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COMPLIMENTARY

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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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## David Cameron is new British prime minister

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PHOTO: NAN

SULTAN of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad leading the Nigeria Council of Traditional Rulers in condolence and congratulatory visit to President Goodluck Jonathan in Abuja, yesterday.

## Senators endorse Makarfi for VP

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATOR Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi (PDP, Kaduna North) was yesterday adopted by the Northern Senate Caucus as its candidate for Vice President, but Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello (PDP, Katsina North) challenged the endorsement, saying he was still in reckoning for the position. *Daily Trust* learnt that the Northern House Caucus will also meet today to endorse a candidate, and a source said Makarfi is very likely to be endorsed by the House members too.

“He is very likely to be endorsed by the House members too”

# How PDP ratified zoning for 2011

By Suleiman Bisalla

CONTRARY to the claims made by former president Chief Olusegun Obasanjo in Washington, DC two weeks ago, the Enlarged National Caucus of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) firmly decided in December 2002 to zone the presidency to the South for 8 years with effect from 1999 and to zone it to the North for 8 years thereafter, *Daily Trust* established in Abuja yesterday.

The Enlarged Caucus Meeting (ECM) took place at the Presidential Villa on December 2, 2002. It was chaired by then PDP national chairman Chief Audu Ogbeh. In attendance were 47 people, including President Olusegun Obasanjo and the then Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan. Also present, according to the attendance register, were then Vice President Atiku Abubakar, the then House Speaker Ghali Umar Na'Abba, then Deputy Senate President Ibrahim Mantu, former Vice President Alex

Ekwueme, then Board of Trustees chairman Chief Tony Anenih, General Aliyu Mohamed Gusau, former party chairman Chief Solomon Lar, Professor Jerry Gana and Chief Sunday Afolabi. Also present at the fateful meeting were several state governors, including Chief Joshua Dariye (Plateau), Rabiu Musa Kwankwaso (Kano), Abdullahi Adamu (Nasarawa), Dr. Peter Odili [Rivers], Ahmed Makarfi (Kaduna), Abdulkadir Kure (Niger), Dr. Sam Egwu (Ebonyi), Boni

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Briefing newsmen on the matter, Chairman of the NSF, Senator Umaru Dahiru (PDP, Sokoto) said it is logical for the next vice president to come from the North West zone because late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua was from the zone. He said, "Within the context of our northern zone, it is the North West part of the country that lost out in the person of the late president and we felt it is only logical now

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## Explosion rocks Warri NDDC office

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

THERE are conflicting reports on an explosion late Monday in Warri, Delta State, at the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) two-storey building located at Efejuku Street in the city.

The incident came barely a month after two deadly bomb explosions disrupted a post amnesty conference organized by the state government in conjunction with Vanguard Media Limited.

The NDDC office blast, it was gathered, was facilitated by an unrepentant militant (names withheld) though the Commissioner representing Delta State on the board of the commission denied the explosion, saying it was as a result of an electrical fault. Addressing journalists later, Chief Ogidi explained that the explosion was as a result of a faulty 2.5 capacity split unit installed outside the office but acknowledged that there were threats by some youths before the incident.

The explosion was said to have occurred at about 8.30 p.m. Monday night close to the residence of the former military administrator of Mid-west region, Major General David Ejoor.

Daily Trust learnt that the devastating sound from the explosion sent residents scampering for safety with many of them leaving the area for relations in far away distances and only return yesterday morning.

It was observed that the explosion shattered the administrative office, equipment and air conditioners worth several millions of naira. The ceiling was also shattered while a six-inches crack resulting from the explosion was seen on the decking of the first floor.

No life was lost in the incident, as the workers had closed for the day.

At the NDDC office at about 10:30 a.m. yesterday, a detachment of anti-bomb disposal team of the police was already on ground taking samples of the shrapnels found in the area.

Some of the staff of the Commission expressed fear that the explosion was as a result of a bomb blast and wondered why the management was trying to play down the incident.

The Area Commander, Warri, Mr. Alkali Shaba, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), "B" Division, Mr. Christopher Luke accompanied the Commissioner on the Board of NDDC, Chief Emmanuel Ogidi to inspect the premises.

"Let's thank God for what has happened. It could be worse. It is not a bomb explosion as erroneously given. It was as a result of a faulty 2.5 capacity split unit installed outside the office", he said.

Daily Trust learnt from security circles that an unrepentant militant leader claimed responsibility for the incident, threatening that more of such explosions would take place at Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) Yenagoa in Bayelsa State as well as Port Harcourt in Rivers State. Meanwhile, the Delta State Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO), Charles Muka said that the incident was as a result of an electrical fault.

# Ebong's co-accused object to new charges

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

THE trial of the former Managing Director of the Union Bank Plc Mr. Bartholomew Ebong and five others suffered a set back yesterday as some of the accused persons indicated interest to raise objections to the new charges proffered against them.

Some of those charged along with the former MD include Mr. Henry Onyemem, Mr. Niyi Albert Opeodu, Managing Director of Falcon Securities Limited, Mr. Peter Ololo and his company.

The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC)

through its counsel, Rotimi Jacobs, had informed the court of the amended charge dated and filed on May 5, 2010 containing a 20 count-charge which he said had been served on all the accused persons.

He requested the court to have the new charge read on the accused persons. Before, Chief Wole Olanipekun representing the third accused person indicated interest to oppose the new charge.

Though Ebong, through his counsel, Ricky Tafa and Ololo did not object to the new charge, Olanipekun said he intended to oppose the charge and would not

want his client to take the plea in order not to be caught by section 167 of the Criminal Procedure Act (CPA) which requires an accused who is objecting to a charge not to take plea on the charge.

He urged the court presided over by Justice Dan Abutu to give him time to file his submission on the matter.

His argument was adopted by the counsel, Chief Felix Fagbohunge (SAN) representing the 6th accused as well as the counsel to the 2nd accused. They requested for time to file their written submissions and asked that their clients be

excused from taking plea.

At this point, the trial judge, Justice Abutu, adjourned the case till May 31, 2010 to enable the accused persons file their written submissions since some of them were only served copies of the charge.

Justice Abutu however ordered that the accused continue to enjoy the existing bail granted to them either by EFCC or the court.

Meanwhile, applications by the accused for the court to vary their bail conditions were turned down by the court, following Rotimi's opposition on the ground that he need to consult his principal.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



FORMER Speaker, House of Representatives Aminu Masari (right), Rep Bala Ibn Na'Allah and former Majority Leader Mohammed Wakil, after a valedictory session in memory of the late President Umaru Yar'adua at the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

## Group urges review of curfew in Jos

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

JOS based Council for Conflict Management and Mitigation (CMMRC) has urged Plateau State Governor Jonah Jang to review the current curfew hours in the state, saying the curfew had been left for too long and the aim of imposing it may backfire.

Jos-Bukuru metropolis has been under one form of curfew

or the other since 2008 as a result of the out break of violence in the state capital.

Vice chairman of the council, Mr. Ezekiel Gomos, who is a former Secretary to the Plateau State Government in the statement said the council was appealing to the governor and the special task force maintaining security in the state to review the curfew hours in Jos as a prolonged period of cur-

few creates a siege mentality in the population, making it counterproductive.

The council also said sustaining the regime of curfew in the state had affected economic activities, especially the tourism and hospitality industries and deepened the precarious unemployment and poverty situations in the State.

"A long imposition of curfew

sends the message to outsiders that the security situation in Jos is still very bad. Most of the security beaches that have occurred in the last few weeks have taken place during the curfew hours thus suggesting that curfew has its limitations", the council pointed out, adding that even sporting activities for which Jos is well known are gradually being moved to other states due to the curfew.

## Trader stabs debtor to death over N1,400

AN Ebute Meta Magistrate's Court in Lagos yesterday remanded a trader, Mohammed Idris, in prison custody for allegedly stabbing a business partner to death over a N1,400 debt.

The Magistrate, Mr M.O. Olubi ordered that Idris, 22, facing a one-count-charge of murder,

be detained in custody pending the advice of the State Director of Public Prosecution.

The Prosecutor, Insp. Sam Omoyeni, told the court that the offence was committed on April 11 at a patent medicine store at Marine Beach, Ijora Badia in Lagos. Omoyeni explained that

Idris, who had lent the deceased, Danjuma Mayaya, the sum of N1,400, went to his store to demand a refund.

The prosecutor said that a fight ensued following Mayaya's refusal to pay up and the accused stabbed the deceased with a pair of scissors.

Omoyeni said that Mayaya died while being taken to hospital as a result of the injury inflicted with the pair of scissors.

The plea of the accused was not taken by the court. The Magistrate consequently adjourned the case till June 11 for mention. (NAN)

# Senate rejects move to probe Yar'adua's death

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

THE Senate yesterday overwhelmingly voted against moves spearheaded by Senate President David Mark and his deputy Senator Ike Ekweremadu seeking to cause investigation of the controversy surrounding the prolonged ill health and death of former President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

At a valedictory session in honour of the late Yar'adua, Ekweremadu said "In spite of his enormous good will, the last days of President Yar'adua was to say the least controversial for no fault of his. His illness and hospitalisation

was badly managed by his aides and close associates.

The half truth, deceit and secrecy orchestrated from 23rd of November 2009 when he was flown out on medical vacation to the time of his death was an insult and embarrassment to the whole country."

He said there was need for the Federal Government to set up a judicial panel of enquiry to look into the issues.

Mark also said "The late President was a public figure yet the nation was not adequately informed about his health status. This unfortunately provided a fer-

tile ground for mischief makers, rumour mongers and spin doctors of all kinds to feed the nation with fairy tales.

He said the Federal Government owes the nation an explanation on the shortcomings surrounding the management and handling of our late President when he took ill to avoid a repeat in future.

But Majority senators disagreed with Mark and Ekweremadu insisting that an investigation into the matter is not necessary to avoid further controversy.

Senator Abubakar Umar Gada (PDP, Sokoto) said "There is no

way such an enquiry can be concluded without a post-mortem analysis. In your imagination can it be ever possible to go to the Katsina graveyard to exhume the body of the late president, it is not possible."

Senator Olorunimbe Mamora (AC, Lagos) said the move "will make it look as if there are suspicions surrounding the cause of his death. As a medical doctor I am aware that he died of terminal illness."

After heated debate, the Senate President put the question and overwhelming majority of senators voted against the inves-

tigation.

The Senate observed a one minute silence in honour of the late President as well as urged the Federal Government to immortalise him by naming a "befitting public institution after the late Umaru Yar'adua."

The Senate set up two separate delegations to pay condolence visits to President Goodluck Jonathan and the other to commiserate with the family of the late president and the government and people of Katsina State headed by the Senate President and Deputy Senate President respectively.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



MINISTER of State for Health, Alhaji Bello Suleiman (right) Executive Director, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA), Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate and Chairman, NPHCDA, Dr. Haliru Yahaya, during a stakeholders forum on midwives service scheme in Abuja yesterday.

## EFCC probes Iwu, INEC directors

By Boco Edet

FORMER Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) chairman Maurice Iwu and some directors are being investigated for allegedly flouting due process in issuing cheques to contractors after Iwu had been directed to proceed on pre-disengagement leave, *Daily Trust* learnt yesterday.

A source at the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) informed *Daily Trust* that the chairman of the anti-graft commission Mrs. Farida Waziri has already directed the operations unit to set up a panel and investigate the case which was widely publicised in the media.

The source said an estimated N2.8 billion was allegedly misappropriated just before Iwu was directed to hand over to the most senior officer in the commission.

Philip Umeadi, who assumed the role of acting chairman after Iwu, ordered that the accounts of the commission be frozen following suspicion that some directors were issuing cheques to pay for contracts awarded by Iwu.

Also, Mrs. Waziri on Monday issued a directive to the Director of Operations Steven Otitoju to obtain a report presented by the House of Representatives Committee on Customs headed by Yakubu Dogara which urged that EFCC to recover the sum of N46 billion owed Customs by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) being amount accruing from tax on petroleum products which the corporation imported into Nigeria within a specified period.

EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi confirmed the anti-graft agency was to investigate INEC and would act on the report from the House of Representatives once it was in its possession.

## Britain gets new prime minister

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, London

AFTER days of wrangling and horse-trading, the leader of the Conservative Party David Cameron has eventually emerged as the new prime minister of Britain.

This followed the resignation yesterday of outgoing Prime Minister Gordon Brown, who met Queen Elizabeth II at her palace in the evening and asked her to invite Mr Cameron to form a new government.

The Conservative Party, which won 306 seats, has defeated Brown's Labour Party (258 seats) in last Thursday's general election, but was short of gaining the 260 seats required to get an outright majority.

Both the Conservatives and the Labour went into talks with the third largest party, the Liberal Democrat, to seek its support to form a new government.

The Tories were close to closing a deal with the Lib-Dems on Monday when the Labour made

a dramatic move that threatened the deal.

Mr Brown had attempted to secure a deal with the Lib-Dems to form what many call a "progressives' alliance" and keep the Conservatives out of power.

But the move collapsed in the face of opposition from some senior Labour figures, such as former home secretary David Blunkett who described it as the coalition of the "defeated", inadequate support from some Lib-Dem figures and insuffi-

cient numbers to get an outright majority.

Mr Brown announced his resignation. He spent three years as a prime minister and had earlier spent 10 years as Chancellor of the Exchequer (finance minister).

Barely 30 minutes after Mr Brown left the Queen's palace, Mr Cameron arrived in the palace to meet the Queen and take up the post. At 43, Cameron has become the country's youngest prime minister since the Earl of Liverpool in 1812.

## INEC: Soyebi takes over as acting chairman

By Abbas Jimoh & Abdulmestallib A. Abubakar

MR. Solomon Adedeji Soyebi has been appointed by President Goodluck Jonathan as acting chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

Prof. Maurice Iwu visited INEC's headquarters yesterday where he held a brief closed-door meeting with INEC Secretary Alhaji Abdullahi Kaugama and Soyebi at the commission and handed over.

Iwu had earlier refused to hand

over as directed insisting on some "ambiguities" in the letter asking him to proceed on leave with effect from April 28, 2010.

The INEC National Commissioner in charge of Information and Publicity Barrister Phillip Umeadi had been acting since the removal

of Iwu. Kaugama said in a statement that Jonathan has approved the appointment of Soyebi pending the appointment of a substantive chairman. Soyebi who hails from Ogun State, was born on April 23, 1955 and holds a degree in Chemistry in 1978 from the University of Ibadan.



PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan (right) with former Ghanaian President John Kufour during a visit to the State House, Abuja, yesterday.

## Yar'adua: FEC holds valedictory session today

By Mohammed S. Shehu

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan has directed that today's meeting of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) be made a valedictory session in honour of the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua who died last week Wednesday.

He announced this when former President John Kuffour of Ghana paid him a condolence visit on the death of Yar'adua and also to congratulate him as president.

President Jonathan, who also requested Mr. Kuffour to attend the session, advised that serving and former African leaders needed to unite in the service of the continent for the benefit of the people.

He thanked Kuffour for personally coming to express his condolence which he said was an affirmation of true friendship.

He used the occasion to call on leaders to feel free to offer advice that would help to move the continent forward.

Jonathan regretted President Yar'adua's death, whom he said meant well for Nigeria, ECOWAS and Africa, noting that "Yar'adua had initiated a number of programmes but unfortunately death prevented him from accomplishing them."

In remarks, the former Ghanaian President advised Jonathan to build on the legacies of late Yar'adua, especially the Niger Delta amnesty programme and other critical areas that will improve the lives of Nigerians.

Kuffour said much is expected from Jonathan because of the important position of Nigeria in the region noting that sustenance of peace and stability in the continent was not only critical to Nigeria but the continent as a whole.

# El-Rufai urges Jonathan to contest in 2011

By Mohammed S. Shehu

FORMER Federal Capital Territory Minister Nasir el-Rufai yesterday faulted the zoning arrangement of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), describing the clamour for rotational presidency as unconstitutional.

When asked whether President Goodluck Jonathan can contest the 2011 election, el-Rufai said, "I don't believe in presidency by allocation. Every Nigerian can contest from anywhere and the choice should be left to Nigerians to decide who they want."

El-Rufai said even though from the South-South geopolitical zone, Jonathan should feel free under the law to contest the presidency in the 2011 general elections.

He said there is no provision in the 1999 Constitution

that specifies when and how positions should be zoned on geopolitical basis adding that Jonathan can contest the election to retain his plum office in the coming polls.

El-Rufai, who was at the State House, as part of the Kaduna State entourage that visited President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday to condole with him over the death of his predecessor, told State House correspondents that any Nigerian interested in the 2011 election should ignore the PDP zoning arrangement and contest for any position of his or her choice.

On his expected role in the new government, el-Rufai said only the Jonathan can determine that.

El-Rufai said while he will support a vice president from the North-Western part of the country particularly as the region lost a president with the demise of

late Yar'adua, any good person from the North that can ensure North's adequate participation in governance can suffice.

Asked whether he can participate in the Jonathan administration, el-Rufai said "if I'm nominated for the position of the Vice President, I'll consult my family and the public", adding that only the president can determine that.

Earlier, the Kaduna State delegation led by Governor Namadi Sambo has condoled with Jonathan over the death of Yar'adua and congratulated the new president on his assumption of office.

The delegation comprises of traditional rulers, state officials, Minister of State Power Nuhu Wya, former ministers of Finance Nenadi Usman, Works, Isiah Balat, religious and community leaders.

## ...To appear in court today

By Atika Balal

FORMER FCT Minister Nasir el-Rufai will appear today before an Abuja Federal High Court to answer to charges of criminal conspiracy proffered against him and 11 others by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

The anti graft agency had initially filed an 8 count charge against him and two others and also declared him wanted over allegations of abuse of office arising from sales of Federal Government houses amounting to N32 billion.

Last week, el-Rufai appeared before the EFCC for the first time since he was declared wanted in 2008, after earlier attempts to get him to clarify allegations against him failed.

He was meant to appear before the court last Thursday but the court did not sit due to a public holiday.

The ex minister had also told newsmen through his spokesman last week, that the allegations against him had been reduced from N32 billion to N1.6 billion but this was denied by EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi who maintained that the initial case had not been scrapped.

Other accused persons are former Director General of the Abuja Geographic Information Systems (AGIS) Ismaila Iro and former General Manager Altine Jubrin.

## Bankole: House will approve whoever Jonathan picks as VP

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives has promised will support anybody nominated as Vice President by President Goodluck Jonathan, Speaker Dimeji Bankole said yesterday.

He made this known yesterday during the valedictory session in honour of late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua at the National Assembly in Abuja.

"As we are aware, the president will soon perform one of his major constitutional functions for our dear nation. It is in the national interest that I pledge that this House will

give full support to the President Jonathan's nominee for vice president," the speaker said.

This is coming on the heels of agitations from North-West caucus of the House of Representatives that the nation's number two man be picked from their geo-political zone.

The speaker took time to eulogise late President Yar'adua whom he said embodied the rarest attribute of humility, gracefulness, compassion and transformative leadership.

The lower chamber had in attendance all its former presiding officers and their deputies, principal officer who

took time to eulogise the late Nigerian leader.

Speaker after speaker, both the former and serving lawmakers paid glowing tributes to the late Yar'adua.

Former Speaker Ghali Umar Na'abba said, "He had compassion and was a very humble man," while former Speaker Aminu Bello Masari said he had relationship with the late president that existed for over thirty years.

Minority Leader Rep. Muhammed Ali Ndume said Yar'adua gave the opposition a sense of belonging by forming an all-inclusive government of national unity. Earlier, Speaker Bankole had

led members of the House to sign the condolence register. The House further resolved and delegated the leadership to condole with President Jonathan and the Yar'adua family.

It is in the national interest that I pledge that this House will give full support to the President Jonathan's nominee for vice president.

# How PDP ratified zoning for 2011

Continued from page 1

Haruna (Adamawa), Achike Udenwa (Imo) and Victor Attah (Akwa Ibom). Apart from Dr. Jonathan, the then deputy governors of Enugu and Anambra States were also present.

According to the minutes of the meeting, the PDP Zoning Structure came up for discussion and Ogbah said he had been inundated with calls seeking clarification on the matter. He pointed out that a decision had already been made at an earlier caucus meeting and asked the national secretary, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, to read it. The decision was that the 1998 zoning arrangements for key offices should be retained. He asked the enlarged caucus meeting to further discuss the issue.

At that point, Speaker Ghali Na'Abba said the 1999 zoning arrangement was determined by the presidential election and he called for the removal of zoning in 2003, but Chief Tony Anenih quickly said that was not true, that the zoning covered all levels, including party officers. National Youth Leader Faruk Bibi Faruk then said zoning was unconstitutional and should be discarded, while Governor Abdulkadir Kure said if the presidency is zoned, nobody should support any guber candidate from another zone against him.

Party elder statesman Alhaji Lawal Kaita then said zoning was a gentleman's agreement which was started by the minority ethnic groups at the constitutional conference but in the end, a North-South zoning formula was adopted.

He said they convinced Northern aspirants to step down for Obasanjo in 1999. Kaita then moved a motion that the South should have the presidency for 8 years, after which it would return to the North and stay for 8 years.

National Vice Chairman (South-South) Chief A.K. Dikibo then supported Kaita's motion and said a party has the right to make rules for itself. Ogbah, for his part, said zoning was in the Abacha constitution which pro-

vided for single 5-year terms to be rotated among the 6 geopolitical zones. Vice President Atiku Abubakar then spoke, saying on-going moves at the time to amend the constitution and provide for single 5-year presidential terms will short change the North after the South rules for 8 years.

Governor Victor Attah of Akwa Ibom said zoning should not be fixed into the future but should be decided at the end of each tenure, while his Rivers State counterpart Dr. Peter Odili said the South should retain the presidency for 8 years, after which zoning should be re-examined. Chief Solomon Lar however countered, saying if the South retains it for 8 years, then the North must also have it for 8 years. Governor Sam Egwu however said it should be considered for how long the North had ruled, meaning during years of military rule.

Governor Abdullahi Adamu of Nasarawa said zoning the presidency to the South for 8 years should stay, "provided it would be 8 years for the North also." Deputy Senate President Ibrahim Mantu then spoke, saying when power returns to the North, the North Central Zone should not be excluded from consideration on the grounds that several Army Generals from the zone ruled the country. Next, Chief Sunday Afolabi formally seconded Alhaji Lawal Kaita's motion, saying the South should have the presidency for 8 years, after which it should move to the North for 8 years.

Chief Tony Anenih supported this motion, saying it was in the best interest of the country. Faruk Bibi Faruk however opposed it and moved a counter motion, saying zoning was unconstitutional and should be thrown out.

Chairman Chief Audu Ogbah then put the two motions to a vote. According to the minutes, 47 caucus members voted in support of Kaita's motion, two voted against it while two others abstained.

Former president Obasanjo, who benefited from this zoning arrangement and coasted to a second term in 2003 on PDP's platform, told the Voice of Africa

program Straight Talk From Africa that PDP never had such a zoning arrangement. He said President Goodluck Jonathan cannot be stopped from contesting for PDP's 2011 presidential ticket because there was no agreement to zone the presidency to the North for 8 years from 2007. Party chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, who was the party secretary in 2002, announced last February that the 2011 ticket is zoned to the North despite President Umaru Yar'adua's incapacitation

and eventual death.

Contacted to comment on the PDP's zoning arrangement yesterday, former deputy national chairman (South) Alhaji Shu'aibu Oyedokun, who was at the 2002 meeting, said zoning of political positions is a tradition and convention for PDP and its leaders never agreed to discard it.

Oyedokun told Daily Trust on telephone that even though zoning is not in the 1999 Constitution, PDP adheres to it for the purpose of national stability. "If

anybody is saying that there is no zoning, he is not saying the truth," Oyedokun said. He added, "I don't want to go into controversy with anybody."

Other people who were present at the December 2002 meeting, according to the minutes, include Chief Ufot Ekaette, Mrs Josephine Anenih, Chief Mao Ohuabunwa, Senator Emmanuel Essien, the late Senator Haruna Abubakar, Mrs Sinatu Ojikutu, Chief Roland Oritsejafor and Alhaji Suleiman Hunkuyi.

## MINUTES OF THE ENLARGED NATIONAL CAUCUS MEETING OF THE PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY (PDP) HELD AT THE PRESIDENTIAL VILLA, ABUJA ON 2<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2002

### 1.0 Attendance

NAME	POSITION
1. Chief Audu Ogbah	National Chairman
2. Chief Olusegun Obasanjo	President
3. Atiku Abubakar	Vice President
4. Ghali Na'Abba	Speaker, House of Rep
5. Alh. Ibrahim Mantu	Deputy Senate President
6. Dr. Alex I. Ekwueme	Chairman, BOT
7. Chief Solomon D. Lar	Adviser Emeritus
8. Chief Tony Anenih	Member
9. Prof. Jerry Gana	Secretary, BOT
10. Chief S.M. Afolabi	
11. Joshua C. Dariye	Gov. Plateau State
12. R. M. Kwankwaso	Gov. Kano State
13. Abdullahi Adamu	Gov. Nassarawa State
14. Dr. Peter Odili	Gov. Rivers State
15. Chief U.J. Ekaette	SGF
16. Hon. Inuwa Labaran	Nat. Organizing Secretary
17. Nze Ozi F. Chukwu	Nat. Vice Chairman (SE)
18. Sen. A. D. Sodangi	Senator
19. Engr. Muh. Abba Gana	Minister, FCT
20. Senator Victor K. Oyofe	Senator
21. Chief (Mrs.) Josephine Anenih	Nat. Woman Leader
22. Prince G.N. Iweka	SAP/NO
23. Alh. Shuaib A. Oyedokun	Dep. National Chairman (S)
24. Hon. Umar Kareto Lawan	National Treasurer
25. Chief Mao Ohuabunwa	Dep. House Leader
26. Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi	Gov. Kaduna State
27. Engr. A.A. Kure	Gov. Niger
28. Senator E.O. Elayo	Member, BOT
29. Dr. Sam Egwu	Gov. Ebonyi State
30. Boni Haruna	Gov. Adamawa State
31. Chief Achike Udenwa	Gov. Imo State
32. Chief Victor Attah	Gov. Akwa Ibom State
33. Senator Emmanuel Ibok Essien	Senate Deputy Chief Whip
34. Senator Adawari Michael Pepple	Senate Chief Whip
35. Dr. Goodluck E. Jonathan	Dep. Gov., Bayelsa State
36. Hon. Sadiq A. Sanusi	Dep. Chief Whip (HR)
37. Sen. Haruna Abubakar	Senator
38. Suleiman Othman Hunkuyi	
39. Alh. Chief Mrs Sinatu Ojikutu	
40. Dr. Prince D. Okonkwo	
41. Okechukwu Itanyi	Dep. Gov. Enugu
42. Prince Chinedu Emeka	Dep. Gov. Anambra
43. Aliyu G. Mohammed	NSA
44. Farouk Bibi Farouk	Nat. Youth Leader
45. Chief A.K. Dikibo	Nat. Vice Chairman (SS)
46. Chief Roland Oritsejafor	Dep. National Secretary
47. Hon. Arc. Innocent Agbo	National Auditor

# Senators endorse Makarfi for VP

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appointing anybody to fill the vacant position of the Vice President of this country, it should certainly be from that part of the country. "We looked at the quality of the persons involved as a bridge; we believe he can bridge the gap. He was once there with the Executive and he is now here in the legislature. We thought it wise to pick the person of Senator Ahmed Makarfi to bridge the gap and we are now pleading. He was once a former two time governor of his state. He has all that it takes to be Vice President. We feel that we should plead for everybody to relate with him so that he can be nominated as our own Vice President."

But reacting to the NSF's decision, Senator Mahmud Kanti

Bello (PDP, Katsina North) faulted the resolution, insisting that after deciding that the next VP comes from the North West zone, "The NSF should allow the President to pick anybody from the zone because the vice president is for the entire country, not a region."

He said, "What I told them at the meeting was that I am also a candidate and I promised them that I am not going to be a vice president for the north but for the entire country, but above all we should allow the president to make his choice based on merits, so to that extent I did not sign any resolution."

We are 58 members and I am not sure that more than 30 senators were there. By the way, if Makarfi mobilized the few that were there, what about the rest?

I was not part of that silly resolution and I insist it must be on merit."

He added, "It is the most useless resolution and I was not part of it. I came there to vote for myself and left. In fact two names I am aware were sent. My name and that of Makarfi and he even sent me a text to support him, that his name has been mentioned in the papers and I wonder since when papers began to nominate people for vice president's office. I did not lobby for it but I was meant to understand that I am also a candidate, so the issue of some people drumming support and the entire resolution is silly."

The NSF however insisted that Makarfi is fit and has the capacity to occupy the office.

Asked of Makarfi's state of health, Dahiru said "We believe

that the person we have picked is qualified, he has been performing his functions well and we have no complaint from any quarters on his health. The Doctrine of Necessity is there, it can always be invoked. He has not shown any sign of ill health and he is fit. He has been performing his constitutional duties throughout the sittings and we always praise him for his contribution for whatever is done here in the Senate."

He said over two-thirds of the northern senators have endorsed Makarfi because "we have the largest gathering today, over 40 members were in attendance."

On his part, Kanti Bello expressed optimism in the possibility of his clinching the nomination saying, "This is a PDP affair. The party would have a say, it is not about the governors

forum or the NSF, it is completely a PDP affair. People like Senators Yerima and Ma'aji Lawan who are not members of the PDP cannot decide who becomes vice president."

Chairman of the Northern House Caucus Mr. Tengu Tsebba told Daily Trust on telephone last night that the caucus has also agreed that the Vice President should be appointed from the North West and that he should be a legislator. He said a meeting today will decide which candidate to support. Asked if the national Assembly will refuse to confirm any nominee sent by President Goodluck Jonathan if he is not a legislator, he said, "No, no. That is not what we are saying. We are only pleading with the President to agree with us and appoint a legislator."

# Jonathan: FG committed to vision 20-2020

By Mohammed S. Shehu

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan said the federal government will sustain and implement programmes and policies geared towards achieving Nigeria's aspiration of being among the top 20 economies in the world by the year 2020.

He stated this yesterday when he received in audience the Coordinator of the Honorary International Investment Council (HIIC) Baroness Linda Chalker, who was accompanied by the British High

Commissioner to Nigeria Bob Dewar in State House, Abuja.

Jonathan said government would continue to participate actively in the council in order to accelerate the attainment of its objectives. He noted that it is high time the deliberations of the HIIC translated to concrete development for the citizenry.

The HIIC is a presidential initiative to pool influential international and local investors towards attracting foreign direct investment into the country.

Chalker said she came to condole with

Jonathan over death of former President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, and also to congratulate him on his assumption of office as President.

"You have a tough job to do. We will do all we can to make sure you succeed in the objectives that you set out to achieve as a Government," she stated.

She said the forthcoming HIIC meeting slated between June 23rd and 24th in Abuja will focus on tackling the challenges of the power sector, among other economic issues.

Also speaking, Bob Dewar presented the condolences of Queen Elizabeth and the British Government to Nigeria over President Yar'adua's death.

He said the British government looks forward to receiving Jonathan in London whenever he chooses to visit. He added that Britain is committed to building on excellent relations with Nigeria, and promoting initiatives geared towards achieving good governance, electoral reforms and sustaining the peace, particularly in the Niger Delta region.

PIC: Kennedy Egbonodje



CENTRAL Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, Dr. Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, during his press briefing on the outcome of the Monetary Policy Committee meeting in Abuja yesterday

## Ibru's associate remains in EFCC custody

By Boco Edet

AN associate of sacked Managing Director (MD) of Oceanic Bank Cecilia Ibru is still in the custody of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) answering questions over his alleged involvement in fraudulent deals totalling N200bn, spokesman of the commission Femi Babafemi has confirmed.

Dele Oye, a lawyer and Chairman of the Abuja Chamber of Commerce and Indus-

try, surrendered himself to EFCC on Monday after evading operatives for nearly a year.

He fled Nigeria after been declared wanted by EFCC in August 2009 for allegedly using some of his companies to siphon money from depositors fund in Oceanic Bank on Mrs. Ibru's behalf.

Another co-accused Nanashetu Bedell, Mrs. Ibru's former nanny, is still on the run. They are both said to have fronted for Mrs. Ibru in extensive money laundering activi-

ties.

EFCC declared Oye wanted when it was investigating allegations of sharp practices in the banking sector. This was after the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) sacked some bank chiefs and dissolved their board of directors.

Mrs. Ibru who was affected by the sack was arraigned by the anti-graft agency on a 25 count charge before a Federal High Court in Lagos and has since pled not guilty to all the charges against her.

## Reps set up harmonisation committee on constitution amendment

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE House of Representatives yesterday constituted a committee to work together with its Senate counterpart to harmonise areas of differences in the just passed constitutional amendment bills.

Speaker Dimeji Bankole who announced the setting up of the committee said they expect the Senate to do same so that the amendments will be passed within the shortest possible time.

The committee led by Deputy Speaker

Usman Bayero Nafada has Reps Aminu Tambuwal, Ali Ndume, Hashim Abdullahi, John Kalifa, Ehedioha Nkem and Olufemi Gbajiamila as members.

The green chamber had last week adopted 44 amendments to the 1999 constitution which will pave way for the conduct of free and fair election in 2011.

The Senate adopted 36 amendments to the constitution which will be harmonized for onward transmission to the 36 state Houses of Assembly for endorsement before the amendment could be effected.

In January 2009, the 88-member Joint Constitution Review Committee (JCCFR) failed to continue its work after a disagreement erupted between members of the committees from the two chambers with those from the lower chamber insisting that deputy Speaker Nafada be made co-chair of the committee which was initially led by the Deputy Senate President Ike Ekweremadu.

Consequently, 44 members from the House staged a walk out during their retreat in Minna, Niger State which led the two chambers to conduct the exercise independently.

## S/Court adjourns

### hearing on 27

### policemen sacked

### by Mobil

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

THE Supreme Court has adjourned till September 28 an appeal filed by Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited challenging the legal victory of 27 supernumerary police officers sacked by the company.

Presiding Judge Justice Dahiru Musdapher also ordered the appellant, Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited, to serve the Inspector General of Police (IGP) with the motion for stay of execution.

The judge handed down the order in Abuja Tuesday when the court discovered that the police listed among the principal respondents was not represented.

Trouble started in 2001 when over 300 of the officers were transferred by the police authority from Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited.

The Court of Appeal had upheld the judgment of the Federal High Court, Uyo passed in 2006 stopping 860 supernumerary police officers working for Mobil from wearing police uniforms.

The Appeal Court also ordered that the plaintiffs who were erroneously sacked in 2001 must be reinstated as regular staff of the company and their benefits paid.

It also declared that the procedure for recruiting the special force was not strictly followed by Mobil and therefore rendered null and void.

According to the appellate court, section 18 of the police Act gives room for the establishment of supernumerary police backed with only approval from the president.

Mobil had approached the apex court with a motion for an order to stay execution of the May 21, 2009 judgment of Appeal Court Calabar in favour of the sacked officers.

Earlier, Chief Kayode Sofola (SAN), counsel to Mobil, urged the apex court to discountenance the arguments of the respondents which gave them the victory, saying that the appellant did not contravene any law by compelling the plaintiff to wear police uniforms.

But in a counter affidavit, Mr Femi Falana, represented by Mr Olusola Salawu, submitted that the judgment was a declaratory one that could not be stayed.

# Family holds 7th day prayers for late president today

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE family of late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua is to hold a special seven day prayer today for the repose of his soul.

The prayer which will hold at 11:00 am at the family house at Yar'adua quarters in Katsina is to be led by the Chief Imam of GRA Central Mosque, Imam Mohammed Abba Aliyu, and other prominent Islamic scholars in the state.

Various dignitaries from within and outside the state are expected to grace the prayer session. More individuals, groups and organizations have continued to visit Katsina to condole Governor Ibrahim Shema, Emir of Katsina, Abdulmumini Kabir Usman, and the wife of the former President, Hajiya Turai Yar'adua.

Father of the Speaker, House of Representatives Chief Alani Bankole, Chief Arisekola Alao, EFCC Chairman Mrs Farida Waziri and the management and Board of Daar Communications led by its chairman, Mr Raymond

Dokpesi, First Bank led by Oba Oudeko and New Nigerian Newspapers led by Alhaji Tukur Abdulrahman were among the dignitaries that condoled the state yesterday.

In their separate remarks, the sympathizers described late president as a humble leader who printed his name in gold within the short time he stayed in office and showed passionate commitment to the development of the nation.

The governor, the emir and the wife of the former president thanked the visitors for their concern and especially for their prayers when he faced health challenges.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



World President, Junior Chamber International (JCI) Rolande Kwemain, chairman of the conference, Joseph Pheto and JCI Nigeria President Ayo Abolusodun during the JCI pre-conference in Abuja, yesterday.

## 'Yar'adua chose own grave site'

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

LATE President Umaru Musa Yar'adua specifically chose a site at the oldest Dan-Marna graveyard in Katsina metropolis where his remains should be buried, the senior guard at the graveyard, Malam Lawal Dogo, told *Daily Trust* yesterday.

Speaking in Katsina, Dogo said the former president requested to be buried at the VIP wing of the gravesite where his late father and elder brother were also laid to rest. He said the late president established relationship with most of the grave guards during his several visits to the yard to pray for

the souls of his late father and elder brother, saying the president occasionally spent a long time with them talking inside the graveyard.

He said often, the late president personally undertook various repairs of dilapidated areas within.

"It was on one of his last visits when he was a governor that he asked me whether there would be more space to bury other people near his father and brother and I said yes!

And then he asked if there would be space for him there (pointing to a spot) and I promised him that even if I died before him, my children would reserve the space for him", said Dogo.

## 143 health workers disengaged in Jigawa

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

ABOUT 143 workers of the Federal Medical Centre Birnin-Kudu, Jigawa State including a doctor and a nurse have been disengaged from service, the Chief Medical Director of the Hospital, Dr. Dauda Muhammad Maigatari has said.

Confirming the disengagement, Dr. Maigatari also said 60-70 per cent of the administrative staff in the hospital were improperly employed, saying due process was not followed during the employment of most of them.

The Chief Medical Director added that while the affected doctor was disengaged because of his frequent quarrels with other staff, the nurse was on the other hand removed for immorality. He said some of the affected staff lost their jobs as a result of incompetence while others were disengaged for having many queries in their files.

Dr. Maigatari explained that the termination of appointment

of the 143 was in line with the Federal Government circular earlier sent to the management of the hospital from the office of the Head of Civil Service in 2006.

"My predecessor failed to implement the downsizing directive because he had problems with the host community. But now that I have settled the dispute, I am now implementing the policy," said the CMD.

He stated that the rationalization became necessary because the management of the hospital had received a letter from the office of the Head of Service, intimating it that a team would visit the hospital to monitor the level of implementation of the policy.

The CMD said those who joined the hospital in 2004 had nothing to collect as benefit apart from their one month salary but those employed in 2001 would collect their benefits as soon as the management completes arrangements for the payment.

Dr. Maigatari complained of lack of accommodation in the hospital.

## Northern Yoruba extol Yar'adua's virtues

From Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

CONDOLENCES have continued to pour in over the death of former President Umaru Yar'adua as the northern chapter of the Yoruba political awareness movement yesterday commiserated with President Goodluck Jonathan, the family of the late president, the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) and the people of Nigeria.

In a statement in Kaduna, the group described the death of the former president as a national loss. According to Alhaji Mohammed Arigbabuwa, the chairman of the movement, the condolences that have trailed Yar'adua's death attest to the fact that he was a nationalist who meant well for the country.

The movement praised Yar'adua's policies and programmes, especially the amnesty in the Niger-Delta, the adherence to the rule of law and the dredging of the River Niger as laudable. The statement urged President Jonathan to continue with his laudable programmes and build on them.

## Gombe Assembly holds session for Yar'adua

From Aliyu M. Hamag-am, Gombe

THE Gombe State House Assembly yesterday conducted a valedictory session in honour of late President Umaru Yar'adua, describing him as an activist who championed the cause of the rule of law in Nigeria.

Speaking during the session, the Deputy Speaker, Alhaji Inuwa Garba, who presided over the sitting, said the death of the former president was a monumental loss to the country, adding that his demise had created a vacuum that could hardly be replaced.

He further stressed that the deceased would ever remain to be remembered as a person that brought back hope to Nigerians from the state of despondency by restoring peace in the restive Niger Delta region of the country.

During the session, the House also attended to Matters of Urgent Public

Importance where Alhaji Adamu Daluko, the member representing Yamaltu East constituency, brought to the attention of the House, the flood disaster in his constituency.

He called on the House to intimate the State Emergency Management Agency for quick intervention by supplying aid materials to the affected victims, arguing that about 500 houses were washed away in three villages following the flood.

Responding, the Deputy Speaker said there were similar disasters in two other local government areas that needed urgent attention. To this end, the Deputy Speaker directed that all necessary data of the affected communities should be compiled for onward transmission to the authorities.

# Minister: Nigeria on alert over earthquake

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE federal government has commenced moves to evaluate its monitoring capacities to mitigate the effects of earthquake in case of any possible occurrence in the country, Minister of Science and Technology Professor Mohammed K. Abubakar has said.

The recent global trend of natural hazards especially in earthquake and volcanic explosion has made several countries to get ready for mitigating the hazards.

The minister said while addressing experts in Abuja that the recent events in Haiti, China and other parts of the world has

reawakened the consciousness of the worlds as to the imperative of monitoring these negative events with a view of establishing early warning system to mitigate their effects to the barest minimum.

He said the gathering, organised by the Centre for the Geodesy and Geodynamics, Toro, was to appraise work done so far in this field by experts, the centre, current monitoring capacities of the Centre and proffer solutions or recommendations to address familiar and daunting challenges militating against a robust geo-hazard monitoring activities.

"This will put Nigeria on the same

pedestal with other countries in term of availability of skilled manpower, critical facilities to support the programme and make useful suggestions or recommendations and improvise where necessary," he said.

The Director General of National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) Seidu O. Mohammed said the research results from the agency coupled with the current trend of earthquake where even nations that were hitherto believed to be seismically in-active are being affected.

