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Kaduna radio staff
suspended over Sambo's gaffe



Page 2

Oil equity: Niger Deltans
to get N95bn annually



Page 2

Inside
Today's
Daily Trust

Business

Telecom operators have been warned to stop sending text messages at odd hours **27**

Digest

Bottled water contains more bacteria than tap water, according to new research **36**

Politics

Former Lagos State Governor Bola Tinubu plans to launch a campaign for fresh voters' register **52**

Sport

Alhaji Sani Toro has advised Nigerians not to write off the Super Eagles yet **54**

Foreign firm locks up minister in lift

By Shehu Abubakar (Abuja) & Kayode Ekundayo (Lagos)

MINISTER of Transport Yusuf Suleiman was locked up in a lift at the Lagos seaport for 35 minutes on Monday when he visited to inspect clearance of goods after

allegations of unnecessary delays, an official said.

The minister and his entourage were locked up in the lift by angry foreign staff working for seaport concessionaire AP Moller, allegedly to prevent him from having access to the clearing bay of the company

where hundreds of containers lay uncleared.

Spokesman for the transport minister Mr. Kingsley Agha confirmed the incident, saying Suleiman and members of his entourage were trapped in the lift when a foreign worker locked them up from

behind and took away the keys.

But chief consultant to AP Moller Mr. Bolaji Akinola denied that the minister was locked up in a lift at the seaport. He said during the minister's visit, some agents created confusion at the premises to justify their cam-

Continued on page 5



PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan (right) with visiting military ruler of Niger Republic, General Djibo Salou, at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, yesterday.

Sambo heads contracts probe panel

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE Federal Government has set up an inter-ministerial committee to investigate the huge disparity between cost of contracts in the coun-

try and what obtains in other parts of the world.

The committee is to be headed by Vice-President Namadi Sambo, who made his first appearance in that capacity at the Federal Executive Council meeting yesterday.

Minister of State for Information and Communications Labaran Maku announced the institution of the investigation yesterday in Abuja after the council meeting presided over by

Continued on page 5





KOREAN troupe performing during the Korean Cultural Festival in Abuja on Tuesday.

4 Kaduna radio staff suspended over Sambo's gaffe

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

FOUR workers of the Kaduna State Media Corporation (KSMC) have been suspended following the airing of the meeting between Vice President Namadi Sambo and some state legislators during his last visit.

Before the commencement of the closed door meeting, all newsmen were asked to leave the chamber, while the members of Outside Broadcasting (OB) Van crew of the state radio were asked to cut off the live commentary.

But after packing the entire transmission gadgets, Daily Trust learnt, the crew members left their microphone on inside the hall and

the vice president's secret discussion with the legislators was aired live.

Sambo was reportedly heard accusing a politician of trying to scuttle his elevation to his present position. Many party secrets and other issues were aired before the attention of the crew members were drawn to it. The live coverage of the closed door meeting lasted for about 10 minutes.

The meeting which held on Saturday when the former governor visited the state to hand over to his successor Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa lasted for about 30 minutes.

Before the meeting with the MPs, the vice president met with stakeholders of the Peo-

ples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state and members of the state executive council and it was aired live on the radio station.

When contacted on phone, the state Commissioner of Information Alhaji Saidu Adamu confirmed the transmission of the vice president's meeting. He said the four staffs were not sacked but only suspended.

"I was the Master of Ceremony (MC) throughout the programme when the Vice President came. When they were about to start the closed door meeting, the Executive Director told them to cut off so that the former governor can have the meeting with MPs but they forgot and allowed the meeting to go on air."

Court orders halt to Pfizer DNA test

A court has ordered US firm Pfizer to halt DNA tests to determine compensation related to children who died or were deformed during a drug trial, court papers showed yesterday.

The temporary order was in response to a case filed by lawyers of families of 192 victims of the drug test who want a halt to the DNA tests that are needed for identification of victims and relatives.

The High Court in a ruling handed down in Abuja on Monday, granted an interim order barring Pfizer from "continuing to conduct any tests ... particularly DNA tests on any of the applicants," it said.

An out-of-court settlement over the 1996 meningitis drug trial that allegedly left 11 children dead and 189 others deformed was reached last year, but the families' lawyers now want the identification exercise and payouts to cease.

They accuse Pfizer of unfairness for insisting on conducting DNA tests on victims and their families for identification purposes without independent verification.

The families' lawyers earlier this month wrote to a special board appointed by the US pharmaceutical giant and the Kano state government to manage the payout fund,

rejecting the 35-million-dollar compensation.

The Kano state government filed criminal and civil suits in April 2007 against Pfizer demanding 2.75 billion dollars in compensation.

It charged that Pfizer carried out an illegal trial of a meningitis drug, Trovan Floxacin, on 200 children in 1996 during a triple epidemic of meningitis, measles and cholera in which over 12,000 people died.

Pfizer denied any wrongdoing, insisting that the trial was conducted with the consent of the Nigerian government and conformed to ethical guidelines. (AFP)

Oil equity Delta communities to get N95bn yearly

By Hamisu Muhammad

NIGER Delta Communities will get about N94.5bn annually as 10 percent dividend from the oil extracted from the region, Special Adviser to the President on Energy Matters Emmanuel Egbogah has said.

Speaking yesterday in Abuja, Egbogah said under the programme the money will be paid as distributed to the host communities.

Mr Egbogah said "The proposal is based on the payment of 10 percent of the impact value of the acreage and assets used for petroleum operations in Nigeria, as dividends to the host and impacted communities by licensees, lessees, and commercial licensees."

Egbogah said the dividends are expected to provide a guaranteed rate of return of 10 percent yearly on the impact value and as a consequence.

According to him, the proposal will encourage the host and local communities to take necessary steps to protect assets and facilities within their impact area.

He said the benefits by each community will be calculated based on the area, number of producing value, length of each flowing gathering line, area occupied by tank farm, and barrel equivalent for total facility name plate facility.

Siemens: EFCC grills Olanrewaju

By Boco Edet

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has quizzed another ex-Minister of Communication retired Maj. Gen. Tajudeen Olanrewaju over his alleged role in the Siemens 17.5million Euros bribe scandal.

Olanrewaju, a minister under late Gen. Sani Abacha, arrived from Lagos to face the six man panel set up by EFCC's Chairman Mrs. Farida Waziri to investigate the case.

He was at the headquarters of the anti-graft agency in Abuja around 12pm and was immediately whisked to the Area 11 office inside the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) Complex.

A source said the ex-ministers were being quizzed at that office to shield them from journalists after the experience with former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Mallam Nasir el-Rufai which attracted so much publicity.

Two managers of Siemens were recently convicted by a German court in Munich for paying bribes in Nigeria and Russia to win contracts. The Nigerian connection in the Siemens bribery scandal was exposed in November 2007 when a report by Wall Street journal indicated that four former ministers, a senator and a number of government officials had been bribed by the company to win contracts.

FG: No plan to jettison 7-point agenda

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE Federal Government has denied plans to either jettison or scale down the 7-point agenda, now or in future, as started by late President Umaru Yar'adua.

Minister of state for Information and Communication Mr Labaran Maku disclosed this while briefing State House correspondent at the end of yesterday Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting in Abuja.

He said the report carried in some national dailies that a memo was to be presented at the FEC meeting in that regard was not true.

"We want to tell you frankly speaking that that story was untrue, this administration has never contemplated to jettison the 7-point agenda. In fact we don't know where these newspapers got this story," the minister said.

Maku said "What the administration has done is to continuously look at ways of improving the 7-point agenda and ensuring that the implementation of the agenda is carried out."

Meanwhile, the federal government says this year's Democracy Day will be low-keyed in honour of late President Umaru Yar'adua.



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PIC: SANI MAI KATANGA



MINI-FISHING festival in Ringim Village, Jigawa State, yesterday.

Senate approves 50% pay rise for assembly staff

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate has approved a gradual pay rise of up to 100 percent within the next eight years for staff of the National Assembly.

The approval followed adoption of recommendation of report of the Senate Committee on

Establishment and Public Service on the Consolidated Legislative Salary Structure for the National Assembly staff, yesterday.

The report provides for immediate 50 percent pay rise while the balance of 50 percent is to be spanned within a period of eight years.

Members of staff of the National Assembly are to receive another 20 percent pay rise in 2 years, 15 percent in 4 years and the balance of 15 percent two years later. The total payroll cost of the legislature currently stands at N6.3bn while the proposed 50 percent increase will jerk up the

figure to N11bn per annum.

Meanwhile, the nomination of Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed as commissioner representing Kaduna and Katsina states in the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC) has been referred to the committee on establishment for legislative action.

Capital projects probe: 74 MDAs comply with ICPC

By Boco Edet

ONLY 74 out of the 321 Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) have complied with the directive by the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) to forward details of their 2009 Capital Projects, Daily Trust has learnt.

Head of the Planning,

Research and Review Department (PRR) of the ICPC Mallam M. A. Salame, had in memo dated April 22 with reference number, ICPC/PRR/108/30 said: "Pursuant to Section 40 of the ICPC Act, 2000 I am directed to request the Anti Corruption and Transparency Monitoring Unit of your esteemed organization to on or before the 21st May, 2010, identity and forward to the Commission

the following details in respect of the 2009 Capital Projects undertaken by your organization."

The commission said it viewed "as an affront" those who failed to comply with the directive and warned that any MDA which failed to forward any of the required documents by June 20 would be sanctioned.

In the letter dated May 25, ICPC said "because of the

requests from some MDAs for extension of the period of submission has considered and granted the request for extension of the period of submission to the 20th June, 2010" Already, the ICPC has set up an Ad-hoc Committee to verify the reports submitted by the MDAs and those who failed to respond at the expiration of the new deadline may be sanctioned by the Commission.

N/ Assembly ready to review budget

By Turaki A. Hassan & Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate and House of Reps have expressed their readiness to review the 2010 appropriation Act which they passed into law in March.

Minister of state for Finance Remi Babalola had on Monday disclosed that the Federal Government was proposing a review of the 2010 budget following the

recent fall in the price of crude oil in the international market leading to decline in revenue accrued to the nation.

Chairman Senate Committee on Finance Senator Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi (PDP, Kaduna North) told Daily Trust that the review of the 2010 budget is appropriate.

Chairman House Committee on Appropriations Rep Ayoade Adamola Adeosuen (PDP, Oyo)

said the challenge facing the budget passed was that of revenue and that nobody should be blamed for that because Nigeria has no control over the price of crude oil.

"The price of crude oil as at the time we passed the budget was \$84 per barrel and National Assembly decided to peg the benchmark to \$67. Today, the price has dropped to \$69 per barrel so it does not make economic sense to leave the

benchmark at \$67. That why we are now willing to take a second look at the budget again due to the new economy realities in the world," Adeosuen added.

Late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua had presented a budget proposal of N3trillion to the two chambers in November last year, which the lawmakers went ahead to increase the oil benchmark and jerked up the budget to N4.06 trillion naira.

Yar'adua: Niger Republic shows love to Nig, says Jonathan

By Mohammed S. Shehu

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan yesterday described the condolence visit by the President of Niger Republic, Lt.-Gen. Salou Djibo, as a demonstration of love and respect Nigeriens had for Nigeria.

He stated that the late President Umaru Yar'adua had good intentions for Nigeria and Africa, and assured the visiting leader that he would continue with those policies.

A statement by his spokesman Ima Niboro said Jonathan stated this at the State House Abuja when Djibo led a large

delegation to condole with him and Nigerians on the death of President Yar'adua.

Jonathan described Djibo's plan to visit the family of the late president in Katsina as "very kind" and wished him a safe return to his country.

Earlier, Djibo described Nigeria as a very important

friend and neighbour, adding that all Nigeriens were mourning Yar'adua.

"To show you the high esteem in which we hold you, I decided to make Nigeria my first visit since I came to power, though I would have preferred to come under more pleasant circumstances," he said.

N5b scam: Court Adjourns Kalu's trial to Nov 25

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

A Federal High Court in Abuja has fixed November 25 2010 for mention in the trial of former governor of Abia State Chief Orji Uzor Kalu who is facing trial for allegedly misappropriating funds, breach of trust and laundering of about N5bn belonging to the state during his tenure.

The trial judge, Justice Adamu Bello, yesterday reserved the date while delivering ruling on an oral application by counsels to the accused persons, Awa Kalu (SAN) and Sony Okorie Hagler.

Orji had on July 22, 2008 filed an application for stay of proceedings at the court.

The accused persons were alleged to have laundered about N5 Billion of Abia State funds through the Slok Group, a holding company wholly owned by the onetime governor.

Awa Kalu, on behalf of the former governor, asked the court to adjourn the matter indefinitely (sine dine) until his client's appeal pending before the Court of Appeal Abuja is determined.

Counsel to the 2nd and 3rd accused persons, Sony Okorie Hagler, prayed the court to adjourn the matter sine dine (indefinitely) pending the hearing and determination of the clients' appeal before the appellate court in Abuja.

But in his ruling, Justice Bello noted that in the past he had declined the call to adjourn the matter indefinitely until the appeal is disposed of and that he would not heed the call. Rather he said that adjourning the matter indefinitely would "tantamount to a stay of proceeding".

Onovo tasks AIGs on kidnapping

By Misbahu Bashir

INSPECTOR General of Police Ogbonna Onovo has asked newly promoted, Assistant Inspectors General to find new methods of preventing and handling crimes particularly kidnapping.

Mohammed H. Zarewa and Ibrahim Paiko Machi were promoted recently from Commissioners to AIGs by the Police Service Commission.

Onovo who decorated the newly promoted officers with their ranks yesterday in Abuja told them to be proactive in carrying out their responsibilities and evolve new methods in tackling kidnappings.

Kidnapping is widespread in the south-eastern parts of Nigeria and is gaining access to other parts gradually. Zarewa was until his promotion, the Commissioner in Enugu State while Machi was Commissioner in charge of Administration in the Criminal Investigation Department at the Force Headquarters Abuja.

PHOTO: KENNEDY EGBONODJE



FROM left: Director General, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency (SMEDAN), Alhaji Muhammad Nadada Umar, Chairman, Governing Board, SMEDAN, Alhaji Musa Ujah and National President, Nigerian Association of Small Scale Industries, Alhaji Sanusi Maijama, during a press conference by the agency in Abuja, yesterday.

Gimba to address public lecture at ABU today

FAMOUS Nigerian novelist Alhaji Abubakar Gimba will today deliver a lecture at the Ahmadu Bello University (ABU) Zaria titled "Nigeria from independence to date: The journey so far. The lecture, organised by the Faculty of Arts of the ABU, will hold at the main campus of the university in Samaru, Zaria, at 2:30pm.

Gimba, an accomplished banker, administrator and former president of the ABU Alumni Association and of the Association of Nigerian Authors (ANA) is expected to bring his wealth of experience on the impact of the topic of Nigeria's journey into political history.

Yakowa: Picking dep gov not child's play

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

KADUNA State Governor Patrick Ibrahim Yakowa said the selection of a deputy governor for a state that is regarded as a mini Nigeria with the third highest population in the country is not child's play.

This is coming on the heel of the uproar generated by the rumoured nomination of the state Commissioner of Finance Alhaji Muktar Ramalan Yaro as the Deputy Governor of the state.

The selection of who becomes the Deputy Governor has created a crack in Kaduna State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The governor in a statement issued yesterday by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr. Reuben Buhari, said the selection of a deputy needs

to be handled with utmost care and with all sense of maturity.

"The issue of who gets to be the deputy governor of our dear state which has become the subject of speculations in both print and broadcast media is expected but unnecessary," he said.

Yakowa appealed to the media to apply restraint in speculation and be patient, adding that the state will soon announce the name of the new deputy governor-designate. He thanked people of the state for the warm reception that followed his ascension to the post of the executive governor of Kaduna state.

According to him, "The efficacy of strength inherent in unity should be exploited by all so that tomorrow we will have a Kaduna of our dream that will be a pride to our children and the envy of others."

Foreign firm locks up minister in lift

Continued from page 1

campaign against the company.

A senior paramilitary officer working at the port at the time the minister visited told *Daily Trust* that shortly after the minister arrived, some Nigerians whose goods were allegedly delayed by the port managers met him and complained of alleged extortion through unnecessary delay in the clearance of their goods.

"The minister then proceeded through the elevator to go and see things for himself and we all followed. Shortly after we entered the elevator with the minister, a white man operating the elevator locked us inside and removed the key and left.

"We were there with the minister for 35 minutes before some of our colleagues (security operatives) that were not trapped

with us went round and made a way for us through a supermarket before the minister and the rest of us managed to escape," the paramilitary man, who did not want to be named because he was not authorised to speak to newsmen, said.

Confirming the incident to newsmen in Abuja yesterday, Agha, who is Deputy Director for Press and Publicity to the Minister, said Suleiman was at the port to see things for himself after some Nigerian businessmen accused the AP Moller of highhandedness.

Agha said the Nigerian businessmen complained to the minister that containers that were supposed to be cleared by the concessionaires within four days were delayed for over three weeks because a container attracts N9,000 penalty fee daily when delayed at the port, and the

fees go to the concessionaire.

Agha said it was when the minister visited the seaport to investigate these allegations that he was locked up in a lift.

However, the chief consultant to APMT said, "It was not true that the minister was locked up inside the lift for 30 minutes. There was a confusion created by some agents in order to discredit APMT in the presence of the minister."

Akinola, in an emailed response to our reporter, said, "Please refer to the press release issued yesterday by NPA wherein it was stated that APMT city office was operating under inhuman condition.

"The seeming chaotic situation at the city office when the Honourable Minister visited, unannounced, was deliberately created by the agents to make it look disorganised, chaotic and

inhuman in order to justify their campaign against APMT.

"One of the leaders of the agents was clearly heard at Protea Hotel, Ikeja, calling several agents on phone and asking them to storm the city office and create confusion. They eventually achieved this and attempts by the APMT security to instill order was resisted by the agents.

"The APMT city office is normally a safe and conducive environment for business and everyone who has visited it can testify to its serenity and convivial atmosphere.

"Further attempts to create similar confusion at the main terminal by the same set of people, however, did not succeed as the Honourable Minister saw for himself the extent of work done and the genuine effort put in place by the company to satisfy its customers."

Sambo heads contracts probe panel

Continued from page 1

President Goodluck Jonathan. He said the council was worried about the variations in cost of construction in the country, in some instances by as high as 30 per cent compared with the situation in most other countries including within the West African sub-region.

Maku, who spoke alongside FCT Minister Bala Mohammed, Education Minister Ruqayyatu Rufai and Minister of State for Niger Delta Samuel Ode, said the council looked at the cost of doing work in Nigeria and decided that it was not investment-friendly because of unwholesome practices.

"Council noted that in spite of all the processes that the country has gone through so far, including the due process and other reforms in recent years, the cost of construction is relatively higher than in most other parts of the world.

"Council took this as a very serious matter and set up an inter-ministerial committee to study this problem and see how the cost of contracting in Nigeria, especially in construction, can be aligned with those of other countries around the world.

"Council could not see any reason why contract for, say one kilometre road in Nigeria, should cost significantly more than it will in Ghana or Benin Republic when we are in the same region, under the same climate and most of the indices are the same," he said.

Maku said the council also set up another committee, also headed by Sambo, to regulate the process of execution and refund on Federal Government's projects executed by state governments.

He said while the council appreciated the efforts of states to carry out such projects for the Federal Government, the process of refund should be regulated to ensure due process.

"Several states have adopted the method in the past and when they finish the work, they forward the cost to the Federal Government for reimbursement. We want to regulate it to ensure that due process modality is arrived at rather than states just doing it and bringing the bill," he said.

The council also approved the public-private partnership arrangement for infrastructure development in Katampe District of Abuja, for projects worth N61.2 billion.

The FCT minister said the private firm handling the project has five years to recoup its money.

The council approved a contract for phase one of a 20-kilometre dual carriageway from Port Harcourt-Abia-Akwa Ibom at the cost of N13.6 billion, and contract for the land reclamation work in the Warri axis at N1.5 billion was re-awarded.

Democracy Day: Jigawa to honour NEPU, G-9 founding fathers

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

TO mark the 2010 Democracy Day, the Jigawa State government will honour 15 founding fathers of the defunct Northern Element Progressive Union (NEPU) and that of the G-9, the state Chairman of the Peoples' Democratic Party Alhaji Isa Duniya Ba-Hutu has said.

Addressing newsmen yesterday in Dutse, Alhaji Isa said eight founding fathers of the PDP would also be honoured. He said members of the NEPU to be honoured include, Alhaji Magaji Dambatta, Alhaji Mudi Spikin, late Alhaji Bello Ijumo, late Baballiya Manager, late Abdulkadir Danjaji, late Abba Maikwaru, late Garba Bidda and late Musa Kaula. Those of the G-9 to

be honoured are, Jigawa State Governor Sule Lamido, late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, Alhaji Adamu Chiroma, late Chief Bola Ige, Chief Solomon Lar, Senator Francis Ella, Chief Alex Ekwueme, Chief Iyorchia Ayo and Professor Jerry Gana.

"They are to be honoured for the sacrifice they made in salvaging the country from the hands of dictators. They struggled and sacri-

ficed their lives for the sake of the masses at a time when only a few could challenge those in government", he said.

He said the Jigawa State Government would make the 2010 Democracy Day a unique one, saying, government had noticed that, remembering people that fought for the survival of democracy and human rights would encourage the present day politicians.



FROM left: Chairman, House Committee, Women in the Parliament Nkeiruka Onyejeocha, Chief Remi Adikwu-Bakare and Chairman, House Committee on Diaspora Affairs Abike Dabiri-Erewa at the 2nd annual National Women in Parliament Summit in Abuja yesterday.

PIC: NAN

...As AC lauds military for not taking over power

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Action Congress party (AC) has commended the Nigerian military for resisting attempts to scuttle the democratic process by taking over power. The spokesman for the party in Niger State, Mr Jonathan Vatsa, yesterday told journalists in Minna, that despite the fact that the political situation in the country at a time provided excuses for a takeover, the military did not do that.

"We need to congratulate the Nigerian military for resisting the temptation to take over power government because politicians in the country created a very good opportunity for them to do so. The numerous religious crises in the country and the vacuum created by late President Umar Yar'adua presented the military enough reasons to truncate our nascent democracy," he said.

He called on politicians to steer clear of activities that could cause the military to interrupt democracy in the country.

Vatsa also advised youths not to align themselves with old politicians.

"Nigerian youths should not sell their generational rights of leadership to old politicians, who are out of tune with current trends," he said.

Senate moves to strengthen industrial court

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate yesterday began consideration on a bill that would enhance the performance of the National Industrial Court (NIC) in handling labour-related issues in the country.

Leading the debate on general principles of the bill, Senator Victor Ndoma-Egba

(SAN) said the existing Act establishing the industrial court was insufficient. He said in line with a judgment of the Supreme Court, "It has become imperative that in amending the 1999 Constitution, the NIC should be expressly, directly and clearly be included in Section 6 (3) and (5) and other relevant sections of the Constitution to

enable the court play its role in the resolution of labour and industrial matters."

Ndoma-Egba said unless the NIC act was amended there would be a lacuna in the legal system and justice delivery. "It will also give room to conflicting decisions, uncertainty and undependability that will arise from 36 High Court of various states and the

FCT when interpreting item 34 of the Exclusive Legislative list in the second schedule of the Constitution," he added.

The Senate has also adopted the report of the conference committee on the Hydro-Electric Power Producing Areas Development Commission (HYPADEC). The bill now awaits presidential assent.

Wamakko orders immediate closure of Gingiya hotel

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

THE popular Gingiya hotel in Sokoto State has been sealed off by the state government.

Governor Aliyu Wamakko ordered the immediate closure of the hotel yesterday when he visited the hotel as part of his assessment visit to state owned hotels.

He also directed the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps to take over the security of the hotel. Wamakko further directed that the company handling the rehabilitation of the hotel to mobilise to site immediately.

He expressed disappointment over the poor management of the

hotel and its inability to pay staff salaries.

The governor then ordered the immediate redeployment of the General Manager of the hotel, Alhaji Sani Bachaka to the ministry.

Governor Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko was also at the Shukura hotel and Catering Rest House, Sokoto.

Earlier, the state Commissioner for Commerce and Industry Alhaji Mai Akwai Lamido said the contract for the total rehabilitation of Gingiya Hotel, Shukura hotel and the Rest House was awarded at over 12 million US Dollars to transform the hotels into five star hotels.

ICPC to recover N27bn Federal Mortgage Bank debt

By Boco Edet

THE Independent Corrupt Practices and other related offences Commission (ICPC) is set to recover N27 billion owed the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria.

The commission on the order of its Chairman Justice Emmanuel Ayoola has embarked on a system review of the bank, following petitions filed before it by aggrieved persons and groups against some of the bank officials and loan defaulters.

In the process, the commission uncovered

an unsettled mortgage loan portfolio of N27 billion covering a period of six years.

ICPC's consultant on Media and Public Matters Mr. Folu Olamiti said the commission's operatives had also discovered financial improprieties on the part of some bank officials bordering on illegal conversion and diversion of funds.

The anti-graft commission has already taken possession of a list of bank defaulters with the aim of arresting them on completion of the ongoing review.

Nuclear power: Atomic agency asks Nigeria to expedite action

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has called on Nigeria to redouble efforts in executing programmes and projects that would launch the country into nuclear power.

IAEA country officer for Nigeria Mulugeta Amha, who threw the challenge at the end of his working visit to Nigeria, commended the Federal Government for her commitment towards the development and deployment of atomic energy for the socioeconomic development of the country.

He said much was still expected by the government, especially in the release of counterpart funds for the execution of the technical cooperation programmes and projects.

Observing that the level of project implementation in relation to nuclear power was low in Nigeria compared other African countries, Amha said, "The successful implementation of the nuclear power programme by Nigeria will have a multiplier effect and be a source of encouragement for other African countries."

He commended the Nigeria Atomic Energy Agency (NAEC) for effective coordination of counterpart institutions for the realization of the dream to develop a nuclear programme in Nigeria.

Director General of NAEC Dr. Erepano Osa-isai said Nigeria was committed to ensuring that all that was needed for the development and deployment of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes were put in place.

Senate probes Sen Adeyemi over comments at EFCC

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATE has set up an ad-hoc committee chaired by the Chief Whip Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello (PDP, Katsina North) to investigate Senator Smart Adeyemi (PDP, Kogi West) over his alleged unpleasant comments on the National Assembly.

Adeyemi had reportedly urged the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to beam its searchlight on the lawmakers when he visited the commission on Tuesday.

The Senate held an hour closed session during which the matter was discussed and Daily Trust gathered that some senators moved for Adeyemi's immediate suspension over his comments at the EFCC.

But coming under Order 43 of the Senate Standing Rules, Adeyemi denied passing the 'stinking' comment about the National Assembly saying that he was misquoted in the report.

"I feel highly disturbed. I was at the EFCC yesterday (Tuesday) to commend the good effort being made by the chairman of EFCC towards minimizing and fighting corruption in our nation. I did that against the background while as a senator of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and as a man who has been in the struggle for good governance for so many years." Adeyemi said "There was no time I did say that the National Assembly is corrupt. In fact to say that will amount to indicting myself."

"I did say again that there is wrong impression that politicians at all level are corrupt and I said it is not true because

there are lot of people in politics for the well-being of their people and who are committed to good governance, who believe in accountability."

Senate President David Mark said "You have come under Order 43. There will be no debate on it and I think it is a serious enough allegation against this very distinguished chamber and I will suggest that this is referred to the standing committee of Ethics and Petitions. But because of the seriousness of this publication we will refer it to an ad-hoc committee that will deal with it with dispatch."

Senate therefore resolved to set up a special six-man ad-hoc committee to investigate the matter and to report back as soon as possible. The panel has Senators Ayogu Eze, Olorunimbe Mamora, Zaynab Kure, James Manager and Garba Adamu Talba as members.

Truck crushes mother to death, baby escapes

From Iwan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

AN over speeding trailer yesterday crushed a mother to death while she was attempting to cross the ever busy Kano-Zaria expressway with a baby on her back.

The trailer with registration number XA651DRA crushed the woman in the morning near Yan Lemu.

Witnesses said the crushed woman was crossing the road in the company of another elderly woman when she apparently hesitated and made attempt to turn back. She was hit and ran over by the coming heavy duty truck in the process.

Her remains had to be scrubbed from the road's surface, while her baby and the other woman escaped with injuries.

Confirming the incident, Kano Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission Ahmed K. Hassan blamed the accident on over speeding on the part of the truck driver, and wrongful crossing of express way by the victims.

He advised pedestrians to use the pedestrian bridge provided to avoid being hit by speeding vehicles.



SENATE President David Mark (right) receiving documents on the demand for the creation of Amana State out of Adamawa State from, Alhaji Sali Bello (left). With them is the National Coordinator, Amana State Movement, Dr. Bala Takaya.

Kano ANPP expels council boss over Takai

From Auwalu Umar & Iwan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

VICE chairman of Rimin Gado local government Alhaji Muhyi Magaji has been expelled from the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) over alleged anti-party activities.

The dismissal was contained in a letter dated May 24 and signed by officials of the party in Rimin Gado local government.

But reacting to his expulsion, Magaji attributed it to remarks he made over the radio on the gubernatorial ambition of Alhaji Sali Sagir Takai, who has been anointed by Gov

Ibrahim Shekarau.

In the dismissal letter, the local government vice chairman was accused of being disrespectful to the party's leadership, using the media to cast aspersion on the party and causing disharmony among its rank, among other charges.

2011 elections: U.S to help Nigeria get it right

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE United States will support Nigeria to have a credible election in 2011, Undersecretary for Democracy and Global Affairs Maria Otero has said.

He said as Nigeria moves forward to the 2011 general elections, the U.S wants to ensure that all the components that are necessary for free and fair election are put in place.

Speaking in an interview during the launching of the First Working Group of the U.S.-Nigeria Binational Com-

mission in Abuja yesterday, Undersecretary Otero said, "We can make progress through bi-national commission in moving Nigeria forward in having greater accountability and greater sense of responsibility on the part governance".

She said her meeting with civil society was on how to address electoral reform, what needs to be in place to ensure fair and transparent and credible election.

In his remarks, Lagos State governor B Fashola said the challenges for leaders of states, countries remain the

same globally, which is providing enabling environment for the realization of aspiration of their people like health care delivery, transportation, security and environmental challenges.

He said federal system of government is the best form of government that allows each state to develop on the bases of its own strength, resources and needs.

In his speech, Katsina state governor Ibrahim Shem said there is need for credible election and for winners and losers to accept their position.

Lawyers laud Jonathan over Ribadu's reinstatement

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

LEGAL practitioners have commended President Goodluck Jonathan for re-instating Nuhu Ribadu to the rank of Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) and converting his dismissal to retirement.

Speaking to Daily Trust on the development, the lawyers also commended the Police Service Commission (PSC).

Chairman of the Abuja branch of Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Barr. Abdul Ibrahim said that the retirement was okay.

One aspect is that it has exposed the insincerity and inconsistency of our leaders in governance.

While congratulating Ribadu over his reinstatement, Ibrahim hoped Nigerian leaders will no longer sacrifice the career of patriotic young men for parochial and self serving reasons.

Abuja based lawyer Amobi Nzelu Ribadu's reinstatement was in line with common sense and the rule of law.

"He (Ribadu) was duly promoted by the authorities charged for doing so before he was demoted. He worked for this country and should not be ridiculed at all. I endorse the PSC's action and thanked President Goodluck Jonathan for

doing that," he said.

Lagos based lawyer Tola Amusan said he was convinced that Ribadu "efficiently, effectively and sufficiently served Nigeria his father land."

He said before Ribadu's appointment to head the EFCC, all those appointed to fight corruption did not perform. "His reinstatement and the conversion of his dismissal to retirement under Jonathan is a welcome development," he said. Another lawyer who pleaded for anonymity however gave knocks to the PSC for demoting and reinstating Ribadu, saying it is not really the best to be going back and forward

Plateau flays Nakande over call for Jang's resignation

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

THE Plateau State government has flayed comments by former Minister of State for Information and Communication Dasuki Ibrahim Nakande, calling on Governor Jonah Jang to resign, saying he had no moral right to make such

a call since he did not vote for Jang. Plateau State Commissioner for Information Gregory Yenlong while speaking with newsmen yesterday said the call was inimical to the peace building process the state was embarking on. Nakande alongside some members of the presidential committee on Jos

crisis boycotted the stakeholders' meeting called by Governor Jang Monday, accusing him of complicity in the recent attack on Fulanis in the state. But Yenlong said the state government had condemned the attack and that it was misleading for Nakande to reduce the crisis to a problem between Beroms

and Fulanis, saying crises on the Plateau predates last Sunday's attack. He called on the security agencies in the state to watch the activities and utterances of Nakande and hold him responsible for any breakdown of law and order in the state. He said it was not true that Hausa

Muslims boycotted the stakeholders' meeting as people like Alhaji Ali Jos, Yahaya Kwande and Musa Azi and others attended. The state government called on Muslims in the state to disregard Nakande's comments and remain steadfast to the peace building process in the state.



Governor Segun Oni of Ekiti State (left) addressing Mr and Mrs Kayode Ogunlusi, parents of the six children who died after eating poisonous cassava flour at Ayegunle-Ekiti in Ijero Local Government Area when the governor paid the family a condolence visit on Tuesday.

US impressed by Nigeria's response to improved learning techniques

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE United State of America has expressed satisfaction with the country's adaptation of improved teaching and learning techniques.

The US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Jack Lew who spoke through the Global Aides Coordinator, Mr Eric Goosby expressed satisfaction during an inspection of a Sesame Street pilot project on improved learning methods at the Unguwa Uku Special Primary school in Tarauni Local Government Area of Kano State.

He said he was impressed with what he saw in the practical class as the pupils were exposed to demonstrations to back up the theories they were taught. He therefore pledged the US support for the development of education in Nigeria.

Executive Director, Education and Outreach of the Sesame Street project, Ayobisi Osuntusa, said the project was targeted at pupils between the ages of four and seven with a view to giving them a solid foundation.

Osuntusa said the pilot project which was overseen by the Federation of Muslim Women Associations of Nigeria (FOMWAN) commenced in 2009 and was yielding results.

She added that thousands of pupils across the country were expected to benefit from the USAID supported project which was to be carried out within a period of five years.

The Chairman of Tarauni Local Government Area Alhaji Amanallah Mohammed said the success of the pilot project was an indication that the teachers were doing their best to upgrade the standard of education.

Shekarau flays PDP over non-implementation of Uwais report

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

KANO State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau yesterday criticised the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) over the delay in the implementation of the Justice Uwais led electoral reform panel recommendations. Shekarau who spoke in Akure, Ondo State, accused the PDP of the lack of commitment to credible elections. He also

accused the PDP of not making use of the checks and balances enshrined in the nation's constitution to lead the country in the right direction.

"Obasanjo was there for eight years and he did whatever he liked. Look at the power sector, they said they are investigating, have you heard anything about it, they have swept everything under the carpet. What do you expect from these lawmakers,

when some of them were rigged into the Assemblies? The moment the root is removed, there is no way you can get it right. God will never listen to you," he said.

Shekarau also faulted the zoning arrangement of the Peoples Democratic Party.

"I am not a PDP man, zoning is a PDP affair. It is only members of the party that can tell you what

made them to take that decision in 1999. Once you miss the sincerity of purpose, you miss everything. The agitation for zoning is as a result of lack mutual trust. The more you over play the issue of zoning, the more you are sending the message of mistrust. Since our constitution does not support zoning, we must try to sensitize Nigerians to vote for credible leaders," he said.

FCE council chairman urges staff union leadership on honesty

From Isa Liman, Zaria

THE Chairman of the Governing Council of the Federal College of Education (FCE), Zaria, Malam Muhammad Damakka Abubakar has called on the college's newly inaugurated Academic Staff Union's executives to ensure that they are honest and transparent in carrying out their duties. Malam Abubakar made the call during the swearing-in ceremony of the newly elected executives of the Colleges of Education Academic Staff Union (COEASU), FCE, Zaria branch.

