.H. The Emir of Jajere.
46. H.R.H. The Emir of Kaltungo.
47. H.R.H. The Emir of Deba.
48. H.R.H. The Emir of Tangale.
49. H.R.H. The Emir of Pindiga.
50. H.R.H. The Emir of Akko.
51. H.R.H. The Emir of Funakaye.
52. H.R.H. The Emir of Dukku.
53. H.R.H. The Emir of Shani.
54. Senior District Head of Gombe.
55. Senior District Head of Kwami.
56. Dr. Kabir Usman Kobo, DG, Centre for Management Development.
57. Managing Director, Ashaka Cement PLC, Engineer Dagash.
58. Registrar of Gombe State University, Alh. Aliyu Kamara.
59. AIG Abdulmumini (rtd).
60. ACP Alh. Usman Faroq (rtd) and former Governor North Western Nigeria.
61. Alh. Yerima Abdullahi (Sarkin Bai Gombe).
62. Barr. Joshua Lidani.
63. Alh. Murtala Aliyu.
64. Dr. Abubakar Ali Gombe
65. Alh. Abubakar Usman Faroq, MD Abuja Market Management Ltd.
66. Barrister Abdulmumini Khalid Min. of Justice Abuja.
67. Alh. Ahmadu Shafi'i Agege.
68. Alh. Ajiya Waziri.
69. Alh. Barde Gadaka.
70. Alh. Idrisa Madaki, Danmamin Nafada & Dallatun Fika.
71. Alh. Muhammed Sayoji.
72. Ambassador Sa'idu Moh'd Faw.
73. Senator Umar Usman Dukku (UU. DUKKU).
74. Barrister Bakura Ba'abba Potiskum.
75. Provost FCE (T) Gombe, Engineer Mamman Gero.
76. Alh. Shehu Baba Manu (Sarkin Yamman Gombe).
77. Alh. Haruna Jalo Waziri, MD UBA Stocks.
78. Alh. Magaji Dan Inna Lagos.
79. Alh. Mustapha Ahmed (Shuggy) Kaduna.
80. Alh. Abdul-Hadi Bala Lagos.
81. Alh. Muktar Miko Lagos.
82. Alh. Lawan Kabir (The Law) Lagos.
83. Alh. Bashiru Musa Amma Lagos.
84. Alh. Abdulmumini Ibrahim Bagobiri Lagos.
85. Alh. Sharu Yusuf Ahlan Kano.
86. Alh. Danjuma Yakubu Lagos.
87. Alh. Garba Papa Lagos.
88. Alh. Auwal Comrade Lagos.
89. Sharif Isma'il Abdulmajid Lagos.
90. Alh. Auwal Muhammed Mahmud Lagos.
91. Alh. Salisu Garba Bagobiri Lagos.
92. Ghali Ahmed Ashana Kano.
93. Alh. Salisu Bala Kano.
94. Alh. Yakudima Alhassan Kano.
95. Alh. Danjuma Baba Maryam Jos and his family.
96. Alh. Audu Hamma Sale HAMSAL.
97. Alh. Abdulaziz Bola.
98. Alh. Husain Adamu Kano.
99. Muhammed Bunu Ahmed.
100. Alh. Yusuf Lamuwa, Ashaka Cement PLC.
101. Dr. Abdullahi, Marketing Manager, Ashaka Cement PLC.
102. Alh. Abubakar Inuwa Kari.
103. Alh. Hamidu Yagede.
104. Alh. Sarki Kwairaga (Sarkin Fulanin Gombe), MD FINMAL FINANCES.
105. MOPOL Commander, Gombe State, SP Mu'awiya Hallu.
106. Alh. Adamu Danjarida and Members of PDP Elders, Gombe State.
107. Director School of Aviation, Zaria, Dr. Ibrahim Chikolo.
108. Alh. Salisu B. Alkali, Chairman Gombe State Revenue Board.
109. Alh. Abubakar El-Nafaty.
110. Dr. Abubakar Bappah Muhammad.
111. Professor Yahya Shehu
112. Professor Usman Aliyu Nafada.
113. Alh. Yahya Arabi.
114. Malam Yero Bello.
115. Alh. Bello Yero El-Nafaty.
116. Alh. Aji Ibrahim Muktar Kano IBM.
117. Alh. Ali Sharu Bajoga.
118. Alh. Garba Zagada -Zagada.
119. P.D.P State Committee Gombe.
120. Former Deputy Speaker GMHA and Entourage, Alh. Abubakar Kunuwal.
121. Group Head, Guarantee Trust Bank, Kano.
122. Alh. Haruna Musa.
123. Alh. Usman Jika, Group Head, GTB Maiduguri.
124. Alh. Musa Abba Bajoga, GTB Abuja.
125. Staff of GTB Gombe.
126. Mr. Bolaji Shen Jobi, Divisional Head, G.T.B Kano
127. Alh. Manu Isa Nafada.
128. Alh. Hammama Bajoga.
129. Alh. Abubakar Jibirin (Dangusau).
130. Alh. Musa Abubakar, Chairman, Gombe State Printing and Minting Company.
131. Alh. Aliyu Ubandoma El-Nafaty, Chairman State Universal Basic Education, Gombe State.
132. Nafada Community in Maiduguri
133. Nafada Community in Gombe.
134. Nafada Community in Bauchi.
135. Nafada Community in Kano.
136. Nafada Community in Lagos.
137. Nafada Community in Kaduna.
138. Sheikh Ahmed Sulaiman Ibrahim.
139. Nigeria Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE), Gombe State Chapter.

And all others who time and space could not permit me to mention.  
Thank you and God bless. ALLAH Ya saka da alheri Ya bar zumunci, amin.

Signed

**Hon. Umar Ahmed Sulaiman**

(Baraden Nafada)

Executive Chairman, Nafada Local Government Council.  
For the Family.

# BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

## Stock market grows by 16 per cent

THE Nigerian capital market recorded a high return of 16 per cent to investors last week, according to an assessment by a stockbroking firm, Meristem Securities.

A copy of the report made available to the *News Agency of Nigeria* (NAN) yesterday in Lagos showed that returns were driven mainly by four key sub-sectors.

The sub-sectors are banking, cement, conglomerates and food, beverages and tobacco.

The report said the banking sub-sector yielded 13 per cent; cement, 19 per cent; conglomerates, 17 per cent, while food/beverages and tobacco sub-sector returned 16 per cent.

A further breakdown of the activities showed that the four sub-sectors along with the breweries controlled about 78 per cent of the market character during the period under review.

But some market watchers said the high returns might have been provoked by the International Finance Corporation's proposal to invest N75 billion in some troubled banks in Nigeria.

They also said that the passage of the Assets Management Company (AMC) bill contributed to last week's capital market growth.

They, however, said they were about the sustainability of the trend.

Overall, 2.2 billion shares worth N16.95 billion were traded in 33,955 deals last week.

This was against 1.74 billion shares valued at N14.5 billion exchanged in 34,014 deals the preceding week.

The banking sub-sector was the most active during the week under review with 1.21 billion shares worth N12.1 billion traded in 17,707 deals.

The volume in the banking sub-sector was largely driven by investors' interest in Diamond Bank, Zenith Bank, UBA and First Bank of Nigeria shares.

The volume of shares bought by investors amounted to 554.23 million shares or 45.73 per cent of the sub-sector's turnover.

The insurance sub-sector, boosted by investors' interest in the shares of African Alliance Insurance Company Plc and Staco Insurance Plc, followed with 479.92 million shares valued at N349.7 million in 2,555 deals.



DG, NSE Ndi Okereke Onyiuke

The NSE All-Share Index appreciated by 5.3 per cent to close on Friday at 24,141.72 points when compared with the opening index of 20,827.17 points.

The market capitalisation of the 198 first-tier equities closed higher at N5.81 trillion.

The NSE-30 Index grew by 5.4 per cent to close at 969.40 points.

The NSE Food/Beverages Index also rose by 3.2 per cent to close at 654.61 points while the NSE Banking Index appreciated by 7.7 per cent to end at 407.88 points.

The Insurance Index grew by 0.1 per cent

to close at 194.05 points while the NSE Oil/Gas Index depreciated by 0.1 per cent to close at 303.02 points.

Mobil Oil Nigeria Plc led the gainers' table with N9.53 to close at N102.53 per share while Benue Cement Company Plc followed with N8.72 to close at N58.77 per share.

On the other hand, Oando Plc led the price losers' chart with N9.15 to close at N84.84 per share while Alumaco Plc followed with a loss of N2.92 to close at N12.88 per share.

### BRIEF

## Nigeria gets electricity panel

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

A Stakeholders Advisory Panel to review the nation's electricity market rule has been inaugurated by the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC). The Commission's Administrator, Imamuddeen Talba, said at the weekend that the panel will also undertake the responsibility of proposing for approval, key amendments to the prevailing market regulations on an ongoing basis, as well as provide the NERC with policy level advice on specific technical issues in the Market Operator Administered Market. "One of the most important goals of the ongoing power sector reform is to promote competition among players, with the aim of meeting the growing demand for electricity through the full liberalization of the electricity market", Talba said.

He disclosed that the panel would operate from the commission's headquarters, as stipulated in the approved rules for the emerging electricity market, adding that it would consult with the commission in addressing circumstances that are not covered in the market rules. The constitution of the panel, according to the Administrator, was about the last of the conditions required for the emerging electricity market to attain transitional stage, adding that the NERC recently organised a workshop on the draft transmission network agreements (TNA) that would guide relationships between the Transmission Company, system operators and users of the network.

### Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$41.5bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$4.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$81 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2, 200MW
Oil output per day	→ 2.5mbd
Broad Money Supply	→ N10,796,734.5m
Credit to Private Sector	→ N10,018,035.3m
Inter-Bank Rate	→ 1.1600%
Treasury Bills	→ 2.02%
Deposit Rate	→ 12.28%
Prime Lending Rate	→ 18.38%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES				BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES	
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)		
CFA	0.2855	0.2955	0.3055	BUYING	
DANISH KRONER	27.0079	27.0997	27.1914	DOLLAR.....	N151
EURO	201.0552	201.7379	202.4206	EURO.....	N204
POUNDS STERLING	221.4198	222.1717	222.9235	POUNDS.....	N232
RIYAL	39.2667	39.4	39.5333	SELLING	
SDR	225.3514	226.1166	226.8818	DOLLAR.....	N152
SWISS FRANC	137.5782	138.0454	138.5126	EURO.....	N207
US DOLLAR	147.25	147.75	148.25	POUNDS.....	N235
WAUA	224.3258	225.0875	225.8492	Source: S&J Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.	
YEN	1.6233	1.6288	1.6343		

Stock Market Index	
Date :	Monday, March 15, 2010
Index :	24,141.72
Deals :	6,927
Volume :	422,164,964
Value :	N 3,551,488,780.28
Cap. :	N 5,813,870,476,319.21

## Business

## World's richest women

WORLD'S richest women are not self made. Most of these women inherited their fortunes.



**1. Christy Walton & family**  
**\$22.5 billion**  
Walmart. U.S.

The widow of Wal-Mart scion John Walton, who died in plane crash in 2005, is now the world's richest woman. Christy's fortune is enduring the worldwide recession; Wal-Mart shares are down 14% since last August, but up 7% from their March lows. Also owns a stake in solar power outfit First Solar; late husband John was an early investor in alternative energy company. First Solar shares tumbled 60% between August and March, but have climbed back nearly 70% since.



**2. Alice Walton**  
**\$20.6 billion**  
Walmart. U.S.

Alice Walton is the daughter of the late Helen Walton and the late Wal-Mart founder Sam Walton. Born in 1949, the youngest of four children, she spent her childhood in Bentonville, Arkansas.

Ms. Walton graduated from Trinity College, in San Antonio, Texas, with a B.A. in Economics and Finance. She began her career in finance as an equity analyst and money manager for First Commerce Corporation; and later served as Vice Chairman and head of all investment-related activities at the Arvest Bank Group.

In 1988, Ms. Walton founded Llama Company, an investment bank engaged in corporate finance, public and structured finance, real estate finance and sales and trading. She served as President, Chairman and CEO.

She was the first chairperson and driving force behind the Northwest Arkansas Council. This community development organization played a major role in securing the development of the Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport.

Ms. Walton arranged for, and provided, the initial seed capital to finance the construction of the airport. Her involvement was instrumental in the creation of the airport, and in recognition of her contribution to the airport project and her support of

transportation improvements throughout the region, the Airport Authority Board of Directors named the airport terminal the Alice L. Walton Terminal Building. In 2001, Ms. Walton was inducted into the Arkansas Aviation Hall of Fame.



**3. Liliane Bettencourt**  
**\$20 billion**  
L'Oreal. France

Makeup heiress' fortune rebounding with L'Oreal shares. Company, founded by her father, celebrated its 100th birthday in 2009. Last year only daughter and heir, Francoise Bettencourt-Meyers, petitioned courts to investigate reported \$1.4 billion worth of cash and gifts her mother allegedly gave to Francois-Marie Banier, 61, a well-known photographer, writer and painter whom she befriended. Daughter claims Banier took advantage of her mother, who became a widow in 2007. Liliane denies it; has been ordered to undergo psychological testing before July trial. Mother and daughter apparently no longer speak.



**4. Birgit Rausing & family**  
**\$13 billion**  
Packaging. Sweden

After death of her husband Gad Rausing in 2000, with her three children, inherited packaging giant Tetra Laval. In 1944 her father-in-law founded the company, which revolutionized the packaging of liquids such as juices and milk. Today sales are \$15.3 billion. All other children sit on Tetra Laval's board; son Jorn is head of mergers and acquisitions. Son Finn is chairman of the board of the Swedish R.R. Institute of Applied Economics. Daughter Kirsten is a horse breeder in the U.K. Birgit lives quietly in Switzerland.

**5. Savitri Jindal**  
**\$12.2 billion**  
Steel and power. India

Nonexecutive chair of the O.P. Jindal Group, a steel and power conglomerate founded by her late husband, Om Prakash Jindal, in 1952. Took over group after he died in a helicopter crash in 2005. In his lifetime, patriarch had handed down opera-



tions to their four sons, Prithviraj, Sajjan, Ratan and Naveen, who today run their independent units. Net worth up \$9.5 billion in past year, mainly due to Naveen's Jindal Steel & Power whose market capitalization soared more than threefold in 2009. Sajjan took his JSW Energy public, raising \$830 million; his JSW Steel forged an alliance with Japan's JFE Steel. Savitri won the elections in Haryana, her home state, last November.



**6. Abigail Johnson**  
**\$11.5 billion**  
Fidelity. U.S.

With father controls Fidelity Investments, America's largest mutual fund company. Firm also boasts large brokerage business, insurance outfit. Father Ned joined his father's company as analyst 1957, president 15 years later. Abby ran her first diversified fund 1993. Ned trimmed ownership 1995, Abby inherited 24% stake; rumored to have sold some shares back to family members years later. Ownership a mystery; family owns 49% of Fidelity, but size of individual stakes unknown. Abby runs personal and workplace investing division; believed by some to be father's chosen successor.



**7. Susanne Klatten**  
**\$11.1 billion**  
BMW. Germany

Inherited stake in automaker BMW from late father, Herbert Quandt, who rescued it from bankruptcy decades ago. A

trained economist with an MBA also inherited a 50% stake in chemical manufacturer Altana; sits on board. Since February controls over 95% of Altana; has made squeeze out request for remaining shares and plans to delist the firm. Also holds 22% of wind power outfit Nordex AG; 22% of carbon and graphite producer SGL; and 29% of Geohumus, a company that is developing a water storing granulate to be used in agriculture. Has won a civil case against Helg Sgarbi, the ex-lover who tried to blackmail her for millions in a salacious scandal last year. Sgarbi is in jail.

**8. Iris Fontbona & family**  
**\$11 billion**  
Copper. Chile

Second wife, and now widow, of billionaire Andronico Luksic, who died of cancer in 2005. Family controls Antofagasta, one of the world's largest copper miners. Company's shares have jumped 80% in a year. Also holds shares in Quinenco, a consumer packaging and beverage maker, and Plava Laguna, a chain of Croatian beach resorts. Son Jean Paul serves as chairman of Antofagasta.

**9. Jacqueline Mars**  
**\$11 billion**  
Candy. U.S.

Cash-strapped consumers still have appetite for the Mars family's nearly recession-proof products: chocolate (Snickers, M&Ms), pet food (Pedigree). Created world's largest confectionery company by acquiring gum maker Wrigley last year for \$23 billion. Combined sales now exceed \$30 billion; much of the deal paid for with debt. Grandfather Frank Mars began making chocolates in 1911 in his kitchen in Tacoma, Wash. Father, Forrest Sr., invented M&Ms, then introduced malt-flavored nougat, the foundation of famous candy bar line that includes Milky Way, Snickers, 3 Musketeers. Third generation inherited company when dad died in 1999.



**10. Anne Cox Chambers**  
**\$10 billion**  
CABLE and media. U.S.

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Business

# Dangote's sack by court won't affect market – Stockbrokers

From kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

A cross session of stockbrokers said yesterday that the Federal High Court order on the Nigerian stock Exchange (NSE) President, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, would not have any negative effect on the stock market.

The court in Lagos on Friday nullified Dangote's election as the NSE president as well as the election that brought him and his council to office.

Although the counsel to Alhaji Dangote Fola Sowemimo & Co, said they have appealed for stay of execution, there was apprehension in the market yesterday that the court order would adversely affect the market.

But some stockbrokers who spoke to Daily Trust said it would not affect the market since Dangote's lawyers have appealed against it.

According to Alhaji Raji Yussuff, Chairman Association of stock broking House of Nigeria, since Dangote has appealed against the court ruling, it should not affect the market too negatively.

Another stockbroker, Frank Ogamien of Partfinders securities said the court ruling would not have effect on the market.

"I think the NSE and SEC created problem for Dangote by swearing him in as the 17th President of NSE. However, with the court ruling, Dangote should rather negotiate with the aggrieved shareholders of African Petroleum who have taken him to court"

He said there would not be negative impact on the market adding that what the court ruling has taught the sector was that the NSE and SEC should be more transparent and always listen to their shareholders.

Also, Dele Odusanya of Quantum Securities Limited told Daily Trust that the implication would not be felt, adding that the market is not yet mature enough that any little threat in the market would have impact on the market.

"Our market is not ripe to such threat. Rather than the market going down, it went up on Monday with market capitalisation risen to N5.87 trillion while All

share Index also up to 24,380.09 points", he said

Dangote, the president and founder of Dangote group, was elected the NSE's 17th President on August 6, 2009. Until his appointment, Dangote was the first vice president of the exchange. He joined the council of the exchange

in February 2008 as the chairman of Kaduna/Kano/Yola council. Dangote succeeded Oba Otudeko who had presided over the stock exchange for a period of three years.

Independent shareholders Association of Nigeria (ISAN) had rejected his election

The group through its general secretary, Adebayo Adeleke described the election as a contempt of court.

The Federal High Court, Lagos on August 11 ordered the NSE council to "maintain the status quo", on account of a petition from some

shareholders of Africa Petroleum Plc (AP). The National Co-ordinator of ISAN, Sir Sunny Nwosu, explained that the relief which its members were seeking was not to stop the elections.

His words: "What we are saying is that a council member of the NSE who

was manifestly involved in the share price scam of AP should not be presented for the election. And that prayer was expressly granted by the court when it ruled that the status quo should be maintained, until further hearing on the substantive suit by August 11, 2009.

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## Star Feature

# High-tension cables pray say make e

Recently, high-tension cables fell in Port Harcourt after a storm and resulted in many deaths. But in Abuja many people are still living beneath these dangerous cables.

