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Beginning of the end:

Six-man FEC team to visit Yar'adua

By Mohammed S. Shehu

WEEKS of foot-dragging by the Federal Executive Council over President Umaru Yar'adua's health situation began to unravel yesterday when it constituted a six-member team to visit the ailing President in Saudi Ara-

bia and obtain a first-hand assessment of his condition. The decision, sources in the meeting told *Daily Trust*, was a compromise against suggestions to invoke Section 144 of the 1999 Constitution and begin the processes of declaring Yar'adua medically unfit to continue to hold

his office.

Members of the committee include Minister of Health Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin, Minister of Agriculture Dr Abba Sayyadi Ruma, Minister of Foreign Affairs Chief Ojo Maduekwe, Minister of Petroleum Dr Rilwanu Lukman,

Attorney General and Minister of Justice Prince Adetokunbo Kayode (SAN), as well as Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed.

Daily Trust learnt that at yes-
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Power supply drops to 2,500mw

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

NIGERIA'S power supply dropped again to 2500mw yesterday and may drop even further as oil giant Shell, the major gas supplying company in the country, has given the Power and Petroleum Resources Ministries up to this weekend to evacuate the stock of wet condensate currently at the Warri Refinery or risk the shutting down of Shell's two gas plants located in Delta State.

The Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) had announced a drop in Nigeria's power generation to 2700MW from the 3700MW that was obtainable in December last year. Sources at both (PHCN) and the Power Ministry confirmed the drop in power supply to 2500mw but wouldn't want their names in print.

The volume of wet condensate at the Warri Refinery, which Shell wants evacuated, is currently put at about 472,000 barrels. *Daily Trust* gathered that in letters separately addressed to the Power Minister, Lanre Babalola and that of Petroleum Resources, Rilwanu Lukman, the management of Shell warned that if the Warri Refinery fails to evacuate at least **Continued on page 5**



CATHOLIC faithfuls queuing to receive Ash at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Gwagwalada, to mark Ash Wednesday in Abuja yesterday.

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NBA to sue Borno govt, police over Boko Haram execution

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

THE Nigeria Bar Association (NBA) Maiduguri branch is to sue the Borno State government as well as the police over the killing of Boko Haram suspects by

the police.

Secretary of the human right committee of the NBA in Maiduguri, Barrister Kaka Shehu Lawan, said this yesterday while reacting to last week's video clips shown on Al-jezeera TV where suspected

members of the Boko Haram sect where summarily executed by the police in last year's uprising by the group. The human rights activist said the branch would liaise with the national headquarters of the NBA to ensure that the perpe-

trators of the act are punished in accordance with the law and to see that the families of those killed are adequately compensated.

Barrister Lawan described the situation as pathetic, saying unharmed crippled men and chil-

dren were executed by those who are supposed to protect them.

He lamented on the situation where a security agent found wanting is only transferred or dismissed without being prosecuted for the killing of innocent people.



OGUN State Governor Gbenga Daniel (right) flanked by his deputy Alhaja Salmot Badru, welcoming Liberian President Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf to Abeokuta. The Liberian President is in the state to be conferred with an honorary doctorate degree by the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta.

Oshiomhole suspends 2 council chairmen

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

EDO State Governor Adams Oshiomhole yesterday suspended two local government chairmen, Chief Johnson Emasealu of Akoko-Edo Local Government Council and Patrick Aisien of Oriomwon Council.

He said they had been battling with the EFCC over financial mismanagement and other allegations of inappropriate spending. The suspension is just eight days after an implicit vote of confidence was passed on Emasealu. Their suspension is to take two months to give room for investigation.

The governor in the suspension letter accused them of embezzling council funds, inflation of contracts, wilful abandonment of projects and spending of funds in violation of due process and without prior appropriations. The governor said a panel of inquiry would be set up today as required by law to investigate the council chairmen.

The suspension brings to three the number of the Peoples Democratic Party LGA chairmen suspended by Oshiomhole since his assumption of office on November 12, 2008, having suspended the Chairman of Oredo LGA, Dr. Mike Nosa Ehima over alleged failure to discharge his functions in a manner conducive to the welfare of inhabitants in the area.

Lagos mum over EFCC probe

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LAGOS State government yesterday refused to talk to newsmen over plans by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) to probe the administration of Governor Babatunde Raji Fashola.

The Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Media Mr. Hakeem Bello explained that it was only the spokesman for the government, Barrister Opeyemi Bamidele, who is also the Commissioner for Information and Strategy that can react to the issue.

However, efforts by our reporter to speak with Mr. Bamidele were unsuccessful.

Plateau police record attacks in Riyom

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Plateau Police command has said that it has recorded isolated cases of attacks at Darim Jol Village under Riyom Local Government area in the state. State Police Commissioner Mr

Ikechukwu Aduba told newsmen yesterday in Jos, "We have drafted a combined team of army and police personnel to the area, and some arrests have been made for which appropriate charges against the arrested people shall be prepared". Aduba said they have arrested

two persons, a fake soldier in full military outfit and a house keeper attached to a disabled German by name Mr Hollander Klaus, while attempting to escape with his master's Pathfinder Nissan Jeep with registration number BB613 JIL.

He said the house keeper was

intercepted at a military check point with a brownie pistol loaded with 90 rounds of live ammunition, adding that efforts were on to invite the German in furtherance of their investigations after which charges would be preferred against the suspect.

Niger closes illegal mortuary

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

AUTHORITIES of the Ministry of Health and Hospital Services in Niger State have closed a mortuary for lack of compliance with statutory standards required to set such a facility.

The mortuary which is located at Madalla village in Suleja Local Government Area

of the state has been operating since 2003 without full compliance with operational guidelines for setting up mortuaries.

The state Director of Medical Services Dr Abdullahi Mohammed who led the task force to shut the place disclosed government's moves yesterday in Minna, maintaining that the mortuary was not located in a suitable place.

He said the closure of the mortuary was necessitated as a result of findings from a team of officials of the Ministry of Health earlier, adding that complaints from individuals living around the area alleging that illegal activities take place there.

Dr Mohammed said the closure of the mortuary was backed by an order to find and arrest the owner of the facility, adding

that he would be taken to court to stand trial for whatever has transpired in the mortuary. He said the state government would make sure that it deals with private hospitals that violate requirements in setting up mortuaries as he maintained that the action should sound a note of warning to all who are yet to ensure that they function within laid down operational requirements.

Sokoto to pay N620m compensation over varsity

From Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

THE Sokoto State government says N620 million would be paid as compensation to affected people at the new site of the state university in Bodinga.

This was disclosed by the state Commissioner for Health Dr. Muhammad Jebbi Kilgori

at a joint press briefing with the Commissioner for Information Mallam Dahiru Maishanu at the end of the first executive council meeting of the year.

The commissioner said all was now set for the take off of the university in Bodinga Local Government Area, adding that the critical issue before the final take-off

was the settlement of compensation to the affected people at the new site.

Dr. Kilgori stated also that a separate committee had been put in place to handle the payment of compensation on the acquired land.

He further assured the public of good work, transparency and

accountability in the process.

The commissioner said the state government had at the first executive meeting this year resolved to concentrate effort at the settlement of all outstanding payments at the first three quarters of the year, noting that no new capital projects would be executed as at now.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

AL-HABIBIYYAH Zakat Foundation Director Chief Imam AdeyIm Ademola Fuad (middle) with the Admin Secretary, Alhaji Nuhu Bello (right) and Vice Chairman of Al-Habibiyyah Relief Services, Alhaji Abdul Ganniy Adepoju, at a media briefing on the foundation's disbursement of zakat fund in Abuja yesterday.

TY Danjuma donates N15b to needy

By Abubakar A. Ibrahim

FORMER Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Theophilus Danjuma has donated N15 billion (\$100million) to the needy with the aim of providing free education and medical services among others.

He made the donation through the TY Danjuma Foundation, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) he set up to provide free medical services to rural areas, enhance the quality of education of children and young adults as well as alleviate poverty in communities by providing basic social amenities.

Speaking in Abuja while addressing group of NGOs through which the money would be made available in rural areas all over the country, Danjuma said he was making the donation from the expansive wealth he had been blessed with, saying he made the money from his shipping concern, and his recent foray into the oil business.

"I wanted to solve all Nigeria's problems but did not know how to do it and how to start. The only thing I knew about philanthropy is about money being given out and found that only a fraction of such money reaches the target," he said, adding that he had to undertake studies in the United States to ensure that the money gets to the targeted audience.

Explaining how the foundation hopes to reach the intended beneficiaries, Thelma Ekiyor, Executive Director of the TY Foundation, explained that the foundation will not be run as a charity but a philanthropic organisation concerned with making grants available.

Danjuma said he was motivated to come to the people's aid because of failures by successive governments to sustain poverty alleviations programmes and providing lasting social amenities to Nigerians.

Plateau: '209 Fulani herdsmen killed in 3 LGs'

By Suleiman M. Bisalla

PLATEAU State chapter of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association has alleged that 209 of its members were murdered in Jos South, Riyom and Barkin Ladi Local Government Areas of Plateau State shortly after the recent violence in Jos North Local Government.

A petition dated February 12, addressed to the Deputy Commissioner of Police (SARS), Force Criminal Investigation Department, Abuja, and signed by Sale Bayari and Mallam Nuru Muhammad, both leaders of the association, gave the names, age and

addresses of the old, women and children who were allegedly killed.

The 15-page petition which was copied to the President of the Supreme Council of Islamic Affairs and Sultan of Sokoto, President of the Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN), chairman of the Governors' Forum, among others, also include 77 perpetrators of the killings and their addresses.

However, only the copy sent to security agencies contained the long list of the accused to avoid jeopardising the of investigation.

The association accused some prominent government officials and traditional rulers of complicity, saying the killings took place

under their nose.

"Apart from the fact that almost all the killings of the cattle breeders took place within Berom land, our investigation also show that these unprovoked and heartless killings of innocent people took place in local governments and areas where there is a strong presence of state government officials," the petition read in part.

The petition said 81 Fulanis were killed in Jos South, out of which 27 died in non-combatant encounter in Du Village. It also gave the names of 112 Fulanis, mostly youths, who were said to have been killed in Fan District and surrounding villages of Panadadi,

Runji and others in Barkin Ladi. 16 Fulanis were also alleged to have been killed in Riyom.

"We observed that the killings of the Fulanis took place 48 hours after the cessation of hostilities in Jos, giving the impression that the genocide was well thought out, planned and executed communally and conspiratorially in these areas," the petition declared.

The petition also argued that the Fulanis, as nomadic people, fall outside the area of Jos where the crisis erupted and are not in dispute with the Berom people over political or land matters to deserve the kind of 'sage' treatment they got.

El-Rufai: Jonathan could get PDP ticket for 2011

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan could win support as a candidate for the presidency in 2011 if he delivers in coming months, said a former minister with a reputation as a key reformer.

Jonathan has not said he might stand for the presidency and the place on the ruling party ticket has been widely expected to go to someone from ailing President Umaru Yar'Adua's Muslim north rather than Jonathan's more heavily Christian south.

But Nasir El-Rufai, a northerner, became one of the first to openly suggest the possibility of support for a Jonathan candidacy.

"Yar'Adua is from the North but

did nothing for the region, just like many before him," he told Reuters in response to emailed questions.

"If Goodluck shows real leadership over the next few months, many of us will campaign for him to be our president. And I think Nigeria and the West African sub-region will be the better for it," said El-Rufai, who has been tipped in local media for a possible position in Jonathan's administration.

Jonathan, the vice president, assumed executive powers last week, over two months after Yar'Adua left for a Saudi hospital.

El-Rufai was one of the most senior members of former President Olusegun Obasanjo's team,

serving as minister for the capital Abuja and heading the privatisation agency, and was tipped as a potential candidate for the 2007 election.

But he lost out to Yar'Adua, who was seen as less radical and won the presidential race.

After denouncing high level corruption, El-Rufai was himself accused of wrong-doing during his time in government. Dismissing the accusations as politically motivated, he left the country and has remained critical of Yar'Adua.

If Jonathan were to stand for election, at least for the ruling party, he would need the backing of northern politicians because

of an unwritten commitment to rotate power between Nigeria's regions.

Since Yar'Adua appears likely to serve only one term, instead of the two allowed under the constitution, many northerners believe his successor should be from the north too.

Local media have suggested that if Yar'Adua's return became impossible, making Jonathan president, El-Rufai could be a candidate for the vice-presidency and therefore potentially for the presidency itself.

"I want to assure you I am not in any race to be that person," El-Rufai said.

12 states raise N374bn bonds-NSE boss

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

DIRECTOR General of Nigerian Stock Exchange Mrs Ndidi Okereke yesterday said 12 states raised N374.6 billion as bonds in the past 11 years.

She spoke during an investigative hearing by the House of Representatives committee on Capital Market. She asked the National Assembly not to restrain states from floating bonds for tenure not exceeding the tenure of elected

officials. Lagos State tops the list with N290 bn; Imo State with N18.5 bn; Kwara State N17bn; Niger State N6bn; Delta, N5bn; Cross River and Akwa Ibom each borrowed N3 bn.

Others are: Yobe State N 2.5bn;

Ekiti State N3.9bn; Kebbi State N3.5bn; and Edo State N1 bn

She said the EFCC, ICPC and other agencies should deal with misapplied bond proceeds. Also at the hearing, the Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria Mallam

Sanusi Lamido Sanusi said section 24 of Debt Management Act that mandates federal and states government seeking loans to obtain approval of the Minister of Finance should be discarded because it is not workable.

NHIS boss gets court injunction against removal

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

A Federal High Court in Abuja has granted an interim injunction restraining the Minister of Health, the Attorney General of the Federation as well as the National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) from interfering with the performance of Dr. Waziri Dogo Mohammed from office as Executive Secretary of the National Health Insurance Scheme, pending the determination of a

motion filed by the plaintiff.

This followed a motion exparte filed by Dr. Dogo at the court in Abuja challenging his recent removal from his tenured appointment as Executive Secretary of the NHIS.

In the motion which was filed on his behalf by his Counsel, Emeka Okoro, the plaintiff sought an order of interim injunction restraining the defendants from interfering with or hindering the plaintiff from

performing his duties as the Executive Secretary of the National Health Insurance Scheme pending the hearing and determination of the motion on notice.

The plaintiff also sought for an order that "all parties hereto maintain the status quo before 10th of February 2010 when the NHIS issued as letter purported to have appointed a certain Dr. Kenneth Korve as Acting Executive Secretary of the NHIS."

After reading the affidavit in support of the motion sworn to by Agbawodike Ifeanyiwa, a legal practitioner, the presiding Judge, granted the order of interim injunction restraining the defendants from hindering the plaintiff from performing his duties as Executive Secretary of the NHIS pending the determination of the substantive motion which was fixed for March 1st 2010.

Govs' absence stalls constitution review session

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

A public hearing by the House of Representatives ad-hoc committee on the proposed amendment of 1999 constitution was stalled yesterday following the non-appearance of state governors and other stakeholders.

Apparently disturbed by the absence of the governors, Chairman of the ad-hoc committee and Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Rep Usman Bayero Nafada sought leave of the Speaker Dimeji Bankole to have the hearing put off till next week.

The hearing was organized to collate inputs on the proposed amendment to sections 76, 116, 132, 145, 146, 178, 190 and 191 of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria.

The legislators want a fixed time for all election related litigations to be determined before a new elected political office holder can be sworn in.

They also want to alter Section 145 to make the Vice President or Deputy Governor to assume duties in acting capacity in the absence of the President or Governor from the country for a period of 21 days or in the event of temporal or permanent incapacitation.

The lawmakers also want to make it mandatory for the president and governors to transmit a letter to the National Assembly in the event that he wants to embark on any leave.

Out of the 36 states of the federation, only Bauchi, Kwara and Taraba sent representatives. Chief Justice of the Federation Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu sent a representative in the person of Justice G. A. Oguntade.



ONDO State Deputy Governor, Alhaji Ali Olanusi (second right), Commissioner of Transport, Chief Omoniyi Omodara (right), inspecting members of the Ondo State Sunshine Traffic Scheme (STC) during the launching of the scheme in Akure on Tuesday.

Lawyers ask court to stop Jonathan

By Atika Balal

A federal high court in Abuja will today hear a case that seeks to nullify the declaration of Goodluck Jonathan as acting president and all the decisions he has taken in the absence of President Umaru Yar'adua.

Jonathan was made acting president last week by a resolution of the Senate and House of Representatives pending the return of President Umaru Yar'adua from his medical leave in Saudi Arabia.

But a group of eight lawyers led by a human rights activist

Chief Nkereuwem Alpan filed a case before a federal high court in Abuja challenging the validity of the decision.

In the case filed before Justice Dan Abutu, the lawyers want the court to declare that there was no president and commander in chief of the armed forces in Nigeria since November 23, 2009 when President Yar'adua left for Saudi Arabia.

They also seek the court to void "every act done or purported to have been done" by Jonathan in the absence of President Yar'adua.

They equally want a declara-

tion that by virtue of the combined provisions of sections 5(1), 144, 145, 146 and 148 of the 1999 Constitution Cap C 23 LFN, 2004, "the written transmission of a letter to the National Assembly was NOT complied with by the alleged text message and or telephone call allegedly sent to the (Senate President and Speaker House of Representatives) by the ailing President from a yet to be disclosed location."

Joined in the suit are the Senate President David Mark, Speaker Dimeji Bankole and

Attorney-General and Minister of Justice Adetokunbo Kayode.

The plaintiffs are also seeking a court declaration that by virtue of Sections 5 (1), 144, 145, 146 and 148 (1) (a) of the 1999 constitution, the act by Acting President Jonathan of sending the Armed Forces to Jos, Plateau State without lawful authority was void because he is not the Commander in Chief and same ought to be reversed immediately.

The motion has been slated to be moved before Justice Dan Abutu today.

Aondoakaa, 2 others sued over contempt

By Atika Balal

A suit has been filed before an Abuja Federal High Court seeking an order committing former Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) for contempt by sanctioning the deposition of a concocted counter affidavit filed before the court on February 8.

Chief Nkereuwem Udofia Akpan wants the court to commit Michael Aondoakaa alongside Acting Director, Civil Litigations in the Federal Ministry of Justice and one Ndukwe Odiba for contempt by deposing to falsehood in the said affidavit.

He is asking for an order of mandamus directing the Inspector General of Police to arrest investigate and possibly prosecute the Aondoakaa alongside the Acting Director, Mrs. A. O Mbamali and the deponent Ndukwe Odiba for offences bothering on treason and treasonably felony.

He also wants the 'AGF and Executive Council of the Federation' or their agents to desist from spreading provocative remarks and contrived falsehood that will overheat the polity.

Constitution: Senate set to amend section 145 today

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

THE Senate is set to move for the amendment of Section 145 and 190 of the 1999 constitution today in a move to checkmate the controversy generated by President Umaru Yar'adua's failure to send a vacation letter to the National Assembly leadership.

Yar'adua left the country in November 2009 to seek medical attention in Saudi Arabia without communicating his absence to the National Assembly forcing the lawmakers to pass a resolution declaring Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President.

The bill which was read for a first time on the

floor of the Senate yesterday is slated for debate and third reading today.

Also, majority senators yesterday supported the amendment of Section 221 of the 1999 Constitution to enable independent candidates contest during the 2011 general elections.

Senate President David Mark said, "We will fast track the amendment process there will be no voice vote, every Senator will be identified to vote individually to get the required 2/3 majority." Sponsored by the Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu and 43 others, the bill seeks to enable the legislature to empower the Vice President or Deputy Governor to function in acting capacity in the absence of the occupier of

the respective offices, for reason of vacation, ill-health or any other situation of temporary incapacitation.

If the President is unable or fails to transmit the written declaration within 7 days, the National Assembly may by a resolution made by a simple majority of the vote of each House of National Assembly mandate the vice president to perform the functions of the office of the President, as Acting President, until the President transmits a letter to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, that he is now available to resume his functions as President.

UBA rises in global ranking

By Idris Ahmed

UNITED Bank for Africa has received further endorsement of its strong brand strength, rising 161 places to 285th in the latest ranking of the Top 500 Banking Brands by the Banker Magazine.

The increase from 451 in 2008 to 285 in the 2009 ranking makes UBA the second fastest growing financial brand globally and the fastest world-wide outside the US, said Kalu Okoronkwo, the bank's Media Relations officer.

UBA was awarded an "A" rating in the annual ranking of banks worldwide, with a brand value estimated at US\$322million.

Brand value was arrived at through a discounted cash flow methodology based on estimated future royalties.

The survey benchmarked the strength, risk and potential of a brand, relative to its competitors, on a scale ranging from AAA to D, similar to a credit rating. The data used to calculate the ratings came from various sources including Bloomberg, annual reports and brand finance research.

UBA currently operates in 16 countries including Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sénégal, Burkina Faso, Chad, Benin, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Gabon, and Guinea together with presence in New York, London and Paris.

Power supply drops to 2,500mw

Continued from page 1

100,000 barrels of wet condensate by February 20, further supply of dry condensate would not be guaranteed. It is only by so doing that the gas plants at Oben and Sapele which are currently shut down would be reopened, Shell stated in the letters addressed to the two Ministers.

Daily Trust findings show that there may be further drop in power generation in the country as a result of the degeneration in gas supply from the six sources of gas supply in the country, namely Chevron-1, Chevron-2, Sapele gas plant, Ugheli gas plant as well as the ones located at Oben and Utorogu.

For instance, it was gathered that although 185million standard cubic feet (mscfd) of gas per day is expected from Chevron Escravos-1, nothing is currently forthcoming from there. Similarly, the Chevron Escravos-2 gas plant is expected to supply 1300mscfd per day but is currently supplying nothing while the Sapele gas plant which has the capacity to supply 50million mscfd is also currently undersupplying.



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan (left) and Attorney General and Minister of Justice Adetokunbo Kayode at the Federal Executive Council in Abuja, yesterday.

Jonathan: I did not approve N300bn for rallies

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday refuted allegations that he approved N300 billion expenditure for pro-Yar'adua rallies and other rallies in his interest.

The denial was contained in a statement issued by his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity, Mr Ima Niboro.

He also refuted the allegation that members of the National Assembly were bribed to pass the resolution making him the Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

The statement reads: "Today, the first installment of the planned and well coordinated media onslaught against the

Acting President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, was published in a national newspaper.

"It was alleged that he approved the expenditure of a whopping N300 billion for both pro-Yar'adua rallies and those that were in his interest. "The report also claimed that members of the National Assembly were bribed to do their patriotic duty to save the nation from drift.

"It can be recalled that a few days ago, there was an allegation of a purported release of 2 billion dollars from the excess crude account to governors to facilitate their endorsement of Jonathan as acting president.

"While we commend the

Chairman of the Governor's Forum, Dr Bukola Saraki, for dealing satisfactorily with that allegation in a rejoinder, it is interesting to note that 2 billion dollars translate to roughly N300 billion.

"There is therefore no question that both allegations emanate from the same source.

"We know those behind these publications. Nigerians have come to know them as careerists in power.

"But we see them as misguided elements determined to exceed their call of duty and play God over the affairs of the nation.

"They are wicked and ungodly and their time is up!

"Never again, must we allow

our nation to be strangled by a privileged few who will rather fiddle with our commonwealth while the nation burns.

"We are aware that they have set aside a huge war chest in billions of naira to bring the Jonathan acting presidency to disrepute by any means possible.

"It is therefore hardly surprising that as corny as these allegations obviously sound, they still get mention in our media space.

"We are fully on the tracks of this so called group; this unfortunate band of liars. In the fullness of time, they shall be brought to book. We find no need to dignify the N300 billion allegation with a response." (NAN)

Six-man FEC team to visit Yar'adua

Continued from page 1

terday's council meeting at the Presidential Villa, Minister of Foreign Affairs Minister Ojo Maduekwe presented a memo asking the council to invoke Section 144 of the 1999 Constitution and request the Senate President and the House Speaker to constitute a medical panel to ascertain if the president is permanently incapable of discharging his duties due to ill-health.

A source at the meeting said Federal Capital Territory Minister Mohamed Adamu Aliero was the first to speak out against the memo, saying it would be harsh for the FEC to invoke Section 144 when it is yet to send a delegation to visit the ailing president. He suggested that the council should send emissaries in order to ascertain the condition of the President

and at the same time, convey formal appreciation to the authorities of Saudi Arabia for hosting the President. Aliero's suggestion, sources said, was supported by Works Minister Dr. Hassan Lawal, and the council thereafter resolved to constitute a committee to visit the ailing President.

Briefing reporters shortly after the meeting presided over by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, Minister of Information and Communications Professor Dora Akunyili said the constitution of the committee was the "unanimous decision of the council." She said "Council constituted a six-man team to go to Saudi Arabia to visit Mr. President and his family. The team will also convey a formal appreciation of the country to the King of Saudi Arabia." She said the team would leave the country as soon as they secure

their visas.

Yesterday's decision was the first time that the FEC, made up exclusively of Yar'adua-appointed ministers and advisers, agreed to take any concrete step to ascertain the ailing ruler's health status, nearly three months since he left the country to seek medical attention in Jeddah. On three previous occasions, FEC merely declared that the president's absence from the country did not amount to incapacitation. Things however began to change from last week, when the National Assembly, by a unanimous resolution, installed Vice President Goodluck Jonathan as Acting President.

It is not at all clear if the FEC team will be able to see Yar'adua when they get to Jeddah. Among the many delegations that went there in recent weeks and failed to see him were several state gov-

ernors, his private secretary, PDP national chairman Vincent Ogbu-lafor and his deputy, as well as a 7-member House of Representatives delegation.

Meanwhile, the Acting President has said that the country would explore power generation from coal in the next 18 to 24 months.

Akunyili said this at her briefing, which was jointly addressed by her colleagues from Aviation, Dr Babatunde Omotoba; Transport, Ibrahim Bio and Internal Affairs, Ademola Seriki.

"In the course of the meeting, the acting president directed that within the week, he will meet with the Ministers of Mines and Steel, Power and Petroleum with a view to fashioning out ways of generating power from coal in the next 18 to 24 months in the country," she said.

Nasarawa tops World Bank's rating on health projects

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NASARAWA State is atop the World Bank chart in the implementation of the Health Systems Development Projects (HSDP) in the country, the joint mission of representatives of the bank and those of the Federal Ministry of Health have said.

Following this rating, the state will draw down additional funds to the tune of \$3.5 million

from the World Bank to complete the health sector projects which were awarded for execution upon the release of \$1.5 million in 2009.

Director of Planning, Research and Statistics of the Federal Ministry of Health Dr. Mohammed Leke who led the World Bank task team leader in Nigeria, Mrs.

Ann Okigbo, and other members of the mission to Lafia yes-

terday, told Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma that the rating was the fall out of the days of project assessment in the areas they were located.

The team had visited among other projects, the School of Nursing and Midwifery, Lafia and the General Hospital in Doma where work was still on going. "We are going round to see what is happening with the projects at the state level. Nasarawa State

is the first point of visit. This is because Nasarawa has done so well, more than states that much more funds were released to them. We are impressed with the level of implementation.

Nasarawa was the least state the funds were released to, which is \$1.5 million whereas other states had well over \$5 million. Yet, the state has done so well. We are impressed", said Dr. Leke.

He also disclosed that the

first lady, Hajjiya Ralia Doma's pet project, the Breast and Cervical Centre located in Lafia has attracted the attention of the team which has made recommendations for the centre to be visited for future considerations.

Governor Doma said he was pleased with the analysis and assessment of the team and promised his government's increased commitment and determination towards completing the projects.

Sultanate c'ttee collects N6m for Jos crisis victims

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

RELIEF materials and cash worth over N6 million have been collected by the committee set up by the Sokoto Sultanate Council to help victims of the recent Jos crisis, the chairman of the committee has said.

Chairman of the committee Prof. Sambo Wali who disclosed this in Sokoto yesterday said the relief materials included 60 bundles of roofing sheets and 300 bags of assorted food items such as rice, millet, guinea corn as well as 800 bags of cement, among others. He said over N2 million cash would be presented in aid of the victims. Professor Wali added that 537 bags of used clothes and foot wears were also presented to the committee for onward submission to the Muslim victims of the crisis.

He said four articulated trucks left Sokoto yesterday with the materials to be submitted to the Emir of Wase Dr Haruna Abdullahi for onward presentation to the victims.

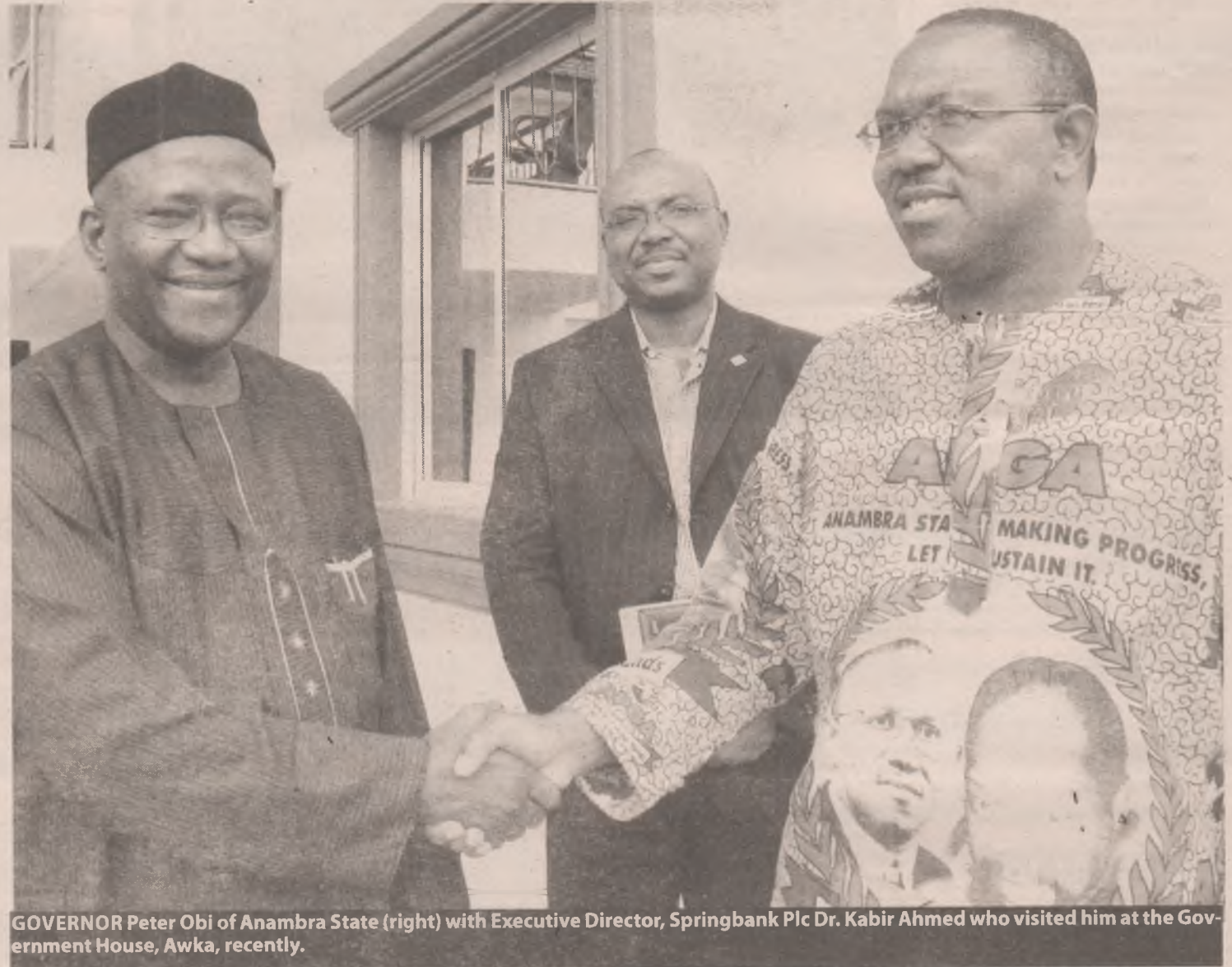
Lack of qualified teachers worries Kebbi

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

LACK of qualified teachers has been identified as a setback for the educational advancement of Kebbi State. Professor Tijjani M. Bande expressed this at the launch of the N100 million appeal fund for reconstruction of the Adamu Augie College of Education Library which was recently burnt.

He said apart from lack of qualified teachers, the challenges facing education in the state included dilapidated infrastructure, shortage of technical capacity for rehabilitation and construction. He said education in Kebbi could be improved if these challenges are addressed.

Professor Bande noted that government alone should not be expected to do everything all the time, because it has limited resources, with a wide range of competing uses. He said there was the need to compliment the efforts of government in meeting the socio-economic needs of the people.



GOVERNOR Peter Obi of Anambra State (right) with Executive Director, Springbank Plc Dr. Kabir Ahmed who visited him at the Government House, Awka, recently.

Don't tamper with scholarships – Gov

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

RICH indigenes of Rivers State have been advised not to tamper with scholarship opportunities provided to poor indigenes of the state.

Governor Chibuike Amaechi gave the advice while announcing the names of indigenes of Gokana who have benefitted from the various categories of the state government scholarship scheme.

He appealed to the rich to stop hijacking the scholarships from the children of the poor who needed them most. The governor said to make sure that the scholarships get to the poor, he would ask the Rivers Sustainable Development Agency to conduct tests in the rural schools rather than just staying in Port Harcourt to announce interviews for the scheme.

"The idea is to get to the poor men's children in the rural communities and get them trained in good schools where big men's children attend so that they can compete with them", he said.

Answering questions from journalists, the governor said government would soon advertise for recruitment of qualified teachers to fill the gaps in the system while free school uniforms and books are to be provided in public primary and secondary schools in the state. The governor also hinted that over N3 million had been released to settle the arrears of pensions while the Ministry of Finance is to ensure regular payment of pensions.

Gombe puts N100m into drug revolving fund

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State government has injected over N100 million into the state's drug revolving fund as part of its effort to make access to healthcare delivery easy to all in the state, the state Commissioner of Health Dr. Umar Isa Hinna has said.