While congratulating the new executives, Malam Abubakar, represented by Professor Musa Balarabe, urged them not to abuse their positions. He charged them to be responsible in the discharge of their duties. The COEASU North-west Coordinator, who represented the national president, congratulated the branch for conducting a suc-

cessful election, expressing the hope that the election would bring an end to all misunderstandings in the institution.

The Provost of the College, Dr Mouktar Ibrahim Maccido, represented by the Dean School of Education, Dr Ango Ladan, advised the new executives to take up the challenge of restoring confidence in the union seriously. The new Chairman, Comrade Mu'awiya Haruna Usman, expressed appreciation to the union's congress for voting for him, pledging to bring positive changes into the union activities.

He said his administration would pursue a 16-point agenda for the union. The agenda, he said would include, academic freedom, prompt payments of entitlements, creation of sustainable cooperative society, dialogue and collective bargaining, committee system, accountability and respect.

Youths hijack Kaduna CPC secretariat

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THERE was pandemonium at the Kaduna State secretariat of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) yesterday as supporters of the party mainly youths locked up the secretariat for over two hours. The youths numbering about 20 locked the main entrance of the secretariat and all the offices in it. It took the intervention of elders in the party for the youths to unlock the secretariat.

Speaking to our correspondent, the leader of the youths, Adamu Galku, said they decided to lock the secretariat because of a directive given to the security men by the chairman of the party, Alhaji Abubakar Hayatu, that only members of the party, who he accredited should be allowed to enter the secretariat.

"We decided to lock the party secretariat because the chairman and his allies are trying to sideline other members and support-

ers of the General and we are not going to allow it. No member of CPC in Kaduna has been given party card because the processing is still on. So we don't see reasons why he should say only those he accredited should be allowed in," he said.

Several efforts to reach the chairman through his phone yielded no results, but a chieftain of the party, Mallam Mohammed Ali, alleged that the youths were sponsored by some members of the party who wanted to run party like an NGO.

"It is normal to disagree and agree in politics. So what happened is not alien to politics. We are still in our formative stage and we have quickly resolved it. We have taken measures to ensure that it does not repeat itself. We have a formidable leadership in the state, but certain elements are not happy with it and that is why they are sponsoring dissident members to create problems," he said.

Students arraigned over burning of school block

From Yahaya Ibrahim & Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

FOUR students of the Waka Biu College of Education in Biu Local Government Area of Borno State were yesterday arraigned before the High Court in Borno State for allegedly setting the administrative building of the school ablaze. The students were arraigned alongside two staff of the insti-

tution. The staff, Saidu Muhammed and Sule Nuhu were said to have instigated the students against the school's management because they were not satisfied with their transfer from one department to another. The students, Gabriel Nizon, Emmanuel Ayuba, Chukwuma Udeagbala and Friday James were alleged to have set the building on fire to seek vengeance from the school's management which had earlier expelled

them for smoking Indian hemp.

The offence which is punishable under section 97 sub (1) and 337 of the Penal Code was committed on April 14, 2008. The accused persons pleaded not guilty to the crime. The Deputy Registrar of the college, Ahmed Mustapha, told the court that, the second accused, Ayuba during interrogation confessed that he and the other suspects committed the crime.

During cross examinations by counsel to the accused yesterday, Ayuba said he arrived at the scene of the fire 40 minutes after the incident had occurred and that he was told about the fire by the president of the Students Union Government (SUG) of the school. He alleged that he confessed to the crime because he was threatened. The presiding judge, Justice Abdullahi Sanya Yerima, adjourned the case to June 23, 2010.

Rainy season: FRSC urges motorists to be cautious

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) zone 12, Bauchi State has called on motorists to be cautious while driving, saying the roads were slippery because of the rains. A statement by the zonal Public Education Officer of the zone, Laraba Shanwa, said rain reduces visibility and that could be dangerous for drivers.

"Give big vehicles extra distance because their extra large tyres can create enough spray to completely block your vision. Rain can cause your wind shield to fog up so you need to defog it constantly and ensure also that your wiper blades are in good shape," the statement added.

The FRSC also advised motorists to look out for pedestrians and other drivers, who may not use their head lights.



GOVERNOR Babatunde Fashola of Lagos State

Lagos agencies to stop collection of levies from food stuff sellers

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

AFTER a series of meeting between Lagos State government officials and the Amalgamated Food and Cattle Dealers Association (AFCDA), the Lagos government yesterday banned its agencies from collecting levies from foodstuffs sellers and drivers of trucks transporting them.

Addressing newsmen in Lagos yesterday, the Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Revenue and Taxation, Mr. Ade Ipaye, said hence forth, only officials of the state Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives stationed at the Berger border settlement between Lagos and Ogun State are authorized to collect levies.

He maintained that findings by the ad-hoc inter-ministerial committee set up by Governor Babatunde Fashola after a warning strike by the traders in March revealed that the traders had been made to pay various illegal levies at the border areas. He said the committee sought further information from some of the agencies alleged to have been involved in the act. He added that there were various border points between Lagos and Ogun State and along the Lagos-Ibadan express-

way where illegal tax collectors collect money from the association's members. Ipaye said most of the 14 receipts tendered by leaders of AFCDA to the committee were issued by or on behalf of neighbouring states.

"Only one was traced to Lagos and this one is legal because it is from the state Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives", he said.

The Assistant Commissioner of Police in the state ACP Vincent Brown said the state police command had put in place measures that would ensure that extortion of traders becomes a thing of the past.

"This issue of extortion and beating of foodstuff traders along that axis is a challenge to us. The issue will be dealt with because we are ready to tackle the issue headlong. We are coming with a special squad very soon to engage in periodic patrol at the Berger area for security of not only the foodstuff traders, but residents of the area," he added.

The spokesman for AFCDA, Shehu Usman, who is the Financial Secretary of Mile 12 traders association expressed gratitude to the state government for its efforts. He assured that once the illegal levies were abolished, prices of foodstuffs would reduce.

Contractors tasked on Kogi road projects

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State government yesterday urged contractors of the over 50 on-going road projects in the state to complete them on time.

The state Commissioner for Information Tom Ohikere, who spoke with newsmen in Lokoja, called on the contractors to explore what he described as, "the prevailing fair weather condition to make appreciable progress on the projects".

"The road projects that the current administration has embarked upon are of great priority. It is therefore imperative to state that the timely completion of these projects will certainly impact directly and positively on the socio-economic lives of our people. At least, we all know that good roads minimise accidents", he said.

The commissioner added that the government intended to embark on new road projects as soon as those under construction were completed.

"The road projects that the current administration has embarked upon are of great priority"

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Delta State to spend N1.6 bn on water project

From Monday Osayande,
Asaba

THE Delta State government is to spend N1.6 billion on the Warri / Effurun water project to bring an end to the acute shortage of potable

water in the area, The state Commissioner for Special Duties Mr. Fred Okiemute Majemite has said.

Speaking in an interview with our correspondent yesterday in Asaba, the com-

missioner said though the project was inherited from a past administration, the government would ensure that the project is completed. Majemite said because the project was abandoned for a

long time, most of the equipment, especially the pipes, had been destroyed.

"This time around, the project is bound to see the light of the day. In fact, we are going to commission

this water project along with other projects before the end of the Year", he said.

He said government could not afford to neglect the project, not only because of the money it had spent,

but because of the project's relevance to the people. He said as soon as the project is completed, the eight communities in the riverine area would enjoy adequate water supply.

Kebbi donates to victims of Jos crises

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

THE Kebbi State Emergency Management Agency (KESEMA) yesterday donated N30 million to Bauchi and Plateau State governments to assist victims of Jos crises.

The state Commissioner for Local Government and Chief-taincy Affairs Alhaji Muhammed Abubakar Kardi who led the state delegation to present the donation to the state governments said Governor Usman Dakingari was concerned about the victims of the crises.

"The destruction of property and loss of lives is very devastating and we need to assist our brothers and sisters who were affected. The N30million donation by Kebbi State government is to facilitate care delivery to the most vulnerable victims," he said.

NSCDC rescues abandoned day-old baby

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

A day-old baby with his cord still intact was rescued Tuesday night by officials of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) in Abeokuta, Ogun State.

The baby, a male was dumped at a refuse site along the Kuto/Isabo road, few meters away from the popular Kuto Motor park. The command's Public Relations Officer, Lanre Kareem, told our correspondent that two officers of the corps were on their way home when they heard the cry of the baby and rescued him.



FROM left: Minister of State for Power, Nuhu Wya, Minister of Science and Technology, Prof. Mohammed Abubakar and Minister of Transport, Alhaji Yusuf Suleiman, during the Federal Executive Council meeting yesterday in Abuja

Kogi monarchs express concern over fake traditional title holders

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State forum of third class traditional rulers has raised an alarm over the existence of fake traditional title holders in the state. Chairman of the forum, the Obaje of Otalu-Okpaga, Ajofe Livinus Enemaku raised the alarm, following the arrest of some persons, who claimed to be

traditional rulers from Ofu Local Government Area in connection with the recent political disturbance in the state.

He maintained that traditional rulers in the state were focused and committed to maintaining peace and in their domains, adding that traditional rulers would not betray the confidence their subjects and the government reposed in them. He warned that anyone caught would be made to

face the law.

"The fact is that being bestowed with an honorary chieftaincy title or being a prince from a royal home does not give anyone any authority to act on behalf of traditional ruler. The state government and the security agencies are therefore assured of our commitment to maintaining peace in our respective domains", he said.

Emir charges religious leaders on peace

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim,
Dutse

EMIR of Kazaure Alhaji Najeeb Husaini Adamu yesterday called on religious leaders in the country to promote peace among their followers. Alhaji Najeeb who spoke while receiving a delegation of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Jigawa State chapter said for the country to achieve the vision 20:2020, there must be peace and unity among followers of the two major religions.

"Peace and unity must be established because without

that, no one can worship God comfortably. I am imploring followers of the two religions to always be tolerant and love one another in the interest of their religions and the country," he said.

The emir added that Nigeria belongs to all, irrespective of religious affiliation, saying it was time for Nigerians to put behind their religious and ethnic differences in the interest of the country. "Religious leaders should avoid using provocative words while preaching because both Islam and Christianity preach peace," he said.

The Chairman of the

Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), Jigawa State chapter Reverend Ibrahim Taura commended the emir for his fatherly support to the Christian in the emirate council. Reverend Taura said the delegation was in the palace as part of its familiarization tour of the five emirates in the state.

He said the tour was to educate Christians on the need to be tolerant and live in peace with followers of other religions, including Islam. He appealed to the emir to call on the committee set up to investigate the last Kazaure violence to speed up its work.

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Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



KANO State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau

ANPP chairman, Shekarau differ over Takai

SHEKARU is bent on destroying his party by his unilateral imposition of Takai as the party's flag bearer in the 2011 gubernatorial election. With this act alone Shekarau has just nailed the coffin on ANPP's coffin in Kano and surely the ball is now rolling.

Ghazali Ado
ghazaliado@gmail.com

Igbeke takes seat in Senate

CONGRATULATIONS on your swearing-in after all the foot-dragging by the Senate's leadership. Now the people of Anambra North can heave a sigh of relief that we have reclaimed our mandate. Kudos for your perseverance in the face of tribulations my able distinguished Senator.

Okeke Anthony Osita
osiat@yahoo.com

Jonathan commissions Zamfara factory

BRAVO, Bravo, Bravo Shinkafi ... this is exemplary leadership. That's all the North requires to boost its the economy. This throws a challenge to Borno, Bauchi, Kogi and other states that have made similar discoveries as well as Agriculture to establish and harness their potentials.

Wisdom
wwisdom90@yahoo.com

Ribadu to get police orderly

WHAT a very funny country we are living in! Is Goodluck telling us he has not been part of most decisions taken by the late President? Where is this loyal attribute of Goodluck that some people have been eulogizing? How come he is overturning Yar'adua's decisions and policies?

Mark Ojobi
marc4jobi@yahoo.com

FG tells Nigerians to prepare for higher electricity tariff

WHAT is this Minister is talking about? Let's have the electricity first before you start talking of higher tariffs.

H. Ibrahim
hibrahimbk@yahoo.com

Hon Minister, you have missed your arithmetic. What is the real cost of producing a single Watt of electricity? Unless this question is answered, we cannot know for sure

whether electricity is subsidized or not. I have a feeling that we Nigerians are simply paying for the inefficiency of PHCN and the controlling vested interests. Year in, year out we are told that consumers owe PHCN billions in unpaid consumption. When was that power generated, transmitted and distributed to have attracted such huge claim? Look again and first remove the corporate monopoly PHCN enjoys

and you would be surprised at the real cost of energy.

Muhammad Na'ya
naiyamd@yahoo.com

"You cannot use 10% to generate power and expect it to be supplied at 6%... Well, Mr. Wya, you cannot be providing 1% power and ask us to pay 100%. Moreover, with historical prospective concerning the gross incompetence of the public sector's

fund management skills, there is a chance that even if Nigerians do pay the 99% for power generation, the extra funds would end up purchasing houses and cars for the public sector officials and their cronies while Nigeria will still remain in blackout. So please Mr. Wya, let there be light first, and the rest will follow naturally.

Yusuf Buhari
yusuf.buhari@googlemail.com

FG to drop 7-point agenda today

THIS is a good idea because by identifying the problems of Nigeria, instead of President Goodluck Jonathan pursuing a 7-point agenda he should please focus on a 1-point agenda that is achievable. The improvement in our power sector will suffice. That alone can help in achieving the vision 20: 2020 plan of the government.

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
damurna@yahoo.com

Looking at the current situation now I don't think the Federal Government can be able to achieve the 7-point agenda within the targeted time-frame. I think it is a nice decision to select the most important agenda among the seven and try to tackle it within the period they have left rather than to fail in all. May Allah give them the ability to fulfill their promise to the people of Nigeria.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

Restoring power will definitely rejuvenate other sectors of the economy. Effort should therefore be made to strengthen Power and Energy sector please.

Muktar Alkali
muktaralkali@yahoo.com

It's cheering to hear that the Jonathan administration will scale down the 7-point agenda to something closer to the heart of Nigerians. What is dear to our hearts as we approach 2011 is for this administration to ensure the ongoing electoral reforms lead to the conduct of credible, free and fair elections in 2011 and most importantly, the availability of power that has become a mirage since our return to democracy.

Ibrahim T. Ibrahim

elkutigi@gmail.com

We appreciate late President Yar'adua's initiative on the issue of the 7-point agenda even though he wasn't able to fulfill them before he answered the call of nature. The issue now is not how many points are being initiated without realistic goals but rather a question of how many points can be achieved for the betterment of our great nation Nigeria. If president Goodluck should focus on the nation's pressing needs like the problem of energy and power regulation and this is achieved at the end of the day, fine and good. He will definitely leave a tremendous legacy for others to emulate. God bless Nigeria.

Anara Osim Nzan
osimanara@yahoo.com

Retaining the 7-point agenda or reducing it is not the issue.



PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan

Jonathan and his team should focus on tangible projects that will enrich the life of the common man in rural areas of Nigeria.

Attahir
ahkyauta@gmail.com

I would like the Federal Government to concentrate on stamping out corruption first before any agenda can be achieved.

Ahmad
cristals7@yahoo.com

Masari: Jonathan can contest in 2011

THE best among men is he who honors an agreement either written or not. If the PDP believes in zoning or rotational government, then it is incumbent on the members to abide by it. The likes of people like Masari are only looking for relevance. We should be wary of their type.

Abdullahi Ibrahim
giriabdul@yahoo.com

The issue of him contesting or not does not arise but my humble advice to President Goodluck Jonathan is that he should not give those businessmen called politicians any space in his government. He should surround himself with democrats and technocrats who would bring their wealth of experience to bear on our economy.

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
damurna@yahoo.com

I strongly disagree with the

statement made by Balarabe Musa that Jonathan is still young and can wait for 2015. IBB too made such a statement.

I want them to understand that all the countries that governed by youths on this planet are better governed...take the instances of Obama in the USA and David Cameroon of the UK and many more.

Jonathan my word for you is that if you don't want to contest, let your government search for a young person. The Stone Age is over.

John Michika
jfayuba@yahoo.com

Oh! My respected elder statement, Balarabe Musa, please don't disgrace me. The issue of whether Jonathan should contest or not is purely a PDP affair - why dabble into it? If the members of PDP in the north say he should not contest

because of the zoning and he insist that he will contest then I expect you to capitalize on this and canvass for support for a northerner in your party PRP. This will automatically bring down the PDP which boasted of ruling Nigeria for the next 60 years.

Once again, my senior professional colleague, abide by our motto -Accuracy and Integrity. I remain loyal sir.

Augustine A.D.
addradogara@yahoo.com

Masari's comments are anti-thesis to what he has supposedly always stood for; fairness, justice etc. I do know that times are hard. Even then, Mr Masari you can do better.

Dugaji Gana
dugajinbara@gmail.com

Balarabe Musa is absolutely right. That is the truth of the mat-

ter. Why do these key Northern political figures portray a different image of the Northern region? The Party resolved to canvass and sustain the shift of political from North to South.

Mujahid Ajah Matazu
mujahidajah@yahoo.com

I share the views of Alh. Balarabe Musa. President Jonathan has just one year left before this next elections and with mountains of problems begging for attention, it will certainly not serve the interest of the country or his personal interest for him to combine campaigning and being the President within this short period.

Those that are advocating for Jonathan to contest are political boot-lickers that don't wish Jonathan well, he must beware of them.

Ibrahim T. Ibrahim
elkutigi@gmail.com

Who is keeping the record of our 'Complicit Enablers'?

During those dark days of the brutal dictatorship of the late General Sani Abacha when many men walked the streets with fear in their hearts because death squads were always on the prowl of the major towns and cities of the country looking for 'enemies' of the government to deprive of their lives, a group of four young but dangerous-looking men were stopped at a major junction in Abuja by a team of policemen on patrol.

The suspicious-looking young men were ordered out of the powerful car, the then latest version of Toyota Camry they were driving. As part of routine police questioning, they were asked to identify themselves and say what their occupations were. A leader of the group and driver of the car they were driving in just opened the front door of the car. Beneath the driver's seat, he brought out one long and dangerous-looking gun the police men had not seen in their lives and simply told the police by way of identification that his and his friends' occupation was "killing for government".

The police, with obvious shudder in their hearts, asked them to get back into their car and waved them by. Those young killers are an example of

“What Happened Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception.”

a class of evil doers in modern society that are called complicit enablers. They are usually lowly placed or anonymous men and women in powerful or not so powerful positions who not many people may know about but who with obvious glee are nevertheless in vantage enough positions to help the powerful, visible persons to commit great atrocities against their society or humanity as a whole.

Unfortunately, when the history of the evil deeds of some wicked leaders are told, not many bother to ask or inquire into what roles the "complicit enablers" played to bring about the great wrongs often heaped on the leaders. No matter how bestial any man may be, he can not accomplish great evil all by himself. He needs other people to help him achieve his ignoble goals. The trouble with society is that we so often fail to remember and call to account the minions when their principals are brought to book.

Last year in my column in the *Daily Trust*, I did a piece entitled, *Who is keeping Nigeria's Book of Infamy?* In it, I wondered whether with the death of the indefatigable Gani Fawehinmi there was any other meticulous person or group of persons left who was keeping a record of the atrocities being committed by our men and women in position of leadership so that on the

Idang Alibi

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day of reckoning, which is certain to come soon in our country, their evil deeds will be used in judgment against them.

My desire then was to write a companion piece with the title who is keeping the record of complicit enablers. But other urgent issues did not allow me to do it, until now.

We must not ignore or underestimate the role which complicit enablers of all hues play in society. In our country, we have some public servants who are paid and required by the state to stop the stealing of public funds. Strangely, this same people are the ones who take it upon themselves to teach newly appointed political appointees how to steal in such a clever manner that their thievery will not be detected by even a forensic accountant. And these people teach them how to steal not because they love those appointees, they do so mainly to get the big men compromised so that when the big masquerade steals a hundred Naira, they can have the audacity to steal a hundred million.

Complicit enablers sometimes do greater havoc than their principals. Yet, greater attention is paid to the supposed big gun. Surely, the time has come for society to pay more attention to the complicit enablers. We should be prepared to punish the complicit enablers even more. If a stealing takes place in a ministry, department or agency of government, all those who are put there by the state to make such stealing impossible but who instead turned around to be facilitators should be more severely punished.

Last year the former Chief Press Secretary to former American President George Bush, Mr. Scott McClellan, wrote a book entitled "What Happened Inside the Bush White House and Washington's Culture of Deception". The book which is very highly critical of his former principal, accused Bush of relying on an aggressive "political propaganda campaign" instead of the truth to sell the Iraq war. He also said that the Bush White House made "a decision to turn away from candour and honesty when those qualities were most needed--a time when the nation was on the brink of war".

What I find most interesting is that McClellan did not stop at carpeting Bush the main man or culprit in the Iraqi fiasco, he also accused the media of being "complicit enablers" in the Bush's campaign to manipulate public opinion toward the need for war" as reported by the Washington Post.

This is how it should be. We should begin to apportion blames to all the high and low profile persons who initiate, order, carry out or actively support the commission of horrendous crimes against nations or humanity.



By Nnamdi Akaleme

Are we the Igbo a cursed people? (I)

It was the self styled-general, the dinosaur, the first lord of the failed Biafran empire, Chukwuemeka Odomegwu-Ojukwu, who started it all and subsequently brought an untold quagmire to the *Ndi-Igbo*.

After the war, the Igbos had to contend themselves with the abandoned property saga, currency exchange and all other attributes of a people who were defeated in a conventional warfare. The so call no victor no vanquish today remains a pet talk. The neglect and marginalization of *Ndi Igbo* are evident for all to see in all aspects. All policies of government have been to ensure perpetual subjugation and a perennial servitude of a people endowed by God.

We all know how the "general" fled to safety at the heat of the war which he invited himself. And as at today, most of Ojukwu's utterances have clearly shown him as one who is still far removed from realities.

When peace presumably returned to Nigeria, the fleeing people's general saw the opportunity to return home and receive several accolades. This Ojukwu whom *Ndi-Igbo* supposed to have taken to *Ajo-ofia* (evil forest) and tied to an ancient tree till he rotted away has not cease from making some contradictory and inflammatory statements. My grand pa used

“Where are the likes of Mbonu Ojike, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Ozumba Mbadiwe, Michael Okpara, Aja Nwachukwu, Alvan Ikoku, etc?”

to sound it in my ear one Igbo adage which goes as follows "onye ana erere anaghi acho onye ga zuya" meaning literally that "One who has been tagged by the kinsmen for sell, does not go about looking for a buyer".

One cannot but wonder how many Igbos knew about the import this ancient adage. To me as a person it disturbs me the all know negativisms that has always portrayed the *Ndi-Igbo*. The people that was once endowed by the Almighty God is now a object of ridicule, dishonesty, spoilers, traitors, untrustworthiness, fraudulency, corruption, treacherousness, opportunism and the likes. Where are the likes of Mbonu Ojike, Nnamdi Azikiwe, Ozumba Mbadiwe, Michael Okpara, Aja Nwachukwu, Alvan Ikoku, etc? These were great Igbo leaders who once held their heads high among the comity of nations.

In 1993 general election that was atjudged the freest and most credible in Nigeria chequered history, a scion of *Ndi-Igbo*, Chief Arthur Nzeribe the self-styled Chairman of

Association for Better Nigeria (ABN) in concert with one faceless Dr. Kenneth Atkin, worked covertly or overtly for some evil forces decided to act. The election would not be and the ABN went to court. And before the court could hear their pleas, the evil genius struck, annulling the election.

In the early 1980s or thereabout an Igbo lad, a student of University of Maiduguri played himself silly. The then State government organized the launching of One hundred million naira endowment funds for the development of the State. Many invitees were in attendance.

This student with few of his friends and carrying sealed cartons walked to the podium and took the microphone to announce his name and a cash donation of one million naira! There and then he received applause. But there was a shocker yet; later the organizers said the cartons contained old newspapers, the students insisted it contained one million naira. The confusion was not resolved and many years later the student was to become two-term governor of one of the South Eastern states.

Years after, another scion of the Igbo Stuck, came on board; this time one Dr. Daniel Kalu with his Youth Earnestly Ask for Abacha (YEAA) campaign and staged a two-million-man march in Abuja; drumming support why late General Abacha should continue in office ad-infinity, why Abacha was the messiah, the Kaiser, the Pontif Maximus and the adorned Life President of Nigeria. The question is why didn't the General look elsewhere for his inglorious campaign, why are the *Ndi-Igbo* so vulnerable to be used for any infamous act; why are the *Ndi-Igbo* so cheap to be manipulated. As a people can't we stand by one thing: INTEGRITY? How was *Ndi-Igbo* so cursed and abandoned by her gods: The *Ikenga*, the *Oramiri*, the *Imo*, the *Ogwugwu*, the *Iyi-Eke*, the *Amadioha* and of course the great *CHUKWU*.

It was not long General Abacha passed on, Daniel Kalu disappeared from the scene leaving his YEAA dream, yet Nigeria continues on her part to greatness.

The death of Abacha ushered in yet another democratic dispensation. The ruling party came up with a funny political model in which Senate Presidency was zoned to the South East: predominantly *Ndi-Igbo*. We are all witnesses to how the Igbo were falling and rising on each other. First casualty was Evans Enwerem who had to bow out as a result of forgery charges. Then they were other Senate Presidents - Dr. Chuba Okadigbo, Adolphus Nwagbara who also fell out in the order they came on charges of contract fixing, falsification Federal Ministry of Education budget figures respectively.

To be concluded.
Akaleme wrote from Isiwuato, Abia State (nnamdiakaleme@yahoo.com)



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

Zoning and rotation

A more honest people will acknowledge the problems of their nation and do what is right in the circumstances. Whether or not Nigeria should base its electoral politics on zoning and rotation has nothing to do with the century we are in, but the problems we are confronted with. The cleavages of ethnicity and religion will not disappear merely because we are wish-

ing them away. They are problems that can only be managed, failing which Nigeria will disappear into history as another former country.

I am an admirer of the pragmatism of the Swiss political system. Switzerland is a lot older than Nigeria and that nation boasts the second oldest written constitution in the whole world.

It was an unstable nation whose cantons once experienced acrimonious relationship Napoleon Bonaparte actually intervened in what is known as *The Act of Mediation* in 1803 to attempt to unify the warring cantons.

Even though Switzerland is a small nation, one nevertheless believes there is more for us to learn from her experiences than from those of any other nation. The complexities of Nigeria are

the exaggerated versions of what they have in Switzerland.

It is inevitable that we base our leadership on rotation, deciding on which model we find appropriate in our circumstances. This writer can offer some suggestions in that regard. We must not assume that the problem of domination or group marginalization has been resolved because of the presidencies of Olusegun Obasanjo and Goodluck Jonathan. Both have been presidents for reasons that have nothing to do with a change in the voting behaviours of our peoples. We should not get carried away as it would appear so many of us have become at the moment.

Anthony Akinola, Oxford, England (anthonyakinola@yahoo.co.uk)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Who sent you?

IT is a shame that labour unions have not learnt from experience; it is even sadder that the NLC president Comrade Abdulwahab would call on Dr Jonathan to contest the 2011 presidency, despite the many contentious issues surrounding that alleged aspiration. In any case, we the civil servants have not asked the NLC president to canvass such a platform, after his failure to deliver on his promise of making government pay 52,000 naira as minimum wage. 08075321629.

Re: Lassa fever outbreak

THE government should be told that more than 80 percent of Nigerians suffer from Lassa fever. It is a causative factor of Lassa fever, and the authorities should address it first before it can successfully deal with Lassa fever. YAHAYA Ibn Idris, 08069074390.

Jonathan can contest

THAT is in 2015; but if he wants to contest in 2011, he can do so,

but first he has to leave the PDP and join another party. The PDP must respect its zoning arrangement. If there has to be any change to that arrangement, the relevant organs of the party have to sit down and decide how to go about it. Come to think of it, was the zoning formula not adopted to address cries of marginalisation? Why is that those who concurred to it then are now singing a different tune? De Prince. 08062324621.

Yes, I agree

ZONING is selective democracy. Let Jonathan try his luck in 2011. BASHIR Giade, 08039122690.

Higher electricity tariff?

IN Nigeria today, what we need is the service, not the charges. Let there be constant supply first, before higher charges can be considered. NUHU, Kaduna, 08037867636.

7-point, what does it matter?

EVEN if the seven-point agenda

were cut to just one, it would still fail if there is no commitment and sincerity in its implementation, and those in charge are not God-fearing and patriotic.

REVEREND AMINU Weyham, Kwoi, Kaduna State, 08066961905.

Re: Myth of Obasanjo's

support for Akunyili

EVEN a non-partisan, non-voting citizen like me can be biased if there is no moral integrity. Akunyili has proved that she can be unbiased in electoral matters.

TERKULE Aorabee, Jalingo, 08027969691.

Price control

THE Federal Government should establish a price control board. This will have a meaningful impact on the lives of people, by eliminating or reducing the menace of inflated prices of goods and services.

KHALIL M, 07035632977.



By Sani Zangon Daura

Zoning arrangement for North and South

Though the principle of zoning is not a constitutional provision and is not intended to be a permanent feature in our electoral system, it has, however, emerged and evolved to be an important, if not, a necessary part of our developing democracy. The importance of this principle was underpinned when delegates to the constitutional conference of 1994-5 saw it fit and proper to propose the principle of zoning of the post of president, vice president and other key positions between the North and South, with a view to ensuring peace and political stability of our dear country. Zoning of power is a convenient mechanism to reassure Nigeria's complex and heterogeneous communities that power will be widely rotated amongst them, thus giving them a sense of participation and belonging in the running of the affairs of our beloved country.

It therefore follows that the mandate with which Dr. Goodluck Jonathan is currently overseeing the affairs of the nation, after the painful demise of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, is the mandate of the North and its people. Whether the zoning arrangement was/is documented or not, it has a moral force that deserves and commands the respect of the Nigerian people. The North is not prepared to play second fiddle to anybody during its allotted time. The North and its people have given far, far too much to keep this dear country of ours still UNITED. The North and its people have done more than any other group in the country to keep the country together, certainly NOT OUT OF FEAR but out of sheer love and commitment to keep Nigeria one and indivisible for the collective good of all of us.

Under the circumstance, the North and its people are not prepared to be short-changed anymore. We therefore put it emphatically to all responsible Nigerians who believe in the unity of the Nigerian state, to come out clean and identify with the *truth* and nothing but the *truth*. We formally urge Mr. President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan to completely ignore calls by some groups of unpatriotic Nigerians that he should contest the presidential election come year 2011.

The Arewa-Elders' Assembly, solidly advocating for electoral reforms, came to an irreversible conclusion that free and fair elections can only be a reality if and only if the incumbent president forgoes and sacrifices his political ambition for now and become a neutral umpire in the overall national interest. If Mr. President can swallow his political ambition for the greater good of the country by shunning all promptings and pressures from his so-called admirers, and conduct a free and fair election which the people of this country generally love and desire to be achieved, then it will be permanently on record that Mr. President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan has made an overwhelming success of his presidency. All Nigerians will hail him as a Right-Honourable Gentleman and a committed patriot.

On the apparent relationship of Obasanjo and Mr. President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, the Elders' Assembly is reminding Mr. President that he should be absolutely careful of that potential negative influence. It is on record that Mr. Obasanjo has abused the trust thrust upon him by the Nigerian people. He succeeded in polarizing the polity by creating super rich states and super poor states in the same country. Also, he succeeded in deliberately creating four distinct economies for the country to ensure future political instability as a prelude, I hope not, to the break-up of this country. It is our general belief that Obasanjo does not mean any good for this country any more. So, watch out for an impending political and negative image of your presidency if you continue to associate with him.

The Elders' Assembly took a very serious look at the current fight against corruption which Mr. President is being urged to confront head-on by the overwhelming majority of Nigerians, which he has in turn promised to pursue, not only to the Nigerian people but also to the international community and world leaders notably president Barack Obama of United States. We are also reminding the president that the fight against corrupt is as good as LOST so long as Obasanjo's overwhelming and overbearing influence on Mr. President and his administration remains unchecked.

Dan-Masani Sani Zangon Daura is a member, Steering Committee of Northern Elders' Assembly.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Super Eagles and 2010 World Cup

With only few days to the kick off of the 2010 World Cup football tournament in South Africa, the first to hold on the African continent, there have been mixed reactions from millions of Nigerian soccer fans as to their expectation on the nation's senior team, the Super Eagles. Perhaps this follows the shoddy preparations leading to the country's qualification for the tournament in November last year. These were not assuaged after their lacklustre goalless draw against Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

Once one of the Africa's most formidable teams, the Super Eagles has over the years lost its verve due to problems that have been blamed on poor coaching and bad administration, factors to which were responsible for the country's failure to qualify in 2006 when Germany hosted the tournament. However, after struggling to secure a bronze medal at the last Nations Cup event in Angola and also qualify for the World Cup under Coach Shuaibu Amodu, it was apparent that Nigeria did not yet have a team that can acquit itself creditably on the world stage.

This worrying scenario led to the sacking of Coach Amodu, who was consequently redeployed to handling home based players for the national team. With this development, the nation's sport administrators engaged the services of the former Sweden coach, Las Lagerback to lead the Eagles to the tournament which kicks off on June 11 in Johannesburg, South Africa. Pitched against Argentina, Greece and South Korea in Group B, the Super Eagles will definitely need extra-technical skills to be able to face their opponents confidently, especially as they confront Argentina on June 12 in the opening match. Only good performance at the first stages of the tournament would assure their advancement to the next rounds of the event. This will be Nigeria's fourth appearance at World Cup finals. The country reached the knockout rounds in 1994 and 1998, but failed to go beyond the group stage at the 2002 event.

It is foreboding that since their qualification in November last year, the Eagles would be having their first friendly matches in the few days remaining before the World Cup tournament starts. The first against Saudi Arabia was played on Tuesday; this will be followed with matches involving Columbia and then fellow World Cup finalists, North Korea, in an effort to enhance the skill of players and establish cohesion for better team work. Though the 30-man list selected by Coach Lagerback is steeped in controversy, it is however expected that the friendlies would afford him the opportunity to pick his final list of 23 players for the fiesta.

President Goodluck Jonathan has sought to boost the morale of players by hosting them to a sumptuous dinner where he promised to meet all their demands, as long as they made Nigeria proud. Similarly, 700 million naira in bonuses has been announced for the team, in addition to several other pledges of financial rewards by organisations and corporate bodies. Indeed, all these indicate the high expectations of both government and people of Nigeria on the Eagles to perform well at the event. We expect nothing less than for Coach Lagerback and his charge to return home with the cup as already promised by Team Captain, Nwankwo Kanu. As Lagerback declared, "We have a great chance to do well in the World Cup." For us, doing well is bringing the cup home.

When any of the nation's soccer teams is engaged in a game, Nigerians irrespective of tribe, region, religion or class unite in passionate and patriotic zeal behind them. Therefore this is the time for the players to prove critics wrong and deliver the cup to Nigerians in July. As we wish the Eagles a fruitful outing, we consider it necessary to call on the football authorities and all concerned to ensure that the team is well provisioned as far as they can go in the month-long tournament.

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IRI hosts political parties and stakeholders

Last Tuesday, May 25 2010, the International Republican Institute (IRI) organized an interesting dialogue at the Zuma Hall of the Rockview Hotel Abuja. In his welcome address, the IRI Country Director, Dr. Mourtada Deme welcomed participants and noted that the activity was organised to build on IRI's support for the country's political development which in the past involved engagement with political actors to enable them undertake activities that will promote debate, strengthen their outreach and interaction with stakeholders. Dr Deme said 'as the 2011 national elections approach, Nigeria's electoral process continues to face a number of challenges. While some of these challenges will be addressed through legal reform, others are linked more specifically to the relationship between the main electoral stakeholders and the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC). The theme of the event was *Political parties' dialogue for improved relationships between INEC and political parties.*

The dialogue was attended by a broad spectrum of stakeholders; among them were political party officials, political leaders, civil society organisations, resource persons on Election Management Bodies (EMBs). The IRI expected the stakeholders to discuss their respective roles in the political arena and to put in place mechanisms for regular communication and consultations throughout the electoral process. Participants were also expected to develop strategies for constructive engagement in the electoral process and agree on minimum consensus requirements and confidence building measures in the lead up to the 2011 elections.