By Nathaniel Jonah

FOR Austin Apobare, life as a newspaper vendor in Karu, a suburb of Abuja, is a means to an end, because proceeds from the trade puts food on his table and pays his bills.

The wooden shack which houses the newspapers is situated close to one of the power holding company of Nigeria's (PHCN) transformers. Directly opposite the wooden shack, is an array of tables on whose tops, various newspapers are displayed to attract readers' attention. The tables are also directly placed under the high tension cables which criss cross the city. Apparently unaware of the obvious disaster waiting to befall them, readers through the newspaper stand every evening to digest the contents of the papers. When asked about the dangers asso-

ciated with standing directly under the high tension cables to read the newspapers, one of the numerous readers who identified himself as Dan Imafidon causally explained "nothing will happen. The high tension wires do not portend any harm. They have been there all these years, and we have been reading our papers without any wahala," he said. Emeka Onuah, who sits on a stone less than five feet from the electric transformer to read his papers, also retorted "this transformer is meant to contain electric current which might be harmful. But I seriously doubt if it has any current, because people living in this area don't usually have light, so the transformer is useless," he said.

Also located under the high tension cables close to Austin's newspaper stand, is a swarm of

Okada riders scouting for passengers. When asked about the health implications of standing under the electric cables, Ibrahim Danladi who was too busy looking out for passengers to be concerned about the impending disaster, gave a terse reply: "nothing bad will happen by God's grace"

Emmanuel Odunfa, a computer engineer, who lives in a housing unit that is less than five meters away from the base of the high tension lines along Lagos street, Garki II told *Daily Trust* "Every day I wake up and look out of the window, I just can't imagine the consequence if one of these tension cables snaps... it will be a big tragedy because there are so many people living under the high tension wire. Majority of these people are unaware of the dangers of living so close to the high tension

cables. But even people like me who are aware of the dangers, still have no choice but to continue staying here, because there is no other place to go, especially with the accommodation problems in Abuja," he said.

Mohammed Aminu, whose house in Mararaba is located near the high tension cables that supply electricity to a nearby transformer, said "most nights, a loud noise emanates from the wires, as thousands of volts flow through them. At times, it's impossible to sleep. People shouldn't be living here. It's just dangerous and when it rains, you can't carry a metal object, or else you'll get a slight electrical shock from the tension wires up there." But despite the looming dangers, Aminu still lives in his one room apartment and has refused to relocate. "Where do you want me to go?" he asked rather rhetorically, "the accommodation problem here in this city is too bad for people to worry about such things. We just pray that nothing bad happens," he added.

But while claiming to be ignorant of the dangers associated with operating close to the high tension cables, a restaura-



IMAGINE the consequence if one of these cables snaps.

Majority of these people are unaware of the dangers of living so close to the high tension cables. But even people like me who are aware of the dangers, still have no choice but to continue staying here, because there is no other place to go, especially with the accommodation problems in Abuja," he said.

teur in Nyanya, also known as Madam Hilltop, explained that she has been operating her restaurant for more than five years under the 11KV power tension lines that pass directly over her shop, and claims she's unaware of any health hazard associated with them. According to her, "I no know wetin the thing dey cause, na only prayer we dey pray say make e no fall one day." (I don't know the health implications; we just pray that they don't fall one day.)

Also sharing madam Hill-

top's ignorance is Bola S yaolu, whose shop is sandwiched between two electric poles in Jikwoyi, another suburb of Abuja. According to her, "my shop has been here for a long time and nothing has happened. Even during the rainy season when we have heavy breeze and heavy rain fall, nothing has happened to us. So there is nothing to worry about," she said.

But the lack of affordable accommodation and inadequate housing provision for

# ables: 'We dey e no fall'



than 12 hours) results in small increases in leukemia, brain tumors, and benign cancer manifestations.

Also commenting on the dangers posed by the high tension cables, Inuwa Usman, a civil servant based in Abuja said "The age of overhead high-tension wires and cables has passed. In many countries today, electrical cables are neatly buried underground. Nigeria cannot be lagging behind, while other countries are reaping the benefits of the new technological age, and making great progress. So the government should embark on a complete overhaul of the nation's power lines," he said.

While intimating the public on the standard procedures to be followed in the erection of structures close to the power lines or high tension cables, Power Holding Company of Nigeria Plc, (PHCN) recently explained through advert placement in the dailies that "for the 11/33 KV lines, a clearance of 5.5 meters (20 feet) must be given on both sides of the line while for 132KV line,

a clearance of 12.5 meters (30 feet) must be given on both sides. For the 330KV lines, a clearance of 50 meters must be observed before any construction (that is 25 meters or 60 feet) on each side. It further warned residents to avoid building, selling or loading vehicles under the power lines, as such actions might directly jeopardize the lives of the people involved.

But whether the warnings by PHCN would be adhered to or not still remains unclear, as shops and residential houses continue to spring up under the high tension cables.

While commenting on the feasibility of the PHCN advice, Paul Okoro, a lawyer based in Abuja said "it is not just enough for the PHCN to issue warnings to people, a task force should be set up to monitor compliance with the regulations, and stiff penalties should be given to defaulters. Nigerians are very obstinate people, and events in the past have shown that we don't place any emphasis on our safety."

“At times, it's impossible to sleep. People shouldn't be living here. It's just dangerous and when it rains, you can't carry a metal object, or else you'll get a slight electrical shock from the tension wires up there.”

fast expanding population in the nation's capital city, has pushed many residents into constructing shops and homes under overhead high tension power lines. These usually pose serious environmental and social challenges.

Only recently in Port Harcourt, tragedy struck when high-tension electrical cables belonging to Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) snapped and fell on commercial buses at the Zoological Garden by Trans-Amadi Industrial Layout, Port-Harcourt, and killed about 40 commuters and passers-by. The commercial buses were fully-loaded with passengers when the PHCN cables fell on them, and killed the passengers. It was also reported

that the tragedy occurred after a thunderstorm caused by a heavy downpour which lasted for nearly six hours. Some of the dead were children. Some were said to have stepped onto the live cables that fell across the drenched roads, and were instantly electrocuted.

Living under the high tension cables has been strongly condemned in countries around the world. Apart from the basic threat of electrocution that it poses

to human lives, there are also various health issues attributable to it.

Dr. Abba Yusuf, a medical doctor with a private hospital in Abuja, explained to *Daily Trust* that because of the high voltage that travels through the tension cables, an electromagnetic force is generated, and various studies conducted on its associated effect on the human health, show that occupational exposure (less



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A wonderful world

## Business/Interview

## Agric: What Nigeria can learn from Egypt - Minister

By Aisha Umar

**H**OW can you assess agriculture in African countries?

We are totally convinced that the 21st century is the African century and we know that what is going to move and change African countries is a revolution in agriculture. We have a similarity between all African countries even if they are in different stages of development, but the core is that they depend on agriculture as the largest employer and as one of the largest participant in GDP. So if you move this from traditional agriculture to modern agriculture you are going to give a huge push to the whole economy of Africa and you are going to remove a lot of people from poverty.

**H**ow have you been able to use irrigation farming system to boost food production in Egypt?

Hundred percent of Egypt's agriculture is irrigation. We do not have rains, we do not have any other source except irrigation water and because of irrigation we achieve high yields. We have done a lot in scientific research and in improving the seeds and in improving the methods of agriculture and irrigation. So that's why we are achieving these results. We have very little arable lands. I heard from your agriculture minister that Nigeria has 79 million hectares of arable land which made me ashamed to tell him how little we have, your potential here is so huge. We are an agriculture of scarcity, you are an agriculture of plenty, so its normal when you have very scarce resources you tend to use them in a much more efficient way than when you have plenty of resources and I am sure in a couple of years when you increase in population you will move towards having much more efficient agriculture than what it is today.

**W**hat is the level of food production in Egypt?

Unfortunately we are not yet food sufficient. We are still net importers of food but we are self sufficient in certain crops. We have deficiency in grains especially wheat and corn, though we are self sufficient in rice with excess for export but we are major importers of wheat and corn. We think that with our policy of revisiting our irrigation systems and trying to increase their efficiency we will be able to reclaim new lands which will increase our yield volume.

Egyptian minister of agriculture Amin Abaza represented his president Hosni Mubarak at last week's High-Level Conference on the Development of Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa (HLCD-3D) held in Abuja. In this interview with newsmen after the conference, the minister spoke on the strength of Egypt and Nigeria in agriculture.



EGYPTIAN Minister of Agriculture Amin Abaza

**W**hat can we learn from Egypt in terms of Agriculture?

We have what we call the new lands that have been reclaimed. We have very modern technologies which are either drip irrigation or sprinklers, but in the old lands of our traditional agriculture we are using the flooding system and this, of course, is not sustainable. Our programme of changing the flood irrigation system into drip irrigation or the more sophisticated irrigation methods is going to take ten years from now. So by 2020, we would have finished.

This will save us water to reclaim another 2 or 3 million acres. We are spending around

50, 60 billion pounds which would be ten billion dollars or more. We have decided today that we should exchange experiences; we should exchange knowledge. We can help Nigeria in certain areas and Nigeria can help us in certain areas.

We have discovered that trade between the two countries is very little, yet you are producing a lot of what we are importing. So if you are producing this why shouldn't we import from Nigeria instead of importing from other countries which are first not Africans and second further away from Nigeria.

**E**gypt is to have the landmark that Nigeria has, what will you do with it?

Actually the resources here

are more than what we have. You have natural water and your population is all over the country, we have one million square kilometres and we are living on 4 per cent. Lagos is 20 million and Cairo is 20 million, but 20 million out of 140 is not like 20 out of 80. We think we have lots of similarities but you have more resources than we have.

**H**ow has your country been able to use agriculture to create employment for the people?

Traditionally agriculture has been the major employer. Now, the other sectors are developing quite fast and they are taking from agriculture so the percentage of employment rate in agriculture is diminishing.

But we are putting a lot of hope in developing our agribusiness and agro-industries to even take more out of agriculture into industries that are related to agriculture. And in the next ten years this would be a major trend in my country.

**I**n Nigeria, university graduates are not willing to take up jobs in the agricultural sector. How is it in Egypt?

We have the same problem as well. Graduates from schools don't like going into agriculture.

They want to do something else, but there is high level of unemployment, so people cannot always choose what they do. But sometimes they have to do what they find until they have the chance to do what they like. I think this is what we all face, so you will be surprised with the similarities that exist between us and other African countries.

**H**ow can agriculture be made attractive to school leavers?

The attraction lies in what they get, the salary and the payment they get, because agriculture is tasking and we have to train this people so that they can be able to get high salary.

**H**ow does government support the sector?

Our banking system is well developed and our infrastructure is well developed. We have market proximity because we are few hours away from the Europe by plane and few days

by the ship, we have agreement with many countries surrounding us Arabs, America and Europe.

**Y**ou noted that Nigeria has potentials in agriculture but we have all this but we have not been able to optimally use these resources to the advantage of our citizens...

Nigeria is one of the richest countries in the world because you have many resources and you are lucky because you are one of the few countries that have oil and water.

Usually those who have oil don't have water and those that have water don't have oil, so you have different resources.

**W**hat percentage does agriculture contribute to Egypt economy?

Agriculture contributes about 15 percent to our GDP.

**D**o you usually have complains of lack of financing as basic impediment to develop agriculture?

Yes, because bankers don't like giving loans for agricultural development. They think it is risky.

**Y**ou said Agric business and agro-business industries conference held last week will provide you opportunity to make concrete steps with Nigeria on how to improve trade relationship?

Yes, it was what we discussed with Nigeria minister of agriculture. I have invited him to Cairo and we will discuss deeply on how we can increase trade and how we can increase the exchange of information, and how we can improve training facilities that we have for Nigerians coming to Egypt, we are after the political will, which is there already.

**W**hat products will specifically form the core of this exchange?

For example you are an exporter of oil and we are huge importer of oil. We are exporter of cotton. Our meeting was just for 15 minutes. A lot of details were not discussed.

We have to make study about the situation in Nigeria and you have to make study of what we have in Egypt, so that both of us can understand more of each others' country and have a concrete plan on how to improve the sector.

**W**hat is the volume of trade between Nigeria and Egypt?

It is around \$70 to \$80 million, which is too low and a disgrace to both Egypt and Nigeria.

**“I heard from your agriculture minister that Nigeria has 79 million hectares of arable land which made me ashamed to tell him how little we have.**

## Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Monday, March 15, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	4	0.50	143,000	71,500.00
SMART PRODUCTS NIGERIA PLC	1	1.52	120	174.00
SECTOR TOTALS	5		143,120	71,674.00
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	32	0.94	2,793,700	2,683,628.00
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	25	0.77	746,168	560,210.26
THE OKOMU OIL PALM COY. PLC	2	21.62	3,000	61,620.00
PRESCO PLC	31	5.00	388,715	1,945,885.60
SECTOR TOTALS	90		3,931,583	5,251,343.86
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>				
AIRLINE SERVICES & LOGISTICS PLC	27	2.81	2,334,950	6,313,386.04
NIG AVIATION HANDLING COY. PLC	123	9.00	1,941,687	17,503,309.53
SECTOR TOTALS	150		4,276,637	23,816,695.57
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC	19	0.50	768,861	384,430.50
INCAR NIGERIA PLC	1	1.97	700	1,379.00
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	10	5.76	11,540	69,405.20
SECTOR TOTALS	30		781,101	455,214.70
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	246	9.99	30,214,567	296,220,044.58
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	26	2.59	1,805,691	4,676,739.69
DIAMOND BANK PLC	124	9.30	10,791,032	100,886,697.50
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	157	6.55	11,850,878	77,214,472.68
FIRST CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	57	9.54	3,701,771	34,895,387.11
FIDELITY BANK PLC	276	3.18	29,174,803	92,080,754.69
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	699	15.60	17,135,871	269,346,738.77
FINBANK PLC	75	0.75	7,905,662	5,922,640.24
GT BANK PLC	441	19.10	19,997,560	384,383,840.48
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	43	9.10	1,053,763	9,607,642.56
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	113	2.30	7,144,889	16,657,642.94
OCEANIC BANK INTERNATIONAL PLC	109	2.36	8,031,278	18,953,816.08
BANK PHB PLC	33	1.96	4,531,779	8,882,286.84
SKYE BANK PLC	215	7.91	17,567,715	137,222,480.36
SPRING BANK PLC	24	1.02	544,513	573,868.03
STERLING BANK PLC	82	2.04	10,235,898	20,696,237.44
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	274	14.00	19,944,700	280,634,995.32
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	183	6.70	4,688,414	30,592,396.43
UNITY BANK PLC	54	1.11	13,700,180	15,203,663.40
WEMA BANK PLC	41	1.19	1,610,526	1,903,013.50
ZENITH BANK PLC	422	17.83	37,664,461	664,666,007.60
SECTOR TOTALS	3,694		259,295,951	2,471,221,366.24
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	47	17.96	668,157	11,944,203.28
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	35	61.70	624,132	37,777,139.96
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	86	17.02	3,841,645	66,515,794.00
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	48	34.00	1,116,341	37,337,195.00
SECTOR TOTALS	216		6,250,275	153,574,456.74
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
AFRICAN PAINTS (NIG.) PLC	1	3.49	2,000	6,640.00
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	4	4.26	35,490	158,640.30
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	11	28.26	59,211	1,659,037.45
DN MEYER PLC	7	3.24	29,844	94,662.56
SECTOR TOTALS	23		126,545	1,918,980.31
<b>COMMERCIAL/SERVICES</b>				
AFROMEDIA PLC	8	0.51	868,000	442,680.00
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	1	0.50	50,000	25,000.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	12	2.70	208,314	562,890.94
SECTOR TOTALS	21		1,126,314	1,030,570.94
<b>COMPUTER &amp; OFFICE EQUIPMENT</b>				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	2	8.13	3,206	27,347.18
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	16	0.53	773,750	416,525.00
SECTOR TOTALS	18		776,956	443,872.18
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A.G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	6	3.00	160,933	477,849.00
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	9.28	299	2,637.18
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	35	28.00	474,534	13,290,134.67
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	2	8.71	680	5,630.40
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	44	0.54	1,504,684	823,165.55
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	60	45.50	628,640	28,653,842.35
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	151	26.90	5,607,267	149,119,054.59
SECTOR TOTALS	299		8,177,137	192,372,313.74
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	26	5.44	239,845	1,302,642.35
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	13	28.90	124,400	3,454,995.50
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	3	0.50	10,400	5,200.00
SECTOR TOTALS	42		374,645	4,762,837.85
<b>ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY</b>				
CUTIX PLC	1	2.97	43,790	126,991.00
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC	3	0.68	130,000	88,400.00
SECTOR TOTALS	4		173,790	215,391.00
<b>FOOD/BEVERAGES &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	4	30.60	25,112	806,848.56
BIG TREAT PLC	26	0.85	756,000	626,510.00
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	122	19.00	3,320,980	59,590,401.54
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	267	15.34	7,878,268	120,037,296.39
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	104	16.71	4,079,318	69,401,696.09
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	64	48.31	871,760	41,856,908.50
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	20	8.62	179,500	1,553,920.00
P.S. MANDRIDES PLC	10	5.66	69,420	401,317.60
NATIONAL SALT COY. NIG. PLC	75	6.58	1,920,401	12,824,662.77
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY. PLC	14	26.50	51,964	1,380,045.25
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	32	270.00	67,737	18,796,619.11