Experts at the event however say

Nigeria is relatively safe in term of earthquake and other natural disaster.

A Professor of geology, University of Nigeria Nsukka, Mosto K. Onuoha, said Nigeria is not among the nations with high risk in term of earthquake but there is need to monitor such man-made activities that can trigger earthquake.

Provost of the Nigerian Institute of Mining and Geosciences, Jos, Professor Idowu B. Odeyemi, said going by the history of the earthquake and tremor recorded within the West Africa and in some part of the country its significant to prepare against possible occurrences.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



FROM left: Minister of Tourism, Culture and National Orientation, Alhaji Abubakar Sadiq Mohammed; Governor of Osun State, Prince Olagunsoye Oyinlola; Director General, National Tourism Development Council (NTDC), Otunba Segun Runsewe and an official of the ministry, during the governor's visit to the ministry in Abuja, yesterday.

## Israel donates \$50,000 tools to National Hospital

By Aisha Umar Agaie

A medical team of Ophthalmologists from Israel has donated working tools worth \$50,000 to the National Hospital in Abuja after conducting free medical eye treatment in the country.

The team leader Prof Shlomo Melamed said at the closing ceremony of "Israel Open Eyes" project at the hospital in Abuja that the medical doctors treated 40 Nigerian patients with eye problem in five day out of 70 patients.

At least 20 Nigerian doctors benefitted from lecture series, classes and discussions organized by the embassy in collaboration with the National Hospital Abuja to enable the visiting Israeli eye experts interface with their local counterparts to build a sustainable exchange of knowledge between Israel and Nigeria in the medical and healthcare delivery.

The Embassy kicked off this humanitarian gesture by sponsoring a three-year old Nigerian boy, Mide Mamulla Aiyebilehin, born with a hole in his heart for cardiologic operation in Israel.

It was to mark Israel's 61st Independence Anniversary. Minister of health Professor Onyebuchi Chukwu who was represented by Director public health in his speech said "there are over 1,000,000 Nigerian blind and another 3,000,000 visually impaired. 50% of avoidable blindness in attributable to cataract, followed by glaucoma (16%), corneal opacity (12%), Trachoma (4%) optic atrophy (3%) and refractive error is the major cause of visual impairment".

## Lawmakers trained on information technology

By Usman A. Bello

INFORMATION Communication Technology (ICT) training will go a long way to enhance the legislative ability of members of the National Assembly, Minister of Education Professor Ruqqaya Rufai has said.

The minister stated this yesterday at a two-day awareness workshop on Science and Technology for Related Committees of the National Assembly organized by Policy Analysis and Research Project (PARP) National Assembly in collaboration with the AbdusSalam International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste Italy.

She said the legislators will be able to get information from the internet and be able to compare issues with other countries before taking decision on it hence ICT is very critical in all area including the legislations.

She said no workshop would be useless in terms of enhancing capacity of persons, adding that the more the country introduces capacity building, especially in science and technology to introduce ICT, the better for the country.

## Anambra gov wants Awka prison relocated

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

ANAMBRA State governor Peter Obi has present a formal complaint to the Interior Minister Capt Emmanuel Ihenacho about prison congestion in his state, particularly at Oka prison.

He also requested the Federal Government's approval for the relocation of Awka Prisons built in 1909 to a new site, because the location is bad.

The governor spoke when he visited the minister in Abuja.

Obi said this was not the first time he reported the matter but the authorities are yet to be addressed the situ-

ation.

He urged both the ministry and prison authorities to tackle prison congestion in Anambra State as they are plagued with over population, lack of basic amenities among others.

Obi said, "There is need for states to collaborate with the federal government in at all time because of the holistic nature of security in the country."

Responding, the Interior Minister said a master plan would soon be unveiled to address the numerous problems facing the Nigerian prisons.

Ihenacho said the three prisons located in Onitsha, Awka and Aguata have inmates overflow of about 250% and blamed this development on Awaiting Trial Syndrome.

He urged the governor to encourage his colleagues in the Governors' Forum to use the prerogative of mercy as enshrined in the 1999 Constitution by reviewing the cases of those Awaiting Trials.

Ihenacho used the occasion to commend the Lagos State government for initiating the building of a new prison that has capacity for 30,000 inmates in Epe.

## FRSC wants alcohol sales banned at motor parks

By Misbahu Bashir

SALE of alcohol beverages and other intoxicants should be stopped by government in all motor parks, the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) has said.

FRSC Zone 7 Commander Eloka O. Anyaoku said drink driving causes fatal accidents on the roads.

He said at a meeting with the Zone's Operation staffs in Abuja, "We want selling of alcohol to stop in motor parks to discourage drivers from drinking. Authorities concerned should stop it."

He said most drivers of commercial vehicles take beer before they embark on journeys and have their senses of reasoning, seeing and hearing impaired, adding that such conditions eventually lead to accidents which are mostly fatal.

"Most of the drivers claimed to be drinking local liquors for treatment of malaria while others assume it 'shines eyes' (correct sight). Drink driving is against traffic regulation and those involved are prosecuted," he said.

He said the commission's engineers have taken the records of good and bad roads in the zone comprising

of Federal Capital Territory and Niger State and found a number of them in a state of disrepair.

"The Bida-Mopa road with high traffic contains too much potholes while the Abuja-Lokoja road is narrow," he said.

The FRSC Sector Commander in Abuja, Nsibong Akpabio said patrols have intensified to reduce accidents during the rainy season. He said drivers must ensure their vehicle braking systems are good and their tyres and head lights are also good before driving in the rains. "People with sight defects should correct their sights," he said.

## Mining: Nigeria to get additional \$80m from W/Bank

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

NIGERIA will soon get additional World Bank grant of \$80m (N120bn) for the development of the country's mining sector, Minister of Mines and Steel Development Arch. Musa Muhammad Sada said yesterday.

The minister said this shortly after a familiarisation tour of the parastatals under his ministry in Abuja.

He said Nigeria is expecting about \$80m and currently has a committee working on the conditionality because the money is not free and would be returned back.

The minister said the country's mineral resources which are located at different places across the country, may prove difficult for the government to explore them singlehandedly.

The World Bank agreement, he said, advocates that if you have industry to produce something reliable, the global body can serve as facilitator to ensure that the commodity becomes available.

He however said that Nigeria cannot rely on the World Bank forever because one day it would go, since its activities are terminal. "They are just helping the country and we would not wait till they leave before we act. We are planning for that."

## NANS gives Senate 7 days to inaugurate Igbeke

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

THE National Association of Nigerian Students (NANS) has given the Senate President Chief David Mark a seven-day ultimatum to swear in Senator Alphonsus Igbeke of ANPP or face the wrath of Nigerian students.

Speaking at a press conference NANS President Comrade Kingsley Ezekwelu said Senator Joy Emodi should desist parading herself as a senator since the Court of Appeal in Enugu has already ruled that Igbeke is the valid winner of the seat she was occupying.

NANS also called on the Attorney General of the Federation to institute criminal proceedings in the relevant court against Senator Joy Emodi for allegedly contravening Section 57 of the Constitution.

According to NANS, if the demands were not met within seven days, "We shall be left with no option than to storm the National Assembly in our numbers and make it impossible for the upper chamber to carry out its legislative business."

## Peace Corps asks court to strike out case

By John Chuks Azu

AN FCT High Court sitting in Gudu, Abuja, presided over by Justice Abubakar Talba, has been asked by the Peace Corps of Nigeria to strike out case against the organisation.

Counsel to Peace Corps of Nigeria Chris Akashi, in a Preliminary Objection (PO) filed before the court, objected to an oral application for adjournment made by counsel to the Police, Simon Lough on the grounds that he needs to cross check whether the Police was served the said PO or not.

Akashi argued that it is ample that the police have been served since 28 February, 2010.

The Nigerian Police raided the headquarters of Peace Corps on October 1, 2009 and arraigned its National Commandant Dickson Akor and nine others over allegations of undermining the security of Nigeria by operating an illegal paramilitary organization.

Justice Talba has adjourned the case to Tuesday May 18, 2010 for Police to respond to the Preliminary Objection.



SPEAKER, House of Representatives, Dimeji Bankole, signing the condolence register of the late President Umaru Musa Yar'adua at the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

## FG to use ICT to reduce maternal mortality

By Ruby Leo

THE federal government has introduced the use of mobile phones and internet facilities at 815 designated primary health facilities in the country to enhance strategies put in place to reduce maternal and infant mortality.

The ICT components of the intervention scheme are aimed at bridging all communication gaps between the midwives and pregnant women especially in emergency situation.

Executive Director National Primary Healthcare Development Agency (NPHCDA) Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate said this at a stakehold-

ers' forum on the Midwives Service Scheme aimed at providing updates on the progress made on the scheme.

"Through the ICT components of the scheme, the midwives can enter information on their daily encounter which can be accessible anywhere through the internet.

"The mobile phones have been installed in the 815 designated health facilities. Through this the midwives can enter information that can be entered in our server to tell us whether the intervention is going up or not. It will also enable them communicate regularly with their patients especially during emergencies.

"Further to the selection of 815 designated health facilities (652 primary health care facilities and 163 general hospitals) under the scheme based on agreed eligibility criteria, two thousand four hundred and eighty eight (2,488) successful midwives were deployed to the selected primary health care facilities in rural areas with about 2,323 currently retained," he said.

In his speech, the Minister of Health Professor Christian Chukwu, who was represented by the Minister of State Alhaji Suleman Bello, said the federal government has adopted primary health care as the corner stone of the national health system.

## N90m fraud: EFCC re-arraigns Lagos socialite

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) yesterday re-arraigned a Lagos socialite, Sunday Akinyemi, and his accomplice, Olu Osho on a 30 count charge of conspiracy to steal, stealing, forgery and uttering.

Akinyemi, who is equally wanted by security agents in the United States and his ally were said to have conspired to steal about N90 million from Texas Connection Ferries Limited, when Akinyemi held sway as its

managing director.

The accused persons, who pleaded not guilty to the charges brought against them, were standing trial before Justice J. Adebajo of the Igbosere High Court, Lagos.

A statement by EFCC spokesman Femi Babafemi said plan by the accused persons' counsel Professor Ibidapo Obe to move for their bail opposed by the commission's counsel, Muslim Hassan.

The prosecution lawyer informed the court that he was entitled to at least 48 hours to study the motion

served on him by the defence counsel.

Justice Adebajo thereafter adjourned the case to May 18 for ruling on the bail application while agreeing that the prosecution counsel was statutorily entitled to time to study the application and respond. He ordered that the accused be returned to prison custody.

Akinyemi who had earlier been convicted for fraud in the US and his co-traveller have spent about three months in prison custody for their alleged offence.

## REA scam: court wants Ugbane, Elumelu, others to consolidate motions

By John Chuks Azu

THE FCT High Court in Gudu, Abuja, has ordered Senator Nicholas Ugbane, Rep Ndudi Elumelu and seven others to consolidate their motions with extant applications in court to expedite the on-going trial.

Giving the order yesterday, Justice A.I. Banjoko expressed worry over the delay in the trial owing to the continued filing of motions and

counter motions by counsels to the accused persons.

She said the court will no longer admit any application after the next date. "It is either counsels align with existing motions or sit on the fence".

Senator Ugbane, Rep Elumelu, Engr Samuel Gekpe, Dr Abdul-lahi Aliyu and Simon Nanle were arraigned by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on May 14th, 2009 for alleg-

edly awarding some rural electricity contracts to the tune of N5.2 billion to some companies without due process and verifying same as purportedly executed.

Others arraigned are Engr Lawrence Orekoya, Abdulsalam Jahun, Barr Kayode Oyedeji and Jibo Mohammed.

Counsels to the accused have brought conflicting emotions in relation to the clients.

# Riot in Abeokuta over police shooting

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

A day after the police in Ogun State saved what could have been an ugly situation in Ifo council area, the shooting of a 23 year-old man in Sabo area of Abeokuta caused riots from restive youths who attempted to burn the local divisional police station.

When our correspondent visited the area at about 3.30pm yesterday, about 200 youths vowed to sack the police station if the man, identified Rasheed Omolowo eventually died from the injuries sustained from the

shooting before he was rushed to the state general hospital, Ijaye.

But, the Police Area Commander, A.O. Oyekunle, who spoke to our correspondent at the Ilupeju Divisional Headquarters, Sabo, Abeokuta, assured that Rasheed was responding to treatment at the hospital. He also debunked the claim that he was shot, declaring, "he only got wounded when he was trying to escape."

However, virtually all those who spoke at the tension soaked community said Rasheed was shot at close range as the Police Officer, commonly called "Fash",

had earlier threatened to "deal" with him for not allowing the arrest of his brother, Faruk, following a complaint from Faruk's girlfriend.

Faruk who spoke with our correspondent said his girlfriend, Rita, had gone to the police station to report a misunderstanding between them. "Three of them (policemen) arrived at our place with Fash setting his rifle as if he wanted to arrest a criminal. My brother who sensed that there was a relationship between Fash and Rita resisted my being arrested and at that juncture, he was arrested

instead and whisked away to the station.

"Before I could get to the station I heard gun shots and when I ran to the station, I saw my brother in a pool of blood," Faruk said.

At the time of filing this report, shops in the Hausa dominated area were closed, while the police team, led by the Area Commander and the Divisional Police Officer (D.P.O.), I.I. Emenari, were trying to calm down the youths. Faruk and Rasheed are both of Ghanaian parents, a development that also drew the ire of their fellow compatriots.



FROM left: Mr. Ralph Osayemeh, past president, CIBN and Mr. Femi Ekundayo, past president, CIBN decorating Mr. Laoye Jaiyeola with the badge of office after his elected as President/Chairman of Council at the 2009 AGM in Lagos, recently. Mr. Jaiyeola is the 16th president of the institute.

## Police nab man, 81, for gun making

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

POLICE authorities in Ondo State have apprehended an 81 year old man, Joe Ogundele, who specialised in manufacturing locally made guns and pistols for different gangs of armed robbers in the state. The octogenarian was arrested by the men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS)

Ondo State Police Command in Idanre Local Government Area of the state last weekend.

Ogundele's arrest was based on the confession of one armed robber who hinted the police that he was the one who usually sells locally made pistols to members of the gang. Based on this information, the police went into action by invading Idanre to arrest Ogundele, a blacksmith and head of the local hunters called "olu-ode" in Yoruba language. The octogenarian was picked up by police detectives in his workshop at Idanre, his home town.

However, the unruffled Pa. Ogundele while speaking with *Daily Trust*, said he was framed up. "I don't know any of the robbers. The locally made pistols recovered from the robbery gang were not my hand work, there is no way I will not recognize my work outside," he said. He said his detractors used the robbers to frame him up to dent his image.

The State Police Commissioner Mr. Ballah Magaji Nasarawa said the command was currently investigating the case with a view to getting to the root of the matter.

He said the high rate of environmental degradation especially through illegal tree felling, was alarming and called for drastic measures to curtail the damage.

"In addition to planting trees, we have also commenced sensitisation campaign on the dangers of tree felling and other activities inimical to the environment. "We have been visiting schools and also talking to community and religious leaders to come to the rescue of the environment," Suleiman said.

## Court sentences man to death for sodomy

A Shari'ah court in Alkalari, Bauchi State, yesterday sentenced a 35-year-old man, Sani Sallau, to death by stoning for having sexual intercourse with a minor.

The accused was arraigned before the court by hisba officials (Shari'ah enforcers) in Alkalari Local Government Area.

The prosecutor, Malam Mohammed Abdullahi, a hisba official, told the court that the accused person was caught having an affair with the 'almajiri' (name withheld).

Abdullahi said the suspect committed the offence on May 3 in Alkalari, headquarters of Alkalari Local Government Area.

He said the accused was charged with sodomy which contravened the Shari'ah law being enforced in the state.

Sallau pleaded guilty as charged.

The judge, Malam Muhammad Muhammad, ordered the accused be stoned to death since he had confessed to the offence in line with the provision of the Shari'ah law. (NAN)

## NGO to plant 22,000 trees in Gombe

A Gombe-based NGO, "Jewel Habitat 2000 and Beyond," is to plant and nurture 22,000 tree seedlings to form shelterbelt across the state in 2010.

Malam Babayo Suleiman, the President of the organisation, disclosed this in an interview in Gombe yesterday, saying that arrangements had been concluded on how to procure the seedlings.

According to him, 2,000 seedlings will be planted in each of the 11 local government areas of the state.

He said the high rate of environmental degradation especially through illegal tree felling, was alarming and called for drastic measures to curtail the damage.

"In addition to planting trees, we have also commenced sensitisation campaign on the dangers of tree felling and other activities inimical to the environment.

"We have been visiting schools and also talking to community and religious leaders to come to the rescue of the environment," Suleiman said.

He said the state Assembly had a big role to play, especially in the area of enacting laws to protect the environment and also ensuring the implementation of the laws.

He also appealed to journalists to partner with his organisation in sensitising members of the public, especially rural communities, on the dangers of indiscriminate tree felling. (NAN)

## Judge cautions Zenith Bank over court orders

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

AN Asaba High Court Judge, Justice Stephen Oseji, has cautioned the management of Zenith Bank for disobeying his order of September 7 last year to pay N11million to Dr. Peter Isibor (JP), Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer of Peterson Clor International Ltd.

The court had on September 7, 2009 ordered the management of the bank to release the money to Dr Isibor who had instituted a court action against it for stopping him

(Isibor) from operating his account after securing a N15 million loan.

Isibor had told the court that the N15million loan he secured from the bank had an initial 21 percent interest rate but surprisingly, the bank catapulted the rate to 47percent. Obviously stunned by the bank's disobedience to the court order, the trial judge, Justice Stephen Oseji, asked it to explain why it did not comply, or face the law. But the quick intervention of the lead counsel to the bank, Mr. A.O. Emordi, who pleaded "respect-

fully" with the judge by offering a vivid explanation why the management of the bank could not carry out the order, saved the defendant/respondent from being sent to jail. Mr Emordi, after several hours of pleading with the court, explained that the plaintiff, Mr Isibor, had collected close to N6million of the said N11million from the bank and made a fresh request of N11million which the bank failed to oblige him. However, the explanation offered by Mr. Emordi did not go down well with the judge who cautioned

against contempt of court. Justice Oseji therefore directed Mr. Emordi to advise his clients to always obey whatever the court says and not interpret it. The judge said everyone, including institutions, was bound to obey court orders to avoid contempt. "Please go and make sure the bank obeys us because the action of the bank officials is nothing but contempt of court which in the eyes of the law is an insult to the judicial system," said Justice Oseji.

The counsel to the plaintiff, Mr. Chucks Uwagboi, at this point,

informed the court that the defendant/respondent did not only refuse to release the N11million but also they did not allow his client (Isibor) to withdraw his N40 million sent into the account by several sources. Both counsels pleaded with the court to grant them seven days within which to file and serve their written addresses and counter affidavit on the matter.

Justice Stephen Oseji, however, granted their requests and adjourned the case till June 3, 2010 to address the court.

# Lagos to commence oil exploration

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE Lagos State government in collaboration with some oil exploration and production companies will soon commence construction works that would enable oil exploration in the state, the state Commissioner for Waterfront and Infrastructure Development,

Prince Adesegun Oniru has said.

Speaking at a news conference to mark the third anniversary of the Governor Babatunde Fashola's administration, the commissioner said construction works would start before the end of 2010, when a vast deposit of oil resources would be explored to augment the Internally Generated Revenue of the state. According to

Oniru, a gas exploration firm has been engaged to remove the gas so that oil production and exploration can take off immediately.

"We are going to flare gas. We are planning to explore it to generate more revenue and protect the environment," he said.

Oniru added that oil production and exploration in the state had been largely constrained due

to a large volume of gas lying on the oil resources, saying the constraints had been addressed.

"The Department of Petroleum Resources, a Federal agency has since granted Yinka Folawiyo Petroleum Company Limited OML 113, British Gas Exploration and Production Limited OPL 223 to operate on the oil fields in the state. We learnt that a vast deposit

of gas was found lying there. To exploit oil, there is a need to get the gas out first," he said.

On the Eko Atlantic City, the commissioner said that investors had been showing interests in the project and that the state government had created a marketing unit to assess the proposals of prospective investors.

## Wind, rain destroy 80 houses in Birnin Magaji

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

WIND and rain storms Monday destroyed more than 80 houses in Birnin Magaji Local Government Area of Zamfara State, there by rendering many families homeless.

Our correspondent gathered that the wind and heavy down pour which also destroyed some parts of the local government secretariat caused pandemonium among inhabitants of the area who scampered for safety as they never experienced such. Our correspondent gathered that no death was recorded and those affected are now taking refuge in the houses of their relatives. Some of the villages worse hit by the storm are Tungar Janbuzu, Bani-ga-Hannu and Goro. The council Chairman Alhaji Ibrahim Umar while inspecting the areas, charged the victims to consider the incident as an act of God and promised that his council would do everything possible to assist them. He also called on the state government and the State Emergency Management Agency to come to their aid, saying the disaster was so enormous and his council alone could not handle it. The Emir of Birnin Magaji Alhaji Mustapha Usman while sympathizing with the victims urged them to consider the incident as an act of God.

no death was recorded and those affected are now taking refuge in the houses of their relatives



FROM left: Leader of the Indian Delegation on cotton and textiles, Mr. Ravi Bangar; Minister of Commerce and Industry, Chief Jubril Martins-Kuye; Minister of State, Josephine Tapgun; Manager, IL&FS clusters company, Dr Milan Sharma and the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Mahesh Sachdev, after a meeting in Abuja yesterday

## Niger to spend N2.3 billion on roads

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Niger State government has earmarked N2.5 billion for road construction, the state Deputy Governor Musa Ibeto has said.

The deputy governor in a

statement yesterday in Minna said a total of 56 kilometres road network is to be captured under the project.

"The Niger State government has embarked on the construction of a 56 kilometre road to link the border town of Babana

and Luma village in Borgu Local Government Area of the state at the cost of N2.3 billion. The state government also has plans to move machineries and equipments to the 25 local governments with a view to enhancing the construction of feeder roads

in all the 274 wards in the state", he said.

He said the road construction was expected to herald the opening of a border market in Babana to boost commercial activities in the area.

## Court grants kidnapper bail

A suspected kidnapper, John Peters, yesterday in Lagos got a reprieve when an Ikeja Magistrate's Court granted him bail. The accused was admitted to a bail of N100, 000 for allegedly kidnapping Williams Elenikhena. However, the court was yet to disclose if the kidnapping was for ransom or other purposes.

Peters, 26, who is facing a four-count charge of kidnapping, stealing and impersonation, however, pleaded not guilty. Arraigning Peters, the prosecutor, ASP N. Sule told the court that the accused with others still at large kidnapped Elenikhena and took him to an unknown destination and detained him.

He alleged that the accused also impersonated a soldier by dressing in a Nigerian Army uniform. According to him, Peters also robbed his relation, Jessica Elenikhena, of 2,000 Euros, a gold necklace valued at N160, 000 and a pair of gold rings also valued at N45,000. He said the offences which were committed on April 2 at 2, Abigail Ogulana Close, Asipa- Ayobo, a Lagos suburb, contravened Sections 109 (a), 364 (2) and 402 (1) of the Criminal Code, Laws of Lagos State, The Magistrate, Mrs O. A. Ogunbowale gave the accused bail in the sum of N100, 000 and two sureties in like sum and adjourned the case till June 26. (NAN)

## Abia announces minor cabinet reshuffle

GOVERNOR Theodore Orji of Abia yesterday in Umuhia announced a minor cabinet reshuffle in five of the 18 ministries in the state. A statement signed by Chief Donatus Okorie, Secretary to the State Government (SSG) stated that the ministries affected are Petroleum, Youth Development, Lands, Commerce and Sports. According to the statement, Chief Emeka Nwachukwu, the Commissioner for Lands and Survey, moves to Sports while the Commissioner for Sports Charles Nwamuo takes over the Ministry of Petroleum.

The Commissioner for Petroleum, Chief Ezekwesiri Anaba, moves to Commerce and Indus-

try, while the former Commissioner for Commerce Victor Ubani, who had been on indefinite suspension, takes charge of Special Duties. Prince Emeka Okafor moves from Special Duties to Youth Development, while Dr Roseline Ndumele, Commissioner for Youths takes over Lands and Survey. The SSG stated that the movement was with immediate effect and advised the affected commissioners to move to their new ministries.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner for Finance, Chief Jones Udorgu, who was suspended indefinitely by the governor, has been recalled. Udorgu resumed on Monday. (NAN)

# Thieves raid school in Jigawa

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

SIX hostels of the Government Girls Arabic School, Birniwa in Jigawa State were raided Monday by thieves, who carted away foodstuff belonging to the stu-

dents.

Our correspondent gathered that the thieves gained access into the school through the back, while the students were sleeping outdoors due to the intense heat. Confirming the incident, the

state Commissioner for Education Professor Haruna Wakili said government had directed that a list of the students affected be taken so that government could assist them.

"When the case was reported

to the police, they advised government to improve security in the school and government has already directed the school authority to recruit more security personnel to complement those already in the school.

I visited the school yesterday and discovered that, the students were calm and I directed the principal to do everything possible to assist the affected students as government is doing its best to address the situation," he said.

## Two arraigned for killing woman

TWO drivers, Abiola Apena (34) and Wasiu Ogunbiade (28) who allegedly hit a lady while driving their different vehicles were yesterday arraigned in Lagos State. The drivers are facing a two-count charge of manslaughter and reckless driving before Magistrate O. A. Adegite in Ikeja.

The accused, however, pleaded not guilty to the charges. The prosecutor, ASP W. Wagbara, said Apena and Ogunbiade recklessly drove a Toyota Hiace bus and a Vanagon bus respectively on April 30 and in quick succession knocked down one Miss Mercy Phillips. Wagbara said Phillips, who resided at No. 26, Ezekiel St. in Ikeja, died at the Lagos State University Teaching Hospital where she was taken to for medical attention.

Wagbara added that the accused also inflicted injuries on some other road users during the incident. He noted that the alleged offences were punishable under sections 18 and 28 (D) of the Lagos State Criminal Code.

Adegite granted bail to the accused persons in the sum of N100,000 and two sureties each, and adjourned the case till May 17 for further hearing.

(NAN)

## Borno govt awards scholarships to 63 law students

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

THE Borno State government has awarded scholarships to 63 indigenes of the state currently in Law Schools across the country, the Executive Secretary of the Borno State Scholarship Board Bukar Jilanbu has said.

Jilanbu who spoke yesterday in Maiduguri said each student is expected to get N230,000.00.

The state Commissioner for Education, Ashabe Vilita Bashir who was represented by the Director of School Management in the Ministry of Education Abubakar Musa while presenting cheques to the students, urged them to reciprocate government's gesture by excelling in their studies.

He noted that the money would go a long way in helping the students tackle some their financial obligations.



OGUN State Governor Otunba Gbenga Daniel flanked by the Managing Director, Ogun State Property and Investment Corporation Kola Omobo and the lead consultant Oluwale Olumide during the inspection of the ongoing construction of the multi storey twin tower of the OPIC headquarters in Abeokuta, yesterday.

## FRSC arrests 315 traffic offenders in Imo

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Imo State apprehended 315 traffic offenders and impounded 34 vehicles between May 3 and 7, 2010, according to a statement signed by the command's Public Education Officer, Ekong Imo Achibong.

The statement added that the offenders were arrested during the second phase of the "Operation Eagle Eye" exercise.

He said they were arrested

for seat belt violation, light/caution sign violation and fire extinguisher violation.

The Imo State Sector Commander Mr. Angus Ibezim in the statement said the major objective of the operation was to improve compliance to traffic rules and regulations.

Ibezim advised drivers to desist from using phones while driving.

He said roads crashes had reduced due to the constant patrols by the command.

## Trial of murder suspect suffers setback

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

THE trial of a murder suspect, one Goodnews Atanomemta by an Asaba High Court on Monday suffered a setback, following the absence of the state prosecution counsel, Mrs. Tosan Mene.

Atanomemta is accused of killing late Mrs. Ngozi Asiwe nee Ebuka, the former bursar of the Ogbulu Secondary School in Oshimili North Local Government Area of Delta State. He suspect allegedly killed the lady, who is also alleged to have been her lover on March 21,

2009, at her Asaba residence over N200,000.

Mr. H. Ofili, a senior state counsel, who represented the state prosecution counsel, told the court that Mrs. Mene was not in court because she was handling another matter in another court. Ofili added that the prosecution counsel asked him to hold brief and to plead with the court to adjourn the case. The defense counsel, Mr. Samson A. Erevure, raised no objections to the application and the presiding judge, Justice Stephen Oseji, adjourned the case till June 14, 2010.

## Man in court over motor tout's death

A 31-year-old man, who claimed to have been in the Navy, Kizito Udueze, was yesterday arraigned before an Ebute Meta Chief Magistrate's Court in Lagos for causing the death of a motor park tout.

Udueze was brought before Chief Magistrate Oyindamola Ogala on a one-count charge of murder.

The prosecutor, Insp. Eshiet Eshiet, said the tout, Abiodun Akanni, died after he was hit by a vehicle while running away from Udueze who wanted to attack him with a jack. He said the incident occurred on March 26

at Palm Grove Bus Stop along Ikorodu Road, Lagos, but that Akanni died two days later in a hospital.

The prosecutor added that Udueze wanted to attack Akanni after the deceased slapped him and left him with a bleeding nose.

Eshiet explained that the accused had alighted from a bus to separate a fight between the tout and another man over a disagreement on payment of bus fare.

He said as the deceased ran across the Ikorodu Road to escape Udueze's blow, he was hit by an oncoming vehicle.

Eshiet noted that the offence contravened section 325 of the Criminal Code of Lagos State. The accused, however, pleaded not guilty, and was granted bail in the sum of N100,000 with two sureties in like sum.

**The prosecutor added that Udueze wanted to attack Akanni after the deceased slapped him and left him with a bleeding nose**

# Woman kidnaps 3-year-old baby, demands N.8m ransom

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

A 20 year-old woman was yesterday paraded by the Lagos State Police Command for allegedly kidnapping a 3 year old baby for one month and asking the parents to

pay a ransom of N800,000.00. The lady, Nkechinyere Madu, said the father of the child, one Hakeem Okerinde, asked her to be his girl friend and promised to give her N400,000 as well as rent an apartment for her. She said, she kid-

napped the child because the girl's father refused to fulfill his promises to her. Miss Madu said, she went to the child's school and told her to follow her (Nkechinyere) to see her mother. She added that she took the girl to one of her boy-

friend's house in Lagos and told him that the child belonged to her elder sister, who had travelled abroad. But the father of the baby, Mr. Hakeem Okerinde, said he did not have any agreement with the woman, saying the woman works

in the same place as his wife. He added that she might have gotten the number from his wife.

The police said the parents of the baby with their help negotiated with the lady till she reduced the amount to N400,000.

## Dapo Sarumi, others decamp to PDP

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

FORMER Information Minister Dapo Sarumi and some members of the Action Congress (AC) yesterday decamped to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Lagos State.

Sarumi said the PDP has what it takes to give the AC a good challenge in 2011 election.

He said their return to the party was not to factionalize it, but to ensure that its presence is felt in Lagos State as well as the entire country.

Chairman of the PDP in Lagos, Kosefodoh said, "Our opponents are now threatened. 1000 AC members cannot stop us, because of the caliber of people we now have in the party," he said.

Those present at the occasion include former deputy governors of the state, Otunba Femi Pedro and Senator Koforola Akerele-Bucknor.

## Gov's wife tasks women on entrepreneurship

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

WIFE of the Rivers State Governor, Dame Judith Amaechi, has charged female taxi drivers in the state, popularly called ESI Lady Cabbies to utilize the women empowerment scheme to discover themselves and develop their entrepreneurial skills.

Mrs. Amaechi said this during the inauguration of the ESI Lady Cabbies Association in Port Harcourt. Mrs Amaechi, who is the founder of ESI and Initiator of the ESI Lady Cabbies said the objective of the scheme was not only to make women commercial taxi drivers, but to develop their hidden skills and entrepreneurial acumen.

She charged the women to be law abiding and submissive to their husbands.



## MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY



Constituency legacies are those humanitarian projects initiated, implemented and bequeathed to the deserving communities as related to our elected political office holders. As the nation draw closer to another elective year, it becomes imperative that lawmakers will be taking inventory and account for the stewardship of services they rendered to uplift the well being of their people. As it affects the state and federal lawmakers, quite a good number have demonstrated kindness and generosity vis-a-vis their electioneering promises. They are trailing the blazing of good representation through provision of constituency projects and contribute to debates, bills and other sundry issues of national importance.

To celebrate our National Assembly representatives, Media Trust Limited, the publishers of *Daily Trust*, *Weekly Trust*, *Sunday Trust* and *Aminiya* newspapers, is packaging a special project on the above subject [MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY]. The aim is to applaud and highlight the contributions of individual lawmaker who has demonstrated kindness to his/her people. Given the foregoing, federal lawmakers are invited to participate in the project as a way of showcasing their contributions [Constituency projects] executed to the admiration of their various constituencies.

For participation/enquiries, please contact :

Leke Adelere on 08059100282

Lilian Tanimola 08052377534.

The date of publication is from Monday, May 17 to Saturday, May 31, 2010.

Thank you as we anticipate your participation.

Management

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TRUST IS A BURDEN

# Online Reactions

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



**CBN Governor, Sanusi  
LAMIDO Sanusi**

## Why Sanusi should resign now —Shareholders

I am quite sure Sanusi is doing a great job in sanitizing the banking industry. A few disgruntled elements who are not comfortable with his reforms are the ones calling for his head. These elements, in civilized societies, will not be walking the street now as free people. The issue of corruption in Nigeria has become a household problem and we should not allow it to continue because of its devastating effects on the nation. Any method/way employed in taming or extricating corruption in the country should be welcomed and encouraged.

The president should not listen to the like of Nwosu. I don't think he means well for this country. A buoyant economy will be able to accommodate a larger workforce with time. We should therefore give Sanusi a chance. I believe he means well for the nation.

**Abdullahi Ibrahim**  
[giriabdul@yahoo.com](mailto:giriabdul@yahoo.com)

## Encounters with Umaru Yar'adua

GOING through the story, I was reminded of how so alike we all are in our everyday struggles with life. Preferment to high office may make some people seem larger than life... but alas we all are human. May his soul rest in peace.

**Eddy**  
[olsiite@yahoo.com](mailto:olsiite@yahoo.com)

## To avoid OBJ's fourth term

NONSENSE! OBJ might have his personal faults but any suggestion that he would prefer Nigeria to break-up for whatever reason is not tenable. Jonathan is man enough to make his own decisions. Insinuating that OBJ is evil is quite unfortunate because that man built the country to the best of his ability.

**A. K**  
[greatnaija@gmail.com](mailto:greatnaija@gmail.com)

# Vice-President - IBB demands free hand for Jonathan

I agree with the General that the choice of Vice President should be left to the President because we Nigerians do not want to see another Obasanjo/ Atiku kind of presidency. He should be allowed to choose a man of good character and principles so that together they can move the country forward. He needs a team player who understands the situation in the country.

**Abdulkadir S. Daura**  
[dauraas@hotmail.com](mailto:dauraas@hotmail.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Yes this is quite agreeable. What our former military ruler has said is right and acceptable because I think that is the only way that the President and his Vice will work hand in hand to move the nation forward. Imposing somebody on him can lead to quarrel and bad blood between them and that can place the nation in another new crisis. That is not something we are praying for.

**Abubakar Chika Maru**  
[abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com](mailto:abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

We must go back to IBB to make Nigeria and Nigerians better. Obasanjo's imposition method is not democracy and does not bode well for the country.

**Muhamad Sagir Bununu**  
[mgwaska@yahoo.com](mailto:mgwaska@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Really General Babangida has said the truth. Let us give our President the liberty to decide who should be the Vice Presi-



**PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan**

dent so that they can work hand in hand for the interest of the country. Obasanjo's behavior is un-becoming. Mr. President the choice is yours. May Allah give you the strength to take our dear nation to greater heights.

Don't allow people to rule you. You are the President and Commander-in-Chief. Choose the right person that you can work together with for the interest of our dear country.

**Kabir Ibrahim Gusau**  
[ahlulzikri@yahoo.com](mailto:ahlulzikri@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

I think our past leaders are now

ready to play their role which is the offering of constructive advice irrespective of who it will discomfit. I hail IBB for his advice and pray that there is no surprise waiting behind the doors.

**Abdullahi Sani**  
[malsanigwarzo@yahoo.com](mailto:malsanigwarzo@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

IBB, ATIKU, Buhari, and co. should go and rest while people like Goodluck should pilot the affairs of this Nation. How on earth did IBB think he can come & rule; IBB the one who midwife the murder of a free & fair election in Nigeria?

**Njoku o Njoku**  
[wandanjoku@yahoo.com](mailto:wandanjoku@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

It will be quite remarkable if Jonathan is allowed to choose the Vice President of his choice without external influences.

**Aminu Baye**  
[aminubayeman@ymail.com](mailto:aminubayeman@ymail.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

It is just proper to give the President the free hand to choose his Vice. In doing this, Mr. President should stay away from people with dubious motives who do not mean well for this country. He will find himself ending like such people if he chooses to follow in their steps.

**Abubakar Abbas**  
[abt302000@yahoo.com](mailto:abt302000@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

If I were in the shoes of President Goodluck Jonathan, I will take the bull by the horns in tackling the numerous challenges confronting Nigeria...how you tackle these issues will serve as important yardsticks in determining your political future.

**Mujahid Ajah Matazu**  
[mujahidajah@yahoo.com](mailto:mujahidajah@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

We hope what he has said was truly meant in the interest of the nation and not in furtherance of some hidden political agenda because the IBB we have come to know cannot have such a statement genuinely attributed to him.

**Imam Inuwa Gwale**  
Author E-mail: [iigimam@yahoo.com](mailto:iigimam@yahoo.com)

## Jonathan moves into Yar'adua's office

POINT of correction, it is The President's office and not Yar'adua's office.

**Owoicho**  
[senator002@yahoo.com](mailto:senator002@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Is it Yar'adua's personal office or the chair of the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria? Please let the soul of that gentle-

man rest in peace.

**Labaran Abalaka**  
[ldabalaka@yahoo.com](mailto:ldabalaka@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

Sorry, it is the President's Office and should not be personalized by anyone. Mr Goodluck, please extend your good-luck to Nigeria.

**King David C.U**  
[kingdavidcu@live.com](mailto:kingdavidcu@live.com)

## Ibori: Court adjourns ruling to May 31

JAMES Ibori should come out and face the law.

**U. Ugobest**  
[uugobest@gmail.com](mailto:uugobest@gmail.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

The courts should not grant any kind of relief to Ibori con-

sidering that the man is a fugitive from justice right now. The main focus should be how to apprehend him so he would face justice.

**Mezzi Chimezzi**  
[cnwaobia@gmail.com](mailto:cnwaobia@gmail.com)

## Ogbulafor in the dock over N104m fraud

WHO are those against the PDP National Chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor? If not in Nigeria, where else will someone serve his country for over 10 years and then all of a sudden someone wants to probe his tenure in office? Was ICPC not in existence when he served as a Minister? What is wrong with our anti-graft agencies? He should have been probed

long ago and not now that there is a political crisis.

**Kabir Ibrahim Gusau**  
[ahlulzikri@yahoo.com](mailto:ahlulzikri@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

ICPC must be joking! Where were they when all these things were happening? Were they sleeping? Prince Vincent was a Minister in 2001, and now they are charging him. For what? May good save our

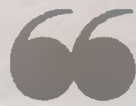
country.

**Nasiru Abdulmalik**  
[nasiruabdul75@yahoo.com](mailto:nasiruabdul75@yahoo.com)  
\*\*\*\*\*

The days of hope are coming back to settle in our land. At least the PDP National Chairman is already facing his own share of this 'national cake'. I pray these courts handling the cases of Ibori and Ogbulafor should please dispense

justice without delay, fear or favor. Ogbulafor and Ibori should stop begging to find their way out if they know that they are guilty. I believe all their cards have been played and when your card finishes in a gambling game, your next move is to take a bow and surrender the game. God bless Nigeria.

**Abdulrauf Abdullahi**  
[call4rauf@yahoo.com](mailto:call4rauf@yahoo.com)



By Tunde Asaju

## In memory of St. Yar'adua

It's been a very difficult week for me, if you must know. I have spent it searching the National Library archives for the virulent critics of Umaru Musa Yar'adua. Yar'adua was a man hated from the first day that he was rigged in as Nigeria's president. He persuaded the critical crowd when he admitted that his promotion to the seat as President was flawed and promised to do something to make sure that the *ojoro* never happens again.

He even dragged a retired Chief Justice out of retirement to make it seem real. But when the man finished his work, Yar'adua pocketed the report, poured water on its embers and sent it to the cooler at the National Assembly, where we all know no bills ever get passed except it's the federal budget.

To further worsen his position, Yar'adua began a series of health pilgrimages - flying between Germany and Saudi Arabia and burning our foreign reserves in the process when he ought to have quietly slept on his bed waiting for *mutuwa* to come and take him off his misery. Yar'adua promised to save

It did not take long before we began to pity Goodluck for being a hawk shorn of the talons he needed to hunt chicks

us from the darkness that NEPA has inflicted on us, but he could not muster enough courage to do it. Yar'adua attempted to increase the pump price of petrol and made us spend several man-hours queuing at the filling stations waiting to tank up even as Africa's second largest producer of petroleum.

When Yar'adua was making his final journey to Jeddah, he did not tell us. He did not tell even tell Goodluck Jonathan. It did not take long before we began to pity Goodluck for being a hawk shorn of the talons he needed to hunt chicks. Then Yar'adua did the worst, he spoke to us through BBC instead of the almighty NTA or FRCN. We thought that was insolence and we protested.

Based on that loud protest, the National Assembly stopped squabbling over who is senior and make Goodluck acting actor. Yar'adua's style of governance was so slow his name entered the menu list of most restaurants as a delicacy. Yar'adua was guilty of all these, tried and convicted in the court of public opinion and we never stopped to pray that either he would retire or die! And when he refused to do either, we shifted the blame on his loyal wife for doing nothing but fulfilling her marital vow of for better or for worse. We made her look worse

than Jezebel.