Hinna said yesterday while speaking with our correspondent that the revolving fund had an initial capital base of N60 million which was increased to N110 million this year.

According to him, it is necessary for government to improvise a means of selling drugs to people at affordable prices since it is not possible to dispense drugs free of charge.

In a related development, the commissioner said there were about 800 indigenes of the

state that were given automatic employment while undergoing various health related courses in higher institutions of learning across the country.



GOV. Danjuma Goje

Saraki swears in Chief of Staff, special advisers

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

KWARA State Governor Bukola Saraki yesterday swore-in a substantive Chief of Staff as well as four additional Special Advisers.

Dr Ali Babatunde Ahmad, who was the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor is now the Chief of Staff. The four Advisers include Alhaji Musa Abdullahi, Architect Tunji Ayodele, Chief J.B Ogunrinola and Mr James Kolo.

At the swearing in ceremony, Governor Saraki said his administration was determined to ensure the growth and development of the state.

He charged the newly appointed officers to be committed, saying the task before them was very challenging.

"The Special Advisers are to take charge of specific schedules aimed at improving the living condition of the people and to make appropriate recommendations to the government. I am happy to inform you that they are people of impeccable character", he said.

He also urged them to be courageous, principled and transparent in the discharge of their duties, adding that the state government would create an enabling environment for them to perform their duties.

"It is therefore my belief that you will all reciprocate this good gesture by working assiduously to pursue government's goal and objectives in your various offices", he added.

In his acceptance speech on behalf of the appointees, the newly appointed Chief of Staff said they would be loyal and dedicated in the discharge of their duties.

Cross River to close 200 schools

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Cross River State government has concluded plans to close down 200 private schools in the state.

The Commissioner for Education Professor Offiong E. Offiong who disclosed this to newsmen

yesterday at the weekly media interaction maintained that the affected schools whose names would soon be published failed to meet the basic requirements of having Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Computer laboratories, a library and an Assembly hall with adequate classrooms as recom-

mended by the team of inspectors that went on an assessment of the schools.

He said the exercise which would be conducted yearly will help check the proliferation of private schools who were more interested in making money, than ensuring quality education. The

ministry also decided that henceforth, all primary school teachers in the state must possess a National Certificate of Examination (NCE) while every secondary school teacher must have a Bachelors degree or a Post Graduate Diploma (PGD) in Education or related discipline.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



FROM Left: ICAN President Elizabeth Adegbite, member of the board Kabir Mohammed and Chris Nyong at the ICAN lecture on Vision 20: 2020 in Abuja yesterday.

Nigerian arraigned over burning of Zamfara village

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

TWO persons including a Nigerian were yesterday arraigned before Magistrate Court V in Gusau, Zamfara State for burning down Addani, a village in Maradun Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

The Police First Information Report said sometime last year, the district head of Goran Namaye told the Maradun Local Government Council that the accused persons, Abubakar Danisa alias Danbuzu from Niger

Republic and Ibrahim Maigora conspired with a group of people and set the village on fire, leading to the death of five persons.

Although, the reason for their action is yet to be ascertained, the prosecutor, Sergeant Daniel Longwal, told the court that the accused were charged for criminal conspiracy, mischief by fire and culpable homicide contrary to Section 97, 336 and 221 of the Penal Code to which they all pleaded guilty.

He also told the court that investigation into the case had

been completed and the case diary had been sent to the office of Director for Public Prosecution for legal advice. He then urged the court to adjourn the case.

Magistrate Halira A.B Mamud adjourned the case to March, 3 and ordered that the accused should be remanded in prison till then.

Still in the same court yesterday, three persons Murtala Abdullahi, Suleman Isa and Awwalu Sani were charged for criminal conspiracy, kidnapping and armed robbery, contrary to

Sections 97, 273 of the Robbery and Fire arms Act Special Provision Cap. 398 of the Laws of the Federation.

Police prosecutor told the court that the accused persons conspired and kidnapped one Lawali Shehu aged 13, at Kwata area in Gusau where he was receiving Arabic lessons. They were also said to have on the same day, broken into the house of one Ibrahim Alfa and robbed him of his handsets. Their matter was also adjourned to a later date.

NUT disagrees with LG boss on teachers' salary

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

THE Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) has disagreed with the Chairman of Ijebu-East Local Government Area of Ogun State Mr. Tunde Oladunjoye on his call for the state Joint Account Allocation Committee (JAAC) and the State Universal Basic Education Board (SUBEB) to be scrapped. Oladunjoye had called for the scrapping of the two bodies, alleging that they were responsible for the inability of the local government councils to pay the 27.5 per cent teachers' salary scale in the state. But, the state chapter of the NUT yesterday accused the council boss of being self-centered and attempting to create confusion and chaos in the primary school system. The state Chairman of the

NUT, Comrade Sam Idowu, while addressing newsmen in Abeokuta said the suggestion by Oladunjoye that each local government council should take full responsibilities of the payment of teachers' salaries is uncalled for.

"If he, and a few local government councils are able to pay teachers' salaries, we ask, what about the urban local government areas whose monthly allocations are not enough to pay. We know how the monthly allocations are shared at the JAAC meetings because we are duly represented. We appeal to him to, in the interest of development in Ogun and in the interest of the masses that elected him into office, stop forthwith his obnoxious campaign for the scrapping of JAAC and SUBEB", he said.

Court adjourns hearing on Uwazurike

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

A High Court in Owerri, Imo State yesterday adjourned hearing on the bail application brought before it by the counsel to the leader of the Movement for the Actualization of the Sovereign State of Biafra (MASSOB) Chief Ralph Uwazuruike, who is standing trial for allegedly abducting one Pascal Okorie. The court presided over by Justice Goddy Anuniho yesterday fixed March 1, 2010 as the new date for hearing on the matter.

He said kidnapping and abduction carried a death sentence. Before the adjournment, the prosecutor Barr. Kevin Nwokorie asked the court to adjourn the case on the ground that the registrar had yet to

assign the case to a court. Barr. Nwokorie said he had already filed information on the matter.

He said the information was filed on February 12, 2010, about one month after Uwazurike's arrest.

Counsel to Chief Ralph Uwazuruike, Barr. Vincent Okpalaeke, opposed the motion for an adjournment, saying nothing new was attached to the matter.

He said it was the duty of the prosecution to ensure that justice was done.

Barr. Okpalaeke described the motion to adjourn the matter as a ploy to keep the accused incarcerated.

According to him, Uwazuruike's willingness to answer the police on phone was a clear indication that he was ready for trial and should be granted bail.

Nasarawa almajirai get transit home

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

ALMAJIRAI in northern part of the country now have a transit home in Lafia, Nasarawa State. The center was constructed and furnished to rehabilitate them.

The project which was unveiled at the weekend by the Centre for Women, Youth and Community Action (NACWYCA) is working with UNICEF to establish child protection networks in various communities in the state.

NACWYCA has targeted about 500 children for the programme.

Director of the center Mr. Nawani Aboki said the centre had constituted a project advisory committee which meets quarterly to brainstorm on how to improve on the center.

Why many children are out of school - UBEC

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE Executive Secretary of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) Dr Ahmed Modibbo Mohammed Tuesday said millions of children are out of school because of the misappropriation of human and material resources.

He said this in Damaturu at a workshop on "Transparency and accountability: Panacea for Effective Universal Basic Education Programme" organized for education secretaries, heads of planning

and other stakeholders in the education sector. Modibbo, who was represented by Alhaji Umar Njidda, Borno/Yobe UBEC officer, urged the participants to work hard to ensure an effective and efficient education system.

"Transparency and accountability for maximum utilization of all intervention funds allocated for the basic education programme is a necessary ingredient to ensure a brighter future for our children", he said.

Chairman of the Yobe State

Universal Basic Education Board (YUBEB) Alhaji Suleiman Jaji said corruption was also responsible for the poor quality of education.

He called on the participants to take advantage of the workshop to improve basic education delivery in the state.



PRESIDENT, Catholic Women Organisation of Abraham Adesanya Estate Ajah Lady Florence Idowu Nwosu (second) left, being congratulated by the Special Adviser to the Governor of Lagos State, Mr Sunny Akinsanya Ajose (right), during the presentation of a Coaster bus to the association in Lagos yesterday.

Police parade robbery suspects at Lagos Airport

From Nahimah Ajikanle, Lagos

THE Airport Police Command yesterday paraded three suspected armed robbers after arresting four criminals with dangerous weapons on motorcycles along the Murtala Muhammed Airport road.

Police Commissioner, Airport Command Mr Danazumi Doma said one of the suspects was still at large as he escaped while the police attempted arrest them on Tuesday.

According to Doma, the four suspects were riding on a commercial motorcycle when intercepted by his men.

He said during interrogation, one ran away while military camouflage uniform and belt, knives and other dangerous weapons were found with the remaining three.

Doma disclosed that the fleeing suspect escaped into a crowd, making it difficult to arrest him, stressing that detectives had commenced a manhunt for the suspect.

He said the three suspects had been transferred to the Airport Command Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for further investigation and possible prosecution.

Fire guts boys' hostel in Jigawa

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

A fire Tuesday razed a boys' hostel block at the Federal Government College (FGC) Kiyawa in Jigawa State, destroying property worth millions of naira.

Some of the students who spoke to Daily Trust said they were in class when suddenly they noticed heavy smoke from their hostel, indicating that, there was a fire in the hostel.

"I lost all my belongings to

the fire. The most painful thing is that all my books and JAMB slip were part of the belongings I lost to the fire. Many of my colleagues also lost similar items to the fire", a student said.

He expressed gratitude to God that no one was killed or injured by the fire, but called on the federal, state and local governments to come to their aid, noting the incident would affect their studies if government did not respond on time.

The Principal of the College,

Mr. Emmanuel Akpan, said the fire was noticed by the students. "The students and the school authorities just woke up in the morning around 8am while the school was in session to notice the fire. The entire property in the hostel were completely destroyed by the fire", he said.

He said although there was no loss of life, mattresses, books, blankets, beddings, JAMB scratch cards and slips worth millions of naira were destroyed by the fire.

Akpan who told our corre-

spondent that the cause of the fire was yet to be ascertained by the school authorities, assured that the students would soon be relocated to another place to allow the repair of the hostel.

The state Commissioner for Education Professor Ruqayyah Ahmad Rufa'i who visited the school shortly after the incident, told Daily Trust that state government would facilitate the intervention of the Federal Government which owns the school.

Traders seek army's help on Bukuru market

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Plateau State Traders and Marketing Association in Jos South Local Government Area has written to the General Officer Commanding 3rd Armoured Division of the Nigerian Army General Saleh Maina over plans to demolish the Bukuru market.

The letter signed by counsel to the association, Barrister Ahmed Garba, in Jos yesterday said, "Following the recent crisis that affected Jos -North and Jos -South Local Government Areas,

traders at the Bukuru market lost property worth billions of naira, but the Jos South Council without sympathy wants to demolish the market which will cause the affected families and traders untold hardship".

He said the council told the traders of its intention to demolish the market without following due process, adding that the council suspended all economic activities of the members without giving them notice, contravening their rights to public hearing as enshrined in the constitution.

NLC, AC back Kaduna health workers on strike

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

AS the strike by health workers in Kaduna State enters its fourth day today, the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) and the Action Congress (AC) in the state have declared support for the workers, saying the state government should fulfil pledges made in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed with the workers.

The workers commenced the strike following the failure of the state government to implement the November 17, 2009 agreement it entered with the union. The AC in a statement signed by its Publicity Secretary Barrister Mohammed Musa Soba condemned the man-

ner in which the state government responded to the strike. It said the workers had the right to demand for their entitlements.

"While we sympathize with the poor people of Kaduna State who are victims of the face off, we must also understand the dilemma of the health workers in dealing with an insensitive administration that places priority on frivolities and unnecessary executive luxury," he said.

The party said the strike action had exposed the "hypocrisy of the free health care propaganda" of the state government vis-à-vis the huge amount of money being sunk into the health sector in the state.

"The threats of dismissal against

the striking health workers by the state government and the militarization of the health sector are primitive and dictatorial and have no place in a democratic dispensation. The government should eschew the toga of arrogance and respect the terms of the MOU it voluntarily entered with the workers in order to save the lives of the people of the state," the party said. The NLC in a letter to Governor Mohammed Namadi Sambo jointly signed by the state chairman and secretary, Comrade Daniel Bissala and Comrade Henry U. Shekarau respectively, called for the quick intervention of the state government in order to douse down the tension created by the ongoing strike.

US jury convicts Nigerian on fraud charges

A 31-year-old Nigerian man could face up to 20 years in prison after being convicted Tuesday of charges related to running advance free fraud scams for five years, according to the U.S. Department of Justice.

Okpako Mike Diamreyan lived in Nigeria, Ghana and the U.S. between August 2004 and August 2009, running scams that involved sending e-mails and making phone calls in order to perpetrate advance free fraud, technology news service PCWorld reported.

The scams try to entice victims into sending money with the false promise they'll receive a greater sum of money in the future.

Diamreyan posed as a

government or bank official, sending fake documents to victims in order to persuade them to send money via money transfer services such as Western Union. Prosecutors alleged "numerous" victims sent money to Diamreyan, both directly and indirectly.

Diamreyan is scheduled for sentencing in U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut on May 7. He could also face a fine of \$250,000 for each of three wire fraud counts, the justice department said.

Advance fee fraud scams have existed for many years, but fraudsters have been able to canvas an ever-increasing number of people using spam e-mail. The type of scam is also known

as 419 fraud, named after part of the Nigerian criminal code that deals with fraud.

Advance fee frauds are believed to be a multi-billion dollar industry, but prosecutions are rare. Technology companies such as Microsoft and Yahoo have filed some lawsuits due to the use of their brands in a version of the scam that falsely informs potential victims they've won a lottery run by the companies.

The top three countries for advance fee fraud losses in 2009 were the U.S. at \$2.1 billion, U.K. at \$1.2 billion and China at \$936 million, according to figures released last month by Ultrascan, a Dutch private investigations company.

Nigeria gets anti-terror software

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Netherlands has donated "Eison Software Kit" to the Nigerian Immigration Service to enhance its fight against terrorism and other cross border crimes.

Briefing reporters shortly after meeting with the Ambassador of Netherlands to Nigeria, the Comptroller General of Immigration Mr. Chukwu-

rah Udeh said the software is for detecting criminals on their way out or into the country.

"They promised they want to strengthen whatever we are doing by given us equipments to reinforce our fight against illegal migration, and that is what they come to actualised today," he said.

The software, according to Udeh, would help the immigration uncover

and unveil "elements" that would come in any form "be they terrorist, identity fraudsters, illegal migrations" among others.

The equipments are to be installed at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja, Murtala Muhammad Airport Lagos, Port Harcourt Airport, Aminu Kano International Airport, and Immigration Training School Kano.

Japan approves N10m for rural water supply

By Aisha Umar

THE Japanese Grassroots Human Security Projects yesterday signed a N10million contract with the Community Based Development NGO Forum (CBD-NGO forum) for the implementation of a project for the improvement of rural water situation and sanitation.

Japan Ambassador to Nigeria Mr. Toshitsugu Eesawa and CBD-NGO forum Programme Coordinator Rehab David signed on behalf of their respective group at the Japanese embassy in Abuja yesterday.

The project involves building of nine

boreholes and two maintenance tool kits at Akwanga local government area in Nasarawa State for one year.

The ambassador said Japanese assistance to Nigeria since independence has amounted to N600 billion (\$4.2 billion), focusing on education and water/sanitation, 103 projects with a total amount of \$5m have been implemented throughout Nigeria since 1998.

Mrs Rehab David assured the ambassador that her vision is to build a credible community through water and sanitation, adding that she will do a quality work and spend the money judiciously.

Yar'adua: Group says N/Assembly resolution in order

By Lami Sadiq

THE resolution passed by the National Assembly empowering Goodluck Jonathan as acting President is not entirely unconstitutional, a Non Governmental Organisation has said.

The group, Seven Wonders of Democracy, said through its spokesman

Tom E. Obulu that the decision of the lawmakers is an act of verbal amendment of Section 144 of the constitution pending a final one.

Mr Obulu said the resolution tallies with the wishes of the majority of Nigerians.

He called on Jonathan to fish out civil servants who were reported to have looted the treasury since

ailing President Umaru Yar'adua left the country for medical treatment in Saudi Arabia.

The group said the Acting President should send a bill to the National Assembly to make laws on the recommendation of Justice Mohammed Uwais electoral reform report for good governance and fight against corruption.

ADAMAWA STATE COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (AD-CSDA)

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

(CONSULTANT SERVICES)

NIGERIA

CONSULTING SERVICES. 4496-UNLP090644



A. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the implementation of the Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consultancy services. The services include carrying out a baseline survey of sample communities for now in Nine (9) LGAs in Adamawa State expected to be concluded in Eight (8) weeks.

B. OBJECTIVE OF THE SURVEY

The overall objective of the survey is to collect and collate baseline information on sampled communities in Nine (9) of the Twenty One (21) LGAs to be considered in the first instance. This baseline is to assist in providing opportunities for intervention by the project and also to provide a basis for impact based comparison of pre and post project situation in the CSDP communities. Adamawa State Community and Social Development Agency wishes to recruit a consultant(s) to undertake the assignment in the sampled communities in the first batch of the assignment.

C. SCOPE OF WORK

The consultant (s) is expected to visit the nine (9) Local Government Areas and obtain the following general information in respect of all the LGAs and communities.

1. Name of LGA and Communities
2. Distance of the community to the LGA HQ and State Capital.
3. Population of Community disaggregated into gender / adult / children / ethnicity / religion.
4. Natural resources features such as land, water and forests.
5. Occupation (cropping pattern, crops, yields, domestic animals such as sheep goats, cattle and others).
6. Available infrastructure (Schools, Health Centers and their status, Water Supply etc).
7. Average Household size (Family) disaggregated into gender / adult / children.
8. Average Household income distribution.
9. Sources of household income / economic activities.
10. Socio-cultural features that influence community economic development such as market days and frequency, local festivals and historic events.
11. Existing village organizations such as CDAs, CBOs etc.

The following specific information is to be provided:

1. Economic environment of the communities in the LGAs. This should include but not limited to the economic activities, the social and cultural factors that influence economic development and sharing of common property resources, sources of livelihood of families and their income per capita. Specific attention should be placed on gender and vulnerable group (men, women, youth, disabled, minorities etc).
2. Soil and water quality and changes in parameter within the LGA. Water and soil samples must be collected from different sources e.g. streams, wells boreholes etc and tested both at the field and at the laboratory.
3. Structure of formal and informal institutions and their current roles in community development activities.
4. Agricultural production systems, cropping patterns, yields, household income and constraints to agricultural productivity.
5. Identify and assess status of resources (land, forests, water etc) within the LGAs and identify indicators that could be used to monitor changes.
6. Availability and quality / condition of infrastructural facilities in all sectors such as education, health, water, environmental / natural resources, rural electrification, socio-economic and transport / roads. All project types should be covered including those executed by the Government, NGOs, the community or other developmental agencies.
7. Environmental problems of concern to the community and mitigation measures being adopted.
8. Ranking of communities within LGAs on basis of availability and functionality of infrastructural facilities.
9. Provide information on how to develop measurable indicators to be used in impact evaluation for each sector.
10. Prepare a comprehensive report on each of the communities by LGAs based on the above.
 - ii. Average no of persons / vehicles plying the existing community road per week.

D. SKILL REQUIREMENT

The study is expected to be conducted by a consultancy firm with personnel possessing requisite qualification and experience in conducting rural baseline surveys. Each member of the team should have at least five (5) years post qualification experience. The team should comprise of the following expertise.

- a. A Socio-Economist / Rural Economist / Rural Sociologist / Agricultural Economist
- b. A Natural Resources expert / Environmentalist and
- c. A Hydrologist

In addition, the consultancy firm shall work with the Agency in designing the questionnaire and reviewing the collected information to ensure quality and consistency.

E. The Adamawa State Community and Social Development Agency (AD-CSDA) now invites eligible consultants to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (description of similar assignment, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc) Consultants may associate to enhance their qualifications.

F. A consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines; Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank borrowers (current edition). Interested consultants may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 22.00 to 16.00 hours

G. Expression of interest must be delivered to the address below by 12 noon, not later than 2 weeks from the date of this advert, whether by post or hand delivered.

The General Manager,
Adamawa State Community & Social Development Agency,
No 57, Atiku Abubakar Road,
PMB 2110, Yola
Adamawa State
Nigeria.



Federal Inland Revenue Service
15, Sokode Crescent, Off Michael Okpara
Street, Wuse, Zone 5, Abuja.

**Re: FG APPROVES INCOME TAX REDUCTION:
A REJOINDER.**

The attention of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) has been drawn to reports in a section of the media to the effect that the Federal Government has approved reductions in the rates of Companies Income Tax and Personal Income Tax.

For the avoidance of doubt, the National Tax Policy recently approved by the Federal Executive Council reflects government's desire to ensure a conducive tax regime for corporate bodies and individual taxpayers. The overriding philosophy of the tax policy is to promote fiscal responsibility, deploy taxation to grow the Nigerian economy, achieve a shift from direct to indirect taxation and institute structures that promote investments.

As is usual in fiscal policy issues with far reaching public implications, there ought to be a statutory legislative backing before such policies can come into effect. In the absence of such legal enactment, the status quo with regards to Company Income Tax and Personal Income Tax stands.

These clarifications have become necessary to avoid misleading corporate and individual taxpayers. THE CORRECT POSITION AS AT THIS MOMENT IS THAT THE TOP MARGINAL RATES FOR COMPANIES INCOME TAX AND PERSONAL INCOME TAX REMAIN AT 30% AND 25% RESPECTIVELY UNTIL THE LAWS ARE AMENDED.

Therefore, all corporate and individual taxpayers are to note these clarifications and ensure compliance with regard to their tax obligations.

Signed:
Director corporate Communication Department
Federal Inland Revenue Service.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Buhari's exit will not affect our victory in 2011 –Shekarau Group

WE, the supporters of General Buhari know that he will come out in 2011 by the grace of God, and only time will tell, whether General Buhari's exit will affect

the ANPP or not. We also want people to know that the time to doubt General Buhari's credibility is over.
Zanna Bukar Baruwa

bukar.zanna@yahoo.com
The exit of our dear leader, Muhammadu Buhari from the ANPP has left the party leaders

in a serious dilemma. But we, his supporters are solidly behind him. God Bless Nigeria.
Yahaya Ibn Idris Abu ibnidrees@gmail.com

I support Shekarau and would like to be his South-East campaign organiser.
Obiji Stephen
obijistephen@yahoo.com



PDP National Chairman, Chief Vincent Ogbulafor

Ogbulafor can't see Yar'adua

CHIEF Ogbulafor could not see Yar'adua because he has a bad sight and that is why he travelled to India to check his eyes. These are facts and those with Ogbulafor that waited behind could not see Yar'adua because the First Lady, Turai told them to get permission from the Saudi Arabia authorities before they could see Yar'adua, dead or alive. What exactly is happening here?

Kotoko
gocanconsultants@sympatico.ca

Why do we choose to live in deceit in this country? All the same, "This too shall pass away". Anything hidden will be made open, with God impossibilities will be turned into possibilities. I fear for our country. Technology and all the cameras in this world have failed to show Nigerians the condition of their president. May God have mercy.

Da Paul D Gyang
pauldavaugyang@yahoo.com

Did Ogbulafor leave for India because he has eye problem, which became obvious when he could not see Yar'adua or what?

Rash
oniyangi@gmail.com

This is becoming too much. If the national chairman of the ruling party cannot see the ailing president, then who else would be allowed to?

Joe Bassey
kunizar12@yahoo.com

If you could not see him, it is either because he is too small or your vision is really poor. I think it is the second option, that is why you headed for India to check your eyes. Maybe, the president has vanished. I thought you were one of those saying the president was hale and hearty and that he will soon be back.

Abdul
onibolaj@yahoo.co.uk

Jos Hausa community: 'Ajibola panel vindicates us'

AJIBOLA is a legal virus capable of destroying the peace and progress of not only Nigeria, but the world. He was infected with the virus when he started hobnobbing with Governor Jang. May Almighty God help him.

Idris Dahiru
dabukat22@yahoo.com

Hausa Muslims deserve justice and equity because their great grandparents settled in Jos and developed it to its present state. Go to Ghana, Hausa Muslims, who are originally from Nigeria are there with all their rights given to them. There was a time a Hausa man was a vice president there. The indigenes should sacrifice Jos North and allow the Hausa Muslims to contest and win elections.

Barr.Shuwa
alminshuwa65@yahoo.com

The truth is always bitter. If we must live together as one Nigeria, we should learn to accept our faults and turn away from evil.

Tanimu Amos
tamamos1@yahoo.com



PRINCE Bola Ajibola

The government should always try to be fair in all situation. Pos-

terity will judge those in authority harshly if they do otherwise.
Dankane A. Zamfara

dankane17f@yahoo.com

Any one setting up an investigative panel has an expectation. So the report must tally with what is expected. Anything other than that will not be accepted. It is said that, he who pays the piper dictates the tune, that is what happened with the Ajibola panel.

Aminu Usman
aminujae@yahoo.com

Bola Ajibola is biased and a threat to the peaceful co-existence of our great country, Nigeria, because his panel only acted according to the wishes and aspirations of the Jang government.

Idris H.
idrisharon4real@yahoo.com

May God bring an end to poverty in this country, so that we can have men who can stand up and say the truth, no matter what the consequences would be. For God sake how can someone like Ajibola allow himself to be used by Jang and his cohorts?

Mohammed. M. L
mhmd2000ng@yahoo.com

FG probes Boko Haram members' execution

I was shocked when I saw the video clip. It made me regret being a Nigerian. A country where law enforcement agencies can kill at will, because they have no value for life. The authorities cannot protect its citizen and they pretend not to know when things like this happen. They had to be reminded by foreign countries to protect their citizens.

Chris Anegode
chrisanego@yahoo.com

It is really unfortunate that our leaders are insensitive to issues affecting the people.

Had Al-Jazeera not released that horrendous video clip, the police would have continued to tell the world lies on how they quelled the Boko Haram uprising.

It is now clear that they are not only amateurs, but are also barbaric in their approach to issues.

If the government is serious, such police men would be allowed charged for genocide.

Haro
haroismail@yahoo.com

I see no reason why Nigerian authorities did not take action on what happened in Maiduguri last year, why did they wait till now. The youths are losing confidence in the nation's leaders.

ALISKE
aliske71@yahoo.com

The Inspector General of Police should please speed up this investigation and punish those involved appropriately. That video brought tears to my eyes. It should not be ignored, but thoroughly investigated. It is also an indictment on the Nigerian media that wasted all their resources looking for issues that could divide Nigeria.

Gladstone Ogbonna
ogladstone@yahoo.co.uk



THE late Mohammed Yusuf, leader of Boko Haram sect

“ By Usen Uduak

Should Nigeria honour Mutallab?

It's not the best of times for Nigeria. At best, it is at a crossroads. From a sick but recalcitrant President and most of his retinue of aides to a biting fuel scarcity and Shylock black marketers who smile to the banks at the expense of the masses, to the listing of Nigeria among United States watch list, a nation can't be in a lousier situation than we have been for some time now. But thank God the National Assembly has come to the rescue.

Instructively, perhaps, nothing set the country up for a bad start as the Farouk Mutallab saga. It reverberated from one end of the world to the other, drawing a deserved ire and condemnation, doing more damage to our already image deficit. Now every Nigerian, just for the singular "crime" of being a Nigerian, must be dissected, naked, at international airports around the world, especially if he is US-bound. That is a typical case of one oily finger soiling the rest.

It is however noteworthy that the measure we are receiving over the Mutallab *wahala* is the portion of a people whenever they fail to do what they are supposed to do and do things they aren't supposed to do. After all, we can be sure US would not have swiftly listed South Africa or Ghana on terror

“ In fact, Farouk started his journey from Ghana and passed through the Netherlands; yet, to the US, these nationals are among the saints

watch list if their national was involved. In fact, Farouk started his journey from Ghana and passed through the Netherlands; yet, to the US, these nationals are among the saints. But while the world hates and derides us, we even do worse to ourselves. We have dressed ourselves in a rat's clothing. So, who would blame the big cat called US for coming after us? Yes, we have left our farms *unweeded*, and the serpents of reproach and insults have taken over.

The debates around whether or not Alhaji Mutallab, Farouk's father deserves a national award tells it all. It is unavoidable to identify him as father of the bomber. But how else would the world now identify him most easily? How many people around the world know or now remember that this gentleman was once a former Minister (Secretary) in the Federal Cabinet of Nigeria when such Office conferred a lot of respect on the occupier. How many now remember that he is an immediate past Chairman of one of our foremost banks and a peaceable Muslim? But can we sincerely begrudge the world when we, his fellow countrymen and women, seem to have forgotten, hence the debates that have trailed the Deputy Senate President's motion that a national honour be conferred on the man?

Apart from a write-up posted on a Nigerian online community website by one of our many never-come-home siblings in the Diaspora whose main preoccupation and contributions to

nation-building is armchair criticisms, I also read a letter to the editor of one of the newspapers. The writer contended that it was dishonourable and frivolous to have called for a national honour on Alhaji Mutallab and that "In a country where truth is a scarce commodity, it becomes a thing to applaud when someone tells the truth to save his own neck and that of his members." That is a grievous point of misjudgement.

The truth is if there was anybody who tried to prevent the December 25 incident, it was Mutallab the father. He gave out a very vital information-painful as it were- that his son (not his neighbour's son, for God's sake!) may have fallen into the hands of religious extremists. That information, from all good sense of reasoning, could not just have been to save his neck and that of his family.

And even if indeed that was his purpose, it doesn't obliterate the fact that his action mitigated our embarrassment in no small measure. To talk down on Ekweremadu's prayer for the conferment of a national honour on Alhaji Mutallab translates to a grievous underestimation of the import of his action. Look at it this way: Alhaji Mutallab informed the US Embassy and Nigerian security authorities he was no longer comfortable with his son's extreme views and ways, but it apparently fell on deaf ears or the concerned authorities in US and Nigeria underestimated it. Again, President Obama admitted his people failed on that one, but it did not stop him from listing Nigeria on the US terror watch list alongside notorious states like Somalia, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan, etc. Is it not reasonable to conclude that but for that proactive action, we would have been listed among States Sponsoring Terrorism (by US standards) such as Cuba, Iran, Syria, etc and also faced graver international sanctions and dispositions?

But I have another idea. If we must agree with the opinion that someone who did the right thing does not deserve a national honour, then let us award it to those who failed in their duties. Let us honour Obama for putting us on terror watch list even though he admitted his country failed in that instance. Let us honour the US security agencies for failing to share and act on intelligence as was admitted by Obama. Let us give it to the US Embassy here and the US Immigration for not withdrawing Farouk's visa pending full investigation into his father's warning. Let us award it to most Nigerian parents who would have regarded giving away such information as driving a deadly nail against their son's future. Let us even give it to all those who have mismanaged Nigeria and her educational system for ages forcing parents who can afford it to scatter their children overseas, away from parental guide and watch, in search of quality education. In fact, let us even reassemble Obasanjo's host of former cooks and stewards in his Villa days that received national honours in 2006 and upgrade their awards. For all we care, Mutallab and Senator Ike Ekweremadu can go to Jos, Borno or Bauchi if they feel so Boko-harassed.

Uduak wrote from Abuja.

“ By Farouk Ibrahim

100 days on, remembering Abubakar Abba Umar

“ It is not how long one lived, but how well” that is important, wrote a mourner on the condolence register. Abubakar Abba Umar had his life gruesomely terminated at the age of 42, on 11th November 2009 at Utako District in Abuja. His killers were not content with fracturing his skull with a bullet; they also used uncommon incendiary material to immolate him inside his car. What remained were barely ash and pieces of crumbling bones.

Abba, as he was called by friends and family members, was an exceptionally gifted, honest and hard-working individual. Although he was the first law student to graduate with a first class in the faculty at the University of Maiduguri in 1992, he never attended primary or secondary school. He missed both but was able to educate himself at home.

His father who was an eminent Islamic scholar wanted Abba to follow in his footsteps. Even at tender age Abba was able to memorize a lot of Arabic texts. But he opted for Western education. Family members recall him buying Basic English and mathematics textbooks. Later on he enrolled at the Arabic Teachers' College in Gombe and later in Maiduguri from where he proceeded to College of Legal Studies Yola where he emerged with a distinction. Eventually he made it to the University of

“ As if he had a premonition that he was about to leave this world

Maiduguri where he got a first class and won many prizes in 1992.

Abba's sojourn took him to Lagos for his National Youth Service Corp with the National Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) in 1994. He did so well as a corps member that he was retained. His former boss Ahmed Almustapha remembered as someone who would not close from work until his boss did. He was so impressed with Abba's performance that when he was appointed Registrar-General of Corporate Affairs Commission he made Abba his Special Assistant in 2001.

Both men began the task of transforming the CAC from a corruption-ridden enclave to a world-class organization.

Known for his vociferous stand against graft, Abba made sure that who engaged in it in the organisation never got a second chance. That actually turned out to be his undoing. When former president Obasanjo muted the idea of setting up the EFCC, Malam Nuhu Ribadu, its chairman, took Abba on board to draft what later became the EFCC law. He also became one of the board

members of the EFCC. With his new role at the EFCC, life became miserable for lawyers who forged CAC certificates. He handed each that came his way to the EFCC for prosecution.

After the recent disclosure of bank debtors by the current CBN Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, some of the big debtors who were equally rich and influential wanted the CAC to illegally amend the share value of their companies. They faced a stumbling block in Abba in his position as Special Assistant to the Registrar General.

A friend did an assessment of his personal security and advised him to leave the CAC along with his former boss last June, arguing that he would become easy target of the opponents of his former boss. On the other hand, where there appeared to laxity on the part of the new team at CAC, his personal safety would be at risk too.

Few months after the take-over, things began to go sour; he sensed that his presence there was not being tolerated. He told his family members of his fears.