To set the tone, a key note address was presented by Professor Adele Jinadu the Director of the Claude Ake Centre for Advanced Social Sciences. The presentation titled 'INEC and Party Reform in Nigeria: Looking Back to the Future' raised a number of issues on the role of political parties in electoral governance, the challenges that emerged from that role, whether there is need to reform our party system in order to positively deepen federalism and democracy. Professor Jinadu examined the Independent National Electoral Commission INEC as presently constituted and assessed its capacity to bring about such transformation. He focused on the country's history listed various development circumstances that shaped competitive electoral politics in Nigeria. They include the colonial experience, changes in the country's social structure which produced educated elite, emergence of military and business class and their alliance with the political class, the interplay of ethnicity which influenced the development of ethnic-based competitive party politics and military rule. Another important development circumstance factor identified was the general under development of the country and the role of the state as the site for corrupt enrichment and

Civil Society Watch

By Hajija Bilkisu (mni)

the hegemonic contest for domination by ethnic groups.

In discussing the current problems of the political parties Professor Jinadu said they must first resolve the lack of internal democracy in the parties. The parties have failed to adhere to the provisions of their constitution in open conduct of their party primaries or similar nomination processes for elective offices. He urged the political parties to imbibe accountability, professionalism, avoid the noxious

parties were not at the forum.

He said the relationship between INEC and the political parties was a master servant relationship and not that of partners and the parties always shun INEC meetings.

The Chairperson of the Sierra Leone Electoral Commission Dr Christiana Thorpe presented a paper on *The Relationship between Political Parties and the Electoral Management Board EMB: Perspective of an EMB Chair.* In her presentation, she shared the experience of Sierra Leone when it organised an election that was adjudged by the international community as free and fair. Dr Thorpe said it was possible to achieve results because all stakeholders were involved and carried along in laying the founda-

Masari, the former Speaker of the House of Representatives, in a short presentation lamented the lack of discipline within the parties and how the parties misbehaved and celebrated impunity and nobody was prosecuted.

effect of money on discipline and cohesion within the party creating a space for promoting moneybags, and godfathers. He made recommendations on the way forward. He said our political parties can fit into the reform agenda if they faithfully subscribe to rules and regulations intended to ensure internal democracy within them. Secondly, our political parties must distinguish between the state, the party in government and the party itself and ensure internal party discipline and accountability. Thirdly our parties must begin to create a sound technocratic and professional base, a permanent bureaucracy including a research and policy unit. Fourthly, the parties must eliminate the negative effects of moneybags and godfathers.

After the keynote address two party leaders made brief remarks. Honourable Aminu Bello Masari the former Speaker of the House of Representatives in a short presentation lamented the lack of discipline within the parties and how the parties misbehaved and celebrated impunity and nobody was prosecuted. He joined a group of reform minded politicians who established two groups the National Interest Group and the G20 which are working on party reform. "We made presentation to the Uwais Panel but from 1999 to date nobody was prosecuted for breaking party rules. The problem is monumental and it is not one for politicians alone to solve. It is everybody's business." In his presentation, the former Governor of Kaduna State and current National Chairman of the Peoples Redemption Party PRP Alhaji Balarabe Musa expressed disappointment that the major political

tion for successful election.

The parties were all committed to and abiding by the rules and regulations of their parties. The discussant of the paper was Mr. Carlo Binda who is the Election Programme Director at the National Democratic Institute NDI. He underscored the importance of transparency in all the election activities and the need to fully involve all stakeholders. It is the participation of the people in elections that makes it succeed and give it credibility.

This was followed by a panel discussion session titled *The Relationship between Political Parties and the EMB: A Nigerian Perspective.* The panellists were Dr. Usman Bugaje, National Secretary Action Congress AC, Mr. Charles Nwodo Chairman of the Progressive Action Congress PAC, Professor Victor Adetula of the Political Science Department University of Jos. Dr Bugaje said the elites have withdrawn from politics because they see it as dirty. They cocoon themselves in their homes and spend their money to make themselves comfortable but they are making a big mistake like the elites in Sierra Leone, Somali, Liberia and other African countries that experienced crisis or are still in disarray. Dr Bugaje lamented that all politicians are interested in is to contest elections and use it as an opportunity to grab and grab. The tragedy is that nobody is saying anything. Governors who have destroyed their states are being given awards. There is no content or conscience in what we do." Other Panellist such as Mr Charles Nwodo, Chairman of the PAC, said INEC is not interested in working with political parties as partners.

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All winners have been contacted.

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May your reign be long and peaceful.

Signed: Management



AFRICA REPORT

ICC reports Sudan to UN security council

THE International Criminal Court said yesterday that it has reported Sudan to the U.N. Security Council for refusing to arrest a government minister and a militia leader suspected of war crimes in Darfur.

Judges at the court said in a report that Sudan has refused to hand over Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmed Harun and Janjaweed militia leader Ali Kushayb.

"After taking all possible measures to ensure the cooperation of the Republic of the Sudan, the Chamber concludes that the Republic of the Sudan is failing to comply with its cooperation obligations," the report said.

The court ordered the men arrested in 2007 on a total of 51 charges of crimes against humanity and war crimes. The report says the Security Council can now "take any action it may deem appropriate."

The report was published a day before Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir is expected to be inaugurated for a new term in office. Al-Bashir also is wanted by the court for allegedly masterminding atrocities in Darfur.

Burundi opposition rejects district election results

EIGHT Burundi opposition parties demanded yesterday that the national electoral commission (CENI) organise fresh district elections, arguing a vote this week was marked by massive fraud and irregularities.

The parties protested that early results announced by local media, showing the ruling CNDD-FDD had won in most of the 129 districts, were incorrect.

"We have evidence that there are people who voted several times with many voter cards," Chauvineau Mugwengezo, spokesperson for the eight parties, said.

"We have also cases of heads of polling stations who went back home with ballot boxes after the counting.

Al-Bashir set for new term as cracks still threaten Sudan

SUDANESE President Omar al-Bashir is to be sworn in for a new term today, ahead of a vote on southern independence and with an international war-crimes indictment hanging over him.

Bashir's latest mandate in his 21-year rule is considered crucial for the future of Africa's largest country, where former southern rebels are seeking to secede and with deadly violence continuing to plague

the western Darfur region.

"The biggest challenge Sudan faces in the next five years -- I would even say in the coming months -- is whether it will head toward unity or slide into division," said Abdel Moneim Suleiman, an opposition activist.

He will oversee the run-up to a referendum on the independence of the south which is scheduled for January 2011.



SUDANESE President Omar al-Bashir

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Middle East



IRANIAN President Ahmadinejad

Ahmadinejad lambasts Russia over nuclear stance

IRANIAN President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad launched a stinging attack on Russia yesterday over its stance on Tehran's atomic drive, accusing it of "siding with those who have been our enemy for 30 years."

Ahmadinejad's comments in a televised speech, during which he also urged both Russia and the United States to back a controversial nuclear fuel deal, drew a swift rebuke from Moscow, which angrily denounced his "political demagoguery."

"The Tehran declaration (on a fuel swap) is the best opportunity. We took an important step and said something very

important. There are no excuses left," Ahmadinejad said in the speech addressed to US and Russian leaders.

Moscow, like Washington, has reacted coolly to the nuclear fuel deal aimed at defusing the standoff that was brokered by Brazil and Turkey earlier this month, a stance that has clearly disappointed Tehran.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev cautiously welcomed the deal but also expressed concern that it might fail to allay the main fear of the international community about Tehran's uranium enrichment operations.

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US 'to expand covert operations'

THE commander of the US forces in the Middle East, has signed an order that allows clandestine military activity to disrupt "terror" groups or counter threats in friendly and hostile nations according to The New York Times.

General David Petraeus, head of the US Central Command, signed the secret directive on September 30, the paper said quoting defence officials and military documents.

It said the directive - which allows for covert strikes outside of designated war zones - authorises the sending of US special operations troops to the Middle East, Central Asia and the Horn of Africa to gather intelligence and build ties with local forces.

Obama, Netanyahu to meet next week

PRESIDENT Barack Obama has invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to the White House next week, Israeli government sources revealed yesterday, for an apparent fence-mending visit. Israeli commentators portrayed the surprise talks as an attempt by Obama to counter criticism by US Jewish leaders and in Congress over what was widely seen as his cold shoulder towards Netanyahu after a public dispute over settlement policy.

He last saw Obama in March in a low-profile White House meeting that was portrayed in Israel as a snub to Netanyahu because it did not include the usual photo-opportunity afforded visiting foreign leaders.

100% of the profits from the sale of this book will be donated to the National Cancer Research Institute.

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THE KEBBI STATE DESERT HERALD REPORTER AND DIMINISHING POPULARITY

When the essence and principle of journalism is to encourage communication, enlightenment and purposeful interaction, the Desert Herald Reporter style in Kebbi is different both in practice, speed and direction. This has been the practice for quite sometime and we are constrained not to join issues with the actors on the belief that the action would be stopped as even under autocratic dispensation, disaffection and elimination is not the best and not an option either. We are however been compelled by recent emerging circumstances which are capable of destroying image, inherent values and even pull down the solid structures which the Kebbi people established and consistently sustained against the forces of incumbency to respond to the Desert Herald Reporter unbecoming behaviour.

We are shocked and saddened beyond imagination that the reporter is no self centered that he engaged in causing disaffection capable of degrading the popularity achieved by His Excellency Alh. Saidu Dakin Gari who in less than 3 years nearly developed all the important sectors of the economy, we condemn in strong term the way and manner the reporter breached the trust reposed in him by His Excellency and doing this I am pleased to express that this is my personal opinion to which I am entitle to in a free democratic dispensation. I also believed doing otherwise, not to expose the reporter may not do well either to my personal self or the government I so much cherished as a Kebbi citizenry. Unless the behaviour is disclosed action necessary to halt the mess which is socially and politically unacceptable may not be augmented either. The reporter's action not to properly represents or distant the public away form the truth are nothing short of misdirected venom and deliberate attempt to obfuscate facts and misrepresent His Excellency. If the Desert Herald Reporter chooses to pull down the Kebbi State government, he will be restless as His Excellency is being heralded as the most popular and most successful politician of the Kebbi generation. His Excellency performed beyond the electorates expectation subsidizing agricultural inputs, giving farmers loans, empowering youths, distributing commercial vehicles and motorcycles, constructing schools where non-exist, construction of New Hospitals, upgrading of Primary Health centers to General Hospital in all the Local

Government Areas across the state and most importantly Specialist Hospital in Kalgo with the facilities status of Teaching Hospitals. In doing what the Desert Herald Reporter did, one is only compelled to believe that selfishness must have informed the antagonistic posture to Governor Saidu Dakin Gari because even if the intention is to destroy the opposite would have been the best for him stead of sending false report. Otherwise how would one interpret the action, what does he gain when in a democratic dispensation he is sending dishonest report against the government, perhaps, the Desert Herald Reporter only want to cause confusion, as he is self centered but he should realize that the most popular government would be the grace of God always purge ahead, let him also realize that his agenda has failed. At this point, I wish to call on the good people of Kebbi State and Nigeria in general who are largely affected to disregard most of his insincere report against the people's government. To the starting points, the Kebbi Desert Herald Reporter here is a simple, cogent and honest advise he should kindly in the twilight of his affairs, try to adhere to the tenets of journalism and respect values and culture of our peoples as certainly there is nothing to gain in causing confusion or disaffection among people. For His Excellency his past and present records granted him the qualities of being heralded as a politician of repute. However, His Excellency must note at this point that there is serious disaffection among the Kebbi people largely cause by the Kebbi Desert Herald reporter, but we are certain that the reporter would only make himself unrecognized.

Certainly, tolerance and liberalism are among the inherent qualities of His Excellency Alh. Saidu Dakin Gari but let us recall that even in animal kingdom there is tolerance limit and rules of extinction and no matter how strong your solid structure stand, if the forces of erosion and corrosion continue to attack the base unchecked, the eventual collapse of the structure is just a matter of time.

May the Almighty Allah forbid and lead His Excellency to the right direction in achieving the arduous task of building new Kebbi State.

Alh. Abdullahi Mohammed Lamba
Chairman Publicity Committee
Kebbi State

World

Russia condemns US missiles in Poland

RUSSIA has criticised the United States' deployment of Patriot missiles in Poland, saying the move did not help security or trust.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said: "Such military activity does not help to strengthen our mutual security, to develop relations of trust and predictability in this region."

A Patriot surface-to-air missile battery arrived in Monday in Poland and was to be deployed in the north of the country, close to the border with Russia's enclave of Kaliningrad.

"We have repeatedly stated that we do not understand the logic and sense of cooperation between the United States and Poland in this sphere," Russia's Foreign Ministry said.

"We note with regret that our questions to the Polish and US sides have remained unanswered, as well as our arguments in favour of temporarily moving the deployment region as far as possible from Russian borders."

There was no immediate hint of any retaliatory Russian move to the Patriot deployment in the Foreign Ministry statement.

Former dictator's party ahead in Suriname election

THE political party of former dictator Desi Bouterse was the biggest winner in elections in Suriname, according to election results released yesterday, as the convicted drug trafficker mounted a political comeback despite facing trial for the execution of 15 opponents in the 1980s.

Bouterse declined to say if he would try to return to the presidency — a process that would require creating alliances with other parties in the South American country.

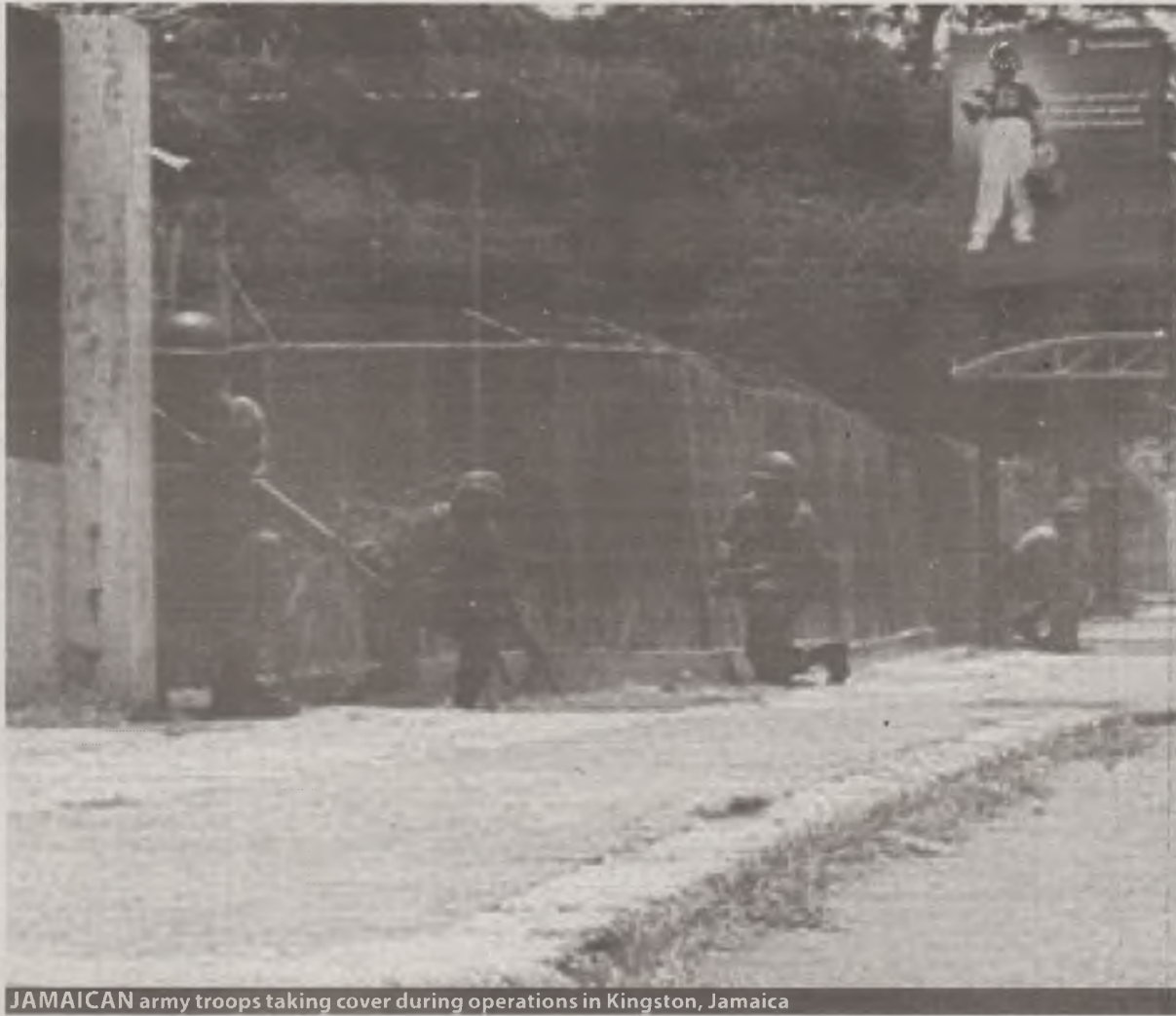
Bouterse's Mega Combination coalition won 23 of the 51 seats in parliament, according to preliminary results.

Report says more than 50 killed in Jamaica violence

THE overall death toll from several days of violence in Jamaica's capital rose to 49 on Wednesday after the country's ombudsman said he had counted the bodies of 44 civilians killed in a police assault on an alleged drug lord's stronghold.

The increased figure for civilians killed in the Tivoli Gardens slum was given by Ombudsman Herro Blair, who visited the neighbourhood which soldiers and police stormed on Monday searching for Christopher "Dudus" Coke.

The United States is seeking Coke's extradition on drugs and gun-running charges.



JAMAICAN army troops taking cover during operations in Kingston, Jamaica

Cyprus holds re-unification talks

RE-UNIFICATION talks between the Turkish-held Northern Cyprus and the Greek-dominated Republic of Cyprus in the south have recommenced after a two month of uncertainty.

Demetris Christofias, the Greek Cypriot leader, and Dervis Eroglu, the recently elected Turkish Cypriot leader, met yesterday at a United Nations compound in Nicosia which straddles the buffer zone between the island's two populations.

Ban Ki-moon, the UN secretary-general, in a statement read out to both leaders, said he believed a peace deal was within reach.

"The international community is committed to continuing its support for this Cypriot-led process. I truly believe that you can reach an agreement in the coming months," he said.

Alexander Downer, the UN envoy for Cyprus who facilitates negotiations, said there was "no doubt that a Cyprus solution is doable".

Turkish troops invaded Cyprus's north in 1974 after a brief Greek Cypriot coup engineered by Greece's former military government.

Currently, the two populations each govern a portion of the island. The goal of peace talks is to re-link the island as a federation.

"To achieve an agreement will require a great deal of political strength, courage and will by both sides," Downer, reading out Ban's statement, said.

A deal "is not beyond their grasp, it is within their reach". A deal in Cyprus is crucial for Turkish efforts to join the European Union.

"The Greek Cypriot side is already a member of the EU and current members can veto new members," our correspondent said.

Greek Cypriots say Turkey cannot join the EU without a re-unification deal on the island.

Presently, Turkey is the only country to recognise the Turkish enclave on the island's north as a separate state. There are still around 30,000 Turkish troops on the island.

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NATIONAL INSURANCE COMMISSION (NAICOM)

LIST OF INSURANCE BROKERS WITH LAPSED CERTIFICATES

S/ NO	NAME OF BROKERS	REG. NO	EXPIRATION	RENEWAL DATE		REMARKS
1	ACCORD NIG. INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-357	7/31/2008	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
2	BISMOWAK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-121	8/31/2008	1/7/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
3	DELIGHT INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-421	31/04/2007	1/3/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
4	FIRST TRUST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-181	7/31/2008	8/1/2009	LAPSED	Confirmed
5	GLOBAL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-181	31/09/2007	8/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
6	HTL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-383	3/31/2008	2/1/2009	LAPSED	Confirmed
7	LEBEC INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-337	31/10/2008	11/1/2004	LAPSED	Confirmed
8	ADEHMOS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-286	2/28/2006	3/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
9	AEJ INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-281	12/31/2008	1/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
10	AFRISK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-486	7/31/2008	8/1/2004	LAPSED	confirmed
11	AFRITRUST INSURANCE BROKERS LIMITED	RBC-289	7/31/2008	8/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
12	ALEXANDER REISSE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-279	11/30/2008	12/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
13	ALLIED TRUST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-229	7/31/2008	8/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
14	ALLISON INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-320	31/02/2007	3/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
15	ALRISK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-209	8/17/2004	8/18/2003	LAPSED	confirmed
16	AMAZING GRACE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-615	31/08/2007	1/5/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
17	ASO SOLID INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-327	8/30/2008	7/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
18	ASSETS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-313	1/31/2009	2/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
19	ATLANTIC & ROCK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-297	1/31/2006	12/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
20	ATLANTIC INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-153	12/31/2009	1/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
21	AYENSON INTERNATIONAL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-493	12/31/2009	1/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
22	AYO RANDLE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-316	11/30/2008	12/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
23	AZA INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-559	10/31/2008	11/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
24	B.C. MADIEBO & COMPANY LTD	RBC-032	4/30/2008	5/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
25	BELLCREST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-286	7/31/2007	8/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
26	BSICONS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-379	11/30/2008	12/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
27	CACHET INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-633	8/31/2007	11/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
28	CAUTIOUS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-043	9/30/2009	10/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
29	CENTRE TRUST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-594	10/31/2009	11/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
30	CHASE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-219	12/31/2007	1/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
31	CHATTLE HOUSE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-401	31/09/2008	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
32	CHROME INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-271	11/30/2009	12/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
33	CITILADS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-083	1/31/2009	2/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
34	COBAL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-007	10/31/2007	11/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
35	CONCRIS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-615	7/31/2008	1/8/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
36	CONSOLIDATED INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-237	7/31/2009	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
37	CORPORATE CITIZENS INS BROKERS LTD/ FIRST SPRING	RBC-233	10/31/2003	11/1/2003	LAPSED	confirmed
38	CORPORATE TRUST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-374	4/30/2009	5/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
39	COVENANT INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-257	8/31/2007	7/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
40	CRESTFIELD INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-488	7/31/2008	8/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
41	CROWNFIELD INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-450	3/31/2008	4/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
42	DBLS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-254	8/30/2009	9/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
43	DIPOD INSURANCE BROKERS LIMITED	RBC-139	31/04/2008	5/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
44	DOUBLE E INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-826	31/09/2008	1/8/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
45	DYKES INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-045	8/31/2008	9/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
46	E.A. FABIYI EVERYMAN INSURANCE LTD	RBC-018	3/31/2006	1/4/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
47	EASY FLOW INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-451	7/31/2007	1/8/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
48	ECLONA INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-208	7/31/2008	7/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
49	ECO INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-395	3/31/2008	7/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
50	EMAT INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-120	3/31/2006	4/1/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
51	EMINENT INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-198	5/31/2008	6/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
52	EVEREST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-284	31/08/2006	9/1/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
53	EXCEPTIONAL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-504	7/31/2008	8/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
54	FAIR WAY INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-630	8/31/2007	7/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
55	FC&T INSURANCE BROKERS LTD/FOLSBORT	RBC-116	31/08/2009	7/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
56	FENGATE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-243	5/31/2009	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
57	FEYBIL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-438	7/31/2008	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
58	FIDEI INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-099	9/30/2005	10/1/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
59	FIRST COVER INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-491	8/31/2007	7/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
60	FIRST MUTUAL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-400	7/31/2009	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
61	FIRST STEP INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-575	8/31/2007	7/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
62	FIRSTSON INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-307	12/31/2009	1/1/2010	LAPSED	confirmed
63	FLETTIONS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-596	5/31/2008	5/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
64	FRANCO NIGERIA INS. BROKERS & CONSULTANTS	RBC-247	12/31/2009	1/1/2010	LAPSED	confirmed
65	FRED MORLEY INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-152	31/12/2001	1/1/2002	LAPSED	confirmed
66	FRONTIER TRUST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-350	3/31/2008	2/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
67	CRESTFIELD INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-488	7/31/2007	11/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
68	G & V INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-227	31/11/2006	10/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
69	G.N. BISHOP INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-056	31/11/2009	12/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
70	G.T. INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-597	5/31/2009	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
71	GAYWOOD INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-090	9/30/2009	10/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
72	GLOBAL TREND INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-497	31/08/2008	1/9/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
73	GOLD STANDARD INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-187	10/31/2007	11/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
74	GOLDFUND INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-408	8/31/2005	9/1/2004	LAPSED	confirmed
75	GOOD GATE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-599	31/05/2008	1/5/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
76	GRACE CHURCH INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-123	11/30/2009	12/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
77	GRAND TRUST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-603	31/06/2007	1/5/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
78	GREAT PACIFIC INS. BROKERS LTD.	RBC-275	31/09/2007	8/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
79	GREATWALL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-576	7/31/2007	8/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
80	GREENLINK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-238	3/31/2008	2/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
81	HAPATOMA INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-346	11/30/2007	12/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
82	HARVARD INTERTIONAL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-185	11/30/2008	12/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
83	HIGHTOWER INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-083	2/2/2006	2/1/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
84	IFEBOGUN & COMPANY INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-194	9/30/2006	10/1/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
85	IMPERIAL TRUST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.	RBC-107	31/09/2008	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
86	INFINITE TRUST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-827	7/31/2009	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
87	INTEGRITYTRUST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-472	3/31/2007	4/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
88	IRVING INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-554	10/31/2009	11/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
89	JAASNA CITY INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-140	31/03/2007	4/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed



NATIONAL INSURANCE COMMISSION (NAICOM)
LIST OF INSURANCE BROKERS WITH LAPSED CERTIFICATES

90	JAOINSURANCE BROKERS& COMPANY LTD	RBC-223	7/31/2004	8/1/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
91	JOHNHILL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-502	7/31/2009	8/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
92	KAL & KAY INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-035	8/31/2009	9/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
93	KELSAN INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-617	10/31/2009	11/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
94	KEMEX INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-579	8/31/2007	7/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
95	KHANI INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-252	9/30/2009	10/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
96	KLEM INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-302	4/30/2008	5/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
97	KOLKUF INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-131	12/31/2008	11/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
98	KUK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-034	30/04/2008	5/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
99	LAMBERT WILLIS & ASSOCIATES LTD	RBC-081	10/31/2009	11/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
100	LAND GOLD INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-076	8/31/2008	7/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
101	LANDMARK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-388	3/31/2007	1/2/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
102	LANTOS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-004	8/31/2008	9/1/2004	LAPSED	confirmed
103	LIBERTY INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-540	10/31/2009	11/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
104	LIBRA INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-050	12/31/2008	1/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
105	LORDSTONE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-482	3/31/2007	4/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
106	LOZINGER INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-265	31/06/2005	5/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
107	MAIGARMA INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-285	31/11/2006	10/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
108	MARK OF SECURITY INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-557	7/31/2008	8/1/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
109	MASUM INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-207	31/06/2008	5/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
110	MEGALINK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-479	8/31/2005	1/7/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
111	MEGATECH INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-422	1/31/2008	1/12/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
112	MEGATREND INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-418	31/02/2007	1/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
113	MENTOR & HOPKINS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-089	12/31/2008	1/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
114	MIB INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-465	7/31/2008	8/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
115	MIC-MAC INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-616	31/06/2008	1/5/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
116	MIDRON INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-134	12/31/2008	1/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
117	MIHOG GLOBAL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-593	31/11/2006	1/10/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
118	MILESTONE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-070	2/28/2006	3/1/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
119	NICHEK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-155	31/04/2004	6/1/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
120	NOA INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-343	3/31/2009	4/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
121	NOVELL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-293	31/09/2007	8/11/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
122	OCTONUS INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-340	11/30/2007	12/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
123	OLIVE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-260	31/11/2008	1/12/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
124	OPEX INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-210	8/31/2007	7/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
125	PEARL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-249	8/30/2007	9/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
126	PENTACLE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-097	12/31/2006	1/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
127	PERFECT INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-109	31/06/2008	1/5/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
128	PHILEX INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-117	31/09/2008	1/8/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
129	PIERRA INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-565	31/09/2005	8/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
130	PLATIEL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-319	31/02/2001	1/2/2002	LAPSED	confirmed
131	PLATINUM INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-342	1/31/2006	12/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
132	POST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-328	5/31/2000	1/4/2001	LAPSED	confirmed
133	PRIMESERVE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-543	7/31/2008	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
134	PROBITY INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-317	7/18/2004	7/19/2004	LAPSED	confirmed
136	PRUDENT RISK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-394	8/31/2005	1/7/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
138	PULSE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-528	31/11/2007	9/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
137	REMCO INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-304	31/04/2008	3/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
138	RISK CONSULTANTS LIMITED	RBC-174	5/31/2008	4/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
139	RISK TECH INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-039	11/30/2009	12/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
140	ROYAL MARINE & GENERAL INS. BROKERS LTD	RBC-276	12/31/2009	1/1/2010	LAPSED	confirmed
141	SAMENA INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-173	31/11/2003	10/1/2004	LAPSED	confirmed
142	SANRISK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-003	10/31/2008	11/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
143	SECURE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-308	1/31/2007	12/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
144	SHIELD INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-205	31/09/2006	8/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
145	SIERRA INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-587	31/09/2008	1/8/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
146	SOLID ROCK INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-507	7/31/2005	8/1/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
147	SOMAN INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-655	5/31/2008	6/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
148	SPRING FIELD & CO. INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-423	3/31/2007	4/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
149	STARSHIP INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-620	5/31/2008	6/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
150	STOCK BRIDGE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-470	3/31/2009	4/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
151	SUNRISE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-188	11/30/2005	12/1/2005	LAPSED	confirmed
152	SUPREME EQUITABLEINSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-477	7/31/2008	1/8/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
153	SUPREME INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-114	5/31/2008	6/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
154	THE KING & QUEEN INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-296	10/31/1999	1/9/2000	LAPSED	confirmed
155	THOMAS HEMBRIDGE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-460	7/31/2009	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
156	THORNEDGE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-324	5/31/2007	4/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
157	TIDY INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-239	31/11/2007	10/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
158	TIME INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-232	7/31/2009	8/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
159	TOLA DOSUNMU INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-498	7/31/2006	8/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
160	TRM INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-548	7/31/2008	8/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
161	TROPICAL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-623	31/06/2007	5/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
162	TRUST FORTE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-434	31/11/2005	10/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
163	TULIP INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-225	12/31/2006	11/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
164	UNION COMMERCIAL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-020	12/31/2009	1/1/2010	LAPSED	confirmed
165	UNITED VANGUARD INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-244	8/31/2008	9/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
166	UPWARDS INTERNATIONAL INS. BROKERS LTD	RBC-164	5/31/2008	4/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
167	VANTAGE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-519	7/31/2008	8/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
168	VERVE INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-539	5/31/2006	6/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
169	VITAL TRUST INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-428	3/31/2009	4/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
170	WEMASEC INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-544	5/31/2007	6/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
171	WOODLAND INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-270	1/31/2007	10/1/2007	LAPSED	confirmed
172	WPN FAITHFUL INSURANCE BROKERS LTD	RBC-429	3/31/2006	4/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed
173	AREMOTT BANWILL & COMPANY LIMITED	RBC-192	29/02/2009	3/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
174	ALLSTATES INSURANCE BROKERS LIMITED	RBC-323	12/31/2008	1/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
175	MBC INSURANCE BROKERS LIMITED	RBC-307	12/31/2009	1/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
176	MILLBANK INSURANCE BROKERS LIMITED	RBC-540	10/31/2008	11/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
177	OGE INSURANCE BROKERS LIMITED	RBC-661	1/31/2010	2/1/2009	LAPSED	confirmed
178	UNION GATE INSURANCE BROKERS LIMITED	RBC-084	3/31/2009	4/1/2008	LAPSED	confirmed
179	HAZONWAO INS BROKERS (FORMERLY SKYLARK INS BROKERS)	RBC-487	10/31/2007	11/1/2006	LAPSED	confirmed

Signed:

Mr. Lucky Fiakpa
 For: National Insurance Commission

JOB VACANCY



Family Health International is a public health and development organization working to improve the lives of the world's most vulnerable people. Our 2,500 staff work in 55 countries conducting research and implementing programs that advance public health and build local capacity to address development problems. Since 1971, Family Health International has been a global leader in family planning and reproductive health and, since 1986, in the worldwide response to HIV/AIDS. Our research and programs also address malaria, tuberculosis, and other infectious and chronic diseases. Our partners include US and international agencies, governments, foundations, research institutions, and individual donors. We seek qualified candidates for the position of Director, Health Policy and Systems Management based in Abuja, Nigeria.

**DIRECTOR, HEALTH POLICY AND SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT,
NIGERIA (REQ ID 1285)**

The Director, Health Policy and Systems Management will lead FHI's negotiations and constructive dialogue with the Government of Nigeria, implementing partners, civil society organizations and other health stakeholders and provide contextualized advice to senior management.

Key Responsibilities

- Coordinate inputs/technical assistance
- Lead the development of FHI Nigeria's health systems strengthening strategy and work plans
- Coordinate planning and work on the links between health system and health program
- Coordinate the implementation of current health systems grant
- Coordinate the workload analysis project
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Health and other partners to develop innovative technical strategies to strengthen health systems at the LGA level
- Provide inputs to improve FHI's decentralization and service integration projects
- Develop effective marketing strategies for FHI's health systems and sustainability work
- Identify new funding opportunities and lead proposal development processes
- Provide within FHI information and capacity development for senior decision makers in the design and implementation of evidence-based health systems policies and practices related to their technical programs and units

Minimum Requirements

- BS/BA in public health or related field and 11-13 years relevant experience in international development programs with 5-7 years supervisory experience
- Or MS/MA/MPH in public health or related field and 9-11 years relevant experience in international development programs, with 5-7 years supervisory experience
- Or PhD, MD or equivalent degree with 7-9 years relevant experience in HIV/AIDS or family planning with international development programs and 5-7 years of supervisory experience
- Overseas field experience

Note:

This is not an expatriate position, therefore, no expatriate benefits or allowances will be provided.

FHI has a competitive compensation package. Interested candidates should register online through FHI's career center at www.fhi.org/careercenter and submit their CV/resume and cover letter including salary requirements. Please specify the source of information in your application. AA/EOE/M/F/V/D

ADMISSION INTO

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Interested Parents/Guardians and the general public are hereby informed that there will be JS 1 & SS 1 Entrance Examinations into the school scheduled as follows:

DATE: SATURDAY 6TH JUNE 2010

VENUES:

1. SCHOOL PREMISES, MASAKA, ABOUT 20 KILOMETERS, ALONG ABUJA – KEFFI EXPRESSWAY
2. ABDULLAHI FODIO ISLAMIC CENTRE, BIRNIN KEBBI, KEBBI STATE
3. SULTAN MUHAMMAD MACCIDO INSTITUTE OF QURAN & GENERAL STUDIES, SOKOTO, SOKOTO STATE
4. SCIENCE SECONDARY SCHOOL, GUSAU, ZAMFARA STATE

TIME: 9.00 a.m. PROMPT

Forms can be obtained at the School premises/Exam Centres on or before the date of the examinations.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION: PLEASE CALL 070 33 00 1917,
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INVITATION FOR BIDS

**The Federal Government of Nigeria
Zamfara State Ministry of Health
Health Systems Development Project II (World Bank Assisted)**

**Procurement of Essential Drugs, Medical Equipment,
Ophthalmic Equipment and Insecticides Treated Nets (ITN)**

Credit No. 4522-NG

1. This invitation for bids follows the general procurement notice for this project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. 637 and Daily Trust News Paper of Nigeria of June, 3rd 2009.

2. The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association IDA towards the cost of Health Systems Development Project II, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit payment under the contract for the, Procurement of Essential Drugs, Solar Refrigerators, Medical/Furniture, Ophthalmic Equipments and Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN).

