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Kaduna Refinery to shut down today



Page 5

Mega party wants transitional government



Page 7

Jonathan: 'Big scam in FG contracts'

By Abdulfattah Olajide & Muhammed S. Shehu
SOME of the contracts awarded by the Yar'adua Administration in several ministries were inflated while many other projects have either been abandoned by the contractors or are not being implemented at all, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan

said in Abuja yesterday. Speaking while inaugurating the 18-man Presidential Projects Assessment Committee which he established to probe the alleged contract scams in some ministries, Jonathan said the magnitude of the scams necessitated the establishment of the panel. He said, "The importance of assessing the

current state of all the Federal Government projects across the nation so as to provide accurate information on their status has become not only necessary but critical to national development. We have received reports of abandoned Federal Government projects; petitions of overvaluation and undervaluation and in some cases, non-

performance of some contracts. The need for a comprehensive inventory of all our on-going projects and their level of funding has therefore become imperative". The acting president said the committee was established to help government focus its attention on completion and
Continued on page 5

TY's first advice: Stand firm

By Abdulfattah Olajide & Mohammed S. Shehu
CHAIRMAN of the new Presidential Advisory Council Lt Gen T. Y Danjuma handed down his first

advice to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday: take extra-ordinary measures and act aggressively within the limited time you have. Danjuma said Jonathan

must adopt the measures in order to sustain the goodwill he now enjoys as acting President before it is lost. He gave the advice in his acceptance speech shortly after the inauguration of

the advisory council in the Council Chambers of the Presidential Villa, Abuja. Danjuma said, "Unless you take those measures quickly, the goodwill which you now enjoy will

be lost. Fortunately you have the required courage and vision. What you did not have in the past was the authority. Now that you have been invested with the authority, the nation


expects you to proceed quickly to effect the needed transformation. This is the right time for you to act--now, when you can act quickly and aggressively--
Continued on page 5

PHOTO: NAN



ZUKHATU Shopping Mall at Kubwa, Abuja engulfed in flames on Wednesday night.

Inside Today's Daily Trust

<p>Business The Kaduna Refinery has produced 14m litres of fuel and evacuated 454 trucks between Feb. 19 & Mar. 2 31</p>	<p>Sport Ivory Coast are hopeful that Guus Hiddink will take charge of the Elephants at the World Cup 63</p>	<p>Digest Drinking four cups of coffee a day may protect the heart, scientists have announced 44</p>	<p>Minister: Police not committed to duty  Page 3</p>
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ACF demands explanation on Yar' adua's health

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

UNLESS those that are vested with the authority and responsibility of managing the health of President Umaru Yar'adua are forthcoming with information on the true position of his health, it will be near impossible to do away with the current bickering, intrigues and subterfuge as well as mistrust in the country.

This position was made known

by the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) in a communiqué issued after its special committee met Wednesday in Kaduna. The committee which was chaired by retired General M.I. Wushishi, appealed to the president's handlers to put national interest and his health over individual ambitions and pecuniary interest by being more open and transparent on his health.

According to the ACF, "this is about the only way to enable rele-

vant government organs and agencies take all necessary constitutional actions (in line with Section 144) that would put this saga behind and spur the nation forward for collective good." The forum pledged its support and cooperation for Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, advising that he should try to bring Nigerians together in order to overcome their differences.

ACF also decried the politics of identity which has followed

Yar'adua's return as well as division within the Federal Executive Council and the National Assembly, including the entire nation along ethno-religious and regional cleavages.

The forum also called on Jonathan to enact the electoral reforms that will enable the people's votes to count in 2011 elections, adding that if this happens, the emerging leadership will have an abiding faith in the judgement

of the people. "Such leaders are more likely to exercise power that is humane in spirit, moral in its purpose and wise in its use," ACF noted.

The forum reminded the Acting President that governance is an art of balancing competing demands, advising that Nigerians expect no less from the government under his watch. "One way of achieving this is the improvement in power, energy and security," ACF maintained.

Meningitis claims two in Sokoto

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

AN outbreak of Meningitis has claimed two lives in Wamakko Local Government Area of Sokoto State. Five local government areas in the state including Wamakko, Kware, Gwadabawa, Sokoto South and Gudu are said to be affected by the outbreak.

The State Commissioner for Health Dr. Muhammad Jabbi

Kilgiri confirmed the incident.

He said Wamakko Local Government Area had the highest number of 22 people infected.

He however assured that the Ministry of Health had procured adequate vaccines to curtail the spread of the disease and adopted proactive measures to ensure adequate distribution to all parts of the state.

Oshiomhole flays Reps on Edo crisis

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

EDO State Governor Adams Oshiomhole said he is not disturbed by the action of the House of Representatives which yesterday passed a resolution that the political situation in Edo state was a threat to democracy.

Speaking with newsmen in Benin yesterday, the governor said the resolution was passed in

bad faith to intimidate and blackmail the people and the government of the state. He said, "We reject it, and will not change our minds".

The governor explained that the removal of the local government chairmen was within the powers confirmed on him by the laws of the state, pointing out that his administration can never condone fraud even at the local government level.

Gunmen kill PDP chieftain in Oyo

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

UNKNOWN gunmen Wednesday killed a chieftain of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) Alhaji Azeez Adegbile in Oyo State.

Late Alhaji Azeez Adegbile (55) was until his death the PDP Chairman in Atiba Local Government Area of Oyo State. Witnesses say he was murdered at 11.50 p.m Wednesday night while he was sleeping in his room

at Odunerin compound around Akodudu area of Isale Oyo.

According to them, the deceased was shot through his window.

The gunmen also set the room ablaze. The fire was said to have been put out by neighbours before the body of Adegbile could be burnt.

The Special Adviser to Governor Alao-Akala on Political Matters, Alhaji Asimiyu Alarape, has condemned the incident.

NYSC reduces corps members in Plateau

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) has reduced the number of corps members posted to Plateau State from 2,400 to 1,200 because of the incessant crises in the state.

The NYSC state Coordinator Mr. N. Tunde Baba Ahmed stated this when he visited the

state Police Commissioner Mr. Ikechukwu Ayo Aduba yesterday in his office.

He said, "The aim of the visit is to request to send policemen to the NYSC orientation camp to protect lives and properties of the newly posted corps members before the commencement of the 2010 orientation camp".



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan with the Chairman of the Presidential Advisory Council retired Lt-General Theophilus Danjuma (right) during the inauguration of the council at State House, Abuja.

Trust has done much for North-Sheriff

From Sharafa Dauda & Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

GOVERNOR Ali Modu Sheriff of Borno State has commended Media Trust Limited, publishers of Daily Trust newspaper and other titles, saying the paper has set a positive agenda for the North through objective and balanced reporting.

Sheriff said this yesterday when the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Media Trust Limited Malam Kabiru Yusuf led a team to the Government House, Maiduguri.

"You have proved that the North can also produce and sustain a newspaper that can compete with any in the country and other parts of the world.

Some of the articles I read in your newspapers give me hope. Your type of journalism is worthy of emulation", he said.

Earlier, Yusuf said the Media Trust team was in Maiduguri to thank the government and people of Borno State for their support, noting that public support was one of the company's greatest assets.

He added that they were also there to assess the level of work at the site for the establishment's printing press so that all Trust's titles, Daily, Sunday, Weekly Trust and Aminiya could get to other parts of the North-east on time. He said the project was part of the company's vision to cover the entire North as well as the entire country at breakfast time.

The chairman told the governor that the company which already had printing presses in Abuja and Kano would also establish one in Port Harcourt to serve the South.

He urged the government and people of the state to support the company through the purchase of its titles and placement of adverts. He maintained that the company would continue to improve on its titles to address the needs of its readers.

He said as part of its corporate social responsibility, the company three years ago launched a scholarship programme for female medical students in selected universities including the University of Maiduguri.

Leave Yar'adua alone —Senate

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

AILING President Umaru Yar'adua who returned from a 93-day medical trip to Saudi Arabia should be allowed to

recuperate in peace, the Senate said yesterday.

Speaking to newsmen shortly after plenary session, Chairman Senate Committee on Information and Media, Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu

North) those dwelling on the issue and the restricted access to the president him since returning should channel their energy elsewhere.

He said it is time to concentrate on giving support to Acting

President Goodluck Jonathan to deliver on the administration's programmes rather than allow the issue of the president's condition to dominate the polity.

Eze said "I think he has also started on a good footing by

appointing a Presidential Advisory Council. That is a mark of humility. It is an admission that he does not know all; he needs to pull in experience so that he can get advice on the next trajectory for the ship of state."



CHAIRMAN and Chief Executive Officer, Media Trust Limited, Malam Kabiru Yusuf (left) with Governor Ali Sheriff of Borno State during a courtesy visit to the Government House in Maiduguri.

Jos crisis: Rep accuses Bankole of stalling probe

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

A member of the House of Representatives Rep Mohammed Sani Abdu (ANPP, Bauchi State) yesterday accused Speaker Dimeji Bankole of frustrating the ad-hoc committee mandated to probe the recent sectarian crisis that rocked Jos, Plateau State.

Raising Order 9 of the House rules, Abdu drew the attention of the members of the assignment given to the Rep Usman Nafadale ad hoc committee mandated to probe the recent Jos crisis but regretted that the committee has not done anything.

But Bankole stopped him, saying he should have contacted him or the Deputy Speaker before bringing the matter. He therefore ruled him out of Order.

But Abdu told our reporter that the speaker was not interested in the probe.

Nigeria may not meet 2015 EFA goals—Minister

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma & Maureen Onochie

INADEQUATE infrastructural facilities, teaching and learning materials and competent teachers for basic education are clear indication that Nigeria may not achieve the Education For All (EFA) goals by the year 2015, Minister of Education Dr Sam Egwu has said.

Egwu disclosed this yesterday in Abuja at the ministerial meeting of the 56th session of the National Council on Education (NCE), the highest education decision-making body in the country.

"In spite of Federal Government intervention funds to states and other private providers of basic education, there are substantial shortcomings in the Nigerian institutional and personnel capacities for the delivery of sound basic education for all citizens."

He said it is worrisome that many states have not taken full advantage of the universal education fund of the Federal Government by providing the required counterpart funds and accounting for the earlier disbursed funds.

"A situation analysis of the current profile of our secondary schools reveals that the standard and quality of our schools and products are pathetically slow," he said.

Minister: Police not committed to duty

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police have failed in carrying out their statutory responsibilities to the people, the Minister of Police Affairs Dr. Ibrahim Yakubu Lame has said.

The minister said at a meeting with senior police officers in Abuja yesterday that in spite of the efforts being made by the government to improve the welfare of policemen, they have failed to comply with government directives of carrying out their basic

responsibility of ensuring safety.

"Government has consistently increased the capital budget of the Nigeria Police Force from N21 billion in 2009 to above N30 billion in 2010. Regrettably, the Force has not reciprocated the gesture of government by a way of commitment to duty and responsibility to this calling," he said.

He said the current rate of crime across the nation, rising cases of extra-judicial killings, human rights violations, robberies, high profile assassinations and

deliberate failure to comply with government directives all are testimony to the sheer incapacity or wilful defiance of police high command to these recommendations and assignments at hand.