Yar'adua sneaked himself into the country like a thief in the night and stood like a looming shadow threatening Goodluck Jonathan whom he neither saw nor talked to. By doing all these Yar'adua fouled the effervescent political air and brought odium to us northerners as power hungry people. But last Wednesday, he decided he had had enough of it; packed it all up and went to heaven without Goodluck's permission. Can you imagine? Anyway, it was good riddance if you ask Goodluck. How do I know? Well, it's the seven-day mourning period that gave it all away. For while his corpse was floating on the bed he so refused to give up my new president could not wait to become substantive president. But in fairness, he was all smiles during the sombre moment ignoring the attention being shifted to the national corpse.

Although the ceremony and the honeymoon prevented him from following the corpse to Katsina, his tailor made him a new dress with which he paid condolence a few days later to show how much he missed his 'former boss and brother'. On the flight back, he instructed Julius Berger to clean up Yar'adua's office and quickly packed in, in case Yar'adua decided to resurrect during the national period of mourning.

To seal the act, he received some foreign dignitaries including Islamic officials for effect. Mr. New President, I remain loyal o. I hear Berger is fumigating the official residence to rid it of any leftover splinter of *pericarditis* and to rid the balcony of Yar'adua's ghost, especially the area where he used to jog whenever Goodluck was about to take a milestone decision. Long may the new president reign.

But all that is just for history, depending on which part of that we choose to remember. I have never stopped to be proud of Nigerians for their unmatched capacity to suffer from selective amnesia. Yar'adua is the best president Nigeria couldn't retain, ask his worst critics, but then there are none. While I was busy looking for the critics they too were busy, like me rummaging through the archives of the National Library.

When I finally found the old copy of Thesaurus left in the library, it had been torn beyond recognition by ex-critics turned praise singers, eager to outdo each other in the use of superlative words to eulogise the man we all love to hate.

If anyone has found an unrepentant critic of Shehu Musa Yar'adua, forward their names so that I can send them to him in heaven. But I bet you won't, the man they loved to hate has become the man they love to praise. Death sure deifies. Now OBJ can rest assured, history would be kind to him; and so should Babangida, when their time comes. Devil alive, saint at death, God help Nigeria.

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)



By Mustapha Ahmed

## Kwara 2011: Options for Oloye Saraki

Kwara State shares one basic feature with some states ahead of the 2011 general elections. These include Borno, Kano, Ogun and Osun, where the incumbent governors are not eligible to stand in the forthcoming general elections.

By implication, new helmsmen will come into the saddle by May 2011. The scenario has invariably thrown open the race for succession. At least, if the incumbent governors will not be vying in the states, the situation has widened the political space for the contest. Unless the outgoing governors have anointed their successors in favour of whom the incumbent factor will be deployed, many of the aspirants will have equal chances.

The Kwara political situation has been significantly different. The situation has been one of peace and accelerated development spearheaded by Governor Bukola Saraki.

Political watchers say developments in Kwara have never been witnessed on a scale as the one that is currently going on. They know it is the product of political peace that has pervaded the state for several years now. Yet, this is a state that would have been classified alongside Borno, Kano, Osun and Ogun in terms of political crisis, had this rating been done during the period, 1999 - 2003.

Not many know that the patriarch of the Saraki family and acclaimed Strongman of Kwara politics initially resisted pressure to endorse his son, Bukola's candidature for Governor in 2003, yielding only considerable thoughts. It was the right decision, as the last seven years has shown.

The story of Kwara under Bukola is

Now, we are at the twilight of that era, and people are asking, should this not be re-enacted in Kwara, with the attendant gains?

one of transformations that could only have been achieved under a peaceful atmosphere. The father set the stage for the atmosphere of peace and the son tapped into it. Now, we are at the twilight of that era, and people are asking, should this not be re-enacted in Kwara, with the attendant gains?

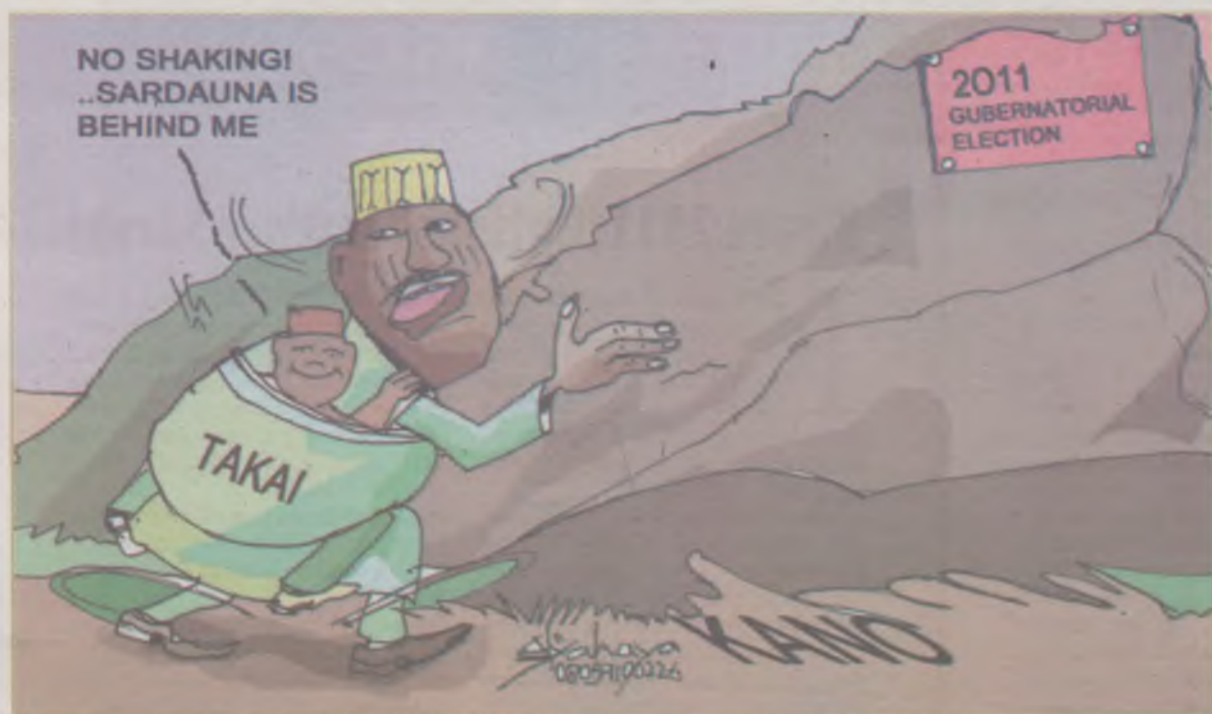
The answer obviously lies with the elder Saraki. As far as many people can recollect, the destiny of Kwara has been in the hands of this patriarch of the Saraki family. People attribute his influence in Kwara to his use of his immense wealth for the benefit of the people and society. Even before the second republic when he was Senate Leader through other eras when he aspired to become the president, he has been the source of political direction in Kwara. In 1979, at the outset of the second republic, Kwara followed him to the NPN, only in 1983 to do his bidding when he asked the people

to go with the UPN. In 1999, his APP produced the governor before "anointing" his son for governorship in 2003 to become the PDP flag bearer. Now, all eyes are on Saraki to give Kwara politics a direction again ahead of the 2011 gubernatorial election. Many contenders are already in the race cutting across the various political parties. They include Alhaji Fatai Ahmed, currently a commissioner in the state; Isa Bio-Ibrahim, a minister; Alhaji Saka Onimago, a former secretary to the state government, SSG; Professor Shuaib Oba Abdulraheem, a former vice chancellor of University of Ilorin and currently, chairman, Federal Character Commissioner; Senator Ahmed; Alhaji Sha'aba Lafiagi, a former governor of the state and member, BOT of the PDP; Senator Simeon Ajibola; Abdulrauf Kola Shittu; Alhaji Lai Mohammed, the AC spokesman; Col Theophilus Bamigboye (rtd); Mr. Gbenga Olawepo, former deputy national publicity secretary of the PDP and Senator Ajadi. The daughter of the elder Saraki, Senator Gbemisola Saraki-Fafowora, is also in the race.

The array of seasoned politicians vying for governor provides credible options from which the elder Saraki can choose. Yet, the question remains, how much of each of the aspirants does he know who would build on the current level of development?

Two schools of thought seem to provide the answer. The first believes the elder Saraki could back any of the contenders, especially those from his party, the PDP. But the backing goes with a caveat: Most of them are, at best, "strangers" to him, such that the re-enactment of the chaotic Lawal era is not completely ruled out, should any of them become governor. The second school is pointedly asking "Oloye", as he is otherwise called, to back his daughter, Gbemisola, for the office of governor, saying this is the only way to guarantee the continuation of peace that has characterized Kwara in recent years. The school argues that if the state is peaceful under the son, the likelihood is that it would be better sustained under the daughter, and Kwara will be better for it. She has adequate political experience for the job, having cut her political teeth as a member of the House of Representatives before election to the Senate, where she has provided robust representation for Kwara Central Senatorial District for the seventh year running and so rich and intimidating is her political profile that she was in contention for the Senate Presidency. The school dismisses any notion that the elder Saraki offering his daughter for the job of governor after his son would amount to turning Kwara into a dynasty, drawing examples from India where mother and son became head of government, and the US where father and son became president. The school asks the "Oloye" not to bend to the sentiment on the grounds that merit is what is best for Kwara in the next era, "merit that Gbemisola has in abundance". So in whose way would the elder Saraki nod?

Ahmed is in Department of Sociology, University of Ilorin.



## Your Letters

Send your letters to [letters@dailvtrust.com](mailto:letters@dailvtrust.com)

### Very unfair to ACF

Dear Mr Jide Babalola. Please read the insults rained on ACF by one Bolaji Samson on page 14 of *Daily Trust* of 5th May, 2010. It is all because of your incorrect reportage about ACF, especially about the so called political agenda. Another paper that is happy in misrepresenting ACF is the *Tribune*. Consider the reports by *Tribune* early this year that despite the release of a communiqué of NEC meeting of 16th December, 2009 in favour of resolving the politics of succession occasioned by late President Yar'adua's ailment constitutionally,

ACF met again the same day and urged Turai not to yield.

That was most untrue. Also consider your reports in the Nation that ACF met Goodluck and discussed issue of VP, as if ACF is not intelligent enough to know that matter of VP is exclusive preserve of the ruling party. Surely, ACF knows it is not PDP and so cannot dabble into party affairs. The courtesy call on the then Acting President was to invite him to the 10th Anniversary, and not to talk partisan matters. In any case, why should any meeting by ACF or Northern Elders be termed "secreté"? Democracy is not coup, and so not matter of secrecy but open contest of ideas and reasons.

As Prof Akinyemi said of ACF in his paper in the 10th Anniversary, the forum has clarity of thought and lucidity of expression because it owes no one any

apology for defending Northern interest, since such interest and that of the nation are not mutually exclusive. What ACF loathes is to ascribe unfounded motives to its actions. Finally, politics of powershift or rotation are agenda espoused and foisted on the nation by the South.

The North merely panders. And if the South has had its 8 years in the presidency, it is only fair for the people of the North to hanker for the turn of the North in the presidency. And in doing so, one does not expect the Northerners to present their fifth eleven. This is because the nation is searching for first eleven in national leadership. Speculative journalism and critiques of ACF are welcomed but they should be based on facts, and not fiction.

Anthony N.Z. Sani ACF, Kaduna.

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### Re: The curse of democracy

THE below-average performances of the intelligentsia are a problem; and the working class who are supposed to be the most politically conscious active thinking group have folded their arms. The youth also who are supposed to be the vanguard of social change have cursed their course! Ours is the political baptism of brigands. It seems we are lost in the abyss of political wilderness. **UBALE Bompai, Rano, Kano State, 08033246464.**

### What's the fuss about VP?

THE North West, North East or the North Central, what difference does it make where the next Vice President should hail from? I wonder why people are so selfish, Nigeria is 'one whole' so also is the North, regardless of which section you belong to. God help Nigeria.

Oga, President Jonathan, follow your instinct and choose wisely. **GAMBO Buba, Damaturu, 08034409661.**

### No puppet on string

MR president please do not allow these our self-centred governors to manipulate you like puppet; you are capable just like any other ex-president we ever had, and no one can take what God has given to you. **SHUAIBU Mohammed Garba, 08039647047.**

### Choose a woman

A female for a vice president in Nigeria is the correct thing to do; women talk without their tongue in cheek. **BENSON Sonai, Shongom, Gonbe state, 07034998246.**

### Please Sardauan Kano

DON'T impose a candidate that

we don't have guaranteed on to deliver the goods. **ADO Halilu, Doguwa, Kano State, 08131592999.**

### Gombe south senatorial district

WE want honest and vocal, highly talented person to replace our dear late Senator Umbi Wada. Governor Goje should not interfere in the process of making the selection. We will resist any attempt from any quarter to impose a candidate on us. **SADIQ A Ahmed, Federal Low Cost, Gombe, 08069315500.**

### How should we immortalise Yaradua?

NAME the University of Abuja after him. **MAXWELL Sokoto, 08039648802.**



By Abdullahi Usman

## The curse of democracy in Northern Nigeria (II)

Cont'd. from yesterday.

One often hears series of sad tales about the unrestrained activities of the so-called Area Boys in that state, but recent visits to Sokoto afforded me the unwelcomed opportunity of coming face to face with the stark reality of just how bad the situation has been allowed to degenerate. A combination of personal observations and several discussions with long standing friends and school mates revealed that Sokoto has indeed changed from what it used to be back in our days at Government College (now Nagarta College) Sokoto.

If you happen to be driving a nice-enough looking car of any brand around certain parts of Sokoto metropolis today, you should be ready to be accosted at any point in time by a group of social miscreants, demanding their own share of what "Alu" must have given to you. *Alu*, which is short for Aliyu in local parlance, is the name they call the state governor, and their belief (rightly or wrongly) is that you must have purchased the car you are driving with the financial largesse of "Alu's" government!

Only recently, the BBC reported that a miscreant was stabbed to death in the process of sharing a miserly sum of N3,000 doled out by an elected Councillor at the airport, where they had gone to see the Chief Executive off on one of his trips.

Another important indicator to the extent of the problem posed by these youths, most of who have either dropped out of school or are no longer interested in learning any trade, is the brazen manner in which they go about intimidating people under the influence of illicit drugs. In addition to the frequent harassments along the streets, they have also formed the habit of visiting people right in the comfort of their homes as part of the manifest extension of their extortionist tendencies. The situation is such that several residents have now resorted to arming themselves, while some have even devised a seemingly ingenious, even if risky, means of warding off the menace posed by these social miscreants via the engagement of well known hardened elements among them as guards. Even government offices are not spared as they regularly visit politicians and civil servants alike, brandishing dangerous weapons and claiming that they are the ones who put the workers in their respective offices! This type of unruly behaviour only serves to embolden the perpetrators to continuously raise the bar of their brazen level of lawlessness. I know of an industrious student who struggled to buy a motorcycle from the proceeds of a book he wrote, only to have it seized by these miscreants during last year's gubernatorial re-run elections in Sokoto. His only 'offense' was the fact that his motorcycle, which was incidentally purchased from another state, happened to be the same brand as that distributed by a rival candidate!

The situation may not be as bad in nearby Kebbi State, but that did not stop a well known social miscreant from ramming his car into a group of elderly people seated right in front of the house of a high ranking elder of the ruling party in the state. The sad incident, which occurred on April 12, 2010, resulted in the needless and avoidable loss of seven innocent lives, including the 75-year old party leader. The culprit, who had the infamous distinction of engaging his own biological father in fisticuffs, was reportedly drunk before the accident, with several bottles of alcohol and assorted drugs found in his vehicle. The sad irony of it all is that the younger brother of the late politician, who is the immediate past Chairman of Birnin Kebbi Local Government, is famous for harbouring and moving about with dangerous and well-armed thugs in his entourage. Despite (or perhaps because of) this, the state government still went ahead to appoint him as the Sole Administrator, following the recent dissolution of the Local Councils, in addition to re-nominating him as Chairmanship candidate for the forthcoming elections in what will be his fourth consecutive stint as Chairman/Sole Administrator!

Rather than coming together to jointly address the serious issues bedeviling the region, such as the problem of excruciating poverty arising from mass unemployment, massive infrastructural gaps, increasing decay in our educational system, the perennial *almajiri* syndrome and emerging youthful restiveness, our political leaders are busy compounding the problem by promoting the excesses of political thugs. As a result, there exists many of such miscreants in virtually every state of the North: from the dreaded 'Yan Kalare' of Gombe, to the so-called 'ECOMOG' in Borno, Sara Suka in Bauchi, 'Yan Daba' in the Kano/Jigawa axis, 'Yan Shinko' in Adamawa, 'Yan Banga' in Kebbi, 'Yan Kaura' in Katsina, and so on.

Usman ([usmanabd@gmail.com](mailto:usmanabd@gmail.com))

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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## All change at RMAFC

**T**he chairman of the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC), Engineer Hamman Tukur, and 24 other commission members officially vacate office today after the completion of their two-term tenure. Tukur and the affected commissioners were first appointed in 2000. Three other commissioners are also expected to complete their two tenures by September this year. Ten others who have more years to serve as commissioners in the Commission could have their appointments renewed for a second final term.

The 1999 Constitution and other extant legislation empower the Commission to monitor the accruals into and disbursement of revenue from the Federation Account; review, from time to time, the revenue allocation formula and principles in operation to ensure conformity with changing realities, among other functions. The Commission is also empowered to advise federal, state, and local governments on fiscal efficiency and methods by which their revenue can be increased. Similarly, the Commission is statutorily obliged to determine the remuneration appropriate to political office holders and discharge such other functions as may be conferred on it by the Constitution or any Act of the National Assembly.

The laws also empower the RMAFC to demand and obtain regular and relevant information, data or returns from any Government Agency including the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC); the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS); Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS); the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN); and the Federal Ministry of Finance.

As Hamman Tukur leaves RMAFC, he would be remembered for making a number of controversial recommendations, including the huge increase in the remuneration of political office holders. His argument in defence of the action at the time hinged on the premise that corrupt practice among political office holders would be curtailed if they were adequately remunerated. Unfortunately, Tukur's hypothesis appears to have failed to address the issue it was intended to tackle. The corruption allegations brought by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) against some members of the National Assembly in the scam that rocked up the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), and other scams in the power sector clearly demonstrated that. There are also similar allegations against many state governors who in addition to mouth watering salaries and allowance also got plum retirement benefits.

**I**n spite of the controversies that surrounded the remuneration of political office holders, compensation packages that many considered excessive and not in tune with the general profile of wages in the economy, Engineer Tukur's tenure as head of RMAFC was remarkable. On several occasions during the eight-year civilian administration of former President Obasanjo, Tukur did not cower in making public the discrepancies in the records of revenue that accrued to government as obtained from the NNPC and the CBN, which the government tried to keep under wrap. He also criticized the manner in which the government operated and disbursed funds from the Excess Crude Account. Where he was convinced that that certain positions of government were not in the public interest, he was not afraid to say so.

It is necessary that the in-coming chairman of RMAFC and the new commissioners should revisit the issue of allowances and remunerations of political office holders, with a view to putting them within the context of the economic realities of our time. It would not serve the interest of a developing country like Nigeria if substantial part of the revenue that accrue to government is spent on overhead cost of political office holders at the expense of capital projects. The government should consider carefully the integrity of persons to appoint as chairman and commissioners to direct the affairs of the Commission. Tukur and other retiring commissioners discharged their duties creditably, given the challenging political environment of the nation. We expect the incoming members of the commission to build on their achievements.

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## Jesus as INEC chair!

**J**esus as INEC Chair is an idea that can only be conjured by a man like former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, whose attitude to his fellow countrymen is that of contempt when it comes to democracy. May be the old sage has a bone to pick with Jesus because the son of man's answer to his prayer for a third term was No. And I believe that Obasanjo is also angry with Nigerians because they told him in unison, *bamu yarda ta zarce ba*. If Jesus said NO, who can say YES?

Obasanjo's mindset fits well with the ruling party, PDP where it is the rule not to hold primaries. An aspiring candidate is selected by a group of lords in the high ground of the PDP manor. Get the favour of that group and you do not only have nomination, but victory at election too. Without internal democracy, dissidents can not even raise a finger for fear of the powers that be. Yet we think we can sow this cassava, and reap that cocoyam?

We have a country in which every politician is sucked into the vortex of the ruling party. Victories and defeats are assured even before elections. Obviously state power is used to produce the results. Yes because of this, elections will be seen as incredible were any one to conduct them BUT Jesus.

**G**od is awesome. He allows man to engage in careless talk as soldiers would say, or worse, lead a sinful life all night and play holy all day. David the psalmist wondered in awe, how God could look down on mankind and accept praise from the mouths of even (mocking) wicked people. David again asked why the heathen rage and the people imagine a vain thing. The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed...

People like our two-time leader Olusegun Obasanjo who claim to be born again but could commit their hearts to vengeance on erring mortals like General Bamaayi, Major Hamza Al Mustapha, and the Abacha family. No I am not saying no wrongs were committed, but we should be Christ-like to subject the wrongdoers to the clean dictates of the Law without a tinge of wicked and endless vengeance. Then elections conducted by the Maurice Iwu of this existence will be judged as credible.

How else can you explain the failed attempts to criminalize the whole of Atiku's life just to impede the young man's inalienable right to have ambition and to aspire to be President of Nigeria? How could Atiku accept Obasanjo's elections as fair and credible? Or Brigadier General Marwa, who sat through the charade that was Yar'adua's supposed PDP nomination of Presidential flag bearer? Or Danladi Baido, who after scaling all hurdles at the local level, and climbed the podium to receive the flag to contest the governorship of Taraba and was turned down singlehandedly by Obasanjo! Literally from the convention podium!

Yes, Jesus would rather turn OBJ's Ota Pure Water into wine. Yes, Jesus will not conduct an election that is free and fair with Nigerian lead-

## Timawus Mathias

timmathias@yahoo.com

ers whose hearts are decidedly and inherently wicked! In fact a novelist had imagined Jesus second coming and warned the Master to beware of the world (Nigeria) in His second coming, lest He be crucified again by an even more vile and wicked Nigerians that have held sway since His first coming. It was appropriate warning, given the abilities of the men (Nigerian Politicians) seen by Obasanjo to cry foul at any dissatisfying election. Naturally, the body of

away at his delicious meal. Then you knew he was through when you heard the sound of the feeding bottle bang against the wall. This Obasanjo is much like my son and his feeding bottle.

**F**or all the goodness of Jesus in his life, this Obasanjo has smashed the name of Jesus on the wall of vain play. This is not the same Jeremiah that came out of Abacha's Gulag in Yola, with a tummy flattened by humiliation and sunken cheeks and drooping eyes from a faithless Darfiel that gave up on salvation from the lions (Abachas) in the den. You could claim that for OBJ, God smote Abacha! Yet OBJ certainly could not equal Nelson Mandela - 27 years in the slam-

After 8 years in Aso Rock Villa, Obasanjo is currently being judged by all those who ministered to his dictates and are now paying the price - Bode George in jail, Nuhu Ribadu and El Rufa in the fights of their lives trying to wriggle out of the web of intrigue that serving Obasanjo has woven intricately around them

Christ is up in arms at OBJ's frivolity with the name of the Lord. But let me venture a thought. Obasanjo, is playing a game called making yourself relevant. For even the beneficiary the Obasanjo-organized elections Yar'adua described his own election as flawed but promised reforms. If Obasanjo says even Jesus as INEC chair would have conducted flawed elections, he is elevating his blood to the blood. As everyone knows, not even Gbenga would plead the blood of OBJ.

Obasanjo is exhibiting the metamorphosis of men of son in Abuja. You know Abuja is a city of thriving churches, all of them pulling congregations in the thousands and running multiple services. In the same Abuja, nightclubs of Area 11 and the garden bars of the numerous artificial streams are full to capacity with the daughters of Delilah, the sons of Samson and the descendants of Hofni and Phineas living just enough for the city. This is the glamour city of the murder of Dikibo, and from whence, the sage and great Cicero, Bola Ige, serving Obasanjo, travelled home to be in time for his gruesome murder - such indignity for a man of such great dignity. This is the city of the Apo 6, where a whole precinct struggled for a whole night to snuff life out of a fun-seeking girl, who against all odds, survived to point a finger at whodunit.

**A**ll happened under Obasanjo's watch. The head of this rotten fish called Nigerian Leadership Class, in all wisdom will tilt logic and morality to say that even the son of man, even Jesus our Lord could not be said to conduct a credible election.

I have a son who had this habit of waking me up and demanding *kunu* in the dead of the night, which was readily available by the bedside in feeding bottles. You kind of dozed away as he sucked and smacked

mer, yet so forgiving in freedom and power. No, not the Obasanjo who in jail, was convinced that the sole reason Jesus came, was for the salvation of man, and that when this Jesus comes again, it will not be to conduct any election, but to judge the deeds of mankind - the quick and the dead. This was the confession and testimony of his born again salvation in prison - his feeding bottle.

After 8 years in Aso Rock Villa, Obasanjo is currently being judged by all those who ministered to his dictates and are now paying the price - Bode George in jail, Nuhu Ribadu and El Rufa in the fights of their lives trying to wriggle out of the web of intrigue that serving Obasanjo has woven intricately around them.

**T**his is the Obasanjo for whom Nigerian turks turned a N20,000 dormant bank account to an over N200 million blind trust with which some national assets were acquired. Come to think of it, nearly all the turks (ex-bank CEOs) are suffering for it while Obasanjo sits in temperate Ota, belching out blasphemous images of an INEC manned by Jesus Christ, king of all glory. The Obasanjo who shunned internal party democracy and elevated a sick and now dead Yar'adua among more healthy contemporaries to govern Nigeria! This leader, who is not believed, no matter how much he swears that he did not plan to plunge the country into the present crisis of leadership when he played Jesus to reveal and force Yar'adua on us. Thank God that the late Yar'adua despite his terminal illness has garnered more accolades than the cartoonists' favourite from Ota. This Obasanjo can blasphemously imagine Jesus as Chairman INEC.

I crave for Idang Alibi's take on this. I share Sam Nda-Isaiah's exasperation, for it is not frustration. A nation with leaders like Obasanjo is cursed.



## INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJI'UN



The Board, Management and Staff of the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) commiserate with President and Commander-in-Chief, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCFR, the family of late President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua and all Nigerians over the demise of a great champion and facilitator of education for all Nigerians, a relentless advocate of the rule of law and an uncompromising promoter of justice and equity.



### Late President Shehu Musa Yar'Adua

Fare thee well Mutawalle. An ideologically committed leader. Friend and defender of the oppressed. Honest and decent Servant-Leader, who meant well for the people of Nigeria. May Allah grant you a well-deserved eternal rest and reward you with AL-JANAT FIRDAUS. Amin.

Professor Tunde Adeniran, OFR  
Chairman, Governing Board of UBEC

# AFRICA REPORT

## Darfur rebels threaten to resume Sudan war

ONE of the main rebel groups in Sudan's Darfur region has threatened "all-out war" if its leader is arrested.

Sudanese officials have asked Interpol to arrest Justice and Equality Movement (Jem) leader Khalil Ibrahim for planning an

attack in Omdurman in 2008.

Jem signed a ceasefire with the government in February but left peace talks earlier this month, claiming the government had launched new raids.

Mr Khalil is currently thought to be in Egypt, which is an ally of

Khartoum. Elthahir Adam Elfaki, chairman of Jem's Legislative Council, told the BBC that "if any attempt is made to arrest Dr Khalil then it is all-out war."

"Even as we speak, the Sudanese government is bombarding areas of North Darfur and West

Darfur," he said.

Jem One of the first rebel groups, leader Khalil Ibrahim is wanted by the Sudanese government

Another Darfur rebel group, the Liberation and Justice Movement (LJM), also signed a cease-

fire with the government before the elections.

However a faction of the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA) led by Abdul Wahid is still holding out against the government and has refused to take part in the peace talks.

### Acquitted Zimbabwe PM aide 'to expose corruption'

A top aide to Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai said yesterday he would expose "lies, deceit and theft" in Zimbabwe after he is sworn in as deputy agriculture minister. Roy Bennett, a 53-year-old former white farmer, was acquitted Monday on charges plotting to overthrow President Robert Mugabe that had already been discredited by another court.

"When you are dealing with people who hide in dark corners who kill people and murder and maim and rule by absolute fear... the biggest thing they fear is the shining light in those dark corners and they fear truth and honesty," Bennett told South Africa's Radio 702.

"So my positioning as deputy minister of agriculture will open a can of worms because I would be able to expose a lot of the lies, deceit and theft that is taking place in Zimbabwe."

Tsvangirai's pick for deputy agriculture minister in the fragile year-old unity government, Bennett was arrested in February 2009 shortly before he was to be sworn in. He was accused of funding a plot to topple Mugabe four years ago.

After his acquittal Monday, Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change called for Bennett to take office, with his trial one of the issues threatening the unity government. Bennett said there had been progress in the work of the unity government, with media, constitutional and electoral commissions in place.

He said he had expected the trial to go on indefinitely and his acquittal was a sign that there was pressure on Mugabe.

"I think there is a lot of pressure and there are a lot of things happening in Zimbabwe and continue to happen on a daily basis that one would never have expected, my acquittal yesterday for example," he said.

### Egypt parliament extends emergency law by two years



EGYPTIAN Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif.

EGYPT'S parliament voted yesterday to extend a decade-old state of emergency for a further two years, the official MENA news agency reported.

"The People's Assembly has approved by a 308-member majority the presidential decree to extend the state of emergency for a period of two years," MENA

said.

A parliamentary source told AFP that 103 MPs had voted against the extension of the controversial emergency law, which MENA said is due to take effect on June 1 and run until May 31, 2012.

The People's Assembly has 454 members.

It was not immediately clear

whether the remaining 43 lawmakers had not attended the session or abstained from voting.

Egypt's emergency law, in place since 1981, gives police extended powers of arrest, suspends constitutional rights and curbs non-governmental political activity.

Special courts set up under the

law deny a right of appeal.

It has repeatedly come under harsh criticism from rights groups and regime opponents.

Earlier, Prime Minister Ahmed Nazif had asked parliament to extend the law, but sought to reassure critics by pledging only to apply it to cases of terrorism and narcotics.

### Africa skeptical over funds to combat global warming

AFRICA yesterday expressed doubt over the capacity of developed nations to keep their financial commitments made during last year's Copenhagen summit to help poor countries deal with climate change.

"It's primordial to know whether the financial pledges will be kept. Doubts have been expressed and we have indications that these doubts are justified," Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi told the opening of an African Union meeting in Addis Ababa.

Meles said that at the next climate summit in Cancun, Mexico, in December, "we need to refine our strategies in concentrating especially on the implementation of the financial commitments of Copenhagen."

The Ethiopian leader is the chief negotiator appointed by the 53 member states of the African Union for all issues relating to climate change. Africa has decided that it wants a single voice to represent it during international meetings.

Meles was speaking at a meeting of representatives of the conference of 10 African heads of state and government on climate change, which the AU describes as a "forum tasked with drawing up African strategies and submitting concrete measures in accordance with the plan of action that came out of the Copenhagen conference" last December.

## Middle East

# Russia: Mideast tension could spark catastrophe

RUSSIA'S president said yesterday that Israeli-Arab tensions threaten to draw the Middle East into a new catastrophe, adding Moscow's weight to a diplomatic push to ease antagonism between Israel and Syria.

The Russian and Syrian presidents, meeting in Damascus, also affirmed ally Iran's right to develop a peaceful nuclear energy program, as world powers press for new economic sanctions to try to stop what they say is really a drive for an atomic weapons-capability.

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, whose country has been building up its influence as a Middle East mediator, pledged its assistance in pushing the region toward peace.

"Tensions in the Middle East threaten to lead to a new explosion or even a catastrophe," he said.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu charged Tuesday that Iran is trying to provoke a conflict

between Israel and Syria.

"They are spreading falsehoods in order to escalate tensions, and it has no basis," he said during a tour of military installations near the Israel-Lebanon border. "We want stability and peace," he said, offering Syria peace talks without preconditions.

Last month, Israeli President Shimon Peres accused Syria of providing Scud missiles to Hezbollah militants in Lebanon and adding to an arsenal that the Iranian-backed Shiite militants say can reach all parts of the Jewish state. Syria denied the accusation and warned such talk seemed calculated to set the stage for military action.

Before Medvedev's visit, Peres' office said the Russian president agreed to deliver a message to Syrian President Bashar Assad seeking to ease the tensions.

At a joint news conference with Assad, Medvedev did not mention whether he had delivered a message.

US mediated indirect peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians began last week after 17 months

of deadlock. Syria had also been expected to use Medvedev's two-day visit to lobby Moscow to block

new U.N. sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program. Russia, which has veto power as a permanent

member of the Security Council, has been reluctant to back a fourth round of tougher penalties.



RUSSIAN President Dmitry Medvedev, left, meets with Syrian President Bashar Assad, right, at the presidential palace, in Damascus, Syria.

## CONGRATULATIONS



**Arch Adesina A. Agboluaje**

On behalf of the Management and Staff of Zones Consult, we wish to express our heartfelt congratulations to **Arch Adesina A. Agboluaje** over his well deserved re-appointment for another term as the **Managing Director** of the **Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA)**.

We are sure in our mind that you are equal to the task as you have done it before.

We sincerely wish you Almighty Allah's continued guidance, protection, good health and increased wisdom to enable you steer the course of the Authority to greater height (Ameen).

Congrats

Signed  
Zones Consult  
5 Durban Street Wise II, Abuja.

## Iran sentences *Newsweek* journalist in absentia

AN Iranian court has sentenced a *Newsweek* reporter in absentia to more than 13 years in prison and 74 lashes, raising concerns about a new government crackdown ahead of the anniversary of disputed presidential elections.

Maziar Bahari, a dual Canadian and Iranian citizen, was among scores of political activists and other figures detained amid a crackdown following disputed presidential elections last year.

Bahari spent nearly four months in jail but was released on bail of 3 bil-

lion rials (\$300,000) and allowed to leave the country to join his British wife in London in October.

The journalist said in an article published this week in *Newsweek* that the sentence was handed down Sunday on charges including assembling and conspiring against state security, collecting secret and classified documents, propagandizing against the system and insulting the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad.

He said he also was sen-

tenced to one year and 74 lashes for "disruption of public order."

Bahari, who was arrested on June 21 as part of a clampdown on street protests by hundreds of thousands of Iranians against the June 12 vote, said a family member went to the court and was told of the judgment.

"His lawyer, Saleh Nikbakht, said Tuesday that the verdict still has not officially been delivered to his office in Tehran. The New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists condemned the sentence.

## Iraq boosts security after deadliest day this year

IRAQI forces beefed up checkpoints, conducted house-to-house searches and rifled through cars yesterday looking for suspects behind a devastating string of attacks across the country that killed 119 people a day earlier.

Brig. Gen. Ralph Baker, a former Pentagon counter terror expert who now oversees US military operations in eastern Baghdad, said the complexity of the attacks indicates they were all coordinated.

"Given the timing of the attacks in Baghdad and (the western province of) Anbar, coupled with the activities up north and

south, I think you can very clearly say it was a coordinated effort," he told The Associated Press.

Baker noted that many of the attacks were aimed at Iraqi security forces and Shiite civilians — two popular targets with al-Qaida in Iraq. "They're still trying to show they can re-ignite the cycle of sectarian violence," he said.

Most of the victims of Monday's violence were in two Shiite cities — Hillah and Basra — adding to concerns about a resurgence of the Sunni-Shiite sectarian warfare that peaked in 2006 and 2007.

## World



GORDON Brown former UK Prime Minister

## Brown resigns as UK prime minister

MR Gordon Brown officially tendered his resignation to the Queen, and recommended that Conservative leader David Cameron should succeed him yesterday.

Speaking alongside his wife Sarah outside No 10 Downing Street, he said the job had been "a privilege" and wished his successor well.

His decision comes as the Tories and Liberal Democrats are poised to agree a deal to form a government.

Labour's attempts to negotiate a deal of their own with the Lib Dems, after last week's inconclusive election result, ended in failure yesterday.

Mr Brown succeeded Tony Blair as prime minister in June 2007 after spending ten years as Chancellor of the Exchequer.

In an emotional farewell speech outside No 10, Mr Brown said he had "loved the job" and it had been "a privilege to serve".

"I wish the next prime minister well as he makes the important choices for the future," he said.

His two young sons joined him and wife Sarah for his brief statement which ended with the words: "Thank you and goodbye."

His resignation follows last week's general election in which no party won an overall majority but the Conservatives won the most seats and votes.

Both Labour and the Tories have since been trying to persuade the Lib Dems to join them in a coalition government to run the country.

Mr Brown had previously said he would resign as Labour leader, but stay on as prime minister until September, if Labour could agree a deal with the Lib Dems.

Labour's ruling National Executive Committee has indicated it wants Mr Brown's successor as leader to be chosen as soon as possible, possibly by the end of July.

## Clinton: US committed to Afghanistan long-term

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has told Afghan leader Hamid Karzai the US will remain committed to Afghan security long after US troops leave. Mr Karzai is in the US for four days of talks aimed at repairing rocky relations between Kabul and Washington. They both acknowledged their differences had complicated efforts to stabilise Afghanistan.

Mr Karzai is due to meet President Barack Obama on Wednesday and concludes his visit tomorrow. "We will not abandon the Afghan people. Our civilian commitment will remain long into the future," Mrs Clinton said.

"The ability to disagree on issues of importance to our respective countries and peoples is not an obstacle to achieving our shared objectives," she added.

"Rather, it reflects a level of trust that is essential to any meaningful dialogue and enduring strategic partnership," Mr Karzai thanked the US for its contribution since defeating the Taliban at the end of 2001. But he also said international forces in his country must do more to avoid civilian casualties.



### BUDGET OFFICE OF THE FEDERATION FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE ABUJA

The Budget Office of the Federation, Federal Ministry of Finance, will hold a Workshop with the theme;

**"ENHANCING INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE COLLECTION & REMITTANCE SYSTEM IN THE FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE"**

**Date:** Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2010  
**Venue:** Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja  
**Time:** 9.00 a.m.

There will be presentations on the challenges of growing non-oil revenue and the imperatives of remitting Internally Generated Revenue to the Treasury, as well as interactive sessions among participants.

Participants include members of the National Assembly, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Civil Society, the Media and other key Stakeholders.

All invited participants and guests are to be seated by 8.45 a.m.

Signed  
**Dr. Bright Okogu**  
Director-General

# Felicitatation

*to an*  
Achiever

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**Alh. Abdullahi Dikko Inde,**  
*Comptroller General of Nigeria Customs Service*

As you are always worthy to celebrate with, therefore, on behalf of myself **Alh. Jibril Musa** customs Area controller Port-Harcourt Area II (ONNE PORT) and the entire officers and men of Port-Harcourt II Command of Nigeria Customs Service, hereby felicitate with our comptroller General of Nigeria Customs Service **Alh. Abdullahi Dikko Inde**, on his 50 Birthday.

May God Almighty, the giver and Sustainer of life, grant you good health and additional wisdom to add valuable service to our department in particular and Nigeria in general.



**Signed:**

**Alh. Jibril Musa**  
customs Area controller  
P.H Harcourt Area II (ONNE Port)

# Asia

## Pakistani ambassador attacked in Tehran

PAKISTAN'S ambassador to Tehran was injured and taken to hospital yesterday when his car was attacked by an Afghan, Iran's foreign ministry spokesman told state-run Arabic language Al-Alam television.

"The Pakistan ambassador's car has been attacked by an Afghan. The ambassador has been injured and he is in hospital. The Afghan has been arrested," the spokesman Ramin Mehmanparast was quoted as saying.

He did not give further details.

## Gulf leaders meet in Riyadh for informal summit

LEADERS of six Gulf states met for an informal summit in the Saudi capital on Tuesday to discuss the Middle East peace process, relations with Iran and other key issues facing the region.

The heads of the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council -- Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates -- met for talks in Riyadh hosted by Saudi King Abdullah.

In a report published on Tuesday ahead of the meeting, the daily Al-Hayat quoted GCG Secretary General Abdul Rahman al-Attiyah as saying the summit would discuss internal issues as well as regional problems like Iran and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

"The summit is held in difficult circumstances," the paper quoted Attiyah as saying.

He said that the alliance continues to oppose any attack on Iran to counter an alleged nuclear weapons program, and emphasized continued cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency on the issue, the paper reported.

Iraq, Sudan and Yemen were also on the agenda, the paper quoted Attiyah as saying.

# Thai premier urges protests to end today

THAILAND'S embattled prime minister yesterday urged anti-government "Red Shirt" protesters to commit to his reconciliation plan and pack up their demonstration site after they refused to end rallies.

Protest leaders have agreed to Premier Abhisit Vejjajiva's reconciliation roadmap to November elections, but said they would continue street ral-

lies until the deputy premier was charged over a deadly crackdown.

"If protesters want to join the reconciliation process, they cannot only accept an election date. They have to stop their rally," Abhisit told reporters, adding he thought the Reds should disperse today.

"If the situation does not return to normal it will delay the election day, so

protesters should go home on the 12th (of May)," he said.

Red leaders earlier vowed to continue their rally until deputy premier Suthep Thaugsuban was charged for his role overseeing a deadly April 10 crackdown, when armed troops attempted to clear part of the capital.

Suthep went to the Department of Special

Investigation (DSI) on Tuesday to hear a complaint against him after Reds demanded he turn himself in to police, but Red leaders refused to disband until a formal case was opened against him.

"We don't accept it -- Suthep did not go there as a suspect," leader of the red-clad protest movement, Nattawut Saikuar, said from a stage in the

demonstrators' sprawling encampment in the heart of Bangkok. "We are ready to stop rallying once Suthep walks up the first step of the justice system as a suspect," he added.