## GAINERS

BCC	2.93
FLOURMILL	2.30
GLAXOSMITH	1.36
JBERGER	0.95

NORTHERN NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	8	24.15	102,000	2,584,505.01
TANTALIZERS PLC	17	0.93	2,141,540	1,971,916.80
UTC NIGERIA PLC	7	0.72	26,824	19,481.52
SECTOR TOTALS	770		21,490,824	331,852,129.14
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	15	1.02	314,500	319,272.74
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	25	2.53	649,136	1,646,317.04
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	14	28.66	459,117	13,075,286.00
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	16	5.05	77,720	392,610.70
NEIMETH INTER. PHARM. PLC	5	1.37	114,178	158,653.52
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	18	0.65	1,612,000	998,650.00
SECTOR TOTALS	93		3,226,651	16,590,790.00
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	7	3.52	350,550	1,234,035.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	21	1.43	306,470	438,911.55
SECTOR TOTALS	28		657,020	1,672,946.55
<b>INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS</b>				
ALUMACO PLC	1	12.24	50,001	612,012.24
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	10	10.37	114,000	1,133,980.00
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIGERIA PLC	1	0.50	9,000	4,500.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	23	5.05	427,861	2,145,081.24
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	3	0.60	101,604	60,962.40
SECTOR TOTALS	38		702,466	3,956,535.88
<b>INFORMATION &amp; COMM. TECH.</b>				
CHAMS PLC	15	0.70	332,718	235,744.60
IHS NIGERIA PLC	1	4.23	50,000	211,500.00
MASSTELECOM INNOVATION NIG. PLC	2	0.50	200,100	100,050.00
STARCOMMS PLC	31	2.11	4,553,601	9,605,785.11
SECTOR TOTALS	49		5,136,419	10,153,079.71
<b>INSURANCE</b>				
AICO INSURANCE PLC	57	1.03	9,362,100	9,903,420.09
CONTINENTAL REINSURANCE PLC	16	0.95	3,131,855	2,973,348.96
CORNERSTONE INSURANCE CO. PLC	23	0.50	4,197,187	2,121,848.52
CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSURANCE PLC	46	3.33	2,869,195	9,345,912.90
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	57,500	28,750.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	20	0.56	4,104,430	2,204,419.75
GUARANTY TRUST ASSURANCE PLC	20	2.35	3,363,149	7,908,879.67
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	3	0.50	1,035,000	517,500.00
INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC	41	0.51	7,663,124	3,924,058.20
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	36	0.51	1,745,422	877,688.42
LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC	7	0.50	2,521,200	1,260,810.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	6	0.64	137,853	88,225.92
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC	22	0.54	1,186,379	610,757.29
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	13	0.72	1,845,621	1,261,654.70
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	29	2.82	605,400	1,724,169.65
REGENCY ALLIANCE INSUR. COY. PLC	1	0.50	12,500,000	6,250,000.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSUR. PLC	2	0.50	27,651	13,825.50
STACO INSURANCE PLC	3	0.70	309,500	216,650.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	36	0.50	5,988,000	3,002,367.38
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	18	0.73	1,257,115	864,480.75
UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	4	0.76	402,000	305,520.00
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INSUR. PLC	5	0.87	396,389	345,958.43
SECTOR TOTALS	409		64,706,070	55,750,246.13
<b>LEASING</b>				
C&I LEASING PLC	21	3.00	1,196,350	3,566,947.00
SECTOR TOTALS	21		1,196,350	3,566,947.00
<b>MARITIME</b>				
JAPAOIL & MARITIME SERV. PLC	119	1.25	7,589,711	9,758,424.04
SECTOR TOTALS	119		7,589,711	9,758,424.04
<b>MEDIA</b>				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	18	0.74	241,069	176,410.37
SECTOR TOTALS	18		241,069	176,410.37
<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>				
ABBEY BUILDING SOCIETY PLC	2	1.61	1,360,500	2,190,365.00
ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	39	0.66	14,430,536	8,982,403.41
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	3	0.50	52,000	26,000.00
UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	33	0.89	2,430,820	2,189,059.32
SECTOR TOTALS	77		18,273,856	13,387,827.73
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INST.</b>				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	11	0.90	1,968,000	1,754,960.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	12	0.59	611,017	338,059.35
SECTOR TOTALS	23		2,579,017	2,093,019.35
<b>PACKAGING</b>				
NIG. BAG MANUFACTURING COY. PLC	178	2.61	4,954,627	12,787,838.74
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	16	12.35	218,426	2,717,205.30
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	1	6.99	10,000	66,500.00
SECTOR TOTALS	195		5,183,053	15,571,544.04
<b>PETROLEUM (MARKETING)</b>				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	83	44.00	721,716	31,937,380.97
BECO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	9	1.99	65,300	124,070.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	3	69.79	8,261	605,283.47
SECTOR TOTALS	95		795,277	32,666,734.44
<b>RETAIL</b>				
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	46	7.00	568,705	3,959,284.25
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	8	102.53	4,364	442,294.90
SECTOR TOTALS	54		573,069	4,401,579.15
<b>RETAIL</b>				
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	12	142.50	17,135	2,563,738.70
SECTOR TOTALS	232		1,762,541	69,020,055.29
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>				
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	21	6.18	515,448	3,019,716.62
SECTOR TOTALS	21		515,448	3,019,716.62
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>				
UACN PROPERTY DEV. CO. PLC	12	20.00	13,749	275,544.80
SECTOR TOTALS	12		13,749	275,544.80
OVERALL TOTALS	6,927		422,164,964	3,551,488,780.28

## LOSERS

OANDO	4.24
AP	1.26
FIRSTBANK	0.80
BETAGLAS	0.65

What is a Yield to Maturity? This is the rate of return anticipated on

# DIGEST

## Teenagers given sleep lessons to make them less grumpy in school

TEENAGERS are being given sleep lessons in an attempt to make them less grumpy and uncommunicative in school.

The sessions aim to teach pupils tips such as the importance of avoiding late-night television, keeping to a bedtime routine and sleeping for at least nine hours every night.

Experts say teenagers who seem grumpy and taciturn may actually be sleep deprived because they often go to bed after midnight and some get as little as four hours sleep a night.

Researchers said that even after going to bed after 11pm, teenagers were spending hours watching television, playing on games consoles or browsing the internet.

But Sleep Scotland, the charity running the lessons, says getting enough sleep would improve their academic and sporting performance.

Sleep deprivation is linked to obesity and a greater risk of depression, the charity says.

Jane Ansell, the director, said: "You wouldn't send somebody to school without having the right amount of food, so why would you send them without enough sleep?"

The sleep lessons are currently being taught in schools across Glasgow and the charity plans to use the pilot to develop a pack that could then be offered to schools across Scotland.

One 15-year-old who has attended the first of a series of sessions said he had tried going to bed early as a result.

"I went to my bed at 10-ish rather than 11, and I do feel a little bit more awake," he said.

"I wasn't sleeping in French, as I usually do so my French teacher is pleased anyway."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk



## Having children is good for you...

HAVING children is good for your health - as long as you stop at two.

A study of more than 1.5 million men and women found that becoming a parent has a clear effect on the chances of developing conditions from cancer and heart disease to becoming an alcoholic or dying in a car crash.

But the relationship is not straightforward - it depends on the number of children a couple have.

Too few or none at all, and they are at increased risk of dying from almost all of the conditions studied, perhaps because they lack the extra motivation to look after their health.

But too many, and they struggle to cope with the financial and

emotional stress of bringing up a large family.

Having two children, however, is just right, the journal *Social Science & Medicine* reports.

The researchers studied records of Norwegian men and women born between 1935 and 1968 for information on births and deaths.

Worst off were those who were childless, or had only one child.

They were at increased risk of dying from almost every illness or problem studied, with alcohol abuse proving particularly problematic.

Accidents and heart and circulatory disease were prominent in the women, and lung and res-

piratory problems common in the men.

This may be because they did not feel as great a need to take care of their health as those with bigger families. But large families have problems too.

The analysis, by British and Norwegian researchers, showed that having four or more children raised the risk of cervical cancer in women and of violent deaths and fatal accidents in men.

Researcher Emily Grundy, of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, said: "Four-plus children might have adverse effects arising from stress, socioeconomic disadvantages and lifestyles, off-setting, or even outweighing, social benefits of parenthood."

However, having lots of babies was found to cut a woman's odds of breast cancer.

This was to be expected, as the physiological changes associated with pregnancy and breastfeeding are known to help ward off the disease.

Three children brought a mixture of good and bad health, while parents of two fared the best - perhaps because the number provides the right balance of stress and support.

But, when it comes to simple happiness, three may be the magic number.

In recent research, 90,000 British mothers and fathers were quizzed about their circumstances and how happy they were with their lot in life.

This showed that marriages become happier with the arrival of a baby - with three children bringing the most joy.

However, children only brought happiness to couples who were married. If a pair were simply living together, the birth of a child tended to bring discontent, the Glasgow University study found.

Researcher Luis Angeles said this may be because the commitment of marriage brings with it the readiness to have children. Or, that parenthood brings the most benefits when 'conditions were right'.

Dr Angeles' analysis also revealed that a married couple's happiness increases with the birth of each child, up to the third. With child number four, levels of satisfaction start to dip.

### Call for Expression of Interest as an Implementing Partner(IP)

A private, non-profit making, non-partisan, Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) is in the process of negotiating a malaria grant from an international funding agency. The grant will be implemented in at least 3 states of the federation and it involves procurement and distribution of malaria commodities (Long lasting Insecticide Nets, Rapid Diagnostic Tests and ACTS), training of health workers, Behavioural Change Communication, Monitoring & Evaluation and Health System Strengthening.

Expressions of Interest (EOI) are hereby requested from registered and experienced NGOs/consultancy organisations to work on the project as an Implementing Partner on the following Work Order:

#### Advocacy, BCC and Community Mobilisation

Advocacy, BCC and Community mobilisation are key and cross-cutting components of the project which will be implemented in at least three states across the six geo-political zones of the country.

#### **Scope of Work**

- Design and implement activity plans for Advocacy, BCC and community mobilization for malaria control interventions in at least three states
- Provide technical support to the National Malaria Control Program (NMCP) and at least three states on BCC through the public sector.
- Supervise the state level design, development, production and dissemination of messages and materials.
- Design, pre-test and implement generic demand creation campaigns for LLINs and ACTs
- Provide BCC support on issues related to improving equity, inclusion, participation and access.
- Provide technical assistance to stakeholders on development of strategic communication materials.
- Monitor community mobilization and communication activity implementation
- Facilitate the design and implementation of training activities related to behaviour change, interpersonal communication and counselling (IPC/C), advocacy and community mobilization approaches to achieve
- Write and submit monthly, quarterly, annual programmatic and financial report
- Prepare and submit monthly and quarterly work plans
- Participate in quarterly coordination meeting

#### **Method of Application:**

Expression of Interest must contain the following:

- A cover letter
- Certificate of registration as a company in Nigeria
- Profile of your organisation containing past/current similar experience
- Profile of key technical personnel
- Preferred geographical coverage

EOI should reach the address below within two weeks of this publication and the envelope must be marked "IP".

The Malaria Office Coordinator  
P.O. Box 3995  
Garki, Abuja

- Note: 1. EOI submitted late will be rejected  
2 Costs of submission of bids are not reimbursable  
3 Organisations without similar experience need not apply

### Call for Expression of Interest as an Implementing Partner(IP)

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Expressions of Interest (EOI) are hereby requested from registered and experienced NGOs/consultancy organisations to work on the project as an Implementing Partner on the following Work Order:

#### Training of Health Workers

Over five thousand health workers will be trained on malaria case management, Home Management of Malaria and Monitoring and Evaluation in these states of the federation across all geo-political zones.

#### **Scope of Work**

- Organise training of health workers on malaria case management, M&E and Home Management of malaria at state level
- Ensure that training best practices are adhered to before, during and after training
- Liaise with State RBM Managers, M&E officers and other State Officers to make adequate arrangement for training logistics
- Put system in place to ensure adequate monitoring and supervision during trainings
- Carry out daily evaluation of training in each site and analyse evaluation report at the end of each training
- Prepare and submit comprehensive training report using approved template
- Make necessary arrangement for advocacy to key stakeholders at state and LGA levels
- Write and submit monthly, quarterly and annual programmatic and financial report
- Prepare and submit monthly and quarterly work plans
- Participate in quarterly coordination meeting

#### **Method of Application:**

Expression of Interest must contain the following:

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Expressions of Interest (EOI) are hereby requested from registered and experienced NGOs/consultancy organisations to work on the project as an Implementing Partner on the following Work Order:

### Distribution of LLIN

#### Scope of Work

- Carry out micro planning for LLIN distribution in collaboration with National malaria Control Programme (NMCP), State RBM units and other stakeholders in accordance with NMCP LLIN distribution guidelines
- Plan and make necessary logistic arrangement for adaptation of IEC materials for LLIN distribution
- Plan and make necessary arrangement for training of personnel for LLIN distribution
- Effect movement of LLIN from state warehouses to LGA and Distribution Points
- Make necessary logistic arrangement for household mobilization, LLIN distribution, End Process Evaluation and retention surveys
- Carry out monitoring and supervision of all LLIN distribution activities
- Make necessary arrangement for advocacy to key stakeholders at state, LGA and community levels
- Write and submit monthly, quarterly and annual programmatic and financial reports
- Prepare and submit monthly and quarterly work plans
- Participate in quarterly coordination meetings

#### Method of Application:

Expression of Interest must contain the following:

- A cover letter
- Certificate of registration as a company in Nigeria
- Profile of your organisation containing past/current similar experience
- Profile of key technical personnel
- Preferred geographical coverage

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**DFID** Department for International Development

### PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

THE SPECIAL CONTROL UNIT AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING (SCUML),  
FEDERAL MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN COLLABORATION  
WITH THE ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL CRIMES  
COMMISSION (EFCC)

Wishes to inform all Designated Non-Financial Institutions (DNFIs) that the Unit's Website ([www.scuml.org](http://www.scuml.org)) is fully functional for:

- On-line Registration (for those that have not registered);
- On-line Submission of weekly Currency Transaction Reports (CTRs);
- On-line Submission of Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs); and
- Other information/enquiries about the Unit and Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) regime in Nigeria.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act (MLPA) 2004, Section 24, categorizes DNFIs as dealers in Jewelries, Cars and Luxury Goods, Chartered/Professional Accountants, Audit Firms, Tax Consultants, Clearing and Settlement Companies, Legal Practitioners, Supermarkets, Hotels and Hospitality Industries, Estates Surveyors and Valuers, dealers in Precious Stones and Metals, Trust and Company Service Providers, Casinos, Pool Betting, Lottery, Non-Governmental Organization.

DNFIs are enjoined to make use of the website in discharging their responsibilities under the ML(P)A 2004, TO AVOID SANCTIONS FOR NON-COMPLIANCE.

For Further details, please contact The Special Control Unit Against Money Laundering at Plot 1349 Ahamdu Bello Way Garki II Abuja, or contact the following person;

Francis Oniwon - 07028181745 -  
[info@scuml.org](mailto:info@scuml.org)

#### Announcer:

T. O. Akinbo Esq.  
Director, SCUML

### Sign Language



I am lost. Can you decipher the meaning?  
 Photo location: Puno, Peru, by Susan Wint  
 Culled from telegraph.co.uk

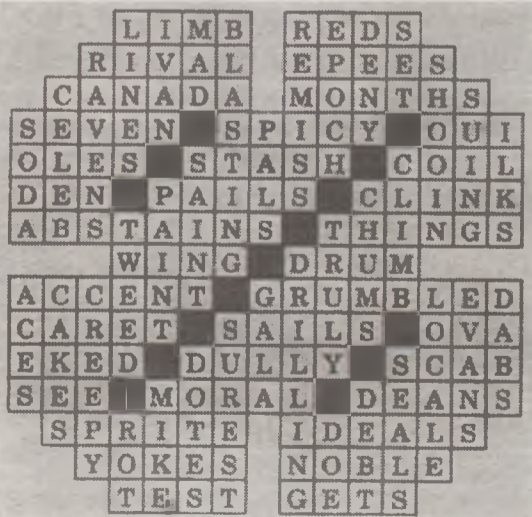
## EASY CROSSWORDS

11

<b>ACROSS</b>	61. "— does it!"	11. Donkey's kin	39. Hang around
1. Housebroken	62. Common	13. Tennis legend	41. Greased up
5. Two Gores	Marked money	John	42. Area
8. Refrain part	63. Evicts	14. Dress size	44. Prepared
11. Freeway vehicles	64. "Little Women" girl	20. Scot's assent	46. Ms. Firmus
12. Ointment	65. Downy surface	24. Life stories	49. Tasty bivalve
14. Skyrocket	66. Profits	23. Wee colonizers	50. Bright and promising
15. Smug highbrows		25. Tickled pink	51. Naming word
16. Biz bigwig, for short	<b>DOWN</b>	26. Tibetan monks	52. Hoof sound
17. Mire	1. Pita stuffer	27. Repent	53. Annoying sort
18. Stem fluid	2. Positioned over	28. Snoozes	54. Equine morsels
19. Corrode	3. Unruly crowd	29. Ministers (to)	55. Raised tracks
21. Public argument	4. Inward nature	30. Abuse	56. Tiny veggie
23. By — chance	5. Conspire with	31. Spartacus, for example	58. Author Levin
24. Zero	6. Remiss	34. Actor Chaney	60. Owed
25. Looked (at) briefly	7. Slope slider	36. Examined	
29. Creatures of Scandinavian folklore	8. Praise loudly	38. Another: 2 wds.	
32. Cafe order	9. Olympics event		
33. Nondairy spreads	10. Genesis boat		
35. Spanish shout			
37. Singer Tori			
38. — layer			
39. Vacillate			
40. Comedian Rowan			
41. Upright: 2 wds.			
42. Carell of "The Office"			
43. Succession			
45. Applied messily			
47. A shade tree			
48. Unwelcoming			
49. Coloring stick			
52. Alley prowler			
53. Spooky writer			
56. Trudge along			
57. Seethe			
59. Model conception			

### Solution to Easy Crosswords

10



# 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.

107

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

### Solution to Sudoku 106

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

## News Extra

**'It was only a peck on the cheek'**

... How a kiss landed British couple in court in Dubai



CHARLOTTE Adams, pictured Sunday.



AYMAN Najafi

**A** British woman facing jail for kissing a man in public in Dubai insisted Sunday that she 'only kissed him on the cheek'.

Charlotte Adams, 25, and Ayman Najafi, a British marketing executive, have both been convicted of indecency and illegal drinking.

During an appeal hearing in Dubai Sunday, the pair admitted they were drinking but denied passionately kissing and touching each other in public.

Their lawyer, Khalaf al Hasani, told the judge that they shared a peck on the cheek, which 'is a normal greeting in their culture and not a crime'.

**M**iss Adams and Mr Najafi were arrested at a busy burger restaurant after a 38-year-old local woman claimed she spotted them kissing on the lips and stroking each other's backs.

At a court hearing last week, both were sentenced to a month in jail and told they would then be deported upon release.

They were also fined £180 for drinking alcohol.

But the prison sentence was put on hold pending Sunday's appeal. The pair are expected in court again on April 4 for a verdict on their appeal.

Mr Najafi, 24, of Palmers Green, north London, has been working in Dubai, which is part of the United Arab Emirates, for the past 18 months for marketing firm Hay Group.

Miss Adams, who is also from north London, is believed to have travelled to the Muslim state for a holiday.

The case once again highlights the problems that can face the thousands of British tourists who take sunshine breaks in Dubai each year.

Unmarried men and women from the West are finding that kissing and cuddling is prohibited, particularly in public, and carries stringent penalties.

Miss Adams and Mr Najafi were having dinner with six friends in November at the Jumeirah Beach Residence, a stretch of beachside cafes, when they were arrested.

On Sunday, lawyer Mr al Hasani told Dubai's Court of Appeal that the prosecution's main witness was not sure of what she had

“Unmarried men and women from the West are finding that kissing and cuddling is prohibited, particularly in public, and carries stringent penalties.”

seen and had changed her story.

'The story came to light after an Emirati woman, who was with her children having a meal in the restaurant, saw the pair,' he said.

'She claimed she saw the two kissing each other in public and she called the police who came and arrested them.'

'But later on she told the public prosecutors that it was actually one of her children who saw my clients kissing and not her. She is not sure about the incident.'

'They both kissed each other on cheek and that is a normal greeting in their culture, not a crime.'

During Sunday's five-minute hearing, Miss Adams told the judge: 'I only kissed him on the cheek. I was drinking.'

**M**r Najafi also admitted he had been drinking. He said he had kissed Miss Adams on the cheek, adding: 'I am innocent.'

The pair, who were bailed Sunday, have a second right of appeal if the first fails.

Mr al Hasani said the six friends could be called to corroborate their stories if the judge found against them.

At the earlier hearing, in Dubai's Misdemeanours Court last week, a judge dismissed Mr Najafi's claim that he only kissed Miss Adams on the cheek.

But Mr Najafi's mother Maida said her son did not like public displays of affection.

Speaking from the family's £425,000 home, she said: 'He knows the rules over there. He would never do that.'

'He wouldn't even do it over here.' He said, 'I haven't done anything wrong Mum. Hopefully I will clear my name and then I can come back.'

He's an unbelievable young man, strong, hard working, confident. He is doing so well.'

In 2008, Vince Acors, of Bromley, Kent, and Michelle Palmer, of Oakham, Rutland, were given three-month jail terms for having sex on Jumeirah Beach.

But the sentences, imposed for public indecency and having unmarried sex, were suspended on appeal. The pair denied having sex, claiming they had simply been 'kissing and cuddling'.

In other cases, officials in Dubai have adopted a relaxed approach when dealing with Westerners who have broken strict Islamic laws.

But the past few months have seen a crackdown on public drunkenness and having sex outside marriage.