He said the force must review its strategies in order to perform its duty adding that no responsible government would fold its arms and watch helplessly as its citizens are being maimed or cut down in their prime when there is a Police Force in place. The Minister asked the Force to within 2 weeks pro-

duce a practical work plan indicating programmes and projects with implementation time-lines effective from 2010 to the end of the Police Reform Programme in 2015 which will cost N2.8 trillion.

Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo said Force is making efforts to ensure that the Police Reform Programme is achieved and policemen have been able to contain so many crisis as well as addressed kidnappings and armed robberies especially in eastern Nigeria.

Jonathan's schedules stall NITEL sale—BPE boss

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE Director General of Bureau of Public Enterprise, Dr. Christopher Anyanwu yesterday blamed the Acting President 'busy schedule' for the delay in the sale of Nigeria Telecommunications Ltd (NITEL) and Mobile Telecommunications Limited (Mtel).

Speaking at a session with the Rep Abasi Braimah-headed House of Representative Committee yesterday, the BPE boss said that the

winner of the bid for NITEL/Mtel, New Generations Communications of China has not been able to receive the letter of offer from the bureau as the National Council on Privatisation (NCP) was yet to give the order for such.

According to him the NCP which is headed by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan has not been able to meet since the Financial Bid Opening on February 16 because the Acting President "is holding two offices."

The BPE boss stated that the letter of offer to New Generation Communication under the Privatisation rules should have been given to them within a week instead of the almost three weeks it has taken.

He said: "we have written the NCP for the approval, but the NCP Chair is holding two offices and NCP has not been able to meet. As soon as they meet, the preferred bidder will get the letter of Offer."

According to Anyanwu the bid was done in a transparent manner and the bid winner's technical partner, China Unicom (Hong Kong) Limited has retracted its earlier assertion that it was not involved in the \$2.5 billion bid for NITEL/Mtel.

Braimah said the committee was baffled that 18 days after the Financial Bid Opening, "We haven't heard that a Preferred Bidder and a Reserve Bidder has been named."

Soyinka leads anti-Yar'adua rally Wednesday

■ FNG plans counter protest

By Muideen Olaniyi & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

PROFESSOR Wole Soyinka-led Save Nigeria Group (SNG) yesterday announced plans to protest in Abuja on Wednesday to convey the 'feelings of Nigerians' to the next meeting of the Federal Executive Council.

However Ibrahim Masari of the Future Nigeria Group said they intend to hold a rally in support of the government, also on Wednesday.

Addressing newsmen in Abuja, a member of the group's Coordinating Committee, Malam Salihu Lukman, said the protest is going to be a prelude to other

forms of nationwide civil disobedience measures to put an end to 'the shenanigans of the cabal and enforce electoral reforms.'

The group said the 36 governors' position on the political challenge had announced 'their membership of the cabal and set themselves against the people of Nigeria through their resolution

that the state of uncertainty in the country should continue by not bringing the Yar'adua saga to a closure.

The group also said the governors' push 'for the next general elections to hold in January 2011 in order to jettison the Uwais report which stipulates six months before handover in order to retain the status quo of manipulation of the electoral process', showed them as the most self-serving group.

The SNG said cabinet's decision not to invoke Section 144 of the Constitution on the President Umaru Musa Yar'adua health situation was direct affronts on Nigerians' dignity as a people and an audacious challenge of will to resist impunity.

SNG's position, read by Lukman, was also signed by Engr. Buba Galadima, Mr Yinka Odumakin, Mallam Salihu Lukman, Mr Osita Okechukwu, Mr Mike Igini and Mallam Tanko Yunusa.



SENATE President David Mark (left) with pupils of Regent International School during the 2010 World Book Day celebration in Abuja yesterday.

Withdrawal of orderlies: FG to discipline police

By Misbahu Bashir

POLICE authorities that refuse to comply with the Federal Government's order to withdraw policemen attached to unauthorised people would have themselves to blame, Minister of Police Affairs Dr. Ibrahim Yakubu Lame has said.

The minister said at a meeting with senior police officers yesterday in Abuja that government has given two weeks ultimatum for the withdrawal of police orderlies from unauthorised people and disciplinary actions will be taken against those who violated the order.

"Nigeria Police have failed to comply with government directives on withdrawal of police orderlies from all citizens who are not entitled to irrespective of their status in the community early in 2009. Implementation of this directive had been hindered with the connivance of the high command of the Nigeria Police Force. Government has therefore given a maximum of two weeks ultimatum within which the directive should be complied with. Failure from any quarter will be met with appropriate disciplinary action," he said.

Parents want junior classes reintroduced in unity schools

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE National Parents Association of Federal Unity Secondary Schools (NAPAFUSS) has stressed the need for the immediate reintroduction of the junior secondary component in federal unity secondary schools.

The call was made by the national president of NAPAFUSS, Alhaji Ibrahim D. Abdullahi, when officials of the association visited the corporate headquarters of Media Trust Limited, publishers of *Daily Trust* newspaper in Abuja yesterday.

He said the reintroduction of the JS component is necessary in order to improve the quality of the unity schools to serve as a platform for the advancement of national integration by inculcating ethical values, tolerance and national cohesion.

According to him, if the JS

component is reintroduced, the unity schools would facilitate the promotion of academic excellence by serving as a role model for states and private schools proprietors in the delivery of sound qualitative secondary education in the country.

Australia to train Nigerian Sharia court judges

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Australian Government is to partner the Human Assistance Initiative (HAI) on a project that will enhance the understanding of judicial officers in Nigeria especially Shariah and Customary Court Judges.

The project, which is going to be under the supervision of Australian High Commission in Nigeria, is expected to focus on the principles of Human Rights within the system of administration of criminal justice through a series of workshops.

In addition, Australia is also supporting the Centre for the

Right to Health in program to encourage capacity building of Civil Society groups and media organizations through a series of workshops on issues relating to sexual and reproductive rights.

Speaking on the modalities to facilitate the projects, the Second Secretary of Australian High Commission in Nigeria Ms. Alison Edye who met with officials of the HAI in Lagos, said the Australian government is ready to give assistance on projects that will encourage proper understanding of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

In his response, the National

Coordinator of HAI, Mr. Ernest Osa Amadasu, said that execution of the projects will enhance the relationship between the Australian government, the Nigerian government and the International Civil Society in the actualization of the Millennium Development Goals.

The latest gesture is part of the 2009 International Human Rights Day pledge made by the Australian Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Stephen Smith MP, to contribute \$3 million to fund Human Rights across Asia, the Pacific, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Brass LNG marches invites contractors

THE Board of Brass LNG Ltd is launching its Invitation to Tender (ITT) for contractors to participate fully in its multi-billion dollar project.

This was disclosed to newsmen at the end of the Board's meeting in London yesterday. The meeting, which held at the Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London was presided over by the Chairman, Dr. Jackson Gaius-Obaseki, who was quoted to have said that the ITT was the industry's technical Final Investment Decision (FID) and it represents what he called a major milestone in the execution of the Brass LNG project.

He said the ITT was also an instrument that assures all prospective contractors and LNG buyers of the shareholders' irrevocable deci-

sion, commitment and ability to build the project was no longer in doubt. Addressing the major concern of investors on gas supply, Gaius-Obaseki said: "The resource is there and the willingness is also there."

However, investigation further revealed that in spite of the assurances another hurdle to cross is whether the gas producers will be able to produce the gas needed under the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) fiscal regime.

Addressing this concern as being raised by international oil companies, the Board chairman said that: "I can't sit in the Board that will champion anti-government policy. Therefore, what we can do is to ask government for the project's enablers or incentives."

Kaduna Refinery to shut down today

THE Kaduna Refinery, which recently resumed work after lying idle for two years, is expected to shut down again today due to the vandalism of the Warri-Kaduna crude oil pipeline near Lokoja, in Kogi State.

Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation's [NNPC] Group Managing Director Mohamed Sanusi Barkindo, who addressed newspaper editors in Abuja yesterday on Security of Oil and Gas Pipelines, said when the pipeline was vandalised on Monday, Kaduna Refinery had only three days' supply of crude oil and must therefore shut down until the pipeline is repaired.

Barkindo said this week alone, the Port Harcourt-Aba products pipelines was vandalised at 21 different points, making it impossible to pipe products to Aba, Enugu, Makurdi and Yola depots, while the Atlas Cove-Mosimi products pipeline was vandalised at Imagbon in Lagos State. He said the Mosimibadan products line was also vandalised at Mechanic Village near Sagamu in Ogun State, as a result of which 12 million litres of fuel products cannot be moved to inland depots at Mosimi, Satellite and Ibadan.

The NNPC boss said vandalism of pipelines is the single biggest challenge facing NNPC and Nigerian the oil industry today, and blamed it for the inability to stabilise petroleum products supply or to efficiently pipe gas to the nation's power plants for electricity generation.

Corrections: For the record

1. In the *Daily Trust* of February 16th 2010, in the article "Between Nigeria and Indonesia," a wrong name was given to the Director of African Affairs at the Indonesian embassy in Nigeria. The Director's correct name is Mr Sudirman Haseng.

2. Also in the *Tambari* of Sunday 28th February 2010 the name of Mati Acker whose photo appeared on page 7 was wrongly given as Mrs Onyekwere. Both errors are regretted.



FROM left: Minister of State for Interior, Chief Ademola Seriki, EFCC Chairman, Mrs Farida Waziri, Chairman, House Committee on Interior, Jerry Manwe and the Commandant-General, Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps, Dr Ade Abolorin, at a stakeholders forum in Abuja, yesterday.

'Big scam in Federal Government contracts'

Continued from page 1

tive utilisation of resources for good governance.

The committee, which has three months to complete its assignment and submit a report to the government, has former Federal Capital Territory Minister Arc. Ibrahim Bunu as Chairman with Mr. Bon Otti as Vice Chairman. Dr. O. O. Oluleye of the Office of Secretary to the Government of the Federation is the committee's Secretary.

Other members of the committee are Mr. Iboro Ege-Edaba, Mr. Yomi Awoniyi, Navy Capt. (rtd.) Caleb Olubolade, Professor Aminu Mikhailu, Engineer [Dr.] Idris Abubakar, Engr. Pius Okpa, Mrs Kate Okparake, Engr. Usman Abubakar, Engr. Gbola Tokun, Engr. Etodo Inyang, Prof. Akoh N. Ugbabe, Engr. Ummi Aminu, Engr. Olusegun Adedeji, Engr. Khalil Inuwa and Engr. B. K.

Mohammed.

Jonathan listed the committee's terms of reference to include: (i) To take inventory of all on-going Projects awarded by the Federal Government ii) to assess the level of funding of each project iii) To undertake a physical inspection of each project to determine work done and to ascertain whether it is commensurate to the amount paid to the contractors iv) To evaluate the professional competence of the contractors handling the various projects v) To examine whether the level of execution of the projects is in accordance with the terms of the contract agreement between the Federal Government and the contractor vi) To examine a plan of action that is realistic, practical and achievable including implementation phases for the execution of the projects vii) To examine the reason given if applicable why the projects were not executed in accordance with

the terms of contract agreement at the time of the award; and viii) To make appropriate recommendations to Government on how to fast-track the completion of the projects.