Thailand is reeling from the worst political violence in almost two decades, with 29 people killed and almost 1,000 injured in a series of confrontations and attacks in the capital.



## CONSOLIDATED DISCOUNTS LIMITED

Registered Discount House (RC NO. 282573)  
10th - 12th Floors, Bull Plaza 38/39, Marina, PMB 12911, Marina, Lagos.  
Pbx: 264 4281 - 84, 270 2640 - 5

### BALANCE SHEET as at 31 December 2009

ASSETS	GROUP Dec 2009 N'000	GROUP May 2009 N'000	COMPANY Dec 2009 N'000	COMPANY May 2009 N'000
Cash and bank balances	725,731	431,622	673,433	371,958
Treasury bills	20,999,628	27,045,726	20,999,628	27,045,726
Investment securities	73,557,664	71,595,458	72,158,537	66,641,338
Investment in subsidiary Companies	-	-	180,000	180,000
Deferred taxation	836,507	798,147	836,507	798,147
Other assets	638,261	1,596,369	585,948	753,585
Investment property	618,460	-	-	-
Property and equipment	1,007,323	954,224	982,292	918,378
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>98,383,574</b>	<b>102,421,546</b>	<b>96,416,345</b>	<b>96,709,132</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Secured placements	81,174,777	88,318,914	79,510,917	82,921,182
Taxation payable	1,313,529	1,585,736	1,279,804	1,549,776
Other liabilities	455,916	883,812	425,360	809,021
Deferred taxation	3,844	6,157	-	-
Retirement benefit obligations	804,543	628,981	801,627	627,820
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>83,752,609</b>	<b>91,423,600</b>	<b>82,017,708</b>	<b>85,907,799</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>14,630,965</b>	<b>10,997,946</b>	<b>14,398,637</b>	<b>10,801,333</b>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>				
Share capital	3,500,000	3,000,000	3,500,000	3,000,000
Statutory reserve	2,177,756	1,883,824	2,177,756	1,883,824
Reserve for bonus issue	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
Revaluation reserve	1,937,756	-	1,937,756	-
Retained earnings	6,474,104	5,576,461	6,283,125	5,417,509
<b>SHAREHOLDERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>14,589,616</b>	<b>10,960,285</b>	<b>14,398,637</b>	<b>10,801,333</b>

### PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT For the Seven Months Period Ended 31 December 2009

	GROUP Dec 2009 N'000	GROUP May 2009 N'000	COMPANY Dec 2009 N'000	COMPANY May 2009 N'000
GROSS EARNINGS	8,655,771	25,256,626	7,183,631	21,425,150
Profit before taxation	2,101,308	3,707,975	2,053,432	3,654,816
Taxation	(106,045)	(691,670)	(93,884)	(669,843)
Profit after taxation	1,995,263	3,016,305	1,959,548	2,984,973
<b>APPROPRIATIONS:</b>				
Transfer to statutory reserves	(293,932)	(447,746)	(293,932)	(447,746)
Transfer to general Reserves	(1,697,643)	(2,565,426)	(1,665,616)	(2,537,227)

SIGNED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS BY:

MRS. OLUFUNKE I. OSIBODU  
Chairman

MR. STEVE O. AKINRETOYE  
Director

### INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Members of Consolidated Discounts Limited:

We have audited the financial statements of Consolidated Discounts Limited ("the Company") and its subsidiary company ("the Group") for the period ended 31 December 2009, from which the summarized financial statements were derived, in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. In our report dated 27 April 2010, we expressed an unqualified opinion on the financial statements from which the summarized financial statements were derived.

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

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

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

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



27 April 2010

Lagos, Nigeria



## NIGERIAN COLLEGE OF AVIATION TECHNOLOGY, ZARIA

Zaria Aerodrome. P.M.B 1031  
Zaria, Kaduna State, Nigeria. Email: [procurement@ncat.gov.ng](mailto:procurement@ncat.gov.ng)

### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR PROVISION OF INSURANCE COVER FOR COLLEGE ASSETS.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION:

The Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria has appropriated funds in its Year 2010 FGN Budget for projects and intends to apply a portion of the funds to procure insurance cover. The College therefore wishes to procure the services of insurance companies or organizations with specific expertise, proven track record and experience in providing aviation insurance.

#### 2. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

The Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria now invites eligible insurance companies to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested insurance company must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services with the following documents.

- i. Evidence of registration or incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC);
- ii. Evidence of registration with NAICOM and other relevant international professional bodies will be an added advantage;
- iii. Profile of insurance company including details of its directors and management, total staff strength, competences, expertise and experience, such experience could include Aviation insurance management, knowledge on general Aviation Insurance etc;
- iv. Evidence of Re-insurance treaty arrangement;
- v. Evidence of payment of claims in the last three (3) years;
- vi. Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years;
- vii. Audited Annual financial Report of the company for the last three (3) years;
- viii. Vat registration and evidence of past VAT remittances;
- ix. Evidence of similar insurance cover provided within the last three (3) years; (attach letters or award);
- x. Evidence of remittance for pension contribution of employees to pencom;
- xi. A sworn affidavit indicating that all documents submitted are genuine and verifiable; and
- xii. A sworn affidavit that none of the Directors have been convicted in any country for criminal offences, including fraud and financial impropriety.

#### 3. Duration of the insurance Services:

The insurance cover is for one (1) year period.  
Insurance companies that have not done similar assignments in the past five (5) years need not indicate interest.

Interested insurance company may request further information from the address below during office hours of 9.00am - 4.00pm, Mondays to Fridays, except on public holidays.

#### 4. SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS:

The pre-qualification documents should be duly signed by the company's Managing Director. This should be spirally bound in two (2) copies, one "original" and a "copy" to be submitted in a sealed envelope indicating the title as contained in this advertisement and boldly marked "INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR PROVISION OF INSURANCE COVER FOR COLLEGE ASSETS" at the left hand corner of the envelope, clearly indicating the name of the company, mailing address and GSM number.

#### 5. CLOSING DATE:

Pre-qualification documents must be delivered by hand or registered mail to reach the undersigned on or before 12.00 noon on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 at the address shown below

**The Secretary,**  
Procurement Planning Committee,  
Nigerian College of Aviation Technology,  
Zaria Aerodrome.  
P.M.B 1031,  
Zaria, Kaduna State.  
Nigeria.  
Email: [procurement@ncat.gov.ng](mailto:procurement@ncat.gov.ng)

#### IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- a) Only technically successful companies will be invited to bid for the insurance services.
- b) Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria, Shall not enter into any correspondence with any unsuccessful company that submitted documents.

This advertisement will not be a commitment on the part of Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria. Nor shall it entail those that submit documents to make any claim(s) whatsoever and/or to seek any indemnity from Nigerian College of Aviation Technology, Zaria by virtue of such submission having responded to this publication.

Signed:  
**MANAGEMENT.**



## KADUNA POLYTECHNIC

P.M.B 2021 Kaduna, Nigeria

### SCHOOL OF PRELIMINARY AND REMEDIAL STUDIES

#### SALES OF ADMISSION FORM FOR THE 2010/2011 ACADEMIC SESSION

This is to notify the general public that the School of Preliminary and Remedial Studies (SPRS), Kaduna Polytechnic is to commence the 2010/2011 Admission Exercise for its programmes. The programmes are Preliminary Studies, Interim Joint Matriculation Board (IJMB) and Remedial Studies.

#### 1. PRELIMINARY STUDIES PROGRAMME

This is a One Academic Session Programme to prepare candidates for the Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education Matriculation Examination into institutions and programmes of their choice. Candidates applying for this programme must possess Five (5) Credits at SSC/NTC/NBC which must include English Language and Mathematics at not more than Two (2) sittings.

#### 2. IJMB PROGRAMME

The programme which lasts for 18 Months is to prepare candidates for Admission into 200 Level of Nigerian universities of their choice. Candidates for the programme must have Five (5) relevant credits including Mathematics and English Language in not more than Two (2) sittings.

#### 3. REMEDIAL STUDIES PROGRAMME

This programme is for one academic session and is designed for prospective candidates to remedy their '0' Level result deficiencies. Candidates for the programme should possess at least Two (2) credits at SSC/NTC/ NBC.

Interested and qualified applicants are to obtain their forms from the Kaduna Polytechnic Microfinance Bank Ltd, NIPOST Post Offices Nationwide, First Bank of Nigeria Plc, Kaduna Main Branch, Skye Bank PLC, Leventis Round About, Afriland Panteka Branch and UBA, Poly Road Branch, at the sum of **N3,000.00 (Three thousand naira) only.**

#### 4. CLOSING DATE FOR THE RETURN OF COMPLETED FORMS

All completed application forms are to be returned to the Dean, School of Preliminary and Remedial Studies, SPRS, Kaduna Polytechnic, Kaduna, not later than two weeks from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
**Alh. Mamoon A. Abubakar**

RC: 94524



**Audited Results for the period ended 30 November 2008**

Balance sheet as at 30 November 2008

	2008 N'000	2007 N'000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash and short-term funds	19,395,353	42,109,713
Due from other banks	149,417,086	47,551,141
Nigerian treasury bills	31,714,348	11,306,877
Loans and advances	51,882,213	36,590,002
Advance under finance leases	391,396	192,028
Other assets	64,395,016	33,870,801
Long-term investments	15,895,049	1,364,012
Fixed assets	13,905,349	13,184,404
Goodwill on consolidation	17,085,024	17,085,024
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>364,080,834</b>	<b>203,234,002</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
Deposits and current accounts	320,139,526	145,793,517
Tax payable	88,063	772,322
Dividend payable		196,942
Other liabilities	23,270,864	14,425,765
Deferred taxation	1,788,112	1,788,112
Long term borrowing		8,217,587
	<b>345,286,564</b>	<b>171,194,245</b>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>		
Share capital	7,250,952	7,250,952
Share reconstruction reserve	14,501,904	14,501,904
Share premium	6,566,825	6,566,825
Statutory reserve	1,381,897	1,381,897
Reserve for small and medium scale industries	440,116	440,116
General reserve		
	<b>(11,347,424)</b>	<b>1,898,063</b>
Shareholders' funds		
	<b>18,794,270</b>	<b>32,039,757</b>
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>364,080,834</b>	<b>203,234,002</b>
Contingent liabilities and other obligations on behalf of customers and customers' liability thereof.		
	<b>7,390,962</b>	<b>13,170,039</b>
<b>Gross earnings</b>		
	<b>42,011,857</b>	<b>23,929,300</b>
(Loss)/Profit on ordinary activities before exceptional item & taxation	(21,767,159)	1,463,643
Exceptional item	8,609,735	
Information technology development levy		(20,148)
(Loss)/profit on ordinary activities after exceptional items and before taxation	(13,157,424)	1,443,495
Taxation	(88,063)	(722,652)
(Loss)/Profit after taxation	(13,245,487)	720,843
<b>APPROPRIATIONS:</b>		
Transfer to statutory reserve		216,253
Transfer to small scale industries reserve		72,084
Transfer to general reserve	(13,245,487)	432,506
	<b>(13,245,487)</b>	<b>720,843</b>

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 27 October 2009 and signed on its behalf by:

Professor A.L. ...  
 Akaj Folorunso (CFO)  
 Akaj Ado Yikubu (Finance)



Audit, Tax, Consulting, Financial Advisory

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 www.pkf.com

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT JOINT AUDITORS TO MEMBERS OF UNITY BANK PLC**

**Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Unity Bank Plc, as at 30 November, 2008, which comprises the balance sheet, income statement, cash flow statement for the period then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information, set out on pages 3 to 32.

**Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The Directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Companies and Allied Matters Act CAP C20 LFN 2004, Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act CAP B3 LFN 2004. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

**Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audited evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

**Basis for Qualified Opinion**

Merger expenses of N5.27 billion is treated as other assets in these financial statements in line with the permission granted by the Central Bank of Nigeria. This amount will be amortised over a period of five years.

The financial statements has not recognized the impairment of goodwill in line with the provision of the Statement of Accounting Standard No. 28.

**Qualified Opinion**

In our opinion, except for the possible effect of the matter describe in basis of qualified opinion paragraph, the financial statement present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Bank as at 30 November 2008 and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the period then ended; the Bank has kept proper books of accounts which are in agreement with the balance sheet and income statement, in the manner required by the Companies and Allied matters Acts CAP C20, LFN 2004.

**Report on Compliance with Banking Regulations**

We confirm that our examination of loans and advances is in accordance with prudential guidelines for licenced banks issued by the Central bank of Nigeria. In accordance with circular BSD/1/2004 issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria, details of insider related credits are as disclosed in note 33 to the financial statements.

**Contraventions**

During the year ended 30 November, 2008, the Bank contravened certain sections of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act CAP B3 LFN 2004. The particulars thereof and the penalties paid thereon are set out in note 37.

Deloitte & Touche  
 Chartered Accountants  
 27 April 2009

www.unitybankng.com

RC: 94524



**Audited Results for the year ended 31 December 2009**

Balance sheet as at 31 December 2009

	The Group 2009 N'000	The Group 2008 N'000	The Bank 2009 N'000	The Bank 2008 N'000
<b>ASSETS</b>				
Cash and short-term funds	9,345,302	19,834,580	8,925,443	19,395,353
Due from other banks	51,338,118	149,417,086	51,338,118	149,417,086
Nigerian treasury bills	9,500,000	31,714,352	9,500,000	31,714,352
Loans and advances	87,822,527	51,891,680	87,817,499	51,882,213
Advance under finance leases	556,195	391,396	556,195	391,395
Other assets	46,223,442	65,037,046	45,931,387	64,395,016
Deferred taxation-Assets	9,584,824		9,584,824	
Long-term investments	10,783,102	16,462,258	9,534,415	15,895,049
Fixed assets	15,697,675	14,028,487	16,525,180	13,905,349
Goodwill on consolidation	17,085,024	17,085,024	17,085,024	17,085,024
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>257,936,209</b>	<b>365,861,910</b>	<b>258,798,085</b>	<b>364,080,836</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>				
Deposits and current accounts	214,986,082	320,262,726	214,920,710	320,139,526
Tax payable	414,017	174,030	309,598	88,063
Other liabilities	33,553,444	24,244,562	32,695,987	23,270,865
Deferred taxation	1,823,432	1,812,873	1,788,112	1,788,112
Long term borrowing				8,217,587
	<b>280,776,974</b>	<b>346,494,191</b>	<b>249,614,407</b>	<b>345,286,564</b>
<b>CAPITAL AND RESERVES</b>				
Share capital	7,976,047	7,250,952	7,976,047	7,250,952
Share reconstruction reserve	14,501,904	14,501,904	14,501,904	14,501,904
Share premium	5,841,730	6,566,825	5,841,730	6,566,825
Statutory reserve	1,381,897	1,381,897	1,381,897	1,381,897
Reserve for small and medium scale industries	440,116	440,116	440,116	440,116
General reserve	(23,229,695)	(10,859,096)	(22,958,016)	(11,347,425)
	<b>6,911,996</b>	<b>19,282,598</b>	<b>7,183,678</b>	<b>18,794,269</b>
Shareholders' funds				
	<b>247,234</b>	<b>85,119</b>		
Minority interest				
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>257,936,209</b>	<b>365,861,910</b>	<b>258,798,085</b>	<b>364,080,836</b>
Contingent liabilities and other obligations on behalf of customers and customers' liability thereof.				
	<b>16,787,486</b>	<b>7,390,962</b>	<b>16,787,489</b>	<b>7,390,962</b>
<b>Gross earnings</b>				
	<b>46,420,051</b>	<b>42,982,288</b>	<b>44,963,099</b>	<b>42,011,857</b>
(Loss)/Profit before exceptional item & tax	(21,098,901)	(21,371,769)	(20,970,489)	(21,763,808)
Exceptional item	(20,791)	6,809,735		8,609,735
Taxation	(297,410)	(133,437)	(224,926)	(88,063)
Deferred taxation	5,304,229		5,339,559	
(Loss)/Profit after taxation	(16,112,863)	(13,245,488)	(15,855,855)	(13,242,136)
Minority interest	(14,672)	141,864		
	<b>(16,127,535)</b>	<b>(12,753,807)</b>	<b>(15,855,855)</b>	<b>(13,242,136)</b>
<b>APPROPRIATIONS:</b>				
Transfer to statutory reserve				216,253
Transfer to small scale industries reserve				72,084
Transfer to general reserve	(16,127,535)	(12,753,807)	(15,855,855)	(13,242,136)
Transfer to general reserve				432,506
	<b>(16,127,535)</b>	<b>(12,753,807)</b>	<b>(15,855,855)</b>	<b>(13,242,136)</b>

The financial statements were approved by the board of directors on 1 April 2010 and signed on its behalf by:

Akaj Folorunso (CFO)  
 Akaj Ado Yikubu (Finance)



Accountants and Business Advisors

8th Floor, NNDC Building  
 18/19 Ahmadu Bello Way  
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 Kaduna  
 Nigeria

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 Tel: +234 62 248 612  
 www.pkf.com

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO MEMBERS OF UNITY BANK PLC**

**Report on the Financial Statements**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Unity Bank Plc, as at 31 December, 2009, which have been prepared on the basis of the significant accounting policies.

**Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Statements**

The Directors are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with the Companies and Allied Matters Act CAP C20 LFN 2004, Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act CAP B3 LFN 2004. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

**Auditors' Responsibility**

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by directors, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

However, during the year under review, the bank incurred a net loss of N20.97Billion before taxation. Accumulated losses over the years have negatively impacted on the shareholders' fund which now stood at N7.2Billion. This means that for the bank to effectively continue in business, the support of shareholders and depositors, by way of serious injection of funds into the bank's operations cannot be over-emphasised.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the Bank has kept proper accounting records and the financial statements are in agreement with the records in all material respects and give in the prescribed manner, information required by the Companies and Allied Matters Act CAP C20 LFN 2004 and the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act CAP B3 LFN 2004. The financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Unity Bank Plc as at 31 December 2009, and of its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the Statements of Accounting Standards issued by the Nigerian Accounting Standards Board.

**Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

In accordance with circular BSD/1/2004 issued by the Central Bank of Nigeria, details of insider related credits are as disclosed in the relevant note to the financial statements.

**Contraventions**

During the year ended 31 December, 2009, the Bank contravened certain sections of the Banks and Other Financial Institutions Act, 1991. The particulars thereof and penalties paid are set out in note 28

PKF  
 Chartered Accountants  
 27 April 2010



**THE PRESIDENCY  
BUREAU OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (BPP)**



**CALLING ON CONTRACTORS AND CONSULTANTS  
WORKING, OR INTENDING TO WORK ON  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (FG) PROJECTS**

The Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) wishes to invite all contractors and consultants working, or intending to work on Federal Government projects to a **ONE DAY INTERACTIVE WORKSHOP**, with the following objectives:

- Review of the implementation of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 thus far, especially as it affects contractors and consultants as critical stakeholders in the process
- To examine specific issues of contractor prequalification for goods, works and services and implementation challenges of pre-qualification
- To look at general matters of pre-qualification of contractors, and consultants, which are often contentious in the procurement process, and
- To highlight our individual and corporate roles and responsibilities besides, an engagement in mutual enlightenment and education

The workshop takes place, across the country, in accordance with the following schedule:

- ✓ **FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, NICON LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA, MAY 18, 2010**
- ✓ **NORTH-EAST ZONE, BAUCHI STATE, ZARANDA HOTELS, BAUCHI, MAY 25, 2010**
- ✓ **NORTH-WEST ZONE, DINGINYA HOTELS, SOKOTO STATE, SOKOTO, MAY 27, 2010**
- ✓ **NORTH-CENTRAL ZONE, HYDRO, MINNA, JUNE 03, 2010**
- ✓ **SOUTH-EAST ZONE, ROYAL DAN GREAT HOTEL, UMUAHIA, JUNE, 03, 2010**
- ✓ **SOUTH-SOUTH ZONE, GRAND HOTEL, ASABA, JUNE 10, 2010**
- ✓ **SOUTH-WEST ZONE, FOUNTAIN HOTEL, ADO-EKITI, JUNE 10, 2010**

**All enquiries to: [info@bpp.gov.ng](mailto:info@bpp.gov.ng), or send a text to: 08138377013**

**SIGNED**  
**Dr. Abiodun Adeniyi,**  
**Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).**



## UNIVERSAL BASIC EDUCATION COMMISSION

UBEC Building, No. 7 Gwani Street, Wuse Zone 4, P.M.B. 5086, Post Code 900284, Abuja - Nigeria  
 Email: [ubecnigeria@yahoo.com](mailto:ubecnigeria@yahoo.com) URL: [www.ubeconline.com](http://www.ubeconline.com)

### INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF PUBLISHERS FOR SUPPLY OF PRIMARY SIX TEXTBOOKS FOR MATHEMATICS, ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND BASIC SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNDER MDGs TEXTBOOKS INITIATIVE

#### INTRODUCTION

The Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) is a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Education responsible for coordinating and managing the implementation of basic education in Nigeria, to ensure the provision of quality basic education to all children of school going age, with a view to attaining the MDGs and EFA goals.

In accordance with MDGs Textbooks Initiative for public primary schools nationwide, UBEC intends to procure Primary Six English Language, Mathematics and Basic Science and Technology Textbooks for the nation's primary school system. Towards this end, UBEC hereby invites eligible Publishers to make submissions for pre-qualification for the production and supply of English Language, Mathematics and Basic Science and Technology Textbooks for Primary Six in accordance with the Titles/Publishers identified by the State Universal Basic Education Boards (SUBEBs) as being used in their schools.

#### PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested Publishers are required to submit the following:

- i. Evidence of Certificate of Incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission;
- ii. Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three years (2007, 2008 & 2009);
- iii. Evidence of Financial capability from a reputable Bank;
- iv. Evidence of similar contracts executed in

the last three years (2007, 2008 & 2009);

- v. Audited Financial Statements from reputable audit firms for 2007, 2008 & 2009) and
- vi. Evidence of payment of pensions and social security contributions.

#### SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Submission should be made in two copies one "original" and "duplicate" neatly bound and placed in separate envelopes clearly marked as **Original** or **Duplicate** PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR SUPPLY OF TEXTBOOKS and addressed to:

The Executive Secretary,  
 Universal Basic Education Commission,  
 UBEC Building,  
 7 Gwani Street, Off IBB Way,  
 Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.

Attention: Head of Procurement

#### CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

All submissions must be made **not later than 11:00am on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2010. The bids will be opened at 12:00 noon the same day in presence of representatives of bidders.**

Further enquiries/clarifications can be obtained from the Procurement Unit, Office of the Executive Secretary, at the above address between the hours of 10:00 am and 2.00 pm Monday to Friday.

SIGNED:

**Head of Procurement**

for: Executive Secretary



**THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS**  
**NIA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXAMINATION,**  
**SEPTEMBER 2010**  
**NIA FINALS II (DIRECT ADMISSION) EXAMINATION**  
**SEPTEMBER 2010**  
[www.niarchitects.org](http://www.niarchitects.org)

Applications are invited from graduate architects who fall under any of the categories below and wish to be pre-qualified for September 2010 Professional Practice and Finals II (Direct Entry) Examinations.

**1 NIA PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE EXAMINATION (SEPT. 2010)**

This examination is open to candidates with the following qualifications:

- Associate members of the Institute who would have had a minimum of two years supervised post-qualification practice by March 2010
- Graduate Architects from NIA-recognised institutions Overseas with a minimum of two years supervised post-qualification practice (Six months of which must have been spent in Nigeria)
- Candidates who are members of Institutes of corresponding countries and who have practiced for a minimum of six months in Nigeria.
- Candidates who have passed the NIA Finals II Examination with a minimum of 2 years cognate work experience thereafter by March 2010
- Candidates in all cases must be currently resident in Nigeria and also currently fully involved in the practice of Architecture under the supervision of a financial full member of the NIA with a minimum of three years membership.
- Applicants in all cases must be financial Associate members of NIA. Candidate must indicate Associate Membership number on the Examination forms.

**2 NIA FINALS II (DIRECT ADMISSION) EXAMINATION (SEPT. 2010)**

This Examination is for candidates with M.Sc (Architecture) or its equivalent awarded by Nigerian or foreign Universities whose M.sc Architecture programmes are not accredited but B.Sc architecture programmes are accredited by the Nigerian Institute of Architects (all applicants who studied abroad will be required to request the Institution they studied to forward their detailed transcripts directly to the Institute for assessment). Candidates must have obtained the degree at least nine months prior to March 2010.

**METHOD OF APPLICATION**

Application Forms and a booklet "Conditions for Admission into the Examination" are obtainable from the NIA Secretariat in Abuja upon the payment of ₦5,000. Candidates are advised to study the booklet before completing their forms.

Candidates' application forms are to be submitted with the following:

- A non-refundable examination fee of ₦50,000 and ₦45,000 for PPE and Finals II Examinations respectively.
- Logbooks duly endorsed by your Supervising Architects' (PPE only)
- Transcript forwarded directly from your University (Graduate candidates from Overseas Universities only)
- A form completed by the Supervising Architects (PPE only).
- Photocopies of educational certificates (WASC, Diploma and Degrees) and NYSC Certificates. Statement of results shall not be accepted.
- Name and address of the accrediting Board in candidate's country of study (foreign graduates only).
- All applicants must have their certificates sighted and endorsed by a current NIA Council member.
- Two nos. recent passport photographs.
- 4 nos. self-addressed and stamped 9" x 4" envelopes.
- Affidavit for discrepancies in names or other particulars on certificates (if any)
- A duly completed Full membership form for PPE candidates

**RE-SIT CANDIDATES**

All Re-sit candidates must apply for their Re-sit papers within the time stipulated in this advert to be admitted for their Re-sit papers. Late applicants in this regard shall not be considered.

**SEMINAR**

NIA Examination Preparatory Seminar is compulsory for all PPE and Finals II Candidates. The Seminar will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010 in Abuja for both PPE and Finals II candidates. The seminar fee is ₦30,000 and 25,000 for PPE and Finals II examination respectively to be paid with the examination fees.

All payments should be made into the NIA account no. 6110307928 at any Zenith Bank branch and the bank payment teller submitted with the application form.

**EXAMINATION DATE**

The NIA Professional Practice and Finals II (Direct Entry) Examinations will be held from 20<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2010.

**EXAMINATION CENTRES**

The PPE will be held at four centres in ABUJA, LAGOS, KADUNA and ENUGU, while the Finals II Examinations will be held at the ABUJA and LAGOS centres only.

Candidates must indicate on their application form the centre at which they wish to sit for the examination.

**COMPLIANCE**

Strict compliance with all conditions stated above is pre-requisite to being qualified for admission into these examinations.

**CLOSING DATE**

All completed application forms must reach:

The Hon General Secretary,  
 The Nigerian Institute of Architects  
 # 2 Kukawa Close,  
 Off Gimbiya Crescent,  
 Area 11, Garki.  
 P. O. Box 10015, Garki, Abuja.

not later than Friday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2010. Late applications will not be accepted.

(SGD)  
 ARC E. E. BEN-EBOH, mnia  
 HON GENERAL SECRETARY

**REJOINER ON FEDERAL TEACHERS  
 SCHEME (FTS): LIST OF FAKE  
 FTS PARTICIPANTS**

The authorities of College of Education, Zing in Jalingo, Taraba State wish to use this forum to express its deepest appreciation to the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) for its courageous efforts to authenticate NCE results presented by participants of Federal Teachers Scheme (FTS) across the country.

This effort by UBEC is worth commending because it has vindicated genuine students who go through legitimate ways of acquiring their qualifications. The publications in the "Compass" Newspapers of Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, 2009 and "Daily Trust" of Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2009 had discovered some fake statements of results claimed to have been obtained from our College.

The College supports the verification exercise wholeheartedly and will do everything possible to assist government and any concerned organization to verify results / certificates obtained from this College any time such needs arise.

However, the College is compelled to correct certain wrong impressions in the aforementioned publications for the sake of those who genuinely obtained their results but unfortunately had their names included in the said publications to ensure that justice is done to these innocent victims.

Based on the forgoing therefore, the College wishes to state very clearly that the following persons whose names appeared in the said publications were issued with authentic and valid results.

S/NO	NAME	YEAR OF GRADUATION	COURSE
1	UMARU MAIMUNA	2005	ISS/SOS
2	ANNA K. FABIS	2005	CRS/PES
3	MBOIRE JAMES	2006	ENG/SO
4	NKECHI UMEZULIKE	2006	ENG/SOS
5	LEMUEL LEONARD	2006	BIO/GEO
6	TEBRIMAM CHRISTOPHER	2006	ISC(DM)
7	PRESCILIA YUBUIN	2006	PES/SOS
8	BAKARI USMAN	2006	BIO/GEO
9	TAWALIU ELISHA	2006	PES/SOS
10	DAUDA DANLAMI	2006	CRS/SOS
11	KWNKU ADE	2006	ENG/HIS
12	IORDYE TITUS	2006	CRS/SOS
13	IORTYOM TERKULA	2006	BIO/CHE
14	WULKI G. CLETUS	2007	PES/SOS
15	YUSUFU MICHAEL	2007	HAU/SOS
16	CHIRUWA BITRUS	2007	ENG/SOS
17	CHRISTOPHER E. EDOFI	2007	BIO/CHE
18	HASSANA AJI	2007	ENG/CRS
19	JOHN HELEN	2007	CRS/PES
20	YUSUFU A. ADAMU	2007	BIO/GEO
21	TIJJANI SULEIMAN	2007	AGE(DM)

This College is ever ready to expose criminals who go around with results not genuinely obtained from it.

Abdulkarim N. Bello  
 Senior Assistant Registrar

# BUSINESS

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FROM left: Alhaji Aliko Dangote, Chairman; Mr. Shree Jinnabkar, MD; and Mr. Dele Alake, a director; all of Benue Cement Company PLC, at the company's 30th Annual General Meeting in Kano yesterday.

## Banks in merger talks - CBN

•As foreign investors shun Nigerian banks

By Jibrin Abubakar & Idris Ahmed

DISCUSSIONS on acquisition and mergers have reached top levels among Nigerian banks, Central Bank of Nigeria Governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi said yesterday. The talks were being encouraged by the CBN.

The governor also revealed that foreign investors have shown no interest in acquiring any of the troubled banks.

Sanusi said this while responding to questions after a press briefing on the outcome of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting in Abuja.

He said once acquisitions and mergers are concluded, banks that currently lack capital and liquidity to lend would start lending. He said the banking system lost about 66 percent of their capital between the end of 2008 and "what we discovered to be true capital by the end of 2009."

He said: "The question is what the central bank is doing to address this? That is why we have the Asset Management Company to deal with the non-performing loan and bring back capitals to the banks, to recapitalize the institution by injecting capital as well as liquidity."

"That is why we have started a process of merging and acquisition discussion, encourage the banks to look for partners who have capital, who will bring in the capital. Once that is done, the bank would have the capital and liquidity to lend."

No banking system can lose 60 percent of its capital and maintain the supply of credit, according to him.

Sanusi said it is not the action of CBN or the action of the regulator that made banks to stop lending. "It is the fact, if they don't have the capital they cannot lend."

"We have seen in America, we have seen in England and many other European countries that even if you have capital adequacy, it is not enough. In the last three years, we had rapid credit growth and where did it go?" he asked.

The governor also disclosed that foreign banks are shunning Nigerian banks because of their huge bad loans.

"Foreign investors say our banks are lousy and that they are not interested in these banks," he said. On the MPC, Sanusi said the Committee noted the challenges posed by credit crunch which has to do with both supply and demand constraints. "With regards to the continuing credit crunch, the MPC reemphasized that credit growth is a function of demand and supply factors", he said.

According to him, CBN is working to improve the supply side through the various reform measures to strengthen the commercial banks' balance sheets and removing toxic assets and to repair the financial system to promote the flow of credit.

He said the demand side would require critical reforms in the real sec-

tor, particularly power, energy, and key infrastructure to reduce the cost of doing business and improve investment climate to generate bankable projects.

According to him, CBN has achieved its mandate of price and financial stability, as reflected in stable exchange rates, interest rates and moderating inflation.

He said MPC noted that in the next quarter, monetary expansion may be driven by increased government spending, the purchase of toxic assets by the Assets Management Company and recapitalization of distressed banks.

"These expansions may translate into the risk of higher inflation, asset price bubbles of pressure on exchange rate and foreign reserves. The next MPC in July will assess these risks and take appropriate actions", Sanusi said.

MPC left the Monetary Policy Rate (MPR) at 6 percent and retain the asymmetric corridor of interest rates at 200 basis points above MPR and 500 basis points below MPR for standing lending facility and standing deposit facility, respectively.

It also extended the CBN guarantee for all interbank transactions and foreign credit lines as well as pension funds' placements with banks till June 2011 to provide enough time for the conclusion of banking sector resolution and the publication of audited accounts for the period up to December 2010.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE

<b>Chanchangi Airlines</b>	
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)
<b>Nigerian Eagles Airlines (Virgin Nigeria)</b>	
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)
<b>IRS Airlines</b>	
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)

### STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Tuesday, May 11, 2010
Index:	27,714.39
Deals:	8,423
Volume:	353,759,397
Value:	₦ 3,243,294,449.77
Cap:	₦6,703,429,630,223.36

### TRUST INDEX

Inflation	11.8%
GDP	5.58%
Budget	₦4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$40.7bn
Excess Reserves Acct	\$3.9bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$80 a barrel
Power supply	3,700MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbpd
Broad Money Supply	₦11,010,063.6m
Credit to Private Sector	₦10,037,422.5m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.2000%
Treasury Bills	2.02%
Deposit Rate	7.51%
Prime Lending Rate	18.06%

### CBN EXCHANGE RATES

7/5/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2802	0.2902	0.3002
DANISH KRONER	26.2418	26.3307	26.4196
EURO	195.3914	196.0533	196.7151
PORTUGAL ESCUDO	221.3443	225.3049	226.0655
RIYAL	39.3627	39.696	39.6293
SDR	222.3745	225.1278	223.881
SWISS FRANC	136.2093	136.6707	137.132
US DOLLAR	147.61	148.11	148.61
WAUA	222.2943	223.0473	223.8003
YEN	1.5546	1.5399	1.5651

### Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	₦151
Euro	₦204
Pound	₦234
SELLING	
Dollar	₦152
Euro	₦206
Pound	₦236

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



CBN

## Business

# 'India is second largest employer of labour in Nigeria'

By Sunday Williams

INDIAN companies are the second largest employers of labour in Nigeria after government, the Indian High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. Mashesh Sachdev said when he paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Commerce and

Industry Senator Jubril Martins Kuye.

The High Commissioner said Indian companies occupy top positions in the Nigerian economy, contributing immensely to the development of the country especially in the areas of pharmaceuticals, steel development and power

transmission.

He said: "These companies have become very important, considering India's 30,000 community in Nigeria. We are conscious of the bilateral ties between Nigeria and India. This is even more significant because India is one of the smallest foreign communities

in Nigeria."

He said that he is also visiting to introduce a very important delegation dealing with the cotton sector from India, adding that India is the second largest cotton grower and renown textile producer in the world.

He also said the volume of trade between Nigeria and

India reached about 10 billion dollars as at March 2009. The 2010 result is yet to be compiled.

He said the current volume of trade indicates a rise of more than 30 percent of business transactions between Nigeria and India before the end of 2008.

## Iran to increase trade volume with Nigeria

By Sunday Williams

THE Islamic Republic of Iran has indicated its willingness to improve on the volume of trade between it and Nigeria which currently stood at 10 million dollars.

Speaking in Abuja during an investment meeting between the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) and the visiting Iranian Economic delegation, the Vice President International Affairs, Iran Chambers of Commerce, Industries and mines, Dr. Mehdi Fakheri said the volume of trade between the two countries is unacceptable.

He said: "For two countries with total population of over 250 million, 10 million dollars of trade is nothing. So we need to exploit more opportunities to better the trade volume."

He said the Iranian investors are interested in goods and services as well as investments in the areas of energy, infrastructure, agriculture and mining.

He said: "From the information that we received, I believe we can start investing in the Nigerian market; first in agriculture, food processing, fertilizer and tractors. We are also interested in export of services. We export about 2.3 billion

dollars worth of engineering services in 2008."

On the volume of FDI, they intend to inject into the Nigerian economy, about 100 million dollars worth of investments.

"If we continue developing from the three sectors of energy, infrastructure and agric machinery (tractors) to new projects, then it might reach 500 million dollars," he said.

Speaking, the executive Secretary of NIPC, Engr. Mustafa Bello, said the commission will work closely with the Iranian investors to make sure that it attracts the FDI into the Nigerian economy.

## E-payment: N100m unclaimed salaries in banks -Niger State

NIGER civil servants faces hard times as over N100 million unclaimed salaries float in commercial banks due to the introduction of e-payment.

Alhaji Muazu Bawa, the Niger Commissioner for Finance and Economic Development confirmed this on Monday in Minna to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN).

He said that the state government adopted the e-payment mode of paying salaries to ensure accountability.

Bawa said that unclaimed salaries stood over N100 million in some of the commercial banks.

"I can only give you the comprehensive figure of unclaimed salaries after the mopping exercise to be conducted by the ministry," he said.

He expressed confidence that the system would enable the government detect "ghost workers" on its payrolls in ministries, departments and agencies.



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**DATE:** Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> MAY, 2010  
at:  
Queens Science Academy, Kano  
Premier International School, Abuja  
Prince Int. School Gusau  
Contact the School for information on other centres.  
**TIME:** 9:00 am in Kano  
10.00 At other centres  
The Academy admits students into JS 1 and SS 1 only.



Staff Interviews will be conducted in June, 2010 applications should be submitted to premises or via e-mail

## Business

# Oando earnings hit N91.3bn in Q1

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

OANDO Plc yesterday announced that it has recorded a N19.3 turnover and a net profit up 73 per cent to N3.1 billion in its unaudited results for the first quarter ended 31 March 2010.

Presenting the result on the floor of the Nigeria stock Exchange yesterday, Oando said it also recorded

a N3.1 billion Profit After Tax during the quarter, representing a 73 per cent increase relative to the same period of 2009 while Pre-tax profit grew 109 per cent to N5.1 billion for the same period in 2009 and turnover increased by 18 per cent to N91.3 billion.

The strength of the first quarter's performance, the company said reflects the group's increasing contributions from the divers-

fied platform coupled with the satisfactory financial performance of the base downstream business. The midstream division generated new revenues from its first IPP, the recently commissioned 12.15MW independent power plant for the Lagos State Water Corporation coupled with the upstream division where a second swamp drilling rig was deployed to commence a contract with an interna-

tional oil company as well as increased crude oil production from its producing assets. The company said its downstream division received delayed interest payments on Petroleum Subsidy Fund (PSF) from the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Authority which significantly contributed to its profitability.

In parallel, management's ongoing focus on operational efficiency and

cost control continues to yield results as administrative expenses reduced by 44 per cent compared with the first Quarter of 2009.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Wale Tinubu, Chief Executive Officer of Oando said, "I am happy to announce a positive start to the year. The first quarter's success is attributable to the increase in earnings from the midstream and upstream divi-

sions as the new project initiatives continue to come on stream. Furthermore our downstream division has performed creditably in line with our financial expectations. The quarter heralded our launching the first major capital market transaction in recent times with a Rights Issue exercise which received overwhelming support from our shareholders and closed with a 28% oversubscription.

## Nigeria starts 'unemployment census'

THE Chairman of the National Bureau of Statistics Greg Mbadiwe on Monday said the bureau had begun a manpower survey of the country to ascertain its unemployment level.

Fielding questions from newsmen at the Presiden-

tial Wing of the Murtala Muhammed Airport, Ikeja, Mbadiwe said the survey would reveal the number unemployed citizens. He said it would also reveal areas or states where unemployment was prevalent.

"The survey when concluded will indicate

the number of men and women who are graduates and those who are not," he added.

Mbadiwe said the bureau was also conducting an agricultural survey, and that, the report of the survey would be available by the end of year. (NAN).

## SEC queries 35 stock brokers

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

AT least 35 stock brokers have been queried on Monday by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for failing to make period returns to the SEC, the Director General SEC, Ms. Arunma Oteh, has said.

"Today I signed letter to 35 broken firms on issues around periodic returns and if the response is not satisfactory, we will revoke their license," she said.

Oteh, speaking on the topic "from crisis to a world class market" delivered Monday in Lagos at the Nigerian Economic Dialogue Series also said shortly; the capital market will witness unprecedented reforms.

She wrapped the

reforms around, the theme of the summit, 'strategies for building a world class capital market.'

She said the key is restoring investors' confidence, ensure market integrity and entrench good corporate governance.

"If we are successful in restoring investor confidence and market integrity, enhancing our disclosure regime and corporate governance, and increasing our product offerings, notably establishing a world class bond market, and a fair and efficient market place my vision of our capital market is one that; that becomes a catalyst for growth and a fulcrum for the financial hub of West Africa, enables Nigeria achieve an investment grade rating, a con-

sistent increase in capital flows, and a sharp increase in national savings and capital formation," she said.

She said with \$220 billion economic size, and a growth rate of 4 to 5 per cent per annum, Nigeria's is the second largest economy in the Sub Saharan Africa and this is why it is extremely important that we create a capital market that is strong, fair, efficient and robust.

"We must do this continually by raising the standards of our regulatory environment, revitalizing our enforcement programmes, introducing new products, enhancing our processes, widening the investor-base and invigorating investor education," she said.

## Why prepaid meters are in short supply-PHCN

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE Abuja Electricity Distribution Company of the PHCN has disclosed that the shortage of prepaid meters which were introduced to replace the analogue billing system was due to "the expiration" of the National Prepaid Metering Project last year.

It was in an effort to address the friction between customers and PHCN over billings that the federal government in 2002 introduced the prepaid metering system under the National Prepaid Metering Project [NPMP].

But electricity consumers within the Abuja zone and elsewhere in the country have complained that the prepaid meters

introduced by the PHCN were not made available to them, and that they were still being subjected to indiscriminate billing by the PHCN.

Principal Manager, Public Affairs, of the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company of the PHCN, Debo Adegoke, told Daily Trust in an interview that the stock of prepaid meters that were initially provided by a consortium of foreign companies for distribution to customers was exhausted.