## News Extra



'RUBBER Man' Vijay Sharma demonstrates his flexibility by winding his arms around his back and wrapping them around his waist in Delhi

# India's 'Rubber Man' makes the Guinness Book of World Records



LEAST interested in his father's clothes shop business, Vijay wants to achieve fame by working on martial arts and body flexibility

Vijay Sharma can wrap his legs over his head, wriggle through a tennis racket and wind his arms around his back.

His flexibility has earned him the title of 'Rubber Man' in the Limca book of Records, India's version of the Guinness book of World Records, and he hopes to one-day achieve global fame.

'It was when I was training for martial arts I realised my body was so bendable I might be capa-

**Vijay claims his bendy obsession stems from watching Jackie Chan movies when he was a youngster**

ble of setting a world record in flexibility,' the 27-year-old said.

'It became a source of motivation for me.' Shop assistant Vijay claims his bendy obsession stems from watching Jackie Chan movies when he was a youngster.

The village boy from Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district started



DRINKING from a bottle held between his toes

taking martial arts lessons in 1999 in a bid to learn Chan's acrobatic fighting style.

It was during these lessons he discovered the extent of his flex-

ibility and started experimenting.

He squeezed into tiny spaces, curled his body into boxes and attempted to drink from bottles held between his toes.

After seeing the tennis racket stunt in Guinness book of world records, he became curious and bought a tennis racket the next day. He quickly removed the

strings and tried to pass through the nine-and-a-half-inch surface.

'I tried to get through it, but got stuck for the entire night,' he said. 'I had to shut myself in my room and sleep with it. I got up at 3 o'clock and tried to get out of it.'

'I began to bleed but that didn't stop me.' Vijay, who practices up to four hours a day to improve his elasticity, has performed on TV Shows and various tournaments at national level. But he believes, he has performed the toughest stunt on a Zee TV show.

'I added a kick to my stunt, that is I pulled my leg up all the way so it was perpendicular to the floor and pushed my torso along with my leg out of the racket,' he explained.

It was such a stunt that I couldn't breathe for a moment while doing it.' He has won a silver medal in body flexibility at a country level tournament, held at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh in 2001. He also claims to have broken the world record for wrist-egg-crushing - which involves pushing your hand backwards to lie flat against the arm - set by a Lissa Patterson (CORR) in 2005.

'I made the claim and even got some documents from Guinness Book of World Records to complete, but I couldn't get back because of constraints of time and money,' he said.

Least interested in his father's clothes shop business, Vijay wants to achieve fame by working on martial arts and body flexibility. 'Anything for fame,' he said.

# ENVIRONMENT environment@dailytrust.com

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## Agency sues MTN over pollution

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Federal Government has filed criminal charges against telecommunications company MTN before the Federal High Court in Enugu for polluting drinking wells at Nkpologwu District, Emene, Enugu, as a result of used diesel from its base station draining and seeping into wells.

MTN is also accused of violating

Environmental Regulations by not obtaining an Environmental Impact Assessment Certificate before installing its base station.

The charge filed by NESREA's Director of Legal Services, Barrister Bola Odugbesan, reads in part: "That you MTN Nigeria Communications Limited, Celestine Jaja (M) of Ekulu East Estate, Enugu, and Ahmed Farroukh (M) of Golden Plaza Building, Awolowo

Road, Ikoyi Lagos, on or about the 1st of April 2008, did engage in activity to wit, operation of a base transmission/telecommunications station generating hazardous waste leading to pollution of drinking wells at Nkpologwu District, Emene, Enugu, contrary to regulation 78 of the National Environmental (Sanitation and Waste Control) Regulations, 2009 and punishable under Regulation 103 of the National

Environmental (Sanitation and Waste Control) Regulations, 2009."

The base station was on 5th March, 2010 sealed up by NESREA after officials from the Agency, following numerous complaints from residents of the Nkpologwu district, conducted an inspection and found that the base station was generating hazardous waste leading to pollution of drinking wells at the Nkpologwu district.

## LG boss worried over erosion

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE Sole Administrator of Ahiazu Mbaise local government council Chief Leo Okeahialam has decried the rate of devastation of farm lands and crops in Ihitte Ubi community of the council by erosion.

Okeahialam, while chatting with newsmen at the council headquarters Afor Oru, said that the erosion menace had destroyed palm plants and other economic crops worth millions of naira planted by the local government council and the community.

He said that the inhabitants of the affected communities find it impossible to communicate or associate with neighboring communities of Ikeduru local government council.

He used the forum to call the immediate intervention of both state and the federal government to intervene in this matter adding that if nothing is done urgently the economic development of the area would remain hindered.

The council boss intimated of plan of the council authority to improve in agricultural development of the area by reviving the abandoned large hectares of land planted with palm plants.

He said that the farm land which contained about 3600 palm plants was neglected by past administrations, adding that the present government is geared towards reviving the place to generate employment opportunity and sources of revenue for the council.



A girl crosses over pipelines that run directly through Okrika, P/Harcourt

## Reps c'ttee holds roundtable on climate change policy

By Nasir Imam

The House of Representatives' Committee on Climate Change is organising a Roundtable today at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja to examine issues, and to propose a work plan for delivering a National Climate Change Policy and Legislation.

The focus is to launch a process of drafting an appropriate Climate Change Legislation for the Federal Republic of Nigeria. When completed, the Climate Change Act will provide a robust policy and institutional framework for mainstreaming climate change into Nigeria's development goals. It will reduce the nation's vulnerability to climate change impacts and

crisis. It will enhance an investment friendly environment for low carbon economic growth which is sustainable.

Research findings from the process of developing the Second National Communication will ensure that the proposed climate policy and legislation is built on useful, timely and relevant information.

## IPMAN tasks govt on disaster management

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Kano chapter of the Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN) has tasked government to be committed to disaster management so as to ensure the safety of lives and property during emergencies.

The Kano chapter chairman IPMAN, Alhaji Bashir Bello gave the advice during

a sympathy visit to the victims of Kantin Kwari traders yesterday, saying the Kantin Kwari incident should serve as a lesson to governments at all levels on disaster preparedness and management.

While commending the combine efforts of the fire fighters from private companies, National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and Kano state Fire Service for their response to the inferno, he said the

timely intervention of the fire operators saved other parts of the market.

"IPMAN sympathises with the victims of the fire incident and prays to God to replace their loss abundantly. We equally want to express appreciation for all those that helped in quenching the fire. May Allah never allow such a disaster to happen again," he said.

"What happened here is an act of God,

and we thank Him for all His favours on us, we pray nobody will blame anybody for the fire incident, may it be the last of its kind," said the chairman.

The association however appealed to government, corporate organisations and well meaning Nigerians to come to the aids of the victims, noting that the victims were now in critical situation that calls for assistance from well-meaning Nigerians.

## Environment



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# Nasarawa gets first rains of the year

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE first two rains of the year in Nasarawa State came down last Thursday and Sunday bringing a break from the excessive heat which the people have had to contend with for months now.

While the Thursday rain lasted for about an hour, beginning a few minutes after 6pm, Sunday's rain poured in for only about 40 minutes - between 8:30pm and a few minutes after 9pm. The two rains poured

in on Keffi and the areas adjoining the ancient town like Nasarawa, Karu and Kokona, Daily Trust learnt.

While the first was a heavy downpour which nearly collected stormy waters into homes, the second was mild and came down intermittently.

Turbulent breeze preceded the two rains, and died down before sending them pouring in. But there were no devastations associated with such breeze, residents spoken to say. They said

only a few homes lost some roofs which were blown off. "But they are roofs that were not firmly placed on buildings - for example old thatched roofs", a peasant farmer in Keffi told our correspondent.

Abubakar Yangoji, as he gave his name said the two rains are a blessing and an indication for early rains and bounty harvests in the course of the year. He hoped the rains will not cease abruptly as has always been the case during this time of the year.

The rains brought in some cooling effect too, breaking the excessive heat which has sent people sleeping outdoors for months now.

Residents of Keffi, especially students of the Nasarawa State University expressed delight with the rains, saying the downpour have broken the excessive heat they have had to live with from late January, dragging into two months now.

"It was a huge relief from excessive heat. We thank God for the

rains, they brought some cooling effect. We are happy", said a student who gave her name as Tracy Chile.

Another resident, David Dari - a journalist resident in Keffi, told Daily Trust "I have been sleeping outdoor all the while, but the cooling effect from the two rains has solved that. The heat has reduced considerably." Dari hoped the rains will not cease and return the heat which driven him from his bedroom to sleep in the open.

**The rains brought in some cooling effect too, breaking the excessive heat which has sent people sleeping outdoors for months now.**

## Kwara residents warned against dumping refuse in river

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State Government has urged all residents along the river bank of Asa river to the desist from dumping refuse in the river as raining was fast approaching.

The Special Adviser to the State Governor on Emergency Relief Services, Alhaji Kayode Yusuf, stated this yesterday while participating on a Radio Kwara Yoruba programme "Ibi Abasede".

The Special Adviser added

that the state government will however continue to respond promptly to the aid of victims of natural disaster in the State.

Alhaji Yusuf said that a committee had been put in place under the chairmanship of the State Deputy Governor,

Chief Joel Ogundeji, to ensure prompt provision of relief materials to victims.

He commended the State Fire Services for its quick response to fire disasters and implored the people of the State to stay away from any-

thing that could cause fire outbreak.

Alhaji Yusuf advised Local Government Councils in the State to put in place committee on Emergency relief to enhance disaster management.

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## CITY NEWS



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# Ex-commissioner's wife protests in Abuja

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE wife of Prof. Ignatius Iheukemere, former federal commissioner of the National Commission for Refugees, yesterday protested the non payment of her husband's entitlement by the commission since he died on active service on December 6, 2004.

Dr Mercy Ogechukwu Gabriel, who came with a stove and pot that had potatoes, sat on the grounds at the corridor of the commission's head office at the Federal Secretariat Abuja's headquarters and was turning the contents of the pot at intervals.

She described her action as 'a prophetic cooking that is meant to heat up, warm and awaken the dead consciences of those concerned to reason, and see the need to pay all entitlements due to her late husband.

She said the prophetic cooking will also usher the speedy payment of all entitlements due to every widow in Nigeria and stop as well as avert God's wrath.

Dr Gabriel said her husband slumped while in the office and was rushed to the State House Clinic, where he died on December 6, 2004.

She said seven days after his death, the commission's acting federal commissioner that took over, asked her to leave their accommodation, return a generator as well as an official 406 car.

"The 406 car was monetized to my late husband of which he had started to pay and when he died I then sent a cheque of N200,000 to cover some advance payment but the acting commissioner then rejected it because he was interested in it," the widow said.

Dr Gabriel alleged that the present federal commissioner told her that the generator has been



DR Mercy Gabriel, wife of ex-federal commissioner of National Commission for Refugees protesting at the commission's office yesterday.

traced to the then acting commissioner's house.

She said when she refused to return the vehicle, the National Commission for Refugees wrote to the United Nations Refugees Commission, where she was doing a consultancy job to report that she stole a car and generator, which made them terminate her appointment.

"I am not a lazy person as I have worked as a taxi driver in Abuja and have written three books as well as run an NGO which I had to abandon after three attempts were made on my life," she disclosed.

The widow further stated that since her husband's death, she has

been going between the commission, University of Jos, where he was seconded from and the pension's office in search of his entitlements without results.

According to her, when she first approached the National Commission for Refugees to discuss on her husband's entitlements, they told her he has nothing, which made her go to the Public Complaints Commission.

"The Executive Secretary of Public Complaints Commission led a delegation to the National Refugees Commission to discuss my issue which made them to pay my husband's personal claims as well as promised that they will

work on his gratuity five years after his death," she lamented.

Dr Gabriel said after the intervention of the executive secretary on March 2009, the refugee's commission commenced the action to calculate the amount due to her late husband, adding that the Public Complaints Commission equally delegated to the University of Jos to ensure the required papers are forwarded to PENCOM.

The widow informed that she also obtained a Federal High Court decision on October 22, 2007 that ordered the University of Jos to pay the pension and gratuity of Late Professor I.I. Gabriel in the following order: 35 percent to Dr Mercy

Gabriel the lawful widow and 65 percent to others.

She said the refugee's commission asked her to come for the money in January 2010 and has done nothing to hasten the process of payment.

Reacting, the present Federal Commissioner of the National Commission for Refugees, Hajia Hadiza Kangiwa acknowledged that the commission owes the late professor's gratuity.

She said the payment of such money involves a process where authorisation has to be given by the Ministry of Finance, adding that the process might even take the quarter of the year.

## Keke NAPEP rider in court over recklessness

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 30-year-old tricycle (Keke NAPEP) rider was recently arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged careless and inconsiderate driving.

The accused, Augustine Mark of Mpape village, Abuja, was accused of riding his tricycle with registration number QY406 GGE in a dangerous manner and without consideration to the lives of his passengers on February 22.

Police prosecutor, Rimak Kefas, stated in court that on February 22, the accused had a lone accident in which one of his passengers, Miss. Joke Oladele sustained serious body injuries as

well as a fractured leg and hand.

He said the lady's injuries might maim her for life, adding that the offences committed by the accused are punishable under Sections 18 (1) and 29 (1) of the Road Traffic Act.

When the charges were read to him, he denied them and requested bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Magistrate Aminu Abdullahi granted the accused bail in the sum of N200,000 with one reasonable surety in like sum, who must be a civil servant of not below grade level 08 and must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to May 3 for hearing.

## Husband wants ex-wife restricted from children

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A 48-year-old father of three recently pleaded with an Abuja Upper Area Court to restrict his ex-wife from coming to his house in his absence to see her children.

The man, Mr. George Kuji stated this during the hearing of a petition for divorce filed by his wife Mrs. Blessing George.

Mr Kuji told the court that he accepts divorce since it is what his wife wants but asked the court to stop his wife from coming to see their children in his house because on several occasions she took them away without his consent.

"I am not stopping her from coming to see her children but she should give me prior notice before

she comes," he said.

Earlier, 26-year-old Blessing George told the court that she wants to divorce her husband because they have been living separately for the past three years.

"I want the court to grant the divorce because I am tired of being a wife to somebody that does not stay with me and because we are traditionally married, I want to legalise the separation so that I won't be seen as a wayward person," she said.

She also pleaded with the court to let her have custody of the three kids.

The husband in his response said his wife left their matrimonial home without his consent or quarrel.

"My wife left my house with my kids and dump them in a village with her uncle and when I traced them to the place, I met only my children inside a house without adults," he said.

He said the children told him that their mother dropped them in the place and immediately left, adding that he reported his findings to his wife's mother.

The man further told the court that his wife initiated the last reconciliation, which he accepted.

Having listened to both parties, Judge Issa Alhaji Yahaya granted the divorce and ordered that the man take custody of the children.

The judge also ruled that the woman must inform her ex-husband in advance before seeing her children.

# Residents lament over power outage

By Ogechi Ohalee

RESIDENTS and traders in Abuja have called on the federal government to do something about the constant power outage in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in order to save their businesses.

The traders said if nothing is done quickly, traders might be forced to demonstrate to show their frustrations.

Mrs Eva of Medical Diagnostic Centre said the constant use of generating sets has adversely affected machines in the centre.

She appealed to the federal government to do something as the weather is not favourable without electricity.

"The high rate of heat in the country at this period must ginger government into doing something to stop people from suffering or contracting diseases," she stated.

A sales girl, Edith, said N3,000 is spent daily to purchase fuel to run their business as a result of the outage.

Andy, a shop owner at Sheriff Plaza in Wuse 2 lamented that he spends N4,000 daily on fuel, while Paul Ojiaku of Suit4 Neighbourhood Centre, Wuse Zone 3 said N5,000 is spent daily on fuel to run generators because customers can't stand the hot weather in the country.

A generator importer, Chukwudi Ezugha, Director of



A generator trader, Chukwudi Ezugha, in his store in Abuja over the weekend.

Ezechuddy [Nig] Limited, said the greatest casualties of the ongoing blackouts are small and medium-sized businesses.

He said generator usage is not a luxury because it has a lot of hazardous effects.

"Even when no sales are made,

we must still power the generator whenever there is power outage to make our customers comfortable," he added.

## PDP reacts to AC's protest at Abaji

By Doris Afoma West

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) at Abaji council yesterday denied allegations that they hired thugs to attack Action Congress (AC) members at Abaji.

The party's Secretary in the council, Alhaji Alhassan Suleiman accused the AC members of violence and called for the deployment of more policemen as well as soldiers to monitor the campaigns/elections in April.

Alhaji Suleiman advised the AC to engage in campaign activities instead of causing trouble, adding that the forth coming election can only be peaceful if security agencies stem such excesses.

The party's scribe appealed to their supporters to remain law abiding and resort to the rule of law.

## Female motorist accused of recklessness

By Usman A. Bello & Doris Afoma West

A 38-year-old female driver was on Friday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged careless driving.

Police prosecutor, Isiaka Raheem, told the court that on March 5, one Nouyem Adimora drove her Toyota Camry car with registration number RK 822 AAA in an inconsiderate manner along Shehu Shagari way, by Federal Secretariat Phase 1, junction.

The prosecutor stated further that on reaching the junction, the accused hit the back of a Toyota Camry with registration number JW 364 AAA that stopped for traffic.

The accused denied the charge and told the court that her brake failed while approaching the junction.

Her counsel, Ifeanyi Anyanwu, requested for her bail and applied for the impounded car to be released to the accused.

The prosecutor objected to the bail application as well as the car's release on the grounds that the car is an exhibit in the case.

Senior Magistrate Hafsat Soso granted the accused bail in the sum of N200,000 with a surety in like sum, who must live within the court's jurisdiction with a fixed address.

"The surety should undertake a bond to produce the accused in court on the next adjourned date," magistrate ordered.

The case was adjourned to April 6 for hearing.

## Bizman arraigned over careless driving

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 38-year-old businessman recently appeared before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged inconsiderate as well as careless driving along Ahmadu Bello Way, Abuja.

Emeka Nnamani of Asokoro, Abuja, was accused of driving his Honda Accord car with registration number AJ717SSM without considering other oncoming vehicles.

Police prosecutor, Adoche Raheem Isiaka, stated in court that on February 28, the accused ran into one Nissan Sunny car with registration number XF960DKA driven by one Promise Samuel of Durumi Garki, Abuja.

"As a result of the accident,

another car, a Honda Accord with registration number BQ490RBBC driven by one Nandom Dakwal, ran into the Nissan Sunny car and cause more damage to the car," the prosecutor added.

The prosecutor argued that the offence committed is punishable under Section 29 of the Road Traffic Act.

When the charges were read, the accused denied them and requested for bail.

Magistrate Emmanuel Iyanna granted the accused bail in the sum of N200,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must have a fixed address and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to April 8 for hearing.

## Nigerian-Turkish colleges fight Mathematics phobia

By Doris Afoma West

THE Nigerian-Turkish International Colleges (NTIC) Chairman, Hassan Huseyin Aygun has said that the aim of its sponsored National Mathematical Competition is to arrest Mathematic phobia in the country at the foundation level.

The chairman, who stated this during competition's prize and award ceremony for the year, explained that the competition is meant "to sensitize, encourage from the grassroots, qualified candidates who will represent Nigeria in the International Mathematics Olympiad organised yearly."

The competition, which was the 7th in its series, was conducted in 36 states of the federation.

Our reporter learnt that over 1700 pupils from 4000 primary schools participated, adding that in the second stage, 123 successful candidates emerged in 36 states, while in the final stage, 36 successful candidates emerged in the six zones of the federation."

Similarly, he added that scholarship have been given to deserving students of which 87 of them have 50 per cent scholarship while 36 have 100 per cent.