The acting president also inaugurated the Presidential Monitoring Committee on the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), saying the committee was constituted to ensure enduring peace and rapid development of the region.

He said, "Let me use this opportunity to congratulate all Nigerians on the progress made so far on the restoration of peace in the Niger Delta. In particular I want to recognize the new cooperation and the high sense of patriotism that have been exhibited by the ex-militant leaders and their followers. They have done well. I want to reassure you that this administration is committed in its entirety to the development

of the Niger Delta and the positive transformation of the Nigerian economy.

It is in this regard that the NDDC must be supported to realize its mandate of developing the region and putting an end to the pains experienced by many who live there.

We are determined to consolidate and build on the window of the amnesty process, and bring happiness to all Nigerians and foreigners alike who depend on the endowments of the region."

Members of the ten-man committee chaired by Chief Isaac O. Jemide include Prof. Richard P. King, Surv. Akene Furoebe, Barr. Richard Anetekhai, Mr. Innocent Nyenngerifaka, Engr. Rabi D. Abubakar, Alhaji Bello Mac-cido, Mr. Kanu Chiemezia Joel, Prof. Akinkube Oladepo and Mr. Reuben Ade, with the Director (Parastatals, OSGF) as the Secretary.

TY's first advice: Stand firm

Continued from page 1

trusted to be so generous as to credit you with your successes and to excuse your errors."

He also urged Jonathan to be pro-active in the fight against corruption in order to restore the he said has been slowed down recently. Danjuma also appealed to Jonathan to pursue electoral reform with zeal in order to ensure that the 2011 elections are free and fair.

"If all you will do as acting President is to ensure that our elections are transparent, it shall be sufficient to endear you to the nation and you shall go down in

history as one of the greatest leaders," Danjuma said.

Speaking earlier, Jonathan asked the council to come up with practical suggestions that will guide the government to provide good governance to the people. He said the call became necessary given that the council but healthy clamour for good governance across the country."

"The privilege and opportunity of service is a sacred trust that we must not betray. It is in this regard that the loud but healthy clamour for good governance across the country cannot be ignored. We are here in the name of good governance and there is

no going back," he said.

He also dismissed speculations that the choice of members was political, saying it was informed by the members' wealth of experience and the urgency to deliver good governance to Nigerians.

"It is in pursuance of this goal and having due regard to the requested that a team of men and women of distinguished pedigree be called to service at this hour and in the interest of our nation. This is beyond politics. It is the big call of our generation, and our citizens are expectant," he said.

The council was set up by Jonathan on Tuesday, March 2

to provide alternative inputs into policy formulation, promote good governance in the areas of power, economy, security, infrastructure and social sector.

Other terms of reference include evaluation of policy implementation, inputs in electoral process, and the fight against corruption.

The council has constitutional Secretary Prof. Ben Nwabueze as deputy chairman. Other members include Mr. Fola Adeola; Mallam Abubakar Gimba; Mr. Basil Omiyi; Alhaji M. D. Yusuf; Chief Emeka Anyaoku; Amb. G. B. Preware; Prof. Bartholomew Nnaji, and Mr. Kase Lawal. Others

include Malam Muhammed Hay-atuddeen; Justice Alfa Belgore; Mr. Chibudom Nwuche; Mrs. Mobola Johnson; Hajiya Halita Aliyu; Alhaji Magaji Danbatta; Prof. Buba G. Bajoga; Dr. (Mrs.) Sally Bolujoko; Mrs. Mariam Uwais, and former Attorney General of the Federation Chief Kanu Agabi.

Dr. Bamanga Tukur; Alhaji Ismaila Isa; Prof. Shehu Said Sar- are also members, as is the Chairman of the Nigeria Economic Summit Group. The Permanent Secretary (Special Duties) in the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation would serve as Secretary.

Vigilante groups banned in Okene

From isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State government has ordered the dissolution of all existing vigilante groups in Okene, the headquarters of Okene Local Government Area of the state.

The decision was taken at the State Executive Council meeting Tuesday. According to the state Commissioner for Information Mr. Tom Ohikhere who briefed newsmen after the meeting, the ban which is expected to take effect immediately was necessary to restore peace to the community.

The commissioner added that the government had also ordered the police to arrest the leaders of the 20 vigilante groups in the area, saying any community desirous of forming a vigilante group should get approval from the local government area.

Ohikhere said in line with the white paper committee's recommendations on the recent crisis in the area, the police had been directed to arrest and prosecute 21 persons identified as the perpetrators.

The government according to him has also directed that the laws and regulations banning masquerades in Okene be fully enforced, adding that names of those behind the circulation of arms in the area had been forwarded to security agencies.

In the past three months, communal clashes between the two clans of Obehira and Okenwen in Okene claimed about 20 lives.

Trust titles are exceptional –VC

From Yahaya Ibrahim & Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE promptness and seriousness with which Trust titles treat national issues make *Daily Trust*, *Weekly* and *Sunday Trust* exceptional newspapers, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Maiduguri Professor Mohammed Mala Daura has said.

Daura said this yesterday in Maiduguri when the Chairman of Media Trust Limited Malam Kabiru Yusuf led a team to his office. While acknowledging the attention given to the university community by the medium, Professor Daura said the university was ready to partner with the organization in any area that would be beneficial to both parties.

Speaking earlier, Yusuf thanked the university for its support, adding that it would continue to offer automatic employment to best graduating students in the Department of Mass Communication every year in addition to sustaining its scholarship programme for female medical students.

While thanking the Media Trust delegation for honouring the university community, the Registrar, Dr. Bukar Lawan Alhaji said as a way of appreciating the medium, it would continue to patronise the titles.

Publications cause tension in Barkin Ladi

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

ADVERTORIALS published in some national dailies by some Fulani leaders claiming that Fulanis were killed in Barkin Ladi Local Government Area during the recent Jos crisis is causing tension in the area, the member representing Barkin Ladi constituency in the Plateau State House of Assembly, Gyang Fulani, told lawmakers yesterday. The member during the House

plenary session said the publications was causing tension in the area, adding that the allegations were baseless.

"I met all the Hardos (Fulani leaders) in my constituency and they all said they did not sign the advertorial in those national dailies so I don't know how they arrived at the conclusion that Fulanis were killed in the area", he said.

He said there was tension in Bokkos and some parts of Jos

South Local Government Area because of the publication, saying there was the need for the Assembly to set up a committee to investigate the matter.

"Section 128 of the constitution empowers the Assembly to intervene and save such situations. Therefore, I am calling on the House to ask the relevant committee to investigate the matter and if their claim is true, the people responsible should be prosecuted", he added.

Speaker of the House Istifanus Mwansat named a five man committee to be chaired by the member representing Wase constituency, Muhammed Dangyambar.

Other members of the committee include, Sadat Garga, Emmanuel Go'ar, Amos Gombi and Dinar Lar who represent Kantana, Pankshin, Kanke and Langtang North constituencies.

The committee is to investigate the said publication and report back to the House.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE



PRESIDENT, National Parents Association of Federal Unity Secondary Schools Alhaji I.D. Abdullahi, during the visit of the association's members to Media Trust Corporate Head Office, Abuja, yesterday.

Police withdraw case against Zaria preacher

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

A Chief Magistrate's Court presided over by Garba A. Abdu has granted the request by the Kaduna State Police Command to withdraw the case against a Zaria based Islamic preacher, Malam Awwal Abubakar Maishago, who was arrested last month for allegedly preaching inciting messages.

The police had in the First

Information Report (FIR) alleged that the preacher who resides in Magume, Zaria, on 28 and 30 January, preached a message that was capable of breaching the peace contrary to section 114 of the Penal Code.

At yesterday's sitting, the prosecutor, Ibrahim Jamilu, applied for the withdrawal of the case in the interest of justice, peace and security of the state and country. But

the counsel to the accused person, Barrister Sadau Garba, objected to the application on the ground that the police before instituting the case against his client had concluded investigation.

"Therefore, it would not be in the interest of justice to allow them to withdraw it because they may arrest my client again in the name of further investigation," he said.

In his ruling, the chief magistrate

granted the application of the prosecutor and discharged the accused. He however ordered that the police must obtain permission from the court to re-arrest the preacher.

"This application in my opinion shows that the police are no longer interested in the prosecution of the accused person. Since they are no longer interested, I hereby grant the application and the accused person is discharged," he said.

Katsina Assembly seeks sack of LG chairmen

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

THE HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY has passed a resolution asking Governor Ibrahim Shema to dissolve the local government council in the state before the expiration of their current tenure.

The Chairman, House Committee on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs Bala Sani

Yaya yesterday presented a report which requested the local government laws. The amended law stipulates that the state governor should dissolve the council before the expiration of their tenure.

The amendment which was adopted by the House. Reads thus, "In the interest of peace, order and good governance, the governor may at any time before the expi-

ration of the council dissolve any or all of the local councils upon a resolution passed by the House of Assembly".

The resolution equally provides for the director of administration of the local government area to take over the administration pending the appointment of a caretaker committee or elec-

tion of new members.

Although the member representing Funtua Local Government Area, Garba Usman, said the bill should not affect the incumbent council chairmen, the Speaker Ya'u Umar Gwajo Gwajo directed the committee to draft a clean copy of the resolution for onward submission to the state governor for approval.

Group asks FG to split agric ministry

By Tina A. Hassan & Akor Ojoma

THE Agriculture and Water Resources Ministry should be broken into two and fresh ministers appointed to take charge of the new ministries, a coalition of civil society organizations said.

Voices for Food Security (VSP) urged Acting President

Goodluck Jonathan to implement their proposal to enhance efficiency and remove redundancy.

The body is asking the Acting President to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the performance and capacity of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, its departments and agencies.

In letter signed by its representative, Osaro Odemwingie,

the coalition said it has conducted series of studies which has shown a high prevalence of hunger and food insecurity in Nigeria.

The group said it is alarmed that the 2010 appropriation before the National Assembly provides a mere 3.7% of the budget, which is a far cry from the 10% under the Maputo Declaration of 2004 to which Nigeria is a signatory to.

NGO to spend N75m on maternal mortality

By Ruby Rabi

THE Population Council, a reproductive rights group, yesterday said it has budgeted over N75million naira to combat all diseases responsible for maternal mortality in 2010.

Speaking with journalists when he visited Health Minister Professor Babatunde Osotimehin, Vice President of the Population Council Dr John Townsend said his organisation will be expanding its interventions in the country.

According to Townsend the Population Council has recorded success with its Magnesium Sulphate treatment programme presently being implemented in 10 hospitals in Kano.

Townsend said, "In the 10 Kano hospitals where our pro-

grammes are being executed there has been a 60 percent reduction in maternal deaths. Due to the rapid reduction in maternal deaths in the hospitals we presently operate in, we plan to expand our intervention to Primary Health Care Centers so as to reach mothers in other parts of the country".