"But because of the vast size of the country, we decided to select some towns namely: Abuja, Kano, Lagos, Enugu, Port Harcourt and Jos as pilot areas for the project," he explained.

He said in Abuja zone contract for the prepaid meters was awarded to ENL Consortium, a South Africa based company saying, "There is meter shortage in Abuja zone because the contract awarded to ENL Consortium was expired last year and the government is still in the process of reviewing the project."

He said the federal government was still in the process of reviewing the National Prepaid Metering adding that in the meantime "we are sourcing for funds to get the prepaid meters on our own so that we would sell them to our customers." He said the single phase prepaid meter costs N2, 500 while the three phase one costs N55, 000.

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## Entrance Tests

ABUJA CENTRE

**Date:** Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2010  
**Time:** 9:00am  
**Venue:** Plot 858, Mabushi District, Behind the Federal Ministry of Works and Housing

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PORT HARCOURT CENTRE

**Date:** Saturday 12th June, 2010 **Time:** 9:00am  
**Venue:** Montessori International School  
 58, King Perekule Street, GRA Port Harcourt

**Registration forms:** from The Registrar, Mrs Eniola Ekubi or  
 The Admissions Officer of the Montessori School, Port Harcourt  
 registrarsec@regentschoolabuja.com www.regentschoolabuja.com  
 0803 327 9062 0807 848 7966

## Star Feature

# Abandoned

The menace of abandoning infants to die continues at a much higher rate in areas characterized by extreme poverty and over population. Today, children are abandoned secretly by women who cannot cope with the extra burden of a child.

By Lami Sadiq

**M**ALLAMA Hasia lives at the tail end of Kurmin Mashi in Kaduna state. Her house is situated close to 'sabon layi' where the regular bustle known to the area is not common. So it was strange, when on a Sunday afternoon an infant child was deposited on her veranda, while she was attempting to relax with her family after returning from her Islamiyya school. It all started when her neighbor thought she heard the cry of a baby but ignored it. When the cry persisted, she alerted Mallama Hasia and together, they went out to check. What they saw shocked them. All bundled up in a black overall cotton sweater, and wrapped in a worn out red 'shaddah' wrapper, was an infant child wailing its lungs out. Just beside the baby was a black nylon bag containing what they later discovered to be the placenta. Astonished, they immediately alerted the neighbours around, including the 'mai anguwa' who accompanied them to the police station to file a statement.

That was over 3 months ago and the infant who was abandoned on the third of January has now been named Abdulazeez. "I'm just glad we found him at the time we did, and the mother dropped him in the afternoon, not late at night when stray pigs explore the area," said Mallama Hasiya.

I've often heard people say there is some sort of magical feeling that comes with childbirth. Mothers say the pain is unbearable but worth it, because just looking at the newborn baby gives the much needed magical anesthetic the mother needs, to forget the overbearing pain and trauma. However, while some children are loved and cherished, many are abandoned, wrapped inside cartons, nylon bags and dumped in refuse bins to die of hunger, thirst, animal attack and hypothermia, while some moth-

ers even go as far as killing them before dumping the body.

A few weeks before Mallama Hasia found Abdulazeez, another infant had been abandoned in a refuse dump somewhere in Badarawa. The residents had been complaining of a stench and when it became unbearable, two of the residents contracted and organized some youths to clear the refuse. It was in the process that an already decaying infant child was found.

I have witnessed two instances of infanticide, and surely none of the two can be easily forgotten. The most horrendous which still lingers in my mind was when the body of an infant child was found under the Bauchi road bridge in Jos, some years back.

The Bauchi road bridge is just before AS Mohammed building for those coming from the University of Jos, and not far from Salisu Adamu junction, when coming from terminus. A stream flows beneath the bridge, even though most residents have equally turned it into a refuse dump, with an irrigation farm by the side. During the raining season, the stream overflows in fast and powerful strides, capable of taking any available object it may find in its way. Often, people throw their garbage in the hope that the rains and subsequent flood will carry it to an unknown destination. You sometimes see passers by hanging on to the rails of the bridge, while they stretch their necks to peep down below. And often, there are all sorts of bizarre tales about things found under the bridge. All we heard were rumours, until the day a dead infant was found by a man, who had gone there for an entirely different mission.

It wasn't certain whether the infant was already dead when it was abandoned, or it was abandoned there to die by exposure, but it was found wrapped in what appeared to be a pillow case just beside the stream.

"Approximately 50 to 60 children are recovered yearly as



MALLAMA Hasia and the abandoned infant, Abdulazeez.

abandoned in Nigeria and majority of them are infants," said Mrs. Agnes Heart, the Assistant Director, Child Welfare and Gender Department of the Social Development Service, FCT.

**T**he number may look minute, in a country estimated to have 120million people. But this does not include the number of dead infants found around Nigeria, or those that have been killed and buried, which we may never know and so are not documented.

"There are a lot of factors responsible for these inhuman treatments to infants, and until we are honest as a nation, we cannot address the issues," said Mallama Hasia. Some of the factors, according to her, include prostitution, teenage pregnancy and poverty. "Most unmarried girls are not ready to take up parental responsibilities and so they throw away their infants into dust bins," she lamented.

Paying a visit to St Fabian's orphanage home in Efab Estate, Abuja, revealed a serene atmos-

phere. The small but neat and well organized orphanage which at present, is home

**“ A mother who wants to give up her child should be looked upon with empathy not stigmatized.”**

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# at birth



Daniel, who is a few months old, offered much needed relief from the scourging. Mrs. Evelyne Ajuya, the administrator of the orphanage, spoke passionately and firmly about the inhumane act of abandoning babies.

She explained the need to look beyond the dumping of babies and focus on how to tackle the root cause, which she said are unwanted pregnancies by young adolescent girls. "If girls are cared for during their pregnancy, we counseled to give up their babies to a suitable orphanage and assured that the child will be taken care of and have a better life, we won't have problems of abandoned babies," said Ajuya.

She further stated that, "going to the fields, we discovered that we can't stop young girls from having babies. But we can encourage them to give the children a life, to live and be loved."

In Karu children's home however, the air was different. There were children of all ages playing and laughing at a play ground attached to the home. The old orphanage, where 53 children live and call a home, is already finding it difficult to cater for all of them. Mr Joseph Daniel, the secretary explained that they

often have to transfer some of the children to the FCT Unity orphanage in Gwagwalada. "We have three categories of children in the home which include abandoned, abused and the motherless, and so we have some difficulty in catering for them all."

The oldest orphan in the home is a 21 year old, who is awaiting admission into the university, having sat for the Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) examination.

"Our joy is seeing these kids grow up before our eyes into adult boys and girls, with meaningful lives. They know they are here because of one condition or the other, and we advise them not to condemn themselves, and make the best out of life," explain Daniel

He explained that government orphanages like the Karu children's home take turns in selecting religious names for abandoned infants, stressing that "unless you come here, you will not understand what we do. When an infant is brought, we give him an Islamic name, so the next one that is brought will automatically be given a Christian name." This, he said, was to accommodate women from both religions to handover their infant rather than throwing them away to die.

The dumping of children may be common in poor countries, but it is not peculiar to them alone, as countries like India and China are taking the lead in the practice of female child infanticide. The story in the western world, may seem a bit different as mothers usually have more to gain by giving up their infants to adoption agencies. These agencies are readily available to contact and secure responsible families for the upcoming child, while the mother participates in the screening process, in order to ensure that the child is properly brought up and cared for. In most cases the interested couple go through the entire birth process with the mother, pay her medical bills and make other financial assistance to her, while she signs the papers relinquishing rights over the child.

"What we have started doing is to take care of the mother, pay her medical bills until she delivers. Then if she still wants to give up the baby, we will invite the social service, and she will sign the documents stating clearly what she wants to do. Then we take the baby and care for it, pending when the social service finds a suitable family that wants to adopt him or her," explained Ajuya



ABDULAZEEZ

Mrs. Heart applauded the efforts of orphanage homes that are proactive in their approach to both the birthmothers and the child. She however cautioned them to be sincere and always involve the social service. "Let them involve us, so that we can document whatever the mother wants to do with her child, and we advocate that except in very extreme cases, a mother should not be deprived from her baby"

Perhaps most of these mothers, especially young teenagers, are afraid of the procedure in giving up a child and the judging eyes of the society, when they take an infant child to be deposited into a home, or handed over to the service.

"A mother who wants to give up her child should be looked upon with empathy not stigmatized, because she is incapacitated," said Heart. But there is a catch, as the mother will have to be taken to the police station to make a statement and get the necessary court clearance, to ensure that the service is not forcing her to hand over her child.

"We have a four month old child who was brought in by the mother. The mother said she pre-

fers to bring the child to the home rather than abandoning her. So we took the child to the social service to be documented, and she is still here," said Daniel

But with poverty increasing and ravaging the hearts of both young and adults, more and more infants may likely be abandoned or worse, killed. The social service however, has assured that it will not relent in its advocacy crusade to crush child abandonment "We will continue to work hand in hand with the police and other NGO's, to ensure that an innocent child is not killed out of wickedness and be more proactive to ensure that every child is given a right to life," said Heart

Taboos are still in place and basically every parent will rather not have a child out of wedlock. Such strict measure may be responsible for high rates of abandoned children, as some conceal their pregnancies and the child birth, only to throw away the baby.

"Let's solve the problems of abandoned babies, let us save lives. There are statistics of children being dumped yearly, but how many of them are being saved?"demanded Ajuya.

**“Taboos are still in place and basically every parent will rather not have a child out of wedlock.”**



ONDO STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

We share in the nation's grief...



**Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua GCFR**  
16 August 1951 - 5 May 2010

The Government and people of Ondo State commiserate with all Nigerians on the death of our former President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, **Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR.**

Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'Adua, GCFR would be remembered as a very sincere, simple, humble leader, whose administration's emphasis on the rule of law and the groundbreaking amnesty programme for the Niger Delta militants went a long way to strengthen democracy in Nigeria.

May the LORD grant his soul eternal rest.

**Mr. Ranti Akerele**

Hon. Commissioner for Information  
Ondo State

## Northern Business

# Chinese, Lebanese chase out Nigerians in bread making business

From Halima Musa, Kano

BREAD making is one business that has flourished over the years in Kano State. It is a business that provides job opportunities to teeming unemployed youths. A single bakery house can have over 100 workers depending on the size of the bakery and the number of sacks of flour used to make the bread on daily basis.

The business has seen changes, ranging from the ingredients, the method of making the bread and the market itself. From the beginning of the business, bakers were getting the flour directly from the company at a subsidised price. The flour then was made in such a way that all the ingredients needed; such as potassium bromide was included. The bakers didn't have to buy the potassium bromide differently. It was however abandoned when the health hazards of the item was identified through research.

The quantity of bread produced has increased manifold because of the increased in population. The consumption has also increased because of its affordability. Bread is adjudged as the cheapest food that can be afforded by majority of people in Nigeria. Its consumption has been simplified; already baked from the bakery. It can be taken without any complement.

Describing the bread business in Kano, the chairman of Bakers Association, North-West zone, Ibrahim Lawal Maiturare said bread making has undergone transformation and innovations that helped in enhancing the bread making.

He explained how at the beginning they were buying flour directly from the company through their association, and how that privilege was lost. "At the beginning of our business we were buying flour at a subsidised price directly from the company through our association. We lost this privilege when some people began to establish false bakery houses with the aim of getting allocation from the flour companies and at the end, they take it to the market and sell at exorbitant price. When the company discovered the fraud, they decided to stop the allocation to bakers association; instead they sell it to independent marketers. Now we buy it at high price in the market," he said.

He said unlike before when the dough would spend a day before moulding it, now the flour can be mixed and moulded immediately. Because of the development, bread can be made as much as one can do in a day.

The chairman said to establish a bakery one would need not less



than N5million for the traditional bakery and at least N20million for a modern bakery. He added that on a research carried out two years ago, there were about 7,000 bakery houses in Kano city and in all the 44 local government. Out of this number, only about 100 bakeries have the modern facilities.

He said the cost of the modern facilities was unaffordable to the indigenous bakers, "It is not easy to establish a modern bakery because of cost implication. The prices of the facilities separately are; Oven, N3million and above, mixing machine N1.7million, moulder, N500, 000, divider, N500, 000, slicer, N1500, 000. This is including a big power generating set. If you calculate the amount, you can see that not many indigenous bakers can afford the cost," he said.

On the other ingredients for making the bread, Maiturare said the prices of such items were higher than how it was some years back. He said ten years back they were buying a sack of flour at N2,000, but now they buy it at N5,000. A sack of sugar sold at N2,800 now goes for N8, 800. And instead of using vegetable oil, butter is used in making the bread; 600 kilogram is sold at the cost of N3200. The butter is now used because of lack of good vegetable oil.

Another innovation introduced in the bread making is the use of cassava. According to the chairman, 10% of cassava is now added to the flour right from the flour companies. He said there was no flour that cassava was not added.

At the beginning, he said, the addition of cassava to the flour,

caused them some losses. They were ignorant of how to use the new flour, as a result of that, many bakers had their mixtures spoilt. He however said after many trials, they were able to identify the problem and since then everything is now going smoothly. He further added that when the federal government banned the use of potassium bromide, bakers faced similar problem of how to make the bread without it. He said the bromide was active in making the dough raise to a desired level but in the absence of it, the flour after being mixed remain as hard as it was mixed making it impossible to bake.

"We suffered great losses at that time because it was not possible to make bread without the chemical. Government could not organise a workshop to sensitize us on how to make bread without the bromide, it only gave us order that we should stop the use of it. It could not find an alternative to the bromide for us. It was our leadership that went into the internet to look for an alternative item. There, we got the improver which we are now using. The improver is imported into the country from America and Ghana."

The main challenge of the bread business is the prolifera-

tion of foreigners into the business. He said as a result of the establishment of modern bakeries by mostly Chinese and Lebanese, over 100 indigenous bakeries have closed shops.

"Our major challenge is foreign investors. A foreigner can sink about N100 million to establish a modern bakery. Since they started establishing the modern bakeries, over 100 indigenous bakeries have closed shop," he said.

He opined that the situation was unfortunate, blaming government for allowing the trend to continue. He said if government was concern about the progress of its people, it would have assisted the indigenous bakers to enable them compete with the foreigners.

The fact that a single bakery can have as many as a hundred staff, one can imagine the number of people that were rendered jobless as over 100 bakeries closed shop. The number is indeed enormous. The bakers are hoping that before more bakeries close shop, government will intervene to bring an end to the activities of the foreigners who through the aid of their governments are crumbling the indigenous bakery business in Kano.

Our major challenge is foreign investors. A foreigner can sink about N100 million to establish a modern bakery. Since they started establishing the modern bakeries, over 100 indigenous bakeries have closed shop

## Business/Telecoms

# SIM registration can reduce crimes - Senator Anyanwu

Sylvester Anyanwu is the senator representing Imo North senatorial district and chairman, senate committee on communication. In this interview he speaks of plans to tackle GSM crimes in the country which have been on the increase and other national issues.

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri.

**W**hat are the plans of your committee to tackle the increasing rate of crime especially kidnapping for which GSM have become a veritable tool for the hoodlums?

Kidnapping has been of great concern to all Nigerians. We want all SIM cards- both the old and the new registered, because it will help us track down such number of hoodlums that make such calls and the numbers use to commit such crimes. Psychologically, it will also deter some of the hoodlums because if you know you are being monitored and you can be traced, you would have second thought before committing such crime. More importantly, the sim cards would not appear an easy thing to buy unlike before one can buy it on the high way and in any other place. By the time we roll out the required information we need before selling it somebody would need second thought before buying two cards just to use it to commit crimes and throw it away. Actually we are doing quite a lot, we are supposed to have started in March, but you know some of these things require a lot of logistics, so we are hopeful that it will soon take-off. The companies that would work on this in the six geo-political zones have being short listed and NCC is handling

the issue and they would be registering the existing lines and you know we have over 70million of them in the country. So these companies registering the 70million lines would start registering the new lines from subscribers who purchased them and the data base would be at NCC. So if there is any information from the security agency on a particular number they can trace them. Also we are going to use tracking system to track such numbers and be able to locate exact position where the numbers are coming from. It is something we have taken seriously.

**W**hat is your assessment of the service providers since inception?

The service providers had their hiccups at the start of GSM in Nigeria and most of them were shocked at the level of growth. So the infrastructure they had in place could not accommodate the growth in terms of subscriber-base, and that was the reason why you have a lot of failed calls, uncompleted calls, and poor service delivery. So there process of trying to increase their network, they were having more people to subscribe to than their network capacity. They have continued to fight to catch up with the growth. In fact, to me they have done fairly well not to the point I feel satisfied with what they have done.



SYLVESTER Anyanwu

You remember before we came in 2007, you can hardly hold one call for two minutes and it will stop because of congestion, because they do not provide adequate network to accommodate the number of people that was coming in and when we came in, we asked them to give us there road map, because we don't want continuing problem of network. Another thing that worries us is when we have these migration during the festive period to all parts of this country, there is usually problems in the rural areas because they can never make calls. They have also failed to provide infrastructures with the PTF section at that local level to avoid congestion in making calls in those areas. We

are also working in that line with NCC. One good thing is that at least they have listening ears and they are ready to invest with the huge profits they are making. I want to encourage them to continue in that direction, we have a lot of programmes, working with NCC to improve their services and ensure that the cost of making call is drastically reduced as much as possible because it is very high.

**H**ow would you describe NCC under the out gone chairman Ndukwe and what would you suggest to his successor?

Well I believe that Ernest Ndukwe did his best and within his period, National Communication Council (NCC) grew very rapidly and attracted over 20bn US dollars investment into country. The subscriber-base of phone users rose from 200 to close to 100million people and a lot of infrastructures were laid and a lot of discipline also came into force in the sector.

So I believe he did his best because it is ongoing thing and you know the sector is the 21st sector, so there is a lot to do especially in the broad bank and internet service sector. The access to internet especially in the rural arrears are still lacking and if you compare Nigeria, Ghana in Africa, we are still the least used internet. So the challenges that would be facing whoever that will replace him include using the wire max in the broad bank. We have closed the gap between the six lines and the mobile phone. Secondly, the issue of tariff has to come down tremendously especially when you are calling one provider like from MNT to MNT.

It is like an inter call, so the cost of tariff for such call should be half the normal cost. Thirdly I expect that the regulatory function would be taken very seriously. The regulator must now begin to create framework so that there would not be any collapse, because what collapsed the word street is because the executive framework street actually collapsed. So we are now going to look at the NCC act and see how it can be beefed up to provide a stabilizing force. There is quite a lot for the new person to ensure customer satisfaction, quality of service delivery among others. This would assist in moving the country far ahead than other sectors in terms of internet facilities, internet use and fix wireless.

**W**hat is your view on the controversy surrounding the sale of NITEL?

Well, what is happening to NITEL is unfortunate, and I am very worried about that. Worried in the sense that this country invested so much money in Telecommunication and many people have raped it and they are roaming about the streets. There are lots of sabotage also against NITEL but this is something that cannot be understood easily. I do believe that the President is going to look at it critically because NITEL has tremendous potentials to employ Nigerians. The establishment has trained a lot of technicians out there and they are wasting. They are owing staff and people are ready to buy off NITEL to keep these people back to work. The company will also provide serious infrastructure for other network companies to ride on. Nigeria must have political will now to move NITEL forward.

## Pay us in the name of God, Mtel staff cry out

From Yunus Abdulhamid, Lagos

PAUL Inyekwaba is a call executive at the Mtel, the mobile arm of the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL). He started working there since 2004 and all was going on well until privatisation fever initiated by the Obasanjo administration struck. Ever after, the story has changed, with members of staff dying out of starvation and illness as they had no money to go to the hospital.

An estimated sum of N15 billion is expected to settle the outstanding salaries of the 3, 500 NITEL and MTEL workers. Several efforts to sell the moribund NITEL/Mtel over the past decade have remained unsuccessful. The last of them was the bidding of \$2.5 billion by New Generation Consortium at a public bid opening in Abuja on February 16, 2010. The bid which was supervised by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) is currently on hold on the order of the federal government and would likely being cancelled largely due to several contending parties who want to have stake in the enterprises.

While perceived politics and intrigues by interest groups threaten to destroy the remaining economic value of NITEL/Mtel, the over 3, 500 workers of the company suffer untold hardship. Weeks back, some workers at MTEL threatened to embark on suicide bombings to draw the attention of the federal government to their plight, having exhausted all peaceful means, the claimed.

Last week Tuesday, workers at NITEL stormed the office of the minister of Information and Communications, Prof. Dora Akunyili to press home their demand of salaries after two years. The workers were protesting under the aegis of the National Union of Postal and Telecommunications Employees (NUPTE).

The National President of the union Alhassan Sunday described the non-payment of salaries for 25 months as the highest act of dehumanization against the nations' rebranding initiatives.

He said "They made this organization to generate revenue to the extent that some agencies in this country were being paid from the reserved fund of NITEL; today these work-

ers do not know their fate, the infrastructures of this organization are decaying by every minute."

He said since 2006, when NITEL was privatized its workers that were meant to earn a life pension, were given a 5 years pension bail out. In a letter written to the acting president, the union urged the government to take drastic measures to redress the situation, noting that the workers who have put in their entire lives into the organization are dying and starving.

Paul Inyekwaba who walks in crutches due to paralysed legs symbolises the untold hardship the workers of the once prosperous government telecoms monopoly goes through.

He told Daily Trust life has been hell of a sort to him, since government stopped paying their salaries some two years ago. In an exclusive interview, he said "In my own case, you can see that I am physically challenged. I cannot beg on the street, I cannot hawk. Yet I have to live and I have a family to carter for. I have a house to pay for the rent. I live in Kubwa where you have pay not less than two years for house rent. I was living in a flat where I paid N200,

000 per annum."

Pual, a law graduate from the Abia State University had established a non-governmental organisation (NGO) some years back, when the going was good at MTEL.

The organisation took care of the physically challenged, orphans and the like. He used his personal money to fund the organisation. "I was doing that to give some breath of life to the down trodden. By the time these trying periods surfaced at the company, all those in the list of my foundation's scholarship dropped out as I could not continue," he said.

"Now, I can't even feed myself. I live on daily basis on friends. But how long will I live on friends. My name has become synonymous with nuisance with my friends because each time my call get into their phone, the response is that of 'Ah, you want to ask for money again. Am I the government that owes you? I have my own problem.' Obviously, they have their problems too. There have been humiliation and embarrassment on my person as well as on my friends. I feel I am embarrassing myself as well as embarrassing them," Paul lamented.

Business/Aviation

# Up in the clouds

BT Imomoh, 30, is an ambitious First Officer with his eye on the Captain's chair.

**WHAT did you want to be when you were young?**

For as long as I can remember I have always wanted to be a pilot.

**What attracted you to your profession?**

I have always had a passion for planes and I thought it would be a lot of fun going to different destinations around the world.

**What has been the best experience of your career so far?**

Definitely the day I had my parents on board. They have been so supportive of me and it was nice for them to see the result.

**What has been the most unexpected moment of your career?**

What I was on the CRJ 900 and I saw an A340 parked at the international terminal, I said to the captain "one day I would love to fly that aircraft," one year later it actually happened.

**Can you remember the first time you flew a plane?**

Yes it was in Aberdeen, Scotland and I was 21 years old. I was excited but quite nervous too.

**What was it like?**

Initially I got slightly air sick due to all the manoeuvres but after a few more lessons I got over it. I was completely hooked after that.

**What is a typical working day like for you?**

Most of the hard work is done before we even start the engines! We normally meet at Flight Operations 3 hours before the departure. The captain and I check over the flight plan, weather, fuel, and passenger loads. We then proceed to the aircraft. While the captain is carrying out the preliminary checks, I do an external walk around. Once I am back in the

cockpit we input the flight plan and cross check to make sure it is correct. Once we are fully catered, fuelled and passengers are all on board we check the load sheet to make sure the numbers tally, then we are ready to go.

**You have been with Arik Air since its inception. Have you seen the airline change?**

When I joined Arik there were 10 aircraft and we had no international destinations. The fleet size has more than doubled over an 18 month period serving numerous destinations including New York, London and Johannesburg. It is exciting to be part of a big expansion in such a short period of time.

**What are your career aspirations?**

One day when I have enough experience I would like to be a Captain.

**What advice do you have for people who want to go into your profession?**

Training can last from 18-24 months so perseverance is key. Be positive and keep focused on your end goal. It is a fantastic feeling when you first get your commercial licence because it shows all your hard work has paid off.

**Where is your favourite destination?**

It has to be London. I was born in London, studied there and I have friends and family there so it's basically a second home to me.

**If people have only one day to spend in Lagos, what should they do?**

The Lekki peninsula has numerous beaches and there is a craft market where you can get loads of souvenirs. If you still have time left over you can take a boat ride along the lagoon and creeks.

**Do you have any tips for frequent travelers?**



BT Imomoh

You can never cheat sleep. If your body is tired there is not much you can do about it but to rest so I try to catch up once I am on the ground. *Culled from Wings (The Inflight magazine of Arik Air)*

## Nigeria marks Aeronautical Day

FROM Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Aeronautical Information Services Association of Nigeria (AISAN) will on May 15th join their counterparts all over the world to celebrate the global Aeronautical Information Services (AIS) day.

According to AISAN president, Mr. Paul Igene during a press briefing at the presidential wing of the Murtala Mohammed Airport (MMA) on Monday to highlight activities line up for the 2010 world AIS day, stated that this year's celebration will hold in Benin, Edo state on the 15th this month.

The event which is tagged, "Decades of AIS in NAMA/ NCAA: The Changing Face of The Profession" under the chairmanship of Captain Dele Ore Igene said is expected to be hosted by his Governor Adams Oshiomhole of Edo State.

He said, "If Kenya a small country in the continent has automated its AIS, what is then wrong with Nigeria, the giant

of Africa. You cannot compare manual operations with technologically driven activities."

Igene stated that safety can be fully achieved in Nigeria's aviation industry when complete automation of aeronautical facilities are on ground.

"Real time technology is more than necessary in this dispensation and it is important that AIS be automated so that we can deliver information efficiently and get expected result, he said."

Anthony Nweke, general secretary of the association disclosed that the contract for the automation of the aeronautical facilities has been awarded but the association is not pleased with the "slow pace" of implementation.

He added, "The federal government has awarded the contract and work is on but what we are clamouring for is that the automation be fast tracked. They have been working on this in the past, but it's like they slowed the pace. We want things to work this time for we are lagging behind in Nigeria."

## Morocco shuts airports as ash cloud nears Africa

MOROCCO closed several airports on Tuesday as the cloud of ash from a volcano in Iceland approached northwest Africa, the transport ministry said.

"The cloud of volcanic ash will reach part of Moroccan airspace in coming hours," the Equipment and Transport Ministry said in a statement.

The statement said the closures were necessary "to ensure full security for passengers travelling this Tuesday".

It closed Morocco's main international hub of Casablanca and the capital Rabat from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and shut Tangier, Tetouan and Essaouira airports from 5 a.m. to 1 p.m. The cloud of abrasive ash already forced the closure of several airports in Spain over the weekend.

Emissions from the Eyjafjallajokull volcano forced sweeping closures of European airspace last month, disrupting travel for millions of passengers and costing airlines more than a billion euros of revenues. (Reuters/NAN).

## SAHCOL confirms Orolugbagbe as CEO/MD

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Skyway Aviation Handling Company Limited (SAHCOL) has confirmed the company's Chief Operating Officer (COO) Mr. Isaac Orolugbagbe as the new managing Director/CEO.

Orolugbagbe, who is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN), Institute of Directors, and Chartered Institute of Marketing, was

appointed COO of SAHCOL on February 1, 2010 by the Sifax Group (new owners of SAHCOL), to restructure and reposition the company for a better and efficient service delivery.

Meanwhile, the former Managing Director, Mr. Chike Ogeah, who saw SAHCOL through to a successful privatization, has also been elevated to the position of "Non-Executive Director".

These positions, endorsed by the Chair-

man of SAHCOL, Dr. Taiwo Afolabi took effect from, May 1, 2010.

It could be recalled that SAHCOL was recently privatised and handed over to the Sifax Group, through its subsidiary, the Skyway Aviation Handling Company Ltd, by the Federal Government of Nigeria.

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## Business/Agric



PROF. Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah, Minister of Agriculture



A maize farm

# Agric sector: Huge budget, little result

By Tina A. Hassan

THE agricultural sector is viewed by farmers and other stakeholders as one of the most critical sector of Nigeria's economy and ironically the most neglected sector.

Year in year out, huge sums of money are being committed into the sector from the yearly budgetary allocations and from other sources as well as from international organisations and donors and year in year out, the sector seem to be experiencing a quick retrogression despite the large sums of money it has continue to gulp.

As part of protest to the continued neglect of the sector by those in the helms of affairs, the Voices for Food Security (VFS), a body of small holder farmers led by its President said little attention is given to rural small scale farmers who are the ones feeding the nation.

The farmers said budget implementation in the agric sector is not well executed because farmers are not able to feel the impact of the budget and agricultural policies are not executed to the latter and this, they say would negatively impact on food security in the country as long as budget allocated to the sector is not up to 10 percent of the total budget.

In 2009, the federal government apportioned N 166.9 billion to the ministry of agriculture to develop the sector apart from the additional N300 billion given to the ministry as a special agricultural fund tagged as three percent natural resources fund and yet there is very little on ground to justify these funds.

Despite the many difficulties faced by Nigerian farmers and the inability of the federal government to meet the fertilizer need of farmers, former minister of agriculture while handing over to his successor said the ministry had successfully executed its project up to 100 percent.

Oxfam Nigeria is an international Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in Nigeria which has also faulted the execution of the budget as well as budgetary allocations to the agric sector especially the 2010 budget of N148 billion which represents only a pittance 3.7 percent of the total budget despite the critical role the sector plays in food security and national economy.

Observers are of the view that the problem of food sufficiency is one battle that Nigeria is bound to face if government continues to toy with the agricultural sector in the manner it is currently doing especially by neglecting

“It is rather unfortunate that small scale farmers who are the ones really feeding the nation end up going hungry because they sell a large share of their farm produce to solve other problems.”

agriculture policies.

From 1935 to now, various food policies have evolved in Nigeria and each has gradually been replaced by another without fully implementing the policy.

Prominent among these policies are the National Accelerated Food Program of 1973, National Livestock Production Program of 1975, the Presidential Initiatives on selected commodities - rice, cocoa, cassava, vegetable and livestock and fisheries of 1999. Many of these initiatives have failed and gradually fizzled out because the government lacks focus.

Even the recently evolved Agricultural Policy Support Facility (A-PSF) aimed at improving the livelihoods of Nigerians through poverty alleviation is nowhere to be found as no mention of the policy has been heard.

With diminishing fortunes in the agricultural sector, Nigeria must be careful not to be swept under by the impending threat of hunger coupled with environmental challenges that make it more difficult for agricultural activities to thrive.

Engineer F.Y Akilapa is a Director in the Department of Agriculture, he explained that all the policies of agriculture aimed at attaining food sufficiency are currently being implemented to ensure that Nigeria attains food sufficiency because the “Nigeria is not yet food secured since we have cases of people that are still impoverished.”

In an interview granted to Daily Trust, the Campaign Manager of Oxfam Nigeria Ayodeji Ajayeoba pointed out that the poverty situation and food insufficiency in the country is aggravated when the Federal Government through the ministry of agriculture evolved agricultural policies without taking smallscale farmers into consideration.

He said it is rather unfortunate that small scale farmers who are the ones really feeding the nation end up going hungry because they sell a large share of their farm produce to solve other problems and eventually run out of food before the next planting season comes thereby experience what he described as ‘household food crisis.’

A small scale farmers group known as the Potato Farmers Association of Nigeria (POFAN) criticized the ministry of agriculture for failing to live up to its obligation of uplifting the sector and ensuring food sufficiency in the country.

National President of POFAN, Chief Dan Okafor, said ministry is not really reaching out to farmers contrary to what it keeps saying it is doing.

In his view, there is too much corruption going in within the ministry that is why monies allocated for certain projects are diverted into personal pockets.

He said until the interest of the ordinary small scale farmers are really taken into consideration, Nigerians would continue to be deceived by its government.

POFAN has lamented that despite huge sums of monies committed into the sector through the ministry with nothing to show as result because the genuine farmers are never reached out to even though they are the ones feeding the nation as it is.

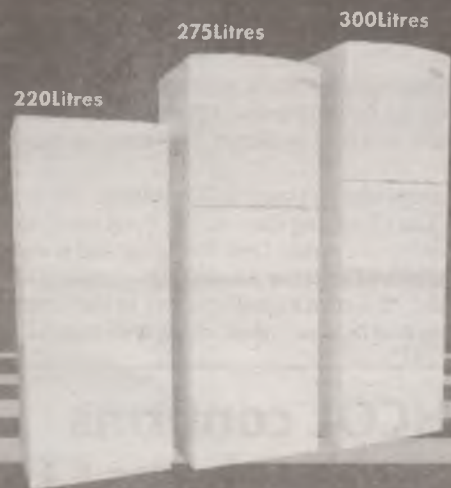
Fertilizer distribution has continued to generate heated debated among agricultural stakeholders, especially small

holder farmers, who continued to lament their inability to access fertilizer and the very exorbitant prices they are demanded to pay before buying the little fertilizer they sometimes get.

Some of them said even the little brought to them are sold at outrageous prices, this should be an angle for the new minister to look into in order to salvage agriculture in Nigeria and ensure food sufficiency.

But top experts have advised fertilizer distribution in Nigeria, while insisting that the country should lay emphasis on output subsidy.

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# Business/Finance

## Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	4	0.50	50,661	25,330.50
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>50,661</b>	<b>25,330.50</b>
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	15	1.00	494,818	494,478.50
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	20	1.02	734,066	748,747.32
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	7	15.13	37,550	539,969.00
PRESKO PLC	1	7.50	5,000	35,650.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>43</b>		<b>1,271,434</b>	<b>1,818,844.82</b>
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>				
AIRL/SERVICES & LOG. PLC	15	3.73	235,535	878,545.55
NIG. AVIAT. HAND. COY PLC	233	14.00	5,406,864	75,602,016.81
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>248</b>		<b>5,642,399</b>	<b>76,480,562.36</b>
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	265	10.46	18,098,001	183,117,297.13
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	101	2.43	8,114,561	18,774,190.94
DIAMOND BANK PLC	179	9.01	18,618,037	175,440,794.32
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	57	6.34	2,439,395	15,465,764.30
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	73	8.15	2,682,405	22,312,777.67
FIDELITY BANK PLC	151	2.95	5,940,889	17,657,221.88
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	1,025	15.01	18,486,851	286,032,993.01
FINBANK PLC	82	0.60	7,872,896	4,738,271.37
GTBANK PLC	563	17.50	10,331,997	180,770,601.11
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	219	11.44	17,302,437	196,440,877.77
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	99	2.04	4,452,175	9,067,877.86
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	145	1.99	5,954,232	11,853,449.38
BANK PHB PLC	79	1.50	3,123,875	4,707,310.57
SKYE BANK PLC.	261	9.05	37,571,941	340,026,066.05
SPRING BANK PLC	15	1.04	231,185	239,388.00
STERLING BANK PLC	172	2.45	17,590,662	42,994,725.32
UNT. BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	429	13.10	72,884,935	951,179,609.89
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	263	5.71	5,572,663	32,615,409.68
UNITYBANK PLC	7	1.11	312,626	347,014.86
WEMA BANK PLC	57	1.16	1,912,094	2,250,717.00
ZENITH BANK PLC	358	15.13	8,764,987	133,638,034.88
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>4,600</b>		<b>268,258,844</b>	<b>2,629,670,392.99</b>
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	100	21.12	752,585	15,899,973.83
BENUCE CEMENT COY PLC	57	68.00	257,073	17,545,248.51
CEM. CO. OF N/NIGERIA PLC	86	23.00	1,995,568	45,236,481.89
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	62	44.00	852,326	37,513,677.24
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>305</b>		<b>3,852,552</b>	<b>116,195,381.47</b>
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	42	9.00	307,173	2,770,088.53
CHEM/ALLIED PROD. PLC	5	31.15	5,900	192,930.00
DN MEYER PLC	23	5.80	215,678	1,206,392.27
PREMIER PAINTS PLC.	1	13.40	100	1,273.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>71</b>		<b>528,851</b>	<b>4,170,683.80</b>
<b>COMP. &amp; OFFICE EQUIP.</b>				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	8	0.63	453,133	285,473.79
TRIP/GEE AND COY PLC	1	4.37	1,890	7,862.40
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>455,023</b>	<b>293,336.19</b>
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	18	3.99	113,789	435,967.70
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	63	30.96	514,011	15,326,451.84
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	2	8.71	11,697	96,851.16
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	44	0.50	3,909,897	1,955,221.50
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	74	53.05	989,408	52,684,096.82
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	109	29.50	1,017,538	30,008,149.09
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>310</b>		<b>6,580,340</b>	<b>100,908,738.11</b>
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	68	8.65	845,890	7,374,346.46
J/BERGER NIGERIA PLC	46	59.43	432,969	25,306,133.19
M/VERSE RESOURCES PLC	4	0.50	443,429	221,714.50
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>118</b>		<b>1,722,288</b>	<b>33,902,194.15</b>
<b>FOOD/BEV. &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	16	44.54	126,509	5,904,837.35
BIG TREAT PLC	41	0.89	2,831,503	2,459,016.01
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	174	30.11	16,036,702	481,147,077.83
DANG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	382	23.05	3,532,779	82,979,253.00
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	157	18.90	2,201,657	41,786,224.81
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	70	71.00	245,075	17,030,569.54
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	82	8.70	3,584,635	31,373,968.87
NAT. SALT COY NIGERIA PLC	82	9.20	1,566,534	14,294,883.75
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	48	36.00	390,968	14,121,711.23
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	49	314.00	71,660	23,384,485.47
N/NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	6	35.34	9,332	321,794.00
TANTALIZERS PLC	44	1.14	3,723,200	3,944,045.00
UNION DICON SALT PLC	1	4.67	7,300	32,412.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	33	1.70	1,278,274	2,157,823.94
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>1,185</b>		<b>35,206,128</b>	<b>730,938,102.80</b>
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	9	1.75	157,390	274,607.50
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	50	3.00	1,314,505	3,992,197.78
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	11	24.12	152,294	3,673,331.28
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	45	7.59	192,899	1,401,114.96
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	9	3.08	92,800	271,904.00
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	47	0.76	3,349,400	2,479,300.00

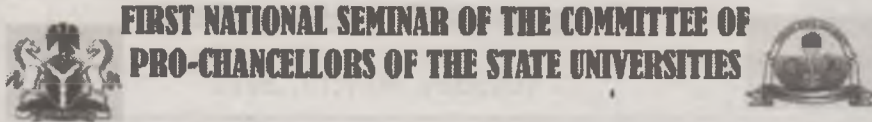
SECTOR Totals	171	5,259,288	12,092,455.52
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>			
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	2	3.44	170,000
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	16	2.10	412,110
TOURIST COY OF NIG. PLC	1	5.28	1,900
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>19</b>		<b>584,010</b>
<b>IND/DOMESTIC PROD.</b>			
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	4	10.73	15,864
FIRST ALUM. NIGERIA PLC	2	0.51	14,000
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	31	6.27	578,615
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	1	0.50	10,000
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>38</b>		<b>618,479</b>
<b>INF. &amp; COMM. TECHN.</b>			
CHAMS PLC	50	0.86	3,252,723
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	6	0.50	1,020,000
STARCOMMS PLC	40	2.20	2,102,307
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>96</b>		<b>6,375,030</b>
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	116	1.57	7,085,121
CONT. REINSURANCE PLC	23	1.41	11,578,930
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC	19	0.71	2,066,117
CUST/ALLIED INSUR. PLC	27	3.70	4,369,952
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	5	0.50	101,130
GREAT NIGERIA INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	4,600
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	25	0.76	3,325,759
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	43	2.65	3,200,345
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	4	0.50	47,100
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	2	0.50	27,000
INT. ENERGY INSUR. COY PLC	58	0.66	6,610,057
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	48	0.50	2,898,728
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	32	0.61	3,306,435
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	34	0.52	13,556,087
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	66	0.69	5,025,879
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	38	1.29	2,155,170
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	2	0.77	1,500
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	2	4.00	36,831
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	150,000
SOV. TRUST INSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	2,000
STACO INSURANCE PLC	41	0.54	14,093,900
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	22	0.52	1,054,520
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	20	0.91	1,314,310
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	1	0.92	4,600
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>631</b>		<b>82,016,071</b>
<b>MARITIME</b>			
JAP/OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC	179	1.95	13,211,587
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>179</b>		<b>13,211,587</b>
<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>			
ASO SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	20	0.54	3,480,100
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	6	0.50	30,357,394
UN/HOMES SAV/LOANS PLC	63	0.86	5,612,965
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>89</b>		<b>39,450,459</b>
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INST.</b>			
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	12	0.88	514,500
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	9	0.74	843,143
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>21</b>		<b>1,357,643</b>
<b>PACKAGING</b>			
NIG. BAG MANUF. COY PLC	154	3.51	2,524,287
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	1	14.84	5,000
NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC	2	6.01	45,325
GREIF NIGERIA PLC	1	15.03	50
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>158</b>		<b>2,574,662</b>
<b>PETROLEUM (MARKETING)</b>			
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	74	39.70	413,461
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	25	1.69	970,300
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	8	73.27	174,113
CONOIL PLC	45	50.00	57,163
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	31	8.43	854,028
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	39	150.90	152,812
OANDO PLC	227	113.00	2,050,333
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	27	214.90	30,841
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>476</b>		<b>4,703,051</b>
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>			
ACADEMY PRESS PLC.	4	6.19	7,956
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	19	10.42	218,090
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	33	7.50	466,760
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>56</b>		<b>692,806</b>
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>			
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	32	24.91	573,498
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>32</b>		<b>573,498</b>
<b>ROAD TRANSPORTATION</b>			
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	8	1.10	125,678
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>125,678</b>
<b>TEXTILES</b>			
UNITED NIGERIA TEXT. PLC	4	1.42	7,500
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>7,500</b>
<b>THE FOREIGN LISTINGS</b>			
ECOBANK TRANSN. INCORP	61	20.67	3,729,527
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	<b>61</b>		<b>3,729,527</b>
<b>OVERALL Totals</b>	<b>9,410</b>		<b>51,208,198</b>

**What is Buy-In**  
If a broker fails to deliver securities sold to another broker on the settlement date, the receiving broker may buy the securities at the current market price of the stock and charge the delivering broker the cost difference of such a purchase.