He commended the National Mathematical Centre (NMC) for their assistance and cooperation. Master Arinzechukwu Denings Owoh of Olumawu Basic Education in Abuja emerged as this year's winner with 98.585 points, getting N150,000 as prize money and a 100 percent scholarship.

Advertorial

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA  
HOLDEN AT ABUJA

APPEAL No. CA/A/276/08  
Sc.32/2010

Application for an order:-

1. setting aside the ex parte order made by this Honourable Court in Chambers on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.
2. preserving the res and/or subject matter of Applicant's application dated 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2010 and already fixed for 15<sup>th</sup> March, 2010.
3. directing both the Court of Appeal, Abuja and Sokoto Judicial Divisions to stay away from the proceedings in Appeal Nos. CA/A/276/08 and CA/S/EP/GOV/10/09 respectively until the determination of Applicant's Application dated 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2010, already served on both Courts

Between:-

- |    |                    |   |             |
|----|--------------------|---|-------------|
| 1. | ALHAJI MUHAMMADU   | ] | APPELLANTS/ |
|    | MAIGARI DINGYADI   | ] |             |
| 2. | DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES | ] |             |
|    | PARTY              | ] |             |

AND

- |    |                       |   |             |
|----|-----------------------|---|-------------|
| 1. | INDEPENDENT NATIONAL  | ] | RESPONDENT/ |
|    | ELECTORAL COMMISSION) |   |             |
| 2. | ALIYU MAGA            | ] | RESPONDENT/ |
|    | WAMAKKO               | ] | APPLICANT   |
| 3. | PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC    | ] |             |
|    | PARTY                 | ] | RESPONDENT  |

JUSTICE, SUPREME COURT  
(PRESIDING)

Monday, the 15<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010

UPON READING the Application herein and the Affidavit of Gbenga Adeyemi, sworn to and filed on the 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010 and after hearing Rickey Tarfa, SAN H.A. Aganyina, Esquire, A.J. Owonikoko, Esquire, O. Jolaawo, Esquire, S. Usman, Esquire, R. Okotie-Eboh (Miss), D. Bassi (Mrs), Y. Pitan, Esquire, Ifeayin, Oigboaja, Esquire, Ahmed Zumanru, Esquire with him) of Counsel for the Appellant/Respondent, Chief Wole Olanipekun, SAN (A.F. Afolayan, Esquire, J.U. Aji Ebenga Adeyemi, Esquire with him) of Counsel for The 2<sup>nd</sup> Respondent/Applicant, Yahaya Mahmood, Esquire (Muhammad Katu, Esquire with him) of Counsel For the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent and Chief Olusola Oke (Maureen E. Onyiaike, Esquire, and Uche Ezeta, Esquire with him) of Counsel for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondent.

IT IS ORDERED:-

1. that in the interest of Justice and fair play, the oral application to preserve the res is hereby granted; and
2. that all proceedings in this matter now pending before the Court of Appeal, Sokoto in suit No. CA/S/EP/GOV/10/09 is hereby stayed pending the determination of the motions filed in this Court which motions are now adjourned to the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2010 for hearing.

REGISTRAR  
OFFICIAL 15/3/10

CHIEF REGISTRAR

# HEALTH REPORT

## Medical workers threaten strike over downgrading

By Ruby Rabi and Francis Okeke

JOINT Action Congress (JAC) of medical personnel of the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital chapter at the weekend in Abuja threatened to go on an indefinite strike over Federal Government directive which seeks to downgrade certain categories of medical workers.

JAC comprises of nurses, midwives and senior staff associations in the country's health sector.

The union also kicked against the tradition of government recruiting fresh medical doctors into the federal civil service at grade level 12 while other professionals in the medical field are started off at grade level 9.

Chairman of JAC Comrade Taiger Mai Beir said the union's "attention has been drawn

to circular HCSE/EPO/EIR/RR/B.63755/TI/76 purportedly issued from the Head of Civil Service of the Federation dated January 11th, 2010 directing all federal institutions and parastatals to 'downgrade' all employees who have been promoted either previously or recently from grade level GL 10-12 (CONTISS 9-11)."

Beir wondered why such an order could be given at a time when all medical workers are calling for a halt to the preferential treatment being given to medical doctors just as he blamed the nation's crumbling health sector on mismanagement by doctors who are made administrators of health institutions.

He said "an appraisal of the total health care delivery system of this country for some years now shows a downward turn despite

huge financial implication on government because doctors who have no knowledge about administration are now being saddled with complex administrative realities."

The Congress also questioned the dedication of medical doctors employed by government to duty saying that "one of the factors affecting the smooth implementation of government policies on healthcare delivery system is that workers employed by government at the same time run private hospitals and clinics, which brings the issue of divided loyalty." It "advised the Office of the Head of Service to immediately withdraw the circular of downgrading and subsequently to seek input from relevant authorities before issuing out circulars or directives capable of heating up the polity."



DG, NAFDAC, Dr. Paul Orhii (left) and President, Red Cross International, Chief Rochas Okorochoa, during the 2010 annual school competition for NAFDAC consumer club.

## International community commend NAFDAC over drug fight

By Ruby Rabi

THE director general of NAFDAC, Dr Paul Orhii said the country's effort at eradicating fake drugs by using high technology devices to track counterfeits has been commended and recognised by the international community.

Orhii who was speaking during the 2010 annual schools competition award ceremony for members of NAFDAC consumer club said the organisation has with the help of the device tracked down a lot of counterfeit drugs which would have taken lives of the Nigerian public.

He added that no where in the world has such manner of device being put to active use in shops and other places where fake drugs being perpetuated as genuine are being sold. He teamed as unfortunate the craving by some Nigerians to get rich at any cost without care for human lives, saying that under his watch, a lot of such drugs will be removed from the market.

His words, 'we are aware of the phenomenon of circulation of fake products in Nigeria. this is manifested in corruption which has been institutionalised, crippling and discrediting our society.' many Nigerians today believe

that the most important thing is to achieve success regardless of the method used. Earlier the President Red Cross International, Chief Rochas Okorochoa described as unfortunate the recent massacre in Jos which claimed several lives of women and children.

Okorochoa called on Nigerians to be good ambassadors of peace to enable development thrive, according to him a progressive nation is one that encourages it present generation to be better than its past.

He explained that a lasting solution needs to be found to resolve the crisis to forestall further destruction of lives and property.

## Rotary to fight maternal mortality

By Maureen Onochie

ROTARY club international has joined the vanguard to fight the menace of maternal mortality, saying that there has been a reduction in the statistics in the death of pregnant women by 50% with ratio from 1,790 to 940.

International Coordinator of Rotary international maternal and child care project in Nigeria, Prof. Robert Zinser who said this recently in Abuja said that organisation is still identifying gaps that could help bring the scourge to a total end.

Prof. Zinser said ten hospitals were selected in Kaduna and Kano to carry out the project in the north since investigations has shown that the scourge is high in those areas.

According to him, they were provided with equipments such as scanning machines, delivery beds among others which aided in the reduction of the deaths of pregnant women saying that the project will cascade into other states.

District Governor, Rotary International Dr. Mustapha Kazeem said the project was sponsored in collaboration with the Rotary foundation of Rotary International which is the engine room of community service as well as the government of Germany and Austria.

Dr. Kazeem said "the government should look at this model which has led to this very beautiful result in these ten hospitals. And our aim is that these models be given prominence so that we can achieve our MDG goal 5 which is one of the very important aspects of the millennium development goal."

## Nigerians donate over N15m to Haiti victims

By Ruby Rabi

THE United Nation Children Fund (UNICEF) has commended Nigerians who donated over N15million to victims of the Haiti earthquake.

UNICEF Representative, Dr. Suomi Sakai notes that, "the contribution from Nigeria is part of the global donations that helped UNICEF procure supplies to send Haitian children back to school; immunise more than 500,000 children under seven years old against measles, rubella, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough; and provide safe drinking water and latrines for persons still in temporary shelters."

A statement by UNICEF and signed by its communication specialist, Mr Geoffery Njoku said the January 12 earthquake caused large scale destruction of lives and infrastructure. More than 200,000 Haitians lost their lives and means of livelihood in the aftermath of the quake. Meanwhile UNICEF has said it will continue to provide urgently needed basic medical and health supplies, temporary shelter, safe water, and hygiene and sanitation supplies to respond to the needs of children and women in Haiti.

"UNICEF Nigeria thanks the schools, individuals and companies here for their generous donation of more than N15 million to UNICEF's earthquake relief work in Haiti.

The generosity of these donors, including the staff members of Intercontinental Bank Plc, the staff members of GT Bank, The Fountain of Life Church, The American International School Abuja and the Nnamdi Azikiwe University community, brings much needed support for UNICEF's work to provide relief to Haiti's children who have been particularly affected.

## Health Tips

EACH year between 50 000 to 100 000 women worldwide are affected by obstetric fistula, a hole in the birth canal.

The development of obstetric fistula is directly linked to one of the major causes of maternal mortality: obstructed labour.

Women who experience obstetric fistula suffer constant incontinence, shame, social segregation and health problems.

It is estimated that more than 2 million young women live with untreated obstetric fistula in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

Patients with uncomplicated fistulae can undergo a simple surgery to repair the hole in their bladder or rectum.

The treatment cures up to 90% of obstetric fistula patients.

However, since 2003 only 12 000 women in over 45 countries have received obstetric fistula treatment in Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Obstetric fistula is preventable; it can largely be avoided by: delaying the age of first pregnancy; the cessation of harmful traditional practices; and timely access to obstetric care.

## Job vacancies



Since 1971, Family Health International (FHI) has been at the forefront of public health research and intervention programs in the developing countries. In collaboration with national governments, local communities and leading research institutions, FHI delivers services and conducts research in HIV/AIDS, other infectious diseases and reproductive health to improve the lives and well-being of some of the world's most vulnerable populations. In Nigeria, FHI is engaged in providing public health services and implementing programs in HIV/AIDS, TB, reproductive health, malaria, and health systems strengthening in partnership with the Government of Nigeria. To strengthen our operations in the country, we are seeking qualified candidates for the following positions:

Position title	No. required	Location(s)
<b>Medical Services Department</b>		
Senior Advisor OVC, Care and Support	1	Country Office, Abuja
Assistant Voluntary Counseling and Testing Officer	1	Taraba Zone
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation Department</b>		
Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	1	Cross River Zone
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (GHI)	1	Country Office, Abuja
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (NHMIS)	1	Country Office, Abuja
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer	3	Lagos, Taraba and FCT Zones
Data Management Assistant	1	Cross River Zone
GIS Officer	1	Country Office, Abuja
<b>Communications and Knowledge Management Department</b>		
Graphic/Web Designer	1	Country Office, Abuja
<b>Programs Management Department</b>		
Zonal Manager	1	Bauchi Zone
<b>Shared Services Department</b>		
Accountant	1	Edo Zone

### Senior Advisor OVC, Care and Support

Under the direction of the Associate Director, Medical Services (Community), the Senior Advisor OVC, Care and Support will coordinate and provide technical assistance for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) including care and support activities as part of the program for FHI Nigeria.

#### Key Responsibilities

- Work with the Associate Director, Medical Services (Community) to provide technical assistance in the design, implementation, and evaluation of national level OVC and care and support activities for FHI Nigeria, which involves community-based interventions linked to facility-based services
- Provide technical support in building the capacity of local implementing agencies and state counterparts to (1) carry out care and support programs specifically related to orphans and vulnerable children and adults and (2) create effective linkages with clinical care services
- Work with NGOs and relevant FHI staff at the zonal offices to facilitate the transfer of appropriate skills to people living with HIV (PLWH) and their families for prevention, support and care
- Assist in the application of program evaluation results to modify existing programs and design new programs
- Work with the Associate Director, Medical Services (Community) to develop orphans and vulnerable children sub-agreements with local implementing agencies (IAs)
- Contribute to FHI's overall care and support technical strategy, especially within the new PEPFAR guidelines
- Provide technical assistance to FHI zonal offices to work with community-based NGOs to facilitate the formation of community-based peer support structures for networking among children orphaned by HIV/AIDS and their care givers
- Remain informed on current issues and best practices and contribute to FHI global lessons learned documentation of HIV/AIDS and OVC activities
- Represent FHI Nigeria to donors and government officials on OVC and care and support issues
- Perform any other duties that may be assigned by the Associate Director, Medical Services (Community) and the Director Medical Services

#### Minimum Requirements

- MBBS with 3-5 years or a registered nurse with 5-7 years post-NYSC experience at the community level or in the private health sector
- Or similar degree and equivalent experience in public health, social sciences or other relevant areas
- Possession of an MPH degree will be an advantage
- At least 3 years experience in care and support at the community level with evidence of increasing official/professional responsibilities
- Experience working with orphans and vulnerable children will be an advantage

### Assistant Voluntary Counseling and Testing Officer

With the Zonal Counseling and Testing/PMTCT Officer, the Assistant Voluntary Counseling and Testing Officer will assist in coordinating and providing technical assistance for all counseling and testing (CT) support activities as part of the program in the zone.

#### Key Responsibilities

- Provide technical support to implement high quality service and support activities with primary focus on CT
- With the Zonal Counseling and Testing/PMTCT Officer, provide technical leadership and support related to CT strategies and approaches related to program implementation
- With the Zonal Medical Services Advisors and Zonal Counseling and Testing/PMTCT Officer, coordinate the design and implementation of components related to CT in field-level projects and programs
- Provide technical assistance on CT in the design, implementation and evaluation of local and zonal-level activities
- Provide technical support to build the capacity of local implementing agencies and national counterparts
- Work with NGOs and staff to facilitate the transfer of skills to people living with HIV and their families for prevention, support and care
- Represent FHI Nigeria to donors and government officials on CT issues at the zonal level
- Assist in the application of program evaluation results



## Job vacancies cont'd.

- Remain informed on current programs in the field of CT and related development field by reviewing current literature and stay alert to any implication of such experience and research for departmental activities

### Minimum Requirements

- A registered nurse with ability to manage CT activities in a large, complex, health-related project
- Minimum of two years working experience in CT activities
- Familiarity with the Nigerian public sector health system, NGOs and CBOs is highly desirable

### Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer

The Zonal Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, under the supervision of the Zonal Project Manager, and with technical oversight from the Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, will be responsible for the design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation for the zonal office.

### Key Responsibilities

- Provide leadership to the zonal-level M&E staff and M&E program and overall guidance on program/project monitoring and evaluation and on US Government and Government of Nigeria reporting requirements
- Provide support to sites in the zone, including interacting with site program managers, implementing agencies and local research groups on needs
- Ensure that locally employed monitoring and evaluation staff, consultants and FHI partners understand and can support program M&E requirements
- Work with local partners in developing their project monitoring and evaluation plans and support the correct implementation and use of routine data collection tools
- Ensure that data is used to highlight important programmatic gaps and coordinate with facility management and other departments in addressing these gaps
- Ensure that the quality of program/project monitoring and enhanced evaluation in the sites is of international standard and quality by supporting the development and implementation of appropriate mechanisms to ensure quality
- Build the capacity of local partners in project monitoring and evaluation
- With program staff and local partners, use program/project monitoring data to modify existing programs and design new ones
- Provide technical support in evaluation research (including sampling strategies, analysis and presentation of data) to the local research groups working on the Secure the Future project
- Remain informed of current issues regarding monitoring and evaluation of programs in the HIV/AIDS/STI fields by reviewing current literature and being alert to any implication of such research for project and program activities

### Minimum Requirements

- MBBS and an MPH or similar degree in monitoring and evaluation or related field
- 3-5 years experience in monitoring and evaluation in reproductive health or HIV/AIDS programs in developing countries
- Experience working on the development and implementation of a patient level health management information system
- Sound knowledge of statistics and epidemiology
- Experience working with local partners, including local NGOs and CBOs and knowledge of the local context
- Familiarity with USAID programs will be an advantage

### Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Global Health Initiative

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Global Health Initiative, under the supervision of the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Global Health Initiative, will be responsible for supporting the design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation activities for the zonal office.

### Key Responsibilities

- Work with other staff in the country office and zonal offices to ensure that zonal monitoring and evaluation activities are appropriate, of high quality, and meet donor and project M&E needs
- Work with the country office, zonal-level M&E staff and government counterparts to provide support and guidance on program/project

monitoring and evaluation activities and on US Government and Government of Nigeria reporting requirements with respect to GHI programs

- Provide support to the sites in the zone, including interacting with site and disease program managers, M&E focal persons, M&E officers of NACA/NASCP, SACA/SASCP, NTBLCP/STBLCP, NMCP/SMCP and other implementing agencies and local research groups on program M&E needs and ensure that these parties understand and can support these requirements
- Work with the zonal offices and local partners to support the correct implementation and use of monitoring and evaluation tools, and adherence to complete, correct and timely reporting
- Ensure that the quality of program/project activities adheres to SOPs by supporting the development and implementation of appropriate mechanisms to ensure quality of all global health program interventions
- Assist in the development and maintenance of the computerized data capture of program activities and provide technical assistance and training to staff at the zonal offices responsible for data entry and management
- Provide technical assistance to M&E officers of NACA/NASCP, SACA/SASCP, NTBLCP/STBLCP and NMCP/SMCP in integrating FHI data into the national HMIS
- Build the capacity of zonal and local partners in project monitoring and evaluation
- With program staff and local partners, use program/project monitoring data to modify existing programs and design new ones

### Minimum Requirements

- MPH, MD or similar degree in monitoring and evaluation, medicine, pharmacy or related field
- A bachelor's degree will be considered with 5-7 years additional experience
- Minimum of 3 years experience in monitoring and evaluation in reproductive health or HIV/AIDS/STI/TB and malaria programs in developing countries
- Experience working with local partners, including NGOs and CBOs and knowledge of the local context is essential
- Familiarity with USAID programs is preferred

### Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (NHMIS)

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer National Health Management Information System (NHMIS), under the supervision of the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (NHMIS), will be responsible for supporting the design and implementation of monitoring and evaluation activities for HIV/AIDS, STI and TB control activities and strengthening HMIS at the LGA and state levels.

### Key Responsibilities

- Support the implementation of M&E activities for the LGA HAST model of HIV/AIDS, STI, TB care, and malaria activities at the LGA and state levels
- Strengthen the implementation of NHMIS at the LGA and state levels
- Provide technical assistance and training to the state and LGA staff on the use of DHIS software and the integration of health data into the national HMIS
- Develop the capacity of LGA and facility staff in monitoring and evaluation, including the proper use of data collection tools, data analysis, and data use to inform decision making
- On a monthly basis, review and analyze LGA-level data and provide feedback to zonal office and LGA counterparts
- Contribute to the design and technical development for strengthening health management information system initiatives as well as workload analysis at state and LGA levels
- Provide related capacity building support at the state, LGA and facility levels
- Work directly with the implementing partners (community-based organizations), LGA PHC coordinators, LGA TB supervisors, LACA coordinators and PHC personnel to facilitate the implementation of high quality M&E system for HIV/AIDS, STI, TB care, malaria and system strengthening activities within the LGA
- Assist in developing capacity for computerized data entry of routine data and provide technical assistance and training to the state and LGA staff responsible for data entry and management
- Provide technical assistance to the states and LGA in integrating data into the national HMIS



**Job vacancies cont'd.**

*Minimum Requirements*

- MPH, MD or similar degree in monitoring and evaluation, medicine, pharmacy or related field
- A bachelor's degree will be considered with 5 years additional experience
- A minimum of 3 years experience in monitoring and evaluation in reproductive health or HIV/AIDS/STI/TB programs in developing countries
- Experience working with local partners, including NGOs and CBOs and knowledge of the local context is essential
- Familiarity with USAID and Global Fund programs is preferred

**Monitoring and Evaluation Officer**

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, under the supervision of the Zonal Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, and Zonal Program Manager, and with technical oversight from the Director of Monitoring and Evaluation, will be responsible for implementing monitoring and evaluation activities for the zonal office.