The health minister said "With the show of political will by government, appropriation by the National Assembly and the support of development partners like you we can make a huge difference in the lives of women and children".

"Across the world women contribute greatly to the development of the nation. Nigeria is no different and this is why government is willing to do all it takes to keep our women alive and healthy," the minister said.

Hajj commission to sign pact with Saudi Arabia

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) said it will sign a Memorandum of Understanding next week with Saudi Arabian authorities in preparation of this year's Hajj operations.

The spokesperson of the Commission Uba Mana, who made the comment yesterday at the first stakeholders meeting between the commission and State pilgrims welfare boards, said the intention is to start preparation on time.

He said Nigeria would possibly get the approved number of Nigerians who suppose to go for pilgrimage this year.

Even though, Saudi Ara-

bia allocates sets of pilgrims base on the country's Muslims population, Uba said the NAHCON is trying to see that Saudi Authority approve "100,000 or more" pilgrims for Nigeria.

He said the commission hoping the Hajj fare will go down considering the stability of the exchange rate now.

"The payment for all the air carriers is in hard currency, mainly in dollar and some instances in Saudi Riyad, if the Naira is stronger, certainly we expect to have a lower hajj fare, at list the ticket," he said.

He said the commission is planning that each pilgrim would not spend more than 31 days against 45 days some pilgrims spends last year.

FG condoles with Chile over quake

By Aisha Umar Agale

NIGERIA has condoled with the people and government of Chile over the 8.8 magnitude earthquake that occurred off the coast of Maule Region in the early hours of Saturday, February 27.

More than 700 persons were killed, more than half a million homes destroyed, many others displaced in the tragedy that impacted on more than 2 million people.

In a statement issued by the spokesperson of the foreign affairs ministry, Ozo Nwobu, the minister Ojo Maduekwe said "Our thoughts are indeed with the families of the bereaved and the injured as they deal with these tragedies and also with the Chilean government as it begins to deal with the onerous challenges of national reconstruction from the rubbles of an earthquake that has destroyed considerable infrastructure."



PRESIDENT Faure Gnassingbe of Togo casting his ballot at a polling centre in Lome yesterday.u

Court asks EFCC to free Kenny Martins

By Atika Balal

AN Abuja High Court sitting in Gwagwalada has set free Kenny Martins, former national coordinator of the Police Equipment Foundation (PEF), from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission detention (EFCC) in Abuja.

Kenny Martins was arrested last Thursday at the premises of the Abuja Federal High Court by the EFCC after the court withdrew the fiat given to Festus Keyamo by the Attorney General of the Federation to act as prosecution in the suit against him.

The anti graft operatives claimed that they were executing a warrant of arrest issued against him at the instance of Keyamo.

Yesterday, lead counsel to Kenny Martins, Mike Ozekhome

(SAN), said the criminal charge of forgery of federal government documents initiated against Kenny Martins by Keyamo was never served on him as required by law.

He said the warrant of arrest ought not to have been executed since there was no proof of service of summon of the criminal charge on his client.

Ozekhome said the EFCC acted in bad faith because they were lured into arresting his client even when doing so was not one of their functions as stated in the EFCC Act.

In his ruling, Justice Abubakar Balami ordered that Kenny Martins be released to his lead counsel Mike Ozekhome in his capacity as a Senior Advocate of Nigeria. The court fixed March 12 for hearing of the motion seeking to set aside the criminal charge.

Mega party wants transitional government

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Mega Summit Movement (MSM) yesterday in Abuja urged Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to constitute a Transitional Government of National Unity (TGNU) to save Nigeria from the consequence of an impending implosion within the presidency.

This is contained in a communiqué at the end of a one-day special meeting chaired by Chief Olu Falae and attended by political leaders across the country.

The communiqué read by the movement's secretary, Sir Olawale Okunniyi, said an all inclusive Transitional Government is the only logical step to stemming the subsisting power tussle, logjam and confusion playing out in both the

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), the presidency and also to overcome the apparent constitutional lapse in the appointment of the Acting President since both the FEC and the National Assembly have refused to do so for sinister political reasons.

"History will not spare Jonathan if he fails providence; hence the urgent need to systematically reconstitute his government to serve credible transitional purposes of a 2-point agenda for popular electoral reforms and good governance that can rekindle the hope of the people in Democracy and Nigeria as a country," Okunniyi said.

The group said PDP is not a political party but a pretentious rally of rudderless merchants, whose only interest is profiteering and survival.

Nigeria's unity vital for development - Sultan

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

SULTAN of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar has said that the unity of the nation is vital to its development. He said this when the Primate of the Church of the Lord, Dr. Rufus Okikiola, based in

Ogun State, paid him a visit in his palace yesterday. The sultan harped on the need for people to live in peace. He said no nation could develop without peace and called on Nigerians to always pray for the country. Dr. Okikiola said they were at the palace of the sultan to thank him for his

efforts towards uniting the country.

The sultan also received the Deputy Head of Mission in the Embassy of the Republic of Ireland Mr. Shen Stevens yesterday.

At the meeting, the Sultan reiterated his commitment towards ensuring peace in

the society. He pointed out that Islam was a religion of peace. The sultan urged the people of Ireland living in Sokoto to always feel free, saying Sokoto is a peaceful state.

In his remarks, Mr. Stevens commended the sultan for ensuring peace and stability among the people.



DEPUTY Governor of Lagos State, Princess Sarah Sosan (left) with the leader of the Cyclists Ambassador Contingent in Sport from Ireland and England, Mr. Robbert Cuthbert, during their visit in Lagos.

Jigawa to compensate slain driver's family

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

JIGAWA State government is to compensate the family of a tractor driver, Mallam Jazuli Muhammad, who was killed by a Traffic Warden in Kazaure Local Government for allegedly violating traffic rules, the Secretary to the State Government Dr. Aminu Abdullahi Taura has said.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of a security meeting held yesterday, Dr. Taura said the state government had also set up a committee to investigate the crisis which occurred in Kazaure two weeks ago following the death of Mallam Jazuli.

Dr. Abdullahi Taura noted that the committee headed by the state Commissioner for Justice Barrister Tijjani Inuwa was mandated to investigate the causes of the crisis, level of damage inflicted on some places of worship as well as identify culprits behind the incident.

'25m Nigerians may go blind before 2020'

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE Ophthalmological Society of Nigeria (OSN) yesterday said over 25 million Nigerians suffering from glaucoma may go blind before 2020.

Speaking at a news conference organized in conjunction with Pfizer in Lagos yesterday, the President of OSN Dr. Kunle Hassan said over 16.7 percent of people above 40 years in the country who had been diagnosed with Glaucoma may likely go blind in 10 years.

No witnesses against 77 Boko Haram suspects

From Isa Umar Gusau and Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

SEVENTY-SEVEN accused persons arrested by the Borno State police command over involvement in the Boko Haram crisis whose trial was stalled Wednesday by the absence of witnesses may regain freedom tomorrow following the inability of the prosecutors to produce independent witnesses yesterday to meet the demand of a State High Court in Maiduguri.

Justice Alkali Gana Wakil, the presiding judge, had at the court's sitting Wednesday,

declared that he would dismiss the charges against the suspects if prosecutors fail to produce independent witnesses before Saturday. The judge was worried that the case was dragging.

At the resumed hearing yesterday, the police failed to bring independent witnesses even though the force presented statements said to have been obtained from the suspects by four Investigative Police Officers. The court admitted the statements as exhibits. The tendered written evidences were not contested by any of the defence counsel.

The suspects were arraigned on two count

charges of culpable homicide punishable by death as provided for in Section 221 of the Penal Code and arson, which is punishable by life imprisonment.

Prosecutors had filed a charge against Bunu Bukar and 76 other suspected members of Boko after the suspects were arrested in July, 2009 but since court sittings began the prosecutors have failed to present independent witnesses to substantiate allegations. When the matter came up Wednesday, the police was not represented in court. The court adjourned and sat yesterday but still there were no witnesses.

Why Kaduna embraced deregulation- HOS

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THE Kaduna State government embraced deregulation of the downstream petroleum sector because the financial deductions from its statutory allocations to subsidise petroleum products is staggering, the Head of Service Alhaji Habibu Balarabe Yakubu has said.

In an interactive session with journalists in Kaduna Wednesday, the Head of Service said the information the government received from the Finance Minister convinced it to support deregulation.

According to him, between January 2006 and December 2009, the Federal Government spent N1.6 trillion on subsidy. Out of this amount, more than N22 billion was deducted at source by the Federal Government from the Kaduna State statutory allocation without the government's knowledge. In addition to this deduction, "NNPC is still claiming that it has an arrears of the subsidy from which N12,479 billion must still be paid by the state".

"The Finance Minister also said the estimated cost of subsidy for 2010 is N600 billion, out of

which Kaduna State will still have to contribute at least N20 billion", he added.

He maintained that the minister also asked the state to make provisions for this amount in this year's budget to pay NNPC's balance of N12.4 billion.

The Head of Service said the state government did some analysis and found out that the money could have been used to take care of part of its 11 points agenda.

"The believe of the government is that we have been unfairly treated and we will not support further deductions," he said.

Plateau Assembly approves budget of N78.6bn

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Plateau State House Assembly has passed the state's budget of N78.6 billion into law. The lawmakers passed the budget yesterday during its plenary session presided over by Speaker Istifanus Mwansat.

The state government had earlier sent a proposed budget of N74.8 billion to the House for approval. However, N1.8 billion was later added by the state governor, increasing the budget to

N78.6 billion. The 2010 budget was passed after the Chairman, House Committee on Appropriation Sadat Garga presented the report of the committee to the House. According to the chairman, the committee observed that there was a vacuum in the state civil service due to retirements.

The House approved recommendations that N31.1 billion be considered as recurrent estimate and 60.41 billion as the capital estimate.

Media Trust loses driver in auto crash

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

A Media Trust driver, Usman Abubakar, who was carrying newspapers to Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States from Kano yesterday died in a motor accident at Damba, a few kilometers from Gusau.

Usman died early yesterday while conveying the newspapers to Gusau, his first destination before proceeding to Sokoto. Onlookers at the scene could not explain how it happened but it was apparent that he lost control of his vehicle when he reached the site of the road rehabilitation work which has no caution signs.

Older brother of the deceased, Aminu Shehu, who was with him in Kano a few minutes before he left for Zamfara, said when he left Kano, he tried to alert

Usman on the rehabilitation site as he was away when the work started but could not get him on phone until the accident occurred.

Aminu blamed the construction firm for not putting any sign to indicate that work is going on along the road. Late Usman who was alone in the car, was burnt beyond recognition while all the newspapers he carried were burnt to ashes.

The brother said that late Usman who was 25 years old, was to marry next week. Meanwhile, the Zamfara State council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists led by its Secretary, Mohammed Sabiu, has condoled the family of the deceased and prayed for the repose of his soul. Vendors in Gusau led by Ahmad Kawu have also paid a condolence visit.

Gummi's arrest not connected to Farouk's case - aide

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE invitation of Sheikh Ahamad Abbakar Mahmoud Gumi by the Saudi Arabian internal security police was a routine security check and should not be seen negatively, his Special Assistant Malam Muhammad Ali has said.