He planned to take a breather by going to Harvard for a higher degree. He would apply for study leave, which he decided that if it was not granted, as he suspected would be the case, he would simply resign. On the night November 11, 2009, before he could put his plans into action, his assailants struck.

Abba was a devout Muslim who never missed his prayers.

He had just completed constructing a beautiful mosque in Gembu powered by solar panels, first of its kind in his native Taraba state. As if he had a premonition that he was about to leave this world, he hurried the project and expended a large chunk of his savings on it.

Those who will feel the pain of Abba's departure include the many widows and orphans he had been assisting financially.

Less than a year before he was killed, he also expended a good part of his savings on paying for a poor 14-year old to have a cochlear implant. The poor boy reacted to some antibiotic after a severe illness and lost his hearing as a result. He had to drop out of school for over five years. He was taken to the school for the deaf but he was not making much progress. Abba managed to save some money to pay for the surgery. Today, the boy could hold a conversation on the phone!

Abba did many other things to help people in need when he could; yet he left very little material wealth that could barely take care of his immediate family.

May Allah have mercy on his soul and grant him eternal rest, and expose his killers before the entire world. It is 100 days to the day today since this brilliant young man was so senselessly and brutally killed; those responsible are still at large.

Ibrahim wrote from Asokoro, Abuja.



By Bolaji I Ahmed

University of Abuja deserves better leadership

For more than fifteen years after it was established in 1988, the University of Abuja could not live up to its expectation as a centre of learning reflecting the status of an institution in the Federal Capital Territory. One ostensible reason for this was the reluctance of successive administrations to take a bold step and expand the confines of its territory, leaving the surging population packed at the mini campus in Gwagwalada.

Though, past administrations in the University have made some contributions, particularly, in the area of laying down basic foundation for further development, a honest appraisal of how far the University of Abuja has fared in the over two decades of its existence, cannot deny the immediate past vice chancellor, Professor Nuhu O. Yaqub's administration the award of the best VC of the University so far. That administration not only succeeded in moving the university to its permanent site, it helped to nurture academic optimism and a culture of sound scholarship in the university community as vices such as cultism, examination malpractices, etc were roundly dealt with.

With the expiration of the tenure of that administration in May 2009, many had expected that whoever would take over from the outgoing VC would have the feryour and administrative acumen to improve upon the good works and help lift the university farther. Since he assumed office, on 1st July 2009, the new Vice Chancellor, Professor James Sunday Adelabu, his administration has failed to live up to expectation.

In the last eight months that he held sway as the vice chancellor of University of Abuja, Professor Adelabu, has embarked upon staff redeployment exercise that has done the university community more harm than good. He saw to the entrenchment of his science-based counterparts in certain strategic positions of authority, helped create an environment that could upset the religious and ethnic harmony prevalent in the university; unnecessarily delayed the payment of staff salaries; refused to pay the long overdue staff and contractors' claims, etc. He has also demonstrated crude autocracy and has been unwilling to set in motion machinery for the appointment of Deputy Vice Chancellors. His mantra for this inability to meet most of the above obligations is that the university is bankrupt.

Perhaps his handling of the recent 2009/2010 admission exercise was the most annoying of all his administrative missteps. Devoid of any semblance of transparency, and characterized by unabashed favouritism, that exercise was the worst that any administration ever carried out in the history of this University. A couple of months after the post UME was conducted in November 2009, the candidates were kept in limbo as their results were not immediately released on the internet.

After endless rumours about the possible cancellation of the Post Ume (since thousands of scripts were marked manually instead of electronically), the authority decided to release the first batch of successful candidates in January 2010, with their so-called post Ume results attached. As candidates began to question the rationale behind this, the Adelabu administration decided to release the so-called second list, and belatedly uploaded the results of the candidates.

Aside from the fact that the list contained largely names of those who were mainly from a particular geo-political zone, it heavily alienated and marginalized candidates even from the catchment area. While 60 was made the cut-off mark, there were candidates who scored less than that, but were admitted; and others who had far more than the cut-off mark, but were not admitted. This problem was partly envisaged when instead of allowing a committee to handle the exercise, as was the case in the past, the VC took personal charge of the whole exercise.

Now there is speculation that a third list would be released sometime this month, at least before the convocation ceremony of the University. For an administration that has set such false and unenviable standard, there is no doubt that the list would not be different in nature from the first and second ones.

The admission exercise in most institutions of higher learning has helped to deny university education to a lot of Nigerians, many of who are competent and qualified. The University of Abuja, which is a federal institution located in the heart of the federal capital, should have no business joining this bandwagon of lopsidedness in admission exercise.

Ahmed is of the Department of Business Administration, University of Abuja.

Your Letters

Who says Jonathan can't return to his VP post?

When I read The Guardian's February 6, 2009, page 14 story "South-Sputh: Who Succeeds Jonathan?", the writer named those waiting in the wings for the post of Vice president as Timi Alaibe (former NDDC Managing Director), James Ibori (former governor of Delta State) and Peter Odili (former governor of Rivers State). I am tempted to ask The Guardian and the writer who told them that Jonathan, after being acting President (without making him a substantive one) for the period left for Yar'Adua, would not be considered as the Vice President for another presidential candidate

from the north come 2011 - going by the zoning system?

To start with none of the names suggested in *The Guardian* article merits the position VP of Nigeria under PDP should Jonathan decline to be. We have all heard from an ex-militant (General Boyloaf) who claimed that the first N20 million he got to form his militant garrison came from Alaibe when the latter was with the NDDC. It is ironic to suggest James Ibori, who is facing serious legal challenges on corruption-related cases. How about Peter Odili, who most Nigerians accuse of promoting the militancy in the Niger Delta for personal political exigencies? It is alleged that Odili cannot visit his village in Rivers State for fear of being attacked because of his perceived conduct while in the Port Harcourt Government House. Like Ibori, he too is facing serious graft-related

charges in court.

Nigeria deserves the respect of the international community. Even if there should be need to look for VP stuff in the south-south region (should Jonathan decline), and if Nigeria agrees that such position should come from ex-governors, what about those Jonathan's counterparts, former governors who walk the streets freely with clean records?

Jonathan is eminently qualified to return to his Vice-President seat as provided by zoning come 2011, more so if he completed his Presidency on acting capacity. There is nothing wrong with that, after all we all remember how (even) a substantive President in South Africa later served as a Vice-President to Dr. Nelson Mandela's presidency.

Dr Ahmed Mustapha, Plot 1239 Daura Road Katsina (Mustaphaa27@yahoo.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

These polymer notes...

NIGERIANS are deceived everyday the emergency polymer naira notes in the N20 and N50 denominations are fading to white paper. You mean the CBN guys haven't noticed?

MONA, Karu, 08036048730.

Wishful thoughts

I'M very sure if President Yar'adua were around, the excess crude oil money would have been shared in accordance with due process, and not in the promotion of some self-ish agenda.

08036573800.

Hausa can't be settlers' language

THE indigenes of Plateau State should tell us why do they use Hausa in communicating, when that language is a settlers' language? If you asked the Berom to convey a message for you to the

Angas man, he definitely would use Hausa as medium of communication. Why? How does every indigene understand and speak that language when it is a settlers' language?

EDWARD, Bukuru, Plateau State, 08137803474.

We knew this all the time

EVEN before the *Aljazeera* video clip on the extrajudicial killing of unarmed people, Nigerians knew that the Boko Haram leader and his father-in-law were most likely murdered by the police. What was done about that?

E Amans, 08036520161.

Still on Ajibola's panel

WE should not blame the erudite legal icon for reaching such conclusions. When the opposing party boycotted the panel instituted by the state, what do you expect from him? Ajibola only acted based on the report

submitted by those who were willing to submit their positions. No amount of cheap blackmail can soil Ajibola's reputation.

IDRIS, Yola, 08030583696.

No reason to complain

IF the Hausa community were serious, they should have joined in the public sittings of the Ajibola panel, and perhaps issue a minority report, if they disagreed with the main findings. But to begin to cry foul is our style of not accepting the truth, but trivialising everything.

TANKO, Kaduna, 08098771941.

The guilty are afraid

THOSE calling Buhari to quit politics are probably corrupt, who know only he can end their dubious acts when he becomes president.

ABU Amin, Bauchi, 07039277581.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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AU resolution against military coups

African Union leaders recently ended a summit in the Ethiopian capital, Addis-Ababa with a new chairman and series of resolutions aimed at stabilising the continent. The new AU Chairman is Malawian President, Bingu wa Mutharika. He takes over from Libyan leader Muammar Kaddafi.

Notable among the decisions taken at the end of the summit was the determination to put a stop to military interruptions of the democratic order in member countries of the continental body. The summit also promised to tackle electoral frauds and seek to end wars and conflicts that plague some countries.

It is not the first time that the Union would be making a proclamation against coups. By its own rules, military incursions into governance are usually not welcome. But in the last year alone, four military coups were recorded in various parts of the continent. They are violent military takeovers in Madagascar, Mauritania, Equatorial Guinea and Guinea Bissau. Such unwarranted interference on the part of soldiers shows that it would take more than resolutions to keep them from intervening in the political order.

Most of the leaders in Africa have been in the saddle for virtually as long as the continent exchanged colonial flags for political freedom. The emergent leaders made a mockery of the electoral process, muzzled opposition and turned their countries into personal fiefdoms. They keep themselves in power with the support of their close allies and other surrogates. They muzzle opposition and send dissenting voices either into forceful exile or into jails. In such countries, state media are tightly controlled and voices of dissent are hardly given space. Corruption is pervasive and the leader is usually richer than the state displaying opulence and affluence while the majority continues to wallow in abject poverty and squalor.

Such a sorry state of political disorder associated with the African democratic order is a recipe for military intervention and accounts for the growing number of military coups in the continent. Unless such leaders have a change of heart and free the democratic space, it remains to be seen how coups can be outlawed. Those who make peaceful change impossible make violent change inevitable are words that our leaders should keep in mind.

The quest to end conflicts would definitely follow the same recipe. The absence of the ideals of democracy and good governance, corruption, ethnic and tribal domination and inequitable sharing of national wealth as well as forceful domination of one religious view over others are the reasons why wars and conflicts thrive in the continent. Any resolution that does not practically tackle these issues at the base would work as effectively as any paper horse being prepared to win a practical war.

The best antidote to coups cannot be found in fine rhetoric or fantastic resolutions. They are found in good governance and leadership that is accountable; and an electoral system that is free and fair and respects the true wishes of the people in its outcome. It must be found in openness and true respect for the rights and privileges of the citizenry and the provisions of the sanctity of the constitution and not the ones that are amended at will to suit a sit-tight leader. It must be found in the use of available resources for the greatest happiness and welfare of the majority. If these ideals are scrupulously followed, coups, wars and conflicts would be a thing of the past and democracy can then blossom.

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Climate change and our future (I)

ABANTU for Development is an African non governmental organisation NGO working in five critical areas, gender, governance, poverty, peace and health. It undertakes capacity building for NGOs to enable them engage with these issues from a gender perspective. At a Board meeting of the ABANTU Regional Office for West Africa (ROWA) in Accra, Ghana in January, the organisation reviewed its activities in 2009 and the efforts being made to respond to emerging development issues in its area of work. One of the issues discussed was climate change and the ABANTU regional office made an impressive presentation on the work it had been doing around the issue of climate change in Ghana. ABANTU for Development's Nigeria Country Office which I represented at the meeting was asked if it had been involved in the various activities that the civil society had been organizing around the issue of climate change. I mentioned that I participated at the last Inter Faith Action for Peace in Africa IFAPA Summit in Gaborone, Botswana in November 2009 which focused on climate change and had planned to share the outcome of the Summit with the civil society groups and other stakeholders in the country.

An opportunity to do so was the stakeholder's meeting on climate change which was organised by an Abuja based NGO, Change Managers International Network (CMIN) in partnership with Action Aid International on February 11, 2010 at the Yar'adua Centre in Abuja. The one day meeting was convened to hear the outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (UNCC-COP 15) which held in Copenhagen, Denmark from December 7 to 18 2009. At the meeting, participating countries like Nigeria committed to Protocols and strategies for coping with the effects of climate change. CMIN had earlier organised a pre - Copenhagen Public Interest Dialogue on November 18, 2009 in Abuja which recognized that climate change resulting from global warming is a threat to sustainable development and that women and men have different gender roles, gender practical needs and strategic interests. It further recognized the need to mainstream gender into coping strategies on the effects of climate change, taking into cognisance indigenous knowledge and adaptations. It further noted that women make up 70 percent of the poor but have limited access to decision making bodies and resources while men have control over decision making and resources and that when environmental disasters occur, women are more affected. The outcome of the PID was communicated to the National Planning Team for the COP 15 at that time. The Post UNFCCC-COP stakeholders meeting tagged 'COP-15 Outcome and Next Steps' was therefore convened for CSOs that participated at the PID and COP-15 and Government representatives to discuss and strategise on the next steps.

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

The meeting began with a welcome address by the President of CMIN, Mrs. Felicia Onibon. She welcomed participants and recalled that civil society organisations made their input into COP 15 through the public interest dialogue. She drew attention to the earth quake in Haiti and said all stakeholders must see it as a wake up call to take action on climate change before disasters occur. She welcomed the Government's decision to establish a Climate Change Commission in the country. In his remarks, the representative of Action Aid Nigeria Mr. Obo Effang said his organisation

a climate change conference to which all the 35 state Governors will be invited. It is also advocating adequate funding of desert encroachment projects in Northern Nigeria. Mr Maxim Ugwuoke said Lagos is a mini Nigeria where all groups are represented and when environmental disasters happen the refugees will head to Lagos in search of succour. This will put an extra burden on infrastructure and also pose a security problem. By promoting projects that will ensure environmental sustainability the state is also investing in its own security and that of the country. Lagos state is therefore promoting desert expedition and sharing best practices of countries that have successfully conquered their encroaching desert.

The meeting then shifted its focus to the COP-15 and participants shared their views on the conference. Most of the participants felt

“The outcome of the PID was communicated to the National Planning Team for the COP 15 at that time

consider climate change a timely and worthy issue to engage with and it was fully represented at the COP conference through participants from 53 countries drawn from its partner organisations worldwide. Mrs Anne Addeh of CMIN set the tone for discussion and invited the Head of Climate Change Department, Lagos state to make his presentation.

In his report Mr. Maxim Ugwuoke said Lagos State government had made the issue of climate change a priority because the state has a huge population of 17.5 million and 180 kilometres of coastal line which makes the state extremely vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Global warming means rising water level and the resultant flooding of low land areas. Lagos is the 15th city on the global list of countries that are threatened by climate change and if nothing is done the city will be submerged! The state government had to invest heavily in projects to control tidal waves at the bar beach which had led to Ocean surge and the flooding of the high brow Victoria Island. He shared with participants the awareness generation activities on climate change undertaken by the Lagos state government. Among these are establishment of climate change clubs in schools, development of manuals for training and enlightenment on climate change, an essay competition for schools and recruitment of 150 graduates to visit schools for implementation of the climate change enlightenment project. A Summit on climate change was organised in the state and thirty five Local Government areas replicated the summit using the local language to ensure grass roots participation.

For national level outreach, the Lagos state government is planning

that the industrialised countries that are polluting our common world were not keen on making commitments to reduce the emission. The initial plan was to use the Berlin Plan of Action as the working document for COP-15 and all parties were supposed to act on it and make commitments inline with Kyoto and its Protocols.

The Kyoto Convention is a UNCC document but the 13 industrialised countries that make the highest contribution to global warming were not ready to reduce their emission of green house gas. Mrs Herietta Alhassan of the Climate change Desk in the Ministry of Environment said COP-15 was well attended and there were about 20,000 participants. They were however disappointed that after thirteen hours of plenary sessions, no legally binding document was produced. The COP -15 Accord came out as a compromise because of the evasive tactics of the industrialised countries. All parties agreed to take note of the Copenhagen document noting that the second commitment to Kyoto starts in 2013. The global community also resolved to mobilise 100 billion US dollars by 2020 to combat the effects of climate change.

The Presidential Adviser on Climate Change said the twelve paragraph document known as the COP-15 Accord is empty but it was what the conference produced. He urged civil society participants at the meeting to engage with it and step up their awareness activities in their various communities to ensure that climate change is made a priority nationwide. He said 'the Federal government had trained seventy consultants on climate change who are ready to provide technical assistance to the civil society groups'.

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- Must have completed NYSC with a discharge certificate.
- Must not have more than 5 years post qualification (ACA) experience

ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHERS:

- University Degree with minimum of 2nd Class lower
- Not more than 28 years by the 31st January 2010.
- Must have completed NYSC with a discharge certificate.
- Must not have more than 5 years post qualification experience

Preference will be given to candidates with professional accounting qualifications (i.e. ACA) and Engineering or Agriculture Graduates.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Interested candidates who meet our requirements should obtain an ID from www.dragnetnigeria.com/bankgrad and thereafter apply online at the career web page using the same link

Please note that only suitable applicants who provide all the required information and who have in addition registered their interest online on the career web page, will be considered. Shortlisted candidates will also be required to sit for tests which will be free of charge.

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE 22ND FEBRUARY 2010



Nigerian Institute of Management (Chartered)

TOP EXECUTIVE AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

THEME: VISIONARY AND TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP - Panacea for Global Economic Crisis

DATE: 19 - 21 April, 2010

TIME: 9.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m. Daily

VENUE: Amber Tinapa Hotel, Tinapa Business Resort, Calabar, Cross River State

Speaker



Chief L. E. A. Aimiuru, OON, CNIM
(The Oyo/Oron of Benin Kingdom)
President and Chairman of
Governing Council, NIMN and
Past President, NIM



Prof. Pity Richardson
Manchester Business School,
England, UK



Clive Howe
CEO, TRIX Consulting,
KwaZulu Natal, South Africa

This Programme is packaged as a Re-orientation programme for Top Executives and Leaders at various Levels, both in public and private sector Organizations and Establishments, with the aim of Refreshing, Re-sharpening and Re-directing their Minds and Thoughts towards the Qualities, Attributes, Skills and Competencies required for good Leadership, so as to move their organizations and Nigeria to greater heights.

Sub-Themes

- Visionary Leadership and National Development - A case of vision 20:2020
- Public Private Partnership: Challenges and Opportunities in Developing Economies
- The Fight Against Corrupt Practices - Overcoming the Challenges
- Global Financial and Economic Crisis - Avoiding future Recurrence
- Corporate Governance in the New Global Economy.

Who should attend

Chief Executives, Ministers, Commissioners, Legislators at both the Federal & State levels Permanent Secretaries, Local Government Chairmen, Directors - General, Directors, General Managers and all those who hold Leadership positions.

FEE: N220,000.00 (Two hundred and twenty thousand Naira) Per Participants

Method of Payment:

All payments should be made in favour of Nigerian Institute of Management (Chartered), through Guaranty Trust Bank A/c No. 201-010-91404110, in any of its Branches nationwide. The original copy of the Teller should be brought to the venue for the issuance of NIM official Receipt.

Registration

Registration is by writing, e-mail or telephone to any of the officers stated below, indicating the participant's Name, Position, Address.

Discount

- 10% Discount will be given to organizations that sponsor Three (3) or more participants.
 - Payment and Registration made on or before Monday, 2nd April, 2010, will attract 10% discount.
- Please note that discounts are NOT deductible from source, they are given after payment has been received.

Travel & Accommodation

Participants are responsible for making their own travel and accommodation arrangements. However, NIM will assist in providing information on flight schedules to and from Calabar, as well as available Hotels and their rates.

For Enquiries and Registration, Please Contact:

MR. M. O. LAKANU, MNIM

Registrar/Chief Executive
Tel: 01-2701418, 08058661966 e-mail: lakanu@managementnigeria.org
website: www.managementnigeria.org

UCHENDU AGBARAKWE, Ph.D, MNIM

Director, Capacity Building
Tel: 01-2705367, 2704045, 08033255063 e-mail: uche_agbarakwe@yahoo.com

PROGRAMME

CO-ORDINATOR - DR. O. A. YAHAYA, MNIM, Learning & Development:
Tel: 01-2705367, 2704045, 08036064334
e-mail: ahmedyahaya@managementnigeria.org

HELP LINES: 08036064334, 08033261397,
08057471484, 08028335525

Vision: To be the Source and Symbol of Management Excellence

INTERNATIONAL

Kenyans protest as political crisis deepens

KENYANS yesterday marched to vent their anger at a coalition government slowly falling apart over graft allegations and its inability to further key reforms pledged two years ago.

Thousands of people displaced by the violence that broke out following the disputed December 2007 elections began marching from the Rift Valley to Nairobi on Tuesday but their 200-kilometre (120 miles) procession was aborted. Anti-corruption activists also demonstrated outside President Mwai Kibaki's office in Nairobi.

"We want political accountability," shouted scores of demonstrators gathered in front of the president's office, standing next to a sign describing the institution as a "corruption-free zone".

"We welcome the recent suspension of senior civil servants and two ministers," Okiya Omtatah, who led the protesters, read out in a petition. He said the demonstrators backed neither side in the country's coalition government. "We now call upon your Excellency to use state machinery to ensure the two suspended min-

isters do not continue to occupy their ministerial offices," he said, referring to Prime Minister Raila Odinga's decision to sack them at the weekend, subsequently overruled by President Mwai Kibaki.

In the Rift Valley, displaced people had launched their march on Tuesday, saying they feared the death of the coalition government could spell further misery for hundreds of families still in limbo two years after the violence.

"We have a message for the president. We want him to listen to our grievances because we fear this coalition may collapse before we are resettled as promised," Peter Kariuki, who led the march, told AFP.

Armed police yesterday blocked the protestors on the highway however and government lorries eventually drove them back to their tents after local officials promised to relay their concerns to the government.

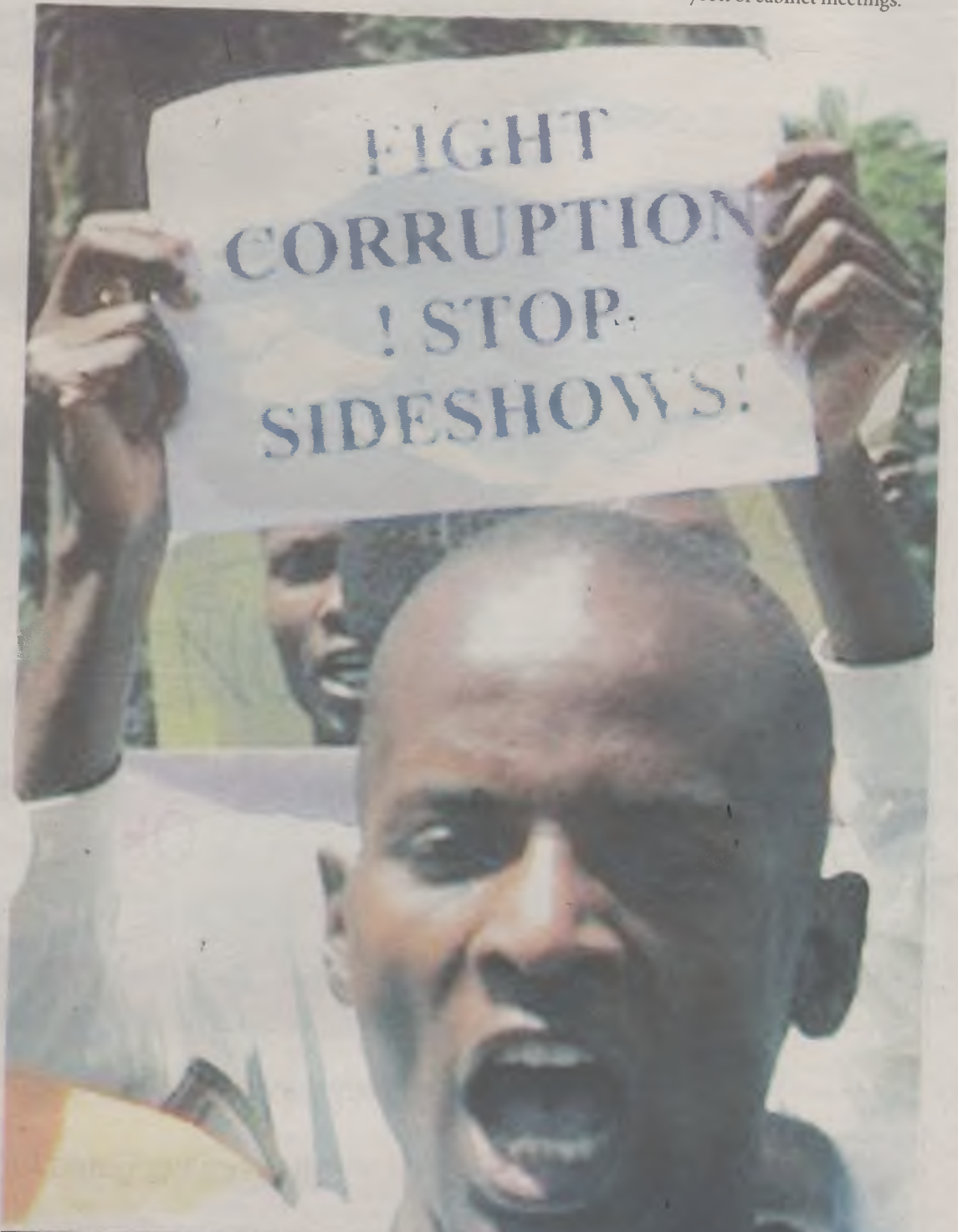
Up to 15,000 of the 250,000 people displaced by post-election violence still remain in camps since the 2008 unrest, which killed some 1,500 people.

Kenya's unwieldy unity govern-

ment has been repeatedly criticised at home and abroad for failing to tackle the root causes of the post-poll violence, bring the perpetrators to justice and eradicate corruption and impunity.

Simmering tensions between the premier and the president boiled over at the weekend when Odinga sacked the education and agriculture ministers accused of graft before Kibaki vetoed the

move. Kibaki argued Odinga did not consult him and had no authority to fire ministers, prompting the premier's Orange Democratic Movement (ODM) to threaten a boycott of cabinet meetings.



KENYANS marched to vent their anger at a coalition government slowly falling apart over graft allegations and its inability to further key reforms pledged two years ago.

Four killed in gunfight between Somali soldiers

A gunfight broke out yesterday between Somali government forces in Mogadishu, resulting in the death of four people, including two civilians, officials said.

"Four people, two of them civilians, were killed during infighting between Somali security forces at Ex-Control checkpoint," Abdurahman Hersi, a government security official, told AFP.

Ex-control checkpoint is the name given to a key intersection on the road linking Mogadishu to Afgoye, a town further west around which hundreds of thousands of displaced people have are camped. "We are still investigating what stirred the fight that broke out this morning," Hersi said.

Witnesses explained that two different groups of government soldiers set up rival check-points around the intersection, sparking an armed clash.

The shoot-out erupted as the government troops began a security operation in an area of Mogadishu under their control, stopping and inspecting public transport vehicles.

Zimbabwe sanctions 'must go' - Mugabe

PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe said yesterday that he and his partners in Zimbabwe's unity government agreed that "sanctions must go", a day after the European Union extended its restrictions on the country.

"We are in agreement," Mugabe told reporters after a tourism conference in Harare. "We are all agreed that the sanctions must go."

But EU leaders yesterday cited a lack of progress in implementing the power-sharing agreement.

Rights group 'outraged' by officers in Guinea govt

THE appointment of two army officers implicated in crimes, including a massacre of opposition supporters, to Guinea's interim government, is an outrage, Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

Corinne Dufka, senior West Africa researcher for the New York-based organisation, said Major Claude Pivi and Lieutenant-Colonel Moussa Tiegboro Camara were both implicated in serious rights abuses and should not be in the transition government.

"The appointment of Pivi and Tiegboro in the new government is an outrage. Both have been implicated in extremely serious abuses, including murder," Dufka told AFP.

It was announced on Guinea's public television station on Tuesday night that Pivi was confirmed as the minister in charge of presidential security, and Tiegboro as the minister of special services including the fight against drugs. Guinea's interim leader General Sekouba Konate on Monday appointed the transitional government to steer the west African country from military back to civilian rule, in line with an accord inked in Ougadougou on January 15.



SUBSIDY SPEND
2006-2009
N2.5 trillion
2010 Projection:
N600 billion

THE ILLEGALITY OF SUBSIDY

Subsidy payment has no legal backing.

It is not budgeted for.

It is not appropriated.

It is illegal and unconstitutional.

This must stop.



MOVEMENT
FOR
ECONOMIC
EMANCIPATION

International

Ancient Arabic inscription found in Jerusalem

A home renovation in Jerusalem's Old City has yielded a rare Arabic inscription offering insight into the city's history under Muslim rule, Israeli archaeologists said yesterday.

The fragment of a 1,100-year-old plaque is thought to have been made by an army veteran to express his thanks for a land grant from the Caliph al-Muqtadir, whom the inscription calls "Emir

of the Faithful."

Dating from a time when Jerusalem was ruled from Baghdad by the Abbasid empire, the plaque shows how rulers rewarded their troops and ensured their loyalty, archaeologists said.

The Abbasids conquered Jerusalem after numerous wars with the Fatimid empire in Egypt. The Abbasid caliphs valued Jerusalem as an Islamic holy site.

"The caliph probably granted estates as part of his effort to strengthen his hold over the territories within his control, including Jerusalem, just as other rulers did in different periods," said excavation director Annette Nagar.

The white marble plaque measures four inches by four inches (10 x 10 centimeters) and was found approximately 5 feet

(1.5 meters) beneath the floor of a home in the Old City's Jewish Quarter.

The house's owner planned a renovation and — as required by law — brought archaeologists to carry out a salvage dig meant to prevent harm to valuable antiquities.

The plaque has been removed from the site and is now in the hands of Israel's Antiquities

Authority.

The writing was deciphered by Hebrew University professor Moshe Sharon, who traced it to 910, during the early part of al-Muqtadir's 24-year rule.

The finding will help scholars better understand 10th-century Jerusalem, populated by Muslims, Christians and Jews, and the methods used by Muslim rulers to solidify their control.



SYRIAN President Bashar Assad, left, meets US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns, in Damascus.

Senior US official in Syria as relations improve

THE highest-ranking American official to visit Syria in five years held "candid" talks yesterday with the Syrian president as Washington tries to mend ties with a country seen as key to peace in the region.

Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs William Burns released a statement saying his meeting with President Bashar Assad was open and productive. "We talked candidly about the areas in which we disagree, but also identify the areas of common

ground on which we can build," Burns said in the statement.

The visit comes a day after President Barack Obama said he would nominate career diplomat Robert Ford to become the United States' first ambassador to Damascus since 2005. Washington withdrew its last ambassador following the assassination of Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, which many blamed on Syria. Syria has denied involvement.

Burns described Washing-

ton's decision to nominate Ford as a "clear sign of America's readiness to improve relations and to collaborate in the pursuit of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace between the Arabs and the Israelis." Syria remains a key to establishing peace with Israel, which still occupies the strategic Golan Heights, captured from Damascus in the 1967 war. The Syrians want a strong US hand in Mideast peacemaking to regain that territory. Turkey mediated several rounds of indirect talks

between Syria and Israel in 2008 before they came to a halt following Israel's Gaza offensive.

The tense relations between Syria and the US started to improve after Obama took office last year. Obama made changing America's image in the Middle East a priority of his first year.

Washington had criticized Syria and its strong ally Iran for supporting Islamic militant groups such as the Palestinian Hamas in Gaza and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Afghan army raises flag on embattled Taliban town

MILITARY commanders raised the Afghan flag in the bullet-ridden main market of the Taliban's southern stronghold of Marjah yesterday as firefights continued to break out elsewhere in town between holed-up Taliban and US and Afghan troops.

About 15,000 NATO and Afghan troops are taking part in the offensive around Marjah, a town of about 80,000 people that was the largest population center in southern Helmand province under Taliban control. NATO hopes to rush in aid and public services as soon as the town is secured to try to win the loyalty of the population.

With the assault in its fifth day, an Afghan army soldier climbed to the roof of an abandoned shop and raised a large bamboo pole with Afghanistan's official green-and-red flag.

A crowd including the provincial governor, a few hundred Marine and Afghan troops and handfuls of civilians, Afghan men in turbans and traditional loose tunics who were searched for weapons as they entered the bazaar, watched from below.

The market was calm during the ceremony and Marines there said they are in control of the neighbourhood.

But the detritus of fighting was everywhere. The back of the building over which the flag waved had been blown away. Shops were riddled with bullet holes. Grocery stores and fruit stalls had been left standing open, hastily deserted by their owners. White metal fences marked off areas that had not yet been cleared of bombs.

Pakistani army confirms arrest of Taliban commander

THE Pakistani military confirmed yesterday that the Afghan Taliban's top military commander, Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar, had been captured.

US and Pakistani officials who declined to be identified said on Tuesday Baradar had been captured in the Pakistani city of Kara-

chi in a raid by Pakistani and US agents.

"At the conclusion of detailed identification procedure, it has been confirmed that one of the persons arrested happens to be Mullah Baradar," the military said. It declined to say where he had been caught or to give other

details, citing security reasons.

The capture came as US forces spearheaded one of NATO's biggest offensives against the Taliban in Afghanistan in an early test of US President Barack Obama's troop surge policy.

US officials and analysts said it was too soon to tell whether Paki-

stan's cooperation against Baradar would be extended to other top militants on the US hit list.

The arrest followed months of behind-the-scenes prodding by US officials who saw inaction by Islamabad as a major threat to their Afghan war strategy.

Pakistani Interior Minister

Rehman Malik had on Tuesday declined to confirm Baradar's capture, saying a large number of people had fled operations by NATO forces in Afghanistan to Pakistan and many had been picked up. He denied that there had been any joint operation by Pakistani and US agents.

International

Ukrainian election results suspended on appeal

UKRAINE'S presidential election results giving the victory to Russia-friendly Viktor Yanukovich were suspended yesterday pending review of his rival's appeal.