*Key Responsibilities*

- Work with other staff in the zonal office and local implementing partners to ensure that zonal monitoring and evaluation activities are appropriate and meet donor and project M&E needs
- Work with the zonal-level M&E staff and government counterparts to provide support and guidance on program/project monitoring and evaluation activities and on US Government and Government of Nigeria reporting requirements
- Provide support to the sites in the zone, including interacting with site program managers, M&E focal points, M&E officers of SACA/SASCP, other implementing agencies and local research groups on M&E needs and ensuring that these parties understand and can support these requirements
- Work with local partners to support correct implementation and use of monitoring and evaluation tools, and adherence to complete, correct and timely reporting
- Conduct routine monitoring visits to project sites, including the conduct of data quality assessments (DQAs) using official tools
- Assist in the preparation of monthly reports and provide supportive supervision
- Assist in the development and maintenance of the computerized data capture of the program and provide technical assistance and training to staff responsible for data entry at the sites
- Provide technical assistance to M&E officers of SACA/SASCP in integrating FHI data into the national HMIS
- Document lessons learned and best practices in monitoring and evaluation, according to USAID and PEPFAR guidelines
- Represent FHI and make presentations at professional meetings and conferences related to monitoring and evaluation
- Remain informed of current issues regarding monitoring and evaluation of programs in the HIV/AIDS/STI fields by reviewing current literature being alert to any implication of such research for project and program activities

*Minimum Requirements*

- MD or similar degree in monitoring and evaluation or an MPH with 3 years work experience
- Experience in monitoring and evaluation in reproductive health or HIV/AIDS programs in developing countries
- Experience working with local partners, including NGOs and CBOs and knowledge of the local context
- Familiarity with USAID programs is preferred

**Data Management Assistant**

The Data Management Assistant will be responsible for entering program data into FHI/GHAIN data management software for subsequent analysis, identifying and following up missing data, undertaking basic validation checks, and storing and disseminating data and hard copy files appropriately.

*Key Responsibilities*

- Keep track of received data and source documents
- Prepare and sort source documents, and identify and interpret data to be entered
- Bring to the knowledge of the Zonal M&E Officer questions that need to be solved, such as inconsistencies or missing data by the originators of the source data

- Enter alphabetic, numeric, or symbolic data from source documents into the computer following format displayed on screen, and enter necessary codes
- Make necessary corrections to information entered
- Compile, sort, and verify accuracy of data to be entered
- Keep record of work completed
- Review error reports and enter corrections into the computer
- Transmit entered information into the database
- File or route source documents after entry
- Provide routine office support such as making copies, faxing, answering phones, preparing correspondence for mailing, and delivering and picking up correspondence
- Perform a variety of routine data entry activities in accordance with established departmental procedures
- Print and disseminate automated graphical outputs from analyzed data

*Minimum Requirements*

- First degree or equivalent in science or science related field with at least 1 year data management experience

**GIS Officer**

Under the supervision of the Senior GIS Officer, the GIS officer will be responsible for planning, maintaining, and developing FHI/GHAIN database and geographical information system.

*Key Responsibilities*

- Design and create special products, including maps, digital data, reports and statistics
- Prepare and maintain metadata documentation of GIS databases
- Participate in GHAIN GIS needs analysis
- Customize desktop GIS software for GHAIN applications and teach desktop GIS software skills to users, while providing support for applications-related questions and problems
- Administer and maintain GHAIN's DBMS (DHIS and LAMIS)
- Provide technical assistance to GHAIN sites using the DHIS and LAMIS
- Recommend hardware upgrades to the database server as needed
- Coordinate data management issues (e.g. deletion of records, query management, internet reports) within the data user groups
- Develop and enforce policies to ensure security and confidentiality of GHAIN's identifiable health data
- Monitor staff compliance with confidentiality policies to ensure that security standards are met
- Design/create special maps and digitize the maps to GIS datasets
- Assist project teams in preparing project results for presentation at regional or national conferences, and in preparing articles for publication, with some supervision

*Minimum Requirements*

- Bachelors degree in a related discipline, with a minimum of 5-7 years relevant experience
- Or masters degree with 3-5 years relevant experience with a minimum of 2 years experience of GIS in a comparable environment
- 1-3 years experience in HIV/AIDS programming and experience working with NGOs and CBOs
- Experience in the production of maps and graphics using GIS systems – ArcGIS 9.x and Arc Explorer
- Working knowledge of relational databases
- Postgraduate degree in a related GIS discipline will be is an advantage

**Graphic/Web Designer**

The Graphic/Web Designer, under the supervision of the AD Technical Documentation, will be responsible for designing, producing and maintaining various organizational websites and contributing to the overall web communications strategy and special projects. S/he will develop visual concepts and designs that reflect business and creative requirements.

*Web Designing Responsibilities*

- Create and design prototypes, including graphic design, site navigation, and layout of content for websites
- Build websites using technologies that conform to international standards and make sure that they are universally accessible
- Ensure that the layout of the web content is accessible and logical and recommend improvements if necessary



## Job vacancies cont'd.

- Add new functionalities, upgrades, debugging and enhancements for web applications
- Participate in the preparation of systems requirements and design specifications for web-enabled solutions
- Perform maintenance and updates to existing websites
- Provide training on maintenance and update procedures on web content management
- Contribute to the overall development of the web communications strategy of the organization

### Graphics Designing Responsibilities

- Design/create graphics to meet specific promotional needs such as packaging, displays or logos
- Create visual concepts that match the programs and image of the organization
- Determine size and arrangement of illustrative material and select style and size
- Study illustrations and photographs to plan presentation of materials, products or services
- Draw and print charts, graphs, illustrations and other artwork using the computer
- Develop negatives and prints to produce layout photographs, using negative and print developing equipment and tools
- Review final layouts and suggest improvements as needed

### Minimum Requirements

- Bachelor's degree in communications, graphic design, publishing, or other discipline related to the primary responsibilities
- Minimum of 5 years experience with 2 years experience in web design, and a minimum of one year experience in producing standards-compliant cross browser websites using Adobe CS4 Web Premium software
- A masters degree with 3 years experience will be considered
- Experience working in a communications/public relations environment will be an advantage

### Zonal Manager

The Zonal Manager is part of the senior management team of FHI Nigeria, in a decentralized country management structure and forms part of the strategic team that directs the overall operations of FHI Nigeria.

### Key Responsibilities

- Provide support to and coordination of the work of FHI Nigeria field office
- Lead program planning, design, review and monitoring at the field level
- Work with the directors to establish a program management capacity development plan that will provide assistance to the zonal office in program planning, design, review and monitoring
- Provide overall supervision for the zonal office staff
- Manage and coordinate FHI activities at the zone
- Serve as the point of contact of FHI with government officials and coordinate and collaborate with all public sector and NGO partners at the zonal level
- With the assistance of the country office staff, monitor all intervention strategies to ensure that they meet administrative, financial and programmatic goals
- With technical assistance from country office staff, provide programmatic/technical assistance to all local FHI partners in the design, implementation, modification, monitoring and evaluation of project activities
- Coordinate all capacity building activities for FHI partners at the field level
- Review reports (programmatic and financial) submitted by all collaborating partners at the field office level and forward same to the country office
- Prepare monthly status reports on programmatic and fiscal progress of all projects and other relevant activities within the zone and forward same to the country office
- Undertake regular monitoring visits to project sites when necessary
- Assist in the coordination of IEC materials development and production for implementing agencies in the zone

### Minimum Requirements

- Masters degree in public health, sciences or behavioral sciences, with at least 7-9 years working experience in managing programs at the community level

- A bachelor's degree with additional experience will be considered
- At least 5 years experience in HIV/AIDS program planning and implementation at the community level
- Experience working with the public and NGO sectors

### Accountant

Under the direction of the Senior Finance and Administrative Officer, the Accountant will be responsible for accounting in the zonal office and for ensuring compliance with the contractual financial requirements of the project.

### Key Responsibilities

- Assist the Senior Finance and Administrative Officer in ensuring accurate keeping of all books of account for the project, including checking accounts, equipment and supply registers, and other accounting records
- Work with the Senior Finance and Administrative Officer in preparing monthly and annual financial reports, including financial status of sub-projects account activities with accompanying bank documentation and receipts
- Assist the Senior Finance and Administrative Officer in monitoring NGO sub-project budgets in accordance with approved work plan
- Work with the Senior Finance and Administrative Officer to analyze, develop, and monitor accounting/fiscal control procedures and program budgets including monitoring cash flows and requesting for fund transfers from FHI headquarters
- Prepare financial reports for country office staff to monitor and track obligations and expenditures
- Assist the Senior Finance and Administrative Officer in providing training and backstopping on the MTX double entry accounting system
- Work with the Senior Finance and Administrative Officer in providing technical assistance to NGOs on accounting and financial matters
- Identify areas needing improvement and provide necessary staff development and training
- Prepare written and verbal responses to inquiries and requests for budgetary information

### Minimum Requirements

- University degree in accounting, finance and business administration or its recognized equivalent
- Possession of CPA, ACA, ACCA, ANA, or recognized equivalent will be an advantage
- Minimum of 3-5 years experience in accounting related to NGOs and community level programs, with increasing responsibility
- Familiarity with USAID-funded programs and non-governmental organizations in Nigeria

### Method of Application

Interested candidates should forward their suitability statement (application) and resume (CV) as a single MS Word document within 10 days from the date of this publication to:

[Medservicesjobs@ghain.org](mailto:Medservicesjobs@ghain.org) for Medical Services Department vacancies  
[MandEjobs@ghain.org](mailto:MandEjobs@ghain.org) for Monitoring and Evaluation Department vacancies  
[Commsjobs@ghain.org](mailto:Commsjobs@ghain.org) for Communication and Knowledge Management Department vacancy  
[PMjobs@ghain.org](mailto:PMjobs@ghain.org) for Program Management Department vacancy  
[Sharedservicesjobs@ghain.org](mailto:Sharedservicesjobs@ghain.org) for Shared Services Department vacancy

Only applications sent electronically (i.e. by e-mail) with the job title and location clearly indicated as the subject of the mail will be considered, and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Please do NOT send more than one application. Failure to follow these instructions will lead to automatic disqualification.

**DISCLAIMER:** Family Health International (FHI) does not test/interview candidates for a fee and all our tests/interviews are conducted in the country office Abuja or our zonal offices.

## Inside Politics

# Nigerians will see improved INEC in FCT polls, says REC

DR. Stephen Manya is the Resident Electoral Commissioner for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). In this interview in Abuja, he speaks on the INEC's preparedness for the April 10 Area Council elections, saying it will be different from Anambra. Excerpts:

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

### HOW would INEC improve election in the FCT, considering the irregularities recorded in the Anambra guber poll?

The Anambra election of February 6, 2010 came up at a time when people were clamoring for electoral reforms. But you could see that for the first time we had a situation where losers were gallant enough to concede victory to the winner and even went ahead to congratulate him. The general public also had positive view of the election. I will say that the situation is very encouraging to those of us who are planning for the election here in the FCT. We have taken note of all that and we are using the Anambra election as our standard to bring improvement on what INEC was able to achieve and what Nigerians appreciated in that election.

In fact Anambra has proved that even without further electoral reforms, we can reasonably have peaceful, free and fair elections in Nigeria. I believe that with the co-operation of the people in FCT, we can improve on our performance in Anambra.

However, I will say for the sake of emphasis that we have taken note of the strengths and weaknesses of the Anambra election and we are working assiduously to see that we bring about improvement to the exercise that is coming up on April 10, 2010 in the FCT. I'm talking about the mix up of the voters' register and late commencement of voting.

### What is the state of preparedness of INEC towards the FCT polls?

We started the preparation precisely on October 26, 2009 with the notice of election by coming up with 21-point time table. We have distributed forms to political parties and displayed the credentials of contestants. We have also done the display of voters register. Right now we are doing the publication of the voters register and only yesterday (Tuesday 9, 2010), we released the approved list of the candidates that are running in this election. So we have come a long way.

### With regard to the 21-point time table you mentioned, at what point are you now?

Right now, we are on item 17.

We have only four items before us. Just two days ago (Monday 8, 2010), we released a list of contestants in the political parties. All together, we have 501 contestants in the election coming from 16 political parties. Very soon we will get to the last point, 21, which is the election proper on April 10.

### But specifically, how are you tackling the issue of voters register which was the bone of contention in Anambra?

After we displayed the voters' register, people were encouraged to come and raise observations and objections if there were any reasons to do that. For instance, if there are any errors or anomalies or even strange names so that the voters register can be corrected. We have also incorporated the list of continues registration. All along, continues registration have been on, until 120 days to the election when we stopped the registration exercise. Now, that figure has been added to the voters' register so that the publication will now show the clean copy of the register.

We want people to come out and check the register. We don't want to have a situation where somebody will come up on Election Day and claim that he couldn't vote. I've met some enlightened people; people who belong to the intelligentsia and they told me that they didn't know that they were supposed to keep their temporary voter's card. They said they had disposed them after the election. It is unfortunate but this is the time to correct the anomaly because the permanent voters card are still laying in our offices, most of them haven't been collected.

So those who have misplaced theirs, still have the opportunity to check and once they see their names on the voters' list, they can check the particulars on the list and approach our electoral officers or those in their respected area councils so that they can sort out their permanent voter's card before Election Day.

### There is said to be voter apathy in the FCT, do you have any special programme to improve the situation in the coming election?

Voter apathy in the FCT is worse than any other place. During the last bye election, we recorded an overall turn out of



DR. Stephen Manya, FCT's electoral boss.

less than 10 percent. This is the worst that have been witnessed anywhere in Nigeria, in any election. Therefore I will say that one of the challenges we are facing in FCT is electorate apathy. That is why we have been relying on the media to help us to sensitize the electorate on the need for them to come out and cast their votes. It is their right and if they fail to do so, it means they are neglecting one of their most vital constitutional rights. I know quite a number of voters who told me that they don't trouble themselves during election because after the politicians have won they don't get to see them again. But I think if the politicians are disappointing them, they do not need to disappoint themselves.

We have more than 50 political parties, if you try one set of politicians and they disappointed you why not try another set, until you are able to get it right rather than forfeiting your own right. If they go like that they will get it right.

### What about logistics in the coming polls, are you adequately prepared in respect of that?

Yes, FCT isn't as vast as people think. It is the smallest territory that I have handled its elections. I started in Borno State which is larger than FCT. I went to Kogi State, which again is larger, and then to Oyo State. So we shouldn't have much problem with logis-

tics because of size of the land or population. Concerning the distribution of materials, we have decided that we will distribute non sensitive materials ahead of time, and even the sensitive materials will be distributed from midnight on the Election Day so that our election personnel and materials will get to all the polling units in the hinterlands in good time before voting starts by 8:00am. This is our target. So I can confirm to you that logistic arrangement has been put in place to ensure that we stick to that target. But if we are distributing sensitive materials as early as 12 midnight, it portends that there must be adequate security, otherwise they can be found in the wrong hands. So we are going to mobilize security agencies, along with our personnel to ensure that the security of materials and personnel is guaranteed. What we require from political parties is to give us their agents so that they can escort the materials to the nooks and cranny to avoid any complain of diversion of sensitive materials.

Ironically, in spite of electoral apathy in the FCT, there is high degree of mistrust among the politicians, that is why I emphasize that political parties' agents must be there so that the materials will move along with them to their destinations to ensure that nothing funny happens on the way.

### What about security arrangement during the election?

The primary responsibility of INEC is to ensure free and fair elections; I mean to provide a level playing field. But the other responsibilities are joined; we must have the cooperation of all the stakeholders to have a peaceful, free and fair election. The first infringement on the electoral process that we must guard against is violence. It is like virus in your computer. Once you have it in your system, nothing will work well. That is why when I noticed that the substitution of candidates was generating a lot of tension recently; I called the parties involved and appealed to them to exercise restraint on the way they were doing things.

### Have you accredited any election observers and monitors?

Yes, we have them. There are many civil society organisations that have approached me but I don't have the power to assess genuine ones among them. But the headquarters have a way of sifting the reliable ones and I rely on the list that will be sent to me from headquarters. Every organisation accredited by INEC's head office to cover and monitor the election will be allowed to do so. But anyone that is not accredited will not be allowed to observe or monitor, as the case may be, the coming election in the FCT.

## Inside Politics

### Oyo PDP crisis: Court adjourns to April 26

AN Oyo State High Court sitting in Ibadan will on April 26, may rule on the motion brought by a faction of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state seeking to stop the PDP national executives committee from dissolving the Oyo State executive of the party.

The trial judge, Hon. Justice Okanlawon Akin-tunde Boade, gave the new date even as counsel representing PDP and its national chairman, Chief Vincent Ogbulafor failed to appear before the court yesterday to defend the preliminary objection filed to confirm the dissolution of the Oyo State party executive and sustenance of the implementation committee set up to oversee the affairs of the party in the state.

In the suit No: 1/190/10, filed on February 10, 2010, the plaintiffs comprising Sikiru Ikuogbogun, Niyi Akande, Ojo

Bolaji and Alhaji Rufai Adetomiwa Memudu, all pro-Akala party men, are asking the court to restrain the national body of the PDP from dissolving the state executive led by Chief Dejo Afolabi.

The group belonging to Governor Christopher Adebayo Alao-Akala had instituted the suit against the national body of the party and Chief Ogbulafor, praying the court not to dissolve the state PDP executives until the expiration of their tenure in 2012. The group also insisted that the setting up of implementation committee by the national body was also unconstitutional.

Justice Boade, however, adjourned the case to April 26 2010 instead of striking it out as demanded by the petitioner's lead counsel, Chief Bolaji Ayorinde (SAN), stating that it would be unfair to strike

out the case because there was no representative of the respondents in the court. He said their absence could be due to a situation that could not be helped.

Justice Boade insisted that another opportunity should be given to the respondents to be heard, saying that their failure to appear at the next hearing would make the court to take decision.

Earlier in his argument, Chief Ayorinde had told the court that the respondent's written address was defective because it did not have address for service within the jurisdiction as required by the Civil Procedure of Oyo State. Ayorinde further notified the court that if the respondent did not produce address for service in Oyo State, the petitioner was not at a liberty to serve them anywhere in the country.

### Buhari harps on credible elections

From Hisham Habib, Kano

FORMER Head of State General Muhammadu Buhari said at the weekend that Nigeria is in dire need of credible elections. General Buhari who spoke at a book presentation in Kano Sunday said the book written by Dr Auwalu Anwar is aimed at reminding people of the struggle against tyranny and to make them understand the need to struggle for their emancipation.

He added that a lot of resources had been spent without any impact. Gen Buhari said a situation where over 1.8 million voters were registered and only one third were able to cast their votes was unfortunate, saying something needed to be done to change the



GENERAL Muhammadu Buhari

situation. Former Kaduna State Governor Balarabe Musa also agreed with Buhari, saying credible elections was the only way

out. The book was formally presented by the representative of former Vice President Atiku Abubakar, Malam Garba Shehu.

### 2011: INEC should insist on e-voting machine, says Agoro

From Femi Akinloa, Lagos

FORMER Presidential candidate of the National Action Council (NAC), Dr. Olapade Agoro has asked the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to insist on using e-voting electronic machines for the 2011 elections saying if that is achieved, a lot of problems associated with election malpractices in the country would have been half solved.

Agoro who gave the advice at the weekend in Lagos, also alleged that the Peoples Democratic Party

(PDP) and the leadership of the National Assembly are poised to disallow usage of the electric voting machine for elections in Nigeria.