Reacting to a *Daily Trust* report on Monday titled, "Sheikh Gumi held in Saudi Arabia", he urged followers of the cleric to remain calm and reject any insinuations to engage in any destructive act.

He said demonstrations are alien to Islam and would portray them and the country in bad light. The aide who spoke through a statement said the matter was being handled at the diplomatic level.

"No organisation or group is given the mandate to exploit this situation and engage in acts capable of destroying the long standing cordial relationship between

Nigeria and Saudi Arabia at both diplomatic and religious levels," he added.

He said Sheikh Gummi was tolerant in his religious activities and teachings and well disposed towards non Muslims.

"He is not in any way part of the emerging new currents of Islam in the Middle East or elsewhere and must therefore not be associated with radical Islam, Faoruk Umar Mutallab or controversy. Neither was he ever associated with violence or charged with contravening Saudi Arabian laws in his over 20 years stay in the kingdom", he said.

According to him, Sheikh Gummi denounces suicide as a political tool because it is alien to Islam and therefore not compatible with the teachings of the Quran and the Sunna which are the two major sources upon which Shiekh Ahamad bases his teachings.

"In view of this, we deem

Dealers turn in N6m drugs for destruction

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State chapter of the Nigerian Association of Patent and Proprietary Medicine Dealers (NAPPMED) has handed over fake drugs worth over N6 million to the National Agency for Food and Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) for destruction.

Speaking at the handover ceremony Wednesday in Gombe, the state Chairman of NAPPMED, Alhaji

Salisu AbdulAzeez, said the drugs were seized by the association's task force. According to him, the seizure of the drugs was made in late 2008 to 2009, saying the task force was able to effect the seizures with the help of similar bodies in all of the 11 local government areas of the state.

"The association will not relent in its responsibility of safe guarding the health of the general public by ensuring that the seizure of counterfeit, adulterated and fake drugs continues", he said.

Kano celebrates 1 year without polio

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE Kano State government yesterday celebrated one year without any reported case of Wild Polio Virus (WPV1) as well as eight months without emergence of Wild Polio Virus type 3 (WPV3) throughout the state.

SPEAKING during the ceremony, Kano State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau said the successes recorded in the area of polio eradication in the state was an indication of the government's effort in

the crusade against it and other diseases.

SHEKARAU who spoke through the state's Deputy Governor Engineer Abdul-lahi Tijjani Gwarzo said Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) as well as other child survival interventions was part of the government's priority in the area of healthcare delivery.

HE said the success was an indication that eradication of polio was a possibility, thereby charging all stakeholders to double the efforts in the crusade. He further said the effect of polio if left unchecked had

a multiplier effect on the society. The governor then charged all parents and guardians to ensure that their wards are immunized at all times. He pledged the government's continuous commitment to provision of the basic requirements to meet people's needs on immunization and other health interventions.

ALSO speaking, the state's Commissioner for Health Hajiya Aisha Isiaku Kiru said the state would not relent in its effort to sustain the success attained. She said the target of the crusade against polio in the

state was total eradication of the virus which from all indications is a possibility with intensification of the campaign.

KIRU said the political will shown by the state government in the fight against polio had prompted more donor agencies to come to the state to assist in attaining more successes in the campaign against other child killer diseases. She commended the roles played by the state's emirate council, religious and opinion leaders, donor agencies and all stakeholders in polio eradication.

APPEAL FOR ASSISTANCE TO THE HON. MINISTER, F.C.D.A MINISTRY AND CAVEAT TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC ON PLOT 1353 JAHI DISTRICT

We have been instructed by our client, "MUHAMMED MUSA KAFARATI" of Gombe State, to make this APPEAL (TO THE HON. MINISTER OF THE FCT) and issue this CAVEAT (TO THE PUBLIC) on the said PLOT 1353 JAHI DISTRICT, F.C.T.ABUJA due to the following reasons:

(1) That our client is the bona fide holder of C. of O. No.137uw-d6ddz-65fcr-df02u-10 of 25/11/05 on File No.G010175 (BA1009) in respect of the said PLOT 1353, JAHI DISTRICT, ABUJA. This is in replacement of Plot 752 in Wuse II, Abuja, which was earlier allocated to him in 1993 but was allegedly involved in DOUBLE ALLOCATION.

(2) That during all the processes leading to the RELEASE IN 2007 of the said C. of O. No.137uw-d6ddz-65fcr-df02u-10 of 20/11/05 to our client, including the payments of 4% Recertification Levy, and the Ground rents up to 2007 issue of Double Allocation on same NEVER AROSE.

(3) That sometimes in or around August 2009, a failed (or possibly deliberately frustrated) land transaction was entered into between our client and one ALH. MUHAMMED ALI who lodged the agreed consideration in our client's account on Friday, the 14/08/09

(4) That after collecting the ORIGINAL of said C. of O. No. 137uw-d6ddz-65fcr-df02u-10 and leaving the residence of the seller in the afternoon of 14/08/09, the said buyer rang our client on Monday morning, the 17/08/09 claiming DOUBLE ALLOCATION (for the first time) on the said Plot 1353 and demanded repayment of moneys paid to our client on the 14/08/09.

(5) That on or around Wednesday, the 26/08/09, the total consideration (including a STOPPED FINBANK DRAFT issued by the buyer) for the said Plot 1353, Jahi District was refunded to him via the solicitors /agents of our client upon which the Original C. of O. No. 137uw-d6ddz-65fcr-df02u-10 was returned to our client "apparently intact" after nearly 12 days in his custody.

(6) That after obtaining an undated Official Search Report from A.G.I.S. in which DOUBLE ALLOCATION was mentioned and suspecting foul play, our client wrote, via our Chambers, to the Director of Lands FCDA on 26/08/09 and, when no response was forthcoming, escalated the matter to the HON. MINISTER OF THE F.C.T. in subsequent letters of 05/09/09, 17/09/09 and 21/12/09 amongst the correspondences on the matter. None of the letters has been responded to till date.

(7) That mean while, our client had already taken possession of and developed portions of the PERIMETER FENCE on the said PLOT 1353, JAHI DISTRICT. No person(s) or organization(s) challenged his title to same either during the work or thereafter.

(8) That to further ascertain the possible results of the various letters written to the Ministry, our client ordered us to apply to AGIS for a second Official Search, the result of which was only released on

01/03/10 despite the date it carries of 19/02/10.

(9) That the attention of our client has been brought to a CHANGE OF NAME PUBLICATION which was placed in the *Daily Trust* of Friday 26/02/10 in which one MUHAMMED MUSA ALIYU (a name akin to that of buyer) sought to change his name to "MUHAMMED MUSA KAFARATI" (i.e. that of our client). This tended to confirm the fears of our client of the POSSIBLE CLONING of the said C. of o. No.137uw-d6ddz-65fcr-df02u-10 by the impersonator to sell same as genuine.

(10) That our client caused us to write to the *Daily Trust* on 01/03/10 for details of the applicant which was copied to the Director of Lands F.C.D.A. and the Comm. of Police, Abuja.

(11) That in view of the above situation, and in order to save him from further hardship as a result of the possible loss of his title to the said Plot 1353 Jahi District Abuja to fraudsters, our client has instructed us to make this APPEAL and issue this CAVEAT:

(a) That the Hon. Minister of the F.C.T. be, and is hereby prayed to direct A.G.I.S. to rectify the alleged DOUBLE ALLOCATION, strongly suspected by our client to be fraudulent by syndicates (see 2 & 4 above), and issue a CLEAN Search Report to our client on the said Plot 1353 covered by C. of O. No. 137uw-d6ddz-65fcr-df02u-10 currently held by him;

(b) That any MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC that relies on the suspected FRAUDULENT CHANGE OF NAME PUBLICATION OF FRIDAY 26/02/10 in the *Daily Trust* Newspapers for the purpose of any transaction(s) whatsoever does so at his or her own risk.

(c) That should the suspected impersonator, referred to in paragraph in (9) above and his partners in crime, succeed in selling or otherwise disposing of the said Plot 1353 in Jahi District covered by C. of O. No. 137uw-d6ddz-65fcr-df02u-10 to members of the unsuspecting public, such purported sale or disposal thereof should be considered as NULL AND VOID AND OF NO MOMENT.

(d) That any person(s) or organization(s) found to be involved in aiding and abetting the processes leading to the fraudulent disposal of the said Plot 1353 within Jahi District, Abuja, covered by the genuine C. of O. No.137uw-d6ddz-65fcr-df02u-10 of 25/11/05 held by our client may be sued for redress.

THE HONORABLE MINISTER OF THE F.C.T., THE DIRECTOR OF LANDS FCDA, AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC ARE TO PLEASE TAKE NOTE. BUYERS BE AWARE!!!

D. B. Gadzama
D.B.GADZAMA ESQ.



BORNO STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL WATER
SUPPLY, MAIDUGURI

INVITATION TO TENDER

DRILLING OF BOREHOLES ACROSS THE STATE

Borno State Government in its desire to meet the aspirations of its citizenry by providing adequate portable water, invites pre-qualification tenders for the drilling of boreholes across the state in the two geological regions as follows:-

- i. **Borno Central Senatorial Zone** - Drilling of 350M – 650M depending on the location in 8 local government areas within the sedimentary zone.
- ii. **Borno North Senatorial Zone** - Drilling of 450M – 650M deep boreholes (Artesian Zone) in 10 Local Government Areas within the Sedimentary Zone.
- iii. **Borno South Senatorial Zone** - Drilling of 100M boreholes in 9 Local Government Areas within the Basement complex rocks.

PRE-QUALIFICATION

Interested and reputable drilling contractors are requested to submit pre-qualification documents indicating their preferred zone of drilling works.

Documents to be submitted should include:-

- a. Evidence of incorporation by the Corporate Affairs Commission
- b. Evidence of registration with Borno State Tenders Board
- c. Tax clearance certificate for the past three years
- d. Profile of the company including names of Directors, qualifications, experience of the company staff and equipments.
- e. Evidence of financial capabilities to handle such jobs
- f. Verifiable list of projects completed within the past four years
- g. Any additional information that would enhance the potential of your company.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Return of pre-qualification documents are to be made to the Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board, Ministry of Urban and Rural Water Supply, P.M.B 1188, Maiduguri, not later than two weeks from the date of publication. All tender documents are to be accompanied by **N50,000.00** non – refundable fees payable to the Ministry of Urban and Rural Water Supply, Maiduguri.