Google

<b>GAINERS</b>	
CHEVRON	3.48
J/BERGER	2.73
AP	1.60
PZ	1.46

<b>LOSERS</b>	
OANDO	1.00
UACN	0.93
DANGFLOUR	0.90
ASHAKACEM	0.58



FIRST NATIONAL SEMINAR OF THE COMMITTEE OF  
PRO-CHANCELLORS OF THE STATE UNIVERSITIES

## The Committee of Pro-Chancellors of Nigerian State Universities

Is pleased to invite

- ▶ THE HON. MINISTER OF EDUCATION
- ▶ ALL PRO-CHANCELLORS OF FEDERAL, STATE AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES
- ▶ ALL VICE CHANCELLORS OF FEDERAL, STATE AND PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES
- ▶ ALL STATE COMMISSIONERS OF EDUCATION
- ▶ ALL STATE PERMANENT SECRETARIES OF EDUCATION
- ▶ EDUCATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS
- ▶ ALL CHAIRMEN OF STATE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY'S COMMITTEES ON EDUCATION, AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC

To its

First Annual National Seminar  
Scheduled to take place as follows:

**DATE:** 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2010

**VENUE:** Faculty of Science Lecture Theater, Kaduna State University, Tafawa Balewa Way, Kaduna.

**TIME:** 10:00am

**Guest of Honour:** His Excellency, Arc. Mohammad Namadi Sambo, FNIA Executive Governor, Kaduna State

**Special Guest of Honour:** Prof. Rukayatu Rufai Hon. Minister of Education

**Chief Host:**  
Prof. E.M Abdurahman  
Vice Chancellor  
Kaduna State University  
Kaduna

**Under Distinguished Chairmanship of**  
Hon. Justice A.G Karibi Whyte, JSC (RTD)  
CON. LLM, Hon. FNIAL, Hon. LLD, CFR

**Announcer:**  
Local Organizing Committee



Presidency  
PETROLEUM PRODUCTS PRICING REGULATORY AGENCY (PPPRA)

RE: INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE INTERNAL PARTITIONING, FURNISHING AND PROVISION OF KITCHEN EQUIPMENT FOR THE PETROLUUM PRODUCTS PRICING REGULATORY AGENCY (PPPRA) HEAD-QUARTERS, CENTRAL BUISNESS DISTRICT, ABUJA

### -AN ADDENDUM-

Further to an earlier advertisement in this medium by the Petroleum Products Pricing Regulatory Agency (PPPRA) on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010 inviting qualified firms to tender for the internal partitioning, furnishing and provision of kitchen equipments for the new Agency's corporate headquarters, an addendum is hereby published.

2. As part of the pre-qualification for the award of the of the afore-mentioned contract, firms who earlier submitted bids are kindly requested to forward evidence(s) of compliance with the provisions of the Pension Reform Act 2004 in line with section 16(6)d of the Public Procurement Act of 2007 compliance with the Pension Reform Act 2004 include as the minimum;

- I. Ensuring that all employees open Retirement Savings Accounts (RSA) with a Pension Fund Administration of their choice;
- II. Remitting both employer and employee pension contributions to the appropriate Pension Fund custodian not later than 7 days from the date of payment of salaries and;
- III. Transferring all Pension Funds and Assets prior to the commencement of the Pension Reform Act to licensed pension operators.

3. Firms are to submit the above documents to the head, (Finance and Administration), PPPRA within two week from the date of this advertisement, at plot 1012 Cadastral Zone AOD Central Business District behind National Mosque, Abuja.

4. Please this notice is limited to ONLY firms which had responded to the advertisement in Punch Newspaper, DailyTrust Newspaper and Federal Tenders Journal of 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010.

5. Firms which had already submitted the above document may not need to resubmit.

Head,  
(Finance and Administration)

## STUDY GROUP EXHIBITION 2010

Student admission interviews by Bellerbys College and six leading universities from the UK in Lagos & Abuja. Bring academic transcripts for admission interviews and on the spot offers.

14th & 15th MAY 09.30 - 17.00

British Council, 20 Thompson Avenue, Ikoyi, Lagos

17th MAY 09.30 - 17.00

British Council, IBB Way Maitama, PMB 550 Garki, Abuja



Participating Colleges and Universities:

- ▶ Bellerbys College
- ▶ Lancaster University
- ▶ University of Stirling
- ▶ University of Sussex
- ▶ University of Wales, Newport
- ▶ University of Lincoln
- ▶ Liverpool John Moores University



Entry fee: N1000.

Buy tickets at the door, through the British Council, or from our local agents:

199, Oshodi Expressway, Lagos  
Tel: 01-2613500  
Fax: 01-2613501  
www.studygroup.com

199, Oshodi Expressway, Lagos  
Tel: 01-2613500  
Fax: 01-2613501  
www.studygroup.com

199, Oshodi Expressway, Lagos  
Tel: 01-2613500  
Fax: 01-2613501  
www.studygroup.com



## National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)



### COMMUNIQUÉ PRESENTED AT THE END OF THE THREE-DAY NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ENFORCEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS FOR THE JUDICIARY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES ABUJA, NIGERIA 26<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL, 2010

The National Workshop on the Enforcement of Environmental Laws, Regulations and Standards for the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Agencies was organized by the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), in collaboration with United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and with technical support from the United Kingdom Environment Agency (UK EA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), and Partners for Water and Sanitation (PAWS). The Workshop was held at the Rockview Hotel, Abuja, from 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

The main objective of the Workshop was to strengthen the enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, standards and guidelines in Nigeria through capacity building of the Judiciary and other Law Enforcement Agencies.

Two hundred and twelve (212) participants attended the Workshop including Judges, representatives from the National Assembly, Federal and State MDAs, Regulatory and Security Agencies, the Academia, and the Media.

**Having considered** the thirteen technical papers presented and deliberated upon at both plenary and at the three parallel working group sessions;

**Recognizing that** the environment is the life support system for human existence and survival, as well as the provision of physical milieu and the required raw materials for socio-economic progress;

**Aware that** the increasing pressure on natural resources is causing destructions and conflicts in many States of the Federation;

**Noting that** Nigeria's major environmental threats include deforestation, desertification, industrial pollution, urban growth, decay and municipal waste, coastal and inland erosion, land resources degradation, oceanic surge and flooding, uncontrolled gas flaring, including climate change;

**Noting also that** sustainable development means living on earth's income rather than eroding its capital; social progress, which recognizes the needs of everyone; effective protection of the environment; and the prudent use of natural resources;

**Realizing that** effective compliance monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws, standards and regulations are key to protecting our environment and achieving sustainable development;

**Recognizing that** environmental governance is the sum of organizations/institutions policy instruments, financing mechanisms, rules, procedures and norms that regulate the processes of environmental protection;

**Recognizing also that** NESREA is the new institutional mechanism created by the Federal Government to ensure effective environmental governance through compliance monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws, standards and regulations;

**Noting that** a well informed public is a strong ally in promoting environmental law compliance as its complaints can help governments detect violations of environmental laws;

**Noting also that** the efforts of the citizens provide invaluable input into the enforcement process and they act as eyes, ears and nose that provide evidence of illegal activity;

**Recognizing that** environmental justice is about social transformation directed towards meeting basic human needs and enhancing quality of life, health care, housing, human rights, environmental protection and democracy;

**Realizing that** the Judiciary and Law Enforcement Agencies have key roles to play in upholding the rule of law and ensuring that environmental offenders are brought to book;

**Recognizing that** the Judiciary is one of the most stable and respected institutions of our society as its voice represents reason, impartiality and understanding of all interests at stake;

**Noting that** through their judgments, Judges can encourage all groups in society to share in the task of environmental stewardship;

**Noting also that** environmental law is comparatively new and only recently taught in Nigerian Institutions of Learning;

**Concerned that** a myriad of other challenges face environmental law enforcement in the country, which include:

- Low political will;
- Low level of integration of environmental concerns into sectoral developmental plans;
- Poor adoption of efficient and environment-friendly technologies in the business/industrial sectors;
- Jurisdictional conflicts;
- Adjudication i.e. delays in trials;
- Integrity of enforcement officers;
- Dearth of science-based data and difficulty in accessing environmental information;
- Poor compliance monitoring of the many environmental laws and regulations;
- Overlaps and conflicts among many laws enacted at the Federal, State and Local Government levels;
- Role conflicts among Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs); and
- Inadequate capacity;

**Concerned also that** there is poor understanding and abuse of some environmental management principles such as the precautionary principle, inter-generational equity and the-polluter-pays principle;

**Recognizing that** Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a veritable planning tool for achieving sustainable development and assisting decision makers in evaluating potential environmental impacts of projects/activities;

**Concerned that** many of the major projects implemented in the country were without appropriate EIA;

**Recognizing that** there is need to strengthen collaborative strategies in order to promote and nurture partnerships among all stakeholders to achieve voluntary

compliance to environmental laws;

**Concerned that** a number of Multilateral Environmental Agreements are yet to be domesticated; and

**Concerned also that** there is a need to secure people's rights to access and enjoy the resources upon which their livelihood depends.

**decided to RECOMMEND that:**

1. There is need to have massive and sustained programme for publicity and environmental awareness to facilitate the much needed attitudinal change and re-orientation;
2. Communities should be encouraged to conduct self-monitoring and to report on environmental performance;
3. There is need for a strategic framework within which decision makers can consistently support the enforcement processes for improved environmental governance;
4. There should be holistic effort at integrating environmental considerations into national development plans, policies, decisions and measures;
5. There is need to promote focused awareness and sensitization programmes for Judges, Lawyers and Law Enforcement Officers on environmental policies, laws, regulations, guidelines and standards;
6. Training and retraining of Judges and other relevant stakeholders should be carried out to achieve effective dispensation of justice;
7. There is need to organize similar Workshop for the Justices of Appellate Courts;
8. There is need to collaborate with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and her Advisory Group of Chief Justices and Senior Judges in promoting environmental law enforcement in Nigeria;
9. There is need to establish special Courts to handle environmental cases and/or evolve other strategies on handling offences for timely dispensation of environmental cases;
10. Environmental justice should challenge the abuse of power, which results in poor people having to suffer the effects of environmental damage caused by the greed of others;
11. A specialized Police Unit should be established to aid environmental law enforcement;
12. There is need for special training of the Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies on environmental law compliance monitoring and enforcement;
13. There is need to clearly define and delineate roles and responsibilities at all tiers of Government to promote environmental governance;
14. NESREA should work out collaborative strategies for effective engagement and partnership with all enforcement agencies at the Federal and State levels towards complimentary compliance monitoring and enforcement of environmental laws;
15. There is need for increased budgetary allocation, increased manpower, and continuous capacity building and human resources development programme for NESREA workforce for effective implementation of her mandate;
16. The National Assembly should as a matter of urgency consider and domesticate all Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) signed and ratified by Nigeria;
17. The procedure for the collection, analysis and custody of environmental evidence should be standardized for effective prosecution of environmental offenders;
18. There is need for NESREA law to be amended to give jurisdiction to all levels of Courts including Area and Customary Courts for quick dispensation of justice;
19. NESREA should engage the services of qualified and experienced prosecutors who will ensure that strong cases are built up through proper investigation and with admissible and credible evidence;
20. NESREA staff should be adequately remunerated to maintain integrity and to shield them from the temptation of compromising on the job;
21. Policies should be articulated, stipulating administrative penalties to limit resort to litigation;
22. Judges should endeavor to reduce the number of adjournments in their Courts and discourage too much dependence on technicalities in environmental cases;
23. There is need for the provision of science-based data and environmental information in accessible form to the public;
24. NESREA should operationalise its permitting and registration system and institute regular environmental audits of companies using the risk-based assessment technique; and
25. There is need for effective follow-up and proper implementation of the recommendations of this Workshop;

#### Acknowledgement and Appreciation

The Workshop:

**Acknowledged** the efforts and commitment of the Federal Government of Nigeria through the Federal Ministry of Environment, for promoting environmental governance in the country;

**Commended** NESREA, a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Environment, for her excellent performance since her inception less than three years ago and for her noble and timely initiative in organizing this specialized Workshop for the Judiciary and other Law Enforcement Agencies;

**Also commended** the paper presenters, national and international resource persons, facilitators and indeed all participants, for their expertise and genuine interventions; and

**Expressed appreciation to** the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), United Kingdom Environment Agency (UKEA) and Partnership for Water and Sanitation (PAWS), for their invaluable support in the organization and conduct of the Workshop.

**Dated this 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010, in Abuja, Nigeria.**

Sign Language



Cor blimey, the sign indicates up not down.  
 Photo location: Philadelphia, by Rebecca Solomon.  
 Culled from www.signspotting.com

LADDERGRAMS

First, write the word that fits the first definition into space 1. Then drop one letter and rearrange the remaining letters to form the answer to definition 2. Drop one more letter, rearrange, and get the answer to definition 3. Put the first dropped letter into the box to the left of space 1 and the other dropped letter into the box next to space 3. When you have correctly solved the puzzle, the dropped letters on the left and right, when read down, will spell out related words or a phrase.

1. DEFINITIONS

- |                      |                     |                         |                             |
|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Moisten (a roast) | 3. Had lunch        | 5. Showed concern (for) | 7. Cyclist's head protector |
| 2. Sunrise locale    | 4. Videogame center | 6. Challenge            | 8. Motif                    |
|                      |                     |                         | 9. Be introduced to         |
|                      |                     |                         | 10. Lion's roar             |
|                      |                     |                         | 11. Funny bone site         |
|                      |                     |                         | 12. Tooted (a horn)         |
|                      |                     |                         | 13. Love: Italian           |
|                      |                     |                         | 14. Wander                  |
|                      |                     |                         | 15. Sleeve filler           |
|                      |                     |                         | 16. Watchful                |
|                      |                     |                         | 17. Genuine                 |
|                      |                     |                         | 18. Noted period            |

1	2	3	
4	5	6	
7	8	9	
10	11	12	
13	14	15	
16	17	18	

SOLUTION TO GUESS WHO?

Sir Isaac Newton

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.

147

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

Solution to Sudoku 146

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

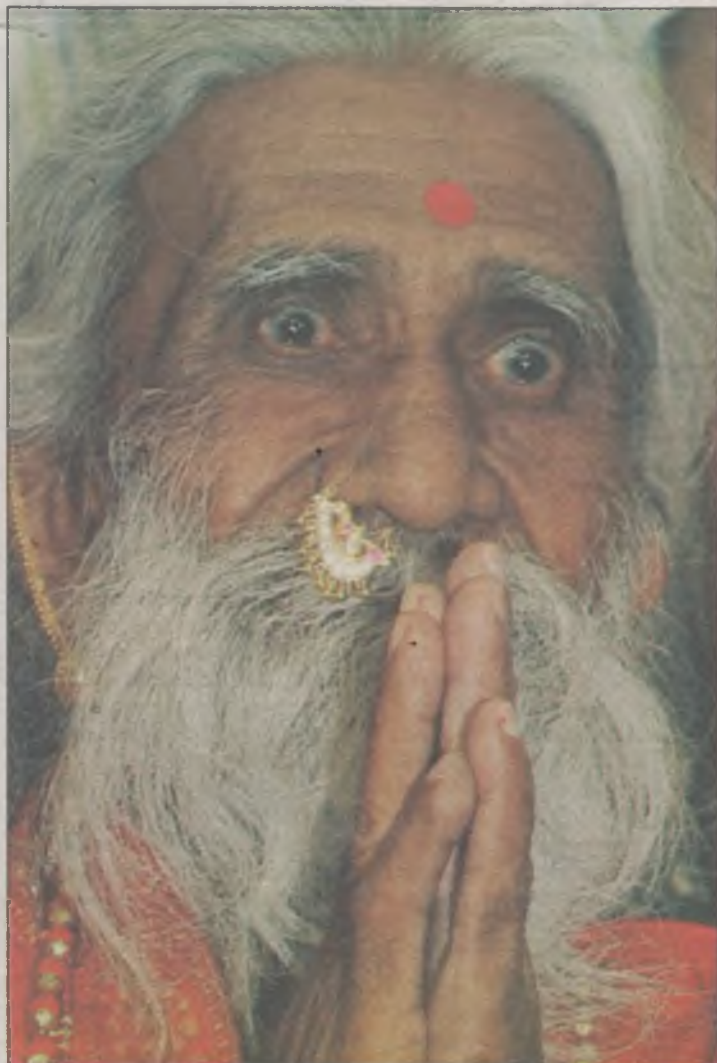
## News Extra

# The man who says he hasn't eaten or drunk for 70 years

## ... Why are eminent doctors taking him seriously?



TESTS: 83-year-old Prahlad Jani has twice attended hospital to be watched round the clock by eminent doctors



MR Jani claims he had a religious experience as a teenager

**T**here are few people, however busy their lives, unable to remember the last meal that they consumed. But Prahlad Jani is one of them.

And the reason is that the last morsel of food that he says passed his lips did so in the early years of World War II.

'I can't recall exactly what it was,' the 82-year-old Indian admits. 'It was such a long time ago.'

During the 70-odd years since, Mr Jani says he has eaten not so much as a single grain of rice nor consumed a drop of water. And while such an extended gap between meals might be expected to have a fatal impact on the activities of one so deprived, this octogenarian says he's never felt better.

'Although I walk 100 or 200 kilometres in the jungle, I never sweat and don't feel tired or sleepy,' he says. 'I can meditate for three, eight or 12 hours — or even months.'

**I**t is, of course, more than tempting to dismiss this Hindu holy man and his claims as the stuff of absolute nonsense.

Medical science tells us that human beings rarely survive more than a week without water, and a couple of months at most without

food. To even suggest otherwise is ridiculous, and also potentially dangerous.

Practitioners of extreme starvation diets can cause serious damage to their bodies, leading to death. And yet, despite all that

**“ He was monitored around the clock and, according to the medics who oversaw him, consumed no food and no water whatsoever**

is known, there is a growing bandwagon that says Mr Jani and his incredible claims should not be dismissed entirely out of hand.

On Thursday afternoon, he emerged from hospital in the Indian state of Gujarat, where he had spent 15 days. He was monitored around the clock and, according to the medics who oversaw him, consumed no food

and no water whatsoever.

No human should be able to survive such conditions unscathed — the lack of water alone should have killed him. But Mr Jani apparently suffered absolutely no ill-effects at all.

**A**tending a press conference at the Sterling Hospital in Ahmedabad, he said: 'I am fit and strong today and even the doctors agree. They ran every test possible for 15 days and proved that I do not need food to keep me strong.'

'I am strong and healthy, because it is the way God wants me to be.'

So what is the explanation for his ability to endure such privations? No one knows for sure. But over the next three months, the medics will attempt to come up with some answers as they study the results of a battery of tests.

Military scientists drawn from India's Defence Research and Development Organisation believe that Mr Jani could hold the key to understanding how humans can be taught to survive for long periods without sustenance.

'It is possible that it will be able to help save human lives during natural disasters, high altitude, sea journeys and other natural and human extremities,' said a spokesman for the team.

'We can educate people about the survival techniques in adverse conditions with little food and water, or nothing at all.' He added: 'If his claims are verified, it will be a breakthrough in medical science.'

**B**y any standards that is a very big 'if'. For starters, the doctors are considering only the two weeks during which Mr Jani was under their supervision. His claims not to have eaten for the preceding seven decades can and will never be verified. The same goes for much of his early history.

According to his version of events — and there is no other — Mr Jani left his home in Rajasthan at the age of seven, and went to live in the jungle.

When he reached the age of 11, he underwent a religious experience during which he became a

Cont'd on page 44

## News Extra

# Bubbles, 16, is world's tallest teenage girl at 6ft 11in

**T**owering over her teacher and friends this teenager stands an astonishing 6ft 11in tall and is the world's tallest teenage girl.

The 16-year-old Jamaican Marvadene Anderson is, perhaps not surprisingly, a basketball ace and terrorises opposing school teams.

Marvadene, who is studying under scholarship in the U.S. is five inches taller than Michael Jordan, her idol in the sport.

She is nicknamed 'Bubbles' by her team-mates because of her tall sense of humour.

Weighing 15 stone and wearing size 11 shoes Marvadene comes from a large family and her sister Kimberly is 6ft 4in and calls her sister the 'baby giant'.

'Marvadene is wonderful addition to the school and the basketball team here,' said JJ Quenault, 42, a teacher at Rutgers Preparatory School in New Jersey.

'The other girls were stunned by her height when they first met her and I must admit so was I, but now she is almost irreplaceable in the team.'

'She is going to be a star in the world of girls basketball and even though she has only recently adapted to basketball from netball, we expect a big future from her.'

Attending classes at the prestigious school, Marvadene is used to towering over her teachers.

'I work in the school photographic department and so have taken a few pictures of Marvadene,' said Mr Quenault.

'To see her standing over her teacher Peter Richardson is quite amusing, as he is 8in and she of course is the world's tallest teenage girl at six foot eleven inches.'

Having taken the title from Thai national Malee Duangdee who stands at 6ft 10in, Marvadene has become media shy since her appearance in an American television programme about tall children.

'People are friendly with me because of my height and my personality. If I was tall and mean, I think I'd have a problem,' she said in an interview with an American paper recently.

'The rudest thing anybody ever said about my height is that I'm not going to be able to find a husband.'



**TOWERING talent: Marvadene Anderson stands 15in over teacher Peter Richardson (left) and makes easy reach of the basketball net (below) at Rutgers Preparatory School, New Jersey, where she is a starring member of the team**



# The man who says he hasn't eaten or drunk for 70 years

*Cont'd from page 43*

follower of the Hindu goddess Amba. In her honour, he chose to dress as a female devotee, wearing a red sari-like garment, nose-ring, bangles and crimson flowers in his shoulder-length hair.

In return, Mr Jani believes that the goddess has sustained him ever since by feeding him with a life-giving, invisible 'elixir', which has supposedly given him the strength to continue without food or water.

**F**or at least the past 40 years, Mr Jani has been living, hermit-like, in a cave in the jungles close to the Gujarati temple of Ambaji. He rises at 4am, spending most of the day meditating.

While well-known locally, for many years Mr Jani was no more famous than the millions of other Hindu holy men — sadhus or yogi as they are known — in India.

Mystical figures, these individuals renounce normal life for one on the margins of society, focusing every waking minute on the spiritual. They often assume austere or extreme practices — standing on one leg or refusing to talk for years on end.

Like Mr Jani, many sadhus regularly undergo lengthy periods of fasting. But the claim that his fast had endured for decades caught the public imagination and first propelled him into the limelight.

Challenged to prove that he could survive without food or water, in 2003 he underwent his first hospital investigations. Then, as now, he was placed under the care of Dr Sudhir Shah, a consultant neurologist from Ahmedabad who specialises in studying people with seemingly 'supernatural' powers.

**D**octors had prepared a special glass-walled room equipped with CCTV cameras to monitor Mr Jani for ten days. The toilet was sealed to test his claim that he had no need to urinate or defecate.

The only fluid allowed was a small amount of water, to use as mouthwash. This was collected and measured in a beaker when he spat it out, to make sure that none had been drunk.

Scans revealed some urine accumulation in his bladder, but this seemed to be reabsorbed by the body because it was never passed.

In every other respect, clinically, Mr Jani was found to be perfectly normal.

While the results secured him an international following, they failed to offer any concrete answers. As a result, Dr Shah and the military team decided to repeat the experiment this year.

So, on April 22, Mr Jani re-entered the hospital for 15 days of tests. They ended on Thursday afternoon with doctors admitting that they were baffled by what they had seen.

Presenting their preliminary findings, Dr Shah was joined by biologist Dr Ilavashagn, director of the Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), a heavily-funded department of the Defence Research and Development Organisation.

The doctors announced that despite apparently living on thin air for two weeks, the holy man was more healthy than someone half his age.

Blood tests, hormone profiles, MRIs and angiographs (imaging tests of the blood vessels) all pointed to the conclusion that Mr Jani had not needed to eat, drink or use the toilet once.

Dr Ilavashagn said: 'Clinical, biochemical, radiological and other relevant examinations were done on Prahlad Jani and all reports were within the safe range throughout the study. He is healthy, his mind is sharp.'

'What is truly astonishing, and something we have no explanation for, is that he has not passed stools or urine. To my knowledge, that is medically unprecedented.'

There will be many who maintain that the latest tests prove nothing — and that Mr Jani's survival is down to nothing more mysterious than trickery.

That's the view held by the Indian Rationalist Association, an organisation which publicly campaigns against superstition and spiritual fraudsters.

It has attacked the Indian Ministry of Defence for even agreeing to take part in the tests, accusing them of being 'taken in by the absurd claims of a village fraud'.

Sanal Edamaruku, the association's secretary general, told the Mail: 'I asked to be allowed to send an independent team to survey the room where this test is taking place, but I was repeatedly turned down.'

'It is ridiculous to ask people to believe that any man can go 15 days, let alone 70 years, without food or water.'

'Dr Shah has been in charge of three similar investigations over the past ten years, and he has never allowed independent verification.'

'In 2000, he was asking for funds to investigate a man he claimed got his energy from the sun, just like plants do.'

'In 2003, he even approached NASA for

To further prove the case, a gas was released into the room that made the woman vomit. The contents of her stomach were found to include pieces of recently-eaten chapatti and potatoes

funds to investigate Mr Jani, claiming astronauts might benefit from the research. This particular hospital, led by this particular doctor, keeps on making these claims without ever producing evidence or publishing research.'

Mr Edamaruku is convinced that Mr Jani must have had access to food and water at the hospital, and does not believe that he was kept under strict supervision around the clock.

He says that whenever the Rationalist Association has investigated individuals making similar claims, all have been exposed as frauds.

In 1999, they investigated a woman who claimed that she was the reincarnation of another Hindu goddess. For five years, she had remained alone in a small closet where it was claimed she had not eaten nor passed any urine or faeces.

In co-operation with the police, investigators from the association searched the room, finding a toilet hidden behind a shelf and a disguised hole through which she received food. Blood tests revealed the presence of glucose, indicating the intake of food.

To further prove the case, a gas was released into the room that made the woman vomit. The contents of her stomach were found to include pieces of recently-eaten chapatti and potatoes.

News Extra



GORDON Brown-Labour



DAVID Cameron-Conservatives



NICK Clegg-Lib Dems

# African observers assess UK election

A coalition government would be a daunting experience for the UK

**W**ith Westerners so used to criticising the often flawed elections in African states, 11 parliamentarians from Commonwealth countries in Africa and Asia were brought over to watch how an election is run in the UK.

It was not always a pretty sight. People being turned away from polling stations, ballot papers running out and sit-in protests by disgruntled voters were perhaps not what the Commonwealth observers were expecting to see in one of the world's oldest democracies.

The UK Electoral Commission has even announced an official investigation after queuing voters were unable to cast their ballots in a few polling stations that closed promptly at 2200.

"This would never have happened in my country," says Wilson Masilingi, an MP from Tanzania and one of the several Africans in the observer team.

"If a prospective voter arrives on time, he can vote up to three hours or more after the polling station closes."

**H**owever Mr Masilingi was generally impressed by what he had seen.

The observers have been encouraged to give advice on how to improve the UK system and the Tanzanian MP has an idea to avoid a repeat of last Thursday's polling problems.

"Give powers to the Electoral Commission to tell the presiding officer to keep the polling station open for longer," he suggests.

"Voters could call the Electoral Commission if they can't vote in time. But the candidates could not call - that would be too awkward."

**M**r Masilingi was observing in the southern city of Brighton.

"Here [the UK] the system is based on mutual trust," he says.

He was impressed by how the polling station had been opened promptly by the presiding officer.

"In my country this would not be possible. There would have to be many people present to make sure the station opened at the right time."

Cosy coalitions  
Political trust will be impor-

tant if, as some observers speculate, the UK ends up with a coalition government.

Several African countries currently have power-sharing governments. Can the continent also teach the UK a thing or two in this area?

Paramagamba Kabudi, a law professor at the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania, sees a big difference between the coalitions in Africa and the type of political partnership which might govern the UK.

"Coalitions in Africa are not often the result of a democratic process," explains Mr Kabudi.

They are either formed to avert crisis - as in Kenya - or for

national rebuilding - as in South Africa and Rwanda, he says.

**T**hose against the idea of coalitions sometimes argue that they never get things done.

And Mr Kabudi sees little in the African experience to contradict this view.

"People are suspicious of each other and postpone doing things until the next election so they can say the other side did not do this or that," he says.

But the good manners between politicians in the UK impressed Mr Masilingi.

For example, he was pleasantly surprised when they took defeat

- or the suggestion of defeat - so well.

"Fifty per cent of politicians who lose in Tanzania would go to court," he says. "And if filing court petitions was free, everybody would go to court."

**B**ut even if British politicians are extremely nice to one another within a coalition

People being turned away from polling stations, ballot papers running out and sit-in protests by disgruntled voters were perhaps not what the Commonwealth observers were expecting to see in one of the world's oldest democracies



ROBERT Mugabe (left) and Morgan Tsvangirai in a cat and mouse coalition (unity government)

government, Mr Kabudi thinks it would be a "daunting" experience for the UK.

Coalitions, he said, "are not part of the culture".

But then again, neither are investigations by the Electoral Commission.

Culled from [bbc.co.uk](http://bbc.co.uk)

# PROPERTY

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## Niger to get permanent Hajj camp

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

IN its effort to provide comfortable camp for Muslim pilgrims in the state, Niger state government has concluded plans to get a multi-purpose complex, Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu has said.

The governor who charged the state pilgrims board to liaise with the state ministry of lands and housing to get good location for the complex gave them four weeks to find a suitable location and another four weeks to start work.

Aliyu who made the disclosure yesterday

in Minna at the submission of the 2009 Hajj report stated that the state government will do all within its operational schedule to ensure that pilgrims are well taken care of within and outside the country.

He said that all issues that have negatively affected pilgrims from the state will be adequately attended to adding that the case of allowing itinerant food vendors sell to pilgrims may have adverse health effect on many.

He added that the state government has already put in place its own staff to handle feeding as he pointed out that most pilgrims

may have died in the Holy land as a result of bad food.

The governor however called on intending pilgrims to shun acts that will bring disrepute to the state and country as he added that that is why the state government is not going to spare cost to make them comfortable.

Meanwhile, the 2009 Amir Hajj and Speaker of Niger state house of Assembly, Alhaji Musa Ma'ali while submitting the reports intimated the governor of the loss of three pilgrims, who were from Paiko, Katcha and Lavun local government areas of the state as a result of ill health.

## Oyo farmers protest over unpaid N74m compensation

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

OYO State Government Secretariat at Agodi, Ibadan on Tuesday witnessed another protest as 1,255 tree crop farmers whose farm lands were acquired by the state government since 2005 for the much-publicized Oluyole Free Trade Zone project along Lagos/Ibadan expressway, besieged the secretariat complex, over the non-payment of their N74million compensation.

The protesting farmers who had come from 24 villages in Oluyole Local Government Area claimed that they doubted the sincerity of the state government in its purported "clearance exercise" for the planned payment of the affected farmers.

Even though Oyo State Government had for the past one week mounted a serial public notice on the network of the state broadcasting corporation (BCOS) and in a national daily last week, calling on the affected croppers to come forward for what it described as 'the clearance exercise', spokesman for the protesting farmers, Chief Bashir Ola Folarin, maintained that the protesters doubted the sincerity of government over the matter.

The protesters, who had thronged the state secretariat in company of some Baales of the affected villages alleged that even though the state Governor, Otunba Adebayo Alao-Akala had set up a committee on the matter, the headship of the committee had not been forthcoming on the payment of the said compensation.

According to Chief Folarin, who was one of the Committee's Committee of Eleven Members for the affected villages, the apprehension of the affected farmers had stemmed from the fact that the government had been frustrating all the efforts to get their due compensation which made them to approach an Oyo State High Court to press home their demand.

The government's leadership of the committee, who is a top State Government official, according to the protesting farmers, "is already in possession of the money and has not been forthcoming in releasing it while the farmers continue to languish in want and poverty and dying gradually."



FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed (middle) in a group photograph with the newly appointed FCT Mandate Secretaries in Abuja

## Expert wants patronage of indigenous town planners

A former President of Nigerian Institute of Town Planners, (NITP), Alhaji Waheed Kadiri, has solicited government's patronage of indigenous town planners to enhance the development of urban areas.

Kadiri said in Lagos on Tuesday that the involvement of town planners was critical in urban development and would also reduce the environmental and social challenges facing the country.

He decried the current situation whereby government was contracting jobs that could be competently handled by Nigerian town planners to foreign firms.

According to him, though the profession could not claim to be as old as some others like engineering, medicine, architecture or law in Nigeria, nevertheless it has evolved over time.

Kadiri lamented that even some of the foreign consultants hired by governments for developmental projects in the country were not as qualified as some of the indigenous practitioners.

He said that the irony was that after the foreign firms had got the contracts, they often engaged the services of indigenous professionals to execute it as they were considered to be more familiar with the terrain.

The former NITP president said that the trend, which was not limited to town planning profession, should be discouraged to save the nation's foreign reserve and create jobs for indigenous professionals.

"Bringing in foreign professionals will definitely cost the government more since they will pay them from the foreign reserve, whereas they can get the same quality of service at lesser cost (locally).

"Indigenous practitioners are also at advantage in proffering solutions to the challenges of traffic bottlenecks, flooding, over-population and shanties in the urban areas," he said. (NAN)

## Lokoja int'l market: We're suffering waiting, Traders say

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

TRADERS in Lokoja yesterday decried the delay in the commissioning of the newly constructed international market.

They said the state government should demonstrate its self-claimed commitment to boosting the socio-economic development of the state by commissioning the market without further delay.

Many of the traders who spoke to our correspondent

said the failure of the government to commission the market on time had compelled them to continue trading at roadsides, a situation which they said could expose them to the danger of road accidents.

"We know it is dangerous to be trading at roadsides. We are vulnerable to road accidents. At least, it has happened several times. But we are helpless. It is the responsibility of the state government to relocate us. At this moment, what we are agitating for is the immediate commissioning of the international market so that we would relocate there. That

is the only thing that could make us comply with the government order prohibiting roadside trading in the capital city," said Mr. Kamarudeen Alani, one of the traders.

Meanwhile, Governor Ibrahim Idris, through his Director of Press Richard Elesho, said arrangements were in top gear to commission the market very soon, noting that the delay the commissioning had suffered was due to circumstances beyond control.

It would be recalled that President Goodluck Jonathan was to commission the market in earlier in February.

# LG donates land to Unilorin

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE authority of Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State has donated five hectares of land to the University of Ilorin for the university's field work camp under the department of Geology.

A letter of appreciation from the university authorities directed to the local government authority, copy made available to Daily Trust stated that, "The Uni-

versity of Ilorin management has conveyed its appreciation to the Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State for granting the University a 5 hectare piece of land at Iyana Share where the field work camp of the Department of Geology will be erected".

The letter was signed on behalf of the University Registrar and addressed to the Executive Chairman of Ifelodun Local Government Area of Kwara State, Hajia Nimota Alabi,

The letter partly reads: "The University appreciates your kind and generous disposition noting that the offer was made to the University at no cost at all.

On behalf of the Vice-Chancellor, I wish to thank the Ifelodun Local Government for its support and assistant to the University and pray that your administration will continue to deliver the dividends of democracy for the benefit of the citizens of the Local Government."

## Expert proffers solutions to housing deficit

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE acute shortage of housing across the country has been attributed to low income, high construction cost, lack of sustainable government policies, finance and the existence of a thin line between real estate and financial market. These have all combined to deny the nation housing market potentialities.

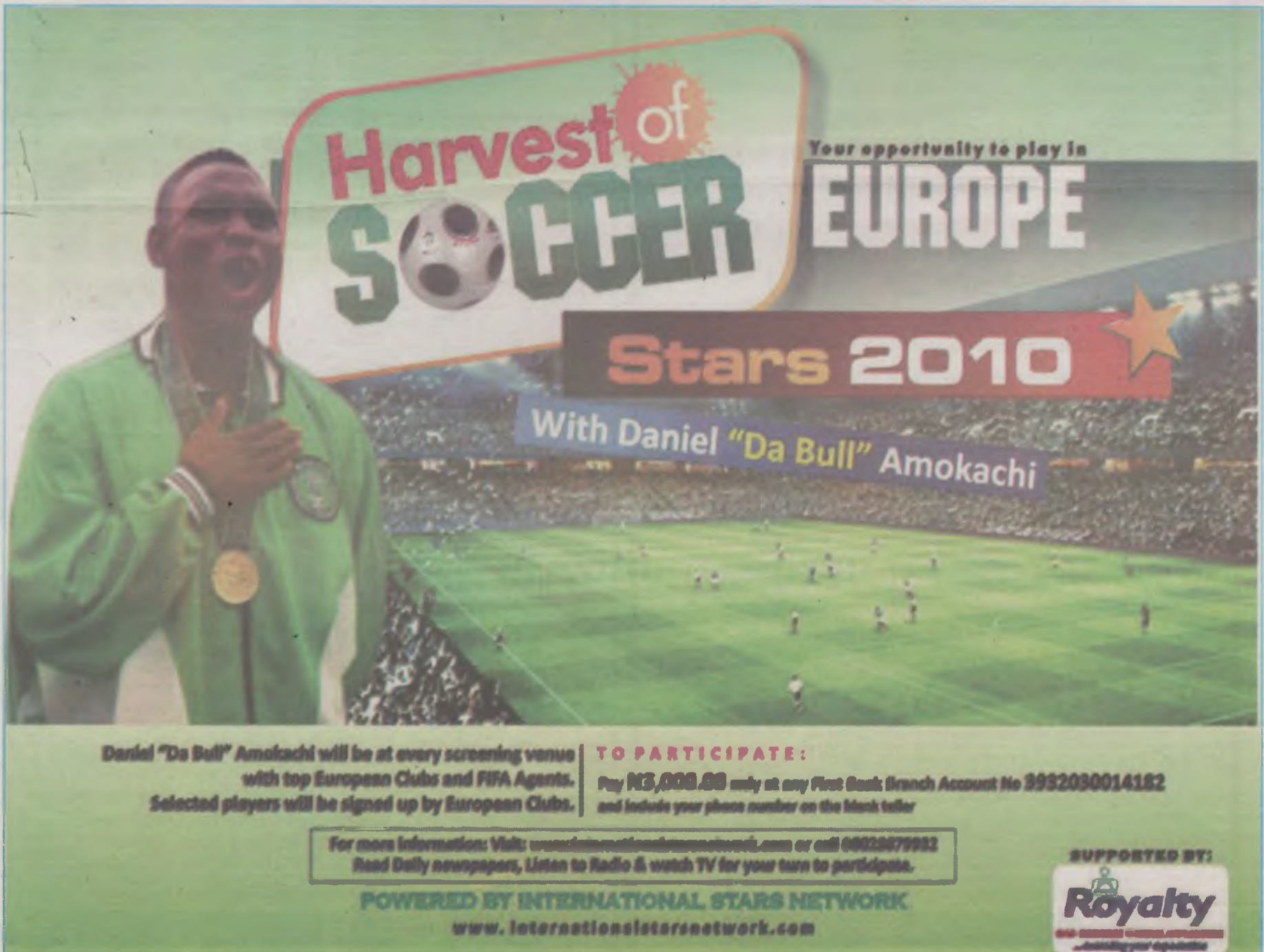
This was contained in a paper presented by the managing director of Bauhaus International Limited, a real estate firm, Dr. Victor Onukwugha at a two-days stakeholders conference titled "Global Economic

Crisis and Challenges of Real Estate Financing" held in Abuja.

Onukwugha, who manages, Bauhaus, one of the foremost real estate companies in the country, noted that Real Estate Investment Trust (REITs) is a veritable tool to derive a robust housing and income-yielding real estate in Nigeria when properly instituted.

He explained that: "REITs is Real Investment Trusts, a company that invests in different kinds of Real Estate or Real Estate related assets which allows participants to invest in professionally managed portfolio of real estate properties. It is therefore a

vehicle for securitization of property of real estate. REITs have the potentials of raising enormous funds for mortgage and housing development and to develop a high quality rental market. Through REITs, investors reap the benefits of real estate investment without wading through the rigors of mud and bricks associated with construction works, enables an investor to own properties in any part of the world with minimum capital outlay and offers liquidity through dividends. And above all best and most diversified way to publicly acquire income-producing real estate."



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## COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, ZING

### APPLICATION FOR THE POST OF REGISTRAR

#### 1. ADVERTISEMENT

In accordance with provision of the College of Education Miscellaneous provision act of 1981 as amended part VIII Section 28 Sub-section 1A and Section 29, the Governing Council of College of Education, Zing in Jalingo has directed the filling of the vacant post of the Registrar of the College.

Applications are therefore invited from suitable qualified candidate for Appointment into the post of the Registrar, College of Education, Zing.

#### 2. QUALIFICATION

- (1) The applicant must be an Administrator by discipline and must also possess a minimum of 1<sup>st</sup> Degree in Arts and Social Sciences not less than 2<sup>nd</sup> Class honoured degree from a recognized Institution.
- (2) Candidate should be information and communication technology (ICT) proficient and be committed to the development of the College programme and services.

#### 3. EXPERIENCE:

- (a) The candidate must have served in an Institution of Higher Learning for not less than 25 years in Administration in the College of Education and or Polytechnics.
- (b) Candidate earning less than CONTISS 14 needs not to apply
- (c) The Candidate should not have attained the age of 60 years at the point of assumption of duty.