Ukraine's Administrative Court said it would rule on Prime Minister Yulia Tymosh-

enko's appeal by Feb. 25, when lawmakers had planned to inaugurate Yanukovich. Tymoshenko has refused to concede, claiming the election was tainted by fraud. Instead of stepping down as Yanukovich prodded her, she ordered her Cabinet to work out a plan for

economic reform for the next five years:

Tymoshenko also attacked her rival on another front, launching consultations in parliament to derail Yanukovich's inauguration set for next week. Her campaign chief, Alexander Turchinov, said

yesterday that Tymoshenko's faction in parliament will introduce a motion to postpone the ceremony.

Until the ruling on her appeal, the court said, it was suspending the Central Election Commission's declaration that Yanukovich had won the Feb. 7 vote by just 3.5 percentage points.

International observers have deemed Ukraine's latest election free and fair, and President Barack Obama and other leaders have already congratulated Yanukovich. But Tymoshenko urged a full re-count of the vote, delivering what she said was evidence to the court on Tuesday.

She asked her supporters, however, not to hold street demonstrations — as they did in what became known as the 2004 Orange Revolution.

Those pro-Western mass protests lead to a court's overturning Yanukovich's presidential election victory that year and ordering a rerun, which was won by Tymoshenko ally Viktor Yushchenko.

Years of infighting between Yushchenko and Tymoshenko deepened the nation's economic woes and helped Yanukovich mount a comeback.

Sarkozy in Haiti

FRANCE'S national anthem blared across the tarmac yesterday as Nicolas Sarkozy made the first visit ever by a French president to Haiti, once his nation's richest colony, offering aid to a country prostrate after a catastrophic earthquake.

Sarkozy, who was greeted by Haitian President Rene Preval as a brass band played the Marseillaise, toured a French field hospital in the earthquake-ravaged capital before giving a brief speech at the undamaged French Embassy.

He said his visit had particular resonance given France and Haiti's historical ties and acknowledged that the "wounds of colonization" were perhaps still fresh in the minds of many Haitians, some of whom blame France for the country's troubles. "We are living a pivotal moment, a moment of truth for Haiti," Sarkozy said.

Sarkozy said Haiti needs a reconstruction plan that bolsters the outlying provinces to help shift people away from Port-au-Prince, the Caribbean's most densely populated capital. He said one reason the death toll was so high was that the city was not built to sustain such a large population.



UKRAINIAN Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko seen outside a court in Kiev, Ukraine.



NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY



ALL CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS (2001 – 2007)

The National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) is in the process of settling all its outstanding financial liabilities to all its Contractors and Consultants who have been involved in the following categories of projects between the years 2001 and 2007:

1. Construction of Primary Health Care Centres (PHCs)
2. Renovation of Existing PHCs
3. Printing of HMIS forms
4. Supply of Medical Equipments
5. Construction of Enugu Zonal Office

Consequently, all Contractors and Consultants who fall into any of the above categories are invited to the Agency on **Monday 22nd, February, 2010** at **8.00am** at the following address

Plot 681/682 Port Harcourt Crescent
Off Gimbiya Street
Area 11, Garki – Abuja.

You are expected to come with the following documents for verification:

1. Original copy of the Award letter
2. Original Contract document duly signed
3. Copies of all previous interim payment certificates
4. Original copy of certificate of Incorporation of the company
5. Photograph of the current stage of the project.
6. A letter of Authorisation to represent the Company duly signed by the Chief Executive.
7. Valid identification in form of National ID card, Drivers' Licence or international passport.

NPHCDA Management

NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES INSTITUTE,

Mando Road, P.M.B. 2309, Kaduna, Nigeria



ADVERTISEMENT OF VACANCIES (Internal and External)

The National Water Resources Institute, Kaduna, a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, hereby invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill in some senior and junior vacant positions. In line with the Federal Character Commission's guidelines, interested applicants from the following under represented states: Abia, Adamawa, Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Enugu, FCT, Jigawa, Kebbi, Lagos, Nassarawa, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba, Zamfara desirous of career challenges are to apply for the following positions:

A. ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE DEPARTMENT:

1. **PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTANT: CONTISS 11**
Holder of a good honours degree or HND in Accountancy/Finance or equivalent professional Accountancy qualification(s) with at least 9 years post-qualification working experience at an educational tertiary institution, research institute, training institute or any such organization as well as Registration with a recognized professional accounting body like ICAN or ANAN will be an added advantage.
2. **SENIOR STORE OFFICER: CONTISS 08**
Holder of a good honours degree or HND in Business Studies, Purchasing and Supply with at least 3 years post-qualification working experience in Stores, OR ND in Business Studies or Intermediate Certificate of NICA/ICMA with 9 years working experience in the Store.

B. TRAINING DEPARTMENT/RESEARCH AND TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

1. **CHIEF LECTURER: CONTISS 14**
Holder of Ph.D. in Hydraulic or Wastewater/Environmental or Irrigation Engineering with at least 12 years of teaching/applied research/relevant industrial work experience in modeling water resources systems. Candidate must be registered with COREN or equivalent professional body and must have published a number of articles in both national and international journals and/or contributed in standard textbooks. He/She must have attended national and international seminars and conferences. At this high level, proven ability in academic and administrative leadership is necessary.
2. **PRINCIPAL LECTURER: CONTISS 13**
Holder of Ph.D. in Hydrology or Irrigation/Drainage Engineering with at least 9 years experience in teaching/applied research/relevant industrial work experience OR holder of Masters Degree in the fields above with at least 12 years cognate experience. Candidate must be registered with COREN or equivalent professional body and must have published a number of articles in reputable journals and contributed in standard textbooks. In addition, he/she must have presented quality seminar and conference papers.
3. **SENIOR LECTURERS: CONTISS 12 (2 POSITIONS)**
Holder of Ph.D. in any of the following specializations:
(a) Economics/ Agricultural Economics, and
(b) Water Resources; or Environmental Engineering

Applicants should have at least 6 years cognate experience in teaching/applied research/relevant industrial work OR holder of a Masters Degree in the fields above with at least 9 years cognate experience. Holders of only First Degree need not apply. Candidate must have published a number of journal articles, chapter contributions and must also have presented conference and seminar papers.
4. **LECTURERS I: CONTISS 11 (4 POSITIONS)**
Areas of specialization required for this rank are as follows:
(a) Electrical Engineering (with experience in Motors and Panel Systems);
(b) Rural Sociology;
(c) Soil and Water Engineering; and
(d) Hydrogeology;

Applicant must be a holder of a Ph.D. in the relevant field with at least 3 years teaching/applied research industrial work experience OR holder of Masters Degree in any of the fields above with at least 6 years cognate experience OR holder of a good honours degree from a recognized institution of higher learning with at least 8 years cognate experience. In addition, applicant must have articles in reputable journals to his credit as well as papers presented at conferences/seminars. Professional registration is a pre-requisite.
5. **PRINCIPAL TECHNOLOGIST: CONTISS 11**
Holder of Full Technological Certificate (FTC) or Equivalent with 12

years post-qualification cognate working experience OR HND in Science Laboratory Technology with at least 9 years cognate working experience. Applicants' experience must be in Physico-Chemical Analysis and/or Treatment Plant Operation. Membership of NIST is an added advantage.

6. PRINCIPAL TECHNICAL OFFICERS: CONTISS 11 (2 POSITIONS)

- (a) In Sewage Plant Management and;
- (b) In Soil Mechanics;
Holder of HND or equivalent qualification with at least 9 years relevant experience in the areas above.
Holder of Full Technological Certificate (FTC) with at least 12 years cognate working experience.

7. LECTURERS II: CONTISS 09 (2 POSITIONS)

- Holder of a Ph.D. in:
- (a) Extension Service; and
 - (b) Library Science
Holder of a Masters Degree in the areas specified above with at least 3 years of teaching/research/industrial work experience OR holder of a good Bachelor's Degree with a minimum of 6 years cognate experience. In addition, applicant must have published one journal article and presented at least 2 seminar/conference papers.

8. SENIOR COMPUTER OFFICER: CONTISS 09

Holder of a Master's Degree in Computer Science from a recognized institution of higher learning with at least 3 years cognate experience OR holder of a good honours degree in Computer Science with a minimum of at least 6 years cognate experience. Experience in data processing and information management is highly desirable.

9. **SENIOR TECHNICAL OFFICER (ELECTRICAL): CONTISS 08**
Holder of HND with good grade in Electrical Engineering or equivalent qualification with a minimum workshop experience of 3 years OR holder of Full Technologist Certificate/City and Guilds Full Technological Certificate with at least 6 years cognate experience. Applicants' experience must cover the handling of electric motors and panel systems

10. ASSISTANT TECHNICIANS: CONTISS 05 (2 POSITIONS)

- (a) in Plumbing Technology; and
- (b) in Borehole Drilling.
Holder of National Diploma in Laboratory Technology or its equivalent.

11. SENIOR CRAFTSMEN: CONTISS 04

Holder of Secondary School Certificate plus Government Trade Test Class or certificate in:
Hydrological Measurement; with a minimum of 5 years experience in hydrological activities.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Interested applicants should forward their applications along with 12 copies of their Curriculum Vitae to which 3 sets of photocopies of all cited certificates/documents should be attached. The CV should highlight the following, among others: Name (surname first), post applied for, current employment and salary, date and place of birth, State and Local Government of origin, marital status, postal address, telephone number, educational institutions attended, qualifications obtained with dates, membership of professional bodies, publications (academic staff), other professional scholarly achievements (academic staff), working experience with dates and schedules handled, names and addresses of 3 referees.

All submissions should be in sealed envelopes with clear indication of post applied for at the top left corner of the envelope and addressed to:

The Secretary to the Institute,
National Water Resources Institute,
P.M.B. 2309,
Mando Road, Kaduna.

Applicants should request their referees to send confidential reports on them directly to The Secretary To The Institute.

All applications must reach the address above within six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

SECRETARY TO THE INSTITUTE

Exciting Career Opportunities

The Dangote Group is a diversified and fully integrated conglomerate with interests across a range of sectors in Nigeria and Africa. Current interests include cement, sugar, flour, salt, pasta, beverages, noodles, poly products, transportation and real estate with new projects in the oil and gas, telecommunication, fertilizer and steel sectors of the economy.

The Group requires the services of exceptional and highly motivated professionals to fill the following positions:

Chief Financial Officers F/A0001

Overall Objectives of the Job:

- Responsible for overall Finance and Accounting activities of the Strategic Business Units.
- Actively support the MD/CEO of the SBUs to ensure efficient operation and growth of the business.
- Direct and develop monthly management reporting packages and analysis, communicate financial results to Board of Directors.
- Direct the monthly, quarterly and annual budgeting and variation reporting to identify areas requiring attention and areas of possible improvement.

Role Profile:

- A first degree in Accounting/Finance, with membership of ICAN, ACCA etc. Minimum of 15 years cumulative work experience in finance and accounts function, 5 of which must have been in the capacity of Financial Controller.

Financial Controllers F/A0002

Overall Objectives of the Job:

- To ensure timely provision of reliable financial information to all stake holders.
- To ensure adequate financial and accounting systems in keeping with GAAP.
- To ensure adequate control systems and processes to secure the assets and efficient operation of the organization.
- Development and ownership of key financial processes including budgeting, management and financial accounting.

Role Profile:

- A first degree in Accounting/Finance, with membership of ICAN, ACCA etc. Minimum of 10 to 15 years cumulative work experience in finance and accounts function, 5 of which must have been in a managerial role.

Management Accountants F/A0003

Overall Objectives of the Job:

- To ensure that the financial policies/procedures of the company are implemented efficiently and in line with generally accepted accounting practices.
- To develop and implement modern cost-effective accounting systems that will meet the challenges and objectives of the group.
- To facilitate cost management and control as well as financial reporting and executing internal control.

Role Profile:

- A first degree in Finance and Accounts, with membership of ACA, ACCA or equivalent. Minimum of 10 years work experience, 5 of which must have been in a supervisory role. Must have an analytical mind and focus on managing costs.

Account Officers F/A0004

Overall Objectives of the Job:

- To facilitate the effective operation of the finance and accounts departments and ensure timely reporting.

Role Profile:

- A first degree in Accounting/Finance, with membership of ICAN, ACCA etc. Minimum 3 years post NYSC experience in Finance and Accounts.

Treasury Officers F/A0005

Overall Objectives of the Job:

- To ensure completeness, accuracy and correctness of all treasury records and reports.

Role Profile:

- A First Degree in Finance/Accounting. Membership of a professional accounting body (ICAN, ACCA). Minimum 3 years post NYSC experience in Treasury operations.

All positions require sound knowledge of accounting systems and practices in the manufacturing industry. Compensation will be competitive and market driven. The ideal candidate should be ready to work in any part of Nigeria.

Interested applicants should send CV to careers@dangote-group.com within 2 weeks of this publication, indicating name and position applied for in subject line.





SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA

Chief Registrar's Office
Three Arm Complex, Central District, PMB 308, Abuja
Tel: 09-2344762

Ref. No. 134/CR/SCN/PR/Vol.11

15th February, 2010

PRESS RELEASE

REVIEW OF GUIDELINES FOR THE CONFERMENT OF THE RANK OF SENIOR ADVOCATE OF NIGERIA (SAN)

This is to inform the general public that the Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice A. I. Katsina-Alu, CON has constituted a Sub-Committee of Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee to review the Guidelines for the conferment of the Rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN).

The Sub-Committee hereby invites memoranda from relevant stakeholders, Associations, Societies and Legal Practitioners.

The memoranda bound in ten (10) copies and double line spacing should be submitted within three (3) weeks, to the Secretary, Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee/Chief Registrar, Supreme Court of Nigeria.


Usman Alh. Musale

Secretary LPPC/
CHIEF REGISTRAR
SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL ESTATE

SCOPE OF WORKS:

Our Client, a leading property development company in Nigeria is desirous of developing an estate comprising 65 units of premium quality residential houses in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja comprising:

- 4-Bedroom Semi-Detached House (2 Blocks Totaling 4 Units)
- 3-Bedroom Terraced Houses Type A (7 Units)
- 3-Bedroom Terraced Houses Type B (6 Units)
- 3-Bedroom Flats in Blocks of 8 Flats (2 Blocks Totaling 16 Flats)
- 2-Bedroom Flats in Blocks of 8 Flats (4 Blocks Totaling 32 Flats)
- Estate Center Comprising Shopping Center and Community Hall
- Recreational Facilities and Common Infrastructures: (Swimming Pool, Play Ground, Tennis Court, Gymnasium, Borehole, Water Storage, Water Treatment Plant, Sewage Plant, Drainage, Driveway and Parking)

PRE-QUALIFICATION:

Interested, experienced and reputable Building & Civil Engineering and Mechanical / Electrical Engineering contractors are upon this advertisement invited to submit pre-qualification documents containing the following:

- Comprehensive company profile
- Financial Statement for the last 3 years
- Evidence of relevant experience in similar projects successfully executed by the firm
- Evidence of technical and managerial capability
- Evidence of financial capacity
- Evidence of registration with the Federal Works Registration Board
- References from clients for projects successfully completed in the last 3 years
- References from any two of the following: Project Manager, Quantity Surveyor, Architect and any other consultant for projects successfully completed in the last 3 years
- Evidence of VAT Registration Certificate

SUBMISSION:

All pre-qualification documents must be submitted not later than 12 noon of Monday 1st March, 2010 to:

Development Cost Services
Suite 13B Bobser Complex
Michika Street
Area 11, Garki
Abuja

Or

Development Cost Services
C/o Bridgeways Global Projects Ltd.
62A Coker Road,
Ilupeju, Lagos.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The documents should be submitted in hard copy and electronically in a compact disc.
- Only qualified firms / companies shall be short-listed and invited to a competitive tender bidding for the said project.
- The submission of pre-qualification as aforementioned does not guarantee inclusion in the bid list.
- This is not an invitation to tender.

MEDICAL AND DENTAL COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

BLOCK 11, F-CLOSE, OFF 1ST AVENUE, FEDERAL HOUSING AUTHORITY ESTATE GWARIMPA, ABUJA

Tel: 09-2902900, 2901435, 07098200749, 7803059, 7802977, 7803357. Website: www.mdcnigeria.org E-mail: medicalcouncil@yahoo.com



COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE NEWLY RECONSTITUTED COUNCIL OF MDCN HELD AT PARKVIEW HOTELS, ABUJA, FROM WEDNESDAY 3RD - THURSDAY 4TH FEBRUARY 2010.



The inaugural plenary meeting of the reconstituted Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria was held at Parkview Hotels, Abuja from the 3rd to 4th of February, 2010. The meeting was declared open by the Honourable Minister of Health of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin, OON.

Council at this inaugural session considered its statutory functions as a regulatory body as well as the challenges facing it in realizing the objectives for which Council was set up, with respect to, particularly, upholding the ethics and professional standards of the profession.

The following resolutions were made:

1. That Council will work assiduously on its regulatory role, particularly in ensuring that medical and dental practitioners abide by ethical standards, and in accordance with the Hippocratic Oath sworn to by all practitioners.
2. As agreed and directed in 2007 following a representation from the National Association of Colleges of Medicine, from the 2007/2008 academic session, the numbers of students admitted to medical and dental schools must strictly comply with the approved quotas, and the lists of such students should be submitted to the Council for indexing. Training Institutions are therefore given up till the 31st of May 2010 to send their lists of the medical and dental students admitted for the 2007/2008,

2008/2009 and 2009/2010 academic sessions to Council.

Council will strictly enforce the quotas.

3. Council will ensure that minimum standards are maintained in the accreditation of medical and dental training Institutions.
4. There is need for senior medical and dental practitioners to mentor their junior colleagues, to sustain public confidence in the profession.
5. Council will effectively enforce pronouncements and judgments of the Disciplinary Tribunal on convicted practitioners.
6. The Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria intends to collaborate with the National Universities Commission to ensure high standards of medical and dental training.
7. As from January 1, 2011, the Continuing Professional Development Programme will become compulsory for all medical and dental practitioners, and will be a prerequisite for the renewal of their practising licences.
8. That Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria should be excluded from dissolution of Boards/Councils of Federal Government parastatals and agencies, and be left to exist in perpetuity. Council noted that such dissolutions adversely affect its statutory functions, including the investigation and discipline of erring doctors and dentists.

Dr. Abdulmumini A. Ibrahim
Registrar/Secretary to Council

**Pls. visit our website at
www.mdcnigeria.org or call any of the
Telephone Nos above for any enquiry.**

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

AuGF, auditor uncover fraud in IST

IST says it has explained

By Idris Ahmed

THE Auditor-General for the Federation (AuGF) and the External Auditor (Ugochukwu Nwankwo & Co) that audited the Investment and Securities Tribunal between 2004 and 2009 said they have uncovered about N328 million unaccounted for by the Tribunal.

The two bodies said that the Tribunal did not put in place full compliments of accounts of its financial operations for the periods even though set of accounting records were in place.

But the spokesman of IST Kenneth Ezea said the Tribunal had answered questions, comments and observations raised by the auditors and forwarded same to the Minister of State for Finance for final action.

A petition by a group named the "Concerned Capital Market Stakeholders, Nigeria" said they want the Presidency, National Assembly, the Economic and Finance Crime Commission (EFCC) and the Independent Corrupt Practices and other related Offences Commission (ICPC) to investigate the fraud.

The External Auditor said apart from the overhead payment analysis from which monthly, quarterly and annual management reports were drawn, "management accounts were not prepared for capital, overhead, personnel and revenue account transactions of the Tribunal for the financial years of 2004 to 2007."

The Auditor said that several payment vouchers submitted for audit were devoid of the requisite transaction support documents needed to substantiate payments.

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

According the AuGF report, the management letter revealed that "lodgements were not in a verified manner to clearly relate the amount lodged to specific collection source."



REMI Babalola, Minister of State for Finance

"Moreover, there was shortfall in the amount lodged against collections in the head office in respect of filing and other fees."

AuGF report said that the observed fraud cut across expenditure involving overhead cost, foreign trips, advertisement, investment, cash advance to contractors, payments without necessary documentary evidence, unreceipted and unacknowledged payments and payment for Internet service not provided.

AuGF recommended that IST should henceforth properly close its balance.

"Appropriate procedures, supervision and controls must therefore be designed and deployed to ensure that such closing balances result naturally from factual representation of all duly consummated trans-

actions within the year", the report said.

IST said that the standard accounting procedure is that auditors raise questions or audit red flags in areas where they are not satisfied and refer them to Management for clarification and answers.

"If the Auditors accept or reject the answers provided, the final and authentic audit report is produced and signed by them and Management. In the current case, the Tribunal has answered the questions, comments and observations raised in the draft and forwarded same to the Honourable Minister of State for Finance for final action. Consequently, it stands to reason that the unsigned draft audit report being circulated is speculative, pre-emptive and prejudicial", the spokesman of the Tribunal said.

BRIEF

BPE awaits NCP's approval on NITEL

By Yunus Abdulhamid & Sunday Williams

THE Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE) said yesterday it is awaiting acting President Goodluck Jonathan Goodluck to fix a date for the National Council on Privatization (NCP) meeting to approve the sale of the Nigerian Telecommunication (NITEL).

BPE on Tuesday approved the \$2.5 billion offered by the New Generation Telecommunications Limited, a consortium led by China Unicom telecoms firm to buy NITEL.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* on phone, the spokesperson of BPE, Chigbo Aniechebe said the Director General of the Bureau Dr. Christopher Anyanwu has gone to the acting President to get a date for the NCP to meet and approve the transaction. Team Leader of the New Generation Consortium and Managing Director of Gicell Wireless Ltd Usman Abubakar Gumi said his firm is not faceless as reported by a national daily. He told *Daily Trust* yesterday by phone that the bidding process was done live on TV and radio.

China Unicom was founded as a Government-owned corporation on July 19, 1994 by the Chinese Ministry of Information Industry and approved by the State Council.

It started as a wireless paging and GSM mobile operator. It currently provides a wide range of services including nationwide GSM mobile network, long-distance, local calling, data communication, Internet services and IP telephony in mainland China and has operated a CDMA network in Macau since October 18, 2006.

Trust Index

Inflation	→ 12.3%
GDP	→ 6.90%
Budget	→ N3.1tr
External Reserves Acct	→ \$42.3bn
Excess Crude Acct	→ \$4.2bn
Poverty Ratio	→ 54.4%
Interest Ratio	→ 6%
Banks	→ 24
Oil Price	→ \$72 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2,500MW
Dil output per day	→ 1.9mbd

CBN

2/12/2010

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2897	0.2997	0.3097
DANISH KRONER	26.8799	26.971	27.062
EURO	200.1899	200.8681	201.5462
POUNDS STERLING	230.5512	231.3322	232.1132
RIYAL	39.36	39.4934	39.6267
SDR	226.2265	226.9929	227.7592
SWISS FRANC	136.5655	137.0281	137.4907
US DOLLAR	147.6	148.1	148.6
WAUA	226.801	227.5693	228.3376
YEN	1.6378	1.6434	1.6489


BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

BUYING	
DOLLARN151
EURON207
POUNDSN242
SELLING	
DOLLARN152
EURON209
POUNDSN244

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

Stock Market Index

Date:	Wednesday, February 17, 2010
Index:	23,023.10
Deals:	7,000
Volume:	450,456,117
Value:	N3,341,245,637.32
Cap.:	N5,554,398,557,585.21



Toyota (Nigeria) Limited

REASSURES ITS CUSTOMERS

Toyota (Nigeria) Ltd deeply regrets the anxiety that a few of our customers might entertain over the safety of certain models of Toyota vehicles based on reports in the global media.

We seek to dispel such anxieties that any of our esteemed customers may entertain. Please be assured that Customer Safety remains a priority for us at Toyota.

The rare occurrence of the accelerator pedal defect has been reported in geographical areas that have cold climate where heater is used.

In such climates, there is a tendency for excessive water/moisture condensation which may form on the friction surface of the accelerator pedal leading to consequent wear and tear of the accelerator pedal surface.

Given the Nigerian climate, there need not be cause for anxiety of such rare accelerator pedal wear and tear manifesting in Toyota vehicles.

However, Toyota has already initiated steps to implement corrective measures in all the markets that may have received such vehicles.

In the unlikely event of an issue, what is the symptom?


- The accelerator pedal action may in rare instances appear sluggish or return slowly to the idle position. In extreme cases, the accelerator pedal may stick in the partially open position.

However, as a proactive step in upholding the Toyota philosophy of Customer First, Toyota (Nigeria) Ltd will through our accredited dealers conduct the necessary reassurance checks on identified chassis numbers and eliminate the remotest possibility of failure even in Nigerian climatic conditions.

Please be assured of our best attention at all times.

Thank you.

Signed,
MANAGEMENT,
TOYOTA (NIGERIA) LIMITED.



Toyota (Nigeria) Limited

Toyota Office Complex, TPAO 992, Ojulari Road
Lekki Peninsula Scheme, Lagos.
Tel: +234-1-4401311-5. Fax: +234-1-4401321-2

Business/Energy

Reps condemn NNPC over TAM

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE fact finding tour of the Kaduna Refinery and Petrochemical Company (KRPC) by the House of Representatives Committee on Petroleum Resources Downstream Tuesday did not end well as the members of the committee left angrily, saying the corporation could not justify the amount of money government invested to revive the refineries.

Angered by the level of work so far executed on the plant, the committee refused the lunch offered them by the management of the refinery.

The committee members said the management of the refinery had nothing to show.

The Turn Around Maintenance (TAM) of the refinery was carried out 10 years ago as against the stipulated two years. The committee struck-out some of the events on the programme including a closed door meeting with TAM contractor and a press conference.

Speaking shortly before the tour, the committee chairman expressed the dissatisfaction of the House with the management of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), saying it had failed, despite the huge resources invested in the corporation.

"None of the four refineries in the country is working, despite the resources spent. The Kaduna refinery gulped \$75 million, Warri \$151.7 million and Port Harcourt \$137 million. Yet, we rely on 100 percent importation", why? He asked.

He asked the management of the NNPC to stop blaming pipeline vandals for their inability to refine crude locally.

"You should stop talking about pipeline vandals and work. We have realized that you people are only using the pipeline vandals as a defence mechanism. For instance, the Kaduna refinery TAM was supposed to have been completed in March last year and now you are telling us that the refinery would soon commence operation," he said.

Earlier in his address, the Managing Director of the KRPC Engineer Ayodele said they would start-up the refinery soon, having completed the 7th TAM and that the pumping of crude oil to the refinery from Warri had commenced.

"The 7th TAM was fraught with many challenges, since it was coming 10 years after the 6th TAM. The scope covered only the fuel plant, power plant and offsite facilities.



GROUP Managing Director of the NNPC Dr. Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo

Though total completion of the TAM was achieved at the end of October, 2009, work on some of the units was completed earlier and the units operated briefly between April and early July, 2009 before depletion of the available crude," he said.

He said all the refineries including the KRPC were migrating from being cost centers to profit centers. To this end, he said various initiatives were being put in place to secure operational efficiency of the plants and thereafter consolidate and grow through institutionalization of global practices.

The contractor said their contract was labour service only and that the KRPC provided all materials needed for the projects.

ENI reiterates interest in Brass LNG

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Chief Operating Officer of ENI Exploration and Production Division worldwide, Mr. Claudio Descalzi has reaffirmed the commitment of ENI to redouble its investment in Nigeria's oil and gas field despite the uncertainties in the Petroleum Industry Bill.

Speaking on Tuesday while on a working visit to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation in Abuja, Mr. Descalzi said the company is ready to invest more in brass LNG and the power plant.

He said instead of flaring the gas, it would be channelled into the phase 2 of the Kwale Okpai power plants to gener-

ate electricity for the country.

He said the only way the Federal Government's amnesty programme could be sustained was through the creation of job opportunities for ex-militants and other youths in the Niger Delta that are skilled in oil and gas field.

"My main message to you is that we are ready to invest in brass LNG and for the second phase of the Independent Power plant in Kwale Okpai. I want to reassure you that we are ready to start work and we will be part of the financing of the project", he said.

He commended the Federal Government for accepting the views of all stakeholders on the pending Petroleum Industry Bill and pledged the company's

willingness to support the successful implementation of the bill.

He said: "We are ready to support the bill because of your openness. You are open to suggestions from everybody. We believe in the country and we are positive of the safe situation that the bill will introduce. We are equally ready to grow the local company. We do not feel uncertain because every entrepreneur must be ready to take the risk of investment."

Responding, the Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Dr. Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo lauded ENI for its multi-million dollar investment in Nigeria and assured of the safety of their investment even in the post PIB era.

PENGASSAN wants constitution reviewed

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

OIL workers under the aegis of Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) have advocated for an urgent review of the nation's constitution to address some of the lapses observed.

A statement signed by its President Babatunde Ogun said the review of the 1999 Constitution is necessary

as a result of political and economic discrepancies in the country.

He commended the National Assembly for empowering Dr. Goodluck Jonathan as the acting president, saying it is a right step in the right direction.

He implored the National Assembly to ensure that there is a provision in the constitution to prevent recurrence of vacuum cre-

ated by President Yar'adua's long absence.

"This is the time for the legislators to know that the national interest surpasses their individual interest and they should embrace a path that will lead to the growth of the country. The Nigeria project is the work of everybody and the boat of the country should not be allowed to capsize," he said.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Arik Air

PH-Abuja: 08.45, 1212.50, 17.00 (Mon-Fri), 08.45, 17.30 (Sat), 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);
 Abuja-PH: 07.15, 11.20, 15.30 (Mon-Fri), 07.15, 16.00 (Sat) 14.40, 17.30 (Sun);
 Lagos-Kano: 12.20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Kano-Lagos: 02.35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);
 Abuja-Kano: 03:35pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Kano-Abuja: 05:20pm (Mon-Fri/Sun);
 Abuja-Gombe: 11:10am (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Gombe-Abuja: 12.30pm (Mon, Wed, Fri, Sun); Lagos-Yola:
 Lag-Abj 04:50pm, via Abj-Yola 06:45pm (Mon-Fri/Sun); Yola-Lagos: Yola-Abj 08:40am, Abj-Lagos 10:20am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Lagos-Maid:
 Lag-Abj 03:50pm, via Abj-Maid 06:00pm (Mon-Fri/Sat); Maid-Lagos: Miud-Abj 07:30am, via Abj-Lag 09:15am (Mon-Fri/Sat); Abuja-Sokoto: 11:10am (Mon-Fri); Sokoto-Abuja: 12:50pm (Mon-Fri)
 Abuja-Akure 02:10pm (Mon, Wed and Fri); Akure-Abuja: 08:50am (Mon, Wed and Fri); Lagos-Kwara: 07:30am, (Mon-Fri) 07.30, 03:50pm Sat 08:00am, 11:45am Sun; Kwara-Lagos: 4:10pm (Mon-Fri), 01:10pm, 05:30pm Sat 09:45am, 05:00pm Sun
 Abuja-Kwara: 03:25pm (Mon-Fri); Kwara-Abuja 01.30pm (Mon-Fri); Lagos-Jos: 09:05am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Jos-Lagos: 11.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 ABV-QOW 02:30pm (Mon-Fri), 11:30am Sat 03:20pm Sun; Lagos-Kaduna: 10:20am, 04:10pm (Mon-Fri), 10.20 (Sat/Sun); Kaduna-Lagos: 12:10pm, 06:00pm (Mon-Fri), 12.10 (Sat/Sun); Lagos-Warr: 07:30am (Mon-Fri) 07:30am, 03:50pm (Sat), 08:00am, and 11:45am (Sun)

Aero Contractors

Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16.45 (Sat). Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30, 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30 (Sat); Lagos-Ben: 07:45; 11:00; 15.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).
 Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun); Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun); Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun); Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00 (Sun); Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)

Chanchangi Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 17.30
 Abj-Lagos: 08.00, 11.45, 13.40, 15.30, 17.00
 Lagos-Kad: 10.45, (on Fri), 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
 Kad-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon-Fri), 08.00 (Sat/Sun)
 Nigerian Eagles Airlines (Virgin Nigeria)
 Abj-Kano: 18.40 (Mon-Fri)/Sun
 Kano-Abj: 08.35 (Mon-Fri) /Sat
 Abj-Soko: 09:35, (Mon), 10:10 (Fri), 11:20 (Wed/Sun)
 Soko-Abj: 11.35 (Mon), 12.00 (Fri), 13:20 (Wed/Sun)
 Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 11.40, 14.00, 16.30, 17.00, 17.20; 18.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun), 8.00; 12.40; 13.10; 20:00 (Fri)
 Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.30, 11.15, 16.15, 19.15, 19.25, 19:35 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 14:55; 15:15; 20:45 (Fri); 19:45 (Sun); 11:25, 13:35, 16:25 (Mon)

Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00, 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20, 12.45, 15.30, 16.15, 17.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Lagos-Owr: 12:15; (Tue-Fri/Sun); 12:40 (Mon/Sat)
 Owr-Lagos: 14:25 (Tue-Fri/Sun) 14:50 (Mon/Sat)
 Lagos-Cal: 08:00 (Fri), 09:10 (Wed-Thu), 12:40 (Tue/Sat/Sun), 13:10 (Mon)
 Cal-Lagos: 10.05 (Fri); 11.15 (Wed/Thu); 14.55 (Tue/Sat-Sun), 15.15 (Mon)

IRS Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 09.45, 11.45, 12.45, (Mon-Fri) 09.30, 12.45 (Sat&Sun)
 Lagos-Kano: 06.15 (Mon-Fri), 16.30 (Sat/Sun)
 Kano-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon-Fri), 10.30 (Sat/Sun)
 Abuja-Kano: 10.30am (Mon-Fri/Sun)
 Kano-Abuja: 11.45, 5.00 Fri, 12.15 Sun

DANA Airlines:

Lagos-Abj: 07.20; 08.19, 09.00, 12.15, 15.30, 17.10 (Mon-Fri/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

Business

Senate threatens to sanction Magnus Kpakol

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate Committee on Public Accounts has threatened to sanction the Coordinator of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) Mr. Magnus Kpakol for failing to respond to queries of abuse of financial regulations by the Auditor General of Federation.

After refusing to appear before the committee on several occasions, Kpakol and his team failed to provide the Senate panel with responses to queries raised by the office of the Auditor General.