Signed
SECRETARY,
MINISTERIAL TENDER BOARD
MINISTRY OF URBAN AND RURAL WATER
SUPPLY,
P.M.B. 1188, MAIDUGURI, BORNO STATE



HASSAN USMAN KATSINA POLYTECHNIC

P.M.B. 2052 KATSINA - NIGERIA

HUKP/535/VOL.I

5th March 2010

(OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR)

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS: YEAR 2009 EDUCATION TRUST FUND INTERVENTION PROJECT

INVITATION FOR THE PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS

Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic is seeking for reputable contractors to pre-qualify for the execution of the following projects: -

(a) Projects:

Lot I

- (i) Construction of 1No Block of 3 - Classrooms at the College of Science and Technology (CST);
ETF Project No. POLY/KATSINA/ETF/09/01;

Lot II

- (i) Construction of 1No Block of 6 Offices at Department of Civil Engineering;
ETF Project No. HUKPOLY/KATSINA/ETF/09/02;

Lot III

- (i) Supply of 14No HP Computers with Accessories and 14No UPS for the Department of Computer Science;
ETF Project No. HUKPOLY/KATSINA/ETF/09/03;
- (ii) Procurement of 2No Projectors with Screen for the Department of Computer Science;
ETF Project No. HUKPOLY/KATSINA/ETF/09/04

(b) Pre-Qualification Evaluation Criteria

- (i) Name and Address of Company/Firm.
- (ii) Brief History stating the nature of work previously undertaken.
- (iii) Evidence of Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- (iv) Evidence of Registration with the Federal or State Tenders Board or the Polytechnic.
- (v) Evidence of similar jobs handled in the last three (3) years. Letters of Award, completion Certificates will be required (Photographs will be added advantage).
- (vi) List of Administrative and Technical Staff (for construction work).
- (vii) Tax clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years.
- (viii) Evidence of financial capacity – bank reference and audited account.
- (ix) Any other information that will assist the Polytechnic in assessing your organization.

(c) Pre-Qualification Fee

Interested contractors are to pay a non-refundable pre-qualification fee of **N50,000.00** for Lot I, **N40,000.00** for Lot II and **N10,000.00** for Lot III.

Payment should be made at the Bursary Department of the Polytechnic by certified Bank Draft made payable to the Rector, Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic.

(d) Return of Documents

Pre-qualification documents listed (b) above should be returned along with the original copy of the receipt for the payment of the appropriate non-refundable pre-qualification fees in a sealed envelope marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION Documents (State the Lot / Ref. No)" and addressed to:
The Registrar,
Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic,
P.M.B. 2052,
Katsina.

To reach him not later than two weeks from the date of this advertisement.

(e) Important Notices

- (i) ONLY short-listed companies shall be invited to progress with the main tender.
- (ii) This advertisement of "Invitation to pre-qualify" shall not be construed to be an invitation to tender nor a commitment on the part of Hassan Usman Katsina Polytechnic, Katsina to award any form of contract to your Company. No shall it entitle any Company submitting documents to claim indemnity from the Polytechnic. The Polytechnic reserves the right to take final decision on any of the documents received in your pre-qualification package.

SALISU DANJUMA JIBIA
REGISTRAR

NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COURT, LAGOS

2010 INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR TENDER

The National Industrial Court, wishes to pre-qualify competent contractors and other service providers who wish to tender for jobs in the various areas specified below and accordingly invites interested parties who are competent, experienced and reputable to apply.

These services are required in our offices Courts and official residences in all the Judicial Divisions including Abuja. National Industrial Court hereby invites experienced, competent and reputable contractors or service providers who are interested and offering services in the stated areas to apply for pre-qualification as required below.

(A) Areas of services required

NIC/CAP/MV/001/20

SUPPLY OF MOTOR VEHICLES

- Lot 1: Peugeot Cars
- Lot 2: Toyota Brand of Cars
- Lot 3: Mitsubishi Canter
- Lot 4: Toyota Hilux
- Lot 5: Honda Cars
- Lot 6: Honda Cars
- Lot 7: Other vehicles as may be needed and specified from time to time

NIC/CAP/MC/002/2010

PURCHASE OF OFFICE FURNITURE

- Lot 1: Purchase of additional furniture for newly commissioned courts which have inadequate furniture

NIC/CAP/OFE/003/2010

PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL FURNITURE Lot 1:

- Supply of Court Furniture
- Lot 1: Furnishing of newly constructed judges quarters in Kano, Jos, Maiduguri, Ibadan and Calabar

- Lot 2: Furnishing of Judges quarters and newly constructed Guest and Charlets on existing Judges quarters in Lagos.

NIC/CAP/OE/004/2010

PURCHASE OF OFFICE EQUIPMENT

- Lot 1: Purchase of Office Equipment such as Fax Machines, Fire Proof Cabinets, Refrigerators, Steel Filing Cabinets, Shredders, Air-conditioners, Standing Fans, Ceiling Fans, Photocopiers, etc.

NIC/CAP/RE/005/2010

PURCHASE OF RESIDENTIAL EQUIPMENT

- Lot 1: Provision of Residential Equipment for the official quarters and new residences, such as Deep Freezer, Microwave Oven, Refrigerators, Television, Split Air conditioners, LCD, Pressing Iron, Water Dispensers, Photocopiers, Standing Fan, Gas/Electric Cooker, etc.

NIC/CAP/CICE/006/2010

PURCHASE OF COMPUTER, INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

- Lot 1: Supply of Complete Computer and Laptops
- Lot 2: Supply/Installation of PABX Equipment
- Lot 3: Supply of verbatim recorders and printers
- Lot 4: Computerization of Courts
- Lot 5: Supply of Scanners
- Lot 6: Supply of Training Equipment

NIC/CAP/CONST/007/2010

CONSTRUCTION

- Lot 1: Construction of Courts
- Lot 2: Construction /Purchase of Judges Quarters
- Lot 3: Construction of Roads in Court Divisions
- Lot 4: Purchase of Lands

NIC/CAP/RC/008/2010

RECONSTRUCTION/REHABILITATION/REFURBISHING OF COURTS AND OFFICES

- Lot 1: Providing physical improvements to the Honourable Judges Quarters, Courts, offices and canteens
- Lot 2: Provision of water, drainage systems, Boreholes in the Hon. Judges official residences and Courts in different locations of the country, or its improvement as may be required
- Lot 3: Construction of other Buildings, Landscaping of the Courts and residences
- Lot 4: Provision of fire fighting equipment.

NIC/CAP/PGPD/009/2010

POWER GENERATING PLANTS/DISTRIBUTION

- Lot 1: Provision of various capacities of Generators for the Hon. Judges offices and Court Buildings.
- Lot 2: Installation/Construction of Generator houses.
- Lot 3: Provision of Street lights in residences and Court Buildings.
- Lot 4: Stepping down of PHCN Electricity
- Lot 5: Provision of Solar energy

NIC/CAP/CSCRE/010/2010

PURCHASE COMMUNICATION/STENOGRAPHIC COURT RECORDING EQUIPMENT

- Lot 1: Supply of Public Address System, Electronic Recording Machines, Signal Jammer, etc.

NIC/CAP/LE/011/2010

LIBRARY EXPANSION & EQUIPMENT

- Lot 1: Supply of Library Metal bookshelves, library books, photocopy machines, shredders, etc.

NIC/CAP/ME/012/2010

PURCHASE OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

- Lot 1: Supply of Examination Couch, Stethoscope, Thermometer, Surgical Scissors, Adult weight scale, steam sterilizers, medium size fridges, instruments trays, First Aid box, e.t.c.

NIC/CAP/KE/013/2010

PURCHASE OF KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

- Lot 1: Supply of Kitchen Equipment, such as Refrigerators, Microwave Oven, Deep Freezers, Gas/Electric Cooker, Water Dispensers, etc.

NIC/CAP/SE/014/2010

PURCHASE REHABILITATION OF SPORTING EQUIPMENT

- Lot 1: Supply of sporting equipment such as Treadmills, station gyms, Bike, Table Tennis, Jerseys, Shirts, Shorts, Boots, Stockings, Steppers, Lawn Tennis, etc.
- Lot 2: Rehabilitation of Sporting facilities

NIC/RC/LBP/001/2010

LIBRARY BOOKS AND PERIODICALS

- Lot 1: Supply of Law Books, Law Reports and Other Periodicals

NIC/RC/PJTFD/002/2010

PRINTING OF JUDICIAL, TREASURY FORMS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

- Lot 1: Printing of Judicial Forms, i.e. Hearing Notices Schedule Forms, Subpoena, Chief Registrar's Certificate, General Form of Complaint, Memorandum of Appearance, Remand Warrant, Revenue Forms, Witness Summons, etc.
- Lot 2: Printing of Treasury Forms, i.e. Capital Expenditure Payment Vouchers, Recurrent Expenditure payment Vouchers, Paying in forms, Bank Schedule Forms, Payroll Summary Vouchers, Bank Certificate etc.
- Lot 3: Printing of other documents, i.e. Complimentary Cards, Memo pads, Letter Head papers, Open File Jackets, Secret File Jackets and Case File Jackets, etc.
- Lot 4: Printing of Clinic forms, i.e. Patient files, Prescription sheets, treatment sheets, Laboratory Forms, Tally Cards, Inventory Forms, Ledger Forms, e.t.c.

NIC/RC/MS/003/2009

MAINTENANCE AND OTHER SERVICES

- Lot 1: Fumigation and cleaning of Hon. Judges' official Residences, courts and offices.
- Lot 2: Maintenance of the Residential Quarters of the Hon. Judges
- Lot 3: Maintenance of courts and offices
- Lot 4: Maintenance of vehicles
- Lot 5: Maintenance of furniture in courts, Offices and Judges Quarters
- Lot 6: Maintenance of office Equipment in court and offices
- Lot 7: Security services
- Lot 8: Maintenance of generators in the Hon. Judges residences and the courts
- Lot 9: Maintenance of computers and Accessories.
- Lot 10: Insurance: Buildings, Furniture's, Equipments and Motor Vehicles
- Lot 11: Other utilities such as fluorescent fittings, bulbs, Extension wire, multi sockets, wall sockets, etc.

NIC/RC/OM/004/2009

PURCHASE OF OFFICE MATERIALS

- Lot 1: Supply of various stationeries to the courts and offices, i.e. photocopy papers, paper clips, office pins, staple machines, punching machines, Ruled sheets

NIC/RC/MISC/005/2009

PURCHASE OF MISCELLANEOUS/SUNDRY ITEMS

- Lot 1: Supply of Clearing facilities such as wheel barrows, Hoes, Rakes, Mops, Shovels, Cutlasses, etc.
- Lot 2: Supply of Sanitary items, i.e. Dettol, Insecticide, Air freshner, Toilet papers, Hand towel, Face towels and other disinfectants.

NIC/RC/UOC/006/2010

UNIFORMS AND OTHER CLOTHING

- Supply of uniforms for the drivers, security guard watchman craftsmen, Artisans such as Rain Coats, Rain boots, Safety boots, overall jackets and trousers. Etc.

NIC/RC/GCS/007/2010

GENERAL CONTRACT AND SERVICES

NIC/RC/DMS/008/2010

SUPPLY OF DRUGS & MEDICAL SERVICES

- Lot 1: Supply of Drugs and materials such as Plasters, Cottonwool, tablets, Syringe, Syrups, Etc.

NIC/RC/CONS/009/2010

CONSULTANCY

- Consultancy of professional fields such e.g. Staff training, Construction industry, information technology, case law management etc.