4. Candidate should include Medical Certificate of Fitness from Government Hospital.

5. Candidate must nominate three Referees and request them to write to the Provost, College of Education, Jalingo not less than three weeks from the date of this advertisement.

6. **TENURE:** The Registrar shall hold office for a one term period of four years (4) years) renewable only for a second term.

7. **METHOD OF APPLICATION:** All applications are to be forwarded under confidential cover in a sealed Envelop marked at the upper left hand corner and address to:

The Provost,  
College of Education, Zing  
P.M.B. 1021, Jalingo,  
Taraba State.

All applications should be submitted in 10 copies.

Fatima Isa Abubakar  
Deputy Registrar  
(Establishment)  
College of Education, Zing.

Property



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# Lucky Fibres introduces new rug designs

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

LUCKY Fibres Plc, makers of Nobel carpets and rugs, has introduced new range of rug designs to the market.

The new range of designs which are exclusive to Nobel carpets and rugs includes; Opel, Royale, Omega, Coral, Topaz, Sapphire, Funky, Oasis, Matrix Ivory and Aqua.

The company introduced the new products during the 2010 distribu-

tors party held on yesterday at the Federal Palace Hotel Lagos Distributors present at the party were offered a special discount on orders made for the new designs at the venue.

Speaking at the event, the new General Manager of Lucky Fibres Plc, Mr. Vinay Dhanuka expressed the company's appreciation to the trade partners for their continued loyalty and esteemed partnership over the years which he said was responsible for the success of the brand.

He restated the commitment of Lucky Fibres to production of locally made carpets and fugs of international standard thereby helping to promote locally made goods 'and discourage importation of sub standard product into the country.

Highlights of the Lucky Fibres distributors party for 2010 includes, the presentation of awards to deserving distributors, presentation of gifts, dancing competition.

PIC: HAMISU MUHAMMED



A bulldozer drives away after removing the speed bumps in the Central Area, Abuja.

## 'Abuja devt needs years of effort'

By Nasir Imam

A one-time Secretary to the Federal Government, Alh. Sule Katagum has said the development of Abuja will need years of effort as such will continue even after the next fifty years.

Katagum stated this when the FCT Minister, Sen. Bala Mohammed paid him a courtesy call during a recent tour of three Senatorial districts in Bauchi.

He said under the

ruling elite during the time of Usman Dan Fodio, the average Northerner has a deep sense of communal kinship, which was probably why they went to fight the civil war to keep Nigeria united.

Katagum said the combination of religious and western education always helps to maintain balance in people's character, but if the western education surpasses the religious values one begins to derail.

He lamented how many Nigerians have turned into super parasites, saying that unlike before when you visit someone he will be thinking of what to offer you "now he asks himself what you have brought for him" which he described as very bad.

In his remarks, the minister thanked the elderly statesman for the advice and sought prayers from him on how to guide the ship of state as the FCT minister.



## Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria



*Inna Lillahi Waina Haihi Raji'un*

The Registrar of the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria, on behalf of the Chairman, members of Council and entire staff of the Secretariat deeply commiserate with the President, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, **Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, GCON, Hajiya Turai Yar'adua**, the entire Yar'adua family, the government of Katsina State and all Nigerians over the painful passing away of **President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR**.

No doubt, Nigeria has lost an exemplary leader who strongly identified with sustainable democracy, rule of law and good governance. The entire Nation will miss his humility, dedication to peaceful Co-existence and concern for the masses of this country.

For as long as we think about you, you live in our heart.

May Allah (SWT) grant your soul eternal rest in *Aljannat Fridaus* and may He grant all Nigerians the fortitude to bear the great loss.

Dr. A.A. Ibrahim  
Registrar



**President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, GCFR**

16 August 1951 - 5 May 2010

# Nigerian Farmers Mourn their President



President **UMARU MUSA YAR'ADUA** GCFR  
**16 August 1951 – 5 May 2010**

On behalf of the entire farmers of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I, **Dr Abdullahi Adamu** CON, President, **All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN)**, wish to commiserate with President **Goodluck Jonathan**, the **Yar'adua family**, the government and people of **Katsina State** and the **Katsina Emirate Council** over the painful demise of President **Umaru Musa Yar'adua** GCFR.

Nigerians will surely miss you for your fight against corruption, the electoral reform programme, the rule of law and the amnesty effort in the Niger Delta among others. However, we, the farmers will miss you more for your passion for the transformation of the Agric sector.

We pray that the Almighty Allah (SWT) in his infinite mercy will forgive You and reward your good deeds with Jannatul-Fir-Daus. Amin.



**DR ABDULLAHI ADAMU**  
 Chairman, All Nigerian Farmers Association (AFAN)

## CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513  
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

## Police nab guards over vandalised CAC property

By Ogechi Ohalee

THREE security men attached to a former Corporate Affairs Commission's office at Wuse Zone 5, Abuja, were on Monday arrested by policemen from Utako Police Station over allegations of vandalizing the company's property.

The guards from Falzal Security & Guards Limited were also accused of stealing four computer sets belonging to the commission.

According to an a witness, the security men were caught by other security officials around the area as they were removing equipment from the premises.

"This is not the first time we have experienced guards in the building moving items from the place and have reported them severally but nothing was done," the witness said.

The witness called on government to conduct periodic checks on security outfits in order to assess their operations.

Reacting to the incident, Managing Director of Falzal Security limited, retired Lieutenant-Colonel BM Owan said the outfit reported the matter formerly to the police.

"We used our internal security measures to apprehend the guards because of negative reports we keep concerning them and there are rotten eggs in all organizations of which ours is not an exception," he disclosed.

He said the arrested guards have been dismissed from the security outfit, adding that he worked hard to build the security outfit and would not want any employee to tarnish the company's image.

The security outfit's boss also revealed that he has taken the chief security officer of Corporate Affairs Commission round the premises to conduct inventories on the property on ground.

When our reporter visited Utako Police Station, where the suspects are being detained, one of them admitted to their crime and blamed his involvement on the devil.

The Divisional Police Officer of the station, Chief Superintendent Ogedegbe, confirmed the arrests and vowed that detectives will get to the root of the matter.

"The investigation is ongoing and we shall get to the root of the matter," he said.

# Life Camp police raid black spots

By Ogechi Ohalee

POLICEMEN from Life Camp Police Station in the wee hours of yesterday raided black spots at Jabi Masalashi as well as Kado Estate and arrested some suspects.

The raid which commenced at 1 am ended three hours later and did not go down well with few residents, who complained that their relations were arrested unjustly.

Hajia Ramatu, a resident of Jabi, said her son went out with friends over the night and she was informed the next morning that he was arrested by the police.

"The police told me that my son was caught smoking Indian hemp when he was arrested and I find it difficult to believe because my son does not smoke. I gave my son good moral upbringing and it is difficult for me to believe that he now smokes, despite the fact that he is jobless he hangs around

with his friends that have shops near Jabi park," she lamented.

Malam Abubakar, a commercial driver, complained that he closed from work and decided to relax with his conductor in a spot.

"I left my conductor at 12 am and surprising when I called his line this morning as I was preparing for work, the person that answered the call told me that he is under arrest at Life Camp Police Station," the driver stated.

He appealed to the police to release his conductor, adding that the boy is not a criminal.

Majority of the residents who spoke to our reporter commended the police action.

"Such raids prevent criminals from operating in this place and drives off people of questionable characters," a female resident said.

One of the suspects arrested told our reporter that he was

smoking Indian hemp for his first time when policemen arrested him.

"My friend forced me to smoke Indian hemp last night and I swear to God that I am not an armed robber," he said.

Another suspect said he is a pickpocket and does not shoot or kill people.

"I am only a pickpocket and sometimes I snatch ladies purses or engage in 'one chance' business," he said.

The suspect confessed that one of his arrested friends rapes women, while he does not go beyond picking people's pockets.

Speaking on the raid, Life Camp Divisional Police Officer, M.I. Umar Mahmud, a chief superintendent, said policemen from his division carried out raids in all black spot hideouts, such as hotels and drinking joints at Jabi Masalashi, Ngwo Cement, Kado

Estate, new as well as old Efab.

He said the raid was carried out at 1 am to 3 am, adding that it was done to sanitize the areas in order to prevent crime.

"Last night all policemen in this division conducted 'stop and search' operations because we got hints that a bus carrying locally made pistols and cartridges was sighted at Utako. The vehicle we learnt was heading to Wuye at about 11pm Monday and we decided to raid all suspected areas," he said.

The police officer revealed that crime officers are presently screening and interrogating suspects with the hope of discharging innocent ones, who have legitimate livelihood.

He said most of those arrested were Indian hemp smokers and advised Abuja residents not to loiter aimlessly on the streets at odd hours for their safety.



FREE readers at a newstand opposite Central Bank of Nigeria in Abuja yesterday.

## Magistrate warns police over arrest of suspects

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

MAGISTRATE Njideka Duru Monday warned the police not to re-arrest some accused persons that the court discharged.

Adamu Izan, Monday Tangen, Dewale Nasiru, Michael Thomas, Sunday Otinabo, Nangak Idris and Jamilu Ibrahim, all of no fixed address, were charged before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly constituting

themselves into public nuisance within Abuja.

Police prosecutor, Emmanuel Adikwu, had earlier informed the court that on May 8, the accused persons constituted themselves into public nuisances at Wuse 2,

Abuja, during the night.

He said they were arrested by a team of policemen led by one Leri Agada, a divisional crime office, attached to Maitama Police Station.

When the charge was read to

the accused persons, they denied it.

In his ruling, Magistrate Njideka Duru discharged the accused persons and warned the police not to re-arrest them without the permission of the court.

# Hausa community sends SOS to police

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

MEMBERS of the Hausa communities at Ashara village, in Kwali Area Council, Monday sent a 'Save our Soul' petition to the FCT police commissioner over the seizure of their farmland by the chief of the community, Alhaji Salihu Hussaini Ashara.

The petition which was signed by Sarkin Hausawa of the community, Alhaji Abdullahi Ya'u, was also copied to the Ona of Abaji, Alhaji Adamu Baba Yunusa,

Kwali State Security Service boss as well as the Divisional Police Officer of Kwali.

Ya'u complained that the chief of Ashara community had last Saturday summoned him and a younger brother to his palace and instructed them to inform all Hausa indigenes in the area to stop cultivating crops on any land henceforth.

The Sarkin Hausawa lamented that he has been residing in the village for the past 28 years, and built houses from a thick forest he

was allocated by the late chief of the community, Sarki Jibrin.

"I moved with my family during that time to clear the forest and started farming to enhance my livelihood with other Hausa indigenes," he disclosed.

He said since he started to live in the community, he has never quarrelled with anyone and wondered why the present chief ordered his people to leave their farmland.

The Sarkin alleged in his petition that the chief threatened to

use all available resources at his disposal to seize their farmland whenever they go to court over the matter.

Ya'u appealed to the police commissioner to intervene in the matter, adding that Hausa indigenes in the community are farmers and have houses in the place.

When our reporter visited the palace of the chief of Ashara yesterday, he was not around but a palace aide that the chief asked the Hausas to stop cultivating on the community's land.

## Man jailed 200 days for theft

By Romoke W. Ahmad

AN Abuja magistrate court Monday sentenced 23-year-old Nura Ibrahim to 200 days imprisonment for house breaking and theft.

The court also ordered 18-year-old Sadiq Danladi of Karu village to pay a fine of N1,500 for the offences.

Magistrate Ahmed Ndajiwo further ruled that the convicts pay N87,500 as compensation to the nominal complainant in addition to their sentences.

The magistrate said if both accused persons fail in default of payment, they should be jailed for an additional 30 days and 21 days respectively.

Prosecutor Stephen Eimoga has earlier told the court that on May 7, one Jummai Adamu reported at Karu Police Station that on May 4 and 7, the accused persons formed a common intention with one Tijani (alias black) to break into her house and steal items.

He said the offences committed are punishable under Sections 79, 346 and 288 of the Penal Code.

He said during police investigation, the complainant's passport photograph, purse, eye pencil, necklace, wet lips and voter's card belonging to one Abduljalil Lau were recovered from one of the accused person's house.

Both accused persons pleaded guilty to the charges and pleaded for mercy.

Magistrate Ndajiwo said the court gave such ruling because the first accused person was arraigned and sentenced before the same court February this year for similar offence, which makes him a habitual criminal, while the second accused person is a first time offender.

PIC: FIDELIS MAC-LEVA



LOCAL musicians entertaining funseekers at Zimbabwe, along Mararaba-Keffi road recently.

## Court summons pastor over refusal to refund money

By Romoke W. Ahmad

PASTOR Albert Adeyi Bello of Plot 1462 Egbedi Close, Garki II, Abuja has been ordered to appear before an Abuja Customary Court sitting at Jikwoyi for allegedly refusing to refund money collected from one Barrister Kenneth Anakwe over a land deal.

Albert who is also an estate agent was alleged to have collected N1.5 million from the complainant on August 14, 2008.

The complainant (applicant) had told the court that on August 14, 2008, Pastor Albert offered Plot No. 3271 Cadastral, Zone A04, Asokoro, to him for N6 million and he paid

N1.5 million as part payment and was issued a receipt.

"Immediately after the part payment, the pastor told me the transaction cannot continue because the said land has legality problem and assured to give a similar land within two weeks in the same location as replacement," the complainant stated.

He said he waited from September 15, 2008 till September 15, 2009 for the replacement without results, after which he started demanding for his money on October 15, 2009.

"The pastor gave me a Bank PHB cheque of N1.5m dated December 15, 2009 and I paid it into my Zenith Bank account on January 7 this year but the cheque was marked 'DAR'

meaning it is a dud one," he told the court.

The complainant prayed the court to help him refund the money as well as another N607,500, representing 27 per cent interest of the N1.5 million from August 14, 2008 to March 14, 2010 and N250,000 as the cost of the suit.

Although the defendant (pastor) was not in court during the sitting, the complainant's Counsel, A.F Anakwe prayed that hearing notice be served on the defendant and asked for an adjournment of the case.

Presiding Judge Jamilu Jega ordered that hearing notice be served on the defendant and adjourned the case to May 24 for hearing.

## Student, labourer jailed for causing injury

By Romoke W. Ahmad & Hussein Yahaya

AN Abuja Upper Area Court Monday sentenced an 18-year-old student, Kenneth Effiong and a 19-year-old labourer, Monday Danladi to four months imprisonment each for jointly hurting one Ahmed Salaudeen and two others.

The two were arraigned alongside with two other labourers, Zakari A. Yusuf and Bulus Ishaku for the offences of joint act, causing hurt and extortion, offences punishable under Sections 79, 242 and 291 of the Penal Code.

Prosecutor Umar Mohammed informed the court that on the April 12, the complainants, Mr. Ahmed Salaudeen and two others reported to the police that the accused persons and others now at large attacked and injured them

with knives, bottles and sticks.

He stated further that the accused persons collected a Nokia handset valued at N9,500, a wallet containing N5,750, two ATM cards, one necklace valued at N2,000 and an eye glass valued at N1,000.

When the charges were read to Kenneth Effiong and Monday Danladi, they pleaded guilty while the second and fourth accused persons pleaded not guilty to the three-count charge.

Having taking their plea, the prosecutor asked the court to try the first and the third accused persons summarily.

Judge Salisu Garba sentenced the first and the third accused persons to four months imprisonment each with N5,000 as fine options and adjourned the case to May 24 for hearing.

# Driver jailed for forgery

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A driver was yesterday jailed for one month by an Abuja magistrate court for forging the signature of one Omale Sunday on a cheque and attempting to cash N80,000 from Sunday's account in Diamond Bank.

Yakubu Yelmis of Masaka was arrested inside the banking hall of Diamond Bank Plc, Wuse 2 branch as he attempted to withdraw the money.

Police prosecutor,

Emmanuel Adikwu, had earlier told the court that on May 7, one Felix Asuokor of Diamond bank Plc, Wuse 2, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused stole a Diamond Bank cheque booklet, belonging to one Omale Sunday Unekwu of Area 11, Garki, and forged his signature.

He said the accused took the forged cheque leaf to the bank and attempted to withdraw N80,000 from the complainant's account, before he was arrested.

According to the prosecutor, the accused com-

mitted offences punishable under Sections 287, 364 and 95 of the Penal Code.

When the three-count charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty but begged the court for leniency, promising not commit crime again.

After the confession, the prosecutor asked the court to try the accused summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

In her ruling, Chief Magistrate Josephine Obanor sentenced him to one month imprisonment or to pay N1,000 as fine.

## Man charged with misuse of N1.9m

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police Monday arraigned a suspected fraudster before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly misappropriating N1.9 million belonging to one Henry Okwuonye.

Omoniyi Gabriel of Rotyions Global Concept, Mabushi village, Abuja, was accused of committing the offence sometimes in August 2009.

Police prosecutor, Abu Okpanachi informed the court that on January 25, one Henry Okwuonye reported to the police that he entrusted N1,950,000 in the care of the accused and he breached the trust and misappropriated the money without any justifiable reason.

"During police investigations, it was discovered that the accused used an Oceanic Bank cheque to deceive the complainant,

when he knew there was no money in the account," the prosecutor said.

He went ahead to tell the court that the police have recovered N800,000 from the accused, adding that the offences committed are punishable under Sections 312, 322 and 309 of the Penal Code.

When the three-count charge was read to the accused, he denied them and requested for bail, which made the prosecutor ask for a hearing date.

In her ruling, Magistrate Ann Akobi granted the accused bail in the sum of N500,000 with two reliable sureties in like sums, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction and swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

She also ruled that one of the sureties must be a civil servant of any grade level and adjourned the case to May 25 for hearing.

## Nyanya tea sellers commend police

By Zainab Shehu

TEA sellers (popularly called Maishayi) operating at Nyanya, Abuja, yesterday commended the police in the area for providing adequate security for them to thrive in their business.

Ahmed, one of the sellers, said travellers, commercial drivers and traders normally patronise his stall at odd hours of the day without molestations from the police.

He praised the police efforts in patrolling the area, adding that because of the security that exist customers flock his stall.

"I make enough money to take care of my family and to pay my house rents at the end of the year," he stated.

Ubaiye, another tea seller, said business is at its peak very early in the morning and late at night.

He also praised the police for patrolling the area at odd times daily and said he makes profit daily from tea business.

According to him, his stall becomes lively when youths come there to discuss about European soccer league or national issues.

"Apart from hearing good analysis of matches you also learn about recent happening in the country which keeps you updated on current affairs," he reasoned.

A tea seller called Sule, called on the area council authorities to recognise tea sellers in their vicinity by providing modern stalls in their areas at low rent costs for their operations.

He said since tea sellers operate into the wee hours of the morning, they can be helpful as police informants by giving information of criminal activities near their stalls.

## Dutsen-Alhaji police arrest suspected burglar

By Usman A. Bello

POLICE detectives from Dutsen-Alhaji market out post station Saturday afternoon arrested a suspected burglar, Felix Oyinloye.

An eyewitness, James Emma, said the suspect broke into the room of one Stanley Okoligwe at Zone 5 area of Dutsen-Alhaji and was caught while attempting to steal.

"Residents of the area have for long suspected the suspect, who likes parading the area when residents go to work and set a trap for him," the witness disclosed.

He said on the day Felix broke into Stanley's room, some residents were watching him and quickly called

the police, who responded quickly to arrest him.

The outpost station officer, John Ijibla, confirmed the arrest and said when he got the tip-off, he mobilized a team of policemen to the area who arrested the suspect.

"When the police arrived the scene, the suspect jumped out of the room and ran but was caught by policemen with the assistance of some residents," he revealed.

The station officer disclosed that the suspect will soon be charged to court after investigations are concluded and advised residents to always assist the police by informing them about criminal activities within their midst.



## THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AFFAIRS & JUSTICE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

INVITES EVERY STAKEHOLDER & THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO A PUBLIC HEARING ON

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CORPORATE PROSTITUTION AND EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN IN CORPORATE ORGANISATION AND FOR MATTERS CONNECTED THERE WITH.

DATE:

THURSDAY 13 MAY, 2010

TIME:

2 PM

VENUE:

HEARING ROOM I, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SIGNED:

HON. BINTA MASI GARBA  
Chairperson Women Affairs  
Committee

HON. HENRY DICKSON  
Chairman Justice Committee

## Inside Politics

# Many fronts in the battle for VP



AHMED Makarfi



MUKTARI Shagari



YAYALE Ahmed



AMINU Tambuwal

By Habeeb I. Pindiga

FIRST, it was the governors. Then, more and more interest groups came up to stake a claim to the post of vice president of the country, hitherto occupied by President Goodluck Jonathan.

Check the growing list: Generals want a retired soldier. Senators prefer a senator. Members of the House of Representatives want to have it. Katsina people want a Katsina man for the job, supposedly to compensate them for the loss of the presidential post with the death of President Umaru Yar'adua.

And there is a solo indefatigable crusader, former president Olusegun Obasanjo, who reportedly bulldozed his way into the Aguda residence of the president on Sunday with a shortlist of candidates for the vice presidency.

Yesterday, Northwest senators' caucus came up with a specific candidate: Senator Ahmed Makarfi, former governor of Kaduna State. Announcing their choice, caucus

leader Senator Umaru Dahiru said apart from the logicity of appointing someone from the Northwest to fill in the post, "we thought it wise that the National Assembly should be considered. If there is that consideration, then somebody from the Senate should be nominated for easy screening and confirmation... We thought it wise to pick the person of Senator Ahmed Makarfi to bridge the gap... He has all that it takes to be Vice President."

Though Dahiru said the decision was unanimous, it appeared that there was a dissenting voice: Senator Mahmud Kanti Bello. Shortly after Dahiru's news conference, Kanti Bello dismissed it and said he was in the race because his name and Makarfi's were earlier submitted to the president.

Earlier on Monday, it emerged that members of the House of Representatives also want one of their own to be vice president. On that day, members of the House from the Northwest sprang up and asked President Goodluck Jonathan

to choose his deputy from their zone. Leader of the Northwest caucus in the House, Bashir Kazare, told newsmen that it was only natural for the VP to come from the Northwest, given that the late president was from that zone.

Publicly, the Northwest caucus said they had no specific candidate for the post in mind. But behind the scenes, they are reported to be secretly rooting for a member of the House of Representatives.

Sounds outrageous? Probably not quite, since in the U.S., whose democracy Nigeria tries to copy, the man who replaced Vice President Spiro Agnew, and went on to become president after the resignation of Richard Nixon in 1964, was House of Representatives member Gerald Ford.

Among the names being touted from the House is Deputy Speaker Usman Bayero Nafada, who media reports yesterday said the House leadership nominated for the VP's post. But he is from the Northeast. Of the Northwest lawmakers being goaded into the

race for vice presidency is Deputy Chief Whip of the House Aminu Waziri Tambuwal. He is the highest ranking PDP House member from the Northwest.

But Kazare, in an interview with a *Daily Trust* reporter later on Monday, said the Northwest lawmakers were not rooting for one of them. "We have nobody in mind," he said. "We are not recommending anybody to him (the president); we are just saying it to justify the reason why the VP should be chosen from the Northwest."

More and more candidates for the vice presidency from more and more interest groups are likely to prop up in the coming days so long as President Goodluck Jonathan continues to take his time in deciding who should be his deputy. Definitely he has a lot of names to sift through, and a lot of pressure to contend with—especially from his biggest benefactor, Obasanjo.

But former military president Ibrahim Babangida said it would

not be fair for anybody or group to impose any candidate on Jonathan. "It will not be fair for some people to choose a candidate for the President on the matter of his vice," Babangida said.

There are reports that President Jonathan may ignore all the big names being touted, and choose a dark horse. At the centre of the decision of who should be VP, of course, is 2011. Jonathan would not want to pick a person who could pull the rug off his feet in his ambition to remain president beyond May 29 next year. Yet, he could not at the same time afford to scupper the goodwill he has earned from certain interest groups, nor to make enemies of those whose goodwill he is yet to earn.

A nominee for vice president is expected to be named immediately after the seven-day mourning period for the death of President Yar'adua, which ends today. It is only when Jonathan comes up with a name that the anxiety over the vice presidency would end.

## APGA to Jonathan: Don't dash people's hope

By Muideen Olaniyi

FACTIONAL Chairman of the All Progressive Grand Alliance (APGA) Chief Chekwes Okorie has reminded President Goodluck Jonathan that his promise to address issues surrounding electoral reforms, fight against corruption and problems of the power sector has raised the hope of millions of Nigerians.

In a congratulatory letter addressed to Jonathan, Okorie promised that APGA would not hesitate to offer suggestions to him in the course of time on issues of national importance.

While giving Jonathan an assurance that the party would give its cooperation and solidarity to him as he pilots the affairs of the country as President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, he prayed that God in His infinite mercy will grant him the wisdom to lead Nigeria to greater heights.

The letter read in parts: "Mr. President Sir, it will be recalled that in the course of the preparation of what is now popularly referred to as the Uwais Electoral Reforms recommendations, you were the Chairman of the Presidential Inter-Party Committee for Electoral Reform.

"APGA led by our National Chairman Chief Chekwes Okorie was one of the four political parties that belonged to that important Committee under your Chairmanship.

"We had the opportunity and privilege of savouring your leadership quality during the various sittings of the Committee you presided.

"The participating parties were given equal sense of belonging just as you made the sessions so relaxing that all participants gave their best.

"The high quality of the Committee presentation reflected in the fact that most of the Committee's recommendations were incorporated in the Uwais report."

## Group tasks Jonathan on credible elections in 2011

THE Northern Patriotic Front (NPF), a pro-democracy group, has urged President Goodluck Jonathan to ensure the conduct of credible and fair elections in 2011.

Alhaji Ali Abacha, NPF Coordinator, made the call while speaking to newsmen in Abuja on yesterday. "We are calling on the president to use this opportunity which Allah has given him to conduct credible elections.

"That will be a legacy for Nigerians, they will appreciate and live to remember him for it," he said.

Abacha also advised the president to ensure credibility and integrity in the appointment of INEC chairman, adding that Nigeria needed a competent hand to pilot the affairs of the electoral umpire.

"The president should appoint a honest person with good records and the ability to conduct free and fair elections in 2011," Abacha said.

He urged the National Assembly to ensure speedy passage of the electoral reform bill, noting that election dates were drawing closer. Abacha also called on Jonathan to emulate the leadership style of the late President Umaru Yar'Adua, stressing that his respect for the rule of law had transformed democracy in Nigeria.

"We will remember him for his respect for the rule of law. Yar'Adua ushered in good governance and we will live to remember him for that," he added. (NAN)

## Inside Politics

# Why North west wants VP slot- Rep Kazaure

Since the death last week of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, House of Representative members from the North-West geo-political zone have been calling on President Goodluck Jonathan to nominate his Vice-President from the zone. In this interview, Rep. Bashir Adamu Kazaure (PDP, Jigawa) chairman of the North West caucus in the House explains the position of the members. Excerpts:

By Turaki A. Hassan

**W**HY are you canvassing that the new Vice President should come from the North-West geo-political zone?

Let me start by saying that every opportunity belongs to Allah, He gives life and He takes them away. I will also express our condolences to the family of the late President Umaru Yar'adua and to the President and Commander In Chief Dr. Goodluck Jonathan and to the government and people of Nigeria.

Now, when PDP came up with its zoning formulae and allocated offices to various zones of this country, the purpose was to have some measure of equity, justice and fairness. It was meant to achieve some measure of stability and security in the country by carrying all the component parts along in positions of authority. So when President Obasanjo was



REP. Bashir Adamu Kazaure

going, he and the party found it necessary to zone the presidency to the North-West. Now the inevitable has happened and it was nobody's cause but Allah decided to take our dear president's life. We are grateful to Allah for that. Therefore I think it is only normal and in the interest of natural justice for us to have the vice presidency,

unless all other offices that were hitherto zoned, apart from the president who ascended naturally should now be re-zoned to alter the political equation once again.

If we call for that, it will be recipe for confusion and chaos. Therefore we thought it is more reasonable if the VP comes to the North-West so that all other positions are maintained as they were and we continue to the end of this tenure in 2011.

But if you consider the preponderance of the news and rumours that are coming out, the North-West is even given the least chance of producing the next VP. Furthermore, this a zone with seven states which is the highest in the country and with over 40 million people. We think these factors qualify us to have a say in what transpires in the country.

**Y**ou are said to be fronting for one of you in the House, who is that member?

That is totally false. The section dealing with the replacement of a Vice President in case a vacancy exists is Section 146 of the 1999 constitution and it clearly spells out that the President should nominate a vice president. Therefore it is not our responsibility to say this is the person he should pick. That is entirely his responsibility. Ours responsibility is to screen and approve whoever he nominates. So we have nobody in mind; the point we are making is that the VP should be chosen from the North-West.

Section 146 gives the National Assembly the power to approve the nomination, if the VP is not chosen from your zone will you consider using your numerical strength in the two chambers to stall the confirmation?

Let me make it very clear that we are not in any way threatening or blackmailing anybody to get this thing. We thought it is something that should naturally happen. We feel it is the right thing to do and we are appealing

to the sensibilities of Mr. President and all well meaning Nigerians. We appreciate his antecedent of trying to see that he unites the country and diffuse the tension that was created when he was Acting President and we believe he will give this a serious thought.

And as for the confirmation, in fact it doesn't mean that if a candidate emerges from the North-west every member from the zone will support him. There could be some different opinions so the voting pattern will not reflect any sentiment like that.

In fact if someone is chosen from the North-Western, we have to work assiduously in getting him confirmed because it is a job that belongs to all members of National Assembly irrespective of where they come from.

We will vote according to our consciences and taking into cognisance what we feel will be the best for this country. We are willing to cooperate with the President in making his job easier because if he rules this country successfully, all of us will take the credit.

## CPC national leader, Nasiru Muhtar, resigns

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

CRISIS in the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) has taken a new dimension with the resignation of the newly appointed national vice chairman (North West) of the party, Alhaji Muhammad Nasiru Muhtar. Muhtar was the state chairman of the party before his elevation to the national position.

Speaking with our correspondent in Kano yesterday, the CPC leader said he had already tendered his resignation to the national headquarters of the party through the state chapter on Tuesday.

The party chieftain said many reasons, which he refused to disclose, prompted his

resignation from the party.

"There are numerous reasons that prompted my resignation but I reserve them for another time," he said.

Asked whether he is leaving the party, Muhtar said he is still a member of the party. "I have not indicated leaving the party in my letter. I only said I have resigned my position," said the CPC apparatchik.

Alhaji Muhtar said there is a serious crisis raging in the party both at the state and the national levels and is threatening its stability.

"Our intention was to build a formidable party that will deliver the yearnings and aspirations of Nigerian people but crisis seems to threaten this noble cause with we took time to

nurture," said Muhtar.

According to him, all the pro-Buhari groups met and agreed to form a common leadership that would be acceptable to all. He said the new 'common leadership' had already emerged with Honourable Aliyu Yahaya Bichi as the leader.

He said if the CPC is to win election, there has to be concerted efforts from stakeholders towards grassroots mobilisation. He however regretted that such mobilisation is yet to commence.

Daily Trust gathered that crisis in the party erupted in Kano State when the national leadership unilaterally removed the Muhtar-led state exco of the party and appointed Alhaji

## Nazif notifies Senate of move to PDP

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATOR Suleiman Mohammed Nazif representing Bauchi North zone in the Senate yesterday decamped from the Action Congress (AC) to the majority Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

In a notice read by Senate President David Mark, Nazif said his decision to leave the AC was as a result of factionalisation of the party in Bauchi State which is in line with the condition for a legislator to defect from his party to another.

In a move to counter Nazif's claim, Deputy Minority Leader and leader of AC in the Senate, Senator Olorunimbe Mamora, denied the existence of factions in the party saying "as a member of the National Electoral Committee (NEC) of the party, I am not aware of any crack in the party."

But when asked by the Senate President David Mark whether any cracks exists in the Bauchi AC, Nazif said there is a massive division in the Bauchi AC which can no longer enable him deliver his electoral promises to the people.

## Pro-Buhari group rejects Kano CPC executive

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

SOME supporters of General Muhammad Buhari in the Kano state chapter of the Congress for Progressive Change (CPC) yesterday said that the leadership of the party under Alhaji Ahmadu Haruna Dan Zago was constituted illegally.

Leader of Buhari Network for Change, Alhaji Abdulmajid Danbilki Kwamanda, said in Abuja that there was a unanimous agreement that all pro Buhari organisations should be consulted and co-opted into the state caretaker committee but the National leadership discarded the arrangement.

Speaking to our correspondent, he said: "CPC's elders in Kano were

not informed when the committee was formed. Therefore, they have failed to recognize the leadership of the party in the state. I joined the team that submitted a letter to Buhari recently, under the chairmanship of M. T. Waziri who is a CPC elder, challenging the authenticity of the state executive."

Reacting to the statement, CPC's National Publicity Secretary Mr. Aghanya Dennis said before the formation of state and local government executives, all groups that are in support of General Buhari were consulted and co-opted into the leadership.

He said Kwamanda was consulted as a stakeholder and incorporated as an executive member together with his group secretary in order to move the party forward. He however wondered why Kwamanda has been trying to 'destabilize' the party.



## AFRICA SISTER CITIES

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE,  
TRADE & EXHIBITION



### CHIEFTAINCY / LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES & YOUTH LEADERSHIP IN AFRICA

- i. Mon 10th May, 2010: Conference to be declared opened by the president of the Republic of Ghana at the Accra International Conference Centre by 10: 00am
- ii. Tues 11th May: Welcome cocktail at La Palm Hotel, Accra 7:00pm
- iii. Wed 12th May: Inter Cross Cultural Night, where Troupes from African Countries and Italy will perform 7:00pm
- iv. Thurs 13th May:
  - \* Dialogue between Traditional Rulers, Local Government Officials and Organisers at Holiday Inn Hotel 12:00 noon
  - \* The night for delegates from the state of Arkansas, USA to thrill delegates and speak on the topic "AFRICA SPEAKS, AMERICA RESPONDS".
- v. Fri 14th May: Guided tour of Accra to Tourist Sites.
- vi. Sat 15th May: Grand Finale with presentation of awards to His Excellency Prof John Evans Atta Mills Ghanaian President, including a Post-Humous Award to the former *First Lady of Nigeria Late Dr. (Mrs.) Maryam Ndidi Babangida*, His Excellency, Dr. Emmanuel Eweta Uduaghan, *Executive Governor, Delta State*, His Excellency, Admiral Murtala Nyako (RTD)., *Executive Governor, Adamawa State*, His Excellency, Alh. (Dr.) Aliyu Makatarkada Wammako, *Executive Governor, Sokoto State*, Emir of Mubi Emirate Council, Chief Gabriel Osawaru Igbinedion, *Esama of Benin Kingdom*, Alhaji Mohammodou Abbo Ousmanou and other Distinguished Nigerians and a Cameroonian Industrialist, during a Gala/Award Night at the Banquet Hall of the State House Complex, Accra Ghana beginning from 7:00pm

Conference fees with accommodation including Gala/Award Nite US\$ 2,490,00

Conference fees without accommodation. US\$ 700.00

Gala /Award Nite Only US\$ 300.00

Interested participants should please contact the following:

#### Logos Travels Support and Solution Limited

20 Ologun Agbeje Str.  
Off Adeola Odeku by Post Office  
Bus-Stop Victoria Island  
Tel: 07028249357, 08034096161,

#### R & A Hotels

2 Majekodunmi Street, Allen  
By Oshopey Plaza, Ikeja Lagos  
Front Office Department  
0805544447, 08076666655

#### Ocean View

15/16 Ademola Adetokunbo  
Victoria - Island  
01277700 Extension 6501

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## FUNLEARN KTM ENRICHMENT CLUB

This is to notify the general public that the above named Club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part 'C' of Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. PROF. LEVI EZEAKU
2. ARC. EMMENUEL ATUBU
3. REV. (MRS) FOLAKE ACHUDUME
4. ENGR. JAMES OKEREKE
5. MRS. CHIDINMA OKEREKE

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To Foster peace and unity among members and assist members in time of needs.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

**Barr. Olayinka Akinyede Okiyi**

Legal practitioner

12 Murtala Animashaun Close Surulere, Lagos Tel: 08028585796

## THE PATHFINDERS CLUB, OGBOMOSO

The General Public is hereby notified that the above named Club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. ENGR. DENNIS ADEKOLA ADERINTO
2. ALHAJI RAMONI FOLA BELLO.
3. EZEKIEL AGBOOLA OLAGBEMIRO
4. MR. BOLAJI ADIGUN.
5. MR. AMOS AJAO KAYODE

### THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

- 1) To promote unity, mutual help and spirit of co-operation and brotherhood amongst ourselves and our people.
  - 2) To actively and relentlessly struggle for common goal, general improvement and development of members welfare, regardless of sex, social status, religion or political inclination.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.13. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

**POPOOLA GRACE.**

Suite B43, Shakir Plaza, Area 11, Garki II, Abuja.

**THIS SPACE IS FOR SALE**

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of the following documents belonging to **MR. ADEM DANIEL TONGOV** of the Legal Service Department, National Assembly, Three Arms Zone, Abuja:

- a) Certificate of Occupancy No. 1742-1985-484-ee-Tau-20/Re No. MSC 51314 bearing Tondok NIG Ltd Plot No. CD 60 within Duboyi District.
- b) Plot No. 27-27 about 0.5 HA at Chikuku extension file No. KAC/FCDA/PS/MS/3044 bearing Tondok NIG Ltd.
- c) Plot No. E-230 about 1800 sqm at Range-district Kupa file No. KAC/FCDA/PS/BN/317 dated 8/9/98 bearing Adem D. T. Etc.
- d) Plot No. A17 about 2000 sqm A44 extension file No. KAC/FCDA/PS/MS/659 dated 8/9/98 bearing Osoya Osoya.
- e) Plot No. 837 about 1900 sqm at Traders layout file No. GAC/FCDA/PS/BN/338 bearing Aondona Adem.
- f) Plot No. 411 about 782 m2 City layout file No. GAC/FCDA/PS/BN/355 dated 22/4/99 bearing Joseph Aundona Tongov.
- g) Plot No. 2309 about 1020m2 City layout file No. GAC/FCDA/PS/KU/348 dated 24/3/93 bearing Adem D. T. Etc.
- h) Plot No. 2071 about 980m2 City layout file No. GAC/FCDA/PS/BN/337 bearing Adem D. T. Etc.
- i) Plot No. 401 about 832m2 City layout file No. GAC/FCDA/PS/BN/353 dated 22/4/99 bearing M's Alache-Dile.

All efforts made to trace the missing land documents proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest police station for the name and address above.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The High Court of Kaduna State by a Judgment delivered by Hon. Justice T. Zailani dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 2010 has nullified the marriage contracted between Saleh Y. Usman and Christie Dominic Yori at Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State on 10<sup>th</sup> April 1999.

The said marriage is declared invalid, null and void.

Union Bank Plc and general public take note.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original copy of offer of terms of grant/conveyance of approval with Ref: No. MFCT/LA/KN 3547, dated 12/2/1998, in respect of a plot of about 900 m2, C plot No. 5960 within Jabi District, Abuja which belongs to **FATIMA MOHAMMED LAWAL** of 3 Sulaiman Crescent, Kano.

Efforts to trace the above document proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest police station or the address above.

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly called **MRS. ESTHER IBRAHIM GARBA** now to be called **ESTHER GARBA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, general public note.

I, formerly called **MISS JANET JAMES** now to be called **MRS AYUBA JANET PHILIP**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS MARIAM ZUBAIR**, now wish to be known as **MRS MARIAM BELLO**. All former documents remain valid. Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto, NYSC and General Public should take note.

I, formerly **GIDEON DUROJAIYE** now **GIDEON DUROJAIYEOLUWA**. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Immigration Service and general public note.

I, formerly known as **NSIDIBE DANIEL TOMMY** now wish to be known as **MRS NSIDIBE EFFIONG UDOG**. All former documents remain valid. The General public should take note.

## QUA IBOE CHURCH

The general public is hereby notified that the Qua Iboe Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission to effect the following changes under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990:

### a. CHANGE OF NAME:

To change its name from **QUA IBOE CHURCH** to **UNITED EVANGELICAL Church**.

### b. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION:

To comprehensively alter its constitution.

### c. CHANGE OF TRUSTEES:

To change its trustees as outlined herein.

#### RETAINED TRUSTEES:

- |                                 |   |          |
|---------------------------------|---|----------|
| 1. Elder Iyot Unuabok Akpasom   | - | Retained |
| 2. Elder Ezekiel Sampson Essien | - | Retained |

#### REMOVED TRUSTEES:

- |                              |   |          |
|------------------------------|---|----------|
| 1. Elder Samuel E. Nwakanma  | - | Deceased |
| 2. Rev. Paul O. Okpolor      | - | Deceased |
| 3. Rev. Joseph Y. Okpanachi  | - | Deceased |
| 4. Elder Sunday O. Uduokpong | - | Deceased |

#### APPOINTED TRUSTEES:

- |   |   |           |
|---|---|-----------|
| 1. Rev. James Yenisa Onogu                      | - | Appointed |
| 2. Rev. (Dr) Daniel Musa Akwu                   | - | Appointed |
| 3. Rev. (Dr) Efang Okon Inyang                  | - | Appointed |
| 4. Elder (Air Marshal) Nkaiakabasi Essien Eduok | - | Appointed |
| 5. Elder Samuel Robert Uko                      | - | Appointed |
| 6. Elder (Barr) Joe Ad'ajo Abrahams             | - | Appointed |
| 7. Elder Christian Robert Efang                 | - | Appointed |
| 8. Elder Emmanuel Esiaha Nwobia                 | - | Appointed |

Any objections to this should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

**Joe Abrahams & Co.,**

Suite A20, Ibro Hotel,

Michael Okpara Street, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja.