Members of the committee led

by the Chairman, Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan (ANPP, Yobe North) expressed disappointment with the management of NAPEP insisting that "You must appear here on Tuesday next week with all relevant details because this hearing cannot go on."

Unhappy with the committee's comments on his leadership of the agency, Kpakol refused to answer a question put to him by Senator Lawan saying "I thought you are bringing the meeting to a close what is then the basis for this question? Is it a general interview or what?"

The combative response by

Kpakol infuriated members of the committee with Senator Sahabi Alhaji Ya'u reminding the NAPEP boss that he was before a Senate panel and must respect the institution.

Senator Ya'u said: "We are doing our constitutional roles, if you like you can insult us because that is where you are heading to but it won't stop us from carrying out our responsibility."

Senator Lawan said the committee may be forced to exercise its constitutional powers to sanction Kpakol because of his contempt for several committees of the National Assembly.

He said: "You have no right to refuse to answer our questions since you remain in public service. You have problems with several other committees not this one alone. You have a choice to be rude to this committee or any other committee and we have the choice to also carry out our mandate."

"We will go to any length to ensure that you don't get away with it. We are going to use every mandate that we have to deal with this issue of NAPEP. If you like insult us like you just did today but you are bound by law to appear before any committee of the National Assembly when you are invited."

W/Bank trains geologist on mgt

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

PROFESSIONAL miners across the country have started a two weeks training workshop on sustainable management of mineral resources in the country. The workshop is holding in Abuja.

The workshop which is aimed at developing professional mining activities in Nigeria is sponsored by the World Bank in collaboration with the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development.

The focus of the workshop is on the role of government as policy maker and the need for effective accountability, finance, sound taxation and concern for the environment.

The program has a theme "Governance, Accounting, Finance, Taxation, Environment and Mining."

Professor Tony Van Zijl of the Victoria University of Wellington, one of the presenters at the workshop said it is a pilot program for selected five universities in Nigeria.

"The program is actually a pilot, we are beginning with five universities and if this is successful we can take another five universities", he said.



COORDINATOR of NAPEP Magnus Kpakol

NAPEP partners Nigerians in Diaspora on 'village solutions'

By Sunday Williams

THE National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP) and the foreign affairs ministry are making efforts towards attracting Nigerians in the Diaspora to make input into its 'village solutions' programme.

Village Solutions is a local community-driven development programme designed by NAPEP towards guiding villages and communities in their economic development efforts

that involve modernising their villages and promoting income generation activities.

National Co-ordinator of NAPEP Dr. Magnus Kpakol said at a youth programme in Abuja that by partnering with the foreign affairs ministry, it would involve Nigerians abroad to make the village solutions programme a huge success. He said the programme had already been factored into the 2010 budget.

He said: "We are looking to making that

partnership with people abroad much stronger. We are committing some resources to it when we get the budget." He said Nigerians in the Diaspora will be involve in a Trust Funds where they can create jobs through micro credit funds and help those who are challenged in terms of health as well help send kids to school. He said the agency is currently working with two communities - Onitsha and Owerri. "So, we don't know the full value of what we are going to get this year but I think it will be significant."

Oando rights issue generates interest in South Africa

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

AS the rave of the ongoing Oando Rights Issue continues in Nigeria, market sources have gathered that it is generating unprecedented interest in the company's shares in the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE).

Shareholders in the South African exchange are taking up their rights as a rare opportunity to shore up their investments in the blue chip company. "This is a rare opportunity for shareholders of the company and every rational investor with funds will not let it slip by", a source said.

Oando is the first African company to have dual inward listing on the JSE in 2005. It has a secondary listing on the JSE, while at NSE it is primary-listed.

"The oil giant's strong and consistent growth has been noticed even in the more sophisticated and highly regulated JSE. Oando is set to meet its offer target at JSE as there is continued interest on the floor", the source at the JSE said.

Demand has equally soared at the Nigerian Stock Exchange, according to brokers "If a company is selling a Rights Issue at a discount, and investors are still buying the shares in the secondary market at a higher price it means that the company has a very promising future that the investors are buying into with the expectation of reaping higher dividend."

APCON boss commends Unity Bank's new corporate identity

By Idris Ahmed

CHAIRMAN of the Advertising Practitioners Council of Nigeria (APCON) Professor Chris Dogudje and other brand and media experts have commended Unity Bank for the implementation of its new corporate identity programme.

He said in Abuja at a brand sensitization workshop for the bank executives that the bank would differentiate itself from other banks and financial services providers with its branding efforts. Other experts who commended the bank include Emeka Maduegbuna, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Corporate & Financial Communications, Malam Rufai Ibrahim, CEO and editor-in-chief of the Peoples Daily, Ogie Eboigbe, CEO of Raimundo & Barclay Ltd and Clem Baiye, CEO of Verity.

They commended the management of Unity Bank for the bold step it had taken to brand.

Business/Aviation

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE



FROM right: Senior trainer/Climate Change Training Manager, MET Office United Kingdom, Mr. Collins McAllister, Aviation Training Manager, MET Office College Exeter, Mr. David Memberly, Director General/CEO Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET), Dr. Anthony C. Anuforum and Director, Engineering and Technical Services (NIMET), Engineer Ezekiel O. Adeniji during the opening session of a training for Meteorologists in Abuja, Monday.

Tenants at MMA2 battle Bi-Courtney over rent increments

OPERATORS of the Murtala Mohammed Airport Two (MMA2), Bi-Courtney Aviation Services Limited (BASL) has increased its annual rent of the offices within its terminal by 20 per cent.

Some of the airline operators and other office owners, are now groaning under the increment while some reduced the number of offices to meet the new payment.

Our correspondent gathered that the airport operators had at the beginning of the year, informed its tenants through a letter intimating them of the planned increment.

However, the media officer of BASL, Mr. Chukwudum Ofomata, said he was not aware of the increment, saying commercial department was in charge of premises and space for the company. Ofomata maintained that the department had not received a memo to the effect of rent increase.

Charges in the terminal vary from one office to another as each office is measured by square metres. However, an average tenant in the building pays about N5 million per annum depending on the size of the office space.

Investigations by Daily Trust further showed that one of the leading airlines in the country, Aero Contractors, which initially had six offices in the complex had to give up two in order to measure up with the current charges while Dana Air, which controls four offices and paid N40 million annually for the four offices is also contemplating giving up two, but currently in discussion with BASL management.

For its inability to pay the new rent or inadequate clients, no fewer than two tenants had abdicated their offices while others beside the airlines are contemplating doing so soon.

One of the affected tenants who does not want his name in print, told Daily Trust that some of them decided to relocate to the terminal when the management of BASL assured that its rent will be at parity with FAAN and wondered why the 20% increment even when some of them were struggling to make the tow ends meet.

According to the source, FAAN from available records had not increased its charges and queried the rationale behind the increment.

He however, said that the management was still discussing with the terminal owners, but maintained if an agreement was not reached, the company won't hesitate to pack out of the building.

Before the airlines and other business operators at the terminal agreed to relocate to it in mid 2007, the management had insisted that it charges were at par with that of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) and promised not to increase the rent at least for now.

Terror watch: NCAA to meet US conditions for delisting

Stories from Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA) has said it is putting in place effective aviation security and safety measures to meet requirements that will lead to the delisting of Nigeria from America's lists of countries on

terror watch. Director General of NCAA Dr. Harold Demuren reassured Nigerians and aviation stakeholders that the country will soon be de-listed from the US terror nations' lists.

NCAA DG said: "There is no question about it that this unfortunate foiled attempt has affected all our movements but it is not going

to stop Nigeria from attaining category one. It may delay it but it may be just for a while.

"We are working round the clock; very soon we are going to be with the American FAA. Also, we want to remove our name from the terrorist list, we want to meet all the requirements of Transportation Security Administra-

tion (TSA)." He said the body scanners the agency is in place are going to be there and once "we do that, it must have become very clear that Nigeria has met the security requirements of any standard airport. It will be very clear to America that we have met those requirements and we believe Nigeria will be de-enlisted."

US Muslims opposed to body scanners

MUSLIM-AMERICAN groups have kicked against the use of 3D-body image scanners and their spiritual body has pronounced a religious ruling (fatwa) that Muslims in America must resist going through the scanners at airports.

The Fiqh Council of North America, a body of Islamic scholars that includes some from Michigan issued a fatwa recently that says going through

the airport scanners would violate Islamic rules on modesty.

"It is a violation of clear Islamic teachings that men or women be seen naked by other men and women," reads the fatwa issued Tuesday.

"Islam highly emphasizes modesty (haya) and considers it part of faith. The Quran has commanded the believers, both men and women, to cover their private parts," it said.

Some airports are now in the process of buying and using the body scanners, which show in graphic detail the outlines of a person's body.

One option offered to passengers who don't want to use the scanners would be a pat down by a security guard. The Muslim groups are urging members to undergo those instead.

Two members of the Fiqh Council are from Michigan;

Imam Hassan Qazwini of the Islamic Center of America in Dearborn, and Imam Ali Suleiman Ali of the Canton Mosque.

Currently, there are 40 full-body scanners at 19 airports in the U.S., including two of them in Detroit, said spokesman Jim Fatenos of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

There are plans for 450 more body scanners in U.S. airports, he said.

Aero, Arik suspend flights to Enugu

FOLLOWING the closure of the Akanu Ibiam airport, Enugu by the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), Aero Contractors, has announced suspension of flight operations into the airport just as it has increased frequencies to Sam Mbakwe Airport, Owerri in Imo State, Port Harcourt and Warri airports.

The airline withdrew its services from Akanu Ibiam Airport, Enugu on February 8, before its closure to air traffic from February 10, to allow for the renovation and extension of its runway to be upgraded to the status of an international airport.

According to the airline, during the renovation process, which

will last for approximately a year, additional Aero flights will be offered into Sam Mbakwe Airport, Owerri, Imo State.

Currently, Aero flights to Enugu, from both Lagos and Abuja had been suspended while the airline has made provision to cater for its passengers in the South-South region by increasing

its Port Harcourt flight frequency to 4 times per day also by bolstering its flight schedules in and out of Owerri and Warri.

The airline has increased its flight frequency on the Lagos-Owerri-Lagos route to twice daily.

Aero has also introduced flights on the Owerri-Abuja-Owerri route.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Wednesday, February 16, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	37	0.60	2,738,376	1,614,665.60
SECTORTOTALS	37		2,738,376	1,614,665.60
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	41	1.00	2,216,142	2,074,450.98
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	18	0.78	2,783,500	2,192,485.00
PRESKO PLC	17	5.21	78,580	402,683.80
SECTORTOTALS	76		5,078,222	4,669,619.78
AIR SERVICES				
AIRLINE SERVICES & LOGISTICS PLC	4	3.19	55,000	181,375.00
NIG. AVIATION HANDLING COY PLC	164	8.50	1,754,150	14,892,771.17
SECTORTOTALS	168		1,809,150	15,074,146.17
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC	10	0.50	2,174,039	1,087,019.50
INCAR NIGERIA PLC	1	1.97	9,000	17,550.00
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	18	5.50	107,760	596,132.50
SECTORTOTALS	29		2,290,799	1,700,702.00
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	210	9.34	3,458,866	31,930,094.45
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	133	2.66	11,199,383	30,061,141.69
DIAMOND BANK PLC	151	9.05	11,077,956	98,852,577.05
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	17	4.50	175,031	787,639.50
F/CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	93	9.45	5,618,249	52,714,437.00
FIDELITY BANK PLC	166	2.69	5,745,658	15,398,519.64
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	797	14.81	6,065,123	89,971,359.13
FINBANK PLC	88	0.77	7,390,523	5,702,405.75
GTBANK PLC	399	18.01	5,607,728	101,491,358.56
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	97	8.68	1,828,307	16,092,318.48
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	88	1.92	2,540,696	5,006,558.86
OCEANIC BANK INTER PLC	125	2.11	4,330,419	9,276,336.92
BANK PHB PLC	118	1.97	7,199,042	14,053,330.60
SKYE BANK PLC	146	7.46	3,897,176	29,245,973.40
SPRING BANK PLC	31	1.03	517,474	535,894.22
STERLING BANK PLC	116	1.94	13,048,787	24,712,246.09
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	259	13.00	6,211,876	80,818,162.16
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	188	5.90	4,084,570	24,263,579.28
UNITY BANK PLC	30	1.00	2,294,900	2,316,448.00
WEMA BANK PLC	54	1.20	1,232,186	1,483,926.45
ZENITH BANK PLC	251	15.80	122,240,760	1,918,004,411.91
SECTORTOTALS	3,557		225,764,710	2,552,718,719.14
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	88	16.01	1,414,211	22,678,600.68
BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC	23	50.01	163,928	8,197,232.27
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	54	15.72	1,105,844	17,383,864.94
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	44	34.18	648,135	22,198,042.95
SECTORTOTALS	209		3,332,118	70,457,740.84
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	6	3.36	22,030	77,545.60
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	1	25.27	250	6,050.00
DN MEYER PLC	19	3.99	529,986	2,114,644.14
SECTORTOTALS	26		552,266	2,198,239.74
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES				
AFROMEDIA PLC	3	0.53	339,000	179,670.00
COURT VILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	3	0.50	1,050,000	525,000.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	16	2.64	737,330	1,903,614.60
SECTORTOTALS	22		2,126,330	2,608,284.60
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	2	8.13	5,674	46,526.80
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	8	0.57	134,318	76,561.26
SECTORTOTALS	10		139,992	123,088.06
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	9	2.85	228,704	652,592.60
PZ CUSONS NIGERIA PLC	43	26.25	670,070	17,598,090.90
TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC	64	0.50	21,947,871	10,973,935.50
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	63	42.00	962,464	40,432,084.10
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	79	25.00	901,471	22,597,457.32
SECTORTOTALS	258		24,710,580	92,254,160.42
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	54	5.53	639,469	3,443,729.74
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	27	28.50	183,089	4,968,815.87
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	4	0.50	17,343	8,671.50
SECTORTOTALS	85		839,901	8,421,217.11
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
CUTIX PLC	4	2.96	7,509	21,311.73
NIGERIAN WIRE & CABLE PLC.	7	0.84	349,581	293,648.04
SECTORTOTALS	11		357,090	314,959.77
F/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	15	30.60	28,219	894,922.06
BIG TREAT PLC	18	0.87	404,980	351,542.60
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	81	15.30	899,294	13,539,211.35
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	159	12.80	2,004,370	25,611,983.86
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	103	15.30	2,149,698	32,676,618.46
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	157	48.06	1,637,743	78,659,163.73
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	10	6.40	216,600	1,344,372.00
NATIONAL SALT COY. NIG. PLC	50	6.30	1,250,280	8,005,054.51
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY PLC	25	27.10	30,516	835,630.30
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	45	268.00	45,712	12,335,412.79
NORTHERN NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	2	21.80	1,250	26,977.50
TANTALIZERS PLC	23	0.90	1,206,200	1,085,717.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	15	0.75	190,086	140,519.40

SECTORTOTALS	703		10,064,948	175,507,125.56
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	4	1.12	55,000	58,850.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	31	2.29	1,157,055	2,577,100.70
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONS. NIG. PLC	20	26.41	51,592	1,359,813.80
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	25	4.73	419,770	1,987,529.30
NEIMETH INTER. PHARMA PLC	19	1.40	243,941	338,984.75
UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC	31	0.66	3,041,350	1,963,127.66
SECTORTOTALS	130		4,968,708	8,285,406.21
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	2	2.45	54,000	135,940.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	19	1.55	652,953	1,000,695.53
SECTORTOTALS	21		706,953	1,136,635.53
IND/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
ALUMACO PLC	1	16.63	50,100	833,163.00
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	6	11.26	79,824	898,818.24
VITAF OAM NIGERIA PLC	33	4.77	437,650	2,090,019.29
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	4	0.63	31,231	19,650.60
SECTORTOTALS	44		598,805	3,841,651.13
INF. & COMM. TECHNOLOGY				
CHAMS PLC	25	0.77	1,684,964	1,279,512.16
MAS TELECOM INNOVATION NIG. PLC	1	0.50	4,000	2,000.00
STARCOMMS PLC	33	2.20	81,279,653	178,882,859.04
SECTORTOTALS	59		82,968,617	180,164,371.20
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INS. PLC	4	0.56	11,100,000	6,216,000.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	106	1.02	3,297,831	3,424,632.21
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	32	0.98	5,610,000	5,270,035.72
CORNERSTONE INSUR. CO. PLC.	22	0.53	469,119	241,595.84
CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSUR PLC	110	2.91	2,870,513	8,559,504.04
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	69,060	34,530.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	18	0.53	5,210,000	2,761,300.00
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	28	2.21	8,659,878	19,359,719.97
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	1	0.50	25,000	25,000.00
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	68,854	34,427.00
INTER. ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC	21	0.56	3,011,757	1,693,275.99
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	33	0.52	4,475,846	2,311,187.92
LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC.	17	0.55	7,443,800	3,809,564.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	5,000	2,500.00
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	41	0.53	3,799,500	2,024,105.00
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	8	0.73	980,000	706,542.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	1	3.61	5,000	17,150.00
REGENCY ALLIANCE INSUR. COY. PLC	1	0.50	20,000	10,000.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSUR. PLC	4	0.50	124,000	62,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	2	0.83	40,300	31,837.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	45	0.57	964,682	554,605.56
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	19	0.78	697,509	527,638.90
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY. PLC	2	0.50	100,000	50,000.00
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INSUR. PLC	9	1.00	18,949	18,654.02
SECTORTOTALS	529		59,091,598	57,745,805.17
LEASING				
C&I LEASING PLC	10	2.60	155,105	401,944.06
SECTORTOTALS	10		155,105	401,944.06
MARITIME				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERV. PLC	101	1.23	3,044,776	3,719,946.95
SECTORTOTALS	101		3,044,776	3,719,946.95
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	33	0.77	276,179	212,657.83
SECTORTOTALS	33		276,179	212,657.83
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ABBAY BUILDING SOCIETY PLC	1	1.61	1,000	1,530.00
ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC	12	0.62	1,779,645	1,107,222.57
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	18	0.50	5,685,000	2,842,500.00
UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	30	0.95	1,390,170	1,390,917.05
SECTORTOTALS	61		8,965,815	5,342,169.62
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	17	0.90	1,043,500	953,651.06
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	19	0.63	817,500	518,160.46
SECTORTOTALS	36		1,861,000	1,471,811.52
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MANUFACTURING COY. PLC	250	2.41	3,575,869	8,610,843.16
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	1	14.26	5,000	67,750.00
SECTORTOTALS	251		3,580,869	8,678,593.16
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	59	38.06	140,049	5,355,566.27
BECO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	5	2.14	207,400	443,836.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	20	69.79	17,674	1,237,869.00
CONOIL PLC	26	31.00	52,627	1,635,737.20
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	39	6.30	1,144,299	7,049,806.29
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	18	97.51	7,174	664,599.36
OANDO PLC	14	93.99	8,510	799,854.90
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	23	142.50	129,209	18,698,834.31
SECTORTOTALS	204		1,706,942	35,886,103.33
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
ACADEMY PRESS PLC.	14	6.85	238,848	1,720,935.63
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	3	9.76	1,600	14,848.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	28	5.15	621,044	2,963,241.78
SECTORTOTALS	45		861,492	4,699,025.41
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROPERTY DEVE. CO. PLC	14	20.00	116,339	2,249,210.57
SECTORTOTALS	14		116,339	2,249,210.57
OVERALL TOTALS	7,000		450,456,117	3,341,245,637.32

Anonymous Trading Permits Participating Organizations to voluntarily withhold their true broker identities when entering orders and trades on TSX trading systems.

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GAINERS		
FLOURMILL		2.28
DIAMONDBNK		0.43
CADBURY		0.33
DANGSUGAR		0.29

LOSERS		
ALUMACO		0.87
BOCGAS		0.59
SKYEBANK		0.39
ACADEMY		0.36

Toyota (Nigeria) Limited

REASSURANCE CHECK GUIDELINES FOR ITS CUSTOMERS ON SPECIFIC TOYOTA MODELS

Toyota (Nigeria) Ltd wishes to assure its customers that the incidence of the accelerator pedal defect is very rare. More significantly, its occurrence in Nigeria is quite remote due to our tropical climate.

However, in line with the Toyota philosophy of Customer First and our commitment to our customers' safety, Toyota (Nigeria) Ltd will commence conducting reassurance checks on three Toyota models in order to eliminate even the remote possibility of failure.

CHASSIS NUMBER CHECK

If your chassis number falls within the indicated global range below, you are required to contact our accredited dealers for your reassurance check appointment:

MODEL	CHASSIS NO
Rav 4 2.0LA/T	JTMBH31V - - 5006216 to 5058109
	JTMBH31V - - 6013096 to 6088010
	JTMBH31V - - D000263 to D014932
Avenis 2.0L M/T & A/T	SB1BL75L - - E001004 to E013727
	SB1BL76L - - E001103 to E013596
Corolla 1.33L M/T	AHTLT52E - - 6000641 to 6006737
Corolla 1.8L M/T & A/T	AHTLC52E - - 3001340 to 3018540
	AHTLC56E - - 3002062 to 3019173
	AHTLC58E - - 3001037 to 3018846

HOW TO CHECK/READ YOUR VEHICLE CHASSIS NUMBER

See the following guidelines to check/read your vehicle chassis number

- The reassurance check is applicable only to the above listed models RAV4, Avenis and Corolla (1.4xli & 1.4Gli Not inclusive)
- Open your door and check the metallic label riveted to the body of the front left door frame.
- Look for an alpha numeric number that is seventeen digit and copy it correctly.
- Compare the copied number to the range specified above and confirm if it falls within the range.
- If it falls within the range, you are required to call any of our accredited dealers to book an appointment (if it does not fall within the range, it is not necessary to book an appointment).
- The fixing procedure lasts between 40-45 minutes.
- Reassurance check is free of charge if your chassis number falls within the range specified above.

TOYOTA (NIGERIA) LIMITED ACCREDITED DEALERS

Call any of the following Toyota accredited dealers for your reassurance check appointment:

Elizade Nigeria Limited;
Ogba: 01-7949496; 070-29719801
P-Harcourt: 080-32023966;
080-32183314
Abuja: 080-33767475; 09-7802425
Akure: 080-64407692; 070-56475966
Hotline: 07065000002

R.T Briscoe Nig. Plc.
Matori: 01-7614724; 01-8945497
VI: 070-98107162; 080-37158418
Abuja: 070-98107165; 080-34021579
P-Harcourt: 080-32357867;
080-33021723
Hotline: 07065000003

Globe Motors Holdings Nig. Ltd.
Surulere: 070-26045976; 080-37466444
VI: 01-7758266, 01-4544100/124
P-Harcourt: 070-25774147; 080-64129866
Abuja: 070-25774146; 080-33120722
Hotline: 07065000004

Omoregie Motors;
Alaba: 070-92310487; 01-8542383
Abuja: 080-54933032; 070-25093088
Hotline: 07065000005

Germaine Auto Centre.
Lekki: 01-8120482; 070-29322443
Hotline: 07065000006

Mandilas Motors.
Simpson: 080-23142377; 01-7388380
Ebute-Meta: 080-69097456; 01-8752596
Ibadan: 080-33500359; 02-8740891
Abuja: 080-33333493; 09-8703575
Kaduna: 080-98354318; 062-884763
Warri: 080-37497767; 053-816828
P-Harcourt: 080-37085484; 084-889930
Hotline: 07065000008

Metropolitan Motors:
Ogba: 01-7411343; 080-33748348
Hotline: 07065000009

Kojo Motors.
Surulere: 080-37212008; 01-6653690
Benin: 080-33894015; 080-79280799
Hotline: 07065000010

Toyota (Nigeria) Limited

Toyota Office Complex, TPAO 992, Ojulari Road, Lekki Peninsula Scheme, Lagos.
Tel: +234-1-4401311-5. Fax: +234-1-4401321-2

CONCERNED YOBE CITIZENS FOR JUSTICE (CYCJ)

Head office: No 65 Bakin Transformer, Potiskum L.G.A. Yobe state.
E-mail: cycj22@yahoo.com

MOTO: Justice and equity for ALL Yobe citizens, ALL Nigerians

PRESS RELEASE

YOBE GOVERNORSHIP: ANPP/INEC vs Senator Usman Albishir-

An urgent call for JUSTICE

We start by saying that the CYCJ stands for truth, justice and equity: NO sentiments!

As a pressure group concerned with the promotion of justice and equity for ALL the citizens of our dear Yobe State in particular, the rest of Nigerians and indeed the world in general, we feel the need to urgently seek the dispensation of justice over the three years litigation between the All Nigeria Peoples Party, ANPP and Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC on one part and Senator Usman Albishir, winner of the 2007 ANPP governorship primary elections in Yobe State, who won with 388 votes as against 88 votes scored by late Mamman Bello Ali (May His soul rest in peace).

We are very worried that this matter which, to us looks very straight forward, given the precedence set by the Supreme Court of Nigeria in the matter between PDP and Governor Rotimi Amaechi of Rivers State, has stalemated for just too long with litigations being slowed down by some delay games.

Senator Albishir as known to all, won the primaries, was given certificate of return by the ANPP and was even cleared by the INEC as the valid candidate only to be substituted in few days without recourse to the provisions of the law.

Series of litigations on this matter have ensured and that is now history so to speak. Acting on the **instruction of the Supreme Court, issued to him on 20th of November, 2007, Albishir returned** to the Appeal Court sitting in Jos to pursue his appeal. The court granted him right to file fresh appeal as part of his constitutional right to reject a ruling by a lower court through a civilised manner. This ruling to our minds finally laid to rest issues bothering on abuse of court process as was the usual claim of the ANPP and INEC.

Rather than allowing the appeal court to hear the merit of the case in line with the universal clamour substantive justice which we believe is the focus of the Nigerian Judiciary, the ANPP and INEC went to the Supreme Court challenging the right granted Albishir to file fresh appeal.

Our urgent request as well as appeal as the Supreme Court rules on the matter tomorrow, is for our very highly placed and most regarded judges to deliver justice without fear of favour and with the fear of God and due regard to their individual and collective conscience.

We feel the need to make this call because our concern is for justice and equity for the citizens of our dear state and the rest of Nigerians and humanity. Our concern becomes very cogent given the fact that our citizens are keenly divided along two lines and this, much as it is an open wound, can only be healed with conscience nurtured by truth and should be exemplified by our judges whom we have no reason so far, to distrust.

Depending on which side the Supreme Court's ruling goes, we urge any other court, the appeal court especially, should the matter return to it, to accelerate hearing on the matter so that this issue can end as we approach severe politicking.

We, however, acknowledge and commend Senator Usman Albishir for remaining very patient over the years and despite the severe emotional trauma, time taking and costs he has been encountering in the stalemated litigation. We salute him for being a gentle man who has taking the part of honour by seeking legal redress in a civilised manner rather than going through any other unlawful means to seek redress.

We must also say that the sitting government of Yobe state, has in recent times, shown some level of democratic culture in which tension previously shared amongst citizens with contrasting views has been dowsed even though these contrasting views still exist. This is none the less healthy for our people to enjoy their rights of association and this deserves some applause.

The CYCJ emphatically appeals to the Supreme Court to help Yobe people by delivering not only justice but also what will be seen and certified as justice so that the process of genuine reconciliation can begin because without such a bold step by the Apex court our people may remain divided and this is unhealthy.

As we recognise the rights of both parties to resort to court, we once again, condemn in strong terms, some forces that made the true ANPP and the hitherto united people of Yobe State go through this divisional crisis in the first instance.

We thank the judiciary for strengthening our fate in our nascent Democracy by keeping our hopes alive, that one day we shall have a Nigeria where candidates who won primaries will no longer face the monster called substitution and in which politics will be played according to laid down rules that are good for all.

God bless the good members of ANPP, good citizens of Yobe and the good citizens of the federal republic of Nigeria.

Signed

Alhaji Ibrahim Ali Gadaka
(Former commissioner in Yobe)
Chairman, CYCJ

Yusuf Ibrahim Fika
Secretary



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

P.M.B 05,
AKWANGA NASARAWA STATE

INVITATION TO TENDER

1. College of Education Akwanga is inviting Competent and interested Companies to submit Tender Documents for the following construction and procurement work under its ETF YEAR 2008 & 2009 Merged Projects.

- A. Project No. COE/AKWANGA/ETF/08/01:
Construction of one unit Theatre Arts Auditorium
- B. Project No. COE/AKWANGA/ETF/09/04:
Construction and furnishing of one Unit Lecture Hall
- C. Project No. COE/AKWANGA/ETF/08/03:
Furnishing of Theatre Arts Auditorium
- D. Project No. COE/AKWANGA/ETF/08/02 & 09/05:
Procurement of 4 no. Units of 5 Tonne Packaged LG Air Condition, with 4 no. Units of 5000 Watts AVRS.

2. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Interested Companies must forward copies of the following documents and the originals to be made available for sighting during opening of Tender.

- i. Evidence of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- ii. Technical Brochure with illustrative photographs of previous execution of similar projects.
- iii. Tax clearance certificate in respect of VAT for the last three (3) years.
- iv. Company's Financial Report for the last three (3) Years.
- v. Evidence of contract Registration with College

3. SUBMISSION OF TENDER BIDS

Completed Tender documents are to be submitted to the office of the Registrar, College of Education Akwanga, and to be addressed to "The Secretary Tender Board, College of Education P.M.B.05, Akwanga, Nasarawa State." Such documents are to reach the office of the Registrar on or before **26th February 2010**.

Applicants are to note that late submission will not be entertained. Only shortlisted applicants shall be invited for Pre-qualification bidding.

Signed
Mr. Thomas Inarigu
Ag. Registrar

FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) GOMBE ASHAKA ROAD, P.M.B 60, GOMBE, GOMBE STATE.

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

A. INTRODUCTION:

The Federal College of Education (Tech), Gombe is a beneficiary of the year 2009 ETF Special Intervention Funds (Centre of Excellence) and Year 2010 Capital Projects. In view of the above and in line with BPP Act 2007, the College hereby invites reputable and competent Consultants firms for pre-qualification as a pre-requisite for engagement in respect of the following projects.

SNO	PROJECT TITLE
1	ETF SPECIAL INTERVENTION
LOT 1	Construction of twin 500 Seat Lecture theatre
LOT 2	Upgrading of ICT Facilities
LOT 3	Construction of Automobile workshop
LOT 4	Construction of Building workshop
LOT 5	Construction of Technical Drawing workshop
LOT 6	Construction of Green house and Hatchery
LOT 7	Construction, Equipping, and reticulation of industrial borehole
2	YEAR 2010 CAPITAL PROJECTS
LOT A	CONSTRUCTION OF ACCESS ROADS
LOT B	CONSTRUCTION OF FEMALE HOSTEL
LOT C	CONSTRUCTION OF COLLEGE PERIMETER FENCING

Consequent upon the projects above, prequalification are hereby invited from suitable qualified Consultants.

Applicants may indicate their interest in one or more Lots categorized above. Each Project must however, have a separate application and bear the name of a relevant Lot. Only consultants with proven experience and track records would be prequalified.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

For proper verification and examination of prequalification documents, all interested Consultant MUST enclose a colored photocopy and Or, scanned colored copy (not black and white copy and not original) of the following documents:

- i. Evidence of registration with the corporate Affairs Commission (Only a Limited Liability Company would be considered).
- ii. Tax Clearance for the last three (3) years with recent T-I-N No and FIRS signed evidence of assessment for year 2010.
- iii. Evidence of registration with relevant Professional Body.
- iv. Company Profile. This should contain among others:
 - Evidence of Technical competence (Staff & Equipment)
 - Evidence of Letter of engagement and Letter of practical completion of similar projects (with colored Picture of the completed project handled).
- v. Letter from company's Bank stating financial capability of the company to execute the projects.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS:

All completed Pre-Qualification Documents should be submitted in a separate sealed envelope marked **CONFIDENTIAL: "PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR "STATING THE NAME OF THE PROJECT FOR CONSULTANCY APPLYING FOR ACCORDING TO LOTS"** at the Top left hand corner of each envelop and addressed to:

The Director of Works and Services,
Federal College of Education (Tech),
P.M.B.60, Ashaka Road, Gombe, Gombe State.

OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER:

All Prequalification Documents would be opened on Tuesday, 2nd March, 2010 by 12pm. Only those who satisfy the above requirements would be considered. Names of Successful Consultants will be placed on the College notice board.

TECHNICAL BIDS:

All consultants who have satisfied pre-qualification conditions may be required to submit their technical bids, upon payment of a non-refundable fees of fifty thousand naira (N50,000.00) only.

PLEASE NOTE:

- All expenses incurred and associated with the preparation of the pre-qualification documents shall be borne by the prospective Consultants.
- The College reserves the right to reject any/or all Pre-qualification submission.
- The recommended Consultant would be required to present the original copies of the entire documents claim in their submission for verification. Those found to have falsify their submission would be handed over to the appropriate authority and their submission outrightly disqualified.
- The final recommended consultants, would be required to submit their Bank name, Account number, Bank sort code that can be used throughout the contract period for the payment of services rendered.
- Failure to satisfy the above prequalification requirements is an admission of self disqualification.
- The College will not enter into any correspondence with any firm or individual on why a consultant was not qualified.

Signed
Alhaji Ahmed Mohammed Dukku
Registrar/Secretary to the Council.

**PHILLIPS
CONSULTING**

2010
February - July

**INTERNATIONAL
TRAINING PROGRAMMES**

Phillips Consulting's international training programmes offer the opportunity to acquire skills within short periods of intensive and highly interactive learning away from home. We present our training calendar for February to July, 2010.

1 Quality Management Systems:

Runs/Date	Location
Run II: April 17-24, 2010	Howard University, Washington DC, USA
Run I: March 06 - 13, 2010	Phillips Consulting, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Quality Management Systems (QMS) initiative is a structured programme developed by Phillips Consulting, to bring the concept of quality into the processes, systems, procedures and methods of the administrative and service delivery systems in both public & private sector organisations. This philosophy was successfully implemented by the former US President, Bill Clinton in the State of Arkansas and the White House.