B1 PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Prospective contractors shall be required to possess the following pre-qualification documents

- (a) Valid Certificate of registration/incorporation
- (b) Current Tax Clearance certificate for the last (3) years, Valid up to December 31st 2009.
- (c) Value Added Tax Registration Certificate
- (d) Evidence of registration as a contractor with the National Industrial Court or renewal thereof.
- (e) Company's resume including details of key staff strength to be deployed for execution of the contract.
- (f) Detail of Equipment and plants, including machineries owned or to be hired
- (g) Name and Address of Banker(s) including a letter of reference/guarantee from the Bank
- (h) Evidence of involvement and experience in similar contracts stating contract sums and showing evidence of award and timely completion.

B2 SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT

Prequalification document should be enclosed in sealed envelope marked "2010 PRE-QUALIFICATION" and must be returned to Tender Board Secretariat, National Industrial Court, 31 Lugard Avenue, Ikoyi, Lagos, within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication addressed to:

The Secretary
Departmental Tenders Board
National Industrial Court
31, Lugard Avenue, Ikoyi,
Lagos.

PLEASE NOTE:

- (a) Late submission will be rejected
- (b) This advertisement for "Pre-qualification to Tender" shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of the National Industrial Court, Ikoyi, Lagos, Nigeria nor shall it entitle the submitting tenderer to make any claims whatsoever and or seek any indemnity from National Industrial Court by virtue of such tenderer having responded to this advert.
- (c) Pre-qualification bid should be very clear about the bidders' area of proven competence and interest.
- (d) Subsequent to this prequalification exercise tender for contracts and jobs will be accepted only from pre-qualified contractors and the National Industrial Court shall not enter into any correspondence with unsuccessful applicants

SIGNED
Chief Registrar
National Industrial Court

Nigeria, US to provide armed escorts for planes

By Shehu Abubakar

ARMED military and security personnel will start escorting commercial planes conveying passengers from Nigeria to the United States and vice versa.

This followed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Air Marshals signed by both countries as part of plans aimed at checking and preventing terrorist activities on board planes bound to either of the countries.

Media aide to Minister

of Aviation, Rhoda Iliya, said in a statement that this was disclosed by the leader of the delegation of the America Federal Air Marshals and Regional Security official with the United States Embassy in Nigeria, Mr. John Myer, when they paid a courtesy call on the Minister of Aviation Mr. Babatunde Omotoba, in his office in Abuja.

The statement quoted Mr. Myers saying, that the United States intends to provide Air Marshal training to Nigerian Air Marshals under a training plan

to be jointly determined by the participants.

The training which is for a period of 4 to 6 weeks would involve military and law enforcement personnel depending on what calibre of personnel Nigeria wants to train as Air Marshals.

Aviation Minister Babatunde Omotoba in his remarks said the training of Nigerian Air Marshals will be highly appreciated and called on the US to extend similar gesture to other countries in Africa to promote air safety.

ICPC tasks journalists on fairness

Misbahu Bashir & Lami Sadiq

JOURNALISTS should abide by ethics and principles in their reports, the Independent Corrupt Practices and Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) said yesterday.

ICPC's Resident Consultant, Media and Events, Mr Folu Olamiti, said this at an interactive session between the commission and members of the press.

He said the media should avoid sensationalism in reporting issues, and be more proactive and objective in carrying out its duties, because public opinion is being shaped by the media.

Olamiti said the ICPC is approaching

the fight against corruption through fostering collaboration with all segments of the society through initiatives such as National Anti-corruption Volunteer Corps (NAVC) the people's army against corruption, anti-corruption and transparency units in the public sector, village square meeting for the grassroots and anti-corruption for CSO'S, CBO'S, and NGO'S.

He said the Commission can investigate corrupt practices in the media when it receives report of such corrupt tendencies. But the statute of the Commission bars it from launching investigation into reports of corruption in the media without reports being forwarded to it.



UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA TEACHING HOSPITAL GWAGWALADA, FCT-ABUJA

VACANCY FOR APPOINTMENT AS EXTERNAL AUDITOR

Applications are invited from suitably qualified AUDITORS to Audit the Financial accounts of the Hospital.

REQUIREMENTS

Registration – The Audit Firm to be appointed must be registered with the office of the Auditor-General of the Federation and must be a registered member of any of the following professional bodies:

- (i) Member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN)
- (ii) Member of the Association of National Accountants of Nigeria (ANAN)

Expression of interest from Chartered Accountants should be directed within 14 days of this publication of this advert to the Chief Medical Director, University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, PMB 228, Abuja-FCT Nigeria.

SIGNED:
DR. PETER ALABI
CHIEF MEDICAL DIRECTOR/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

INTERNAL/EXTERNAL VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Nigeria announces the following vacancy Programme Analyst Anti-Corruption and Public Procurement

Level of post: NOB

Type of contract: FTA

Location: Abuja

Duration: One Year (with possibility of renewal)

Closing date: 20 March 2010

For further details on the job description and application process, please visit <http://jobs.undp.org/> and submit applications.

UNDP is committed to achieving workforce diversity in terms of gender, nationality and culture. Individuals from minority groups, indigenous groups and persons with disabilities are equally encouraged to apply. Qualified women are highly encouraged to apply. All applications will be treated with the strictest confidence.

YAKUBU GOWON CENTRE FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION JOB VACANCY

The Yakubu Gowon Centre for National Unity and International Co-operation is an N.G.O that has been working in about two decades to build a strong and united Nigeria. Its activities include management of international grants for health interventions. The Centre seeks immediate employment of

SENIOR PROCUREMENT OFFICER.

Job Description

Role Purpose: To coordinate the procurement and logistics activities for projects managed by YGC and ensure standard guidelines as stated in relevant manuals are effectively maintained.

SCOPE OF DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Serves as the UNIT HEAD and Point of Contact:

- Develop and implement procurement management system within the overall national and sectorial policy framework in consultation and cooperation with relevant stakeholders.
- Support the development of procurement plan and schedules for each project and ensure that procurement demands of Yakubu Gowon Centre Programs are met expeditiously
- Prepare cost estimates, terms of reference and develop specifications for works, goods and services in collaboration with YGC departments.
- Arranges for all local and international procurement
- Coordinate the opening and evaluation of bids and preparation of evaluation reports
- Monitors, documents and keeps records of all essential data concerning the performance of all contractual partners, costs and prices, lead times and contents of orders and execution of contracts with third parties.
- Liaise with relevant YGC departments to define technical specifications of products and packaging, order quantities/requirements, needs forecasting and terms of reference.
- Participates in YGC procurement monitoring missions, including drug management and assessments of Sub Recipients.
- Lead the evaluation of tenders and manages procurement contracts
- Ensures that all project related procurement complies fully with donor guidelines and YGC requirements and regulations
- Prepares project procurement plan for all goods, drugs and other equipment according to Global Fund guidelines and procedures.
- Maintains an inventory system for items procured with project funds
- Prepares reports as may be defined by the Programme Director for presentation to YGC management and as per donor specification
- Supervise Logistics and Procurement Officers and ensure they achieve set targets and support the preparation of performance based targets for staff in the procurement section and perform quarterly staff reviews
- Participates in the identification and selection of resource persons/consultant for workshops, seminars etc
- Performs any other work related duties as may be assigned by the Programme Director

Qualifications, Skills and Experience

1. First Degree in Pharmacy and CIPS/CIPSMN
2. Minimum of 3 - 5 year experience in international procurement practice and good in Logistics/Supply Chain management functions.
3. Must be computer literate in Microsoft Office Applications and have excellent interpersonal and good negotiation skills.

Qualified and interested candidates should send electronically, their application with detailed curriculum vitae stating the above position as the subject of the e-mail to: careers@yakubugowoncentre.org. Only qualified candidates that meet the above requirements should apply.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Ex-gov Adamu arraigned, gets bail

WHAT I want to know is whether he will be asked to return the money?

Elvis
continental.consultant@yahoo.com

I hope those ruling us today will learn from what's happening

and be careful in their dealings. They should know that being in power is not a license to misappropriate funds. In all your dealings, please follow the law. Seek honest advice.

Sunusi Musa
iyando22@yahoo.com

I think the EFCC is a bit slow in its prosecution of public office holders who have abused the trust of the electorates. The EFCC should redouble their efforts and bring corrupt public officials and their accomplices to book.

Ibrahim T. Ibrahim

elkutigi@gmail.com

It is interesting to hear that the former governor of Nasarawa State has been arraigned by the EFCC. Let us put aside sentiment and allow justice to prevail.

Tobias J. Hankle

johnyhankle@aol.com

In my own opinion, the prosecution is nothing, but a waste of national resources. I don't think Adamu will be jailed.

Abubakar Shuaibu
abubakarshuaibu@gmail.com



INFORMATION Minister Dora Akunyili

Rumpus in House over Akunyili

PROF Dora understands what democracy means and stands for. If not on the pages of newspapers where else would Nigerians get their information? What is unguarded about what she has been saying?

Obanor
kenor@web.de

Please, this woman should sacked. She is confusing not only ordinary Nigerians, but legislators as well.

Sadeeq Sheshe
sadeeqmuhsheshe@rocketmail.com

When you see elders quarrelling and abusing one another at the end of a meeting, it means that someone spoke the truth. But if they emerge from their meeting smiling, know that they have lied to each other. You cannot suppress the truth for too long. Speak out like Akunyili and be part of the progressives, she is the propheticness of this regime.

Ugwu
aloyugwu@yahoo.com

Kudos to the members of House of Representatives for warning people from making unguarded utterances that could cause confusion in the country. Akunyili's statements would not do the country any good. She is just trying to gain favour from the Acting President. I urge the Acting President to concentrate on issues that would promote national unity, peace, progress and development.

Idris H.
idrisharon4real@yahoo.com

Please Mrs. Akunyili, do not bite the finger that fed you. I don't think Nigeria had a female Communications Minister before you. Why are you behaving like this?

Muhammad Alhassan
fcbarca4abuja@yahoo.com

DO they think they are still wise? The answer is, no. They are not even supposed to be there because these people have been ruling this country since the 60's and 70's. May be that is why we are having this confusion. They should allow the young ones to contribute to the development of this country.

Abubakar Badru Jkamshi
damurna@yahoo.com

History will vindicate this woman, who so many are calling to order. Someone even dared to call her a headmistress to my hearing. But the truth is that she has something in that head. She is not a mistress of failure, but of dignity and honour. The choice of Gen. T.Y. Danjuma and the Prof is not a big deal. When the late Abiola & Kingibe picked the Muslim/Muslim ticket, we voted for them in good faith. It is the greed of a select few that truncated it. We are watching and praying.

Dr. Genesis Dawuda
info@drgenesis.com

Since the departure and return



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

of the president, this is the best report so far. It will help to stabilize the country. This national mess is as a result of lack of transparency. I am glad President Yar'adua can even sit up. By the grace of God, he will complete his tenure. Let us commend our Armed Forces.

Edozie Godwin
geecceodozie@yahoo.com

This is a welcome development. The governors and minis-

ters have taken a good approach. They deserve commendation. It is hoped that the Acting President will heed the advice for the sake of unity and continuity. We also hope Madam "Rebranding" will stop being over-zealous. May God grant Yar'adua a speedy recovery.