He recalled that INEC Chairman, Professor Maurice Iwu, had shown determination to use the e-voting machine for the 2007 general elections but the leadership of the ruling party kicked against the novel idea.

"Information at one's disposal was to the effect that Iwu did all his best to ensure former President Olusegun Obasanjo supported the idea but pressure was mounted on INEC

to do away with the idea," he said.

"When it became clear to the then leadership of PDP that the usage of the E-voting machines was going to impede their game plan to rig the 2007 elections, they mounted pressure on Obasanjo to discountenance Iwu's request. It got to a stage that when Iwu became persistent to go ahead with his decision to use the machines, the then National Assembly decided to delay release of fund to INEC for the conduct of the 2007 elections and with a threat on Iwu's job," he added.

### Group commends Jonathan for stable democracy

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

NIGERIAN Youth League (NYL) yesterday commended Acting President, Goodluck Ebele Jonathan for his effort to move the country forward by stabilizing the polity and redeeming Nigeria's democratic image in the eyes of international community.

NYL's secretary Muhammad Bunu, in a statement, said Acting President Jonathan is working to sustain his predecessor's

vision for the country by taking decisive action where there is the need.

He also implored the global community to desist from making mince meat of the political crises to achieve their economic and political, benefits stressing that the crisis has already been addressed by the National assembly as empowered by the constitution.

The group urged Nigerian youths to develop and sustain positive mindset towards greater political environment.



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## THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA FEDERAL MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

### INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION FOR SURVEY, DESIGN AND BUILD CONTRACTORS FOR COASTAL RAILWAY LINE IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Federal Government of Nigeria as part of its post amnesty intervention and in furtherance of her commitment to the Infrastructural Development of the Niger Delta Region is desirous of constructing a Coastal Railway Line across the Niger Delta region.
- 1.2 The Federal Government of Nigeria, through the Federal Ministry of Transport now invites reputable national and international contractors/consultants with verifiable experience in Railway Construction and dredging to submit Prequalification Documents for Survey, Design and Build Contractors for the Proposed Coastal Railway Line in the Niger Delta Region.

#### 2.0 PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND SCOPE OF WORKS

##### 2.1 Coastal Railway Line

- 2.1.1 The proposed Coastal Railway Line is conceived as a standard gauge, high speed railway line connecting the following State Capitals: Benin City - Yenagoa - Port Harcourt - Uyo - Calabar and linking other important commercial towns such as Sapele, Warri, Ikot-Ekpene and Aba.
- 2.1.2 The estimated total length of the railway line is about 420km with almost 20 stations located along the route of the project. For quick delivery, the government intends to split the project into two segments of 210km each.
- 2.1.3 The general scope of the project include:
- i) Survey
  - ii) Design and
  - iii) Construction of a Modern Standard Railway Line linking the six Niger Delta Region States of Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Abia, Akwa Ibom and Cross River.

#### 3.0 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- 3.1 The Procedure for awarding the Survey, Design and Build Contract shall be conducted in two phases namely:
- Invitation for Pre-qualification of Contractors (with public opening) and
  - Submission of Proposals (Technical and Financial) by prequalified contractors (with public opening)

#### 4. PARTICIPATION IN THE PREQUALIFICATION EXERCISE

##### 4.1 Right to participate

- 4.1.2 All legal entities, domestic or foreign, independent or as a consortium, that are interested in the award of the Survey, Design and Construction Contracts, are eligible to participate in the Prequalification Exercise.

- 4.1.3 In the case of a consortium, one member of the consortium shall be appointed as the leading member and shall prove this authorization by submitting Power of Attorney letters signed by legally authorized representatives of the other members. Inclusion of Nigeria's Registered Engineering Consulting Firms in the consortium will be an added advantage.

##### 4.2 Documentation Required

##### A. Profile of firm/consortium

- 4.2.1 These should include ownership structure and role of each corporate entity with full contact details including email of the lead firm.

##### B. Information on the financial and economic status of the firm:

- Balance Sheet and Income Statement issued by an authorized body, i.e. an Audited Income Statement for the last three years for each member of the consortium. A requirement for Prequalification is that the leading member in the Consortium submitting the Request, must have a total annual turnover of at least N75bn (\$500m) from activities relevant to Railway Construction, in each of the last three years.

- Proof that each member of the consortium submitting the Request has paid all taxes and other state fees in accordance with the laws of the Country where it is registered; and

- Statement by a renowned (first rate) financial institution or bank concerning its intention to provide the Consortium with a credit line for the realization of the project.

##### C. Information on Experience and Reference

- Each member of the Consortium should have experience, individually or collectively, in projects similar to the Survey, Design and Construction of Railway Lines. Experience in construction of roads, highways and bridges are relevant.

##### D. Information on the Management Structure and Operational Capabilities

- Information on the proposed team to work on the project and information on the qualifications and experience of each team member;
- Description of the organizational structure of the proposed team and how it intends to operate;

- Proof that each member of the consortium is a legal entity and that none of the legal entities or a member of their management have been convicted for corruption, fraud or money laundering by a court of law;
- Information on the equipment/plant to be used on the project.

##### E. Documentation and Information

- Notarized certificate of the Registration documents for each member of the consortium;
- An original or notarized copy of a contract, Memorandum of Understanding defining the relationship between the members of the consortium provided that the interested party is a consortium;
- Proof that one member is appointed as the leading member, provided in a form of a Power of Attorney by each member of the consortium;
- Statement by each member of the consortium confirming responsibility for the fulfillment of obligations resulting from the Survey/Design/Construction Contract to be awarded to that Consortium, they will be collectively and mutually liable for the obligations resulting from the contract;
- Proof by the relevant state body that each member of the Consortium is not insolvent or involved in a bankruptcy proceedings and that it is not subject to a criminal

investigation of its business activities.

information on all past or ongoing judicial or administrative procedure against any member of the consortium.

#### 5.0 LANGUAGE

- 5.1 The entire Documentation should be in English Language. Documents issued in another language should have notarized translation into English Language.

#### 6.0 MANNER OF SUBMISSION

- 6.1 The Request for Prequalification and the associated documentation should be submitted in one (1) Original, five (5) hard copies and one (1) soft copy.
- 6.2 The Request for Prequalification and the associated documentation should be submitted in a doubly sealed envelope with an external and internal envelope.
- 6.3 The external envelope should bear the following text at the **top left hand corner**:

**DO NOT OPEN**  
**REQUEST FOR SUBMISSION OF PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS FOR SURVEY,**  
**DESIGN AND BUILD CONTRACTORS FOR THE COASTAL RAILWAY LINE**  
**IN THE NIGER DELTA REGION**

and addressed as stated in (7.2) below.

- 6.4 The internal envelope apart from the information above should contain the names and addresses of the interested party. Within the internal envelope, separate envelopes containing the appropriate number of copies marked "Original", "Copy 1", "Copy 2", "Copy 3", "Copy 4", and "Copy 5" should be submitted.

#### 7.0 DEADLINE AND ADDRESS FOR SUBMISSION OF THE REQUEST

- 7.1 The Request for Prequalification for Survey, Design and Build Contractors for the Coastal Railway Line and the associated documentation should be submitted no later than **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2010, at 16:00hrs local time.**

- 7.2 The Request for Prequalification and the associated documentation are to be submitted at the following address:

**The Secretary,  
Ministerial Tenders Board  
Federal Ministry of Transport Headquarters,  
Bukar Dipcharima House  
Central Business District  
Off 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Abuja, Nigeria**

- 7.3 Only Requests for Prequalification received within the deadline shall be taken into consideration. Any Request submitted after the expiration of the deadline, shall be rejected.

#### 8.0 SELECTION

- 8.1 This being a Request for Prequalification, the opening and evaluation of the received Requests for Prequalification may be performed in the absence of the applicants.

- 8.2 The Evaluation Committee constituted by the Honorable Minister of Transport shall determine the economic, financial and technical strength of the interested parties that have submitted a Request for Prequalification and shall determine which of them are qualified to participate in the procedure for submission of Proposals.

- 8.3 The Prequalification shall be concluded within **21 days** after the deadline for submission of the Request for Prequalification.

- 8.4 The Committee, following the Prequalification process shall notify, in writing, all interested parties that participated in the procedure for prequalification concerning the results. The reason(s) for disqualification of each firm shall be given in a debriefing session before financial offers are received from prequalified bidders.

- 8.5 Only the qualified candidates shall be invited to submit Proposals (Technical and Financial).

#### 9.0 OTHERS

- 9.1 This Invitation for Prequalification does not oblige in any way, the Federal Ministry of Transport to award the Survey, Design and Build Contract for the Construction of the Coastal Railway Line in the Niger Delta Region, to any particular contractor.

- 9.2 The Federal Ministry of Transport holds the right to change the terms for awarding the Survey, Design and Build Contract for the Coastal Railway Line in the Niger Delta Region as well as the deadlines for the procedures, in a manner and under conditions determined by it.

- 9.3 The Federal Ministry of Transport will not make any form of payment or refund whatsoever for expenses incurred in response to this invitation.

- 9.4 All questions concerning this invitation should be addressed to the following authorized person:

**Director (Transport Planning & Coordination); Email: jnnwoko200@yahoo.com; Tel: 080333147144, and 08051655464.**

**SIGNED,  
PERMANENT SECRETARY**



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# INEC: BLAME THE SYSTEM?

Are INEC officials intrinsically corrupt? Can corruption be reduced in our electoral process? Some Nigerians at home and in Diaspora picked electoral malpractices as the item that made them most ashamed of Nigeria, but it was poverty and inflation that the majority wanted the Government to fight first, implying pessimism about the possibility of conducting a free and fair election in Nigeria. No wonder Transparency International that ranks nations on the basis of *perceptions* of corruption puts Nigeria high on the list. Though I disagree with that report but as Nigeria reels from scams in the public and private sectors, it would seem that the perceptions are correct. But modern research shows that systems influence behaviour. Although the system is changing, it is also essential to change the perception of ourselves as a corrupt nation; more people follow practices that are regarded as the norm. Unless the system and perceptions both change, yesterday's bofor will become today's armgate.

If controls and discretionary power are responsible for corruption in our electoral process, this puts the blame on systems adopted years after Independence. If it is greed that causes corruption, Nigeria's present is exacerbating the problem. Reforms increase incentives and opportunities to make money from vanishing power. But as the system continues to change, transparency increases and discretion falls, so will these opportunities. The first step to removing flaws is discovering them. Those who identify and use loopholes actually provide a service if their contribution is used to plug the loopholes.

Initially controls encouraged corruption. But once corruption is widespread it is not only opportunities for, but also the acceptability of corruption that has to fall. A combination of systemic change and social sanctions are required.

It is useful to list some of such measures. First, relating to Government administration. Controls and discretionary power are being dismantled. But the bureaucracy has to be restructured to remove overlapping jurisdictions and increase competition in the provision of public goods. Otherwise the Government servant acts as a monopolist, charging a high bribe-price for the public good he sells. If the transaction has to go through many layers to be completed, each extracts its price. The system becomes inefficient as well. A smaller, sleeker, more skilled and better-paid administration is required with incentive structures in place. Information technology opens many possibilities. The electronic voting system and electronic voter registration initiatives proposed by Professor Maurice Iwu are laudable approaches towards reducing electoral fraud. "Clean" professionals should be allotted to sensitive posts in INEC by a process free of political interference.


Second, politicians are considered the most discredited and corrupt section of society. Some politicians are modern day Robin Hood who woo her voters with gift, and who would go extra miles to make things difficult for INEC staff. Some politicians go as far as threatening the life of INEC staff if they wouldn't take bribes to deliver them. The tragedy is that these short-term benefits come at the cost of subverting the system and destroying the long-term livelihood of voters. Recently the NLC executives called for the removal of INEC chairman. That's a shame. Abdulwahed Omar's NLC must stop throwing tantrums on Professor Maurice Iwu who is not the cause of our ailing electoral system. I would advise NLC not to be like a drowning goat and deal with their deregulation concerns before jumping into other peoples jurisdiction. Instead of witch-hunting Professor Maurice Iwu, an honest NLC should advocate rules that limits election expenses, prohibit personal gifts to voters, ban criminals from contesting elections and campaign for internal democratization of political parties; then politicians, knowing that no one can bribe voters or officials, may reduce illegal wealth accumulation and turn to real issues. Unfortunately NLC under Omar is a ghost of its former self. In a democracy politicians have a real role in lobbying for the interests they represent. This ensures that every voice is heard and no one caste or group dominates. If political parties publish their accounts hidden agendas will be minimized. Collective actions through NGOs and horizontal links with different groups are being encouraged and can further improve governance. Alternatives or competition must be developed for both the bureaucrat and the politician.

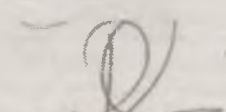
Third is the role of society. Research suggests that it is bribe givers who, if caught, should be punished more severely. Larger penalties on bribe takers only increases the bribe but does not always eliminate the act. The reason corruption is easier in a corrupt society is that the social costs of corruption fall. We must reduce our toleration of such behaviour; there must be social ostracism, public humiliation and loss of reputation for the corrupt. This is wider and deeper than mere legal punishment. The golden rule should be; do not co-operate with the corrupt.

Fourth is the media, which has enormous power in making and breaking reputations. We have seen them in the punishing mode recently; we also need to see them in the rewarding mode. Our journalists have done us a signal service, both in discouraging corruption and perhaps starting a cleansing process. The spy-cam drastically increases transparency and the possibility of being caught. Any furtive transaction stands the chance of being made public. But if a researcher searches through the data until he finds evidence to support his pre-conceptions and then publishes, we would call him biased. The reaction of the President of NLC lately on the recent newspaper story accusing them of receiving bribe justifies the above position. Saying that everyone is corrupt only makes sleaze more acceptable. If there are stories of dishonest officers there should be stories of honest behaviour. Perhaps officials should start using spycams to catch, publicize and punish those who offer bribes.

In conclusion, corruption could be viewed as a deep-seated and fundamental economic, political and institutional weaknesses and shortcomings in a country. To be effective, measures against corruption must therefore address, without sentiments, the causes and not the symptoms. If it requires some bills or amending the constitution, so be it. Because any section of a country's constitution that could be manipulated must, in the interest of the system, be amended or improved as the case may be. Emphasis must thus be placed on preventing corruption by tackling the root causes that give rise to it through undertaking economic, political and institutional reforms. Anti-corruption enforcement measures such as oversight bodies, a strengthened police force and more efficient law courts will not be effective in the absence of a serious effort to address the fundamental causes. Again corruption is more prevalent where there are other forms of institutional weaknesses, such as political instability, bureaucratic red tape, and weak legislative and judicial systems. The important point is that corruption and such institutional weaknesses are linked together and that they feed upon each other. For example, red tape makes corruption possible and corrupt officials may increase the extent of red tapes so that they can get more bribes. So, getting rid of corruption helps a country to overcome other institutional weaknesses, just as reducing other institutional weaknesses helps to curb corruption. Pouring invectives on the INEC chairman, Professor Maurice Iwu, would not be fair to a man who achieved a resounding success in conducting an election that didn't tear the nation apart as envisaged in various quarters. He achieved this amidst threats to his life, illicit pressure from the political class, and ever increasing apathy on the side of the voters.

The main conclusion to be drawn is that undertaking reforms (both economic and political) by reducing institutional weaknesses offers the best hope to overcome corruption. Corruption will not disappear because of reforms. But reforms will bring it under control and minimize its adverse consequences so that the country can proceed with its efforts to become a modern, developed nation with a good chance of attaining that goal. Nigerians should beware of Abdulwahed Omar's tribal ventriloquist, as his sudden attack on Maurice Iwu's INEC is not borne out of patriotic intentions but personal gains.

  
Dr. E. OKEREKE (President)

  
MR. ELVIS NDUBUEZE (Secretary)

## SPORT

Vogts to  
drag NFF  
to court

Page 56



# Lagerback: Eagles defence my headache

**SUPER** Eagles' Technical Adviser, Lars Lagerback, said his team must shore up its defensive attributes if Nigeria's dream of playing at the semi-final of the South Africa 2010 World Cup will be realised.

"We must not concede care-less goals. This is what I have seen in recent videos of Eagles' games, letting in goals through lack of concentration," Lagerback told SuperSports on his Nigerian mission. We all know how difficult it is to score in modern football, so we must be careful as we build our team."

Previewing the Group B of the World Cup where Nigeria will slug it out with Argentina, South Korea and Greece, Lagerback said he has no fears for opposition.

"We respect every team, we don't have any preferences. The World Cup is important for a lot of people - the players, the fans, coaches and administrators. If we get things working, we can achieve a lot. Nigerian players have a lot of skills and are among some of the best," he said

"My area of concern now is the defence because the defenders easily lose concentrations and concede cheap goals," he added.

The Swede coach added that based on the negotiations the Nigeria Football Federation, NFF, could make with other countries, he will like to play three friendly games before he camps the team for the World Cup.

"Three friendly games should be enough, then we can go into camp for at least one month before the World Cup," he explained.



**SUPER** Eagles defender Joseph Yobo in action during the African Cup of Nations in Angola. Eagles new gaffer, Lars Lagerback is worried at the team's porous defence.

## Anichebe shooting for World Cup

**VICTOR** Anichebe is hoping he can regain full match fitness in time to be considered for a place in Lars Lagerback's 23-man squad for South Africa.

The Everton youngster cracked a stunning effort home in Everton's 2-2 draw at Birmingham on Saturday in his sixth appearance for the club after being out for nearly a year with torn ligaments in his ankle.

It was only his third start for the club and Anichebe told KickOffNigeria.com that while Premier League fitness is his primary focus, he also has an eye on the World Cup party.

"Fitness for the Premier League is my first target but I'd be lying if I said the World Cup is not in my thoughts, .."

"The Olympic Games was an unbelievable experience and to take part in a World Cup would top that especially with it being in Africa."

Nigeria's forward line is bursting at the seams with talent like Osaze Odemwingie, Obafemi Martins, Yakubu Aiyegbeni, Ike Uche, Chinedu Obasi and Michael Eneramo as well as the likes of Peter Utaka and Joseph Akpala. The big forward knows that competition will be stiff.

"Nigeria has a very good squad and plenty of attacking options so I am not suggesting for a minute that as soon as I am fit, I'll be selected.

"I will have to prove myself to show that I am capable but I'm sure that everyone in the team still has something to prove nobody in the team has automatic selection.

"I'm not the coach he is the only one that can pick the team."

## NFF warns stakeholders against litigation

By Ismaila Lere

THE Nigeria Football Federation yesterday issued a stern warning to all football stakeholders in the country against penchant for taking football matters to ordinary courts of law.

"Some persons within the football family appear to have forgotten the etho that you don't take football matter to an ordinary court of law. Those persons are living in dreamland and have been recruiting unsuspecting or equally ignorant fellows into their fold.

"Our warning today is that anyone who takes football matters to ordinary court of law in this country will begin to face the music. We are very serious about this. Those persons who like to go to ordinary court on football issues at the drop of a hat should go and read Article 64 of the FIFA Statutes and Article 75 of the NFF Statutes," NFF General Secretary, Dr. Bolaji Ojo-Oba said in Abuja.

Article 64 of the FIFA Statutes reads, inter alia: "The Confederations, Members and Leagues shall agree to recognise CAS as an inde-

pendent judicial authority and to ensure that their members, affiliated Players and Officials comply with the decisions passed by CAS. The same obligation shall apply to licensed match and players' agents. 2) Recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited unless specifically provided for in the FIFA regulations 3) The Associations shall insert a clause in their statutes or regulations, stipulating that it is prohibited to take disputes in the Association or disputes affecting Leagues, members of Leagues, clubs, members of clubs, Players, Officials and other

Association Officials to ordinary courts of law..."