Over the years, our benchmarking partners in the United States of America and South Africa have provided good examples of best practice methodologies for parallel ministries and organisations on all site visits.

2 Executive Leadership & Business Operations Programme:

Runs/Date	Location
Run I: April 17 - 28, 2010 Run II: September 04 - 15, 2010	Howard University School of Business, Washington DC, USA

The Executive Leadership Programme at the Howard University School of Business (HUSB) is a recent initiative by Phillips Consulting in partnership with Howard University, to engage senior executives in an innovative way on the principles of true organisational leadership and performance management. This innovation is highlighted by the opportunity to be joined in class by selected Howard University MBA students.

The programme will focus on the route that leaders have to navigate in fulfilling their functional and leadership roles in an ever changing business environment. It will as well deal extensively with the ability to assess the workforce and adopt leadership cum management responses in the management of people through well articulated and structured performance management systems.

3 Disaster Management:

Runs/Date	Location
Run I: May 15 - 29, 2010	ADPC Training Centre, Bangkok, Thailand

Phillips Consulting is pioneering the initiative of enhancing the capacity of government agencies and the private sector to manage and deal with disaster situations professionally and effectively by organising, in conjunction with the ADPC in Thailand, a very comprehensive two-week programme on Disaster Management.

The programme provides a unique opportunity for delegates to interact with a team of leading experts in Disaster Management to learn new techniques in disaster prevention, mitigation and management, disaster resistance construction, codes and guidelines, as well as how to create a database for hazard occurrences.

4 Project & Operations Management Programme (POMP):

Runs/Date	Location
Run I: May 22 - June 05, 2010	Shanghai, China
Run II: October 02 - 16, 2010	Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Phillips Consulting presents a two-week programme to address the implications of the inability to plan, execute, and manage projects professionally and successfully. Participants will learn: - (i) key project management skills from an operations perspective; (ii) leadership skills necessary to implement and integrate projects successfully (iii) the techniques required for establishing formal and informal project teams as building blocks for organisations. Delegates will participate in a business operations simulation exercise in the last week of the programme.

5 Executive Management Development Programme:

Runs/Date	Location
Run I: July 17 - 31, 2010	Wits Business School, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

The Phillips Consulting Executive Management Development Programme (EMDP) has succeeded over the past 17 years through a collaborative approach with Business Schools and specialised faculties to engage senior executives in an environment that is different and succeeding. This programme holding in South Africa will be managed by Wits Business School, University of Witwatersrand in conjunction with Phillips Consulting, South Africa.

Participants on the programme will walk away with:

- Insights and advice from the most respected leaders in the field of leadership, leadership development and management;
- Emerging methodologies and revolutionary approaches for leadership and management development
- Tips, tools, and techniques from world class leadership development programmes
- Profiling and de-briefing of the Herrmann Brain Dominance Instrument (HBDI)

Further Enquiries

Please call Jones on 0704 099 7984; email jonesa@phillipsconsulting.net or Felicia on 0803 328 4688; Email: feliciae@phillipsconsulting.net to receive detailed brochure and also to register.

Note: We can offer a modified package to address the specific needs of your organisation

**PHILLIPS
CONSULTING**

www.phillipsconsulting.net



Office of the Accountant -General of the Federation Abuja

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



DIRECTORATE OF TECHNICAL AID CORPS

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ABUJA

35 Alex Ekwueme Way, Jabi District, Abuja

FORMAL DISENGAGEMENT FROM SERVICE OF 2004/2006 AND 2006/2008 TAC VOLUNTEERS.

The Directorate of Technical Aid Corps (TAC), Abuja is organizing a formal disengagement from service of volunteers, who served in the 2004-2006 and 2006-2008 TAC biennia at the Royal Tropicana Hotels and Resorts, 17/19 Niger Street, Kano, Kano State, from Sunday 21st to Friday 26th February, 2010. Volunteers who fall outside these two biennia and who are yet to collect their discharge certificates are also invited.

2. Accordingly, TAC Volunteers concerned are requested to note and comply with the schedule of arrival and departure shown below. It should be emphasized that participation is restricted to affected volunteers only.

3. The schedule of participation is as follows:

S/NO	COUNTRY OF ASSIGNMENT	ARRIVAL DATE	DEPARTURE DATE
GROUP 1	UGANDA SEYCHELLES DOMINICA CONGO EQUATORIAL GUINEA	Sunday, 21st February, 2010	Monday, 22nd February, 2010
GROUP 2	SIERRA LEONE LIBERIA JAMAICA	Monday, 22nd February, 2010	Tuesday, 23rd February, 2010
GROUP 3	ZAMBIA ETHIOPIA	Tuesday, 23rd February, 2010	Wednesday, 24th February, 2010
GROUP 4	THE GAMBIA SAO TOME & PRINCIPE MOZAMBIQUE GUYANA	Wednesday, 24th February, 2010	Thursday, 25th February, 2010
GROUP 5	FIJI RWANDA BELIZE BURUNDI BENIN	Thursday, 25th February, 2010	Friday, 26th February, 2010

4. Arrangements have been made for reception and accommodation of volunteers at the venue of the event on the designated dates.

5. It is mandatory for all affected volunteers to come with two (2) passport sized photographs and either a certified Drivers' license or identity Card for Identification purposes.

6. Please contact any of these phone numbers for further clarification (08068641021, 08033110475, 08075468190, 07030290118 and 08055120578)

Signed

MANAGEMENT

DAILY TRUST

EDUCATION

E-MAIL: education@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371

Galadanchi heads FG's committee on Madrasah education

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Minister of State for Education Hajiya Aishatu Dukku has inaugurated a 16-member Ministerial Committee on Madrasah Education headed by Professor Shehu Galadanchi.

The committee is primarily charged with the responsibility of designing strategies and action plans for the integration of qur'anic education into the country's education system.

Speaking at the inauguration of

the committee, Hajia Dukku said Federal Government has taken bold steps to ensure that no classes of people are left behind in the race for the acquisition of functional literacy in the country.

According to her, part of the measures taken by the Federal Government was "the integration of qur'anic school into the Universal Basic Education (UBE) programme and the current effort toward providing a platform for the enhancement of girl-child education and that of other disadvan-

taged groups."

"This is another unique opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to the education of all school-age children, especially the almajirai and other disadvantaged groups. At the national level, the recognition of basic education as the bedrock for national development as well as the foundation upon which other levels of education are built has fuelled government's drive for the attainment of Education for All (EFA) by 2015," she said.

Hajiya Dukku, who disclosed that Federal Government has added impetus to the previous efforts toward eradicating illiteracy and enabling the realisation of the full potential of every citizen of the country, said government had designed programmes to provide direction to all aspects of basic education as well as to target special classes of people.

"This is in a bid to ensure that no classes of people are left behind in the race for the acquisition of functional literacy," she said.

She said government has empowered the relevant agencies to ensure that they proffering solutions to the challenges of realising the potential of the almajirai, adding that efforts have been made to consolidate the successes recorded in imparting knowledge and discipline in school-age children.

Responding on behalf of all the committee members, Professor Shehu Galadanchi, said the committee will do everything possible to ensure that it carries out its functions effectively.

Council tasks Namadi on college infrastructure

From Ismail Mudahsir, Kaduna

THE Governing Council of the Kaduna State School of Health Technology has called on Governor Mohammed Namadi Sambo to rehabilitate major infrastructures at the institution.

A statement signed by the public relations officer of the college Muhammad Gidado Adamu said the call was made by the chairman of the council, Alhaji Habibu Sani during a facility tour of the three campuses of the college in Kaduna North, Makarfi and Pampeguwa.

The statement quoted Alhaji Sani as saying that

the institution requires urgent attention.

According to the statement, Alhaji Sani also commended Governor Sambo for providing the state-of-the-art dental equipment at the Makarfi campus, and for awarding contract for the rehabilitation of the Kaduna campus.

The statement said also that the chairman of Kubau Local Government Area, Malam Hashim Garba Anchau assisted the college with 10 casual staff, two set of computers and one 500kva transformer to enhance the power supply in Pampeguwa campus of the college.

Returning schools to missionaries will make education elitist – NUT scribe

THE return of schools to missions will introduce elitism in the education sector, Delta State secretary of Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT) Mr Eddy Uloho, has said.

Uloho, who dismissed speculations that the Delta government would return some schools to the missions, said if returned, the schools would individually decide their tuition fees.

"This would mean increased tuition fees compared with tuition fees paid in public schools.

Besides, masses will be at the receiving end. Government should think of eliminating social vices rather than increase them because when these schools are returned and some parents cannot afford the tuition fees, we will have cases of drop outs," he said.

He said also that returning the schools to the missions would be counter-productive "as it means that the Muslims cannot attend the same schools with Christians." (NAN)



CHAIRMAN of Abuja Institute of Chartered Accountant of Nigeria (ICAN) Fred Okonta (left), President of Nigerian Universities Accounting Students Association (NUASA) Musa Farouk and the representative of the Head of Accounting Department of the University of Abuja Adefiranye James at the presentation of modern accounting text books to students in Abuja... recently.

120 scholarships for Nigerians at British Council education fair

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

THE forth coming British Council education exhibitions in Abuja and Lagos will see about 120 Nigerians benefiting from scholarships opportunities that would be made available by participating institutions from the United Kingdom.

The British Council has been organising the education exhibition in Nigeria since 2003. The council said in Lagos that this year's event, which is the 7th edition, will be the biggest ever held in Nigeria with over 5000 participants and over 50 UK universi-

ties showcasing solutions to prospective Nigerians willing to study in the United Kingdom.

Deputy country director of the British Council Amir Ramzan told reporters in Lagos that "the initiative to make these scholarships opportunities for Nigerians was put together by the British Council as part of its efforts to make the exhibitions of even greater benefit to participants."

In addition to scholarship opportunities, participants will have direct interface with the institutions and would have their questions on admission placement and visa policies

answered by experts.

On her part, the Business Partnerships Manager of the British Council Mrs Adetomi Soyinka said "many interested Nigerians spend a good amount of time searching for financing and scholarship opportunities to support their educational aspirations."

"We therefore decided to make it a little easier by pulling this scholarship information together for them in a format that is easy to understand. We are also hoping to have some banks come in to share their various financing options with participants," she said.

NYSC to mobilise 100,000 corps members in 2010

NO less than 100,000 corps members will be mobilised for the 2010 Batch 'A' NYSC scheme, Director-General of National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) Brigadier-General Maharazu Tsiga, has said.

Tsiga announced this while declaring open a Servicemom Workshop for NYSC staff in Benue, Nasarawa, Niger and Plateau States.

He, however, blamed some of the universities for not

sending the names of prospective corps members for registration on time.

According to him, NYSC returned N5 billion to government in 2009, due to the inability of some universities to send the list of prospective corps members on time. HE said adequate arrangements had been made by the NYSC to accommodate all prospective corps members. (NAN)

DAILY TRUST EDUCATION

500 students win MTN scholarship

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

OVER 500 students have emerged as beneficiaries of the MTN Foundation's Science and Technology Scholarship Awards for the 2010/2011 academic session.

The candidates emerged after a rigor-

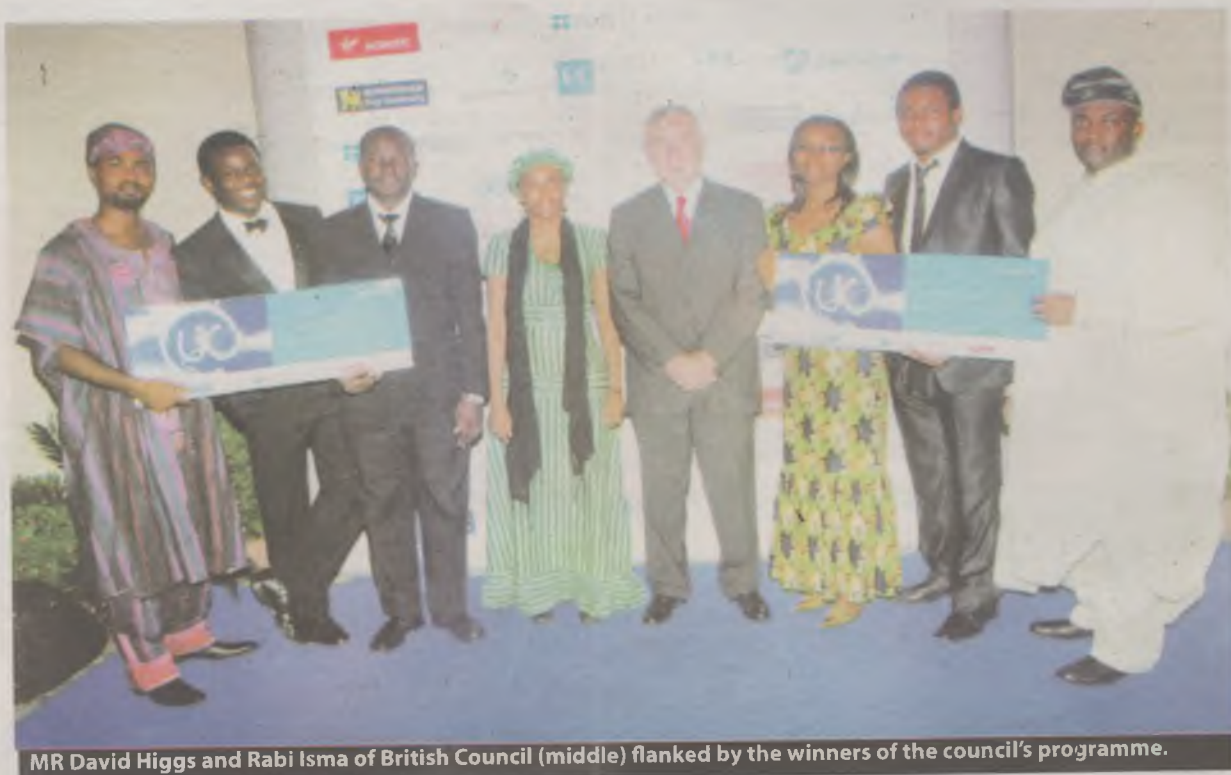
ous assessment exercise conducted by the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) in three zones across the country on Saturday, December 5, 2009.

The scholarship covers tuition and book allowances for one year and the successful candidates will be presented with their

awards in batches in a couple of weeks.

The first batch of presentations will take place in Enugu State on February 19, the second batch, in Zaria on February 20, and the last batch will be presented with their awards on February 22 in Lagos State.

"Education is pivotal to the growth and development of any nation. This is another contribution of the MTN Foundation to national efforts to ensure that our children who represent the future of this country receive sound education," said Director of MTN Foundation Wale Goodluck.



MR David Higgs and Rabi Isma of British Council (middle) flanked by the winners of the council's programme.

KBC media organises teen tourist's essay, quiz competition

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

AN Abuja-based KBC Media Limited, publishers of Youngster's Digest, have organised a "Teen Tourist's Essay and Quiz Competition" in order to help youngsters realise their potentials.

The competition was organised in Abuja at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Education Resource Centre.

The highlights of the competition saw the Federal Government Girls College (FGGS), Owerri coming first in the essay competition while Okpeje Comprehensive Secondary School

came second even as the FGGS Owerri became 3rd and 4th runners up in the essay category.

In the quiz category, Junior Secondary School Zuba, came first while JSS Dei Dei came second and JSS Gaube came third. Some of the schools went away with prizes including textbooks and cash.

In his speech, the chief executive officer of KBC Media Limited Mr. Chukwuemeka K. Onwubiko, lamented the cost of doing business in Nigeria and the general indifference to education characterized by the poor

reading culture among the youths.

He said the competition was organized to improve the reading culture among youths, and called on parents and guardians to help inculcate the reading habit in their children and wards.

In her opening address, the Director General of Consumer Protection Council (CPC) Mrs. Ify Umenyi, said parents and guardians will do well, if during festive seasons, youths are taken to beautiful natural sceneries that abound in Nigeria's different geopolitical zones.

NANS reject 300% school fees hike in Ekpoma

By Maureen Onochie

THE National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has condemned the over 300 percent increase in school fees by the management of Ambrose Ali University, Ekpoma.

President of the association Comrade Jude Imagwe told journalists, that the school fees were formerly N18,000, N21,000 and N26,000 but have been increased to N100,000 for diploma students, N150,000 for Msc,

N250,000 for Phd, among others.

Comrade Jude Imagwe, who described the increment as outrageous, inhuman and wicked, called for its immediate review.

He also called for the immediate reversal of all unbearable fees increment in Ambrose Ali University, University of Ado-Ekiti and other institutions with immediate effect.

While condemning the act of vandalism and wanton destruction of property that occurred during students protest in Ekpoma, Com-

rade Imagwe gave assurance that the association would mobilize all its members to protest the 'unjustifiable' increment if the school authorities remain adamant.

The association also called on all student leaders across the nation to commence dialogue and ensure that the unfortunate and unacceptable recourse to vandalism and destruction properties being associated with the otherwise legitimate protest in Ekpoma is not allowed to repeat itself.

Ogun NUT embarks on verification of teachers

STRIKING teachers and primary school pupils in public primary schools in Ogun State are to present themselves for on-the-spot verification in their various schools.

Principal Assistant Secretary-General of the state wing of NUT Chief Wale Oyeniyi, who made this known in a circular, said the verification was part of an agreement signed by the union and the authorities of the 20 local governments in the state.

He said the agreement is the basis for the implementation of the new Teachers Salary Scale (TSS) in the state.

He explained that the verification, which would last for two weeks, was to determine the number of the TSS beneficiaries and

the actual cost implication for the implementation of the new salary structure.

The teachers commenced an indefinite strike on Wednesday for the refusal of the 20 local governments in the state to implement the new TSS as directed by the state government.

The NUT boss stated that the exercise was to be conducted in each local government by the local government Chairman, the local government education authority secretary, SUBEB representative and an NUT representative.

He urged headmasters, teachers and pupils in primary schools to be in their various schools as from Wednesday, to facilitate the exercise. (NAN)

Top schools for Abuja exhibition

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

LEADING schools from Abuja and other parts of the country are set to meet parents at the Nigeria International Schools Exhibition, organisers of the conference said in Lagos.

General Manager of Edumark Mrs Bimbo Obasuyi said remains the bedrock through which any meaningful development can be achieved.

"It is important that parents do not take the issue lightly. A lot of parents simply choose schools at random without bothering to ensure that the vision and ethos of that school conforms to their family values and orientation. At

NISE 2010, discerning parents would be able to begin a quantitative research on schools, shortlist from them and do a proper follow up before the final decision is made," she said.

She said there would be talks with parents on family finance issues and understanding the school curriculum, among other things.

Expected at the Abuja exhibition are schools such as Lekki British International High School, Regent Secondary School Abuja, British-Nigerian Academy, Ladela High School, Day Waterman College, Maiyegun College and Greensprings School, among other top institutions.

Ojerinde emerges new IAEA president

By Maureen Onochie

THE Registrar of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) Professor Dibu Ojerinde has been elected as the new president of the International Association for

Educational Assessment (IAEA), an umbrella body of examinations and associated organizations across the globe.

Professor Ojerinde will take over from Dr Yoav, and serve for a period of two years.

CAMPUS ROUNDUP

E-MAIL: campusroundup@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 08035910371

No case of certificate forgery in UNAAB, says VC

From Emmanuel Thomas, UNAAB

THE University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (UNAAB) said it had not recorded any case of certificate forgery among its students in the last three years.

Vice Chancellor of the university, Professor Olalya Balogun, said this at a news conference as part of activities to mark the 17th convocation of the institution.

"As for those who have forged their cer-

tificates to come to the university in the last three years, we have not recorded any and the reason is not farfetched. Our screening exercise is such that you are not given admission until we have screened your original certificates.

"The master results are also purchased by the university from either NECO or WAEC. So the second stage is about two to three weeks screening of the students with their original certificates. Whatever you

give to us is checked from the master list. So it would be very difficult for those who have forged their certificates to be able to register for the session.

"On examination malpractices, I will say, we have less than zero point zero, zero one per cent of our students population have been disciplined on account of examination malpractice in the last three years. Yet we have not had up to 30 cases in three years and yet we have a student population of 11,000.

"We have just concluded the first semester examination and cases recorded are not up to 10 and some of them have also been dropped because of unproven integrity beyond reasonable doubt. In a session, I am not sure that they are up to 15 going to Senate and being approved by the Senate. In the last three years, we have not had course to expel anybody or rusticate anybody on account of any proven cultist activities," he said.

Don flays lecturers who fail to fulfil their responsibilities

A prominent don from the University of Oxford, Professor Gavin Williams, has flayed lecturers "who fail to fulfil their responsibilities to their students, to their institutions, and to the tax payer" charging them to do their duty and maintain "plain intellectual integrity."

Williams made this submission as part of his Keynote Address delivered at the opening ceremony of a conference organised by the International Conference on Higher Education and Globalisation in collaboration with Education Faculties in West Africa (CEFWA).

Speaking on the theme "The Academic Vocation in an Age of Commoditization," the scholar, who has published several works on Nigeria, said the mundane values of the world of commoditisation and globalisation are not in line with the vocation to which academics are called.

"Where then do our responsibilities lie? If we take seriously the calling of the academic life, we pursue learning to promote knowledge. From this view, the division between research and teaching is between two different aspects of learning. Learning involves inquiry, skills, discovery, communication, teaching and reflection," he said.

Illustrating the dilemmas confronting the academia, the Professor of Politics and International Relations, who fought alongside Africans to abolish apartheid in South Africa, described how political office may be traded up to economic benefit both in Britain and Nigeria, as well as how Max Weber's account of "how political machines in the U.S.A. a hundred years ago lived 'off politics' could stand in word for word as a description of Nigeria's 'contractocracy'.



A pupil reading one of the primary schools text books launched by the Federal Government in Abuja recently.

UNILORIN leads Nigerian varsities in webometric ranking

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE University of Ilorin has occupied the top position in Nigeria, according to the latest table of the ranking web of world universities, known as webometric ranking.

According to the 2010 webometric ranking result, University of Ilorin, which was number 77 in Africa last year and second to the University of Benin in Nigeria, has become number 55 in Africa and number one in the country.

Only five universities in Nigeria

made the list of the best 100 in Africa. Nigerian universities still trail behind their counterparts in the world as only the University of Ilorin is among the best 6,000 world universities.

In the 2009 ranking, only five Nigerian universities were among the best 100 in Africa. They include University of Benin (number one in Nigeria and number 61 in Africa), University of Ilorin (number two in Nigeria and number 77 in Africa), Obafemi Awolowo University (number three in Nigeria and number 78 in Africa), University of Ibadan (number four

in Nigeria and number 81 in Africa) and University of Lagos (number five in Nigeria and number 95 in Africa).

In the 2008 ranking, only two Nigerian universities were in the best 100 category in Africa, and the University of Ilorin was not in the radar. The university then set to work, and the hard work paid off with the current ranking.

The University of Ilorin considers it unacceptable to be where it is in Africa and is poised to be in the best 10 league soon, before it takes the lead in the continent.

NOUN to run degree programme on climate change -VC

THE National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) is to run a degree programme on climate change, Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Olugbemiro Jegede, has said.

Jegede, who disclosed this at Forum of the News Agency of Nigeria, said "we are going to start our degree and possibly diploma on climate change."

"We have now invited two Nigerians, the best that you can find; one from Aus-

tralia and one from Hong Kong. They are writing and now finishing the proposal on climate change," he said.

He regretted that there was no university today in the country awarding any degree on climate change or related developments.

He explained that it became imperative for NOUN to start such a course following a challenge by the Delta State governor when he visited him in Asaba.

The 2010 Webometrics Ranking

Universities	Position in Nigeria	Position in Africa	Position in the World
University of Ilorin	1st	55th	5,846th
Obafemi Awolowo University	2nd	61st	6,265th
University of Ibadan	3rd	63rd	6,396th
University of Jos	4th	74th	7,000th
University of Lagos	5th	79th	7,246th

DIGEST

Psychiatrists want to call being angry a mental illness

DO you live surrounded by clutter - ancient copies of magazines, your children's old toys, articles you've clipped out of newspapers over the years?

If you find it hard to throw out things of limited or no value, you could be suffering from hoarding disorder.

'Hoarding' is just one of the new mental conditions being added to the psychiatrists' bible, or the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual Of Mental Disorders (DSM), to give it its proper name.

Other new conditions identified as possibly needing professional help include binge eating - which is said to affect many people who are seriously obese - and 'cognitive tempo disorder', which seems very like laziness (symptoms include dreaminess and sluggishness). There's also 'intermittent explosive disorder', which involves occasionally becoming very angry suddenly.

Most bizarre of the proposed additions is one defined as 'getting a thrill at being outraged by pornography'. It was also described as Whitehouse syndrome after the campaigner Mary Whitehouse, who objected to sexual content on TV. The DSM is a large book that lists all psychiatric disorders and describes their symptoms. If a condition is in there, it means it's considered a mental illness.

But some of the new entries are controversial, not least because of fears they will result in many more people being put on drugs that could be ineffective or dangerous.

The DSM is produced by the

American Psychiatric Association and is hugely influential worldwide.

'Once a condition has got a label you've got a better chance of being treated and researchers are more likely to investigate it,' explains Professor David Cottrell, professor of child and adolescent psychiatry at the University of Leeds.

But not everybody is so relaxed about including new disorders. In fact, every time the DSM gets updated there is a big row about what should be added and what shouldn't. This time is no exception.

There have been three versions of the DSM since the first in 1952 and with each edition it has grown fatter. - DSM-IV is seven times larger than the original. Last week, a draft of DSM-V - due to be published in 2013 - was put on the web and is already proving contentious.

While hoarding is largely uncontroversial - whatever inveterate newspaper clippers might think of being labelled 'unwell' - the inclusion of binge-eating disorder is being hotly opposed. So, too, is the addition of Internet and sex addictions. One of the most outspoken critics is Professor Christopher Lane, author of *Shyness: How Normal Behaviour Became A Sickness*.

He's worried about the blurring of the line between eccentricity and illness. 'The American Psychiatric Association is hell-bent on medicalising the normal highs and lows of people's emotional lives,' he says.

'For this latest revision they've set up a special task force to decide if behaviours like bitterness, extreme



CLUTTER queen? If you find it hard to throw things out, you may be suffering from a 'hoarding disorder'

shopping or overuse of the internet should be included,' he says. 'The science underlying all this is very shaky to non-existent.'

Even shakier was the basis for the supposed disorder of being excited about condemning pornography. Its formal name, 'absexuality', was coined by Carol Queen, a San Francisco sex shop owner.

She used it to describe those opposed to her work and campaigned to have it included in DSM-V. But there is no evidence that this is going to happen. However, serious laziness and angry outbursts look as if they may make it through.

The chairman of the task force, Dr David Kupfer, claims the

updates are firmly based on scientific evidence. However, while scientists have made huge strides in understanding the brain's workings using scans, DSM-V will rely on descriptions of disorders because there's not a single biological marker for them.

So while doctors predict your risk of heart disease from your cholesterol levels and blood pressure, there are no physical tests for hoarding, say.

This makes the potential inclusion of binge eating in the new edition especially worrying, says Professor Lane. 'Research into its causes has so far been inconclusive and highly speculative, so I'm very disturbed about

this proposal.'

Dr David Haslam, of the National Obesity Forum, disagrees. 'This is a serious problem that affects as many as 20 per cent of obese patients,' he says. 'But treating it in the same way with advice to lose weight, exercise and even to have surgery can be disastrous unless the emotional problems are dealt with.'

But what's really causing the fur to fly is the proposal that the new manual should include 'risk syndromes' - symptoms that some psychiatrists believe act as an early warning sign of serious mental health problems in the future. These risk syndromes could be used to start treatment early.

Babies who can't sit up at 9 months 'struggle at school'



BABIES who are not crawling by the time they reach nine months are more likely to suffer from learning and behavioural problems

BABIES who are unable to crawl at nine months face falling behind at school and struggle to get on with their classmates, a study has revealed.

It found that an inability to reach milestones such as sitting upright or crawling is linked to learning and behaviour problems.

The researchers, who tracked 15,000 children over the first five years of their lives, said a simple screening test before a child reaches their first birthday could prove crucial in preventing youngsters falling behind.

The finding comes from the Millennium Cohort Study, which is looking at 18,818 babies born between 2000 and 2001.

The study by the University of London, Institute of Education, has already shown children from poor families are a year behind their wealthier counterparts when they start school.

A motor skill is an action that involves muscles in your body. Gross motor skills are larger movements including crawling and running, while fine motor skills are smaller actions such as picking up an object between the thumb and finger.

In tests of gross motor skills, 96 per cent were able to sit up without support, 92 per cent were able to crawl and 69 per cent could stand up if they were holding on to something. Only 4 per cent could take a few steps.

In the assessment of fine motor skills, 99 per cent of children were able to grab an object, 95 per cent could pass a toy from one hand to the other, and 89 per cent could pick up an

object using their forefinger and thumb.

The researchers concluded developmental 'delays' affected about 10 per cent of children.

Youngsters who struggled with the tasks had a significantly increased risk of falling behind at school when they were five. They were also more likely to demonstrate anti-social behaviour such as refusing to share.

Professor Ingrid Schoon, who led the study, said that all children develop at different rates and some who are struggling to sit or crawl may simply catch up.

However, in other cases, the problems can point to a developmental delay that may need specialised help, she added.

'Each child is different,' she said. 'All children have their own developmental pace. If parents are concerned they should go to their GP or health visitor.'

Fewer than half of primary pupils walk to school, a report has revealed.

It found 62 per cent of under-11s went on foot in 1989 compared with 48 per cent in 2008.

By contrast, those driven to school by their parents rose from 27 per cent to 43 per cent.

The figures published by the Office for National Statistics showed parents chose to drive because they were afraid of road accidents and their children being abused by a stranger.

Sign Language



What about atomic weapon?
 Photo location: Beijing, China by Andra Velte
 Culled from www.signspotting.com

Solution to Easy Crosswords

76

S	M	E	L	L		O	P	R	A	H						
T	O	D	A	Y		W	O	O	E	D						
A	R	I	S	E		N	E	W	S	M	E	N				
G	E	T	S			B	E	T	S		S	A	O			
E	N	E				H	E	R	S		J	I	L			
D	O	D	G	E	R	S			P	I	N	T	A			
						W	A	G			G	E	M			
S	A	F	E	R		D	E	S	I	S	T	S				
E	R	I	N			C	O	L	T		N	R	A			
E	B	B				G	L	U	T		B	O	A	T		
M	O	B	I	L	E	S				M	A	R	D	I		
						R	E	V	E	R	E					
						R	E	E	K	S		M	E	R	R	Y

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.

89

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

Solution to Sudoku 88

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

Labour report

Auto mechanics to be upgraded in six months – Kazaure

By Sunday Williams

ALL auto mechanics in Nigeria will be upgraded in line with the new Federal Trade Test iii,ii & i curriculum for automotive mechatronics within the next six months, the Minister of Labour and Productivity, Senator Ibrahim Kazaure has said.

Speaking to newsmen in Abuja

during the official launch of Federal Trade Test iii,ii & i curriculum for automotive mechatronics apprenticeship programme, the minister said all the facilities that will enhance smooth training of the mechanics in line with the new technology are on ground.

He said automotive technology has progressed in the last two decades with vehicles systems no

longer purely mechanical but a combination of the two coupled with computer application.

He said unfortunately, the training of Nigerian mechanics to meet the changing technology in the automotive industry has remained static, creating skill gap.

Kazaure said the newly launched curriculum which was put together by the National Auto-

motive Centre (NAC) with the partnership of his ministry will bring about great transformation and enhance productivity in the auto industry.

He said the curriculum which will lead to the award of the Federal Labour Trade Test Grades iii,ii & i certificates of the Federal Ministry of Labour and productivity will go a long way to offer employment

to the teeming youths in the auto industry especially in servicing and maintenance of new generation vehicles.

Speaking, the Director General, National Automotive Centre (NAC), Engr. Aminu Jalal said that the training of mechanics in Nigeria has not kept pace with developments in the automotive industry.

1450 federal workers commence specialised training

By Francis Okeke

ONE thousand four hundred and fifty civil servants from 42 ministries, departments and agencies of the Federal Government commenced mandatory specialised training programme in order to build their capacities.

The training, which commenced in Abuja on 15th February is the third phase of the Mandatory Specialized Training Programme which commenced in November 2009 as an aspect of the 2009 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Public Sector Capacity Building Project.

About 3150 officers on Grade Levels 08 to 16 attended previous training programmes in line with the capacity building programme.

One hundred civil servants from the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) are also being trained in the areas of Strategic Management and Business Process Re-Engineering for Competitive Advantage; Capacity Building and Performance in relation to Public Sector Reforms; and Performance Management in the Public Sector.

So far, training has taken place in 19 states of the Federation while it is expected to hold in the other States between February 22 and March 5, 2010.

Selected professional officers from MDGs' core areas of health, education, financial management, poverty alleviation, agriculture and information and communication technology (ICT) from all the states of the federation are to be trained on zonal basis.

Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON), the Centre for Management Development (CMD), the Public Service Institute of Nigeria (PSIN) and the Digital Bridge Institute (DBI) among others are the manpower development institutions facilitating the programme both at the Federal and State levels.

The 2010 MDGs Public Sector Capacity Building Project is expected to take off in April when more civil servants will undergo the training programme.



FROM Left: Minister of Labour and productivity Ibrahim Kazaure, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Humphrey Abah, Chairman National Automotive Council (NAC) Board Alh. Yahaya Mafindi and the Director General of NAC Engr. Aminu Jalal, during the launch of the Curriculum for Automotive Mechatronics Apprenticeship programme in Abuja Tuesday.

1,000 civil servants trained on ICT, get laptops in Kwara

From Mustapha Abubakar, Ilorin

KWARA State Head of Service, Alhaji Dabarako Mohammed yesterday said that about 1000 of the 4000 civil servants earmarked for training on information and communication technology by the state government have been trained and provided with laptops.