3. Zamfara State Health Systems Project II now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Supplies of the followings:

- i) **IFB No. ZM/HSDPII/AF/GD/003/NCB/2010**
Medical/Hospital Furniture and Ophthalmic Equipments
Lot: 1 Medical Equipment/Furniture
Lot: 2 Ophthalmic Equipment for state eye care programme
- ii) **IFB No. ZM/HSDPII/AF/GD/005/NCB/2010**
Essential Drugs for distribution to pregnant women and Children under five years and Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN)
Lot :1 Essential Drugs for pregnant women & Children under 5 yrs
Lot: 2 Insecticide Treated Nets (ITN)
- iii) **IFB No. ZM/HSDPII/AF/GD/006/NCB/2010**
Solar Refrigerators
Lot: 1 15 Numbers Solar Refrigerators with complete accessories

Bidders may bid for any one or more lots and discounts offered for the award of combined lots will be considered in the bid Evaluation.

4. Qualification Requirements Includes:

- Evidence of Registration with cooperate affairs Commission (CAC)
 - Audited Account for the last Three years
 - Details of Company's Profile
 - Evidence of previous experience (Past performances) in similar supplies
 - Any other relevant information to the advantage for the company
- Additional Details are provided in the BIDDING DOCUMENTS**

5. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding Procedures (NCB) as specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guidelines.

6. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Zamfara State Health Systems Development Project II Kasuwar Daji by Kaura Namoda Road Labin Labin Area Tudun Wada Gusau and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm Mondays to Thursdays and 10:00am to 12:00 noon Fridays, except public holidays.

7. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below at the payment of a non refundable fee of **N15,000 (Fifteen Thousand Naira) or \$100 (100 US Dollars) Only** for all the packages. The method of payment will be **cash or draft cheque payable to Project Manager Zamfara Health System Development Project II**. The Bidding Document will be available from, **MAY 27th 2010**. The document will be sent by courier services on request.

8. All Bids must be delivered to the address below at or **before 10:00 am June, 24th 2010**. Bids must be accompanied by a bid security of **3% (Three percent)** minimum of the total bid price. Late bids will be rejected. All Bids (**All the packages**) will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend at the address below: **10:00 am June, 22nd 2010**.

**The Project Manager,
Zamfara State Health Systems Development Project II
State Ministry of Health, Gusau, JB Yakubu Secretariat Complex,
Zamfara State, Nigeria.
080 63180010, 080 38332050
E-mail: zhsdpil@yahoo.com**

BUSINESS

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FROM Left: Prof. A. L. Mabogunje, Chairman, Unity Bank Plc, Emmanuel Ugboh, MD, Deap Capital Management and Trust Plc and Malam Falalu Bello Group Managing Director, Unity Bank Plc, at the bank's board meeting in Abuja yesterday.

Unity Bank capital base to hit N40bn

By Idris Ahmed

UNITY Bank Plc is poised to raise its capital base to N40billion. It would beat the Central Bank deadline of June and more than the mandatory N25billion capitalisation of banks, the bank said yesterday.

It has already completed arrangement to raise N23.9 billion by a way of Rights Issue to its existing shareholders. It is awaiting the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to approve dates for opening and closing.

Unity Bank currently has about N10 billion capital base and the management said it has a positive shareholders fund.

"By the time we finish this exercise we would want to look at something in the region of at least N40 billion," the Group Managing Director of the bank Falalu Bello told the media after the end of the bank's Board Meeting in Abuja.

He said the Rights Issue would achieve two purposes: "One, we are

bringing in about N24 billion to the bank; two we are diluting the public sector shareholding from 70 percent to no more than 25 percent. After that, when this money comes in and we meet the 10 percent capital adequacy ratio, then we would come to the market by way of IPO to raise more money."

CBN gave the bank until June 31 to meet 10 percent capital adequacy ratio after the apex bank completed its special examination of banks last year.

In its attempt to meet CBN's deadline, Unity Bank advertised and sold some of the assets inherited from the nine banks that merged to form the bank.

"Today, we have sold over N4 billion worth of our assets and that has brought in money which is equally going to our profit, which would help us in meeting the 10 percent capital adequacy ratio," the Group Managing Director said.

The cost of the Right Issue is estimated at N606,760,716.25.

The net proceed of N23,321,381,

309.75 would be utilized as follows: Working capital/project finance N11,660,690,654.80; Branch expansion N5,830,345,327.40; Technological enhancement N2,332,138,130.97; Re-branding N1,166,069,065.78; and Human capital development N2,332,138,130.97.

The bank said it plans to open additional eighty branches across the country in the next 24 months. It currently has 227 branches.

Bello said based on the current CBN reforms to remove the universal bank models and categorizing banks, Unity Bank would remain a national bank.

"We are not thinking of going international. We don't have that plan now," he said.

He commended CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi for categorizing banks. "I am very happy about the categorization of banks by the central bank. For me, I say congratulation to Sanusi for adopting what I consider to be right," he said.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

DANA Airlines:

Lagos-Abj: 07.20, 08.19, 09.00, 12.15, 15.30, 17.10 (Mon-Fr/Sat/Sun)
 Abj-Lagos: 07.20, 09.45, 11.25, 13.05, 14.40, 17.40 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Lag-Kano via Abj: 08.19, Abuja: 10.00
 Kano-Lag via Abj: 11.25, Abuja: 11.25
 Lagos-Enu: 14.40,
 Enu-Lagos: 16.20
 Lagos-PH: 09.27
 PH-Lagos: 12.15

OVERLAND Airways

Lagos-Ilorin: 07.15 (Mon-Fri), Ilorin-Lagos: 16.15 (Mon-Fri)
 Abuja-Ilorin: 15.00 (Mo-Fri), Ilorin-Abuja: 08.15 (Mon-Fri)
 Lagos-Ibadan: 07.15 (Mon-Fri), Lagos-Ibadan: 16.15 (Mon-Fri)
 Ibadan-Abuja: 08.00 (Mon-Fri), Abuja-Ibadan: 5.00 (Mon-Fri)
 Kats-Abuja: 07.30 (Mon-Fri) Abuja-Kats: 15.30 (Mon-Fri)
 Minna-Lagos: 09.40 Lagos-Minna: 13.00 (Mon-Fri)
 Abuja-Minna: 09.00 (Mon-Fri) Minna-Abuja: 14.30
 Jos-Kano: 10.15 (Mon-Fri), Kano-Jos: 11.30 (Mon-Fri)
 Abuja-Jos: 09.30 (Mon-Fri), Jos-Abuja: 12.30

STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Wednesday, May 26, 2010
Index	25,573.66
Deals:	7,661
Volume:	454,857,628
Value:	N 3,681,055,478.39
Cap.:	N6,220,515,779,035.53

TRUST INDEX

Inflation	12.5%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$40.1bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$4.3bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$70 a barrel
Power Supply	3,600MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N11,010,063.6m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,037,422.5m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.2200%
Treasury Bills	1.3%
Deposit Rate	7.51%
Prime Lending Rate	18.06%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

24/5/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2628	0.2728	0.2828
DANISH KRONER	21.5571	21.6305	21.7136
EURO	183.0039	183.6227	184.2415
POUNDS STERLING	212.3117	213.0296	213.7475
RIYAL	39.432	39.5654	39.6987
SDR	217.9012	218.638	219.3748
SWISS FRANC	127.5731	128.0045	128.4359
US DOLLAR	147.87	148.37	148.87
WAUA	218.0651	218.8025	219.5398
YEN	1.6379	1.6433	1.649

Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	N153
Euro	N190
Pound	N225
SELLING	
Dollar	N154
Euro	N193
Pound	N228

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



CBN

Business

Oil benchmark above \$60 a barrel is unrealistic –Sanusi

NIGERIA'S 2010 budget should not assume an oil price of above \$60 a barrel, central bank chief Lamido Sanusi told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday.

"An assumption of an oil price over \$60 is unrealistic," Sanusi said on the margins of a conference in Ivory Coast.

Earlier a senior Nigerian lawmaker said Nigeria's House of Representatives was in talks to lower the benchmark oil price in the 2010 budget to as low as \$55 a barrel from the current \$67 to reflect the fall in global oil prices.

Asked whether oil prices could be further dented by a debt crisis in the euro zone, where banks remain reluctant to lend to counterparts exposed to southern European sovereign debt, Sanusi replied:

"There is the chance it will

damp the price of crude."

Sanusi was also sceptical about an existing assumption in the 2010 Nigerian budget of daily oil output of 2.35 million barrels per day (bpd), cautioning that this was over-ambitious given persistent security problems in the Niger Delta.

Some analysts have also said that assumption is optimistic.

There have been no major attacks on oil facilities in the Niger Delta since an amnesty programme for gunmen was launched last year but bunkering, the theft of industrial quantities of crude oil, has increased, causing damage to pipelines.

Crude oil exports for June are expected to be around 1.95 million bpd, below earlier estimates, because of disruption to output, trade sources have said.



FROM left: Minister of State for Finance, Mr. Remi Babalola; Chairman of the Board of First Bank Plc, Mr. Oba Otudeko; Minister of Finance, Mr. Olusegun Aganga; and Group Managing Director of the bank, Mr. Bisi Onasanya, during a courtesy visit by the members of the First Bank board to the two ministers in Abuja on Tuesday.

Peugeot partners terracotta on film, TV awards

By Sunday Williams

PEUGEOT Automobile of Nigeria (PAN) said it is partnering with the 2010 Terracotta Film & Television Awards, the nation's leading extender of recognition to the tube industry.

PAN's initial commitment to the event is to activate the pre-Awards dinner in Lagos, at the prestigious De Renaissance Hotel, Ikeja on Friday, May 28, 2010, a statement signed by PAN's Head of Corporate Communication Rabi Ibrahim said.

The interactive dinner will be anchored by Frank Edoho, suave presenter of prime TV programme

Who Wants To Be A Millionaire. Ben Murray Bruce, chairman Silverbird Group will be the chief host. Art patron extraordinaire, Ambassador Olusegun Olusola will be guest of honour. A cocktail of seasoned comedians' viz. Ali Baba, AY, and Koffi will rev the audience with rib-cracking jokes.

Others expected at the event include Afolabi Adesanya, Managing Director, Nigerian Film Corporation as well as Mr. Busola Holloway, President, ITPAN. The ever daring duo, Keke Ogungbe and D1, will make signature appearance.

The dinner party is expected to weld the marketing, communication, film, television and corporate

communities together, so as to create a veritable platform to herald the Terracotta Awards as the leading rewarder of talent and quality in the vastly improving film and TV industry in Nigeria, and indeed Africa.

Terracotta, already an international window, has been endorsed by the Zuma Film Festival, and the European Film Festival, and has been added to the British Film and Television Directories of Festivals, with contents in the class of British Film and Television Awards (BAFTA), Irish Film and Television Awards (IFTA) and South Africa Film and Television Awards (SAFTA).

PHCN owed N70bn, says Power Minister

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) is being owed N70 billion as debt accruing from unsettled electricity bills, Minister of State for Power Nuhu Somo Wya has said.

The Minister who disclosed this at a meeting of the Presidential Advisory Committee on Power (PACP), with stakeholders in the sector held at Chelsea Hotel said no Agency whether private or public can perform miracle with this volume of debt owed to it for services rendered.

"While government is making concerted efforts towards fulfilling its mandate to the citizens, payment of electricity bills by consumers, especially government agencies must remain a civic responsibility", said Wya who is vice chairman of the PACP.

He warned that Government might be forced to hold communities which allow their power facilities to be vandalized accountable.

Wya said the committee was working assiduously to fast track improvement in electricity supply to Nigerians within the next three and six months.

Daily Trust learnt that the approved report of the PACP which contains details of the new reforms in the power sector would be unveiled to Nigerians next week.

Nigeria seeks assistance to develop oil region

By Hamisu Muhammad

NIGERIAN government requested for assistance from the international oil companies and other international actors to help develop communities in the oil region.

Minister of Petroleum Resources, Diezani Alison-Madueke yesterday in Abuja called for urgent assistance from the international oil companies for the development of the communities especially where they have their investments. "We believe in the responsibility of international actors and the international oil companies to help develop the region they

are investing. We need to see decent jobs, training that will enable us more and more to take charge and the transfer of technology to improve our own output". The minister who spoke through her representative, Emma Izuegbu at the international conference "Fueling the World - Failing the Region", organised by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, said the negative implications of raw materials extraction are very familiar to most Nigerians, and they can be seen every day, particularly in the Niger Delta region.

"The Gulf of Guinea region, despite its abundant oil and gas wealth, lacks a lot of economic and social infrastructure for sustainable development".

SEC suspends Diamond Securities

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday suspended Diamond Securities Limited (an operator in the capital market) and its sponsored individuals from all capital market activities.

The suspension, according to a

statement from its head of Media Lanre Oloyi is as a result of the observed unprofessional conduct by the company.

The offence, Oloyi said include failure to execute its client's mandate and operate its account strictly according to its instructions contrary to code 1(v) of the Code of Conduct for Capi-

tal Market Operators made pursuant to Rule 43 SEC Rules and Regulations as amended, conversion of its client's securities for the benefit of a third party contrary to Rule 110 SEC Rules and Regulations as amended. The suspension shall remain in force until the Company is cleared by the Commission.

FG, Microsoft train 100 entrepreneurs

From Halima Musa, Kano

THE Federal Ministry of Youth Development in collaboration with Microsoft, Centre for Information Technology and Development (CITAD) and Digital Bridge Institute have trained about 100 youths on entrepreneurship development.

The training was aimed at increasing access to technology and technology skills among Nigerian youths and IT-based youth development programme. It also prepared them to become facilitators for entrepreneurship development and also facilitate the development of a model youth development programme for the Federal Ministry of Youth Development.

This was contained in a statement signed by Ado Shehu of CITAD. Speaking while declaring the training workshop open at Digital Bridge Institute, Abuja, the Minister of Youth Development, Senator Akinlabi Olanubi, represented by Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Ms Anne Enemita, said public private partnership was fundamental in effectively advancing the use of ICT tools among youths.

Business

Stop sending texts at odd hours, regulator warns telecom operators

By Ben Atonko

THOSE whose cellular phones buzz at odd hours with unsolicited messages will now heave a sigh of relief as the lottery regulatory body is poised to deal with telecom service providers who send such messages.

There have been numerous complaints from GSM subscribers over text messages sent by service providers urging them (subscribers) to enter promotions and win handsome prizes.

But the Director General of the National Lottery Regulatory Commission (NLRC), Mr Peter Igho has warned that the commission will soon embark on enforcement of the provisions of the NLRC Act 2005 which empowers it to regulate operation and business of the lottery operation in Nigeria.

Igho who made the promise while hosting Zain and Visafone service providers in his office on Wednesday said, "...the concept of lottery and its operations are not new to Nigeria. But it is one that has been subjected to all forms of abuses."



LOTTERY commission boss Peter Igho

He told the service providers, "The National Lottery Regulatory Commission has noted with dismay the spate of perennial and unregistered SMS lottery embarked upon by telecom operators. This lottery is in the form of SMS whereby customers are asked to text to win millions of naira.

"These texts are not only sent to the users but also come at very odd times with mouth watering promises.

"These operations are causing serious concerns to the public because it

amounts to invasion of privacy of Nigerians with reckless abandon."

The DG who said this is giving lottery a bad name, promised that the commission will clamp down on any telecom operator without proper registration and regulation.

In his reaction, Zain's Mr Uchenna Oji, Senior Specialist: Federal Executive Affairs argued that Zain's promos are always in conformity with standards.

The meeting which continued behind closed door was said to be stormy.

SMEDAN DG wants amnesty for corrupt Nigerians

By Sunday Williams

ALHAJI Muhammad Nadada Umar, Director General of Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) has called on the government to start what he called 'economic amnesty' for corrupt Nigerians.

Former president Umaru Yar'adua had amnesty policy for the Niger Delta militants to surrender their arms.

Umar said the government should give corrupt politicians six months amnesty period to return the looted fund to the central bank.

He said the money will then be used to develop Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Nigeria.

Speaking Tuesday in Abuja at the Microfinance certification training organized by SMEDAN in collaboration with CBN and NDIC, the Director General said the owners of the funds will still be entitled to their money which should attract an interest rate of about 3 percent.

He also called for the re-introduction of the

Equity Investment Scheme (SMEEIS) which has become moribund for some years now.

The program is the maiden certification training for Micro-finance operators approved by the CBN after the interim capacity building workshop for Micro-Finance Institutions held in September 2008.

He said the money will then be used to develop Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in Nigeria.



NADADA Umar

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

INTRODUCTION

An agency of the Federal Government requires the services of reputable Accountancy/Consultancy firms for a special review of its previous year's operations.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Scope of work will include:

- Review of the financial statements and operations of the organization of the previous years including all projects undertaken by the organization and contracts awarded within the period.
- Review of the expenditure control procedures in operation of the organization; affirm their adherence in line with government requirements and best practices.
- Review internal control systems in place, generally.
- Review compliance with statutory provisions, viz; Public Procurement Act, 2007, Fiscal Responsibility Act, 2007 and relevant Government circulars.
- Assess adequacy of corporate governance practices in operation in the organization.
- The time line for execution of the project shall be six weeks with an interim report within four weeks of commencement of the assignment.

REQUISITE QUALIFICATION FOR THE ACCOUNTANCY / CONSULTANCY FIRM

Interested firms are to provide the following:

- Evidence of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission
- Evidence of source of supply, including product brochure(s)
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the past three years (Original Tax Clearance Certificate must be sighted).
- Evidence of VAT registration
- Any other relevant additional information.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

Technical proposals should be submitted via e-mail to:

- 1: curiousobserver@vmail.com
- 2: thoroughchecking@yahoo.com

CLOSING DATE

Submission of Technical Proposals shall close at 12.00 noon, Tuesday 15th June, 2010.

SIGNED:
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD.

Star Feature

The sordid world of

As the nation celebrates another Children's Day, the pitiable state of affairs of the Nigerian child features again on the front burner of public discourse.

By Tosin Omoniye

TWO dilapidated buildings with scrawled letters are the only signs that point to the fact that academic activities are holding there. Perhaps also another are the children that mill in the vast premises. The surroundings speak volumes of neglect and penury. The pupils in tattered school uniforms run excitedly about the school compound, enjoying a brief reprieve before the commencement of another school day. A chalk lettered mud building wearily welcomes you to the confines of FCT Nomadic Primary School, Dutse, Abuja.

Kauna Jubril is a 6 year old pupil of the school. Her ambition is to become a medical doctor in life, and as she says this, she giggles in the company of her other classmates who also form an impenetrable crowd around her. She appears to be popular. Her fame stems from the fact that she doubles as a pupil and equally as a young entrepreneur. Every morning she brings along to the school premises, buns and sweet rolls, which she sells to her classmates. Her bucket of rolls is always placed by her side in the cramped classroom which she shares with about 30 other young colleagues. She equally sells a local brew called 'kunu' taken alongside the snacks. By moderate calculations, Kauna's classroom should only accommodate 10, but since there is no alternative they have to make do with what they have. The classroom does not have any desk or chair. Two raised wooden platforms, crudely constructed in the form of benches, serve the same purpose for the youngsters. Most of the time, the pupils who are not fortunate to sit on these exalted 'desks, simply sit on the bare floor. At times in the spirit of fairness and democracy, all the children troop outside on the orders of the hapless tutors, to take their lessons under the tree which is in the compound.

The school has a population in excess of 200, mostly children of the Gbagyi tribe, who are traditionally the first settlers of the capital city. In sharp contrast, the school can only boast of 4 teachers in addition to the head teacher, Malam Dahiru Idris. The soft spoken head who hails from Kaduna says that administering the school in the face of its gargantuan challenges, is a task that has taken a substantial part of his professional career. He adds that



LITTLE Kauna doubles as an entrepreneur and a pupil.

all efforts to alert the authorities to the stark suffering being experienced by the school have proved unsuccessful.

He starts: "the school commenced in 2000 as an effort in educating the nomads and their children. It was an attempt at giving their children basic education. But

sadly since then, in terms of infrastructure and funds, there has been no growth or improvement whatsoever. At present the pupils cut across tribes. Here we have Yorubas, the Igbos, Hausas, Igalas, Igbiras, and of course the Gwaris, who, of course, form a great percentage. The response from our immediate community is amazing as pupil enrolment

continues to soar. But the problem of limited space and dilapidated accommodation, coupled with poor staff welfare, is a major challenge."

He continues: "it got to a point that sustaining the school became nearly impossible, such that we had to plead with the parents to form a parent teacher association, PTA to raise levies amongst themselves, so as to raise substantial funds to keep the school on its feet. The parents contribute about N200 every month to help us pay the teachers, but you will agree with me that the amount is too small to help us run the school. The fact that most of our teachers are grade 2 teachers has been to our advantage, or we would have been unable to pay them if they had higher qualifications. Even at that we still find it hard to pay them their stipends at times."

On the response of the authorities he has this to say: "response has been slow. You can see the buildings. We have no windows in practically all the classes. You can count the number of desks in all the classrooms. Most of the time, the children have to sit on the bare floor to receive their lessons. We can only thank the local education board which has not deprived us of teaching materials so far. They have been helpful in that regard, as they usually provide us with chalk, textbooks, exercise books and some other teaching aids. But these are not enough to run the school. We need adequate funds if the school is to be run effectively. But as at now that is impossible. What pains us is the fact that most of these children are very brilliant, and the fact that they are not given the right learning environment is capable of

“Most of the time, the children have to sit on the bare floor to receive their lessons.”

the Nigerian child

“A few meters from the spot is a slime infested pool where another group of children play in reckless abandon.”



ITS a tug of war receiving basic education

stunting their educational growth.”

Seven-year old Moses Ola, another pupil, wants to become an engineer. Looking unexpectedly ebullient in torn and soiled school attire, which has assumed a more seedy shade of the green color it is meant to be, his eyes glisten animatedly as he bounces on his shoeless feet. “I want to become an engineer when I finish school,” he proudly announces even as his other colleagues nudge one another in apparent mirth at his high hopes but undaunted he continues, “I want to be a (an) engineer so that I will have money to give my mother and also give my father. I want to be rich.”

The school is a microcosm of the community in which it is situated. Abject poverty and deprivation appears to be the order of the day. But it is obvious that the children appear to be the worst hit. On the streets the ones that cannot even afford the elementary form of education provided by the ill equipped community schools, can be seen loitering un-chaperoned. While some are stark naked, others in ill-fitting and rumpled outfits are engaged in one form of street game or the other, during official schools hours. One or two have basins of ‘pure water’ settling precariously on their young heads. In a nearby refuse dump which is overflowing its brim, some children are seen poking in the debris in search of any valuable. A few meters from the spot is a slime infested pool where another group of children play in reckless abandon.

It is not well as well in LEA Primary school, Oronzo. The problem of accommodation for the students is creating another source of concern for the teachers there. According to the Vice Headmaster, Mrs. Anne Orji, the school has become bloated with the rise in enrolment. The school presently has 1029 pupils in attendance. The teachers to minister to this multitude are a little over 23, even as enrolment continues to rise. She says that the pervasive poverty in the community appears to be hitting hard, making the acquisition of education for children and wards, a Herculean task.

“The poverty in the land is the main reason for what we have. The little that the government is supporting us with, is not enough. At present we have not even received our April salary and staff motivation is on the decline. But these children have to be attended to. We cannot abandon them,” she enthuses.

She adds: “the major problem we have here is infrastructure and accommodation. You know that the global prescription for elementary education is one teacher per 25 students or children, but with the number of children we have here that cannot be so. With that you

will notice that we have the problem of space, of course, and you can see that yourself. Imagine pupils standing all through lessons because there is no place to sit down. The government grant to us is not sufficient enough for us, if we have to take adequate care of the needs of the children.”

A visit to the classes reveals as much. The mammoth crowd of children that jostle for available spaces in the class, speaks volumes of the challenges teachers face in discharging their duties. In some classes, pupils are seen sitting on the bare floor to receive their lessons, while some are left with no other option than to sit on the window sills, in the light of unavailability of sitting arrangements.

At the Universal Basic Education Board, Area 2, Abuja all efforts to speak with the chairman of the agency is unsuccessful, as a result of a tough bureaucratic wall. The board secretary, Aliyu Dayabi speedily declines comment on issues raised by the reporter but instead offers a terse statement. “Only the chairman is competent to respond to your enquiries. I am not in the position to give you any information you may require,” he bluntly asserts.

While the struggle by these children to attain basic education continues amidst such alarming constraints, the nation again gets set to celebrate another Children’s Day celebration, filled with pomp

and pageantry. Children’s Day is celebrated on May 27 every year in Nigeria. It is a public holiday for Primary and Secondary school children. Depending on the state, a handful of children are selected to represent their schools in a march past for state officials. In Nigeria the day is celebrated with glamour and all schools in West Africa celebrate it. State officials clamber over one another in

an effort to outshine in rendering glowing encomiums on the ‘uniqueness’ of the Nigerian child. Huge public funds are voted and spent lavishly to organise programmes to mark the day. However, many wonder if the day is really worth it with the abject conditions the typical Nigerian child has to battle with on a daily basis, in every aspect of his or her life.

An educationist who runs

a private school somewhere in the FCT, who pleads anonymity, believes that the government should do more in the area of funding for public schools, and indeed private owned ones, if they are to rise to the required standards as seen in other climes. He equally believes that until this is done the nation will continue to grapple with the anti social repercussions, such as brigandage, cultism, armed robbery, prostitution and other vices perpetuated by the younger generation, and which is inimical to national growth and well being.

“Education is the key to every successful child, and by extension a healthy nation, so it should not be taken for granted at all. The Government should

take education very seriously, as this is the only panacea for youth violence, crime, robbery and other anti-societal problems militating against of the nation. A child is not complete if he or she is not educated. Thus if the issue of education is given a paramount importance it will as a necessity lead to a drastic change in the fortunes of Nigeria,” he says.



A class in session.

Business/Agric

Fertilizer: Abuja farmers get 50% subsidy

By Nasir Imam

FARMERS in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) may smile this farming season as the administration made good its plan to subsidize farming inputs up to 50 percent.

This news was conveyed to the farmers in Kuje where the FCT minister Senator Bala Abdulkadir Mohammed, Tuesday flagged-off the 2010 farming season.

With the distribution of 4,500 metric tons of assorted fertilizers at a subsidized rate of 50 per cent of the prevailing market price, the minister said the stage was set for a bumper harvest.

The amount distributed is out of the total of 12,450 metric tons envisaged in the 2010 allocation, the minister stated.

The minister, who was represented at the occasion by his Chief of Staff, Arch Baba Mohammed Dadi, said the exercise was aimed at mobilizing as well as encouraging farmers and other stakeholders in the territory towards effective farming operation.

He said: "The exercise is aimed at promoting increase in agricultural production to feed the ever increasing population of the federal capital and for income generation. It also provides an avenue for inter-

action and exchange of ideas on the latest research findings in the agricultural sector."

The farmers purchased the commodities at prices fifty percent lower: a bag of NPK went for N2.100, Urea N2.100 while the SSP brand went for N1.650 per a 50kg and 500 each of three inch (3") and two (2") water pumps machines respectively.

He also disclosed that the administration has received 22 tractors out of the 64 under the Public Private Partnership which are being sold to farmers groups and large scale farmers in the FCT and the balance would be received shortly.

FG flags off input loans to 40 out-grower associations

By Sunday Williams

THE Federal Government in collaboration with the National Sugar Development Council has flagged off the delivery of input loans and credits to members of 40 out-grower Associations in conjunction with Bank PHB, Central Bank of Nigeria and National Agricultural Insurance Corporation (NAIC).

This was disclosed by the minister of Commerce and Industry, Senator Jubril Martins-Kuye at the 3rd meeting of the National Council on Commerce and Industry (NCCI) held in Kano. The input loans and credit is to assist the associations in the farming of sugarcane in order to meet the demands of sugar companies in the country. In a statement from the ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Minister said that

the scheme has already taken off in Savannah Sugar Company, Numan and is expected to spread to other sugar companies in due course.

He said: "food and beverages manufacturing companies are continuously encouraged to increase local content in their finished products. We have put in place a policy that would stimulate a significant increase in the transformation of our agriculture produce for consumption and as raw materials for industries"

Senator Martins-Kuye said that in promoting local sugar production, the Ministry has provided new guidelines for companies granted approval to import unfortified raw sugar for industrial use, adding that the guidelines cover the packaging and labeling of their products.

Nyako stresses importance of agriculture

ADAMAWA Governor Murtala Nyako says agriculture is vital to the growth of Nigeria's economy.

Nyako made the remark on Monday at Songhai-Delta, Amukpe, Sapele Local Government Area of Delta State, during the passing-out of participants of the Delta Youth Empowerment Through Agriculture programme. The 500 participants, who completed their five weeks training in Amukpe, were

drawn from the 25 local governments of the state. Nyako, whose state partnered with Delta in the programme, said the partnership would assist in revamping the economy of both states.

He commended the Delta vegetation programme, especially regarding the abundance of pasture for cattle in the state. Nyako also noted that Delta was endowed with various kinds of fish farming and expressed optimism that the

partnership would benefit the youth immensely.

He pledged that he and his colleague would ensure that participants put to maximum use the experience they gained from the training. Nyako commended Gov. Emmanuel Uduaghan of Delta for his concern and care for the youth and urged the beneficiaries of the training to use the knowledge acquired to be self-reliant. (NAN)



Congratulatory Message from Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Lafia



His Excellency,
Alh. Dr. Aliyu Akwe Doma, OON
Executive Governor, Nasarawa State

I, Ahmad Adamu Agyina, on behalf of my humble self, the Permanent Secretary, Accountant-General, Management and the entire staff of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, wish to heartily felicitate with His Excellency, Alhaji (Dr) Aliyu Akwe Doma, OON (Madauchin Doma), the Executive Governor of Nasarawa State, on the occasion of the 11th Anniversary of our well cherished Democracy, being 29th May, 2010.

The Ministry is appreciative of the people-oriented programmes and policies executed by your administration. Worthy of mention is the opening of rural areas through construction of road network, provision of allied infrastructure such as electricity, portable drinking water, health facilities and generation of employment through skills acquisition.

As the Chief Steward of the State, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the entire state is indeed grateful to you for your prudent management style and your insistence on fiscal discipline as well as your laudable achievements over the past three (3) years.

Today, the entire workforce no longer waits endlessly for salaries at month end. Salaries, Pensions and Gratuity, annual Increments, Leave Transport Grants amongst others are paid promptly to Ministries and Parastatals.

For these and many more, we will continue to share your vision for the state as evidenced in your pragmatic and well articulated programmes.

We pray that Almighty Allah will grant you more wisdom, knowledge and good health to take the state to greater heights.

Long live the Executive Governor!
Long live Nasarawa State!!
Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria!!!



Signed:
Ahmad Adamu Agyina
Honourable Commissioner,
Ministry of Finance & Economic Development
Lafia, Nasarawa State.

Business/International

Oil prices now \$70 a drum

OIL rose by almost 3 percent yesterday to climb back above \$70 a barrel after a U.S. industry report showed a steep drop in gasoline stockpiles in the world's largest energy consumer.

Prices had slumped to lows near \$67 a barrel at one stage on Tuesday, pressured by concerns about the health of European banks and mounting tensions between North and South Korea.

But a late rally on Wall Street that spread to Asia and Europe on Wednesday lifted sentiment in the oil market. The rebound was aided by a far larger-than-expected 3.2 million barrels drop in U.S. gasoline stocks last week, reported by the American Petroleum Institute (API).

U.S. crude for July delivery was up \$1.65 a barrel at \$70.40 at 1345 GMT. Brent traded up \$1.46 at \$71.01 a barrel.

On Tuesday, the EIA said world oil demand will continue to grow through 2030, but demand that year will be about 2.5 percent less than previously thought due to use of renewables and higher oil prices.

Global oil demand will average 103.9 million barrels per day in 2030, down from the agency's 106.6 million bpd demand estimate in last year's long-term outlook. Reuters.



TRADERS work in the oil options pit on the floor of the New York Mercantile Exchange in New York City, May 20, 2010.

Research firm opens hub in West Africa

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

MILLWARD Brown has announced it will be opening a West African hub office in Accra, Ghana in June 2010.

Millward Brown, a research agency with offices in 51 countries has expertise in effective advertising, marketing communications, media and brand equity research. Through the use of an integrated suite of validated research solutions - both qualitative and quantitative - Millward Brown helps clients build strong brands and services.

The West Africa business will be a joint venture between Millward Brown, and Scangroup Limited, the leading sub-Saharan African marketing business, and

Millward Brown's existing joint-venture partner in East and Central Africa. Millward Brown has seen significant growth across the African continent in recent years, with a fast-growing presence in East and Central Africa, and the West African hub is a continuation of the successful partnership with Scangroup. Millward Brown also has a long-established presence in South Africa which will continue to serve South African-based clients.

Bharat Thakrar, Chief Executive, Scangroup Limited said, "The desire of Millward Brown's Africa-based clients to have useful and timely delivery of consumer knowledge, insights and advice that help them with their business decision making is extremely strong despite challenging market conditions of recent years."

UN grants Mozambique over \$250m for agric

MOZAMBIQUE has received US\$250 million from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to carry out 10 agricultural, fishing and rural finance projects over the next 28 years, the Mozambican Fisheries Minister said in Maputo Tuesday.

The IFAD funding is the equivalent of 9 percent of all funding granted to Africa and 1.7 percent of the funding granted by the UN agency worldwide.

The Mozambican authorities since Monday have been discussing with FIDA a new strategy for the fund's execution in the country, with Minister Vitor Borges saying that the Mozambican government would continue to focus on the agriculture and fisheries sectors, areas in which IFAD has provided the most funding. The Mozambican government's five-year plan considers the agriculture sector, which involves around half of Mozambique's population of some 20 million, to be the basis of the country's economy.

Check points affect trade in W/Africa

By Sunday Williams

CHECK points are delaying businesses in West Africa, the President African Export-Import Bank (AFREXIMBANK) Jean-Louis Ekra has said. Speaking at seminar on "obstacles to intra-regional trade in West Africa-the challenges of non-trade barriers and poor settlement system," the AFREX-

IMBANK President said cumbersome border crossing procedures and delays add to the overall costs of intra-African trade. He said: "The ECA study noted that there were a total of 69 checkpoints on the trade route between Lagos and Abidjan (Ivory Coast), a distance of only 992 kilometers; 34 checkpoints between Lome (Togo) and Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), a 989 kilometer

trade route; and 20 checkpoints between Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso) and Abidjan, a distance of 529 kilometers."

As at 2008, intra-regional total trade stood at 10 percent in Africa as against 70 percent European Union, 32 percent in North America, 47 percent in developing Asia and 27 percent within Latin America and the Caribbean.

Rwanda tops EAC as best business haven

RWANDA is East Africa's best destination for investment, says a new report released by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the World Bank.

The report shows areas where individual economies in the East African Community (EAC) shine, and notes that reforms make Rwanda one of the fastest places in the world to start a business.

It is followed by Kenya, Uganda Tanzania and Burundi respectively. Securing credit is very straightforward in Kenya, and Tanzania ranks well in enforcing contracts. The survey further notes the bloc's economies continue to improve but still have a long way to go.

Reacting to the survey, Rwanda Development Board's Chief Operations Officer, Claire Akamanzi, noted that critical barriers remain in time and cost of liquidating a business, and difficulties in cross-border trade, however they are being addressed.

The IFC- World Bank report takes a close look at business regulations in each EAC country and highlights that the region has pockets of good practices that if adopted by all EAC countries, could yield a very healthy business environment. (Africa-investor).

16 Nigerians for entrepreneurship training in US

By Sunday Williams

BY middle of June 2010, the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN) will host a boot-camp in Abuja where 16 qualified Nigerians aged between

22 and 35 years will be selected to participate in a four-week training in Barry University, Miami, Florida, the following month. SMEDAN is collaborating with the United States Department, Barry University and other stakeholders in the project to strengthen

entrepreneurship development in Nigeria and other African countries. A statement from SMEDAN said it has in conjunction with Barry University, ADPED, Inc. and the Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife launched an online application portal for the project.

Business/Aviation

Bankruptcy: Iraqi Airways to be closed

STORIES from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Iraqi government has said it will close the state-owned Iraqi Airways after declaring it bankrupt.

Iraq's transportation ministry told reporters the airline would be closed following a damaging dispute with Kuwait over war reparations.