## BORNO STATE GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT & MB SP;  
DAMBOA ROAD P.M.B 1004 MAIDUGURI.

The Borno State Office of the Auditor General for Local Government hereby invites tenders from suitable qualified contractors/suppliers to SUBMIT BIDS for the supply of:

Lot number	Project title
Lot. 1	Purchase of 2(no) Toyota Hilux vehicle
Lot 2.	Establishment of Data Bank and connection to internet

### TENDER/PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

All interested contractors are required to forward the following Documents along with the Financial Bids:

- a. Evidence of Registration and Incorporation by corporate Affairs Commission(CAC)or Borno State Ministry of Commerce.
- b. Evidence of Registration with Borno State Government as a contractor or supplier.
- c. Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificates for the last three (3) years.
- d. Evidence of Financial Capability.
- e. Company Profile.
- f. Experience.

### Collection of Tender Documents

The tender documents will be available for Collection by all interested Contractors/Suppliers upon the payment of non-refundable fee of N10,000 for each lot with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 in the Office Of The Auditor General for Local Government.

### TENDER CLOSING DATE

The closing date for the submission of all tender documents has been fixed for Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 at 10:00am prompt.

### TENDER OPENING:

All Contractors /suppliers that have submitted their bidding documents should come for opening at the Office Of The Auditor General For Local Government on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 by 2:00pm prompt.

Signed:

**Ibrahim Mohammed Lawoim cpa**

Ag. Auditor-General  
For Local Government,  
Maiduguri, Borno State.



• CIBI NIGERIA LIMITED •  
RETAIL, WHOLESALE AND PROCESSING

## CLEARANCE SALE! CLEARANCE SALE!!

LARGE BULK OF SECOND CHOICE GRANITE TILES MATERIALS OF VARIOUS COLOURS AND DIMENSIONS FOR SALE AT GIVE AWAY PRICE.

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INTERESTED BUYERS SHOULD CONTACT US AT PLOT F3, CIBI ROAD, OFF NNAMDI AZIKIWE EXPRESS BYE-PASS, NEAR NEW PANTEKA, BEFORE KADUNA MOTORS JUNCTION, MANDO LIGHT INDUSTRIAL LAYOUT, KADUNA OR **CALL MRS. ALICE GANDU ON 0803-2846-833, ARC. USMAN YUSUF 0706-5541-994 OR ARC. J.B. BAKO ON 0806-3442-221.**

HURRY AND MAKE YOUR PURCHASE WHILE OFFER LASTS.

**MANAGEMENT**



## NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION

### THE NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES DOCTORAL THESES AWARD SCHEME (NUDTAS) 2008 AND 2009 AWARDS: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The National Universities Commission introduced the Nigerian Universities Doctoral Theses Award Scheme (NUDTAS) to encourage scholarship and academic excellence in postgraduate research in Nigerian Universities. The awards presentation had been made previously in 2001, 2004, 2005 and we just concluded, successfully, the 2006 and 2007 award presentation ceremonies at the Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso.

We wish to invite all Vice-Chancellors of Nigerian universities to kindly make their nominations for the NUDTAS best PhD theses awards for 2008 and 2009 scheduled to hold at the University of Agriculture, Makurdi. Universities are to make one nomination for each of the 14 broad disciplines as categorized by the National Universities Commission (for each of years 2008 and 2009), namely:

1. Administration,
2. Agriculture,
3. Arts,
4. Basic Medical Sciences,
5. Education,
6. Engineering and Technology,
7. Environmental Studies,
8. Law,
9. Medical and Clinical Sciences,
10. Pharmacy,
11. Sciences (Biological),
12. Sciences (Physical),
13. Social Sciences and
14. Veterinary Medicine.

Each nomination should be accompanied by the curriculum vitae of the nominee, a brief justification for the nomination, two hard copies and a soft copy of the thesis and should be sent to reach **Professor O. V. Ekechukwu**, Director, Research and Innovation, National Universities Commission, Aja Nwachukwu House, No. 26 Aguiyi-Ironsi Street, Maitama District, PMB 237, Garki GPO, Abuja, on or before **17 June, 2010**.

For further information please contact:

**Professor O. V. Ekechukwu**

Director, Research and Innovation

email to [ovekechukwu@yahoo.com](mailto:ovekechukwu@yahoo.com) copy [remibiodun2000@yahoo.com](mailto:remibiodun2000@yahoo.com)

Signed  
**Professor Julius. A. Okojie**  
Executive Secretary

## SPORT

Ronaldinho,  
Adriano out of  
Brazil's squad



Page 64

LAGERBACK ATTEMPTS TO DEFUSE MESSI SCARE, SAYS...

# Argentina? Don't bother about them

SUPER Eagles coach, Lars Lagerback, has attempted to defuse the growing hype around his team's opening World Cup game against Argentina, insisting the Eagles have to look beyond the South Americans if they are to make a huge splash at the Mundial.

Nigeria battle Argentina on June 12 at the Ellis Park Stadium in Johannesburg in the opening match in Group B and the local press has been more than preoccupied with the third clash between these two teams at the World Cup.

The Eagles lost 2-1 to the two-time world champions at the 1994 World Cup and also fell 1-0 when both teams clashed at the 2002 global finals.

"The World Cup is not only about (Lionel) Messi or Argentina. We need to prepare well and play well not only against Argentina, but the other two teams in our group," Lagerback said.

"South Korea and Greece are two good teams. So, we need to win every of our matches until we reach our target.

"We have the players, and with the right conditioning,

we can do it."

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) have set a semi-final target for Lagerback in South Africa even though the country's best showing in the tournament has been getting to the second round in 1994 and 1998.

Lagerback announced his 30-man preliminary squad for the World Cup on Monday.

Bayelsa United goalkeeper Bassey Akpan and Austin Ejide, who has barely featured for his new Israeli club this season after he was offloaded by French club Bastia, were considered ahead of the Moroka Swallows number one choice Greg Etafia.

However, the Swede coach said he will take full responsibility for his selection despite making some consultations before he arrived at his final list.

"I'm responsible for this squad, though I contacted those who needed to be contacted before I picked the players myself," he said.

"The selection was based on current form and I wanted a mix of old and new players.

"I believe I have done my best."



## Lagerback got it wrong - Emetole

By Orkula Shaagee

FORMER national team Coach Kelechi Emetole yesterday said Super Eagles Coach Lars Lagerback was wrong in his approach to the choice selection of a 30-man list of players from where 23 will be picked make the squad to the South Africa 2010 World Cup.

Emetole, who stated this in a

telephone interview with Trust-sports, noted that Lagerback would have allowed the players to train for him to get the best to represent the country at the World Cup.

The former national youth team coach asked rhetorically why and how the coach was able to drop some players without seen them kick the ball, saying the selection was not based on

merit.

Consequently, the Heartland of Owerri tactician declared that nothing much will be achieved by Nigeria in South Africa since the players were selected not based on merit.

He also noted that the coach has not yet made any difference to the Nigerian team since taking over last March, stressing that he is still operating with the players

that Amodu used in prosecuting the Nations Cup and the World Cup qualifiers.

"When was the list released and how did he arrive at the list? I am asking this because he (Lagerback) would have watched all the invited players in training and pick the list on merit. That is the best way of doing it. So it is very wrong to drop players without seen them play.

"The irony of the whole thing is that he is still using the same crop of players that Amodu used and was criticized, he has not discovered one player since coming here.

"To me, this is giving the players automatic shirts and it should not be so. He would have allowed all the players to fight for shirts and prove their worth", Emetole said.

# TRUST CLASSIFIED

## PUBLIC NOTICE SELFLESS UNITY FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

### The Trustees are:

- |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Idris Suleiman     | -Chairman |
| 2. Tanko Y. Bazanfare | -Member   |
| 3. Mohammed U. Sale   | -Member   |
| 4. Shuaibu Bukar      | -Member   |
| 5. Isa Bala Ibrahim   | -Member   |

### Aims and Objectives:

- To empower the youth by providing job opportunities.
- To assist orphans and the less privileged.
- To provide on affordable education to the less privileged, gifted children and orphans alike (computer knowledge inclusive).
- To facilitate the advancement and possible transformation of community.

Any objection(s) to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. M.M Ibrahim

## SOLID LINK EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

### The Trustees are:

- Akulola Abiodun Emmanuel
- Pastor Falana Gabriel Olanin
- Akulola Oluwale Faith

### Aims and objectives:

- To promote education generally in Nigeria.
- To facilitate problem-solving mentality in the Nigerian youths by organizing various educational programmes.
- To establish and maintain educational institutes where knowledge could be acquired.
- To collaborate with other organizations that has similar passion for promoting education in Nigeria.
- To positively impact on people's life.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

A. Y. Akintunde Esq.  
Suite 81-82, Shakar Plaza,  
Area 11, Gard. Abuja.

## WOMEN OF GRACE EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act no. 1 of 1990

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- |                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Barr. Obi J. huchukwu | - Chairman  |
| 2. Chibuzo Ezekwe        |             |
| 3. Oby Hope Ofomata      |             |
| 4. Stella Odum           |             |
| 5. Yvonne Igwe           | - Secretary |
| 6. Oluwatoain Adeolu     |             |

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To support the welfare of women in the society.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:

Molokwu U. D.

## DRAGONS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

This is to inform the general public that the above named club has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration in accordance with the provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- |                        |          |
|------------------------|----------|
| 1. Mr. Derek Steel     | Chairman |
| 2. Mr. Adedayo Adebayo | Member   |
| 3. Mr. Emeka Ukombe    | Member   |

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES ARE:

- To promote the establishment, formation, development and growth of Rugby football Clubs in Nigeria especially in the Niger Delta region.
  - To be in the vanguard of promoting the full realisation of man's potential through sports, capacity building and skills acquisition.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Str, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Esan Babatunde (Solicitor)  
21/25, Broad Street, Lagos.  
88933246342.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

THIS IS TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT THE ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY WITH POLT NO. NE/115 BELONGING TO LAKE CHAD CLUB MAIDUGURI, GOT MISSING ALL EFFORT MADE TO TRACE THE SAID MISSING CERTIFICATE PROVED ABORTIVE IF FOUND, RETURN TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION.

## LOSS OF CAR

This is to inform the general public of the theft of a 2008 Model Volkswagen Jetta Car, Black Colour with Reg. No. EE238 ABJ, ENG No. BY2048755 and CHASIS No. WVWZZZ1K27M198591 belonging to Rafpoco Nig. Ltd by armed men on 14/03/2010 at FHA Kubwa. Please If found report to the nearest Police Station on call 08033358903

## GLOBAL WOMEN/GIRLCHILD EMPOWERMENT AND SUPPORT FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act no. 1 of 1990

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Mrs. Vivian Ekpo
- Mr. Paul Ekpo
- Ekemini Paul Ekpo
- Emmanuel Paul Ekpo
- Samuel Paul Ekpo
- Mrs. Tommie Delany

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To protect innocent of the girl-child by conducting seminars and workshops educating them on sex.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:

Secretary

## CROSS OVER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY

This is to inform the general public that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act no. 1 of 1990

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- |                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Prophet Moses Chika          | (Chairman)      |
| 2. Mrs. Ogechi Chika            | (Member)        |
| 3. Mr. Chuka Hope Obiora        | (Member)        |
| 4. Mrs. Ifoma Chika             | (Member)        |
| 5. Mr. Eugene I. Iheanacho      | (Administrator) |
| 6. Barr. Mrs. Eugene Felicia I. | (Secretary)     |

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ teach, instruct, and lead people on how to come to the knowledge and practice of Christian faith as preached and practiced by Christ, Jesus.
- To win and lead people of the world to the true vine of righteousness which is in Christ Jesus (Matthew 24:14 and John 15: 1,4,5)
- To reach out, preach and teach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all nations.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:

Barr. Mrs. Eugene Felicia I.

## FREEDOM DAVIDSON FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act no. 1 of 1990

### TRUSTEES.

- |                                |           |
|--------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. NASAMU DAVID FREEDOM OSIVUE | CHAIRMAN  |
| 2. KABIRU IBRAHIM AHMED        | SECRETARY |
| 3. ABUBAKAR UMAR SANDA         |           |
| 4. AMEDU JOSEPH EGBENEMEH      |           |
| 5. PRECIOUS EZEHNAJISOR        |           |

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- To promote the highest rate of youth employment in Nigeria.
- To further strengthen the rate of small and medium scales industries in Nigeria.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

## INRI EVANGELICAL SPIRITUAL CHURCH

The general public is hereby notified that the above named ministry has applied for registration under part 'C' of the Company and Allied Matters Act 1990.

### THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Primate Babatunde Elijah Ayodele  
(Founder/Spiritual Head)
- Most Gen. Apos. Evang. Olubunmi Joshua Ajewole  
(Secretary)
- Mrs. Catherine Jituboh

### AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

- To propagate the scriptures of Christ Almighty to the whole world.
- Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Most Gen. Apos. Evang. Olubunmi Joshua Ajewole  
(Secretary)

## CHANGE OF NAME

I, formally known as LATEEF AFOLAYAN, now wish to be known as JOEL AFOLAYAN. Former documents remain valid. Bayero University Post Graduate studies to note.

I formerly called GARBA NURUDEEN now change to KHALID NURUDEEN. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I formerly KABIRU GIMBA, now wish to be known as MUHAMMAD IDRIS. All former documents remain valid, Bauchi State Government and general public take note.

I formerly YAGANA ABBAKYARI, now wish to be called FATMAH BRAH WAKLBE. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I formerly MARTHA DANIEL now wish to be called MRS MARTHA TERI DAGU. All former documents remain valid, Hospitals Management Board, general public to note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS GLADYS NKECHI ONYEOTITO, now wish to be known and addressed MRS GLADYS NKECHI IFEANYICHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly JOSHUA IRIBYA, Now wish to be called as WOLIN J. MATO BADAGARI. All former documents remain valid UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI and public should take

I formerly EBUN MFON EFFIONG, Now wish to be called as EFFIONG MFONSO EMMANUEL. All former documents remain valid public should take note.

I formally called LAWRENCE ODO, wish to be called LAWRENCE CHUKWU. All formal documents remain valid. General public should take note of the change.

I formerly MISS AFOLABI ADEBANKE, now wishes to be addressed as MRS. OSASONA ADEBANKE CHRISTAMAH. All former documents remain valid. Centre for Grassroots and Economic Empowerment, Ijebu-Ode and general public take note.

I formerly MRS OJERINDE MARGARET OLUWATOYIN, now wishes to be addressed as MRS. ADEYINKA MARGARET OLUWATOYIN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly MISS OMOLARA DEBORAH OLUWOKOLA AFOLABI, now wishes to be addressed as MRS. ADEYEMI OMOLARA DEBORAH OLUWOKOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MAMMAN MUSA now wish to be called MUJTABA MUSA MAMMAN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as HANA NUHU now wish to be known as MRS. HAUWA IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. DORBEN POLYTECHNIC and the general public please take note.

I, formerly known as MISS CHIDINMA MERCY WILSON now wish to be known as MRS CHIDINMA MERCY OGBON. All former documents remain valid. NIGERIA IMMIGRATION SERVICE and the general public take note.

I, formerly YAKUBU AGATHA now wish to be known and addressed as MRS AGATHA OGETTE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly MISS EYBOIFO HELEN now wish to be addressed as MRS HELEN DAWARI AYE. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly ZAINAB TANKO UMAR now wish to be called MRS JANET ISAAC ADAMA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly known as BAWA OLAYINKA now wish to be known and addressed as MRS AGBAJE OLAYINKA. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I, formerly known as MISS UCHEMA PEACE UKAEGBU now wish to be known and addressed as MRS UCHEMA PEACE REGINALD-GAJUS. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS ONYINYE NWANNEKA OFULUME now wish to be known as MRS ONYINYE NWANNEKA AKWUEH. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly MISS CECILIA OLUWAKEMI ADEYEMO now wish to be known as MRS CECILIA OLUWAKEMI AKOGUN. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly MISS NSIDIBE DANIEL TOMMY now wish to be known as MRS NSIDIBE EFFIONG UDOH. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly known as HAUWA KULU MUAZU now wish to be known as MRS HAUWA KULU MUSA KWAZO. All former documents remains valid.

I, formerly known as DR. (MISS) NKECHI OLIVIA ONYEKWELE now wish to be known as DR. (MRS) NKECHI OLIVIA OKOYE. Former documents remain valid. Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and general public to take note.

I, formerly ODIGIE CHINELO LOVETH now wish to be called OGUNMOLA CHINELO LOVETH. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.



Fulham's Danny Murphy practices a free kick during his team's training session ahead of the UEFA Europa League final against Atletico Madrid at HSH Nordbank Arena in Hamburg, Germany, yesterday.

# Reps probe Eagles hotel saga

THE House of Representatives has opened an investigation into what it has described as the 'national disgrace' which saw the Super Eagles booked into a sub-standard hotel.

Nigeria were booked into the New Hampshire Hotel, leading to a public and media outcry which forced Sports Minister Isa Bio to lead an inspection team to South Africa.

The hotel was eventually rejected and Technical Adviser Lars Lagerback who picked the

Protea Waterfront Hotel in its place.

The Sports Committee of the House of Representatives promised to investigate the sham, and now the committee's deputy chairman, Gbenga Elegbeleye says the process has commenced.

"We are doing something about it. This is a national disgrace. How long will our country continue to be embarrassed as a result of the activities of people saddled with the responsibility of doing things for us?"

Nigerians are used to past probes failing to punish those found complicit in various acts, but Elegbeleye insisted that that would not be the case this time.

"We will recommend appropriate punishment for all those involved. And I can assure you that nothing will be swept under the carpet," Elegbeleye told Kick-OffNigeria.com.

Former Super Eagles coach Shuaibu Amodu and team Media Officer idah Peterside were named by NFF Secretary Gen-

eral Bolaji Ojo-Oba as among those who selected the hotel, and Peterside confirmed that he had received a summons from the House Committee.

"I received a phone call from a member of the House last week saying they would send me a formal invitation to appear before the committee to talk about the hotel issue," Peterside told Kick-OffNigeria.com.

But he denied that the selection was down to the two individuals fingered by Ojo-Oba.

## First Deepwater succumb to First Bank

OIL and Gas team, First Deepwater basketball club yesterday surrendered their leadership of the Zenith Bank Women Premier League to defending champion, First Bank losing by 68-62 points.

The Lateef Erinfolami tutored side shared the four quarters in equal half with the Elephant Girls of (12-15; 15-10, 13-27 and 22-16), with yesterday defeat First Bank, First Deepwater and Sunshine Angels have all lost two games each and are occupying the first, second and third spot on the league table.

Also yesterday Nigeria Immigration defeated FCT Angels 56-50.

Sunshine Angels outclassed Delta Force 67-52 while Dolphin had the better of Plateau Rocks 80-37.

The second phase series will end today with First Bank taking on AHIP Queens of Kano at 08:00; Sunshine Angels will battle Plateau Rocks at 10:00, Nigeria Immigration and Delta Force will entertain the crowd at 12:30 while Dolphins will test her luck against First Deepwater at 16:30.



LULU

## Lulu defends Lagerback's style

As dust settles over the Super Eagles 30-man provisional list released by coach of the side, Lars Lagerback, Nigeria Football Federation president, Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi has spoken out on defence of the gaffer's choices.

Lulu confirmed that Lagerback had to rely to a large extent on video replays of matches involving some of the players, but also said the Swede watched some of the stars live.

Speaking to brilafm.net yesterday, Lulu said that the Glass House will support Lagerback fully to make a success of his job.

"That is the best he has done. He watched these players on CDs and he also watched some of them live. "He had an initial list of 44, but we tried as much as possible on one, two or three weeks to settle them together, but we could not get the right time. It was not possible.

"We are satisfied with what he has done. This is about the best option we can get and we are giving him our support and cooperate with him."

## Capello picks Carragher, King

ENGLAND coach Fabio Capello has included injured Manchester City midfielder Gareth Barry in his provisional 30-man World Cup squad. Sunderland's Darren Bent and West Ham United's Scott Parker are also named, while Jamie Carragher and Ledley King are included among the defenders in the 30-man squad.

BUT there is no place for Manchester United's Owen Hargreaves, or the Fulham striker Bobby Zamora.

Neither Carragher nor King has played under Capello, although the Tottenham Hotspur man was called into the squad for a double header against Slovakia and the Ukraine last year.

However, with doubts over Rio Ferdinand and John Terry, and Wes Brown and Joleon LeScott ruled out through injury, Capello

has talked Carragher out of retirement and will have a look at the Liverpool man, plus King, who has just played four games in 15 days, before finalising his 23-man squad for South Africa.

Goalkeepers: Joe Hart, David James, Robert Green.

Defenders: Leighton Baines, Jamie Carragher, Ashley Cole, Michael Dawson, Rio Ferdinand, Glen Johnson, Ledley King, John Terry, Matthew Upson, Stephen Warnock.

Midfielders: Gareth Barry, Michael Carrick, Joe Cole, Steven Gerrard, Tom Huddlestone, Adam Johnson, Frank Lampard, Aaron Lennon, James Milner, Scott Parker, Theo Walcott, Shaun Wright-Phillips.

Forwards: Darren Bent, Peter Crouch, Jermain Defoe, Emile Heskey, Wayne Rooney.



ENGLAND coach Fabio Capello makes several surprise selections for the World Cup.

# Roy the Rover: Fulham boss Hodgson's incredible journey

Roy Hodgson has honed his managerial skills on a remarkable odyssey that has taken him to 12 clubs in six countries (plus three spells in charge of national sides).

Here's a look back at a 34-year coaching career that will reach another pinnacle in Hamburg on Wednesday night.

## Halmstads, Sweden

**WHEN?** July 1976 to June 1980.  
**ACHIEVEMENTS?** Champions 1976, 1979.

**HOW DID HE DO?** A 29-year-old Hodgson inherited a side that had only survived in the top division on goal difference. A year later, they were the champions and playing in the European Cup. Not bad for a rookie manager.

**ROY SAYS:** 'My greatest achievement would have to be the water-into-wine job at Halmstads. On the first day of the season, 20 newspapers said Halmstads would go down. We won the championship in style.'

## Bristol City

**WHEN?** January to May 1982.  
**ACHIEVEMENTS?** Relegation and bankruptcy. Not a high point.

**HOW DID HE DO?** Hodgson moved back to England in 1980, becoming assistant boss and then manager at Bristol City. His timing couldn't have been worse: City fell into the fourth division and were declared bankrupt as the club won just three matches under Hodgson.

**ROY SAYS:** 'My friend Bob Houghton, who was there before me, was clever enough to get out before the club folded completely.'

## Orebro, Sweden

**WHEN?** July 1982 to June 1985.  
**ACHIEVEMENTS?** Hodgson won the Swedish second division at the second attempt, but failed to earn promotion after losing a play-off.

**HOW DID HE DO?** Hodgson and his friend Houghton, whom he met at Maidstone United during their time at the modest Kent club in the early seventies, are credited with bringing the 4-4-2 formation and the pressing game to Sweden.

**FORMER SWEDEN BOSS LARS LAGERBACK SAYS:** 'They introduced a whole new way of playing football.'

## Malmö, Sweden

**WHEN?** July 1985 to June 1990.  
**ACHIEVEMENTS?** Champions 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, Svenska Cup 1986, 1989.

**HOW DID HE DO?** Offered a lifetime contract after topping the first division five years in a row.

**ROY SAYS:** 'The Swedes talk of the set-playing piano, and with that team I got to the stage of the set-playing piano. Not a lot needed to be said.'



## Switzerland

**WHEN?** January 1992 to November 1993.

**ACHIEVEMENTS?** Qualified for 1994 World Cup and Euro 96, and reached third in the world rankings.  
**HOW DID HE DO?** Switzerland had not qualified for a major tournament since 1966 before he arrived. Hodgson had left by the time Euro 96 started.

**ROY SAYS:** 'For my first home friendly match against Bulgaria there were 3,000 people in a 30,000-seat stadium. To change that to parties in the street during the World Cup was great.'

## Inter Milan, Italy

**WHEN?** October 1995 to May 1997; May 1999 to July 1999.

**ACHIEVEMENTS?** UEFA Cup final in 1997.

**HOW DID HE DO?** Led Inter to the 1997 UEFA Cup final and helped lay the foundations for their success in the competition the following year, after he left. He went back to Italy for a second spell as caretaker manager in 1999.

**ROY SAYS:** 'The Inter job taught me most. We lacked stars, apart from Paul Ince. They were not the best technically but physically the players were like machines.'



## Fulham

**WHEN?** December 2007 to now.

**ACHIEVEMENTS?** Highest ever Premier League finish (7th, 2009), Europa League final 2010.

**HOW DID HE DO?** Saved Fulham from relegation in 2007-08, took them to seventh place and European qualification in 2008-09 and led the London club to the Europa League final in 2009-10. Not too badly at all.

**SIR ALEX FERGUSON SAYS:** 'It's a miracle.'

## Blackburn Rovers

**WHEN?** June 1997 to November 1998.

**ACHIEVEMENTS?** Led Blackburn back into Europe in his first season.  
**HOW DID HE DO?** A promising start, but Hodgson won just two Premier League games in his second season after spending £20million in the summer – including £7.5m on Kevin Davies. He was fired with Blackburn at the bottom of the table.

**ROY SAYS:** 'To Blackburn's honour, Jack Walker wanted me to resign, he wanted to still pay for the rest of my contract. I refused to do that, arrogant of course as I was in those days.'

## OTHER TEAMS

...Grasshoppers, Switzerland (July 1999 to June 2009)  
Copenhagen, Denmark (July 2000 to June 2001)  
Udinese, Italy (June to December 2001)  
United Arab Emirate (April 2002 to January 2004)  
Viking Stavanger, Norway (July 2004 to December 2005)  
Finland (August 2005 to Nov 2007)



ZOLA

## West Ham sack Zola

WEST Ham have announced that manager Gianfranco Zola has been sacked.

The Italian managed just seven home wins in the recent campaign as the Hammers battled against relegation for much of the season.

Glenn Hoddle leads the early frontrunners to replace him in the Upton Park hotseat.

Zola said: 'I am extremely disappointed to be leaving West Ham United. Over recent weeks, I have been the subject of various adverse comments, from within the club, which have been widely reported in the media.'

Despite what has been a very difficult period for me, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at West Ham. I would like to sincerely thank the players and my staff for their continued support, hard work and commitment.

'I extremely proud of their efforts, over a long and difficult season, in retaining West Ham's place in the Barclays Premier League.'

'West Ham is a great club, with fantastic supporters and I wish the club every success in the future.'

The Hammers finished fourth from bottom in the Barclays Premier League, five points above Burnley. In 80 games, Zola won just 23 while losing 36, a success rate of just 29 per cent.

He joined the club in September 2008 following Alan Curbishley's resignation. His only previous managerial experience came with Italy Under-21s.

After a solid start to life in east London, Zola struggled badly and was criticised by new co-owners David Sullivan and David Gold.

A statement on the club website said: 'West Ham United confirm that they have terminated the contract of Gianfranco Zola.'

'The board of directors would like to thank him for his contribution and wish him well for the future. The Club will now be focusing its efforts on seeking a replacement.'

Zola was a popular figure in the Upton Park dressing room and is widely expected that several players will follow the Italian out of the door.



## FOCUS ON: CAMEROON



# Cameroon set to emulate 1990 heroes

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

IN the opening match of the Italian 1990, which pitched the defending champion, Argentina, against Cameroon, few pundits gave the Roger Mila-led Indomitable Lions any chance of roaring. But, the Lions did not only roar, they devoured the star studded Argentine team, led by arguable the deadliest forward of all time, Diego Maradona.

What made the victory more memorable to the followers of the round leather game was the fact that Cameroon did the damage with just nine Lions, as two of them were sent off during the match.

The oldest Lion in the Cameroonian team, Roger Mila, whose inclusion in the team was influenced by the President of the country, Paul Biya, was 38-year-old, but turned out to be the most dangerous and voracious Lion. He spearheaded the demolition of most of their opponents and singlehandedly catapulted his country to the quarter finals, the first time any African country would have attained such feat.

Since then, Cameroon have not been able to re-enact such a feat, unable to make it pass the first round, of the subsequent World Cup tournaments. Their lowest World Cup moment in recent times was their inability to qualify for the Germany 2006 games, losing the ticket on the final day in front of their teeming fans. A penalty kick that would have secured a Germany 2006 berth for the Lions was blown away in an emotional match against Egypt.

Apart from Egypt, the best team to have come from the continent of Africa is undoubtedly Cameroon, having won, among other achievements, the African Cup of Nations on four occasions. Although the Lions almost

thrown away their South Africa 2010 chances against Gabon, Samuel Eto'o's brilliance ensured that the Cameroonian flag will be hoisted in South Africa come next month.

It can be said that the Lions did not live up to the expectations of their fans in the last African Cup of Nations hosted by Angola, where they lost in the Semi-finals to the eventual winner, Egypt. But, the Lions and their coach appear to have put the Angola's experience behind them, as they have promised their fans to repeat the form that made them awesome in 1990.

### THE SQUAD

The all-time African leaders by far in World Cup participation, Cameroon first made it to the big show in 1982, but did not return in 1986. They managed to punch their ticket to Italia '90 and did not miss a World Cup until the 2006 competition where they were stunned by Cote d'Ivoire and Egypt.

Now they are back with arguably one of their best generation of players so far. With a coach that the players are finally behind and possibly the best African player in Samuel Eto'o, many people are hoping that Cameroon will finally put in the performances that many know they are capable of.

The main weakness of the team will be their overall age and ability to cope with high-level competition. Certain players such as 33-year-old Rigobert Song, Geremi Njitap, are beginning to slow down and look a bit rusty for the World Cup. Song's defensive calamity against Egypt denied them the African Nations Cup trophy in Ghana 2008.

Getting out of the group stages is expected from the Lions and making it to the quarter-finals will definitely be an objective for the Indomitable Lions, as anything less would be a disappointment.

### ROUTE TO SOUTH AFRICA

Having lost out in the Germany 2006 party, the Eto'o-led Indomitable Lions knew nothing less than a South Africa 2010 ticket will be acceptable to their ever-demanding fans. But, it was far from smooth sailing for the Lions this time around. In a group composed of Gabon, Togo and Morocco, it was the smaller team, Gabon that stunned everyone by winning their first two matches while, Cameroon lost their first encounter against Togo and then drew against Morocco.

But then Coach Paul Le Guen came on board, while the Indomitable Lions played catch up with their opposition, and with four consecutive wins they ensured their participation in their sixth World Cup.

With the most decorated striker in African history and possibly the deadliest African striker



CAMEROON coach, Paul Le Guen... Can the Indomitable Lions re-enact Italia '90 feat?

of the moment, Samuel Eto'o Fils, at his peak right now, the team's strength should be the attack. But the truth is Cameroon's midfield is what makes it special. Even though less star-studded than say, Ivory Coast or Mali, the Cameroon midfield, whether playing in a 4-3-3 or a 4-4-2 formation has been excellent at linking the defence to the forwards.

### KEY PLAYERS

Samuel Eto'o Fils is incontrovertibly the most prolific striker in Africa and among the best in the World. With one of the most impressive trophy cabinets in African football, Samuel Eto'o is out to prove that his level has not diminished one bit in the last few years, and he will be looking to show the world what he's capable of, as he was very young in France and Korea. In a continent where he is a god-like entity, people will expect a great deal from him, and he will have to deliver.

Eto'o scored over 100 goals in five seasons with FC Barcelona, and is also the record holder in number of appearances by an African player in La Liga. As of June 2009, he was the joint 3rd highest goals scorer in Barça's history, along with Rivaldo. He is the second player to have ever scored in two separate UEFA Champions League finals.

As a member of the Cameroon national team, he was a part of the squad that won the 2000 Olympic tournament; he has participated in two World Cups and five African Nations Cups (being champion

twice), and is the all-time leading scorer in the history of the African Nations Cup, with 18 goals.

Eto'o was a part of the squads that won the 2000 and 2002 Africa Cup of Nations, and was a gold medallist at the 2000 Summer Olympics. At the 2003 FIFA Confederations Cup, in which Cameroon finished as runners-up, he scored his only goal in a 1-0 group-stage upset of Brazil on 19 June.

Arguably the best African gloves-man today, Idriss Carlos Kameni, keeps the tradition of quality Cameroonian goalkeeping alive. Fast reflexes and consistent shot stopping has gained him respect in Spain. The 'Phenomenon' has long been the best in his country and there's no reason for that to change any time soon.

In 2002, aged 18, Kameni was picked for Cameroon's squad of 23 at the 2002 FIFA World Cup. He was named Best African Goalkeeper for 2006-07, after being runner-up in the previous season.

Another player that the Lions will be looking forward to in South Africa is Alexandra Song. Albeit, Alex was probably not the first choice of most Arsenal fans at the start of the campaign, he has won them over before the end of the season with a string of powerful performances in the central midfield.

He was equally impressive when he stepped into central defence - a position Wenger believes he may yet end up in - but Alex looks the part in the engine

room and could make the position his own for years to come.

His growing reputation at club level has not gone unnoticed on the international scene. Alex is a regular for Cameroon and was one of the most outstanding players in the last African Cup of Nations, staged by Angola.

### THE COACH

Paul Le Guen is very well respected by his players, who prefer his methods to those of Otto Pfister. At the time he took over from Otto Pfister, the Lions' chances of qualifying for the South Africa 2010 was almost in shreds.

With no experience in Africa whatsoever, Le Guen reversed the trend and with four straight victories in the qualifier, the Indomitable Lions took over the mantle of the leadership of the group from Gabon.

### WORLD CUP HISTORY

1982 Round 1  
1990 Quarter-finals  
1994 Round 1  
1998 Round 1  
2002 Round 1

### WORLD CUP HIGHLIGHT

While, the Lions' best moment of international football was definitely during the 2000 Sydney Olympics where they devoured on penalties, the Lions' best moment in the World Cup was in the Italian 1990, where against all odds, they humbled highly rated Maradona-inspired Argentina 1-0. They went ahead to play in the quarter-final of the tournament, losing painfully to England.



ETO'O

## THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Mohammed Haruna

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## The tragedy of President Yar'adua's death

**N**ews of the death of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua has been exaggerated so many times before that when the real thing finally happened exactly a week ago today I, like most people I suspect, almost didn't believe it. But then the source couldn't have been more impeccable; the former Emir of Gwandu, Alhaji Mustapha Jokolo. The text he sent me around 10 p.m., I think, was definitive. The president, it said, was dead and may God grant him *aljanna*.

Jokolo was like family to the Yar'adua clan going back to his days as the aid-de-camp of the elder Yar'adua, the late Shehu, when he was second in command to General Olusegun Obasanjo as head of state between February 1976 and October 1979. So I knew that the news of the president's death this time was real. Still I called Jokolo back immediately to be absolutely sure.

Jokolo's confirmation made me sad and worried and at the same time not so sad.

Sad and worried, because Yar'adua's death poses a great danger of a return to the illiberal and bad old politics of Yar'adua's benefactor and immediate predecessor, President Olusegun Obasanjo, given the ruthless manner perceived opponents of a Goodluck presidency were – and still are – being hunted down. The danger is the greater given the probability that now that he is substantive president, Jonathan would want to carry on beyond the end of Yar'adua's tenure.

I felt not so sad because Yar'adua's suffering as a result of the needless politicisation of his ill-health for which he was, sadly, not altogether blameless, has ended at long last.

President Yar'adua, like his elder brother, was a radical from a conservative background. Their father, Alhaji Musa, *Mutawallin* Katsina and the first minister of Lagos as the Nigeria's capital, was a dyed-in-the-wool Northern conservative. As adults, his most prominent two sons, more so the president who was born in 1951 and was younger by eight years, rejected his political creed.

The regional pattern of the party system of the First Republic, the elder Yar'adua once said in an interview with the defunct *Citizen*, had created a "siege mentality" among the country's ordinary citizens and leaders alike. Each of the then three major parties – Northern People's Congress in the North, Action Group in the West and National Council of Nigerian Citizens in the East – he said, had a strangle hold on its region which made people feel that belonging to a rival party was an act of betrayal. Part of his mission in politics, he said, was to break this regional mould of politics.

General Yar'adua was, of course, not the first Northern politician to reach across the regional divide in their quest for power and influence. Long before him there were others like Aminu Kano and J.S. Tarka. The difference, however, was that Yar'adua was a top rank aristocrat. Little wonder then that his alliance with Chief Obafemi Awolowo in the 1983 general elections shook the Northern Establishment to its marrow.

His other mission in politics apart from ending the siege mentality of old politics, he once told this reporter, was to recreate possibly the most positive feature of old politics, namely its integrity. "The trouble with Nigeria," he said at the time, "is that since the demise of Sardauna, Zik, Awolowo and Aminu Kano we have had leaders with power but without authority. Leaders who are obeyed because they are in power rather than because they are respected."

The general's politics seemed to have rubbed off his younger brother who, as it were, grew up mostly under his wings. This much seemed obvious when, first, as governor and even more so as president, he ran an administration that, by and large, respected the principle of the division of powers among the three arms of government. He was also far more tolerant of the opposition parties and the press and even of dissension within his party than Obasanjo. It was all like he preferred to be respected rather than feared.

Second, the two were members of the leftist Social Democratic Party – one of the two parties that military president, General Ibrahim Babangida, created in the course of his eight-year transition program – at a time the patriarch Yar'adua was inclined towards the rightish National Republican Convention.

The younger Yar'adua eventually won the governorship ticket of SDP in his native Katsina State but lost the election to NRC's Sa'idu Barda in 1991. As Babangida's transition program unfolded, the elder Yar'adua picked SDP's presidential ticket,

even trumping more fancied rivals like Alhaji Lateef Jakande in their turfs. However, unlike his younger brother, the general never got the chance to contest the general election because Babangida cancelled the primaries of both SDP and NRC following allegations that they were rigged.

Then Babangida "stepped aside" in August 1993 following a popular uprising against his annulment of the June 12 presidential election. Eventually the military president's controversial political engineering came to grief. This was when General Sani Abacha who he left behind as defence minister ostensibly to shore up the interim administration of Chief Ernest Sonekan that he had cobbled together before stepping aside, obliged the cries by many so-called progressives in the SDP – including, alas, Chief M.K.O. Abiola, the putative owner of the June 12 elections himself – for a military coup, and threw out Sonekan in November 1993.

However, instead of handing over power to Abiola, as the "progressives" thought he would, Abacha kept the power for himself. Still even when the general refused to be drawn on the tenure of his administration which he had said would be "brief," the coup-mongers continued for a long time to entertain illusions about his motives.

The one individual who had no illusions about Abacha was General Yar'adua. Almost alone among leading politicians he rejected the invitation by the general for the formation of an all-inclusive government until the general spelt out his mission and the length of his tenure.

Yar'adua paid for this rejection with his life; he was jailed on an apparently trumped up charge of planning a coup against Abacha and died in prison on December 8, 1997 in very mysterious circumstances. His death devastated the younger Yar'adua. Somewhat inexplicably the death also ended his long romance with leftist politics.

This romance started way back in 1970 before his university days. It started, as he himself said in an impromptu remark during the second memorial lecture of the radical Historian, Dr. Bala Usman's death, when he first met Bala at Barewa College, Zaria, as a Higher School Certificate student after passing his West African School Certificate from Government College, Keffi, in 1969.

"So I came and met him as a young man with a fertile mind. At the time he (Bala) was teaching History at Barewa College, Zaria, and I became very close to him and to his family." The relationship, he said, continued when he came to Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, to read for his first degree in Chemistry in 1973. By then Bala had become famous nationwide as the scourge of conservatives in academia and outside. The historian's rigour in the search for knowledge and its application in the pursuit of truth and justice, Yar'adua said, had a lasting influence on him.

The relationship with Bala apparently set him on the road to radical politics after his university days. During the Second Republic he joined Malam Aminu Kano's People's Redemption Party, the successor to the radical Northern Elements Progressive Union (NEPU) of the First Republic. When PRP won the governorship elections in Kano State and in the old Kaduna State that included then Katsina Province, Yar'adua joined the government of the latter as a high ranking technocrat.

This long lasting romance with leftist politics, as I said, ended with the death of the elder Yar'adua in 1997. For, when Abacha's five-year dictatorship and his plan to swap his khaki for mufti came to an end with his sudden and mysterious death in June 1998, the civilian politics that was ushered in eleven months later by his successor, General Abdulsalam Abubakar, found Yar'adua, surprisingly, in the rightish People's Democratic Party.

However, the apparent change in his political ideology in his last eleven years or so did not seem to have affected the philosophy of politics he had imbibed partly from his elder brother and partly from his intellectual mentor, Bala Usman. This was the philosophy that whatever one's political ideology, the route to the public's heart is a firm commitment to the public good and a clarity of thought on how to achieve it.

The tragedy of his death from his long ill-health which apparently made him over-dependent on his seemingly ambitious wife, Turai, coupled with his lack of the elder Yar'adua's cosmopolitan outlook – his inner circle was simply too provincial and too narrow – was that it has ended his chance of achieving the pinnacle of greatness possible by keeping faith with the philosophy of commitment politics.

May Allah grant him *aljanna firdaus*.

## SPORTS REPORT



RONALDINHO

## Ronaldinho, Adriano out of Brazil's squad

Ronaldinho, Adriano and Neymar were left off Brazil's 23-player World Cup roster yesterday.

Coach Dunga was to announce seven others later Tuesday, completing the team's preliminary 30-man list, which was due to FIFA. The 23-man list doesn't have to be finalized until June 1.

Kaka, Robinho, Maicon and Julio Cesar made the cut, but three-time FIFA player of the year Ronaldo and veteran left back Roberto Carlos were not selected.

Dunga is sticking to most of the players who helped Brazil win last year's Confederations Cup and finish first in South American World Cup qualifying.



GIUSEPPE ROSSI

## Rossi makes Italy's squad

New Jersey's Giuseppe Rossi was selected Tuesday for defending champion Italy's 30-man preliminary World Cup roster, while Francesco Totti and Luca Toni have been left off.

Rossi, a 23-year forward for Villarreal in Spain, was born in Teaneck and went to Clifton High School. He was eligible to play for both Italy and the United States and opted to play for the Azzurri instead of the Americans. He was the only player selected based outside of Italy.

Totti retired from Italy's national team after helping win the 2006 World Cup. He was the Azzurri's primary forward in 2006 and at the 2008 European Championship, but lost his place when he ran into problems at Bayern Munich to start this season.