Mohammed disclosed this yesterday at the opening of a 5-day workshop on 'planning and managing poverty alleviation programmes', organised by the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation in collaboration with Agricultural and Rural Management Training Institute, Ilorin.

Kwara State government late last year contracted a UK based Information and Communication Technology (ICT) firm 'Usability Consultancy Limited' to train 4,000 civil servants of which 1000 officials were trained and each given laptops in the first phase of the training.

The Head of Service who lamented that poverty alleviation programmes failed in the past because those who designed and managed them had inadequate grasp of methodologies for planning such programme expressed regrets that since Nigeria's independence in 1960, the projects put in place by various governments for the purpose of reducing poverty had not recorded any remarkable success.

Alhaji Dabarako said that the programmes had not benefited the poor for whom they were meant for due to discontinuity in policies.

CIPMN partners labour on industrial harmony

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

CHARTERED Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPMN) has commenced discussions with the Nigeria Labour Congress, Trade Union Congress and other relevant labour unions in Nigeria to develop ways to effectively address industrial disharmony in organisations.

The Registrar of CIPMN Mr. Musa Rabiu told newsmen in Lagos at the institute's first quarterly press briefing yesterday that the initiative became imperative because of the prevailing issues of labour disputes with organisations' management in Nigeria, most of them leading to industrial unrest.

He explained that the arrangement among other things would create awareness about workers rights and responsibilities in the work place as well as avenues for disputes resolution. "We have commenced discussions with the NLC, TUC and other relevant labour unions to fashion ways we can foster industrial harmony," Rabiu said adding that the Institute is also engaging the Ministry of Labour and Productivity on the matter. He noted that the Institute is positioning itself in a manner it can be called upon to make strategic inputs into labour crisis in Nigeria.

The CIPMN is the apex regulatory body for human resource practice in Nigeria and all human resources practitioners in Nigeria by law should be members of the Institute.

Speaking on Vision 2010 he noted that, the effective management of human resource is critical to it success hence it's also partnering the federal government on Vision 2010. The Registrar observed that the Institute successfully hosted over ten human resource forums and other programmes last year and has about twelve slated for this year.

News Extra

Argentina has taken control of the waters around the Falkland Islands in an escalation of its row with Britain over the disputed territory.

The move would effectively grant it the power to blockade the British-ruled archipelago.

It comes as relations between the two countries hit a new low earlier this month after it was revealed a contract to drill for oil in the East Falkland Basin had been awarded.

Officials in Buenos Aires announced Tuesday that all ships sailing to the Falkland Islands - known in Argentina as 'Islas Malvinas' - through the waters claimed by South American country must hold a government permit.

'Any boat that wants to travel between ports on the Argentine mainland to the Islas Malvinas, South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands...must first ask for permission,' Cabinet chief Anibal Fernandez said.



ARGENTINA'S Cabinet chief Anibal Fernandez



THE oil ship 'Thor Leader' at the Campana port, 35 miles north of Buenos Aires. The ship is carrying pipes for oil exploration for British company Desire Petroleum, but has been stopped from leaving Argentina

Argentina asserts control of Falkland Islands' waters

...After row with Britain over oil drilling rights

The announcement means Argentina will be able to control all traffic from South America towards the islands, including vessels carrying drilling equipment and an oil rig due to begin exploration by early next year.

The South American country still claims sovereignty over the archipelago nearly three decades after the end of the Falklands War in which more than 1,000 people died.

Simmering tensions boiled over earlier this month when Britain announced plans to begin offshore exploration drilling near the remote islands.

Geologists estimate there are up to 60 billions of barrels of oil in the seabed near the Falklands and a British company, Desire Petroleum, is due to begin drilling 100 miles north of the islands before the end of the month.

A £20million offshore oil rig, the Ocean Guardian, is expected to arrive this week.

The Argentine foreign minister registered a 'most forceful protest' over the drilling two

weeks ago.

Before that, the country's senior diplomat in Britain, Javier Pedrazzini, was hauled into the Foreign Office in London for a dressing down after Buenos Aires passed a law claiming sovereignty over the Falklands.

Argentina's foreign minister, Jorge Taiana, vowed to take 'all necessary legal and diplomatic measures' to recover sovereignty over the islands.

Last week, the dispute almost escalated into a major diplomatic row after a ship carrying drilling equipment, was blocked from leaving the Buenos Aires port.

Argentina's government claimed the ship, the Thor Leader, was loaded with pipes bound for the Falklands and accused Britain of 'illegally promoting' drilling operations.

It also vowed to blacklist companies providing services to the exploration effort.

A move to control shipping is the latest development in the dispute - which Argentina says it will take to the UN.

Jorge Taiana, its Foreign Minister, warned that his government would take 'all necessary steps' to defend its claim on the islands, 300

miles from the coastline.

He said a presidential decree would force all ships bound for the islands or travelling through waters claimed by Argentina to secure the new permit.

The Falklands, which islanders say were first sighted by an English navigator in 1592, have been under British rule since 1833.

Argentina invaded the South Atlantic islands in April 1982 only to be defeated and expelled by a British task force.

The conflict lasted 74 days and cost the lives 255 British soldiers, and 649 Argentine soldiers.

Since 1993, the population of

more than 3,000 people on the self-governing overseas territory have all been legal British citizens.

The islanders have tried to shrug off the prospect of a new conflict. 'There has been an economic blockade of the Falklands from Argentina for many years now,' said Roger Spink, the director of the Falkland Islands Company. 'It's something we've come to expect.'

Britain has more than 1,000 military personnel on land and more than 300 at sea in the region, as well as four Typhoon jets, a destroyer and a patrol boat in the region.



AN Argentinian bomb exploding on board the Royal Navy frigate HMS Antelope on May 21, 1982, killing the bomb disposal engineer who was trying to defuse it



DEFEATED: Argentine prisoners of war, captured during the establishment of a bridgehead at San Carlos Water on May 21, 1982

News Extra

King Tutankhamun died from broken leg made worse by malaria



EGYPT'S antiquities chief Zahi Hawass (third left) headed the latest study of King Tut. He is seen here with the sarcophagus of the pharaoh in in 2007

Scientists have finally discovered how King Tutankhamun died, nearly a century after the boy-pharaoh's tomb was unearthed in Egypt.

A DNA study revealed Tuesday the 19-year-old died from complications from a broken leg that was exacerbated by malaria.

It also found the famous king suffered from a cleft palate and club foot and was a 'frail king who needed canes to walk.'

Tut, who became pharaoh at the age of 10 in 1333 B.C., ruled for just nine years until his death. He was the last of the royal line from the eighteenth dynasty of the New Kingdom, one of the most powerful royal houses of ancient Egypt.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, is based on two years of DNA testing and CT scans of 16 mummies, including Tutankhamun's.

It has managed to identify a number of mummies from King Tut's family tree. These include 'KV35EL' - or Tiye, mother of the pharaoh Akhenaten and grandmother of Tutankhamun, and the KV55 mummy, which is probably Akhenaten, father of Tutankha-

mun.

A mummy previously known as KV35YL is likely to be Tutankhamun's mother, although

her identity is still shrouded in mystery.

Archaeologist Dr ' Zahi Hawass, who headed the team,

will speak about the latest findings at the Cairo Museum tomorrow morning, which is home of the pharaoh's fabulous treasure.



PART of the funerary finery in King Tut's tomb (left) and how he might have looked

King Tut has fascinated the world ever since his ancient tomb was unearthed by British archaeologist Dr Howard Carter in the Valley of the Kings in 1922.

Stunning funerary treasure was found in his tomb, including an 24.2lb solid gold death mask encrusted with lapis lazuli and semi-precious stones.

The cause of his death has long been disputed among historians. Some believed he died when a leg injury turned gangrenous, while others speculated he was murdered.

Theories that he was assassinated stemmed from the fact that he was the last ruler of his dynasty, and had a hole in the back of his head.

However, in 2005 Dr Hawass announced his team had found no evidence for a blow to the back of the head, and the hole was from the mummification process.

King Tut was succeeded by the high priest Ay for four years - also marrying his widow Ankhesenpamun.

He was followed by the military leader Horemheb who ruled for 26 years until he ceded power to Ramses, founder of the 19th dynasty.

ENVIRONMENT

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NESREA files criminal charges against Etisalat

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) has filed criminal charges against the Emerging Markets Telecommunications Limited operating in Nigeria under the

name Etisalat Nigeria.

The Agency took this action owing to Etisalat's alleged failure to produce the Environmental Impact Assessment approval certificate duly obtained before the construction/installation of the base transmission/telecommunications station,

in violation of Section 2 of the Environmental Impact Assessment

Act, Cap E12 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004 and punishable under section 60 of the same Act.

At the one-day interactive session the Agency had with

telecoms operators on Tuesday 8 September, 2009 it was agreed that site-specific Environmental Impact Assessment should be carried out and approval certificate obtained for each base station, before installation and operation.

According to the Agency's

Director of Legal Services, Barrister Bola Odugbesan, the era of operating without regard to due environmental concerns was over and that every industry concern is expected to henceforth comply with the provisions of the law or face the wrath of the law.

Unemployed youths in Sokoto to cash in on garbage

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

WASTE recycling has become an increasingly way of employment generation and economic boost in many places across the globe.

"There are huge potentials in waste if it is adequately collected and properly recycled and we can make a lot of money out of it" says a Sokoto based environmentalist, Dr Ayuba Illo at a sensitization workshop organized by the state directorate of the National Orientation Agency, NOA.

He estimates that Nigeria can reap over N120 billion annually from waste recycling and harps on the need explore and exploit these abundant potentials which he notes will boost the economy of the nation.

With waste recycling, otherwise discarded items are turned

into resourceful materials. This also enhances waste reduction with its attendant environmental benefits. Indeed wastes parade a large array of materials that can be turned into wealth-polythene bags, plastics, rubber, metal, glass, papers, and farm debris among others.

It was in realization of the need to reawaken the conscience of Nigerians on the abundant opportunities in the recycling of waste to wealth that the state office NOA decided to organize the event.

Sokoto State Director of the Agency, Alhaji Saïdu Maccido believes enlightening youths in waste management will assist in making them to be productive members of the society.

But Dr. Ayuba Illo harped on the need for the unemployed youths to be assisted with either grants or loans to establish small scale companies for the recycling of waste across the nation. Such gesture, he observed, will also reduce the unemployment and poverty rates in the country as well as trim down social crimes.

Alhaji Mustapha Abdullahi, the Sokoto State chairman of the Scraps sellers association describes the initiative of the agency as laudable.

Abdullahi however wants the state government to assist the members of the association with loans as well as a plot to centralize its activities.

He estimates that Nigeria can reap over N120 billion annually from waste recycling and harps on the need explore and exploit these abundant potentials which he notes will boost the economy of the nation.



Youths searching a garbage dump for items to sell in Sokoto

Nigeria to have first reduced emissions project

By Mustapha Suleiman

NIGERIA will soon have the first project on Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).

The Minister of Environment, Mr. John Odey stated this in his remarks at a National Climate Change Post Copenhagen Summit held in Abuja.

The project according to the Minister will be established in Cross Rivers State as the first in West Africa. It has also been registered as a Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). Mr. Odey added that the project will boost our Certified Emission Reductions stock as

Nigeria presently controls at least 40% of Africa's Certified Emission Reduction unit (CERs).

The Minister explained that we are fast-tracking the development of the National Adaptation Plan of Action (NAPA) as a proactive strategy for national response to the looming negative consequences of climate change.

He observed that the Ministry is further exploring areas of collaboration with our development partners on both mitigation and adaptation projects. On the lessons of the last Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen, Mr. Odey said that it fell short of our expectations, but he stressed the need for the country

to search for home grown strategy.

In his speech at the occasion, the World Bank Country Director, Mr. Onno Ruhl urged Nigeria to step up its home grown strategy on Climate change in order to achieve its ambition of Vision 20-2020.

He also stressed the importance of African leaders to work together, act together and act differently to combat the impact of climate change. There were goodwill messages from the National Assembly.

The two day summit was organised by the Special Climate Change Unit of the Ministry with the assistance of the World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

NEMA holds S/West meeting on new disaster framework

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) holds a two-day meeting in Lagos for the South West geopolitical zone on the way forward for the new disaster management framework in the country.

Speaking on the meeting NEMA DG retired AVM Audu-

Bida stated that the meeting would find ways of removing what he called "the defects and ambiguities in the present law on emergency management in Nigeria."

The meeting according to him being the third in the series after North West and North Central, the South West roundtable affords critical stakeholders in emergency management the opportu-

nity to make inputs into the draft national disaster management framework.

Represented by the agencies' Director of Planning, Research and Forecasting, Dr. Charles Agbo the DG observed that experts and consultants drew up the present national disaster response plan "with little inputs from stakeholders."

He said the existing plan placed greater emphasis on response than disaster risk reduction, mitigation, and preparedness.

He further noted that while "it was possible under the military administration to dictate to the other tiers of government, in a democracy, the doctrine of separation of powers makes it impossible to

do so from the centre."

This he said has necessitated the new draft instrument, which takes cognizance of these defects as well as the new dynamics of disaster management.

He described disaster management as having a multi-disciplinary, multi-stake holding, multi-resource and multi-jurisdictional imperatives.



WEP wants Green Wall Sahara Programme

AN NGO, Women Environmental Programme (WEP), on Wednesday urged the Federal Government to speed up the implementation of the Green Wall Sahara (GWSP) Programme.

The Executive Director of WEP, Mrs. Priscilla Achakpa,

made the call in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja.

GWSP is an African initiative, aimed at combating desertification in the arid north of Nigeria.

Achakpa applauded the programme as an integrated devel-

opment strategy for combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought and climate change.

She observed that desert encroachment and desertification were assuming a frightening proportion and that the impact raised security concerns,

especially among the vulnerable groups.

According to her, the impact of climate change is more on women in the rural areas as they have little or no understanding of the issues involved.

To this end, she said WEP would conduct a study on gen-

der awareness of climate change issues.

"Women are most at risk because they have to work hard to earn a living," she said, and stressed that adequate information on climate change was necessary to evolve steps to control it. (NAN)

Sokoto to establish polythene bag recycling coys

From Rakiya A. Mohammed, Sokoto

AS part of efforts towards waste recycling, the Sokoto State government has begun the establishment of three polythene bag recycling companies in the three senatorial zones of the state. Sokoto State Commissioner for Environment, Alhaji Lawalli Zayyanu says the over N 27 million worth polythene bags recycling companies have reached about 40 per cent completion stage and that they will take off in the next three months.

The project is a joint effort of the Sokoto state government with contribution of N14 million and the 23 local governments which jointly provided N13million.

The recycling project is also being undertaken with the active collaboration of a non-governmental

organization-Polythene Bags Mitigation Advocate - POMIAD.

Under the arrangement, each of the 23 local governments of the state is expected to employ thirty unemployed youths who will be paid N5,000 monthly per person.

The Commissioner explains "these youths are the ones to be routinely collecting the polythene bags in all the local governments while special vehicles which will be conveying the collated bags to the three firms will also be provided"

The gesture, he says is aimed at reducing unemployment in the

state. For Alhaji Maiakwai Lamido, Sokoto State Commerce Commissioner, the time has now come for Nigeria to join the league of nations who are reaping huge fortunes from recycling waste to wealth.

The Copenhagen Accord and forestry issues

By Feyisayo Ilesanmi

THE message coming from the Copenhagen Accord clearly indicates the need for deep cuts in global emissions of greenhouse gases. In recognising the role of forests in reducing global emissions, the Conference of Parties admitted the validity of a mechanism now known as REDD-plus or Reduction of Emission from Deforestation, Land Degradation, Land Use Change, Forest Preservation and Management.

Nigeria has over 13 million square km of forests. Forests are not only important for reducing emission of greenhouse gases, they are important as sources of livelihood for a large majority of Nigerians. Forests are sources of food, medicines, timber, wood-fuel and homes to many communities. These ecosystems provide fertile land, catchment for conserving soil water and improve the microclimate for livestock.

The Accord recognises that developing countries like Nigeria have overriding priorities of socio-economic development and poverty eradication over and above emissions reduction. As such, Nigeria's vast forest resources give an

opportunity for the country to contribute to emission reductions as well as meet its development objectives. The Accord provides funding support for preparing REDD Readiness plans, engaging in policy reforms and land use legislations. Therefore, there is an urgent need for national reforms to improve forest governance, clarify forest/ land owner-



FEYISAYO Ilesanmi

ship and rights, particularly of communities.

Through this mechanism, Nigeria can access new and additional resources from the USD 30 billion available between 2010 and 2012 and a further USD 100 billion annually by 2020.

Therefore, existing forestry projects that qualify for REDD-plus funding should be properly documented and submitted to the relevant United Nations institutions. We must also expedite engagement with

the private sector and local communities in national REDD-plus planning and implementation.

In order to maximize the benefits of the Copenhagen Accord, Nigeria must prepare a REDD -Readiness Plan. This opens the door for participation in several international partnerships including, the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility or Norway's International Climate Forest Initiative. This will enable Nigeria to begin a REDD readiness programme that will cover awareness-raising, education and capacity building.

The plan will address carbon trade, forest carbon assessment, monitoring, reporting and verification. These activities will also include pilot demonstration of REDD in practice, among other things, to generate lessons for the refinement of REDD operations.

With Nigeria's vast forest resources REDD-plus can provide funds to increase forest optimization. However, before we can tap into these international opportunities, we must establish a clear baseline, set out policies and develop plans.

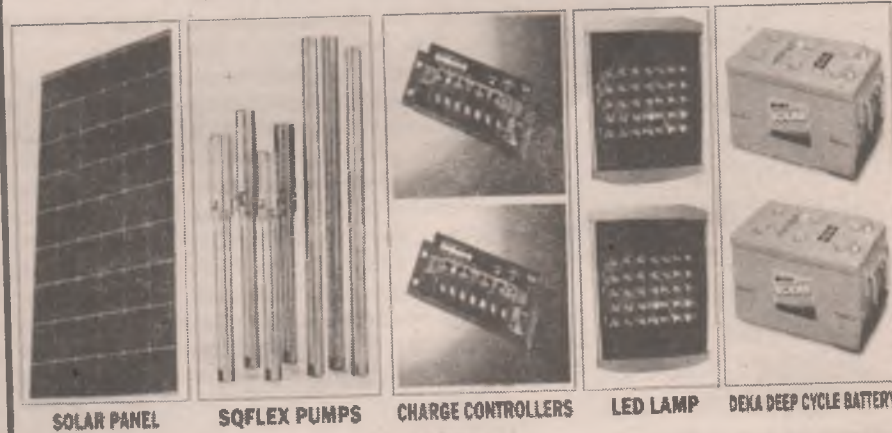
Feyisayo Ilesanmi, International Centre for Energy, Environment & Development



MR. McCarthy Afolabi Ayebo; MD, DENFOB Consult Ltd, Dr. (Mrs) Ngeri Benebo, DG NESREA and Director, Federal Ministry of Environment, University of Ibadan Linkage Centre, listening to a presentation during NESREA retreat held in Lafia, Nasarawa State recently.

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Six die in Gwagwalada auto crash

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

SIX persons lost their lives while five others sustained serious injuries Sunday night in a fatal motor accident that occurred opposite Jibeco Filling Station at Gwagwalada, along the Abuja-Lokoja highway.

An eyewitness said the accident occurred when a luxury bus with registration number XA 674 ATA veered off his lane while at top speed and collided with a commuter Hiace bus with registration number XB 613 MNY, killing three persons on the spot.

Our reporter gathered that another three injured passengers died after they were conveyed to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital by officials of the Gwagwalada unit command of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC).

Confirming the accident, the Gwagwalada FRSC unit commander, Ahmed Abubakar Atako, attributed the cause to dangerous driving and said the corpses have been deposited at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's Morgue.

He said five injured passengers are receiving treatment at the same hospital, adding that the luxury bus has been impounded at Gwagwalada Police Station.

In a related development, seven persons were seriously injured in a multiple accident that happened on Sunday morning at Awawa village, near Abaji.

FRSC Yangoji Unit commander, Abdullahi Umar, while confirming the accident, said it involved a Peugeot 505 car with registration number FH 740 KJA, a Toyota Hiace bus with registration number, XJ 553 USL and a Toyota Sienna bus with registration number XU 431EKY.

According to him, the accident happened when the Peugeot station wagon car coming from Lokoja axis lost control while at top speed and collided with a Toyota bus, while the Sienna bus crashed into the two vehicles.

According to him, seven injured male passengers were rushed to Kwali General Hospital for treatment.



AN optometrist attending to a patient at Jikwoyi medical centre recently.

Efenji's murder: Police arrest Cortland workers

By Abubakar Yakubu, Nathaniel Jonah & Muideen Olaniyi

WORKERS of Cortland Garden who were on duty on the night Efenji Efenji, an ex reporter of the African Independent Television (AIT), was murdered have been in police detention since Sunday night.

Among those arrested apart from the garden's manager, include teenage girls and boys that were recently recruited to work in the place.

Parents of those arrested were seen hanging outside the Karu Police Station yesterday.

One of the parents wondered why his daughter should be detained since Sunday over a crime she never committed.

He said since the police have arrested two suspects, what was needed was for the workers on

that shift to give their statements on the first day.

"After collecting their statements, they ought to have allowed them to go home or rather released them on bail instead of detaining them under grievous inhuman conditions," the father said.

FCT Police Spokesperson, Moshood Jimoh, a superintendent, confirmed the arrest of the garden's staff and said the police are presently carrying out detailed investigations.

Meanwhile, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) has called on law enforcement agencies to fish out the criminals involved in the killing of the former AIT reporter and bring them to justice.

PDP National Publicity Secretary, Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali, who described Efenji's demise as a painful loss, tasked the security

officers to get to the root of the circumstances surrounding his death.

Alkali condoled the Abuja Council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) and the entire media community in Nigeria over the death as well as prayed God to grant his gentle soul peaceful rest.

"The National Chairman of the PDP, Prince Vincent Ogbulor, (OFR) has received the news of the death of former reporter of the AIT, Mr. Efenji Efenji with rude shock and disbelief.

"The brutal murder of a defenseless journalist in the presence of his family leaves a sour taste in our drive to create a peaceful and secure nation.

"This dastardly act against a reporter, coming when the nation is yet to recover from a similar murder of Mr. Bayo Ohu of the Guardian is one too many. Our

thoughts go out to his family who had the misfortune of witnessing this horrendous act," he added.

Earlier, the NUJ Abuja Council in a press release called on the acting president and the inspector-general of police to leave nothing to chance in ensuring that the killers are brought to justice.

Chairman of the council, Jacob Edi, lamented that journalists are pained by the gruesome manner of Efenji's death and urged the police to be thorough in their investigations and ensure that all those behind the despicable act are brought to justice, adding that the council is ready to partner with the police as always to resolve the unfortunate matter.

"It is the hope of every Abuja based journalists that this murder will not go the way of other unresolved killings in the country," he added.

Journalist accused of obstructing acting president's convoy

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 40-year-old journalist, Mr Jude Okpara, was on Tuesday arraigned in court for obstructing the convoy of Acting President, Goodluck Jonathan.

The journalist, who works with Champion Newspaper in Abuja, was arrested by the police on Feb-

ruary 16, along Shehu Shagari way, Maitama, Abuja.

Police prosecutor Ahmed Mohammed informed the court that on February 16, the accused used his car with registration number BE 195 YAB to obstruct the convoy of the acting president.

"The accused obstructed the

convoy of the Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, His Excellency Dr. Goodluck Jonathan with his car, while entering Hilton Transcorp, Abuja and he also failed to obey hand signal ordering him to stop," the prosecutor added.

The prosecutor said the accused was arrested by one Sun-

day Odukoya, an assistant commissioner of police, adding that the offences committed by the accused are punishable under Sections 39 (8) and 15 of the Road Traffic Act.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused, he denied them and requested for bail.

In his ruling, Magistrate

Bashar Attahiru Alkali granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must live within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 8 for hearing.

Run-away motorist crushes man at Kado

By Misbahu Bashir & Doris Afoma-West

A hit and run driver Tuesday night crushed a man to death in middle of Kado-Kubwa road in Abuja.

Other motorists, who were not aware of the body on the centre of the road, ran over it and left the corpse badly mutilated, before the police arrived the scene at 11 am to evacuate the corpse.

FCT Police Spokesman, Moshood Jimoh, a superintendent, said preliminary police investigation indicates that the man was run over by a motorist at night and left helpless on the road.

"The corpse was however run over by other on coming vehicles which disfigured it and the police are yet to certify the identity of the victim," he added.

He said police are making efforts to ascertain the case, while the corpse is in police custody.

In another development, seven persons were injured in an accident that occurred along Kado-Mabushi road yesterday.

An eye-witness, Mr Okereke said the accident occurred between a Toyota Corolla car and a bus at 10.30 am.

He said the bus lost control and veered to the opposite lane, leading to a head-on collision with two vehicles.

He said the bus somersaulted thrice, adding that the driver of the Toyota car fainted, while the rest passengers were injured and immediately rushed to the hospital.

Trader jailed for resisting court's warrant

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah, Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Upper Area Court in Gwagwalada Tuesday sentenced a 36-year-old trader, Itoro Osom to six months imprisonment for resisting police arrest after a warrant was issued by the court.

The trader was however given N4,000 as fine option.

Police prosecutor, Lydia Bawa, an inspector, told the court that the accused refused arrest and locked himself inside his room in order to prevent the execution of a warrant of arrest issued on him by the court.

The prosecutor said the accused was eventually

arrested on February 12, after the application of force by the police at Gwagwalada.

According to her, the accused was arraigned on a two -count charge of court contempt and resisting arrest.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for leniency through his counsel, Mr. Ayam Michael.

Judge Adamu Wakili convicted him and undertook that the accused should take a bond in court that he would never be accused of a similar offence within a specified period of years.

In another case before an Abuja magistrate court, a 38-year-old businessman was

on Tuesday arraigned for allegedly cheating one Mrs. Vicky Egbuche.

The businessman, Al-Hassan Isah of Jabi Pantaker, Abuja, was accused of committing the offence this year.

Prosecutor Abdul Allhassan told the court that on February 12, the complainant reported to the police that she bought 32 square metres of tiles valued at N38,400 from the accused.

"On the same date, the complainant's driver, now at large, returned the said tiles to the accused person's shop, which he concealed from her when she came to his shop," the prosecutor added.

He said the accused also denied the complainant access

to three bundles of electrical wires which she bought from a different shop, adding that the offences committed is punishable under Section 322 of the Penal Code Law.

When the one-count charge was read to the accused, he denied the allegation and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Chief Magistrate Hadiza Dodo granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 16 for hearing.



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LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL IDI-ARABA, SURULERE, LAGOS

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The Lagos University Teaching Hospital seeks to engage the services of suitable Construction Companies for its 2010 Capital Projects:

- Lot a. Construction/Renovation of clinical and patient care facilities**
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Interested Companies are invited to express interest in undertaking these services. Such Companies are to submit the underlisted documents with their letter of interest for consideration to be Pre-qualified:

1. Evidence of Incorporation/Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
2. Tax Clearance Certificate for the last 3 years
3. VAT Certificate
4. Audited Company Accounts for the past 3 years
5. List of Key Professionals/Partners in Company and evidence of registration with relevant professional bodies.
6. Companies profile and office address
7. Evidence of similar jobs/assignments conducted by company
8. Evidence from Company's Bankers as to its financial strength, credit-worthiness and solvency

Other Relevant Information:

- a. All Costs incurred in the preparation and submission of the Expression of Interest by Company are to be borne by Company.
- b. The Lagos University Teaching Hospital reserves the right to reject any or all Expressions of Interest and to terminate the selection process at any time without any liability whatsoever to the Hospital
- c. All documents in a sealed envelope addressed to: "THE CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR; LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL" must be submitted within 4 weeks from the date of this publication.

Signed
Ayo Olagunju
Director of Administration
For: Chief Medical Director



SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA

Chief Registrar's Office
Three Arm Complex, Central District, PMB 308, Abuja
Tel: 09-2344762

Ref. No. 134/CR/SCN/PR/Vol.11

15th February, 2010


PRESS RELEASE

REVIEW OF GUIDELINES FOR THE CONFERMENT OF THE RANK OF SENIOR ADVOCATE OF NIGERIA (SAN)

This is to inform the general public that the Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Justice of Nigeria, Hon. Justice A. I. Katsina-Alu, CON has constituted a Sub-Committee of Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee to review the Guidelines for the conferment of the Rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN).

The Sub-Committee hereby invites memoranda from relevant stakeholders, Associations, Societies and Legal Practitioners.

The memoranda bound in ten (10) copies and double line spacing should be submitted within three (3) weeks, to the Secretary, Legal Practitioners Privileges Committee/Chief Registrar, Supreme Court of Nigeria.


Usman Alh. Musale
Secretary LPPC/
CHIEF REGISTRAR
SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL ESTATE

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Interested, experienced and reputable Building & Civil Engineering and Mechanical / Electrical Engineering contractors are upon this advertisement invited to submit pre-qualification documents containing the following:

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- Evidence of financial capacity
- Evidence of registration with the Federal Works Registration Board
- References from clients for projects successfully completed in the last 3 years
- References from any two of the following: Project Manager, Quantity Surveyor, Architect and any other consultant for projects successfully completed in the last 3 years
- Evidence of VAT Registration Certificate

SUBMISSION:

All pre-qualification documents must be submitted not later than 12 noon of Monday 1st March, 2010 to:

Development Cost Services
Suite 13B Bobser Complex
Michika Street
Area 11, Garki
Abuja

Or

Development Cost Services
C/o Bridgeways Global Projects Ltd.
62A Coker Road,
Ilupeju, Lagos.

PLEASE NOTE:

- The documents should be submitted in hard copy and electronically in a compact disc.
- Only qualified firms / companies shall be short-listed and invited to a competitive tender bidding for the said project.
- The submission of pre-qualification as aforementioned does not guarantee inclusion in the bid list.
- This is not an invitation to tender.

Inside Politics

'Nigeria would have grounded without Acting President'

SENATOR Mohammed Mana (PDP, Adamawa North) is Senate's Deputy Chief Whip. In this interview, he speaks on National Assembly's resolution that made Goodluck Jonathan Acting President and other national issues. Excerpts:

By Turaki A. Hassan

A S a principal officer of the Senate will you say that the National Assembly resolution that made Goodluck Jonathan Acting President was right?

I think the National Assembly has done a good service to the country by rising up to the occasion following the problems ensued as a result of the prolonged absence of Mr. President on the grounds of ill-health. Let me state from the onset that anybody can fall ill and we did what we did in the best interest of this country and in line with the provisions of Section 145 of the constitution. As far as we [National Assembly] are concerned, we can only receive communications from the President. Therefore if there is no Acting President, this country can grind to a halt. So we did it in the best interest of this country and we are grateful that our action endorsed by the governor's forum and the PDP, which controls the two chambers. You will also recall that some eminent citizens led by General Yakubu Gowon, Shehu Shagari and all former Chief Justices of the federation came to urge us to act so as to save the country.

You can see how the situation was brought under control. Our resolution made it very clear that when Mr. President comes back, he will resume his duties as quickly as possible. There cannot be a vacuum in a big and complex country like Nigeria, and any country for that matter. There should be no vacuum in power. So we want to use this opportunity to thank Nigerians for their support, prayers and patience. Even though there are few dissenting voices on the issue, it is understandable in a democracy. In fact even in your house, when you take certain decisions, not everybody agrees with you, how much more of a country of over 150 million people.

A re you comfortable just because Nigerians seem to hail the decision as a popular opinion?

Indeed the Senate has always come out very strong with Nigerians. It did so in 2006 when the third term saga came up. The Senate led the way and made sure that the agenda was scuttled. I was not in the Senate then but I admired them greatly and I said so on the floor of the Senate. The Senate has also done it with this recent resolution and as lawmakers we are the custodians of rule of law and the constitution. And I'm sure you know that

the decision taken by the National Assembly is supported by the constitution of the Federal Republic, Section 145. So I am very happy that the Senate led the way and that the two chambers had come together to salvage this country and ensure that we move forward.

B ut some people have said the resolution is illegal and have gone to court to challenge it. Aren't you worried that the court may quash the action you took?

Section 145 of the 1999 constitution states that 'if the President transmits to the National Assembly the letter'. Now first and foremost we are not very sure whether the President was in a condition to write the letter when he left the country. But the world is now a global village because of the advancement in science and technology, and the president transmitted to all Nigerians including the Senate President and Speaker of the House of Representatives that he is receiving treatment in Saudi Arabia and the interview was transcribed and pasted on the BBC website and published in newspapers. So with the overwhelming evidence, we cannot fold our arms and allow the country to come to a standstill simply because the President did not take his pen and paper and write to us? We have to be flexible as long as we do not contravene the constitution. Right now we are considering the 2010 budget and it will soon be passed to the Acting President to sign. We do not have the fear that there will be no one to sign the budget. In fact, the constitution has contemplated this that is why it provided for President and Vice President. So why do we have the Vice President if he cannot take over when the President is away?

T he Senate talked about the 'doctrine of necessity' in arriving at the decision. Can you shed more light?

Yes it was a very sound basis for our decision. Section 4 of the constitution and the doctrine of necessity were very sound basis for our decision. Like I said, what we did was in line with the provisions and intension of the constitution.

T he Senate earlier said its hands were tight on the Yar'adua issue. At what point did you discover that your hands were not really tight and that you could fall back on the constitution to solve this problem?

You know this country has



SENATOR Mohammed Mana

gone through the unfortunate experience of civil war and people are aware of the pains and agony. Anybody that was born before 1970 had the experience of the civil war and people are very much worried. This country must continue to unite and move forward. Anything that will send us many years back will not be in our best interest. So the decision the National Assembly took is in the best interest of the country.

Y ou met with the Acting President on several occasions. What is your assessment of the kind of leaders he is?

Don't forget that Dr. Goodluck Jonathan has been the Vice President since 2007; he is not just coming as a new person. He has been part and parcel of the administration. They campaigned together and they have been running the country together. So he is not just coming from a void. He is a very experienced person. Remember he was Deputy Governor and then,

governor of Bayelsa State. I will say he is a great leader. I believe he has been part of all the programs and policies of this government, therefore he will discharge his duties creditably until when Mr. President comes back. And we pray for the quick recovery of Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua to enable him continue with all the good things he has started.