Kuwait Airways says

the Iraqi flag carrier owes it about \$1.2bn for aircraft and plane parts taken during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

The ministry blamed "harassment" from Kuwait

for the airline's failure.

Last month, lawyers acting for Kuwaiti authorities tried to have an Iraqi Airlines plane confiscated while at London's Gatwick Airport. It had just arrived fol-

lowing the first direct flight between Baghdad and London for 20 years. The airline's chief executive also had his passport confiscated and was held in London, but has since returned to Iraq. *BBC.*

Aviation industry needs N300bn capital - NUATE

THE National Union of Air Transport Employees (NUATE) has given an estimated figure of N300 billion as capital requirement to urgently fix various challenges setting the aviation industry particularly in the area of infrastructures.

The Deputy National President of the union, Comrade Aturu Samuelson, in a paper presentation at the 1st Airport Summit held at the Conference room of the Murtala Muhammad International Airport Lagos on Tuesday noted that the federal Government must quickly make this funds available so as to rescue the dying industry.

The paper titled: "Airport Reforms and Globalization: The Need for A Bleu Print for Nigeria" called for national policy on aviation that will serve as a white paper on which the industry will dwell upon.

He stated that the funds would create airport efficiency that will lead to passengers' centric airports dream of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN).



THE explosion of the Soufriere Hills volcano, on the island of Montserrat, sent ash billowing up to 40,000ft.

World loses US\$5bn to volcanic ash

NEARLY US\$5 billion in global GDP has been lost to air travel disruption caused by the Icelandic volcano eruption, according to a report launched yesterday at the World Travel and Tourism Council's 10th Global Travel & Tourism Summit in Beijing, China.

The study by leading economic forecasting consultancy Oxford Economics finds that passengers, airlines and the destinations themselves were not the only losers in the recent airspace shutdown.

In the first week after Eyjafjallajokull spewed a giant ash plume into the sky, the temporary closure of large portions of European airspace resulted in US\$4.7 billion of lost global GDP.

The roughly 5,000 further flights cancelled through to 24 May added a further five percent to that figure, which represents the damage done to economies around the globe.

Speaking at the event Adrian Cooper, CEO at Oxford Economics, said: "The far reaching impacts of the recent disruption to air transport have of course been felt acutely by travellers, airlines and destinations.

But the impact has also been felt by those who rely on goods that are imported and exported by airfreight, and on general production and productivity. This report shows the integral role aviation plays in the basic and every day functions of society and commerce."

Summary of regional economic impacts of one-week aviation shutdown:

- Americas: US\$957 million in GDP
- Asia: US\$517 million in GDP
- Europe: US\$2,632 million in GDP
- Middle East/ & Africa: US\$591 million in GDP

Jimoh Ibrahim promises to fix Virgin Nigeria

THE new Chief Executive Officer of Virgin Nigeria Airways Limited (VNA), Barrister Jimoh Ibrahim has unveiled a diagnostic report to fix the problem confronting airline as part of the turnaround process of the company.

Barrister Ibrahim who addressed aviation reporters at the Ikeja office of the airline explained that the report which was submitted by a team of experts that studied the many challenges of the airline will be reviewed to find a lasting solution to the problems of the Virgin Nigeria.

He said that the turnaround timeline for the fledgling carrier will not exceed six months which will be the fastest turnaround he had ever achieved in his cooperate experience.

According to him, the preliminary diagnose report has exposed many weaknesses in the airline operations which is contrary to the view that Virgin Nigeria Airways has an excellent structure.

“There is no way we can relocate the Benin airport, we are going for expansion and already, the engineers have arrived.

FAAN set to expand Benin airport

THE Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has awarded contract for the expansion of Benin airport to accommodate more travellers.

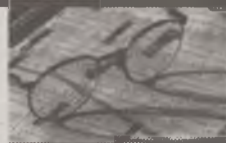
The Benin Airport Manager, Ben Oma Obule, while interacting with journalists said that work on the expansion will soon commence after the engineers must have finished with the assessment of the area.

According to Obule, the airport halls, (arrival and departure) which was constructed to take about 400 passengers now

hosts over 1,000 during peak periods of 12.30 pm to 2.30 pm when all flights originating from Abuja and Lagos arrive at the airport. He ruled out the possibility of relocating the Benin airport but to assured that the expansion work will be done in a way that it will accommodate more passengers during peak periods.

"There is no way we can relocate the Benin airport, we are going for expansion and already, the engineers have arrived to look at it to work out the strategies to for the terminal building to be extended backward," he said.

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Wednesday, May 26, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
ADSWITCH PLC	1	1.90	12,410	22,462.10
CAPITAL OIL PLC	4	0.50	240,032	120,016.00
JULI PLC	1	3.37	1,000	3,210.00
ROKANA INDUSTRIES PLC	1	0.60	16,600	10,458.00
SECTOR TOTALS	7		270,042	156,146.10
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	27	0.90	1,564,830	1,408,654.30
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	25	0.90	390,173	351,155.70
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	23	14.60	382,098	5,382,974.36
PRESCO PLC	19	5.73	8,580,189	48,472,037.30
SECTOR TOTALS	94		10,917,290	55,614,821.66
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL/SERVICES & LOG. PLC	9	3.18	81,482	271,335.06
NIG/AVIAT. HAND. COY PLC	178	11.40	2,297,818	25,847,476.43
SECTOR TOTALS	187		2,379,300	26,118,811.49
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	154	7.95	7,568,298	60,182,377.00
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	71	2.09	1,483,418	2,934,710.08
DIAMOND BANK PLC	106	7.40	32,379,443	227,315,425.79
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	39	5.04	2,051,442	10,307,201.28
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	77	7.87	4,142,252	31,760,201.22
FIDELITY BANK PLC	133	2.82	8,846,890	24,533,856.66
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	750	14.05	31,222,847	438,820,050.80
FINBANK PLC	77	0.56	11,999,423	6,578,143.13
GTBANK PLC	519	16.55	27,789,545	460,044,551.93
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	91	10.50	6,402,050	67,481,255.29
INTERCONT. BANK PLC	65	1.88	855,664	1,618,182.76
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	121	1.60	14,487,460	23,087,384.07
BANK PHB PLC	105	1.57	64,838,146	93,140,304.99
SKYE BANK PLC	184	8.00	23,230,180	185,675,981.55
SPRING BANK PLC	16	0.86	3,503,975	3,013,418.50
STERLING BANK PLC	69	1.90	4,928,845	8,958,866.92
UNT BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	334	11.06	16,010,941	177,208,284.60
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	142	5.05	2,706,461	13,561,867.61
UNITYBANK PLC	3	1.11	116,302	129,095.22
WEMA BANK PLC	24	1.07	1,278,522	1,368,018.54
ZENITH BANK PLC	697	13.40	36,063,014	485,423,402.58
SECTOR TOTALS	3,777		301,905,118	2,323,142,580.52
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	76	19.05	1,000,476	18,998,387.69
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	60	63.10	969,884	61,591,338.87
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	35	19.00	696,491	13,203,158.68
NIGERIAN ROPES PLC	1	9.14	1,750	15,207.50
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	64	38.50	537,055	21,130,927.48
SECTOR TOTALS	236		3,205,656	114,939,020.22
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	10	7.26	146,394	1,062,820.44
CHEM/ALLIED PROD. PLC	30	27.04	218,093	5,820,400.44
I. P. W. A. PLC	1	1.09	749	778.96
P/LAND P. & PROD. NIG. PLC	1	5.67	500	2,835.00
SECTOR TOTALS	42		365,736	6,886,834.84
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	4	4.18	13,913	55,373.74
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	44	29.00	323,269	9,356,041.21
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	10	0.50	545,675	272,837.50
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	86	39.95	1,973,241	78,885,202.77
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	82	23.51	1,007,884	23,876,090.46
SECTOR TOTALS	226		3,863,982	112,445,545.68
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	78	7.74	1,689,212	13,261,599.08
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	34	55.00	235,084	12,577,282.44
MULTIV. RESOURCES PLC	1	0.50	200	100.00
SECTOR TOTALS	113		1,924,496	25,838,981.52
ENGINEERING TECH.				
CUTIX PLC	9	3.80	154,085	599,139.35
NIG. WIRE & CABLE PLC	5	1.21	330,000	400,500.00
SECTOR TOTALS	14		484,085	999,639.35
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	26	49.49	97,125	4,649,360.20
BIG TREAT PLC	24	0.69	698,705	482,615.75
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	109	28.01	1,262,399	34,940,794.53
DANG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	317	20.07	4,534,911	91,257,766.99
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	130	18.20	3,997,568	71,531,764.57
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	75	65.72	634,078	42,056,584.46
HONEYW. FLOUR MILL PLC	29	8.45	339,502	2,857,588.20
NAT. SALT COY NIG. PLC	81	8.65	2,123,746	18,196,963.48
NIG/BOTTLING COY PLC	41	36.75	280,661	10,067,590.42
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	72	350.00	232,478	80,916,990.38
N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	4	33.58	16,663	531,721.33
TANTALIZERS PLC	33	0.82	1,324,270	1,100,628.40
UNION DICON SALT PLC	1	4.44	100	422.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	3	1.45	3,700	5,106.00
SECTOR TOTALS	945		15,545,906	358,595,896.71
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	19	1.48	339,630	502,652.40
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	44	3.04	1,638,825	5,086,408.31
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	44	27.55	1,582,373	42,889,876.94
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	25	6.01	1,354,114	8,138,275.14

NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	1	3.08	2,000	5,860.00
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	48	0.70	4,670,000	3,133,081.76
SECTOR TOTALS	181		9,586,942	59,756,154.55
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	2	3.42	1,500	4,875.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	19	2.28	1,872,200	4,079,566.20
SECTOR TOTALS	21		1,873,700	4,084,441.20
IND/DOMESTIC PROD.				
ALUMACO PLC	1	8.15	368	2,852.00
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	7	10.71	57,976	651,260.24
FIRST ALUM. NIGERIA PLC	4	0.50	660,977	330,488.50
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	25	6.54	747,475	4,883,964.00
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	1	0.48	7,421	3,710.50
SECTOR TOTALS	38		1,474,217	5,872,275.24
INF. & COMM. TECH.				
CHAMS PLC	17	0.70	1,780,500	1,248,250.00
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	7	0.50	3,187,500	1,593,750.00
STARCOMMS PLC	46	2.47	7,606,955	17,980,765.08
SECTOR TOTALS	70		12,574,955	20,822,765.08
INSURANCE				
AFR. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	1	0.50	1,500	750.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC	85	1.28	3,620,529	4,431,929.03
CONT. REINSUR. PLC	24	1.16	3,612,530	4,269,414.80
C/STONE INSUR. CO. PLC	11	0.76	386,111	293,784.54
CUST/ALLIED INSUR. PLC	87	3.68	2,923,730	10,592,324.50
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	266,666	133,333.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	27	0.65	7,114,300	4,558,860.70
GUAR. TRUST ASS. PLC	59	2.45	12,374,847	30,423,459.16
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	1	0.50	300,294	150,147.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	41	0.56	3,217,307	1,801,691.92
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	9	0.50	1,644,300	822,150.00
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC	3	0.60	2,385,000	1,431,000.00
MUT/BENEFITS ASS. PLC	41	0.51	5,082,020	2,553,270.00
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC	29	0.57	2,301,253	1,319,986.50
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	9	1.14	155,520	178,572.80
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	3.80	65,000	247,750.00
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	3	0.50	37,987	18,993.50
SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC	11	0.50	4,787,288	2,393,644.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	7	0.50	2,000,000	1,000,000.00
STAND/ALLIANCE INS. PLC	9	0.50	357,102	178,551.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	9	0.70	406,261	284,864.70
UNIVERSAL INS. COY PLC	3	0.50	331,000	165,500.00
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	34	0.60	1,311,093	751,163.66
SECTOR TOTALS	509		54,681,638	68,001,140.81
MARITIME				
JAP. OIL & MAR. SERV. PLC	90	1.68	3,786,359	6,361,083.12
SECTOR TOTALS	90		3,786,359	6,361,083.12
MEDIA				
AFROMEDIA PLC	4	0.60	560,000	336,000.00
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	20	0.76	336,235	255,538.60
SECTOR TOTALS	24		896,235	591,538.60
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ABBEY BUILDING SOC. PLC	13	1.53	2,002,250	3,063,442.50
ASO SAV/LOANS PLC	11	0.50	495,044	247,522.00
UN/HOMES SAV/LOANS PLC	27	0.79	3,250,316	2,513,087.48
SECTOR TOTALS	51		5,747,610	5,824,051.98
OTHER FIN. INSTITUT.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	7	0.83	472,000	391,760.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	8	0.80	1,265,978	978,222.48
SECTOR TOTALS	15		1,737,978	1,369,982.48
PACKAGING				
AVON C/CAPS & CONT. PLC	1	7.65	1,845	13,413.15
NIG. BAG MAN. COY PLC	101	2.80	2,225,486	6,358,331.52
GREIF NIGERIA PLC	1	15.03	128	1,827.84
SECTOR TOTALS	103		2,227,459	6,373,572.51
PETROLEUM (MARK.)				
AFRICAN PETROL. PLC	52	39.80	122,759	4,739,899.20
BECO PETR. PROD. PLC	11	1.10	136,765	143,703.25
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	12	76.93	28,571	2,307,679.67
CONOIL PLC	28	49.86	66,790	3,167,186.15
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	41	7.00	4,037,830	28,257,620.92
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	29	150.90	21,296	3,282,041.48
OANDO PLC	317	76.95	2,677,157	214,248,778.01
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	27	242.00	71,190	17,159,373.95
SECTOR TOTALS	477		7,162,358	273,306,282.63
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	4	8.41	11,700	93,483.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	7	7.20	217,794	1,568,116.80
SECTOR TOTALS	11		229,494	1,661,599.80
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	13	19.80	296,700	5,857,200.00
SECTOR TOTALS	13		296,700	5,857,200.00
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	12	0.85	342,54	295,515.85
SECTOR TOTALS	12		342,54	295,515.85
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	16	16.86	1,337,858	22,565,950.97
SECTOR TOTALS	16		1,337,858	22,565,950.97
OVERALL TOTALS	7,661		454,857,628	3,681,055,478.39

What is Beta?

A measurement of the relationship between the price of a stock and the movement of the whole market.

Google

GAINERS	
NBC	1.75
CAP	1.28
GLAXOSMITH	1.25
BCC	0.39

LOSERS	
NESTLE	8.05
OANDO	4.05
NB	3.45
FLOURMILL	2.28



EDUCATION TRUST FUND

6, Zambezi Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Crescent, Maitama, Abuja

INVITATION FOR SUBMISSION OF BID FOR FACILITY MANAGEMENT SERVICES

1.0 PREAMBLE

- 1.1 The Education Trust Fund, (ETF) is desirous of contracting a reputable Facility Manager for the management of its Head Office Complex situated at 6, Zambezi Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Crescent, Maitama, Abuja. The complex also houses a Bank and a Government Parastatal. It comprises 5 floors with a total floor area of 7280 sq.m on a total parcel of land measuring about 8827sq.m.
- 1.2 Interested bidder should have the capacity for cleaning and maintaining a 15m high curtain walling, servicing and maintaining 2 Nos. 800KVA and 650KVA generating sets, CCTV, boreholes and its pump, cleaning of 7280sq.m of granite and ceramic tiled floor, maintaining an asphalted concrete car park, etc.
- 1.3 Expression of interest and a detailed bid is therefore invited from experienced and reputable companies incorporated in Nigeria to perform such function as:
 - (a) Maintenance of a service charge account on behalf of all occupant(s) of the complex;
 - (b) Seeing to the smooth running of all equipment and facilities fittings and features;
 - (c) Regular servicing and repairs of air conditioners, lifts generators, fire fighting equipment, water pumps and boreholes, electrical panels, fittings, switches and replacement of lighting fittings, bulbs etc;
 - (d) Maintenance and repair of plumbing and sanitary fittings;
 - (e) General cleaning of the property and premises;
 - (f) Repairs and renovation of all civil, mechanical electrical works;
 - (g) Disposal of refuse; and
 - (h) Accessing and advising on rental price from time to time for the facility and other functions deemed, necessary for the smooth running of the complex.

2.0 PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

- 2.1 All interested contractors are expected to submit the following pre-qualification information/documents along with their applications:
 - (a) Evidence of Registration with the Federal Ministry of Works;
 - (b) Certificate of Incorporation;
 - (c) Current Tax Clearance Certificates for the last 3 years;
 - (d) Audited accounts for the past 3 years;
 - (e) Names of key personnel to be assigned to the project with clear indication of their technical competence
 - (f) Tax Payers Identification Number (TIN);
 - (g) VAT Certificate;
 - (h) Evidence of PENCOM Registration;
 - (i) Evidence of involvement/experience in similar job over the last 3 years, stating the awarded, project sums and Evidence/schedule of payments;



- (j) Types and capacities of equipment owned or to be leased, stating present locations (where applicable); and
- (k) A sworn affidavit indicating that all documents submitted are genuine, verifiable and whether any officer(s) of Education Trust Fund former or present is a director, shareholder or has any interest in the company and that the company does not have any Director who has been convicted in any court for criminal offence relating to fraud or financial impropriety; and
- (l) Evidence of financial capability from a Bank.

3.0 **FINANCIAL BID**

- 3.1 The award criteria to be used will be based on technical and managerial capacity of companies applying as well as the level of past experience and performance in similar jobs. Tender documents can be obtained from the Office of the Director, Human Resources Management's office at 6 Zambezi Crescent, Off Aguyi Ironsi Crescent, Maitama, Abuja, after showing evidence of payment of a non refundable fee of x50,000.00 only.

4.0 **SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS**

- 4.1 The completed pre-qualification application documents with financial bid must be forwarded in sealed envelope marked at the top left corner "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written "TENDER FOR FACILITY MANAGEMENT."
- 4.2 All documents should be enclosed in a wax sealed envelope and addressed to:

**The Executive Secretary
 Education Trust Fund,
 6 Zambezi Crescent,
 Off Aguyi Ironsi Crescent,
 Maitama, P. M. B. 361, Garki,
 Abuja.**

ATTENTION: DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

The sealed envelope should be dropped in the Tenders Box stationed in the Procurement Unit, Room 53, 2nd Floor, ETF, Abuja within the official hours (9:00 am - 5:00 pm)

5.0 **CLOSING DATE**

- 5.1 Submission of applications closes on 4 June 2010 at 5p.m.

6.0 **PLEASE NOTE**

- 6.1 Prospective contractors for pre-qualification should note the following:
 - (a) Late submissions will not be accepted;
 - (b) Only shortlisted companies' financial bids shall be considered;
 - (c) The advertisement for the pre-qualification shall neither be construed to be a commitment on the part of the Fund, nor shall it entitle any company to make any claim whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from the Fund by virtue of any response to the said advertisement.
 - (d) The Fund reserves the right to verify the authenticity of claims made in the documents submitted, any discrepancies found would disqualify the Bidder.

Signed

**SECRETARY
 TENDERS BOARD**

DIGEST

Children of working mothers 'more likely to be overweight'



CHILDREN of working mothers are more likely to be overweight, a study claims

CHILDREN are more likely to be overweight if their mothers work, research indicates.

Scientists believe that the strain of juggling a job and parental duties leaves children of working mothers with less healthy diets, as

they have less time to cook balanced meals. With their parents often out at work, children are more likely to have the freedom to eat sweet treats and spend their afternoon slumped in front of the television.

They are also less likely to get exercise walking to school as their mothers give them a lift on the way in to work.

A study of children over two generations found that today's youngsters are

up to nearly 50 per cent more likely to be obese if their mothers work.

More than 8,500 seven-year-olds were weighed and measured in 1965 and in 1991.

In 1965, 8 per cent of the girls and 12 per cent of the boys studied were overweight or obese. By 1991, the figures were 50 per cent higher.

Analysis of the figures found that a 60s child whose mother worked full time was up to 28 per cent more likely to be overweight than the child of a housewife.

In the 90s, the increased risk had risen to 48 per cent.

The number of working mothers rose by more than 30 per cent over the same period.

The rapid shift in childhood obesity is thought to be due to the boom in fast foods, the American Journal of Epidemiology reports.

The researchers, from University College London, said: "In the light of the substantial growth in female employment observed in recent years and the increasing tendency for women to return to work after childbirth, such increases may affect the prevalence of childhood obesity."

The study showed that children of overweight parents are also likely to be overweight.

Researchers warned that the increase in overweight children is likely to result in further increases in adult obesity and associated health consequences.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Bottled water contains more bacteria than tap water

BOTTLED water contains more bacteria than tap-water, with some brands found to harbour levels 100 times above permitted limits, according to new research.

A team of scientists found that 70 per cent of popular bottled water brands available in shops had high levels of bacteria. The researchers from Ccrest Laboratories in Canada found that tap water had less bacteria than bottled water.

Microbiologist Dr Sonish Azam, of Ccrest Laboratories, said bottled water did not live up to its claims or purity. She said: "Heterotrophic bacteria counts in some of the bottles were found to be in revolting figures of one hundred times more than the permitted limit."

Dr Azam said tighter controls needed to be put on bottled water manufacturers.

"Bottled water is not expected to be free from microorganisms but the [level] observed in this study is surprisingly very high," she said.

Dr Azam said there was no need to drink bottled water if tap water was of a good quality.

"Unsurprisingly, the consumer assumes that since bottled water carries a price tag, it is purer and safer than most tap water," she added.

Dr Azam said that the bacteria in bottled water is unlikely to cause disease.

"But the high levels of bacteria in bottled water could pose a risk for vulnerable populations such as pregnant women, infants, immunocompromised patients and the elderly," she said.

Nutritionist Dr Chris Fenn said there was



BOTTLED water contains more bacteria than tapwater, says researchers

no need to drink bottled water in the UK because tap water was so good.

"We're lucky in this country to have good quality tap water, there are problems with the amount of bacteria found in bottled water," she said.

"And there is a huge environmental cost to all the plastic used to make the bottles which then sit in the heat."

Dr Fenn said people should drink tap water as much as possible.

"But if you are thirsty, you might be out

and not near a tap so it's worth buying bottled water," she said.

"Two litres a day is the general figure but it is quite variable between people.

"Some people could be the same age and the same weight and do the same amount of exercise but still need different amounts of water to be hydrated.

"One person might drink one litre and be fine while the other person needs three litres."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Think you smell bad? Sometimes it's in your mind

TO most people, believing you smell when you don't would probably seem like less of a problem than oozing a foul BO without noticing. But for those suffering from olfactory reference syndrome -- a false belief that you smell bad -- the delusion can have serious consequences. So serious, in fact, that psychiatrists are now considering whether it should have its own entry in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders -- the bible for assessing mental woes. "I think it's a very secret and hidden disorder, because these patients tend to be very ashamed of themselves," Dr. Katharine Phillips, of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, told Reuters Health. "I have been so struck by the intense suffering that the patients experience."

Phillips, who presented her findings Tuesday in New Orleans at the American Psychiatric Association annual meeting, said as many of two-thirds of her patients had thought about suicide. Many stay at home -- repeatedly sniffing themselves, showering, and washing their clothes -- because they are too ashamed to go out, thinking their mouth, armpits or genitals reek.

Culled from reuters.com

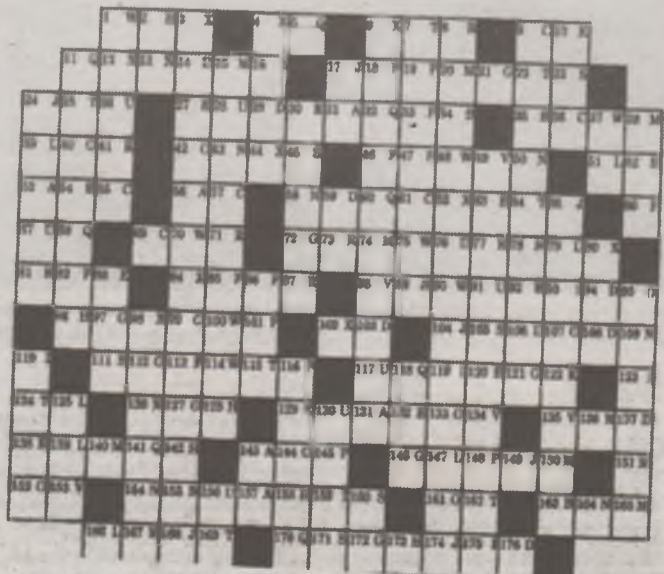
Sign Language



Oh, they are short of street names
 Photo location: Nelson, New Zealand by Nick Brown
 Culled from telegraph.co.uk

ANACROTIC 3

DEFINITIONS	WORDS
A. Full of playful, good humor	157 56 53 131 143 31
B. Relief in times of distress	35 155 132 163 120 92
C. Desires	42 61 9 69 57 38 55
D. Wealthy financial state	29 103 176 137 59 14 94 76 108
E. Well-known	63 4 129 54 83
F. On edge	113 18 82 86 46
G. Vibraphonist Lionel	97 112 172 72 146 21 121
H. Fundamental nature	128 142 173 52 2 96 156
I. In an unspoken manner	110 123 169 93 16 175 119
J. Does a smelter's duty	17 174 24 168 149 65 104
K. Same	77 122 138 89 128 10 27 81 167
L. Protection from the rain	147 139 106 166 39 125 51 79
M. Assigns the wrong role to	140 74 150 38 165 20 161 16
N. Routine medical exam	78 184 60 154 43 109 58 13
O. Horseplay: 2 wds.	127 99 95 152 107 161 144 133 40
P. Like a poorly managed bank account	85 47 101 116 145 148 19 66 33
Q. Extremely hungry	5 141 11 32 68 170 118 60
R. Maintain a steadfast stance	30 8 73 41 136 71 87
S. Connecting strip of land	171 23 160 45 111 105 34
T. Levels of responsibility	189 64 7 115 124 25 22 162
U. Sour pie-ingredient	26 28 91 156 67 130 117
V. Clarinet inserts	49 88 153 135 134
W. West, to hards	1 100 37 70 90 48 75 114
X. Symbolic tribal pillar: 2 wds.	44 102 6 62 84 12 98 80 3



SOLUTION TO ANACROTIC 2

- A. Plant
- B. Ethiopian
- C. Tendon
- D. Effusive
- E. Radiated
- F. Imitation
- G. Variety show
- H. Establish
- I. Roman
- J. Sulks
- K. Omaha
- L. Nomad
- M. Tolls
- N. Halibut
- O. Eavesdrop
- P. New Jersey
- Q. At the eleventh hour
- R. Vanna White
- S. Affiliated
- T. John Adams
- U. Off one's rocker
- V. Solemn

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.

157

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

Solution to Sudoku 156

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

News Extra

Obasanjo condemns homosexuality as an 'abomination'

Olusegun Obasanjo made the remarks in support of last week's sentencing of a gay couple in Malawi

An African statesman who shares a political platform with Kofi Annan, Tony Blair and Bob Geldof has condemned homosexuality as an "abomination", dismissing individuals' right to privacy with the riposte: "You want to make love to a horse?"

Olusegun Obasanjo, a former president of Nigeria, indicated his support for the sentencing last week of a gay couple in Malawi to 14 years in prison with hard labour, insisting that countries have the right to enforce their own laws.

The remarks, coming at a time of huge sensitivity around gay rights in Africa, have the potential to embarrass Obasanjo's colleagues on the Africa Progress Panel, a respected body that monitors development across the continent. Chaired by Kofi Annan, its members include Tony Blair, Bob Geldof, economist Muham-

"I believe that God who created man, male and female, is a wise God, is to me a God who doesn't make a mistake"

mad Yunus and Graca Machel, the women's and children's rights activist and wife of Nelson Mandela.

Annan, the former UN-secretary-general, and Obasanjo, a UN special envoy, appeared united on stage Monday at the launch of the panel's latest report in Johannesburg.

But whereas Annan described last week's imprisonment of Malawians Tiwonge Chimbalanga and Steven Monjeza as "very regressive", Obasanjo, a devout Christian, offered a very different view in an interview with the Guardian.

"I believe that God who created man, male and female, is



STEVEN Monjeza and Tiwonge Chimbalanga in court in Blantyre, Malawi, earlier this year. A judge has found the gay couple guilty of unnatural acts and gross indecency.

ridiculous, but let's say that is what the law says, until you can get that law repealed, you must not shake in public. If you say you will defy that law and you shake in public, and the law says if you shake in public you go to prison for three months, then you have to go for prison for three months."

Obasanjo, whose human rights record was questioned during his two separate spells as president of Nigeria, denied that consenting adults have a right to privacy in their own homes. "What is the privacy of your home? Why don't you take an animal and say look, the privacy of your home, you want to make love to a horse? Bestiality. You say that is right? No.

"If the privacy of your home means a socially condemnable act, then you have no privacy. You have done what you should not do and if the law says you should be punished for it, whether you do it in public or the privacy of your home, you have breached the law and you must be punished, according to the law."

Immediately after the inter-



FROM left: Mr Kofi Annan, Chairman, African Progress Panel and former UN Secretary General, Mr. Peter Eigen, Founder and Chairman of the Advisory Council, Transparency International and former President Olusegun Obasanjo at the presentation of the African Progress Panel report in Johannesburg, South Africa, Monday.

a wise God, is to me a God who doesn't make a mistake," he said. "If he wants sexual relationship between man and man, and between woman and woman, God will not have created them

male and female. For me it is an abomination in my part of the world and if anybody practices it then he must be unbiblical, and anything that is unbiblical for me as a Christian is not right."

He continued: "If a country makes it a law then he should be punished according to the law of that country. If a law in my country says we shouldn't shake in public, that of course would be

view, Obasanjo could be seen discussing the difference of opinion with Annan. Later, on his way out, Annan smiled and told the Guardian: "I'll work on him."

Culled from guardian.co.uk

labour report

'Salary increase will boost the economy'

IN this interview, President of the Nigeria Civil Service Union Comrade Mohammed Kiri speaks on why "core civil servants" need wage increase and efforts by a joint labour and government committee to address the many challenges facing workers.

By Francis Okeke

A committee on wages and relativity in welfare for Federal workers was inaugurated last week. It will also look at the disparity in salaries of permanent secretaries and directors. As a member of that committee, what exactly is expected of your committee?

There are discussions but our demand for relativity has no connection with why unions are saying that the salaries of permanent secretaries are higher. To us, what permanent secretaries are earning is far less than what they are supposed to earn comparing what has been happening within the same sector.

In fact, what a director earns at a parastatal supervised by Federal Ministry of Finance and what a director in the supervising ministry earns is not comparable. You cannot even compare the salary of a director of a parastatal because the gap is so wide. The director at the supervising ministry is at the receiving end.

We submitted our demands since November 2008 because within the public sector, there are distortions in salaries of workers within the same sector. You have the judiciary which has its own structure, the medical and paramedical, they have their own while the core civil service is left unattended to.

That was why we wrote to government on the need to address these issues so that the salaries of those in the core civil service can be jerked up to a level comparable to the other sectors

in the civil service.

You are asking for 75.37% salary increment even though so far government has proposed a 10% increment. People are saying it will cost inflation if you get the amount you are clamouring for.

I don't know from what logical view you are looking at this because if you go to any Nigerian market at the end of each month, activities are higher because workers have collected their salaries and there are much buying and selling. That is why it is only the salary that booms the economy and makes it grow higher. To my understanding, any percentage that we requested was based on what was given to other sectors. It is not out of the blues that we demanded 75.37% increment.

Government increased salary for other sectors like medical and paramedical as well as the judiciary. They earned 23% and 50% higher and if you merge them together they are more than 70%. That was why the union met at the core civil service level and requested for this.

I did not see any logical reason that says a worker is a worker alone or if you pay a worker good wages that you are paying him alone and you don't look down the ladder. He has his family and his relations. We are in Africa where the extended family system obtains.

In Europe, they have done away with all the attendant problems that put much pressure on a worker in terms of extended family system. But in Africa if you pay me a better salary you are not paying me alone but my family and others. So, if there are Nigerians who are saying that when there is an increase in payment for Federal workers it will bring inflation, now, how much do you pay your political office holders? Can you compare?

Suffice it to say that we don't want to turn this matter into trade union and politicians' issue. What we requested for is purely what we are supposed to request and what we are supposed to be given.

Is there any connection with your demand and the national minimum wage?

There is no correlation between the two. Our demand is not minimum wage. There is a tripartite arrangement of government, employers and labour working on that. That one is separate. On this one, we are only talking about the distortion, relativity and salaries in the core civil service. You are aware that the salary of the judiciary has been jerked up, the salary of medicals and paramedical have been jerked up while that of the core civil service is unattended to.

While others have benefited over 70% increment, our own remains static. We are saying it can't happen under the same economy. We say if you evaluate the job, it is the same thing we are doing.

During the inauguration of your committee, government emphasised the need for corresponding increase in productivity with higher wages and the need for workers to do away with non-chalance in service.

No employee in any arrangement be it public or private sector that once you demand for enhancement of wages, that the employer will not come up with an idea that it must be in relation to productivity.

They may also say that if what you demanded is higher, we may resort to layoffs, downsizing, rightsizing or whatever they call it but to my understanding of all the unions that were there, the core civil service remained and still remains obedient.

Even when ASUU went on



MOHAMMED Kiri

strike for how many months and got their new salary, medical and paramedical went on strike and judiciary workers were also on strike, we were never on strike because we remain obedient because we are the engine room of government. But government ought to have seen what we are offering in terms of our commitment. This increase per se is not beyond what the government can do or that it may result to retrenchment.

But we are looking at them and for me, Head of Service of the Federation made it very clear that even where there is going to be an increase, it must correspond to productivity. You can't pay for what you cannot get. As a union we must stress to our members that if you have high pay, you must increase your productivity.

Your committee is already in its first week and was given two weeks to finish its job, how realistic is the

two weeks for you to come up with a position that favours both government and your members?

You know there are two technical areas there. Start negotiations and conclude negotiations within two weeks, is different from implementation. It is realistic and I have told you that we presented our demands since November 2008. How many unions in the public sector have gone on strike from November 2008 till now? We feel any delay is denying the core civil servants the right to have a decent salary.

My understanding is that two weeks is realistic if government is honest. We can conclude and implementation may take a little while but let us make government to know that our demands left unattended to by employers especially government who is also a regulator of labour laws is not fair to the workers who have been sitting down waiting for quite a long time.

How to avert industrial disharmony – CIPMN Boss

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

IT is fundamental that human resources practitioners put in place procedures that would ensure that strike is employed as the last resort in resolving labour disputes in Nigeria, Malam Rabi Musa, the Registrar/CEO of the Chartered Institute of Personnel Management (CIPMN) has said.

He said the procedures should be "defined processes" within the workplace so that workers' grievances could be addressed through a defined channel and satisfactory solutions arrived at to avert strikes.

Briefing newsmen in Lagos on the institute's forthcoming Human Resource Forum, scheduled to hold on Thursday, June 3, this year in Lagos, the registrar noted that strike as a weapon for negotiation in labour issues

are not illegitimate, but should always be used as a last resort.

"The institute had taken it upon itself to equip members with the basic skills to effectively manage labour issues in the workplace, to avert, as much as possible industrial actions" he noted adding that there are so many issues like "work environment, low wages and a whole lot, but unfortunately, we've not got right the procedure for managing strikes."

He explained further that the idea of the HR Forum, the third year in the series, is designed to provide solutions to some of such problems facing practitioners, expected to attend the event from both within and outside the country.

Mallam Rabi Musa explained that the choice of Prof. Vladimir Pucik, a professor of International Human

Resource & Management Strategy, Institute of Management Development (IMD) Lausanne, Switzerland, was in tune with the institute's philosophy of thinking locally and acting globally.

"HR is a global practice. To be able to practise well, we need to interact with our colleagues around the globe," he said.

This year's Forum, tagged: "HR Role In the Business: What Does It Take To Build HR As Competitive Advantage?" is open to chief executives of private establishments, business leaders, government agencies and parastatals and heads of Human Resource Departments in both public and private sectors.

According to him, the forum will go a long way in enhancing HR practice in the country and rub off positively on the nation's economy.

ENVIRONMENT

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Nigeria to have gas master plan

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Minister of Environment, Mr. John Odey, has assured that more Nigerians will benefit from the Nation's Gas Master Plan. Odey said this while receiving in audience the Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria Mr. Kjell Lillerud.