Article 75 of NFF Statutes reads: "NFF, its Members, Players, Officials and match and players' agents will not take any dispute to Ordinary Courts unless specifically provided for in these Statutes and FIFA regulations. Any disagreement shall be submitted to the jurisdiction of FIFA, CAF, WAFU or NFF (2) NFF shall have jurisdiction on internal national disputes, i.e. disputes between parties belonging to NFF. FIFA shall have jurisdiction on international disputes, i.e. dis-

putes between parties belonging to different Associations and/or Confederations.

"Football has its own operating rules and ways of getting justice, and there are avenues for aggrieved persons to ventilate their grievances and seek redress, all the way to FIFA and even the Court of Arbitration for Sport. We will no longer tolerate reckless abuse of rules and regulations and we don't want jesters and clowns in the football space. The Nigeria Football Federation will henceforth come down hard on violators of this articles," Ojo-Oba concluded.

## Ndanusa, others condole with Jigawa over Galadima's death

CONDOLENCE messages flooded in yesterday as Nigeria sports fraternity continued to expressed shock over the death of NFF Executive Committee member, Alhaji Alili Galadima at the weekend in a ghastly motor accident.

Sports Minister and Chairman, National Sports Commission, Engineer Sani Mohammed Ndanusa in a condolence message to the Commissioner of Sports, Jigawa State extolled the late football administrator for his passion and commitment to the game of football in Nigeria.

According to him, the "late Alili Galadima was a highly committed and competent football administrator whom the football circle would greatly miss for his patriotic and very useful contributions to the development of the game of football in Nigeria."

Similarly, NFF Executive Committee member, Alhaji Aminu Maigari also condoled with Nigeria football family, saying that Galadima's death came as a rude shock to him.

He described the late football administrator as a brother and colleague, whose demise came at the time when his services were needed.

He prayed to the Almighty God to give his soul eternal bliss and his family, friends and relatives the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss.

Galadima died last Friday near Niamey on his way to attend football event between Nigeria and Niger Republic in the Africa Championship qualifiers.

## Zenith Bank League starts April 7

THE Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF) has fixed April 7th as start off date for this season's Zenith Bank League. The Secretary of the Federation Mr. Francis Gbiri confirmed the date just as he confirmed that the sponsors have handed in the cheque for the season.

The NBBF picked a cheque of N10m from Zenith Bank in Lagos on Thursday as sponsorship fee for the year.

"I believe we are set to kick off now having collected the most important thing - the cheque. We are working very hard to start April 7th as soon as we round off the Division one event in Ilorin in the middle belt region of the country. Once again we say thank you to our sponsors Zenith Bank for appreciating our efforts and staying with us," Gbiri said.

The first phase will hold in Kano as announced earlier while the next stop will be in Asaba before the Final-four play off in Lagos.



GLO-CAF Awards Young Player of the Year, Ghana's Dominic Adiyiah, left shares his moment with fellow nominee, Emmanuel Sani of Nigeria during the award ceremony in Accra, Ghana recently.

## 2010 MTN/LAGOS POLO REVIEW

# Kaduna, Lagos teams win top honours

By Ismaila Lere

THE age long rivalry between visiting teams from Kaduna and their Lagos counterparts took a new dimension in this year's MTN/Lagos International Polo Tournament, as they finished the prestigious event with two titles each.

Kaduna polo club enjoy the upper hand, maintaining its status as the best playing polo club in the country, as Adamu Atta-powered Kaduna Fifth Chukker emerged the overall champions, smiling home with the Majekodunmi Cup and the Independence Cup.

Dawule Baba's DeeBee Farms parading Yerima Yusuf, Ibrahim Babangida and Bello Buba added the Lagos Open Cup to Kaduna total haul, beating crowd favourites, Lagos Rubicon 9-41/2 in a grueling final game.

Host Lagos could only settle for the Lagos Low Cup and the Dansa Cup. Bode Makanjuola captained Lagos Caverton gave the teeming Lagos polo enthusiasts plenty to cheer for as Rotimi Makanjuola, Abdulmumuni Musa and Glory Mbano light up Ikoyi with sparkling performance.

Caverton that won all their games going into the final defeated the ambitious Costain boosting the likes of Tunde Karim, Sheriff Shagaya and the hard-fighting Hamisu Buba, 8-6 to earn their first Lagos Low Cup title.

The Lagos-based Nigerian Polo Bombers maintained their spectacular form, winning the all their games.

The CSP Aliyu Abubakar-led Bombers showcasing the awesome skills of Ibrahim Musa, Jamilu Umar and Abdulrahman

Mohammed defeated the visiting Port Harcourt Protea team 9-2 to win the Dansa Cup that attracted six strong contenders this year.

Before the grande finale of the MTN Polo show, Bashir Yar'Adua captained side had emerged the proud winners of the Oba of Lagos Cup. The Katsina born polo patron leading CSP Aliyu Abubakar, Kareem Meleghi and Ali Hajaj pushed their opponents all the way in the four chukka cracker played before a crowded house that included Speaker House of Representative, Dimeji Bankole.

Team B parading Osaro Giwa-Osagie, Musty Damcida, Muka Amusan and Mohammed Meleghi had come from behind to draw level 5-5 at the end of the encounter, only to lose the crown on toss.

The MTN/Lagos'2010 Inter-

national Polo Tournament, also produced another brand new champion, as Musty Fashinro-led side emerged the proud winners of the Governor Raji Fashola Cup whose final marked the climax of the first stage of the fiesta.

Fashinro squad were trailing by two goals into the final chukka of the exciting game, before lurching a late rally that produced two late goals that changed their fortune in the race for the brand new polo prize.

Their opponents had taken a commanding two goals lead in the closely fought game as Bashir Dantata (jnr), Mumuni Musa and Idris Badamasi thrilled the crowd with their skills, but a momentary loss of concentration in the last three minutes turned their glittering Governor Cup chance into a nightmare.

## Eagles' loss to Niger shocking – Ojo-Oba

THE NFF General Secretary, Bolaji Ojo-Oba, has described the 0-2 loss of the Super Eagles Team B to Niger as "shocking".

The Daniel Amokachi-led team was walloped by Niger Republic on Saturday in Niamey in the 2011 Africa Nations Championship qualifiers.

The tournament, the second edition, is for players based on the African continent.

Ojo-Oba told newsmen yesterday in Lagos that the loss was embarrassing and unbelievable.

"We received the result with shock; that the Super Eagles was

beaten by Niger is highly embarrassing.

"The team have just arrived from Niger. I expect that before the end of work today (Monday), the match report will be submitted to the technical committee for evaluation.

"In the next 24 hours, a decision will be taken on the team; when we know what the problem is, we will decide whether new players should be injected or the coaching crew revitalised," he said.

Ojo-Oba, however, said that the qualification was still open, especially with the second leg coming

up in Kano in a fortnight.

Meanwhile, former Nigeria internationals have blamed poor preparation for the Eagles defeat in Niamey.

They said that if the team had prepared well for the match, the result would probably have been different.

Paul Hamilton, a former Green Eagles coach, said the over-estimation of the team's prowess by the media also contributed to the loss.

"There was nothing wrong with the home-based Eagles. Our preparation for the qualifiers was just inadequate. When you do not

prepare well, you are bound to fail," Hamilton said.

He said that the team became over-confident after the 5-2 drubbing of the Congo Democratic Republic in an international friendly on March 3 in Abuja.

Aside inadequate preparation, a former Green Eagles star, Ademola Adesina, also attributed the defeat to the death of a Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) board member, Alili Galadima.

"The news of Galadima's death in an auto crash on his way to Niamey for the encounter must have affected the players," Adesina said.



# Mourinho plots Inter progress

JOSE Mourinho, the self-confessed Special One, returns to Stamford Bridge tonight plotting the Champions League downfall of the club he admits is still close to his heart.

"I will be there with my heart fully on either side. That's what a professional does," Mourinho, whose Inter Milan side will be protecting a 2-1 first leg lead in the last-16 clash against Chelsea, told UEFA.com. "I don't hide that Chelsea are a very important part of my life."

**“ All eyes will be on Mourinho, however, as the charismatic Portuguese takes his place in the visitors dug-out at Stamford Bridge**

Chelsea's second leg with Inter on Tuesday is the most intriguing of the week's clashes which also include reigning champions Barcelona at home to Stuttgart on Wednesday following a 1-1 draw in the first leg in Germany.

The Catalans warmed up with a 3-0 victory over Valencia on Sunday in which Lionel Messi scored a hat-trick.

Seville take on CSKA Moscow tonight, also level at 1-1, while French champions Bordeaux will be favourites to reach the quarter-finals for the first time having won 1-0 in Greece against Olympiakos.

All eyes will be on Mourinho, however, as the charismatic Portuguese takes his place in the visitors dug-out at Stamford Bridge—just metres away from the seat

where he orchestrated the greatest chapter in Chelsea's history.

"The good thing is that I don't have far to walk," he said. "From the dressing room to the bench is five metres. I don't have to cross the stadium, I don't have to feel the emotions from the crowd. I will just sit there and play my game."

Mourinho is assured a great reception by the fans who will be forever grateful for the two Premier League titles, two League Cups and one FA Cup he won in three seasons before his sudden departure in 2007.

But the sentimentality will end once the whistle blows.

Mourinho, who got his hands on the trophy with Porto in 2004, knows how desperate Chelsea are to land Europe's biggest club prize, having twice reached the semi-finals under him and losing to Manchester United on penalties in the final led by his successor Avram Grant.

Carlo Ancelotti, the latest coach entrusted with the task by owner Roman Abramovich, knows what it takes to win the Champions League, having done it twice with Inter's fierce rivals Milan.

Like most of the 40,000 fans wedged into Stamford Bridge on Tuesday, Ancelotti will know that Inter pose a serious threat despite stuttering domestic form simply because of who is in charge of picking the team.

Many of the Chelsea squad, including the likes of Frank Lampard and Didier Drogba, still hold Mourinho in high regard and Ancelotti knows he might be left in the shade a little before the whistle blows.

"Mourinho deserves to have a good reception because he did a fantastic job," says Ancelotti told Chelsea's website. "Together with Roman he put a team into the best position in the world."

"I just hope that in the future, in a very long time, when I come back to Chelsea, I'll have this same reception."

A Champions League triumph



INTER Milan coach Jose Mourinho returns to Stamford Bridge tonight to plot the downfall of Chelsea.

would guarantee that but there is much hard work ahead, starting with overturning Inter's lead.

"I don't think we have to score early," Ancelotti said. "We need to play well, in a game with balance, because then we can still score in the last minute of the game."

"We want to start the game

well and play well but we don't need a goal straight away."

Inter striker Samuel Eto'o has been in patchy form since his July swap deal with Barcelona's Zlatan Ibrahimovic but is still likely to start alongside Diego Milito.

Chelsea's biggest worry is in the goalkeeping department

with Petr Cech and Hilario both injured, although Ross Turnbull impressed on his league debut on Saturday when Drogba warmed up with two goals in a 4-1 defeat of West Ham United.

Inter's preparations were less impressive, losing 3-1 to Catania on Friday.

## Ancelotti: It's not myself versus Mourinho

CHELSEA boss Carlo Ancelotti has played down the battle of wits between Inter boss Jose Mourinho and himself, insisting that it is a Champions League clash between two teams, and not two people.

The two sides lock horns at Stamford Bridge tonight in the all-important second leg of their Round of 16 tie, with the first having ended 2-1 in favour of the Italian club.

The two managers have

always shared a frosty relationship, which began during Ancelotti's days with Milan. And the 'love at first swipe' has not ceased since the Italian took charge of Mourinho's former club.

However, 'Carletto' insists that the European night will not be turned into a clash between two personalities, but will instead remain as an encounter between two teams.

"There is no problem with Mourinho," Ancelotti is quoted

by FIFA.com as saying.

"It's a game between Chelsea and Inter, not me against Mourinho."

The former Rossoneri boss maintained that despite the defeat in the first leg, the Londoners still have a good chance of progressing with the decisive leg being at home.

The gaffer consequently called on his side to show "courage" and "personality" in the face of adversity, to ensure a spot in

the quarter-finals of Europe's elite competition.

"We know it will be a difficult game against an excellent team, but I think we have a good possibility to do our best to win and go forward," he added.

"The atmosphere is a good atmosphere to have before a game against Inter."

"I think we don't have time to be worried. We have to stay concentrated, have confidence, have courage, have personality,

only with this can we win the game."

Inter have been in indifferent form since the European triumph over Chelsea at the San Siro, having won only once in their last three games - and were recently subject to an upset at the hands of Catania.

In contrast, the English Premier League title hopefuls go into the crunch clash having thumped West Ham United 4-1 in a London derby.

## THE TUESDAY COLUMN

Sanusi Abubakar

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Post-coup Niger (2):  
How to fix the mess!

Initially, there were doubts as to who actually took over in Niger. It appeared that younger officers overthrew Tandja but were almost immediately replaced with more senior ones, with only the Squadron-Leader ("Major" in army parlance) Salou Djibo, left as a compromised, heading a regime of his seniors. Yet the army establishment must have known of the coup. Even the Prime Minister, Mahamadou Danda, was appointed only after consultation with former some serving and retired soldiers, especially president Ali Saibou, whom Tandja defeated to get to the top. However, to complicate matters, most of the members of the junta currently in power are said to be Tandja's supporters until only recently. They are also mostly Zarma from Tillabery and Dosso, though Salou Djibo himself is Songhai.

How long do they intend to remain in power? What is their transition programme? What role do they envisage for the political parties and civil society? These were some of the questions the soldiers themselves are grappling with. They intend setting up a consultative committee, fully representative of the people of Niger and not just the political parties, to work out a new constitution, a credible electoral code and to advise them on the duration of their regime. The new ministers and other major actors in this transition would be competent and credible professionals. Though Tandja and six of his ministers, currently being detained, are all safe and are being well taken care of, their future remains uncertain. So are the future roles of the main opposition leaders, especially Hama Amadou, Mahamane Ousmane and even Ali Saibou himself. Do they intend to probe Tandja's government, as is being demanded by some? Would they send Tandja on exile abroad? Would they ban the others from future elections?

Some politicians are already at work and could confuse the equation. Several members of the opposition, and civil society activists opposed to Tandja's alliance, who had expected to play a part in the transition government, but have been side-lined, are already grumbling. Bunti Diallo, a philosophy lecturer and activist, who organised the first pro-CSR demonstration was on television, the night of my departure, insisting that they, who fought *Tazarce* must be included in the new government which was being formed, or else. Tandja's people, though raked by suspicions and recriminations, are at least keeping their supporters quite.

The good news is Salou Djibo and his colleagues have disqualified themselves from contesting the next elections. All ministers and other major actors in this transition, as well as the officers of the army and other military and paramilitary agencies, would not be allowed to contest. That should at least pacify those opposed to soldiers removing their uniforms and pretending to be born-again democrats.

But, as Moussa Tchangari of Alternative, one of Niger's most organised NGO, pointed out, these are just the opening shots. "All coup makers start by promising to return power soonest, once certain anomalies and misdeeds are corrected. They very often renege once they consolidate their hold on power, depending on the strength (and cohesion!) of the political forces and civil society" So, although I believe they would hand over, nobody can say when. It is no use pretending that anybody would hasten to relinquish power as soon as some advisory panel decides on a date. Advisers don't decide. They advise. Only when the political leaders and social activists come together and speak with one voice would they be taken seriously.

After recent happenings in Guinea, the stupidity in Cote d'Ivoire, and intransigent noises and posturing even here

in Nigeria, we must ask ourselves if the Niger coup signals a return to the era of military take-overs. The only honest answer is to say, "Who knows?" We do not pray for a coup, nor would we support it. However, as Niger has shown, when we ignore the nation's interests and insist on imposing our own agenda on everybody, when political options are closed because institutions have been hijacked, then we should expect the unexpected.

In fact, we would continue to see people wanting to hang on to power in all of Africa because nobody wants to go back to normal life. All those things meant to make normal life better, or even bearable, have not been put in place and these leaders are often unsure of their fate after relinquishing power. Their hangers-on would also have to still be close to power to keep on with the life style and advantages they have become used to.

...And Jonathan brings in the generals!

This brings us to our own retired generals, and their current attempts to resurrect politically. Someone apparently convinced our Acting President, Goodluck Jonathan, that

the threats he faced required drastic measures. So, in addition to five new advisors and a Presidential Advisory Council headed by retired General T. Y. Danjuma, he had to appeal to the same forces that anointed former president Olusegun Obasanjo to handle these perceived security threats. They gave him General Aliyu Gusau as his new National Security Adviser. Which is all well and good, if you ignore everyone else but those noisy editors, journalists and "social critics" on whose advice he apparently relies most? But let us pray he is not taking anti-cancer capsules to fight common cold. Is it really our lot in life to live without a say in our own future, abdicating all

decisions to some cabal? The Yar'adua cabal, the old generals' cabal, and now an emerging Goodluck cabal? Would we ever have political parties and public institutions that work? Would we ever have a say in who governs us?

It appears the Acting President wants to chew everything all at once. And he is at risk of getting serious stomach upset by swallowing too much, too quickly. There is too much to do, and not enough time, so the acting President needs to prioritize. His work is spelt out for him, whether he likes it or not: electoral reforms, free and fair elections, security (especially Niger Delta and the Plateau), and, if he can, power projects. If the parties would continue to remain relevant, they should try and encourage their own internal reforms. By all means throw out a few ministers, and keep on with major reforms. But let us have systems that work.

All this assumes the acting president will accept the PDP position that he would not be contesting. If he intends to run in the next election then his agenda would obviously be broader. And it would be well within his rights to so decide. It would also be PDP's problem, and perhaps its demise. However, no other party seems even ready to replace it, so we are going to have mainly money and jingoism determining the outcome. We shall, without any doubt, have politics without programs, ideology or even serious debates; just vote for your man for whatever reason, and hope he "remembers" you. You can be sure they will get to power and continue to help themselves to public funds. They would promise nothing tangible and we should not expect much. Every people end up with leaders they deserve when they refuse to stand up for what is right and just.

It appears the Acting President wants to chew everything all at once. And he is at risk of getting serious stomach upset by swallowing too much

SPORTS  
REPORT

## Vogts drag NFF to court

Former Super Eagles Technical Adviser, Berti Vogts has threatened to drag the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to the Court of Arbitration For Sports (CAS) over the money owed him by the Federation.

The Federation of International Football Association (FIFA) has adjudicated on the matter and directed the NFF to pay Vogts the sum of \$150,000 (N22.7m) to cover his salary for two months and the medical equipments he bought

to aid his job of keeping the Eagles' players fit during the ill-fated 2008 Africa Nations Cup campaign, but Nigeria Football authorities are yet to comply.

The former German International told Complete Sports he was still at a loss on the reason why the NFF was yet to comply with the directives from FIFA and threatened unequivocally that he would drag the Glass House to the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS) in Lausanne, Switzerland to ensure he gets his entitlement.



MARIO Balotelli

## Balotelli out of Chelsea clash

Mario Balotelli has been dropped from Inter's squad by Jose Mourinho for the crucial Champions League clash against Chelsea tonight.

Sky Sport Italia claim it's not down to any injury-related problem, but a technical choice from the coach.

Speculation around Appiano Gentile suggests the striker had another disagreement with Mourinho following on from a request to have an extra training session last week.

It is said Mourinho had called Balotelli back to Appiano Gentile after he had already gone home, but the striker allegedly questioned the call. Those reports remain unconfirmed at this stage.