A s a retired General, how do you see your former constituency [The military] in the present democratic dispensation?

The Nigerian military is led by very fine gentlemen and women and I am sure they will not contemplate doing anything that will undermine the democratic norms and values in the country. They are well trained, motivated and dedicated men and women. I believe every soldier, every airman; every sailor is just determined and concentrating on his job as contained in the constitution of the country.

INEC to deploy 1,842 personnel for FCT council polls

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) says it will deploy 1,842 personnel for the April 10 council election in the FCT.

Dr Steven Manya, the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) for FCT, told newsmen in Abuja on yesterday that 614 polling units had been designated for the election.

According to him, three officials would be assigned to each unit.

He said that N50 million had been earmarked for the conduct of the election, excluding the cost of engaging additional personnel from the states.

Manya stressed that the voters register had been displayed at all polling units across the 62 registration areas to avail voters the opportunity to cross-check same.

He added that the commission was out to come up with a clean copy of the register, which would be subsequently displayed at all polling units.

"The commission has decided that henceforth, it will not use any ad hoc staff in the conduct of election in the country. We are going to deploy permanent staff from other states," he said.

He identified apathy on the part of the electorate as the greatest challenge confronting elections in the FCT.

Manya said that the commission would ensure that all problems of candidates for the elections are addressed fully, to provide a level playing ground for all.

"I am doing everything that I can to resolve the issues amicably, so that the level playing ground we are trying to provide would not be tampered with," he said.

Manya warned that the commission would not tolerate lateness to the polling units by officials during the election.

(NAN)

Inside Politics

Akala sues PDP, Ogbulafor over Oyo exco

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

OYO State governor, Christopher Adebayo Alao-Akala, has filed a suit against the National Working Committee of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its Chairman, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, at the State High Court in Ibadan to block an attempt to appoint a new caretaker committee of the PDP in the state.

Alao-Akala, whose camp is not favourably disposed to the move by the party's national leadership to appoint the new committee to be headed by Alhaji Yunus Akintunde, a loyalist of former governor, Rashidi Ladoja, took the matter before Justice O.A. Boade of the state High Court.

Justice Boade has fixed March 15, 2010 for hearing of the application filed by the National Headquarters of the PDP, challenging the jurisdiction of the state High Court to hear the matter.

Four loyalists of Alao-Akala, Messrs Sikiru Ikuogbogun, Niyi Akande, Ojo Bolaji and Alhaji Rufai Adetomiwa Memudu had sued the party and its National Chairman, Prince Ogbulafor as first and second defendants respectively in the matter.

When the case came up at the High Court yesterday, the plaintiffs were represented by Chief Bolaji Ayorinde (SAN) just as Barrister Owukori Akuiyibo and Barrister Bayo Shittu represented the first and second defendants respectively.

Akuiyibo is from the Legal Department of the party in Abuja while Shittu, a former Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice under ex-Governor Ladoja's administration, is representing the former governor.



GOVERNOR Alao-Akala

2011: Niger community pledges to avoid violence

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE people of Gusoro, an often trouble spot in Niger State politics, has pledged to steer clear of violence or any act that may jeopardise the process of election in the 2011 general election.

The community, located in Shiroro Local Government Area, has a long history of political violence during elections. But hundreds of people from the community recently came to Minna and passed a message across to the state government through the commissioner of information Alhaji Aliyu Baba Barau to the effect that they were denouncing violence for the good of the community.

The group which was led by Alhaji Yarima said the community had resolved

to uphold the rule of law and respect the sanctity of lives and value of property as they denounced political thuggery. They pledged that for the first time, they will ensure that no case of violence is recorded in the community because of election.

"We are here to declare our support for the rule of law and to pledge that Gusoro will not involve itself in any form of violence as we aim to clear our name of being associated with violence during elections," he said.

Barau who led government's delegation to receive the community at the U. K. Bello Arts Theatre in Minna expressed happiness, saying the new step will herald peace for the entire state and help democracy to grow.

Fayose joins Labour Party Feb 27

FORMER Governor of Ekiti State, Mr Ayodele Fayose, said on Wednesday that he would formally join the Labour Party on February 27 in Ado-Ekiti.

Fayose had been a member of the PDP, a platform on which he contested and won his governorship election in 2003.

He was removed from office in October 2006.

Fayose said in his home

town of Afao-Ekiti in Ekiti State that he is joining Labour Party with over "100,000 supporters from the 16 council areas".

He berated his former party, the PDP, for lacking the principle of "internal democracy".

"My official declaration and joining the Labour Party in Ekiti State is scheduled for February 27 in Ado-Ekiti... the new executive of

the party in the state will be inaugurated on that day," the former governor said.

Fayose stressed his desire to bring the Labour Party to limelight in the state.

The former governor added that executive members of the party at both the ward and local government levels would be constituted and inaugurated before February 27. (NAN)



LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL IDI-ARABA, SURULERE, LAGOS

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

The Lagos University Teaching Hospital seeks to engage the services of Consultants in the following fields: Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Civil/Structural Engineering, Electrical and Mechanical Engineering for its 2010 Capital Projects. Interested Firms (preferably a consortium of the above-listed professionals) are invited to express interest in undertaking these services.

Such Firms/Consortia are to submit the underlisted documents with their letter of interest for consideration to be pre-qualified:

1. Evidence of Incorporation/Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
2. Tax Clearance Certificate for the last 3 years
3. VAT Certificate
4. Audited Accounts of Firm for the past 3 years
5. List of Key Professionals/Partners in Firm/Consortium and evidence of registration with relevant professional bodies
6. Companies Profile and office address
7. Evidence of similar assignments conducted by Firm/Consortium
8. Evidence from Firm/Consortium's Bankers as to its financial strength, credit-worthiness and solvency

Other Relevant Information:

1. All costs incurred in the preparation and submission of the Expression of Interest by Firm/Consortium are to be borne by Firm/Consortium.
2. The Lagos University Teaching Hospital reserves the right to reject any or all Expressions of Interest and to terminate the selection process at any time without any liability whatsoever to the Hospital.
3. All documents in a sealed envelope addressed to: "THE CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR, LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL" must be submitted within 2 weeks from the date of this publication.

Signed
Ayo Olagunju
Director of Administration
For: Chief Medical Director

EXTERNAL VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT



The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme announces the following vacancies:

- 1. Post Title:** Pharmacist
Level of post: National United Nations Volunteer (Specialist)

Type of contract: UNV Service Contract
Number of positions: 1
Location: Ikaram, Ondo State
Duration: One year (with possibility of renewal)
Closing date: 5 March 2010
- 2. Post Title:** Coordination Assistant
Level of post: National United Nations Volunteer (Specialist)

Type of contract: UNV Service Contract
Number of positions: 1
Location: Port Harcourt, River State
Duration: One year (with possibility of renewal)
Closing date: 5 March 2010

For further details on the job description and application process, please visit the job site at www.ng.undp.org and submit applications.

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.



THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE (AANI) BORNO/YOBE CHAPTER

Will hold its

ANNUAL DINNER/LECTURE

Scheduled to take place as follows:

Date: Thursday, 25th February, 2010

Venue: Maiduguri International Hotel

Time: 7:30pm prompt

Special Guest of Honour

His Excellency
SEN (DR) ALI MODU SHERIFF
The Executive Governor, Borno State

His Excellency
ALH. IBRAHIM GAIDAM FNCA, CPA
The Executive Governor, Yobe State

Royal Fathers

HRH The Shehu of Borno
ALH. (DR) ABUBAKAR UMAR GARBAI
EL-KANEMI

His Eminence The Sultan of Sokoto
ALH. SA'AD ABUBAKAR 111 CFR, mni

Chairman of the occasion

PROF. MUHAMMAD NUR ALKALI FHSN, CON

Chief Host

ALH. MOHAMMED KAGU ALIBE OON, MNI

Master of Ceremony

DR. BULAMA MALI GUBIO, mni

ANNOUNCER

Mallam Ibrahim Abdurrahman, mni, FNITP
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LAGOS UNIVERSITY TEACHING HOSPITAL

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ADMISSION INTO THE SCHOOL OF NURSING FOR THE 2010 ACADEMIC SESSION

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for admission into the 'school of Nursing for the 3 YEAR COURSE IN GENERAL NURSING.

MINIMUM ENTRY QUALIFICATION

Five credits in Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination/GCE O'Level with Credit in English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. (Combination of results not more than two sittings of the same examination body e.g GCE/GCE, WAEC/WAEC, NECO/NECO).

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applicants should note the following:

- Purchase a N5,000.00 Bank draft in favour of Lagos University Teaching Hospital from UBA, GTB, Union Bank or Skye Bank.
- Submit the Bank draft at LUTH Cash Office and obtain a receipt.
- Make two photocopies of the Bank draft receipt of payment with your passport photograph on the left hand corner of the receipt, and obtain a form at the School of Nursing LUTH.
- Submit already filled form to the School of Nursing, LUTH with handwritten application letter addressed to the Assistant Director Nursing Education/Principal. Photocopies of credentials, and 1 photocopy of Bank draft and payment receipt, enclosed in a big brown envelope.
- Sale and Submission of application forms will close on Friday 26th March, 2010.

EXAMINATION DATE: SATURDAY April 3rd 2010
VENUE: School of Nursing Auditorium
TIME: 7:30am

Applicants should bring along pencil, eraser, ruler, pen and original receipt issued by the cashier with the attached Certified Passport Photograph to the examination venue.

- Only applicants who have satisfied the conditions for admission will be called for interview.
- Course fee: Details will be provided on admission.

AYO' OLAGUNJU
Director of Administration
FOR: CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR

SPORT

Nalbandian returns to winning ways

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Hiddink shuns Nigeria for Turkey

By Orkula Shaagee with Agency reports

NIGERIA'S search for a credible coach that would take the Super Eagles to the South Africa 2010 World Cup in June suffered huge blow yesterday, as a leading figure in the race for the top job, Guus Hiddink dumped the country.

Instead, Hiddink, who had a brief spell at Chelsea last year signed a two-year contract to take charge of Turkey, starting on 1 August, the country's football federation announced yesterday.

Two weeks ago, the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) announced after its Executive Committee meeting in Abuja that

Dutch coach Guus Hiddink has accepted to take charge of Turkey until August 2012

they have made contact with five reputable international coaches to take the Super Eagles job, with Hiddink as one of them.

The Russia boss, who last week announced he will leave his current post in the summer, will steer Turkey through the UEFA EURO 2012 qualifiers and there is the option to extend the deal for a further two years when it runs out after the finals. Turkey are in Group A, along with Germany,

Austria, Belgium, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan.

A statement on the federation website read: "Dutch coach Guus Hiddink has accepted to take charge of Turkey until August 2012 after announcing he won't extend his contract with the Football Union of Russia which was due to expire on 30 June.

"Turkish Football Federation (TFF) president Mahmut Ozgener and TFF vice-president Lutfi Aribogan flew to Amsterdam to finalise the negotiations with Hiddink. The 63-year-old experienced coach agreed to a two-year contract with an option for a further two year."

The federation also confirmed that Hiddink's coaching staff would consist of former Turkey captain Oguz Cetin and an unnamed Dutchman as well as former Turkey goalkeeper Engin Ipekoglu. Hiddink had been linked with a number of club and national team jobs in recent months, with his time as Russia coach seemingly drawing to a close.

The former Australia boss took charge of the Russian team in 2006 and steered them to the UEFA EURO 2008 semi-finals, having beaten England to a place in the tournament, but Russia then failed to qualify for this summer's FIFA World Cup.

Hiddink, who won six Eredivisie titles as PSV Eindhoven coach, also led Holland to the FIFA World Cup semi-finals in 1998 and South Korea to the same stage four years later, as well as lifting the FA Cup with Chelsea during a six-month spell in charge last season.



DUTCH coach Guus Hiddink yesterday signed a two-year contract with Turkish Football Federation.

Borno FA floats Referees Football Academy

By David Ngobua

IN attempt to arrest the current drift which has denied Nigerian football referees the opportunity to feature prominently in activities of FIFA and CAF, the Chairman of Borno State Football Association, Alhaji Babagana Kalli Kachalla has floated a Football Referees Academy in his state.

In recent times, Nigerian referees have been overlooked by both the international and continental football governing bodies for what many people consider to be gross incompetence on the part of the football arbiters.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday, the Borno FA Chairman said he has observed that

Nigeria can no longer boast of quality referees who can command the confidence of both FIFA and CAF and has come to the conclusion that the only panacea to the worrisome trend is establishment of a referees academy which will serve as breeding ground for future football referees.

According to him, everybody talks about football academies but nobody has spared a thought for the aspect of the game which he described as equally important and crucial to the growth of the sport.

He explained that the academy which is designed to hunt for secondary school students between the ages of 13 and 14 with interest in football refereeing will be handled by retired

and seasoned football referees in the state.

He disclosed that already lectures for over thirty students have started and it is hoped that by the time they graduate from the academy, they will be sufficiently equipped to join the mainstream of football officiating in the country.

Kachalla said the issue of age of Nigerian referees is hardly given serious consideration and it accounts for why Nigeria is finding it hard to feature prominently in activities of FIFA and CAF.

"I have decided to float a football referees academy in my state because I am deeply convinced that this is the only way that the present dearth of quality referees who can excel at the local

and international levels can be arrested.

"If properly guided, by the time they are 23 years, the products of this football referees academy will be good enough to win the confidence of FIFA and CAF. They will have age on their side and enough knowledge to competently interpret the laws of the game.

"In addition, this academy is going to positively engage some of our retired football referees who are willing to hand over their experiences and knowledge to the younger ones. This programme is enjoying tremendous support from them."

Kachalla revealed that already a six-man committee comprising of retired and active football referees has been constituted

and would be inaugurated in a couple of days.

He said the primary responsibility of the committee is to oversee the activities of the academy and ensure that only the best are recruited for the catch them young programme.

The FA chairman disclosed that the take off money for the academy is part of the N500,000 grant which was given to State Football Associations by the NFF for football development programmes in the 36 states and the FCT.

"Part of the N500,000 we received as grant from the NFF is what I am using to kick start this programme. We hope to partner with the private sector to sustain this noble programme."

Nalbandian returns to winning ways

FORMER world number three David Nalbandian made a winning return to the circuit from hip surgery when he beat Italian Potito Starace 6-2 7-6(2) in the first round of the Buenos Aires Open.

The 2002 Wimbledon finalist celebrated after his first competitive match in nine months as if he had won a final and said the victory was a weight off his shoulders and answered his own questions as to how he would cope.

"You don't know how you're going to react in particular situations like being 4-4 or having your service broken," Nalbandian said.

"It's more that uncertainty than playing well or badly (that concerned me)," he said.

Second seed Juan Carlos Ferrero of Spain, fresh from winning the Brazil Open on Sunday, crushed Ricardo Mello of Brazil 6-1 6-2 but local fans were more interested in Nalbandian's return.

The Argentine said playing in

front of his home crowd helped to counter the fact that clay was not his favourite.

His comeback was not helped by the weather, a torrential rainstorm interrupting play straight after he had taken the first set on Monday evening.

"Yesterday I hit my (service) returns better, today the ball was faster and the wind did not help," he said.

"But it was a good comeback. I hesitated very little, hardly at all. I'll take things day by day. I'll need four, five, six tournaments to (start) getting the rhythm of the circuit."

A fresh Nalbandian, winner of the season-ending Tour Finals in 2005, raced into a 4-0 lead in Monday's opening set but was made to work harder although he clinched the second set but dominating the tiebreak, which he took 7-2.

Nalbandian had been due to make his comeback at Auckland

in January but pulled out after straining a stomach muscle in training and also missed the Australian Open.

The 28-year-old hopes to play well in Buenos Aires, where he won the title in 2008, and then represent Argentina in the Davis Cup world group first round tie with Sweden from March 5-7.

Argentina will be without US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro in Stockholm. He is recovering from a right wrist injury that affected his performances in Australia.

Another local favourite, Juan Ignacio Chela, also cheered the home fans with a 7-6 7-5 win over Richard Gasquet, who was looking for a fresh start under new Argentine coach Gabriel Markus after the Frenchman's doping suspension woes.

Spaniard Carlos Moya, winner in Buenos Aires in 2003 and 2006, beat Italian qualifier Filippo Volandri 6-2 7-5.



FORMER world number three David Nalbandian during the second round of the Buenos Aires Open against Potito Starace.

India assures teams of safety for Delhi World Cup

INDIAN officials have reassured foreign teams that February's hockey World Cup in Delhi will be a safe tournament.

New security fears were provoked after last Saturday's bombing in the western city of Pune and alleged new threats from a group targeting sporting events.

Security measures have been implemented designed to ensure a safe World Cup and Commonwealth Games later this year.

"The arrangements for the

World Cup are foolproof," Delhi police spokesman Rajan Bhagat told news agency AFP.

Home secretary GK Pillai echoed such sentiments and added that participating countries had been fully informed of the arrangements.

"We are in close touch with security liaison officers of all countries that are coming here to participate," said Pillai.

"So far, all of them have seen the preparations done by the Delhi Police and the Ministry of Home Affairs. They are quite satisfied."

The safety of the squad and management team remains the EHB's primary concern and Performance Director David Faulkner, Chief Executive Sally Munday and Chairman Philip Kimberley will maintain their open dialogue with the authorities regarding the threat and security arrangements.

The India and Pakistan hockey teams are set to play each other on the first day of the World Cup, which runs from 28 February to 13 March.

The eight-strong England badminton squad pulled out

of last August's world championships in Hyderabad after reports of threats by Lashkar-e-Taiba, a Pakistan-based organisation fighting against Indian control in Kashmir, from whom Lashkar-e-Taiba al-Almi are reported to have split.

It has been blamed for several terror incidents in India including the October 2005 bomb attacks in Delhi, which saw 60 people killed, and is alleged to have played a part in the armed raid on the Indian parliament in December 2001.

Nigeria, Paraguay seal friendly deal

By Orkula Shaagee

NIGERIA has finally sealed a deal to play Paraguay in an international friendly in London on March 3.

General Secretary of the Nigeria Football Federation, Dr. Bolaji Ojo-Oba signed the contract on behalf of the NFF in Abuja on Wednesday evening, saying: "The match is certainly on. There were some hiccups early on but we have finally resolved all matters and the game will be taking place".

The Valley, home ground of Coca Cola Championships side Charlton Athletic, will host the clash between the second-ranked African team and the powerhouse from South America on March 3.

Organizers said the match will take place on March 3 but will likely come up much earlier than the England versus Egypt friendly taking place at Wembley in the evening of the same day.

Nigeria and Paraguay finished 2-2 in an international friendly match played in London ahead of the 2002 World Cup finals in Korea and Japan.

The match on March 3 will be useful to both countries, as the day marks 100 days to the kick-off of the 2010 FIFA World Cup finals, where Nigeria play Paraguay's neighbours Argentina, Korea Republic and Greece in Group B, and Paraguay plays Nigeria's neighbours Cameroon, Italy and Japan in Group F.

Female basketball league excites Aderemi

FIRST Bank Female Basketball Club of Lagos coach, Adewunmi Aderemi says he is pleased with the progress of women's slamming and dunking in the country and believes it is better than the male league.

The man fondly called Owolo recalled that players from the Nigerian female basketball

league have been to the Olympics and says the championship has been consistent for seven years, while its products have won the African continental championship and Nations Cup.

"It's only those in the ladies' league that have shown consistency over the years. Only the female basketball league has been consistent over the years and is still going strong."

"Players from the female league were part of the national team that has won competitions for Nigeria. They have made us proud internationally and are capable of doing more."

"They have won the Nations Cup two times and they have won the African championship. As of now, there are a lot of improvements in the female basketball league," he argued.

Westwood wary of upsets

LEE Westwood is the second seed at the £5.3 million Accenture Match Play Championship, but he is not expecting any easy matches.

That is understandable, considering the Briton has lost in the first or second round in all of his nine appearances in the World Golf Championships event.

Before he left home on Sunday, Westwood wryly told his family he did not know when he would be home.

"My kids said, 'when are you going to be back?' I said, 'historically Thursday, optimistically Monday'. They looked at me quizzically."

Westwood said he had never "carried any form into this event" but it's a different story this year, as he has finished second and third in his past two starts.

Still, he knows the vagaries of match play lead to numerous upsets, which is why he is not taking his first round match with 63rd seed Chris Wood for granted.

"There are no easy draws in this event," he said.

"Everybody's quite capable of shooting a 62 or 63, so you need a few bits of luck and a few breaks."

"You're going to play poorly one round this week, and hopefully when you do the other guy plays a bit worse."

"I enjoy match play, but I think you need more luck than in stroke play. If it was 36 holes, the seedings would have more of an effect, but over 18 holes anything can happen."

In the absence of Tiger Woods, who has not played since he decided to take a break from the game after reports of marriage infidelity surfaced last November, fellow American Steve Stricker is the top seed at Dove Mountain.

"My confidence level is much higher now than in 2001," Stricker, who was a surprise winner of the event nine years ago, told reporters ahead of his opening match against Ross McGowan.

“It's only those in the ladies' league that have shown consistency over the years. Only the female basketball league has been consistent over the years and is still going strong.”



Ronaldo: Madrid will advance despite loss

REAL Madrid winger Cristiano Ronaldo says it's not unexpected to "suffer in this competition" following a 1-0 loss at Lyon in the Champions League.

The record nine-time European Cup champions were beaten by Jean II Makoun's goal at Stade Gerland on Tuesday to be in danger of failing to advance from the first knockout stage for the sixth straight year.

Related Coverage Martin Rogers: Can Ronaldo shine in Real spotlight? Ronaldo said Wednesday he's "certain we will respond well in the return leg and win it" at Santiago Bernabeu stadium on March 10.

Madrid spent 254 million on eight players in the offseason to try and win the Champions League, which will be played in May at the Bernabeu.



CRISTIANO Ronaldo

Fabianski hands Porto win

PORTO secured a first leg advantage after defeating Arsenal 2-1 in the Estadio do Dragao yesterday evening but visiting goalkeeper Lukasz Fabianski handed the Portuguese side the win with a dreadful display.

The Pole allowed a Valera cross to fumble over the line before being involved in a calamitous breakdown in communication with Sol Campbell that led to Falcao's winner in the second half.

Campbell had equalised for the Gunners, but now they must turn the tie around in the second leg if they are to progress.

Porto were unbeaten in their last five league matches, and importantly for coach Jesualdo Ferreira he could once again call on the services of mercurial striker Hulk, for the first time in two months following his ban for allegedly assaulting a steward.

Arsenal, meanwhile, were dogged by a series of injuries to key players, including William Gallas, Manuel Almunia, Andrei Arshavin and long-term victim Robin van Persie. Veteran Sol Campbell was handed his first Champions League experience for three-and-half years in the Gunners' back line.

It was the Portuguese hosts who did the majority of the early running, and Campbell's aptitude at this level came under scrutiny in the opening moments. Falcao got the better of him and ran in on goal, but the 35-year old recovered brilliantly with a perfectly timed, last-ditch tackle.

Moments later, Valera made inroads on the right flank and laid in Hulk, but perhaps the Brazilians lack of minutes contributed to him dragging his effort wide of Lukasz Fabianski's post.

However, Porto's pressure eventually was awarded, and Arsenal's young goalkeeper will shoulder the responsibility for a horrendous error. Lauded by Arsene Wenger pre-match, Fabianski let his faithful boss down as he inexplicably spilled Valera's driven cross into his own net with no-one in blue and white anywhere near him.

Wenger was dismayed, the Pole dejected and Arsenal were



ARSENAL'S midfielder Tomas Rosicky vies with FC Porto's midfielder Raul Meireles during their UEFA Champions League football match at the Dragao Stadium in Porto yesterday.

behind.

The first half was an open, flowing contest, and its offensively-gear nature was instrumental in allowing the Gunners to ease their way slowly back into the contest.

Nicklas Bendtner was hugely unlucky to see a snap shot drift inches wide of the upright, but it wasn't long before honours were even, and from the most unlikely of sources.

A deep corner eventually found its way to Tomas Rosicky at the back post, and his intelligent header found Sol Campbell unmarked, and he powered the ball past Helton and into the net.

In the opening moments of the second period, two incidents in the space in two minutes were instrumental in shaping the outcome of the contest.

Firstly, Tomas Rosicky burst

into the area on the right, and was seemingly felled by Alvaro Ferreira in a clumsy fashion. The referee urged the Czech to get to his feet, but subsequent replays showed that Ferreira got nothing of the ball.

As play raced up field, Campbell clearly knocked the ball back to Fabianski with his foot, but the 'keeper incredibly proceeded to gather the ball into his arms. As both he and Campbell protested to the referee at the award of an indirect free kick, Porto got on with the match. Ruben Micael snatched the ball and laid it neatly into the path of Falcao, who simply rolled home from ten yards.

It was one of the most bizarre goals seen in recent years in the Champions League, and Arsenal only had themselves to blame in what was becoming a farcical

night for the English club.

However, they rallied and pushed forward, playing a procession of passes in and around the Dragons' penalty area without any real penetration. Wenger introduced Theo Walcott and Carlos Vela but their impact, in particular that of the Englishman, was minimal.

It was one of the most bizarre goals seen in recent years in the Champions League, and Arsenal only had themselves to blame in what was becoming a farcical night for the English club.

However, they rallied and pushed forward, playing a procession of passes in and around the Dragons' penalty area without any real penetration. Wenger introduced Theo Walcott and Carlos Vela but their impact, in particular that of the Englishman, was minimal.

Miss. Barcelona – Eto'o

SAMUEL Eto'o has said he misses Barcelona, but wants to repeat the success he enjoyed at the Camp Nou with Inter.

Eto'o joined Inter last summer as part of a deal which took Zlatan Ibrahimovic

to Barcelona. He has scored 10 goals this season, but feels he can do more to take his club forward on all fronts.

"It was hard after 13 years in Spain and I miss the life I had at Barcelona," he told

World Soccer. "But despite these difficulties I am trying to adapt to the reality in

Milan. "My objective is to win the same trophies I won at Barcelona with Inter."

World Soccer.

"But despite these difficulties I am trying to adapt to the reality in Milan.

"My objective is to win the same trophies I won at Barcelona with Inter."

Eto'o is likely to start for Inter when they take on Sampdoria at the San Siro on Saturday evening.

He won the Champions League twice with Barcelona, scoring in the finals against Arsenal in 2006 and Manchester United in 2009.



SAMUEL Eto'o

ENTTA

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

Is'haq Modibbo Kawu

kawumodibbo@dailytrust.com 08059100368 (SMS only)

Sightings and sight failures: Ogbulafor's double jeopardy

Please spare a thought for Vincent Ogbulafor, chairman of the ruling PDP. In the final days of the intrigues which unconstitutionally delivered Jonathan Goodluck as "Acting President" of Nigeria, the much-vaunted "biggest party in Africa" suddenly went AWOL. The PDP governors underscored their overbearing power and if anybody doubted the "wisdom" of Nigerian politics, the governors delivered an object lesson that it is the tail which wags the dog. The party that should lead the search for solution snored away in denial as Babangida Aliyu and Bukola Saraki orchestrated a governors' stranglehold and left the party irrelevant. The Wadata Plaza-based leadership was given a true measure of how light weight it truly was. The governors as fief holders in the states could determine the fate of members of the National Assembly; they beat them into line and the Jonathan era was brought about.

But Vincent Ogbulafor was determined to make a tangential bid for relevance in the sordid matter of presidential disappearance, through an appearance in the black hole of presidential whereabouts in Jeddah. Here I seek your indulgence to exercise some imagination. Ogbulafor transported himself to childhood, remembering the pot of gold at the end of a rainbow: if only he gets the pot, he must have reasoned, just how rich, famous and lucky he would become! Well, over 80 days after hurriedly exiting Nigeria, covered in the dust of piles of lies, subterfuge and prayers, Umaru Yar'adua has come to resemble that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow of Nigerian politics. No one has been able to announce a positive sighting; neither governors nor members of the National Assembly. Every track led to the neither-nor land of a cul-de-sac. Yar'adua became the quintessential spirit and while the nation pays to keep the spirit in a foreign land, citizens are denied information about his state. Fellow Nigerians, "keep praying"; "it is not a crime to be sick"; "the man has not committed any offence"; "the president is eating, walking around and will soon be discharged by his doctors"; etc!

You still have to be patient in this small matter of a failure of sighting and sight. As a good Christian, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor then remembered that the sightings of the baby Jesus (May the Peace of Allah be Upon him), had been done by three wise men bearing presents: frankincense, myrrh and gold! In direct emulation of that journey of historical importance, Vincent Ogbulafor led a three-man delegation of himself, his deputy and party secretary on a journey of sighting of our spirit-president in Jeddah. Ogbulafor's team did not have incense, myrrh or gold; in a Nigerian manner of things, we can assume that they will only bear pockets heavy with estacode. *Daily Trust* of Tuesday, February 16, 2010, reported that the three PDP wise men "arrived in Saudi Arabia last Friday but they could not get access to Yar'adua who has been there for more than 80 days". There was no star to lead our wise men in the direction of the president and the effort at a sighting failed woefully. That was jeopardy number one for Vincent, the Prince.

Daily Trust then made a reference to the failure of sight that is also afflicting Ogbulafor. Vincent, the Prince, the report said, "has left Saudi Arabia to seek medical attention for his eyes AFTER FAILING TO SEE President Umaru Yar'adua in Jeddah (emphasis is mine please and no pun intended!)". Ogbulafor's "visual impairment" became an issue last week when he got the party's scribe to read a National Working Committee's resolution. Vincent, the

Prince, is a loyal man of both the party and the spirit president. He endured a failure of sight for two months, presumably holding prayer vigil for "Oga", with "expectations that he would soon return home", according to *Daily Trust*, especially against the background of the avalanche of a national outpouring of prayers and more prayers! In Jeddah, Ogbulafor suffered the jeopardy of failure of sighting to compound a failing sight. That is double jeopardy in a time of trouble. The final piece in this puzzle is that had there been a successful sighting in Jeddah, Vincent, the Prince, would have been caught in the dilemma of the blind man trying to feel out an elephant: touch the leg to determine the size or simply recognize it through its sheer presence. I have no doubt in my mind that the two wise men who accompanied Vincent, the Prince, would have been able to describe how well our president now looks to their chairman, if they had enjoyed a successful sighting (remember Ambassador Aminci said Yar'adua is "eating well"). They did not unfortunately; sighting failed the three wise men and sight is failing Vincent, the Prince, so off to India was he shipped!

Meanwhile, situation is dire for the spirit president. Meek as lamb, Jonathan is exploiting good luck to entrench

himself and without showing his hands, the mood of politics has shifted decisively in his favour. The clamour to remove Yar'adua is gathering strength. For now, Jonathan remains Nigeria's "Sole Administrator", albeit on very shaky and unconstitutional grounds with disgraced despot Obasanjo, whispering clandestine advice. In all these shenanigans, the main losers are the chaps around Yar'adua who combined provincialism, arrogance and incompetence to alienate the poor man from the empathy of the Nigerian people. They carried on with a medieval nonchalance as if

I have no doubt in my mind that the two wise men who accompanied Vincent, the Prince, would have been able to describe how well our president now looks to their chairman, if they had enjoyed a successful sighting (remember Ambassador Aminci said Yar'adua is "eating well").

the Nigerian people did not matter. Crucially, they alienated even their own best allies, such as the governors who stuck out their necks to protect the truth of presidential infirmity with a body guard of lies until it became clear they had to rescue their own political careers. They cut loose from the Yar'adua chariot headed for a spectacular crash down the ragged slope of Nigerian politics and latched on to the political rickshaw of Goodluck Jonathan as "Acting President". In politics, there are no permanent friends but interests and there are no emotions in the cut and thrust of power: it is a very vicious world out there. I am sure the provincials have learnt that lesson now.

Dishonour and excess crude money

Colleagues at our weekly planning meeting last Tuesday were surprised when I said forme! Attorney General Aondoakaa was the honourable person in the events of the past few weeks. He stood by Yar'adua throughout, and didn't do a volte-face when it became obvious that the tables were about to turn. Dora Akunyili has earned praises but there seemed an opportunistic and self-seeking content to her last-minute abandonment of the sinking Yar'adua ship. Sticking by principles is not a currency of our politics. And talking about currency, it is clear that very few people believe the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), that they did not agree a quid pro quo with Jonathan: become Acting President but release money from the excess crude account! What is sure is that a huge chunk of that money will disappear into the black hole of Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) in some states. PPP is that devious mechanism to steer public funds into private pockets; so looting times are here again!

SPORTS REPORT



CAROLINE Wozniacki

Peer topples Wozniacki in Dubai

Top seed Caroline Wozniacki was stunned 6-2 7-5 by unseeded Israeli Shahar Peer in the third round of the Dubai tennis championships on Wednesday.

The Danish world number three faced break points in every one of her 10 service games and she was broken eight times as Peer dictated events with her

more aggressive play. After Wozniacki failed to hold serve at all in the first set she managed just two holds in the second, for 1-0 and 3-2.

Despite her dominance, Peer struggled to close out the win. She served for the match number three faced twice, after breaking to lead 5-4 with a smash and then again at 6-5 when she had broken with a fine crosscourt winner.



JAMIE Carragher

Carragher set for Liverpool return

Liverpool defender Jamie Carragher is set to return against Unirea Urziceni in a Europa League tie at Anfield here on Thursday as injury problems start to ease for Reds manager Rafael Benitez.

Veteran defender Carragher was forced off with a groin problem during last Wednesday's 1-0 loss away to Arsenal but has now been passed fit to play against Romanian side Unirea.

Meanwhile Israeli playmaker Yossi Benayoun could feature today after being out for more than a month after breaking a rib in Liverpool's FA Cup defeat by second tier Reading on January 13.

"Carra is training again and he will be available, which is very good news for us as he is an important player for us," Benitez said Wednesday.