He said that the implementation of the Master Gas Plan is being done to provide gas for more people to reduce the rate of deforestation in the country as most Nigerians

depend on firewood.

He commended Norway for convening a Conference of Ministers in charge of Environment so as to provide opportunity for sharing of ideas, on the issue of Climate Change.

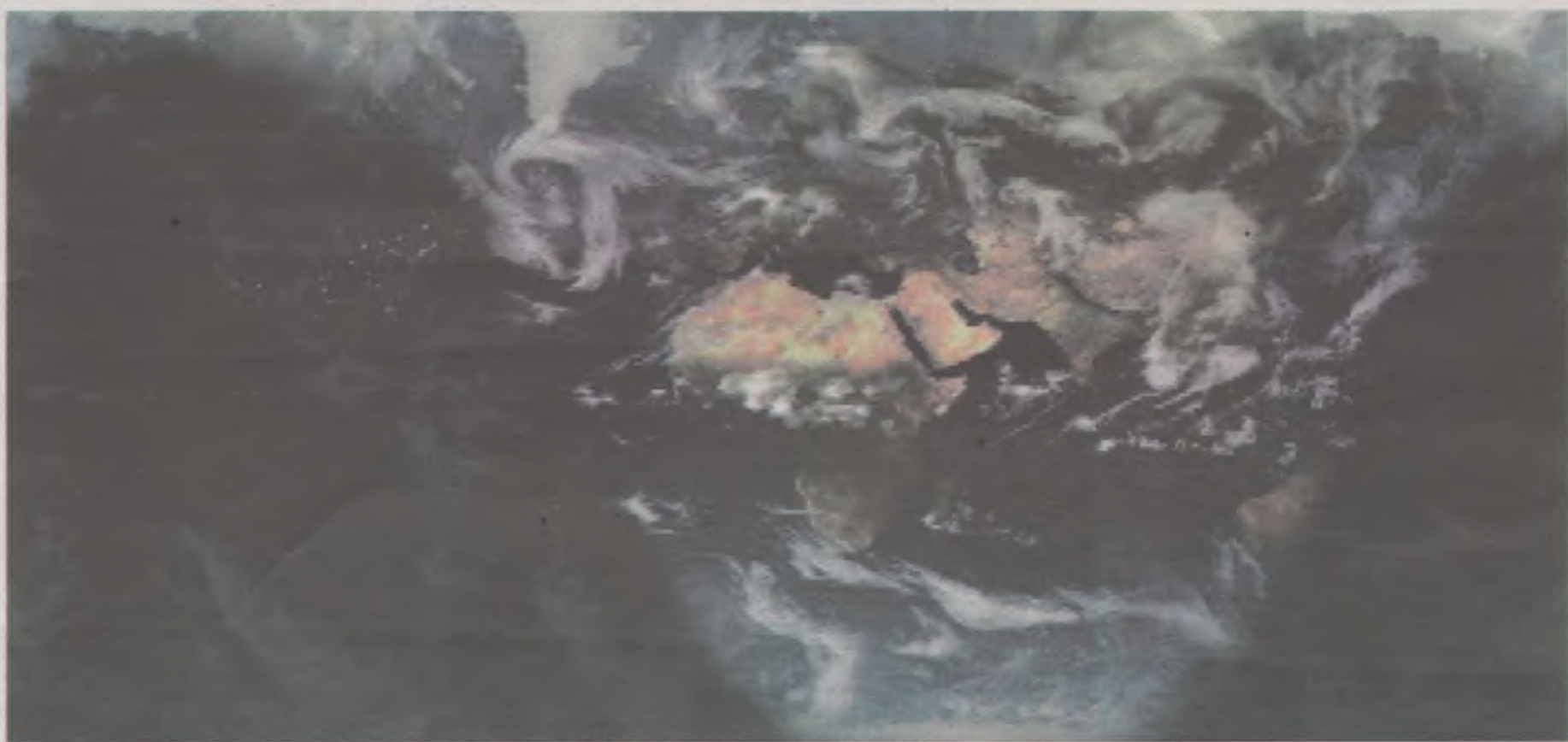
He added that currently Forestry is being integrated into the nation's economic development plan and its contribution to the Gross Domestic Production is steadily on the increase.

Mr. Odey expressed hope that the conference will be

a success and further enhance the existing relationship between both countries.

Earlier, the Norwegian Ambassador, Mr. Kjell Lillerud said that his visit was to invite the Minister to a conference of Environment Ministers around the World to deliberate on the issues of reduction of emission through Forestry and Deforestation.

He also expressed the desire of Norway to partner with Nigeria on Clean, Development Mechanism Projects.



A world map showing current sunlight and cloud cover as of yesterday May 26.

Lawmaker worried over environmental pollution

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

A member of the Kogi State House of Assembly has expressed concerns over the environmental hazards facing the civil servants in the state.

The member, representing Kabba/Bunu Constituency Oni Funsho, in a motion Tuesday said the unhealthy con-

dition of the State Secretariat Complex had subjected over 10, 000 workers to environment hazards.

The lawmaker regretted that the electricity supply to the secretariat complex was epileptic; stressing that the PHCN transformer was no longer functioning and the generating set was grounded.

According to him, all the seven min-

istries, 10 Agencies, parastatals, departments, offices of Head of Service, and Accountant-General have long resorted to using smaller generators in view of the very hot weather in the state capital.

"A chaotic scenario of the noise and air pollution is the order of the day at the secretariat whenever most generators are functioning at the peak of the heat. This is

not a conducive working environment for the workers because such pollution has serious negative effects on their health", he said.

The lawmaker therefore urged the state government to direct the Directorate of Rural Development to provide a new transformer at the secretariat complex.

Senate to send HYPADDEC bill to Jonathan

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Senate of the Federal Republic of Nigeria may soon submit the HYPADDEC bill for President Goodluck Jonathan to pass into law, Senator Dahiru Aweisu Kuta disclosed yesterday.

He made the disclosure yesterday in Minna at an interactive session with journalists where he expressed optimism that the bill will so be before Mr President before the end of the month.

He explained that as the rains is getting to its peak and vulnerable states like Niger where he comes from, it was in order to get the bill signed into law as it would bring succour to flood victims.

"The HYPADDEC bill though had a little hitch is expected to be passed through the senate by the end of the month to the Presidency for it to be passed into law", he said.

The Senator who is from the zone B Niger state senatorial district also revealed plans by the National Assembly to inject environmental friendly energy to augment other sources of power generation in Nigeria.

He stated that the renewable energy will not only be environmentally friendly but will help local communities generate its own electricity which will be independent of the current national grid system.

NESREA inspects 475 enterprises in Kebbi

NATIONAL Environmental Standards and Regulatory Enforcement Agency (NESREA) has conducted compliance inspection of 475 enterprises in Kebbi State in the last 18 months.

The inspection was aimed at ensuring that the enterprises complied with sanitary and environmental safety.

Dr Ahmed Kasim, the NESREA coordinator in the state who disclosed this on Wednesday in Birnin Kebbi, said that out of the 475 enterprises inspected, large scale enterprises constituted 10.95 per cent, medium scale enterprises constituted 8.21 per cent while small scale enterprises constituted 80.84 per cent.

"Premises inspected included federal and state government premises, hospitals, schools, forest reserves, filling stations, eateries, bakeries, slaughter slabs and water packaging facilities.

"We were able to enforce the movement to a new slaughter slab in Birnin Kebbi metropolis after discovering that foul smell was emanating from an old slab being used by butchers," he said.

Kasim said that out of the 12 bakeries inspected within the metropolis, only four were fit to operate while the operation of eight water packaging facilities were discovered to be environmentally unfriendly.

He said that the agency also

directed that animal farms and husbandry close to health facilities be relocated, adding that patients and officials were educated on how to ensure good sanitary condition of their environment and conveniences.

He said that the agency also inspected the sanitary condition of 36 private and government owned schools while 20 filling stations were directed to comply with acceptable environmental and sanitary standards.

"NESREA in Kebbi will collaborate with other agencies in enforcing environmental safety in line with laws that established the agency," he stressed. (NAN)

Environment



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Coy unveils eco-friendly air-conditioner

From Yunus Abdulhamid, Lagos

PANASONIC Corporation has unveiled its 2010 eco-intelligence model of air conditioners in Nigeria.

Speaking at the public launch in Lagos, the company's

representative, Mr Mikihiro Obayanshi said the product is part of the company's effort to contribute to the world's effort towards a green and healthy environment.

He said the eco-intelligence model was capable of saving up

to 20 percent of energy.

His words: "This technology is built on the scientific fact that all objects emit infrared rays which are generally invisible to the naked eye. This infrared can be detected by the Eco-Patrol's high precision sensor of the eco-

intelligent air-conditioner."

He said the energy saving functions of the Eco Patrol system is maximised when the air conditioner is left in a room that is used intermittently, thereby saving up to 20 percent of energy. Mikihiro also said the

company has further strengthened its services through the establishment of after sales services in Lagos, Kano and Abuja, saying, "Panasonic is fully dedicated to climate change and its effect on nature."

Borno sachet water producers record boom

PRODUCERS and sellers of sachet water popularly called 'pure water' are recording trade boom in Maiduguri due to the prevailing hot weather.

With temperatures revolving between 42 and 48 Degrees Celsius in Maiduguri the producers said that they sell between 15,000 and 20,000 sachets of pure water daily.

"We produce an average of 18,000 sachets of water daily to meet the high demand by customers.

"Sometimes my boys work overnight to meet the demand," Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu, the Manager of Al Mustapha Sachet Water company said.

Shehu says his company has been recording huge profit since the business boom started about two weeks ago.

"Unlike in the past, the company is really making some profit at the moment.

"We thank God for the period as it has opened new window of opportunities for us to make some money," he said.

Shehu noted that the company had recorded low sales during the harmattan season.

"You can see that we have to engage additional workers to cope with the increase in demand for water," he said.

Malam Shettima Usman, a worker with 'Madube' company, another sachet water producer, corroborated Shehu's claim.

"I must confess that we are recording high profit at present," Usman said.

He said that his company produced an average of 20,000 water sachets daily.

"It may surprise you to know that all these sachets are sold to customers everyday as we don't normally have left overs," Usman said.

He linked the high patronage to the quality of their product.

"We have made name over time as one of the best producers of quality sachet water in Maiduguri; that is why many people want to buy from us," Usman said.

Mrs Uche Emmanuel, a retailer near Monday Market, said that she makes an average of N20,000 profit from the sale of the sachet water daily.

"I sell about 1,000 sachets per day with the help of my boys, so by the time I remove their commission, I end up with at least N20,000 daily," Emmanuel said.



AN anthill ravaged by ant scavengers in one of Abuja suburbs

FCTA saves 65 lives from fire in three months

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Administration saved 65 lives from inferno and emergency related cases in the Federal Capital Territory in the last three months.

These include 24, 21 and 20 lives in the months of February, March and April 2010 respectively totally 65.

The FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed made this disclosure on Monday after the monthly FCT Operations Briefing Session in Gwarimpa I District (Life-Camp), Abuja.

Mohammed revealed during the period under review 24 lives were lost specifically in the month of March 2010.

The Minister remarked that the FCT Administration saved an estimated value of property worth N124.9 million in the month of February, N146.5 million in the month of March and N117.7 million in the month of April 2010 totally N389.1 million.

He said estimated value of property worth N53.7 million in February, N61.3 million in March and N40.8 million in April were lost in the Federal Capital Territory.

According to him, during the period a total number of fire calls made in February, March and April stood at 38, 44 and 40 respectively.

Senator Mohammed directed that aged fire appliances overdue for overhauling in the Federal Capital Territory should immediately be overhauled to ensure optimal performance.

The Minister noted that a total of 18 fire calls have so far been made in this month of May 2010 with Residential-4, Commercial-2, Public Building-2, Transformer fire-4, Vehicle fire-2, Pipe line vandalisation-1 and False alarm-3.

Minister advocates collaboration against climate change

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister for Justice, Muhammed Bello Adoke, (SAN), yesterday called for the collaboration of all stakeholders in the country on the fight against the activities of climate change.

The minister who stated this at the FIRST Faculty of Law Workshop on Climate Change in Nigeria, organised at the University of Ilorin also noted that the task of climate change should not be left to the government alone.

He said that the federal government will

always closely monitor contributions of workshops of this nature that deal on climate change and make good use of the recommendations for the development of the country.

He said global warming is the effect most known arising out of climate change, which is the possible climatic effect of an increasing concentration of "greenhouse" gases such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitron oxide.

"Human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, deforestation, the application of fertilizers and the generation of particular types of agricultural production have always

been a cause of concern. Even water vapour is said to be a greenhouse gas. It is said that its concentration in the atmosphere is however not affected by human activity," he said.

The minister noted that Nigeria as part of the developing world will be vulnerable to what the globe faces adding that people, especially in the developing world are expected to be exposed to a relatively higher risk of adverse impacts from climate change affecting human health, water supplies, agricultural production, property and other resources.

PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY FCT (STATE) SECRETARIAT NO 309B GABES STREET WUSE ZONE 2 ABUJA.

RE: FCT MINISTER, THE DANGERS AHEAD

My attention has been drawn to a Newspaper Advertorial in the Daily Trust of Monday 24th May, 2010 Captioned "RE: FCT MINISTER, THE DANGERS AHEAD" Written by one Comrade Ahmed Sulaiman Bala who portrayed himself as the coordinator PDP Jama'a Forum FCT Abuja. Under normal circumstances one should not bother to react on the write-up but for its lack of authenticity and seriousness on the part of the writer who decided to write and feed Nigerians with distorted unconfirmed and highly framed pieces of information that have no iota of truth in them.

If such articles are allowed to go without disabusing the minds of peace-loving Nigerians, people like the so-called "Comrade" who doesn't have patriotism in what they do and say will go to any length to sow seed of discord amongst the peace loving people of the FCT in particular and the country as a whole.

"Comrade" Ahmed Sulaiman belongs to people that will never allow peace to reign as they rush to press with trash and bundles of lies hoping to get cheap popularity.

In my capacity as the chairman PDP FCT, I feel highly embarrassed by "Comrade" Ahmed's article which was written arbitrarily with ill motive intention trying to deliberately black mail the PDP of the FCT. If the so called "comrade" is really a "comrade" he would have acted as genuine comrades do i.e to act truthfully, say the truth and print only the truth.

While I am not here holding brief for FCT, Minister Sen. Bala A. Mohammed, I strongly feel that our party the PDP FCT chapter has been treated unfairly by someone ignorant of facts and figures on the happening in the region that my quick response to say the truth as it is will enlighten the public to enable everybody judge the issue raised constructively. We in the PDP will ever remain grateful to His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Jonathan for appointing a credible member from opposition party to be Minister of FCT. He has shown to the whole world that our party the PDP is willing and ready to accommodate all willing Nigerians so that together we can join hands to take our great country to greater heights. All leaders care much with performance and delivery of dividends of democracy to people and unnecessary and selfish distractions will never deter our party from accommodating people that will enhance the fortunes of our party.

To put records straight, the need to support submission with facts and figures is highly necessary. My great concern is on the very sweeping statement "Comrade" made in paragraph 7 of his write-up where he made mention of the 6 Area Councils under the jurisdiction of the FCT. Sen. Bala A. Mohammed assumed duty as Minister of the FCT four days to the election to Area Councils. It is therefore false and baseless to say that "their chickens were coming home to roost one after the other" to quote "comrade Ahmed" whatever that means to 'comrade' the fact remains that what Nigeria wants is neutral ground where every party is allowed to compete without fear of oppression or intimidation. This is exactly what happened during the last Area Council elections in the 6 Area councils where PDP emerged victorious in the 4 Area councils and ANPP won 2 as follows:

i. Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC)

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|-----|
| a. No. of Wards | - | 12 |
| b. No won by PDP | - | 12 |
| c. No. won by ANPP | - | Nil |
| d. Chairman: Hon. Micah Y. Jiba (PDP) | | |

ii. Abaji Area Council

- | | | |
|--|---|----|
| a. No. of Wards: | - | 10 |
| b. No. won by PDP | - | 8 |
| c. No. won by ANPP | - | 2 |
| d. Chairman: Hon. Yahaya Musa Mohd (PDP) | | |

iii. Bwari Area Council

- | | | |
|--|---|----|
| a. No. of Wards: | - | 10 |
| b. No. won by PDP | - | 8 |
| c. No. won by ANPP | - | 2 |
| d. Chairman: Hon. Peter Yohanna Ushafa (PDP) | | |

iv. Gwagwalada Area Council.

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| a. No. of Wards | - | 10 |
| b. No. won by PDP | - | 4 |
| c. No. won by ANPP | - | 6 |
| d. Chairman: Hon. Zakari Angulu Dobi (ANPP) | | |

v. Kuje Area Council.

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| a. No. of Wards | - | 10 |
| b. No. won by PDP | - | 8 |
| c. No. won ANPP | - | 2 |
| d. Chairman: Hon. Danladi Etsu Zhin (PDP) | | |

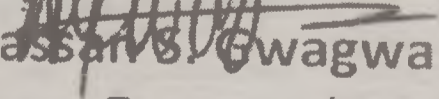
vi. Kwali Area Council

- | | | |
|---|---|----|
| a. No. of wards | - | 10 |
| b. No. won by PDP | - | 4 |
| c. No. won by ANPP | - | 6 |
| d. Chairman: Hon. Joseph K. Shazin (ANPP) | | |

Details shown in the foregoing results show that PDP won 44 wards while ANPP won in 18 wards. It should therefore be noted that the Minister is not in the Federal Capital Territory to snatch away the electoral victory of any party just because he is serving under the PDP Government.

Furthermore, I wish to state with emphasis that the so-called "PDP Jama'a Forum FCT Abuja" is an unknown group in the FCT. It is therefore fictitiously framed by disgruntled elements to smear the credibility of the Minister and our great party the PDP for reasons best known to whoever sponsored the infamous publication. All people with objective thinking and judgment are quite aware that the time Senator Bala A. Mohammed assumed duty as Hon. Minister of the FCT he has so far achieved a lot in improving the welfare of all the citizens of the region.

In conclusion, I wish to state quite clearly that the PDP FCT is very much behind Senator Bala Mohammed as Minister Federal capital Territory under the able leadership of our amiable President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan (GCFR).


Alh. Alhassan S. Gwagwa
(Galadiman Gwagwa/Jarman Garki)
State Chairman,
FCT PDP.

EDUCATION

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Agency empowers 18 varsities with research kits

By Hamisa Muhammad

THE Centre for Satellite Technology Development (CSTD) has distributed an Embedded Prototyping Kits (EPKs) to 18 universities in the country.

Some of the beneficiary universities include University of Abuja, Federal University of Technology Minna, Kano State University of Science and Technology, University of Ilorin, Federal University of Technology, Owerri and University of Benin.

Director General of CSTD Dr Olufemi Agboola said the kits are applied in conducting research and also make learning process easy for technology and engineering students.

"The system is used as a study, exercise, and trainer tool; prototyping for micro-computer, hardware, peripheral components, conversion circuits, driver circuits and sensors. Afterward, the student or developer uses the system to implement a personal or team system," he said.



MINISTER OF EDUCATION, PROFESSOR RUFAI, (right) shaking hands with a graduate (left) during a convocation, recently, at the University of Calabar.

FG warns exam bodies against partial release of results

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Federal Government said it will no longer tolerate partial release of candidates' results by examination bodies including West African Examination Council (WAEC), National Examination Council (NECO), National Business and Technical Examination Board (NABTEB), Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) and National Teachers Institute (NTI).

Minister of Education Professor Ruqayyatu Rufai, who disclosed this in Abuja at the National Examination Summit conveyed to address the perennial problem of mass failure in public examinations, said "henceforth, all results must be released at once, no partial release of results."

"The Nigerian child of today is the future and hope of the Nigerian nation tomorrow. We cannot afford to remain unconcerned on the issues negatively affecting their education,"

she said.

The minister also called on stakeholders in the education sector to shun corruption and embrace transparency, saying that "we as managers of human and material resources are expected to be transparent in our conducts both in public and private lives."

"Nigeria has encountered damaging effects of corruption; our economy has witnessed serious socio-economic set-backs. Our

hopes for greater tomorrow almost dashed and corruption has also created an unstable educational environment. For the avoidance of doubt, any act that undermines the operational ethics of our various establishments or departments amounts to corruption," she said.

She said government planned to check the ugly trend through the reforms in public procurement and the e-payment system, adding that "it is only cooperation and accept-

ance of the struggle by us in the education sector and other Nigerians that can entrench the transparency culture in our country."

In his remarks, Permanent Secretary in the ministry Professor Oladipo Afolabi, said corruption is a cankerworm that had eaten deep into the fabric of the society, and called on stakeholders to imbibe the concept of anti-corruption, transparency and accountability so as to reposition the sector.

Venezuela offers scholarship to 30 Nigerian students

THE Bolivian Republic of Venezuela has offered scholarship to 30 Nigerian indigent students to study Comprehensive Medicine in the Latin American School of Medical Studies located in Caracas.

Twenty four out of benefitting students who were selected from Taraba, Nasarawa, Kaduna and Delta states and FCT after undergoing multiple tests organized by the Venezuelan Embassy in Nigeria departed last weekend for Caracas for the programme which lasts for seven years.

At a send off organized for the students at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport last weekend, Venezuelan Ambassador to

Nigeria, Enrique Fernando Arundell said the scholarship initiative was in line with Venezuela's foreign policy of solidarity and complementary between brother states.

"This is part of the South-South cooperation; an effort to fight inequalities and strengthen friendship ties through the promotion of cultural, educational, commercial and technological exchange", the Ambassador said.

According to Arundell, the benefitting students come from "homes of low resources" and were mainly from public schools. "They were selected after multiple tests led personally by officers of the Venezuelan Foundation", he

explained.

Minister of Education, Ruqayya Rufai who spoke through a representative expressed appreciation to the Venezuelan government for the opportunity given to the Nigerian students to study comprehensive medicine in that country.

She expressed the hope that the gesture would further strengthen the existing cordial relationship between Venezuela and Nigeria. While charging the benefitting students to be good ambassadors of Nigeria the Minister said: "I am proud of you for this opportunity by the Venezuelan government and I urge you to study hard while there to justify this rare opportunity given to you."

Complaints BOX



JAMB, PLEASE RELEASE OUR RESULTS

PLEASE JAMB Registrar Professor Dibu Ojerinde and every personnel of JAMB, please help us because of Almighty God to release our remaining three subjects and scores even if the fault is from us. 82,000 Nigerian candidates are great numbers to experience failure. Please help our future.

ESUMAN Lubabatu Ahmad, Kaduna
JAMB number 05811634 HA
07036981197

EDUCATION



ROOF of the staff room showing a missing zinc. Inset: Inside the staff room

Leaking roofs welcome students, staff at Abuja's Science Tech College

Staff and students of Government Science Technical College, Area 3, Abuja, said they find it extremely difficult to operate under leaking roofs.

By Maureen Onochie

ON that fateful day, students and staff of Government Science Technical College, Area 3, Abuja got to the school and discovered that, after a heavy down pour of rain in the previous night, the roof of the library and a staff room were destroyed. As a precaution, the books in the library had to be shifted to a corner of the hall to avoid destruction in the event of a recurrence of the torrential rain.

The whole floor was messed up with water thereby making it disgusting and uncomfortable for people who needed to make use of the library for their research work. The staff room where the teachers carry out their daily activities such as setting the examination questions and marking of students' scripts was equally flooded.

The roof at the top of the building was blown away by the wind and the ceiling was torn apart by the heavy down pour. A student of the school, Yusuf told *Daily Trust* that "we are already used to this. It is not a surprise. For quite some time now we have been unable to make use of the library due to the fact that the available spaces for us to sit and study has been taken over by library property that always has to be moved hastily to such locations so as to avoid being destroyed by the rain. We just hope the authorities will come to our rescue because this is greatly affecting our academic activities."

Both tutors and students are worried about the attitude of the school authorities towards finding solution to the problem, saying they are finding it extremely difficult to operate

under such excruciating circumstances.

Majority of the staff and students told *Daily Trust* that it is practically impossible for anything useful to be done under a leaking roof. Specifically, the staff said it is a tug of war for the teachers who want to impart knowledge or students who are eager to learn to work under such terrible condition.

A teacher who spoke on condition of anonymity complained that the situation was not encouraging at all. He said it is obvious that the materials used for the structures are of low quality. "With this situation, it is very clear that the materials that were used in building this classrooms were not of quality standard," he said.

On her part, a female staff who also pleaded anonymity said authorities should not keep mute over the situation, adding that it is important to create an environment where the students and teachers can stay and carry out their duties effectively.

"Most of the time, if there is rainfall in the morning, we are forced to take cover in the staff room because we are going to be wet and our properties will be destroyed in the process. It is really sad. We are not happy with the authorities who have refused to do anything on the issue, it keeps affecting our job. The library is also in a bad shape and nothing is being done about it," she said.

According to the staff, the register, lesson notes and scripts of students often get soaked anytime the rain falls.

"Most of the time, these materials are even kept inside the staff lockers to keep them protected from the rain, but

the lockers are not even good enough to protect them from the unrelenting rains. The staff are forced to always bring these materials out of the lockers and wait for the sun to come out for the materials to be spread under it to dry," one of the staff said.

For staff and students of the school, teaching and learning have become very, very difficult tasks. They continue with their academic activities despite these challenges. The staff teach in an institution with dilapidated structures, the students learn in a school where the environment is not conducive for learning.

When contacted, principal of the school declined comment saying civil servants are not allowed to speak to the press.

However, the Director of Science and Technology in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) education secretariat, Hajiya Yelwa Baba-ari told *Daily Trust* that sections of the school damaged by the rainfall were identified and approval was given for their immediate repairs.

She said already contractors have been mobilized to carry out immediate repairs of the damaged structures.

“We just hope the authorities will come to our rescue because this is greatly affecting our academic activities.”

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

E-MAIL: campusroundup@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371



KADUNA State Commissioner of Education Alhaji Lawal Suleiman Kauru presenting some of the educational materials to a pupil of LEA Primary School Kakuri, Kaduna.

UNI JOS law students get new president

From Biniyat Thomas, UNI JOS

A 400 level student Comrade Kenneth Nyam has been elected as the president of the University of Jos chapter of Law Students Society (LSS) for the 2009/2010 academic session.

Other elected officials include Stepheny Dapel Dashe as vice president, Richard Adepoju as secretary general, Zwanan Dashe as financial secretary and Christy Gyang as treasurer.

Speaking to Campus Roundup shortly after his victory at the poll, the new president said his emergence is the will of God and urged his rivals to join hands with him to uplift the standard of the LSS.

"I indicated interest to run for the presidency barely one week to the election and by God's grace, I emerged. I will run an all inclusive government and I call on my opponents to join in building a stronger LSS," he said.

In a similar development, Olajide Abdulrahman has emerged president of the university's chapter of National Association of Muslim Law Students (NAMLAS).

This was contained in a statement signed by the public relations officer of the association.

Rotary Club donates educational materials to public school

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

ROTARY Club has donated educational materials to a public primary, LEA Kakuri, in Kaduna south local government area as part of efforts to improve the standard of learning in the country.

The items which were donated by the rotary club of Kakuri-Kaduna, through the collaboration of Rotary Club of Alamo, California and the Rotary Foundation, include 220 school chairs and desks for the pupils, 10 chairs for the teachers, 2,000 branded note books, 700 packs of chalk and 100 dusters among others.

President of the club, Reverend Sati Edward advocated for attitudinal change towards public schools, adding that "I was one of those that

had written off public schools in Nigeria, but with what I have seen today, I have changed my mind. I therefore advise parents who have for long decided that their wards will not go to public schools to have a change of heart. Let's all return to the roots, our source, so that we can give our children the best. I am a product of a public school."

In his address, the state education commissioner, Alhaji Lawal Suleiman Kauru thanked the Rotary Club for supporting the state government to provide educational materials to the school.

In her response, the Head Teacher, Mrs. Gladys Okoli, commended the rotary club for the gesture and pledged that materials would be use judiciously.

Recall our colleagues, students tell Delta varsity VC

From Musliludeen Adebayo, UNI JOS

THE National Association Science Technology Students (NASTEL) has called on the Vice chancellor of Delta State University Abraka Professor Eric Arubaye to recall all the science students that were indefinitely suspended by the university over a protest they staged in March this year.

The Institute of Science Laboratory Technology (ISLT) of Delta State University had on March 31, 2010 suspended over 5,000 for allegedly staging a protest over irregularities in their programme.

The call was made by the president of the association Comrade Ubah Dominic Babah after a meeting of the National Executive Council (NEC) of the association held at the Faculty of Natural Sciences of the University of Jos.

He said the call was necessary in order to ensure that the suspended students are allowed to join their counterparts and resume academic activities without further delay since the university has not been to establish any concrete case against them.

He said the inability of the institution to address some major issues that affect the students such as participation in the one year compulsory National Service (NYSC) and accreditation of the programme, among others, was responsible for the crisis.

Babah also called on the Minister of Education Professor Ruqayya Rufai, the Governor Emmanuel Uduagan of Delta State and other stakeholders to prevail on the management of the university to recall the students since no case has been established against them.



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 0805-213-4024, 0803-919-4187.

ABUJA: 10am to 4pm
Monday, 31-05-2010
 British Council Abuja; Plot 3645, IBB Way Maitama, Abuja. 0702-850-6485, 0813-945-4056.

For more details: **CEC HEAD OFFICE**
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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

UPPER BENUE RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (UBRBDA), YOLA

MBAMBA-FUFORE ROAD, P.M.B. 2086, YOLA, ADAMAWA STATE, Email: upperbenue@yahoo.com

INVITATION FOR TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL BIDS FOR PROJECTS UNDER 2010 CAPITAL APPROPRIATION.

1.0. The Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority (U.B.R.B.D.A) is drawings funds from the Federal Government of Nigeria 2010 budget and intends to deploy them towards the procurement of Works, Goods and Services and therefore invites submissions for Technical and Financial Bids from qualified and reputable Contractors and Consultancy Firms with proven competence in the fields of Engineering.

A. CORE PROJECTS

LOT	PROJECT	SCOPE OF WORKS	TENDER PRICE
1	KIRI DAM AND IRRIGATION- ADAMAWA STATE	-Reconstruction Of Canal Shoulders In the Unlined Portion Of Supply Canal -Refilling Of Dam Embankment -Upstream Rip-Rap -Supply And Installation Of IRKVA CAT Generator and service elements	75,000.00
2	YOLA IRRIGATION ADAMAWA STATE	-Conversion of existing scheme to minor Irrigation Scheme -Procurement Of Service Elements	75,000.00
3	LOWER TARABA IRRIGATION- TARARA STATE	-Rehabilitation Of Flood Protection Bund At Gassol -Rehabilitation Of Irrigation Infrastructure and machinery at Rantaje Irrigation Project -River training works at Gassol	75,000.00
4	WAYA DAM AND IRRIGATION- HAUCHI STATE	-Expansion Of Additional 51A Irrigation Field -Completion of up grading of Spillway	75,000.00
5	HEADQUARTERS INFRASTRUCTURE- ADAMAWA STATE	-Office Rehabilitation And Furnishing -Rehabilitation of Stores -Rehabilitation Of Headquarters Water Supply Reticulation Network -Staff Quarters Rehabilitation -Resurfacing Of Access Road -Rehabilitation Of Guest Houses -Rehabilitation Of Primary/Secondary Schools -Installation Of Solar Power In Office Premises -ICT installation -Continuation of Block wall fencing	250,000.00
6	CONSTRUCTION OF GASHALA DAM- ADAMAWA STATE	-Completion of Dam Construction -Development Of 15HA Irrigation -Construction Of Solar Powered Boreholes	150,000.00
CONSTITUENCY PROJECTS SPONSORED BY MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY			
7	MOTORIZED / SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES 9 NO. MOTORIZED SOLAR BOREHOLES IN (1) MAYO - INE IN FUFURE LGA, (2) TAMBO JIMO IN GIREI LGA, (3) YANG AND BODA DINGAI IN GOMBI LGA (4) MULENG AND (5) MAMBURSO IN SONG LGA (6) KAREWA AND (7) LUGGERE IN YOLA NORTH LGA (8) SHAGARI ESTATE IN YOLA SOUTH LGA- ADAMAWA STATE	Drilling Boreholes And Installation Of Solar Panels And Construction Of Overhead Tanks	150,000.00
8	MORTISED SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLE IN JAMBU TU NEW LAYOUT JAMBU TU WARD IN YOLA NORTH LGA - ADAMAWA STATE	"	75,000.00
9	MOTORIZED SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLE IN BACHURE VILLAGE YOLA NORTH LGA - ADAMAWA STATE	"	75,000.00
10	5 SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES AT MARARRABA KOLA, PUKOKAYA, CHIKILA, HIRISINSIN, SALBU IN GUYUK LGA - ADAMAWA STATE	"	75,000.00
11	5 SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES AT KIRI, AWA, KUMBILAM, KETEMBERE, BAKTA IN SHELENG LGA- ADAMAWA STATE	"	75,000.00
12	10 SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES AT D'DIF (DIGIL), BETSO, SHUWARI HAYI, BAHULI IN MUBI NORTH, GELLA-SOGGA, MUJARA, NDUKU IN MUBI SOUTH; DAMBAJAM TOWN, MAIHA TOWN, HUMBTUDI IN MAIHA LGA. - ADAMAWA STATE	Drilling Boreholes And Installation Of Solar Panels And Construction Of Overhead Tanks	150,000.00
13	10 SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES AT WAYAKU, SOUTH GARKIDA PRI. SCH., GDS - NORTH GARKIDA, TASHA - MARGI-G/SOUTH, KWANAR YAYI - TAWA WARD, SAMUEL BIRNI/ SARKIN BAKA, AGWAN PUSSI QUARTERS, GARAH VILLAGE, GUW-BILDA WARD, GABUN TOWN GABUN/WARD ALL IN GOMBI & HONG LGAs OF ADAMAWA STATE	"	150,000.00
14	10 SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES AT KOJITI- PALLAM WARD, MILDO - SS VAPRA WARD, KIRCHINGA, ANGUWAN IJARA- MADAGALI WARD, MATERNITY TUDUN WADAN BAZZA, TUMBARANGALI, TSUKUNU/TILLO, VBOKA, KANIRE, MADZI - ADAMAWA STATE	"	150,000.00
15	10 SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES AT BACHURE - KAREWA WARD, DOUBELLI WARD, LUGGERE, NASARAWA IN YOLA NORTH; VOLDE KOHI, TOUNGO, BOLE, MAKAMA 'A' WARD, MAKAMA 'B' WARD, BAKO WARD IN YOLA SOUTH - ADAMAWA STATE	"	150,000.00
16	10 SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES AT SALTI, BOLKI, MBARE (NUMAN LGA), KODOMUN, MBALI, DAKANTA (DEMSA LGA), SUWA, REGANCE, WADUKU, LAFIYA (LAMURDE LGA)- ADAMAWA STATE	"	150,000.00
17	10 SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES AT WAMGO KOPA, RIBADU (JDS), MUNINGA, KABILLO, FURO, YADIM, FARANG, SONG GARI, SUKTU, DIRMA - ADAMAWA STATE	"	150,000.00
18	7 SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES AT KAJOLI, POLA, KOMA (JADA LGA), YELWA, GURUM NONGMAN (GANYE LGA), GOROH, JERENG (MAYO BELWA) - ADAMAWA STATE	"	150,000.00
19	2 MOTORIZED BOREHOLES AT GENERAL HOSPITAL IALASEE AND MAI TANG ILE PALACE BILLIRI - GOMBE STATE	"	75,000.00
20	2 NOS. MOTORIZED SOLAR BOREHOLES AT KWAMI AND FUNAKAYE LGAs - GOMBE STATE	"	75,000.00
21	3 MOTORIZED SOLAR BOREHOLES AND MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEME AT ZAMBUK, YAMALTU DEBA - GOMBE STATE	-Drilling Boreholes And Installation of Solar Panels -Construction of Overhead Tanks -Drilling and Installation of Tube Wells	150,000.00
22	2 MOTORIZED BOREHOLES AT KURI, YAMALTU DEBA LGA - GOMBE STATE	-Drilling Boreholes and Installation of Solar Panels -Construction of Overhead Tanks	150,000.00
23	2 MOTORIZED BOREHOLES AT DASA, YAMALTU DEBA 1 MOTORIZED BOREHOLES AT LANGO, YAMALTU DEBA LGA - GOMBE STATE - GOMBE STATE	"	250,000.00
24	PROVISION OF MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT JALINGO - AKKO, AKKO LGA - GOMBE STATE	"	250,000.00
25	PROVISION OF MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT VELWAN PINDIGA, AKKO LGA - GOMBE STATE	"	250,000.00
26	PROVISION OF MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT HAYINI KWARI BCGA, AKKO LGA, GOMBE STATE	"	250,000.00
27	PROVISION OF MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT KALSHINGI AKKO LGA - GOMBE STATE	"	250,000.00
28	PROVISION OF MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT KIDDA AKKO LGA - GOMBE STATE	"	250,000.00
29	PROVISION OF MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT KALTANGA GONA, AKKO LGA - GOMBE STATE	"	250,000.00
30	PROVISION OF MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT CHILOABORE AKKO LGA - GOMBE STATE	"	250,000.00
31	15 SOLAR POWERED BOREHOLES IN BAJOGA WEST, BAJOGA EAST, BEGE WARD, MALLERI, JURARA, DABAN FULANI, WAKKALTI, TULDE, TONGO, KUPTO, RIBADU, ATC GOMBE, KASUWAN MATA GOMBE, UNGUWAR YOBE BAJOGA, DOHO, DUKUL, SAANGARU, JALINGO, DOKARI AND MAANI - GOMBE STATE	"	250,000.00
32	CONSTRUCTION OF HAND PUMP WELLS AT NYUWAR - BALANGA, JESSU-BALANGA BAMBAM-BALANGA, CHAM-BALANGA, BAGANJE NORTH-BILLIRI, LASANI-BILLIRI, LAUSHI DAI-BILLIRI - GOMBE STATE	"	75,000.00
33	2 NOS. MOTORIZED BOREHOLES AT PANTISAWA, LAMMA - ZING LGA - TARABA STATE	"	75,000.00
34	MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT OLD MURI PALACE - TARABA STATE	"	75,000.00
35	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO. MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT M.G.S.S. TAKUM LGA, TARABA STATE	"	75,000.00
36	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO. MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT ARUPU WUKARI LGA, TARABA STATE	"	75,000.00
37	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO. MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT NYITA DONGA LGA, TARABA STATE	"	75,000.00
38	CONSTRUCTION OF 1 NO. MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT SARKIN KUDU IBI LGA, TARABA STATE	"	75,000.00

D	HAND PUMP BOREHOLES		
26	CONSTRUCTION OF HAND PUMPS BOREHOLES IN MAIHA LGA, MUBI LGA, MUBI NORTH LGA, MICHIKA LGA AND MADAGALI LGA - ADAMAWA STATE		250,000.00
27	HAND PUMP BOREHOLE IN SANGALA VILLAGE NAMTARI YOLA NORTH LGA LGA - ADAMAWA STATE		30,000.00
	HAND PUMP BOREHOLE AT IMAN MALIK ISLAMIC EDUCATION CENTRE DOUBELLI / NASSARAWO YOLA NORTH LGA - ADAMAWA STATE		
	HAND PUMP BOREHOLE IN SANGALA VILLAGE NAMTARI YOLA NORTH LGA LGA - ADAMAWA STATE		
	HAND PUMP BOREHOLE AT JERA BAKARI VILLAGE GIREI LGA LGA - ADAMAWA STATE		
	HAND PUMP BOREHOLE AT JERA BONYO GIREI LGA LGA - ADAMAWA STATE		
	HAND PUMP BOREHOLE AT WURO DOLE VILLAGE GIREI LGA LGA - ADAMAWA STATE		
	HAND PUMP BOREHOLE AT LAKARE VILLAGE BOLE YOLDE FATE YOLA SOUTH LGA LGA - ADAMAWA STATE		
	HAND PUMP BOREHOLE AT HOLE 2 YOLA SOUTH LGA LGA - ADAMAWA STATE		
E	SMALL AND MEDIUM EARTH DAMS		
28	EARTH DAM AT TOUNGO - ADAMAWA STATE	Construction of Dam Embankment and Appurtenant Structures	75,000.00
29	DAMARE WARD (EARTH DAM) GIREI LGA - ADAMAWA STATE	Construction of Dam Embankment and Appurtenant Structures	75,000.00
30	DIRUM MEDIUM DAM - TOUNGO LGA, ADAMAWA STATE	Construction of Dam Embankment and Appurtenant Structures	150,000.00
31	CONSTRUCTION OF EARTH DAM OVER RIVULET DAUCHI AT MAMBURSO, SONG LGA AND AT GUDU/MBOI AREA SONG LGA - ADAMAWA STATE	Construction of Dam Embankment and Appurtenant Structures	150,000.00
32	CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION SCHEME AT PINDIGA, AKKO LGA - GOMBE STATE	Development Of Irrigation Infrastructure	50,000.00
33	CONSTRUCTION OF EARTH DAM AND SMALL SCALE IRRIGATION SCHEME AT KUMO, AKKO LGA - GOMBE STATE	Construction of Dam Embankment and Appurtenant Structures, Development Of Irrigation Infrastructure	150,000.00
34	EARTH DAM IRRIGATION SCHEME AT DUKKU, DUKKU LGA - GOMBE STATE	Construction of Dam Embankment and Appurtenant Structures, Development Of Irrigation Infrastructure	150,000.00
35	EARTH DAM AND IRRIGATION SCHEME AT KWAMI LANG TOWN, YAMALTU DEBA LGA - GOMBE STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures, Development Of Irrigation Infrastructure	150,000.00
36	EARTH DAM AND IRRIGATION SCHEME AT BOJIDE, KWAMI LGA - GOMBE STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures, Development Of Irrigation Infrastructure	150,000.00
37	EARTH DAM AND IRRIGATION SCHEME AT TONGO, FUNAKAYE LGA - GOMBE STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures, Development Of Irrigation Infrastructure	50,000.00
38	CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL EARTH DAM AND MOTORIZED BOREHOLE AT BAJOGA - GOMBE STATE	Dam Embankment And Spillway Construction, Drilling Of Borehole, Installation Of Overhead Tank And Solar Panels	200,000.00
39	KULANI/GURMA (BALANGA) EARTH DAM - GOMBE STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures	150,000.00
40	TINDI-TALASSE (BALANGA) EARTH DAM - GOMBE STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures	150,000.00
41	KALMAI-BAGANJE (BILLIRI) EARTH DAM - GOMBE STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures	150,000.00
42	MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEME AT HINNA, YAMALTU DEBA LGA - GOMBE STATE	Drilling Of Tubes Wells And Procurement Of 3" Pumps	75,000.00
	MINOR IRRIGATION SCHEME AT KWADON, YAMALTU DEBA LGA - GOMBE STATE	Drilling Of Tubes Wells And Procurement Of 3" Pumps	50,000.00
43	EARTH DAM AT WEDU - KOLE DUKKU LGA - GOMBE STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures	50,000.00
44	CONSTRUCTION OF EARTH DAM AT WURE - GOMBE STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures	75,000.00
45	REHABILITATION OF CHAM DAM - GOMBE STATE	Consultancy services for studies and Design	50,000.00
46	SMALL EARTH DAM IN MURI, KARIM LAMIDO LGA, TARABA STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures	75,000.00
46	CONSTRUCTION OF EARTH DAM AT WURO LACHA KARIN LAMIDO LGA - TARABA STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures	75,000.00
47	CONSTRUCTION OF EARTH DAM AT OLD MURI LGA TARABA STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures	150,000.00
F	WATER SUPPLY SCHEMES		
48	EXTENSION OF WATER SUPPLY PROJECT AND RETICULATION TO KONKOL AND SORAU - ADAMAWA STATE	Installation of Package Treatment Plant, construction of ground and over head tanks, Laying of Pipeline And Reticulation Network And Associate Electro Mechanical Works	400,000.00
49	DUKKU WATER SUPPLY - GOMBE STATE	Rehabilitation of Existing Schemes and Provision of Additional Boreholes and Reticulation network	150,000.00
50	WATER SCHEME AT KALTUNGO/SHONGOM LGAs - GOMBE STATE	Construction Of Solar Power Boreholes With Overhead Storage Tanks	75,000.00

51	COMPLETION OF TOWNSHIP WATER SUPPLY SCHEME AT BILLIRI, BILLIRI LGA - GOMBE STATE	Drilling Of Solar Powered Boreholes, Construction Of Ground /Elevated Tanks, Reticulation Network And Associate Electro Mechanical Works	350,000.00
52	COMPLETION OF NAFADA TOWNSHIP WATER SCHEME - GOMBE STATE	Construction Of Infiltration Gallery, Installation Of Package Treatment Plant Construction Of Service Building, Extension Of Reticulation Network, Fencing Of Facility Area And Associate Electro Mechanical Works	400,000.00
53	NAFADA WATER AND IRRIGATION PROJECTS - GOMBE STATE	Construction Of Dam Embankment And Appurtenant Structures, And Development Of Irrigation Infrastructure	500,000.00
54	REHABILITATION OF KALTUNGO WATER PROJECT IN GOMBE STATE	Rehabilitation Of Existing Schemes And Provision Of Additional Boreholes And Reticulation network	250,000.00
55	YARIMA - GASSOL - TARABA STATE	Clearing of Access Road, Filling of Road Way, Construction of Drains	250,000.00

- C. Consultancy Services for :
 i. Study and Design of Cham Dam and Irrigation - Gombe State
 ii. Supervision for Construction of Yerima - Gassol Road Project, Taraba
 iii. Supervision for completion of Construction of Kaltungo Earth Dam, Gombe State
 iv. Study and Design of a Medium Scale Earth Dam and Irrigation Scheme at Pindiga - Gombe State

2.0 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Evidence of Incorporation of the Company with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) including Articles and Memorandum of Association of the Company and up to date Annual Returns with the CAC (Form 02 & Form C07 to be included).

A. The company must show evidence of fulfilling its Tax obligations as follows:

(i) Current Tax Clearance Certificate (TCC) for the last three (3) years supplied with Tax Identification Number (TIN).

(ii) VAT Certificate with TIN

B. Pension and Social Security Contributions

C. A Sworn Affidavit certifying as follows:

- (i) The Company is not in receivership, insolvency or bankruptcy
- (ii) The Company does not have any Director who has been convicted in any Court in Nigeria and any other country for criminal offence in relation to fraud or financial impropriety.
- (iii) That no officer of the Authority or BPP is a former or present Director or Shareholder of the Company.
- (iv) That there has been no promise of a gift in any form to any of the Authority's or BPP staff.

D. Audited Account of the Bidding Company for the last three (3) years duly endorsed by a firm of Chartered Accountants.

E. Letter authorising the Authority and her Representative(s) to conduct due diligence on all the documents submitted by the company;

F. Evidence of work experience as the main contractor executing or having executed a minimum of five (5) projects of similar complexity, compared to the proposed work, one of which must have been within the last 5 years. Copies of award letters, last Interim Certificate of Valuation for on-going project, Completion Certificate and Final Maintenance Certificates where applicable are to be enclosed.

G. Verifiable list of major construction equipment and facilities including registration number, chassis number, location (where they can be inspected) and remarks on whether these are owned, leased or hired. The minimum number of equipment required, where applicable are as listed below:-

- (i) Bulldozer (2No.)
- (ii) Grader (1No.)
- (iii) Excavator (1No.)
- (iv) Water tanker (1No.)
- (v) Concrete mixers (2No.)
- (vi) Sheep-foot Compactor (1No)
- (vii) Pay loader (1No.)
- (viii) Dumpers (2No.)
- (ix) Tippers (3No. - 10 - 20 tonnes)
- (x) Drilling Rig (2No.)
- (xi) Compressor (2No.)
- (xii) Crane
- (xiii) A functional and well equipped materials testing laboratory.

H. List of key technical personnel stating their roles, designation, qualifications and years of experience with the guarantee that a minimum number of relevant COREN Registered Engineers of various disciplines as may be required will be deployed to the project. Copies of educational and professional certificates are to be attached.

I. History of company's policy on community social responsibility. Non compliance will lead to disqualification.

- Notes:**
- Items A-G are eligibility requirements and their originals must be produced by the company for sighting during the Technical Bid opening session.
 - All claims must be substantiated with verifiable facts.
 - Photocopies of professional certificates are to be initialled, endorsed by the owner and professional seals embossed on the professional certificates.

3.0 COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Qualified companies shall on application collect (Standard Bidding Documents Technical and Financial), from Wednesday 2nd June, 2010 from

**The Procurement Unit,
Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority,
Mbamba Fufore Road, P.M.B.2086, Yola,
Adamawa State.**

Upon the presentation of evidence of payment of non-refundable Tender Fee for the lot (s) as indicated above into the UBRBDA's Account as follows:

Account Name: Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority Revenue Account
 Account Number: 125-000-1076
 Sort code: 082040680
 Bank: Bank PHB, Yola

4. SUBMISSION OF BIDS.

Completed Technical and Financial bids (Two sets of hard copy and One Electronic copy in compact disk and Microsoft Word or Excel) shall be submitted in two different sealed envelopes and labeled "Technical Bid" and "Financial Bid" and both sealed in a third envelope marked "Project Name" at the top right hand corner and on the reverse side, the Bidders name and address including day time telephone number.

The Financial Bid should be accompanied with the relevant Bid Security which should be at least 2% of the financial tender and should also be enclosed in the same envelope as Financial Bid and addressed to:

**The Managing Director,
Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority (UBRBDA),
Mbamba Fufore Road, P.M.B.2086, Yola,
Adamawa State.**

To reach him on or before 10am, Thursday 1st July, 2010. Technical bids will be opened same day at 12.00 noon at the Conference Hall of Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority (UBRBDA), Mbamba Fufore Road, P.M.B.2086, Yola, Adamawa State.

Further Notes:

- Only firms whose Technical Bids fulfil the minimum requirements would have their Financial Bids considered while others may know their performance by a formal request to the MD/CEO of U.B.R.B.D.A, Yola.
- Interested companies are responsible for the registration, timely and safe submission of their documents, means of delivery notwithstanding.
- The Authority shall carry out Due Diligence on the companies to verify claims included in their submissions.

5.0 ENQUIRIES:

All enquiries on this advertisement are to be directed to:

**The Managing Director,
Upper Benue River Basin Development Authority,
Mbamba Fufore Road, P.M.B.2086, Yola,
Adamawa State.**

(Signed)
 Engr Peter Y. Manjok.
 Ag. Executive Director (Operations)
 For Managing Director

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Robbers kill bus driver along Abuja-Lokoja road

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

A driver of a luxury bus belonging to Ifesinach Transport Company, Ikechukwu Eze Obe-rah, was yesterday morning shot dead by suspected armed robbers at Anini village, near Kwali, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

Eye witnesses said the suspects numbering 13, armed themselves with sophisticated weapons and blocked the road with heavy logs of wood.

A witness said passengers

of the bus with registration number XG 462 LSD, were disposed of their valuables after the driver was shot on steering.

One of the victims said they were coming from Lagos, when after Kwaita village, the bus driver ran into heavy logs of woods placed across the road and tried to reverse but was hit by bullets fired by the robbers.

He said the driver was shot on his chest, which made him lose control of his vehicle and drive into a bush.

"At first we thought the driver

slept off and drove into the bush until we started hearing gun shots and saw the robbers pounce on us to collect money, valuables as well as handsets," another passenger lamented.

Our reporter learnt that a female passenger caught inside the bus was raped, while other females fled into the bush.

The corpse of the driver was later taken to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue by Yangoji road safety officials.

When contacted, the Kwali

Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Mr. Usman Umar, said he is not aware of the robbery incident at first and thought it was an accident.

"I thought it was the usual accidents that occur on that road until when FRSC officials told me it was a robbery attack and we are discussing the issue with the police commander in order to plan ways of laying ambush for the fleeing robbers," he said.

In another development, one person sustained serious injuries in a motor accident that

occurred on Tuesday evening at Gada-Biyu village, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

An eyewitness said the accident happened when a Toyota Jeep without number plate lost control and crashed into the bush, injuring one person seriously.

Yangoji unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Abdullahi Umar, attributed the accident cause to speed violation, saying the victim has been taken to Kwali General Hospital.

Kwali council to fund education with 60% of budget

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE chairman of Kwali Area Council, Mr. Joseph Shazin, Monday disclosed that his administration would channel about sixty percent of the council's resources for the development of the council's educational sector.

Shazin, who was speaking during the inauguration of the council's legislative arm, lamented that the council's educational sector has suffered neglect in the last two years. He disclosed that about sixty percent of children especially from rural communities in the council have no access to quality education due to lack of attention in providing necessary school instructional materials for learning.

Shazin explained that the council would adopt a strategy by first introducing an educational scheme that will encourage parents/guardian, especially the less privilege ones to send their children to school.

He such strategy will involve

disbursement of scholarships, payment of children's school fees as well as providing the needed instructional materials for schools across the ten wards of the council.

"As an educationist, I have all it takes to ensure our educational sector is revamped through the provision of scholarships to our children and provision of instructional materials in all schools across the ten wards of Kwali," he stated.

The council chairman further disclosed that his administration's first priority will be to focus on the provision of electricity, adding that it is the major problem facing the council's residents for the past few years.

He noted that the absence of electricity has completely dwindled economic activities in the council and affected the council's revenue profile, lamenting that the council which was known as one of the highest revenue generation council now records low revenue due to absence of electricity.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH



CHAIRMAN of Kwali Area Council, Mr Joseph Shazin (left) with his Vice, Alhaji Usman Jiya, during the inauguration of the council's legislative arm at Kwali on Monday.

AMAC gets new speaker

Ogechl Ohalee

NEWLY sworn-in councillors in Abuja Municipal Area Council Tuesday elected Alhassan Idris Bawa, a councillor representing Jiwa ward, as speaker of the council's legislative arm.

Other executives were Nasiru Usman, councillor representing Wuse, as deputy speaker, Helen Ndago, chief whip and Egire Jezhi Auta as house leader.

The election was held

at at council's legislative chambers.

The councillors vowed to work in harmony for the progress of the council.

In his acceptance speech, Bawa vowed to carry all councillors along as well as work towards fashioning bye-laws that would stand the taste of time.

He also promised to pursue positively their statutory mandates of representations and oversight functions with the speed it deserves.

'My child's illness led me to steal'

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 34-year-old security guard with USAID Tuesday informed a magistrate that he stole a pumping machine belonging to the organisation in order to raise money to treat his child who suffers from convulsion.

Ogbu Emmanuel of Mararaba, Nasarawa State, narrated to the court how his son was rushed to the National Hospital, Abuja, as a result of convulsion.

"On getting to the hospital, I

was told to go and bring money for the treatment of the child and after all efforts to get the money failed, I decided to steal a pumping machine kept in my custody by my employer on April 24," Ogbu revealed.

Police prosecutor Adikwu Emmanuel had earlier told the court that on April 24, one Adamu Umoru of the US Embassy Diplomatic Drive arrested and brought the accused to the police station.

He also informed the court that the accused stole a pumping

machine that was kept in his custody.

"During police investigations, the said pumping machine was recovered from the custody of the accused and he thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 289 of the Penal Code," the prosecutor said.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and Chief Magistrate David Ochimana convicted the accused of the one-count charge and sentenced him to three months imprisonment or to pay N2,000 as fine.

55-yr-old jailed for trespass

By Romoke W. Ahmad & Hussein Yahaya

A 55-year-old man, Godwin Diavel, was on Monday sentenced to one year imprisonment by an Abuja magistrate court for criminal trespass and attempting to steal.

The accused, who stays at No 7 C Okpe road, Ogharefe, Delta State, was found guilty of committing offences contrary to Sections 348 and 95 of the Penal Code on May 21.

Prosecutor Philips Akogwu

told the court that on the same date, one Douglas Edebor, chief security officer of Zenith Bank, Asokoro, Abuja, arrested the accused for criminally trespassing into the bank's hall and filling a balance requisition slip with an account number with the name of Oluwusiri Kingsley.

The prosecutor said the bank's chief security officer told the police at Asokoro Police Station that the accused forged the account owner's signature with intent to make a transaction, adding that during police investiga-

tion the accused confessed to the crime.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and blamed his act on the devil.

The prosecutor urged the court to try the accused summarily based on his confession and Chief Magistrate Ahmed Shuaib sentenced him to six months imprisonment or to pay N3,000 as fine for criminal trespass and another six months or fine of N2,000 for attempt to commit an offence. "The sentence will serve concurrently," the magistrate ruled.

Chief of Jikwoyi calls for NGOs support

By Ben Atonko

ONE of the local chiefs in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the Esu of Jikwoyi, Rev Bawa Jetta has called on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) willing to help his community not to drag their feet.

The Esu who spoke when the Chief Executive Officer of a Port Harcourt-based NGO, Tanumo Brasua Development Initiative, Mrs Dein Akpanah, who was on a visit to Jikwoyi last Friday said Jikwoyi has numerous needs and would not continue to wait for government to provide them.

The traditional ruler thanked Tanumo Brasua Development Initiative for constructing an antenatal hall for the Jikwoyi Primary

Health Centre. "She commissioned that project and people are happily using it. Even when it is raining, there is shelter," he stated.

He said before the provision of the hall, many who visited the centre hardly found a place to sit, thereby being at the mercy of the elements.

The Esu enumerated Jikwoyi's critical needs as lack of health facilities, adding that many suffer before they can get to Asokoro Hospital and other medical centres for treatment.

He listed bad roads, water and electricity as other problems confronting the community.

Responding, Mrs Akpanah said the organisation will start from somewhere in assisting the community.

Bus drivers accuse police of extortion

By Gladys Ogechi Nworqu

COMMERCIAL bus drivers in Abuja Tuesday complained of undue harassment and extortion by policemen on Wuse and Berger routes.

Emeka, one of the drivers, said the policemen catch them when they drop or pick passengers along Wuse-Berger route.

He said after the arrest, the driver is told his offence and normally settles the policemen to be released.

"What surprises commercial drivers is that the police keep saying there is no bus stop in Abuja whenever they arrested us," he lamented.

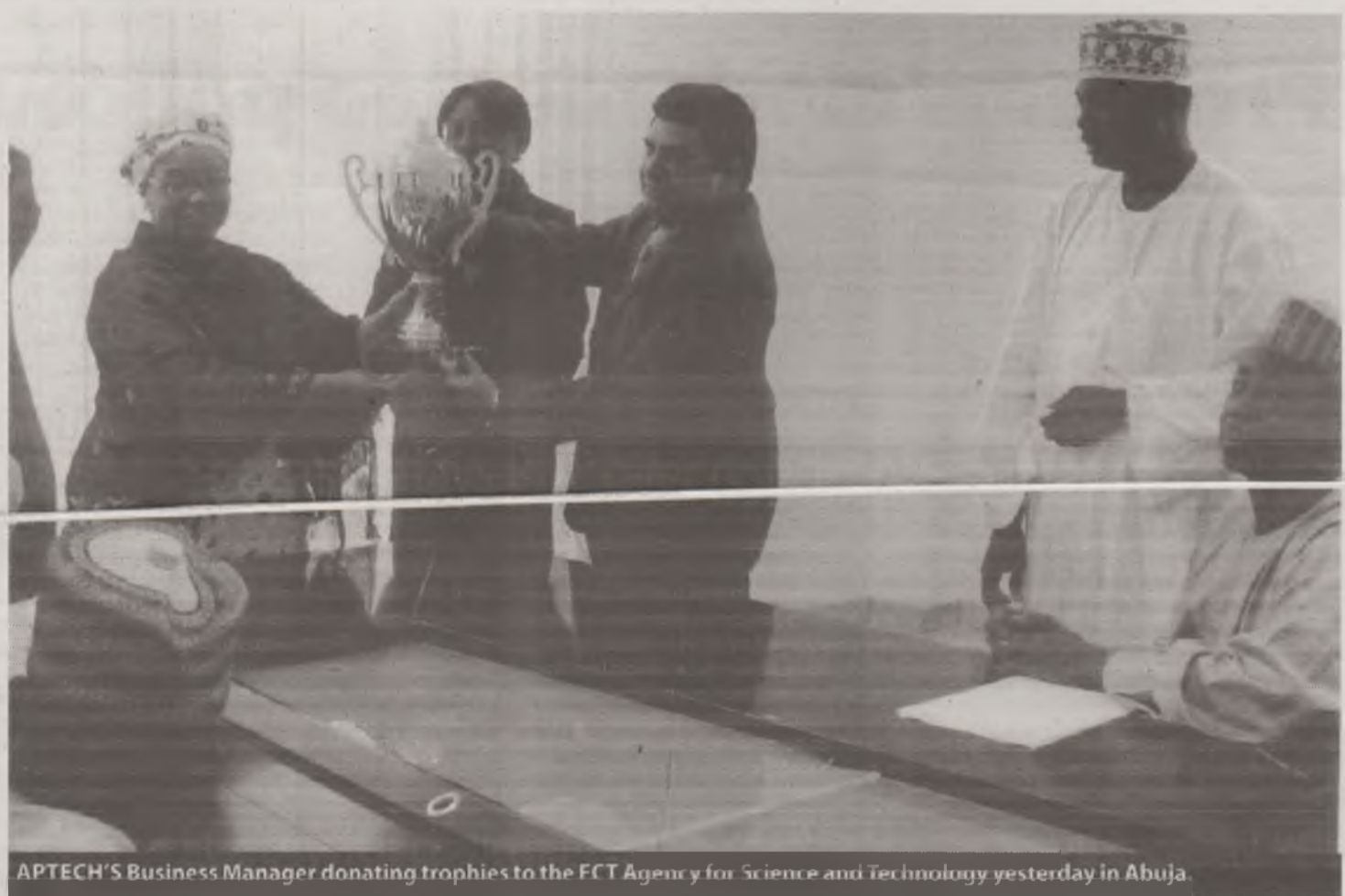
Another driver, Joshua Obi said some policemen in mufti stand as commuters at bus stop and as soon as a bus parks to drop or pick passengers, they enter the vehicle to effect the arrest of the driver.

"We are only out to make a living so that we can take care of our family and hope they soften their arrest method," he said.

Chinedum Nwachukwu accused the police of discriminatory arrest and wondered why they don't arrest drivers of el-Rufai buses (Abuja urban transport buses).

Responding, FCT Police Spokesman, Jimoh Moshood, said those collecting money from commercial drivers are fake policemen impersonating the police force.

He said three persons who impersonated the police were arrested on Monday and called who commercial drivers to insist on going to the police station with such police officers whenever they were arrested.



APTECH'S Business Manager donating trophies to the FCT Agency for Science and Technology yesterday in Abuja.

APTECH donates trophies to FCT agency

By Ogechi Ohalee

APTECH Computer Education, Abuja, has donated four trophies to the FCT Agency for Science and Technology for entrepreneurship development as well as science pro-

motions in FCT secondary schools.

The trophies were presented to the agency by Mr Vijay Kumar, APTECH's business manager, who said the company is interested in encouraging FCT students and youths in the area of skills acqui-

sition. He also hoped for a fruitful relationship between the agency and APTECH.

Responding, Director of FCT Agency for Science and Technology, Hajia Fatima Baba Ari, thanked the company for the ges-

ture and living up to their corporate responsibility.

Hajia Ari however reiterated the agency's resolve to partner with APTECH in other areas apart from entrepreneur development and promotion.

Two jailed 70 days for shop breaking

By Romoke W. Ahmad

AN Abuja magistrate court Monday jailed two persons for 70 days each for the offences of joint act, shop breaking and theft.

Ibrahim Yahaya, 20, Musa Ali, 23, was found guilty of acting con-

trary to Sections 79, 287 and 347 of the Penal Code.

Prosecutor Jerry Tangshak said the accused persons committed the offences on May 14, adding that on the said date, one Isa Muhammed of Pape village, Nyanya, reported the incident at Nyanya Police Station.

He said the complainant told the police that the accused persons jointly broke into his shop at Nyanya market and stole items.

"They stole 35 necklaces, 20 wrist watches, 20 bangles, 15 cartons of powders, all valued at N500,000 and confessed to the crime after the items were recov-

ered by the police," the prosecutor disclosed.

Both accused persons pleaded guilty when the charges were read to them and Magistrate Ahmed Ilelah, who noted they were first offenders, sentenced them to 70 days imprisonment each or to pay N3,000 each as fines.

3 women jailed for theft

By Bunmi Omolehin

AN Abuja Upper Area Court yesterday sentenced three women to two months imprisonment each for stealing money.

Onyechi Obasi, 15, Chizoba Nnorom, 37, and Chinyere Agwaza, 19, all from Imo State, were accused of stealing money at Garki Model market.

Prosecutor Ambi Auyuba informed the court that one Rose Emmanuel of Lugbe reported to the police that she went to Garki Model market with the sum of N274,000 to buy rice and kept the money inside her bag.

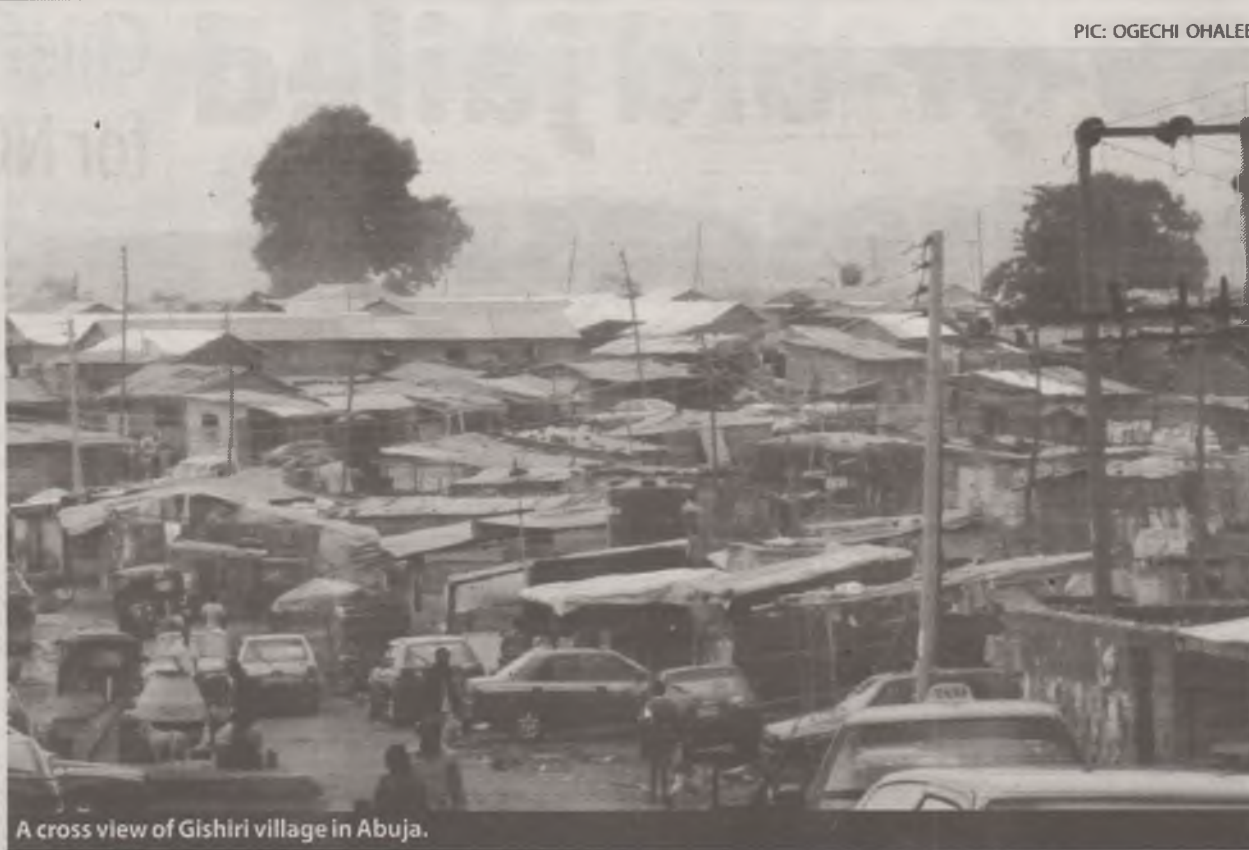
"As the complainant

stood up to check the rice types, the accused persons had opened her bag and stolen N224,000.

He said during police investigation, the money was recovered from the accused persons and they committed offences punishable under Section 79 and 287 of the Penal Code.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they pleaded guilty and begged the court for leniency.

Prosecutor urged the court to try them summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure and Judge Umar Yusuf Kagarko sentenced them to two months imprisonment each or to pay N2000 each as fines.



A cross view of Gishiri village in Abuja.

PIC: OGECHI OHALEE

'Problems made me slap policewoman'

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A middle-aged man, Donatus Nwoye, yesterday pleaded with an Abuja magistrate court to have mercy on him for slapping a traffic policewoman.

He told the court that he lost his mind after receiving news on his father's death, a few minutes after the traffic warden stopped him for a traffic violation. Police prosecutor Emmanuel Adikwu had earlier told the court that on May

24, a police patrol team attached to B.P.E. junction, arrested and brought the accused to the police station after he slapped one Sixtus Okpa, a traffic warden.


According to the prosecutor, the slap deterred the police-

woman from discharging her lawful duty and the accused committed an offence punishable under Section 267 of the Penal Code.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and Magistrate Ann Akobi informed

him that his father's death was not enough justification to beat a law enforcement officer on duty.

The magistrate convicted the accused and sentenced him to one year imprisonment or to pay N2,000 as fine.


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Time: 09:00am - 5:00pm Daily

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You are to come along with the original of the following documents:

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- ii. Letter of Transfer from other Organization (If any)
- iii. Letter of Conversion (If any)
- iv. Letter of Retirement / Disengagement
- v. 2 recent passport photograph
- vi. Certificate of Service
- vii. Pensioners I. D. Card


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Salesman charged with misappropriation

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police Tuesday arraigned a salesman before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly misappropriating N.3 million belonging to the company that employed him.

Jude Lordye of Aso Mararaba, Nasarawa State, was accused of failing to account for money made from the daily sales of the company's products.

Police prosecutor Yilkudi Dungji stated in

court that on May 23, one

Ephraim Longba of NDN Nigeria Limited, Nyanya, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused misappropriated N397,398 belonging to the company.

"The accused could not account for N397,398 and when questioned by the company's staff, gave some crafty explanations," the prosecutor said.

He also stated that during police investigations, the accused could not give an account of what happened to the money.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied it and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Josephine Obannor granted the accused bail in the sum of N30,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the jurisdiction of the court and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to June 17 for hearing.

Ex-soldier in court over forged certificate

By Usman A. Bello

A 63-year-old ex-soldier, Emmanuel Haanogur was on Monday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged forgery and theft, offences contrary to Sections 364 and 287 of the Penal Code.

The accused who hails from Benue State was accused of forging a military discharged certificate and using it to collect monthly pensions.

Police prosecutor Adamu Abdul-lahi told the court that on May 5, one Emmanuel Mbah of the Military Pension Board arrested the accused with a military number Ex-63NA/453 and a forged discharged certificate.

He said the accused connived with one Gabriel Ka'anjo, who is at large and forged

an Army discharge certificate, which he dishonestly used to earn monthly pensions from December 2007 to April 2010, adding that he defrauded the board of N1, 256,151.66k.

"The accused only served the Nigeria Army for 13 years and was officially discharged as a private soldier, who is not qualified for monthly pensions," the prosecutor said.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was not objected to.

Magistrate Azubike Okeagu granted him bail in the sum of N100,000 with a surety, who must live under the court's jurisdiction with a fixed address.

The case was adjourned to June 15, for hearing.

Inside Politics

Why I fell out with Jang - Tapgun

AMBASSADOR Fidelis Tapgun is a former governor of Plateau State, former minister and former director general of the Obasanjo/Atiku campaign organization, among other things. He also coordinated the campaign for the Jonah Jang/Paulline Tallen ticket in 2007, but has since distanced himself from the administration. In this interview, he explains why he fell out with Jang and other issues. Excerpts:



FIDELIS Tapgun

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

WHAT is your assessment of President Goodluck Jonathan's administration in view of the decisions taken and appointments made so far?

So far so good, President Goodluck Jonathan is doing very well in steering the ship of the Nigerian state and I think all Nigerians should support him. Between the period late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua took ill and was flown out of the coun-

try in November 2009, and the time he was flown back and eventually died last month, so many things went wrong which raised a lot of tension in the country. But thanks to the maturity displayed by President Goodluck Jonathan; the National Assembly, civil society groups, our former heads of state and indeed all Nigerians who ensured that the country did not go up in flames.

There is much talk about zoning in the present dispensation with many saying 2011 is still the

turn of the north. Do you think differently?

This talk about zoning or no zoning should not be difficult to handle since it is purely an internal arrangement by the party. At the appropriate time, I believe the leadership of the party will sit and take a decision that will be in the overall interest of both the party and the country at large.

Some have been calling for the dissolution of PDP's NWC. what is your comment on the crisis at the national headquarters of the PDP that has prompted this call?

The constitution and the dissolution of the National Working Committee of the PDP can only be done at the national convention of the party. The issues which the PDP reform group is raising are very fundamental issues that need to be properly addressed if the PDP is to remain the largest political party in Africa. You know I was a member of the national reconciliation committee set up by the party in 2007 and headed by Dr. Alex Ekwueme. Many of the issues being raised by the reform group today are those we also identified, and we made far reaching recommendations to the party, which have not been implemented. And I honestly think that the party will do well to take a look at the issues and see how they can be adopted in the interest of everyone in the party.

In 2007, you were said to have been sent by former President Obasanjo to come home and ensure that Jang becomes governor and he did. But it now seems there is no love lost between you and him,

what happened?

Yes, I was drafted by President Obasanjo to lead Jang's campaign in 2007 and the reason was to enable PDP win Plateau State. This I did with the cooperation of all stakeholders in the state, especially those who lost out to Jang during the party primaries. But as soon as Jang won the elections and was sworn in as governor; he decided to ditch everybody including my humble self who was the director general of his campaign.

All efforts to get him to embrace people and be a father to all proved abortive. In fact, even the intervention by the former president, Obasanjo, did not help matters. So Jang an enemy to himself.

You are said to have sympathy for the Chief Emmanuel Mangni faction of the PDP before it was dissolved, why?

The truth of the matter is that I had no sympathy for any of the two factions. Before the emergence of the Emmanuel Mangni faction, I was more with the Dakum shown faction trying to broker peace among the warring factions. I was also trying to get Governor Jang to reconcile with the other stakeholders to avoid creating splinter group within the state chapter of the party. But both Jang and Dakum Shwon refused vehemently to accommodate other interests in the party. And INEC had earlier written to the national headquarters of the party stating that there were no congresses in the Plateau State and therefore the Exco headed by Dakum Shwon was illegal- this is

what gave rise to the emergence of PDP 2.

The leadership of the party at the national level tried to reconcile the two factions but all to no avail. And then that gave rise to the dissolution of the two factions and the setting up of the caretaker committee. As of today, the caretaker committee is the only recognized exco of the PDP in Plateau State.

It is being speculated that you would be contesting the governorship position in 2011, how far is this true?

That speculation will continue to remain as speculation. As of today, the caretaker committee is working towards conducting proper congress and setting up party structures in the state. Only when this is done can people have a platform on which to contest elections. So I want to use this medium to appeal to all of us politicians especially those in PDP to put all hands on deck and set up a credible party structure in the state first. After that people can then indicate their interest to contest for whatever position they desire.

You are a member of the presidential committee on Jos crises, how far has the committee gone with its assignment and what would be your suggestions for lasting peace on the Plateau?

The presidential advisory committee on the Jos crises has completed its assignment and we have made far reaching recommendations which if implemented by the state and federal government would go a long way in sorting out these perennial crises in Plateau state.

Political differences stall consensus candidate for PDP chair- Senator

DIVERSE interests among politicians of the PDP in the South East have posed a challenge to the emergence of a consensus candidate for the party's National Chairman.

Senator Annie Okonkwo (PDP-Anambra) stated this yesterday in an interview in Johannesburg, Southern Africa.

"There are lots of interests and people have different views and opinions and because of this it is difficult to produce a consensus candidate," Okonkwo said.

The PDP has been searching for a replacement of its former National Chairman, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor who resigned from the post recently.

His replacement is expected to come from the South east zone.

Okonkwo said the diverse views among PDP members in the South East was not unusual in politics adding that effort was being made to harmonise and come up with a consensus candidate.

"Today, I think the whole South East is consulting. We are looking at consulting with both the leaders and of course, the caucus members of the PDP to ensure we present a very credible chairman," the Senator said.

Okonkwo said the inability to maintain internal democracy in Anambra chapter of the PDP affected the party's fortunes but assured that it would clinch the governorship of the state in future.

Scoring the nation's democracy after 11 years of uninterrupted civil rule since 1999, Okonkwo said it was one of the "good things that have happened to the country".

"Eleven years down the line, we are just maturing and by the time we mature, I think the whole country will enjoy democracy.

"There is no rule better than democracy and I believe it is going to take some time but at the end of the day the polity will stabilise," he noted. (NAN)

Kalu: Zoning exists in PDP

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

FORMER Abia State governor Chief Orji Uzor Kalu said there is power rotation in the Peoples Democratic Party between the North and the South.

Kalu spoke yesterday to newsmen at the premises of the Federal High Court in Abuja where he is facing trial.

Asked whether the controversial zoning should be followed, he said that it is not for him to tell since he is no longer in the PDP.

However, he stressed that he was a pioneer member of the PDP before he left for the Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA), where he

currently serves as the Chairman Board of Trustee.

Asked whether the controversial zoning should be followed, he said that it is not for him to tell since he is no longer in the PDP.

Inside Politics

2011: Tinubu canvasses for fresh voters' register

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

FORMER governor of Lagos State Asiwaju Bola Tinubu said he and other 'well meaning' Nigerians have been working on a plan to launch a campaign for new voters' register to be used for the 2011 general elections.

Tinubu told *Daily Trust* on phone that the current voters' register with the Independent National

Electoral Commission (INEC) should be jettisoned because it lacks integrity.

While calling for a fresh voters' register, the former governor said the international community should be invited to see what we are doing. "We have to register again," he said.

He said if the federal government is honest, the new registration would be conducted across the country in good time without affecting the

handover date of May 29, 2011.

Tinubu denied media report that he and others are canvassing for President Goodluck Jonathan to have extra four months in office next year before handing over to the next government in order to give him enough time to produce 'a credible voters' register' for the 2011 elections.

The report said Tinubu and some 'leading lights in the intel-

ligentsia, the political class and civil society organisations like the National Democratic Movement (NDM) and the Coalition for Democratic Reform (CODER)' had conceded to an extension of the handing over date from May 29 to October 1 to enable the Jonathan administration 'to produce an authentic register and conduct a free and fair election.'

But the former governor said: "No, that's not correct; I'm not canvassing for a change in date. What we are doing has nothing to do with the change of [handing over] date. We can change the date of election but not handing over date. I'm not national assembly."

He said he is only concerned with the integrity of the voters' register, which is the data base for the coming election.

Ekweremadu denies rift with Jonathan

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

DEPUTY Senate President Ike Ekweremadu has denied reports of disagreement between him and President Goodluck Jonathan over appointment of National Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

A statement by the Special Adviser on Media to the DSP, Mr. Paul Odenyi, said the South East caucus of the party is only working with other stakeholders to present a candidate that will reflect the true character and strength of the party.

Ekweremadu said: "I have no disagreement with the Presidency over anything, not least the choice of who will be the chairman of our party. Instead, we are working closely together on the process to choose someone who will reflect the character and strength of the party across the country.

"I am proud of the quality of people that have shown interest in the race. They are very credible people and those that have paid their dues. They are all my brothers and I have no reason to oppose the choice of any of them. We are working with all the stakeholders including our members at the Presidency to conclude the process of selection of a new party chairman.

"The office of the National Chairman of the ruling party is very important and I am sure that all the effort invested in the process will be justified by the person who will be presented to our members."

PPA to form alliance for 2011 polls

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

PROGRESSIVE Peoples Alliance (PPA) will soon start discussion with progressive political parties in order to form alliance ahead of 2011 general elections, National Secretary of the party Dahiru Musa Abdullahi has said.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* yesterday in Abuja, Abdullahi said even in developed democracies alliance is a common feature in politics. He however said that PPA will not dissolve its structures and organisation in the course of any alliance.

Although he didn't mention the parties in the agreement, *Daily Trust* learnt that the development comes at a time when Action Congress (AC), Democratic Parties (DPP) and the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) are crying for strong opposition ahead of 2011 election.

Abdullahi also urged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to come up with a new parameter that will deregister any political party that failed to win an elective position at federal, state or local government level in future elections.

PDP has failed Kebbi voters – NDP

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

KEBBI State gubernatorial candidate of the National Democratic Party (NDP) in 2007 Salihu Isa Nataro has said that the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) government has failed the electorate in that state.

Nataro who stated this in an interview with *Daily Trust* in Abuja yesterday said rather than initiate good policies and programmes that would bring positive changes in the state, the PDP has preoccupied itself with internal wranglings.

He decried the dearth of long-term credit facilities to thousands of unemployed youths saying it would have been a positive step towards alleviating poverty and reducing crime in the society. Nataro who is also a member of the Good Governance Group (G3), said the government's refusal to construct or expand available dams and the way it abandoned the rice farming scheme, has posed serious challenge to agricultural development in the state.



SENATE President David Mark (l) with Vice Chairman, Northern Elders Assembly, Alhaji Mohammed Bello Kirfi (m), and a member of the assembly, Alhaji Tanko Yakasai, during their visit to the National Assembly yesterday.

2011: Northern elders ask Jonathan to shelve ambition

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

NORTHERN Elders Assembly (NEA) has urged President Goodluck Jonathan to respect to the zoning arrangement of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) drop the idea of contesting in next year's election.

Speaking during a visit to Senate President David Mark in his office on Tuesday, Vice Chairman of the NEA Alhaji Bello Kirfi said as a leader of the PDP, Mark should ensure that the zoning arrangement of the party is not compromised.

"We advice President Jonathan

to jettison any ambition he might have in contesting the 2011 elections and concentrate on providing good governance, credible, free and fair elections..." Kirfi said.

While advising President Jonathan to treat all parts of the country equally in accordance with the principle of federal character, the NEA also called for a probe into the sale of Federal Government Assets by past administrations.

The NEA urged the President to make use of the time left for his administration to complete projects and programmes initiated by the Late President Umaru Musa

Yar'adua in order to "Enhance security of lives and property, create an atmosphere of unity, peace and tranquillity in our nation and rise above temptation to cling to power for power's sake."

NEA urged Jonathan to respect the views of some eminent citizens that have cautioned against his contesting next year's presidential election. Responding, Mark assured the Northern Elders that President Jonathan will not compromise the unity and stability of the country and cautioned the elders to promote unity of the country ahead of sectional interests.

State creation our next priority- Nafada

By Turaki A. Hassan

SECTIONS of the country agitating for creation of new states may now heave a sigh of relief as the House of Representatives has indicated that it is now ready to begin consideration of state creation., Deputy Speaker Usman Bayero Nafada has said.

The Deputy Speaker who stated this when he received a delegation from Mubi seeking the creation of Amana State from the present Adamawa state said, "both the Senate and the House of Representatives may

have completed arrangements to begin consideration of all the memoranda for state creation."

He assured the delegation that the proposed Amana state has prospects going by its historical antecedents as presented by the leaders of the delegation. He informed the delegation that state creation is next on the agenda of the House, having finished with the constitution review.

After listening to the delegation on the promise by the late Sardauna, Sir Ahmadu Bello for an independent province, Nafada said "the right thing will be done at the right time."

SPORT

Peters leads
Nigerian
team to
Thailand
Page 54



Lagerback's Eagles are disheartening - Basse

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

AS reactions continue to trail the Super Eagles' first match under the tutelage of Coach Lars Lagerback, CAF Media Coordinator, Paul Basse has described the performance of the team as disheartening.

Making this remarks yesterday in an interview with Trust-sports, Basse said from what

The problems the Swede has after the first match are more than he thought of when he got the job

the Eagles played against Saudi Arabia in Austria, the hope of seeing the team do well in South Africa is dwindling.

Basse noted with disappointment that most of the players that were on display on Tuesday night have no business being in the team, saying apart from Victor Anichebe and Lukman Haruna who managed to show some promises, the rest of the players were flops.

"Apart from Anichebe and Haruna that showed some signs

of players that are ready for the World Cup, the rest of the players that we saw on Tuesday night were complete flop.

"I have said it several times that Kanu, Yobo, Shittu and some other players are not supposed to be in the Super Eagles any more. They have nothing to offer the team.

"Against Saudi Arabia, what did Kanu, Yobo and Shittu add to the team, apart from running round the pitch?

"With what we saw against Saudi Arabia, I am afraid to say that there is little hope of success in South Africa. Nigeria is my country and if the Super Eagles fail in South Africa, I will consider myself to have failed along with them. But the truth is that the Eagles that we saw in Austria are a disaster," he said.

Asked what can be done between now and June 12 when Nigeria will file out against Argentina, the foremost sports writer said the problems confronting Lagerback now are so much that he can do little to make the Eagles a team to beat in South Africa.

"Between now and June 12 when the World Cup will commence, there is little or nothing Lagerback can do to change the fortune of the Super Eagles. The time is not there for him to transform the team.

"According to FIFA rules, Lagerback cannot add to the 30-man list he has now, he can only reduce the number. He paraded almost half of the players on the list, but what did they do against Saudi Arabia? The problems the Swede has after the first match are more than he thought of when he got the job," Basse concluded.



WORRIED... Super Eagles tactician, Lars Lagerback reacts during the international friendly match against Saudi Arabia in Wattens, Austria on Tuesday.

Mikel hits camp tonight

By Ismaila Lere

MIDFIELDER John Mikel Obi is set to join his mates in the Super Eagles World Cup camp tonight after the last of his rehabilitation exercises in London.

The effervescent playmaker was injured in a Premier League game in April and has been recovering from that injury ever since.

Israeli-based goalkeeper Bamidele Aiyenugba joined his teammates in Wattens, Austria just before kick-off of the international friendly against Saudi Arabia on Tuesday.

Defender Onyekachi Apam trained with the team for the first time yesterday evening as Coach Lars Lagerback took another look at his squad following Tuesday night's unimpressive 0-0 draw with Saudi Arabia.

Apam can fit into either right back or centre of defence and was a member of U-20 team that won silver medal at the FIFA World Youth Championship in 2005 and the U-23 side that won Olympic football silver in China two years ago.

Meanwhile, arrangements for Sunday's clash with Colombia have been concluded and the match will take place at the Milton Keynes Stadium, one of the 15 stadia listed by England to host the 2018 World Cup finals should their bid be successful.

Also, the Nigeria Football Federation and its Colombian counterpart have jointly decided to report the match agent, Pro-Global Sports to world football governing body, FIFA for behaving irresponsibly.

Eagles lack firepower to match Argentina - Erico

From Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

FORMER Super Eagles Assistant Coach, Joseph Erico has doubted if the Super Eagles have the firepower to face their opponents in the first round of the World Cup finals kicking off in South Africa on June 11.

Reacting to the Eagles' lacklustre goalless draw against Saudi Arabia on Tuesday night

in Austria, the coach said he doubted if the Lars Lagerback boys have the speed and intensity to match the rest of their opponents in Group B.

"My fear is that do these players have the speed? I don't know if they would be able to cope with the intensity. Most teams play with great speed and I doubt if Eagles can rise to the occasion," Erico said.

He said the first match against Argentina on June 12 would be a tough one, adding that the Eagles need to brace up to avoid being beaten silly.

He exuded confidence that Nigeria can still get to the second round if the boys put their acts together.

"The team must play as a team with character and determination but to achieve this

they need to double their efforts between now and June 12.

He said it is a good thing that the preparation has started as it would afford the handlers the opportunity to really know each individual player.

"After all our team is coming together just like any other team in the world. It is a peculiar thing to all the teams to start preparation now," he dis-

closed.

He said Lagerback should use the remaining warm up matches to knock his team into shape as Nigerians are looking forward to an improved performance.

For captain Nwankwo Kanu, Erico said the Portsmouth of England players has paid his dues a Nigerian and should be respected.

Don't write off Eagles, Toro advises

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

ERSTWHILE Nigerian Football Association's Scribe, Alhaji Sani Toro, has advised Nigerians not to write off the Super Eagles yet, saying it is wrong to do so when the team has just played only one match under the new coach.

While giving this advice yesterday in an interview with Trustsports, Toro said a team's strength cannot be evaluated by just a match, saying the team still has the capacity to improve

before the World Cup kicks off in June.

"Writing the Super Eagles off when they have just played a friendly match under the new coach is demoralising to the players. The team does not need any of such condemnation for now, because the coach has just started building the team.

"We cannot do justice to the assessment of the Lagerback's team for now. We have to wait, till when the team plays its last friendly match before we can adequately judge whether the team

will do well in South Africa or not.

"By the time the coach plays two or more matches, I believe that the team would have been different from the one we saw

against Saudi Arabia. Condemning them now is dangerous to the build up of the team," Toro said.

He expressed confidence that the Super Eagles will surprise Nigerians by qualifying from the group stage of the World Cup.

"Don't forget that it is our culture not to do very well in friendly matches, but when it comes to championship proper, it is then that the best in our team will be shown. I am confident that Eagles will scale through the first round," the Bauchi State-born sports administrator said.



it is our culture not to do very well in friendly matches

Pillars to appeal banishment

By Orkula Shaagee

THE management of Kano Pillars Football Club says it will appeal to the Nigeria Football Federation over the banishment of the club to Calabar for crowd violence.

Disclosing this in a telephone interview with Trustsports yesterday, Chairman of the club Alhaji Tukur Babangida though officials of the club are not happy with what happened last weekend, he would want the NFF to commute its punishment to close door matches since the incident is the first of its kind in the club.

"No right thinking person will condone what happened last week, but we are going to appeal to the Nigeria Football Federation to temper justice with mercy and

No right thinking person will condone what happened last week

allow us play our home matches behind close door.

"We are saying this because this is the first time we are having this kind of incident in Kano. Apart from that, going to Calabar means additional expenses that we have not budgeted for, in addition to the N1.8 million fine", Babangida stated.

Babangida, who condemned the unruly behaviour of the fans last week, also apologized to the leadership of the Nigeria Referees Association (NRA) over the attack on their members.

He also informed that a five-man committee set up by the executive committee of the club to apprehend perpetrators of the sad event was inaugurated yesterday with a mandate to return its report in one week time.

World Golfers Championship

Peters leads Nigerian team to Thailand

EDDIE Peters will lead the Nigerian team of five golfers to this year's MTN-sponsored World Golfers Championship in Thailand.

Popularly known as the King of Golf, he played a combined two-day net score of 162 to win in the 0-5 handicap at the 36 holes national finals which ended on Sunday, May 23, 2010, at the Le Meridian Hotel and Golf Resort, Akwa Ibom State.

Other winners with combined two-day net scores in their various flights were Okey Igwe, 159 net score in the 6-10 handicap; S. Cole-Kotas, 162 net score in 11-15 handicap; P. Kyari, 159 net score in the 16-20 handicap and Bassev Akpan, Akwa Ibom State Commissioner for Finance, 169 net score in 21-25 handicap.

The well attended finals also featured several high profile people including former Defence Minister, General Domkat Bali (rtd); former Health Minister, Dr. Tim Menakaya; General I. B. M. Haruna (rtd) and the Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Naval Command, Rear Admiral Ben Acholonu.

According to the General Manager, Consumer Marketing, MTN Nigeria, Kola Oyevevi, MTN's sponsorship of the tournament is to connect with the core passion and interest of its high valued customers.

"In MTN, we engage in con-

tinuous research to determine and meet the needs of our customers. Our sponsorship of golf is therefore designed to give our high value customers that unique experience which the game of golf offers," he said.

During the prize presentation, the Chief of Naval Staff, represented by Rear Admiral Acholonu, commended MTN for its contribution to the development of sports and golf in particular.

"The turnout here today is a measure of the confidence the people have in MTN. And I want to thank MTN for its generosity, the organisers for a befitting final and the winners and losers for their competitive spirit," he said.

He urged other corporate bodies to follow MTN's leadership in sports development in the country. "Let me use this opportunity to call on other corporate organisations to emulate the leadership position of MTN in sports development in the country," he said.

The WGC is an annual tournament which starts from the players' home country as a national championship and is divided into five handicap flights, each played differently.

With the high level of competition among the 45 golfers that competed at the Iboim Golf course, it is expected that the five national representatives will give a good account of themselves at the world finals in Thailand.



EDDIE Peters will lead Nigerian team to Thailand for the MTN World Golfers Championship



FOCUS ON: HONDURAS



Contenders or pretenders?

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

It will not be out of place to describe Honduras as one of the underdogs that will be in South Africa to vie for honours. They were in World Cup limbo for about five decades before they qualified for the 1982 Mundial.

At the Spain 1982 World Cup, they lost one match and drew two to crash out of the Mundial. In the process, they scored two goals and conceded three, playing 1-1 draw with Spain and Northern Ireland and lost 1-0 to Yugoslavia. It took Honduras another 28 years to qualify for another World Cup.

There are not many achievements for Honduras in World football. The most notable achievement so far remains a third place finish in the 2001 Copa America and a runner up position in the CONCACAF Gold Cup in 1991. Honduras have won the Central American Championships twice.

In addition to World Cup qualification, the Under-17 and Under-20 teams qualified for their respective youth tournaments. The Under-23 team was also present last year in the Beijing Olympics. Honduras played its first game against Guatemala on September 14, 1921, where they unfortunately lost by a large margin, 1-10.

SQUAD

Honduras have a strong defence and a powerful midfield. Its back line conceded fewer goals than any other team in the qualification phase. The counter-attack is its main weapon, thanks to the fast players at the front. Honduras are a strong side playing at home but in away matches they lack audacity. The team also has psychological limitations, due to the lack of international competition at the top level, something that is starting to change with the several Honduran players playing in Europe.

ROAD TO SOUTH AFRICA

Honduras finished in third place in CONCACAF zone, with 16 points, just below USA and Mexico. The Catrachos secured their ticket to the South African jamboree on October 14, 2009, after beating El Salvador 1-0, thanks to a goal from Carlos Pavon.

Nevertheless, Honduras need Costa Rica to lose to the USA, and that happened in a dramatic fashion, with United States scoring the winning goal in the 94th minute. That goal allowed Honduras to celebrate their qualification, and sent Costa Rica to the play-off, which they eventually lost.



CARLOS Pavon is considered the symbol of Honduras football

On October 14, 2009, Honduras qualified to the 2010 FIFA World Cup, after a 1-0 win against El Salvador gave them the third automatic qualifying spot from the Fourth Round of CONCACAF Qualifying.

Honduras will face Spain, one of the favourites for the Mundial, Chile and Switzerland, respectively.

STAR PLAYER

Carlos Pavon is considered a symbol in Honduras football. He is the all-time leading goal scorer for the national team with 57 goals, and also the all-time goal scorer of his team, Real Espana, with 64 goals.

This will be his first World Cup. Pavon is also a vital player for the Honduran national team. He is famous for his goal scoring prowess, as he is Honduras' top scorer of all time. Pavon, a national icon, carries the hopes of his compatriots at the 2010 World Cup.

Described by his club coach as an

"area animal", Pavon's task will be to score the goals that will help to ensure at least a decorous performance for one of the weaker teams at the South Africa finals.

The 36-year-old, who has scored 57 goals in his 95 international appearances, may carry the burden alone since his strike partner David Suazo is still struggling to fully recover from leg injury.

"He's a good professional, very special physically. He doesn't need to train much, like all the mixed-race (players) here. He has a lot of skill, he can shoot with both feet, he's a good header," said Argentine Mario Zanabria, Pavon's coach at Real Espana.

Pavon scored seven goals in the qualifiers, including the winner in the last, a 1-0 victory over El Salvador on October 15 that ensured they reached the South Africa finals.

COACH

Reinaldo Rueda took the helm of the Honduran national side in January 2007 after being fired as the head coach of Colombia, despite finishing just one point behind Uruguay.

He has been widely regarded as a huge success, as he took Honduras from the football wilderness to the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Rueda's rise to fame came during his years as the Colombian Youth Coach. With the Colombian U-20 team, he finished 3rd in the 2003 FIFA World Youth Championship. He also led the Colombian U-17 team to a 4th place finish that same year at the U-17 World Cup.

Rueda is likely to adopt a 4-4-2 formation at the finals, with Wilson Palacios in charge of breaking up the play in midfield and Amado Guevara and Julio Cesar de Leon offering more attacking options to support David Suazo and Carlos Costly in attack.

FIFA providing 150,000 more tickets

An extra 150,000 tickets for all 64 World Cup matches will be put on sale Friday after 96 per cent of seats were sold, FIFA secretary-general Jerome Valcke said.

At a ceremony officially handing over Cape Town's majestic new seaside stadium for the World Cup, Valcke said that if the additional tickets were sold the tournament would reach almost 98 per cent capacity across all the 10 stadiums.

A total of nearly 2.9 million seats were available for the world's most watched sporting event, which runs for a month from June 11.

Valcke said the additional tickets were from inventory that soccer's governing body had held back until now for its own use.

The number of tickets available for any stadium would vary from 200 upwards. Valcke said last week organizers were having trouble filling the smaller Nelspruit, Polokwane and Port Elizabeth stadiums for some matches.

Estimates of foreign visitors for the World Cup, once put at 450,000, have recently been reduced to between 300,000 and 370,000. The number has been depressed by the global economic crisis, the cost of a long-haul World Cup destination and fears over South Africa's high levels of violent crime.

'Essien's absence would hurt World Cup'

GHANA coach Milovan Rajevac says the World Cup will be hurt if Michael Essien does not recover from injury in time to play in the tournament.

The Chelsea midfielder is a major doubt for the June 11-July 11 showpiece after not playing since December because of knee and ankle injuries.

Rajevac says Essien is one of the world's best players and that "Ghana wants him there, the organizers want him there and the world wants him there."

Essien is expected to link up with the Black Stars for training on Friday, and Rajevac says he thinks Essien will be fit. But he added that "there are other young and hungry players who will be equally passionate to play."

Messi: I can handle World Cup pressure

LIONEL Messi doesn't feel any pressure to deliver for Argentina at the World Cup, with the world player of the year saying he won't change his Barcelona playing style to suit his country.

Four years on from watching Argentina lose to Germany in the quarterfinals, Messi is a different player from the 18-year-old who watched from the bench in Berlin that June afternoon.

This time around, Messi heads to the tournament in South Africa having won a string of personal honours and titles with Barcelona, largely due to his extraordinary playmaking and

scoring prowess.

"I don't feel the pressure," Messi told the Associated Press in a recent interview. "The truth is I'm arriving in good shape. I have a strong desire to do as well as I can, as do my teammates. We want to give our best for Argentina and we hope things turn out well."

Coach Diego Maradona has yet to capture Messi's best, with the forward's performances for Barcelona seemingly on a different plane to his international displays.

"I won't change. I'll keep playing in the same way," Messi said. "I hope to be able to do what I do (in Barcelona) in the national team without

my form suffering, because that (way of playing) is what has made me able to achieve everything I have (up until now)."

Messi looks best used on the right side of Barcelona's three-pronged attack, although he has also had a prolific season as a central striker for Pep Guardiola's team. Messi was the Spanish league's top scorer with 34 goals and led Europe with 47 goals to equal both of Ronaldo's club record tallies from 1996-97.

Up until now, Maradona has opted to select Messi in a free role behind the two strikers, but the Argentina coach has an array of attacking talent in

Diego Milito, Carlos Tevez, Gonzalo Higuain, Angel Di Maria and Sergio Aguero.

Argentina routed Canada 5-0 on Monday in its last friendly before the finals, with Maradona's tactics offering little intent on trying to replicate Barcelona's Ajax-inspired formation with suitable players.

"I don't know. It's Diego's decision," said Messi, who spoke to the AP at the launch of his new Adidas soccer shoes. "But I think Argentina is fortunate to have many top-quality forwards. That has been proven in this last year because if you look at all the important leagues, there is an Argentine there at

the top.

"We are approaching the World Cup on very good form and that's great news."

Messi has endured criticism in Argentina following some performances for his national side.

"The criticism on how I play doesn't hurt," the Rosario native said. "If it's because of my performances then I'm the first to criticize myself and the first to know that I haven't done things well enough—it's not a problem. But what hurts is when people talk about things unrelated to football. Things beyond football, things from outside."

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

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PDP: Nails for the coffin of reform

The world of politics can be likened to the stomach of the African elephant, often containing a hodgepodge of characters; the flotsam and jetsam. In a neo-colony like Nigeria, the prebendal character of politics is built upon a most corrupt clientelism which recruits often controversial characters into leadership; this cast of characters despoils politics almost without redemption. The clown, the crook and the AGIP [Any Government in Power] plus the attack dog, become the face of such politics. Since the nation's elite chose the lowest common denominator in the process of recruitment, incompetence and kleptocracy overtake governance. When a single political party, as the PDP, becomes totally dominant, the struggle to control it also becomes a matter of life and death: relentless, vicious and bloody!

The fight to take control has taken a new turn. Jonathan Goodluck's emergence as president has emboldened a new cast of characters; the old dictator Obasanjo and his fugitives-from-justice boys are back into the frame of politics and literally preparing a seizure of power. Last Friday, the media reported the appearance of the attack dogs of the old Obasanjo regime, Femi Fani-Kayode and Nasir El-Rufai, during the PDP Reform Forum, at the Abuja Sheraton Hotel. *Daily Sun* newspaper of Friday, May 21, 2010, aptly headlined that "Obasanjo men take over PDP Reform Forum", reporting "a thunderous ovation" when Nasir El-Rufai, erstwhile fugitive from the law, and one of the most unprincipled politicians of the last twenty years in Nigeria, Ojo Maduekwe, "were introduced as new entrants to the reform agitation". Nasir and Ojo as "reformers"? Nigeria is truly a joke, if the worst cast of AGIPs like El-Rufai and Ojo Maduekwe will be "reforming" the PDP! El-

Rufai is Jerry Gana's anointed successor in the AGIP business. He served the military government of Abdulsalami Abubakar; lobbied Atiku Abubakar to get a look in when the civilian regime emerged in 1999, and got headship of the regime's controversial privatization process, ending up mid-wife of the unpatriotic PENTASCOPE deal, before emerging as FCT minister and the subsequent scandals about land allocations. El-Rufai promptly dumped his mentor to become Obasanjo's favorite Rottweiler in the duel with Atiku Abubakar. When his effort to become presidential candidate fell through, he latched on to the Yar'adua bandwagon, deluded that he was going to be central in the new government. Pursuit to that delusion, his partner, Nuhu Ribadu, announced even before Yar'adua formed his team, that El-Rufai was the next minister of power; so arrogant and settled was Nasir in his messianic complex.

Umaru Yar'adua however chose to cut them to size, and with tail between legs, El-Rufai became a "persecuted political exile", writing papers for imperialist institutions in America, and like a caricature of Don Quixote, railing from a comfortable distance against the "incompetence and corruption" of the Yar'adua government. El-Rufai was the anti-corruption speck extractor from the Yar'adua era, never minding that he carried a huge plank of controversies of his own. Yar'adua's incapacitation and death, allowed the fugitives to return home, because the new helmsman, Jonathan Goodluck, needed the attack dogs of his mentor, Olusegun Obasanjo, to do a dirty job: attack zoning to run in 2011; and who better fitted the frame than well-practiced Rottweilers like Nasir El-Rufai and Femi Fani-Kayode? The media reported that Fani-Kayode (still in court for theft), acted as the co-master of ceremony, in the road show of "reform" that had Aminu Masari and Ken Nnamani, as the original promoters.

The governors, led by Bukola Saraki, as allies of Umaru Yar'adua were able to seize the PDP from the suffocating stranglehold of Obasanjo and his gang; they imposed their

own hegemony and froze out Obasanjo, who confessed at the weekend, according to *Sunday Trust*, that he was sidelined by the Ogbulafor leadership of the party, which the governors had imposed. Unfortunately, the governors also alienated other tendencies including the Masari/Nnamani forum. When Yar'adua's health took a turn for the worst, the "Reform Forum" became emboldened to make a go at the Ogbulafor leadership. Jonathan Goodluck's emergence became the blessing they were looking for, because there is a confluence of ambitions now, no matter how temporary: Jonathan's game is to tear the PDP's zoning formula so he can run in 2011; when Ogbulafor re-emphasized the zoning formula, Jonathan borrowed a leaf from the Obasanjo book of hostage politics, letting loose the ICPC against him. The national deputy chairman, Dr Haliru Muhammed was also found to have collected bribes from Halliburton, never mind that Obasanjo was similarly indicted in the Okiro Report as well as a certain Inter-cellular telephone company which collected over eleven million dollars! For now, as allies of Jonathan Goodluck's, they will not be touched.



Nasir El-Rufai, erstwhile fugitive from the law, and one of the most unprincipled politicians of the last twenty years in Nigeria, Ojo Maduekwe, "were introduced as new entrants to the reform agitation". Nasir and Ojo as "reformers"?

between the thief catcher and Jonathan Goodluck? The new situation in Nigeria has brought the ambitions of these different characters to a tactical co-incidence. Obasanjo wants to continue to call the shots; his boys suffer from a power withdrawal syndrome and hope Jonathan Goodluck's ambition, will ease them back to relevance while Jonathan is borrowing the despicable style of the Obasanjo era to achieve his 2011 dream. The attack dogs will be useful.

The greatest losers are Masari/Nnamani, who earlier projected the face of idealism, but with the influx of Obasanjo's wild dogs and characters like Ojo Maduekwe, now have the bottom falling off their project. What is unfolding underlines the rot of Nigerian ruling class politics. The PDP remains Chief Awoniyi's basket of scorpions; they are gradually stinging themselves to death, but the Nigerian people will continue to suffer collateral damage, for as long as the gang of bandits determines the fate of our country. It is the CAPTURE of the PDP that is now being perfected; contrary to Masari's naive belief that PDP could be "reformed". Obasanjo, the attack dogs and Jonathan Goodluck, have supplied the nails for the coffin of reform, and backed by the repressive apparatus of state power, are likely to emerge as the surviving scorpions in the basket. It is almost Darwinian!

Food-for-thought:

If the Goodluck Jonathan's cabal is scheming to end zoning in 2011, why is PDP chairmanship still zoned to the Southeast?

Two good examples: Yakowa's inauguration speech and Gombe University's convocation

Kaduna's new governor Patrick Yakowa must be commended for the reasonable speech he gave at his inauguration; making a pledge to be everybody's leader, he doused the unnecessary tension that built in the days before his inauguration. Similarly, Gombe State University's first convocation ceremony took place at the weekend. I visited the university last year; it is a beautiful and well-run institution.

SPORTS REPORT



DIEGO Maradona

Maradona: I will run naked if Argentina wins

Diego Maradona has promised to run naked through the center of Buenos Aires if Argentina wins the World Cup. The Argentina coach made the promise during a radio show. The unpredictable Maradona was speaking a day after Argentina defeated Canada 5-0 Monday in its final warm-up match before the World Cup. Argentina plays in Group B, opening against Nigeria on June 12. The Gauchos also face Greece and South Korea.



ROGER Federer survived the rain and Alejandro Falla

Federer survives rain, Falla salvo

Roger Federer kept his game together through several rain interruptions and a stirring first-set charge from Colombian Alejandro Falla before booking a comfortable third-round berth at the French Open on Wednesday.

Falla had lost just three points on his serve when a hold at 6-5 would have given him the first set, but Federer broke back and stormed through the tie-break on his way to a 7-6 6-2 6-4 victory on Court Philippe Chatrier.

After a frustrating hour or so when two rain breaks ruined the momentum of the match, Federer upped his game and treated a crowd dominated by the excitable cheers of local schoolchildren to a feast of stroke-making as he came through in two hours.