Mukhtar Musa
elmukhtar_musa@yahoo.co.uk

May Allah reward these men abundantly. They are trying to prevent crisis in the country.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

It is gratifying to be hear that crisis was averted by the wise counselling, foresight and timely intervention of some God gifted individuals.

Naibi Zubairu
naibizubairu@yahoo.com

People should be allowed to express themselves. We always bring sentiment into everything. Let us treat issues courageously and according to the law.

David Adetuyi

lawumiadetuyi@yahoo.co.uk

The so-called crisis aversion by the '12 wise men' was driven primarily by exigency, not pragmatism, loyalty or principle. The pro-Yar'adua group has the Army under Gen. Dambazzau behind them. I don't blame the nine ministers for backing down. Who would want to sacrifice himself for a country like Nigeria?

Effiong
ukonln@yahoo.com

I cannot understand why Akunyili is being condemned. If she had not spoken out, Nigerians would have been kept in the dark. We are in a democracy and the wishes of the people must be respected.. Is there nothing wrong with the president leaving this country without handing over? What is the use of the constitution, if it cannot be respected? I wonder which one is greater, Nigeria or an individual.

Aji Isuwa Suleiman
suleimanaji@yahoo.com

Ulamas warn against removal of Dambazau

NIGERIANS should know that the group, NOSCEF is trying to cause trouble. Is their Christianity different from the one practised in the South or West? Enough is enough, let Nigerians live in peace with one another.

Kubuwa Isa
kubuwata@yahoo.com

The political impasse in Nigeria at present should not be turned into a religious crisis. Christian and Muslim clerics should stay out of it. Leave the Acting President alone. Let him use his wisdom in the next few months to see what he can do to move the country forward. This country is not for a group or individual, it is for everyone.

Sunday O Oladunmoye
soladunmoye@yahoo.com

'Secretary of the Ulama Council, Sheikh T. Suleiman, said the Acting President should be conscious of the fact that the Christians elders were not familiar with the workings of the national security system' Is it not the same army that is expected to be built on a strong foundation of 'order'? What workings of national security are they talking about? Flouting orders is tantamount to gross

disrespect for the constitution. The Acting President is the Commander-in-Chief and General Danbazzau owes the Acting President and the nation an explanation.

Dr. Genesis Dawuda
info@drgenesis.com

I think those calling for the sack of Danbazzau don't really know what they saying. I wish to categorically state here that they are not in any way representing Christians. They are talking for themselves. They should apologise to Nigerians. Are we saying the Military should not protect Yar'adua because there is an Acting President? The GOC owes no one any explanation. Let us think of

how to move this country forward.

Tobias J. Hankle
johnyhankle@aol.com

Was it only CAN that made that pronouncement? Constitutionally, what the Brigades of Guard did, was it right? It is very unfortunate that people use religion to cover wrong actions. What goes around will surely come around and unless we practice our religion according to the holy books, this country will not move forward. Let us look at issues on their merits. Truth must be told whether we like it or not and we can't achieve anything in Nigeria unless we put aside our differences.

Aji Isuwa Suleiman
suleimanaji@yahoo.com



CHIEF of Army Staff General Abdulrahman Dambazau

Yar'adua's mum visits Aso Rock

I'M calling on all Nigerians to be patient with Yar'adua and stop making unnecessary comments. Let us all pray for Acting President Jonathan to have a successful tenure and at the same time pray for President Umar Yar'adua's recovery

Muazu Hassan Kabir
khass2k@yahoo.com

My concern, is with those ministers who went to Saudi Arabia, did they return part of the estacode?

Ezekwesili
kwesili@yahoo.co.uk

I am happy to hear that someone has seen the president. I wish him all the best.

Usman Bukar
sajerams@yahoo.com

If the president's mother and extended family members can see him, why can't the Acting President see him? I think there is something fishy going on here. For God's sake his medical bills are being paid by the Federal Government.

Paul Uzoechi
chineduAmum@yahoo.com



By Ogbuagu Bob Anikwe

Power mongers and the rest of us

I like the simple and the ideal, and I love keeping to a gentleman agreement. And so, at the risk of going against the current tide of public propaganda, I would like to toe a different line, to remind us of where we are coming from, and what we ought to have done at this hour of political need in Nigeria.

There are laws and conventions that could have been used to rescue Nigeria from her current crisis of governance. There are also persons and institutions that, in my view, failed woefully to take advantage of these laws and conventions, in order to save the nation from her needless political troubles. These persons are our President, members of the Federal Executive Council, members of the National Assembly, and members of the National Working Committee of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). It has become obvious that, rather than use either the law or the convention of the PDP to resolve the problem, these

Once the National Assembly receives this letter, Goodluck Jonathan automatically becomes "acting" president

individual and corporate persons have been busy chasing shadows, and thereby plunged this country into an avoidable political crisis.

I am sure the average person likes tasks that are simple, uncomplicated, and easy to execute. Both Sections 144 and 145 of the 1999 Constitution that the National Assembly is rushing to amend are all of these. They could have been invoked to help us out of our current political problems without this amendment, if the National Assembly, as well as Dora Akunyili and her colleagues in the Federal Executive Council, have mustered the political will.

Section 145 encourages the President to transmit a letter of notice to the National Assembly, if he is proceeding on an extended medical trip. Once the National Assembly receives this letter, Goodluck Jonathan automatically becomes "acting" president. He is thus empowered to carry out the executive functions of the absent President, but in an acting capacity.

The issue here is that this Section 145 does not force the President to transmit this letter under any circumstance - it is the President's choice whether he wants to do so or not. *And so, we can accuse the president of bad faith, we can accuse him of being insensitive to the demands of governance, we can heap a host of moral accusations on our president, but we cannot accuse the President of violating the constitution, should he fail to transmit this letter.*

If he fails to transmit this letter and the country is burning, what options are there in the constitution, then, to deal with such a leader who has decided to take the symbol of his presidential authority to a hospital bed and asked the country to await his return before

serious and pending executive decisions are taken?

It is only members of the Federal Executive Council of the Federation that can checkmate the President, if he is found to be incapable of executing his mandate, and does not want to let go. The FEC is empowered, under Section 144, to declare that a President is incapacitated, and to transmit such a declaration to the National Assembly. On getting this declaration, the Senate President is mandated to constitute a medical panel to prove or disprove what the declaration says. If the medical team corroborates the FEC declaration, the Vice President automatically moves up to become, not an acting, but a substantive President!

From the foregoing, those who have failed the country are (a) the President of the country and (b) members of the federal executive council. *For the avoidance of doubt, there is nowhere in the two sections (144 & 145) where the 1999 constitution empowers the National Assembly to play a lead role in making, or unilaterally doing anything that would transit Goodluck Jonathan either to an acting or to a substantive president.*

The National Assembly unilateral power to act resides elsewhere, in Section 143. This section empowers the National Assembly to impeach the President for act(s) which two-thirds of its members consider as "gross misconduct in the performance of the functions of his office." Thus, if the Senate had wanted to make Jonathan a substantive president, the president's action - leaving the nation in limbo for 90 days with no one at the helm - could very easily have qualified as "gross misconduct."

The President is in error by not transmitting the letter; members of FEC dithered over what to do, and the National Assembly exceeded its bounds, and went outside its brief to invoke a strange, illegal, and unconstitutional resolution, which the FEC in another bizarre twist accepted, in order to make Goodluck Jonathan the "acting" president of Nigeria.

Having apportioned blames where they are due, I would still go ahead to show understanding with the actions and inactions of the President, the National Assembly, and the Federal Executive Council. They are unwilling actors who are being variously called upon to grapple with and resolve an inherited problem. That problem is the north-south leadership question, which the PDP constitution sought to resolve by its power rotation principle.

In my view, this power rotation principle, for the so-called North and the amorphous South, worked well in the legislative branch during the Obasanjo presidency. For instance, we witnessed the spectacle of senators from each of the five states in the South East (where the position of Senate President was zoned) successively having a taste of the Chair. It was instructive that once a senate president was felled by the proverbial "banana peels", Deputy Senate President Ibrahim Mantu was never asked to step up and occupy the chair.

To be concluded.

Anikwe, a former editor of Daily Times, wrote in from Lagos.



By Kolawole Omotinugbon

The time is now

The events of the past weeks have no doubt raised the tension level in our country particularly as it relates to the health of our President. So much tension is in the land that even our children are beginning to feel it. Just recently and to our joy, Former President Olusegun Obasanjo had taken us so far from those divisive sentiments that we were beginning to see things from the point of the issues involved rather than the parochial ethnic and religious points. But as it stands today, issues appear to be dominated and overwhelmed by the same divisive and dangerous ethno-religious and regional sentiments.

It is my firm believe that as it stands now, the salvation of our land has by fate being placed in the hand of one man whose action or inaction could make or mar us as a nation. That man is His Excellency, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, The acting President and Commander in Chief of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

The time to act is now! Enough of the talks about the health of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua;

Such Ministers and Special Advisers include Prof. Dora Akunyili, yes Akunyili, she has herself become one of the persons fuelling the tension

enough please! Spare the man. I know as a matter of fact that the most important thing to an ailing man or woman is how to regain his or her health, not governance, not politics, not power, and not even money, but good health and vitality. Leave the man to his doctors, his wife and God. The only thing anyone can do now is to pray with the President's family for his quick recovery.

I have heard people say that they have not seen the President. I really wonder what the noise is about. It is on record that the man is ill and is on a sick vacation, so why then do you still insist on seeing him? Are you a Doctor, and even if you were, are you his Doctor? Please I beg of you, excuse the President, our President. Whenever he is fit, in or out of office we will all hear from him.

The focus as far as I am concerned, should be on the Acting President whom like I said, should be held responsible for his action or inaction at a time like this. As it stands today, His Excellency, Dr Goodluck Jonathan is the President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, howbeit in an Acting capacity. The buck stops with him now. As Hon. Abike Dabiri-Erewa of the House of Rep-

resentatives pointed out, even if the Acting Presidency is for one day or one year, he must do all he can to stabilize the polity and then get the dividend of governance to the people of Nigeria. He must deliberately shift attention and discussions from the health of President Yar'adua and focus same on the act of governance.

To achieve this, I propose that he take the following steps:

1) Address Nigerians and reassure us that he is prepared to lead us in to prosperity as the Acting President and that he is ready to return to his desk as Vice President whenever the President is fit enough to return to office even if it takes the rest of their administration.

2) He must forthwith relieve some Ministers and Special Advisers of their jobs to enable him refocus the cabinet and douse the tension that the President's ill health has been allowed to generate. Such Ministers and Special Advisers include Prof. Dora Akunyili, yes Akunyili, she has herself become one of the persons fuelling the tension, and Alhaji Muhammad Adamu Aliero, among others.

The other day I heard the Acting President talking about improved Power Generation with the use of coal. Indeed, this is the time to refocus the mind and energies of Nigerians to issues that affect our progress and quest for greatness as a nation and stop this "talk, talk" about the President's health.

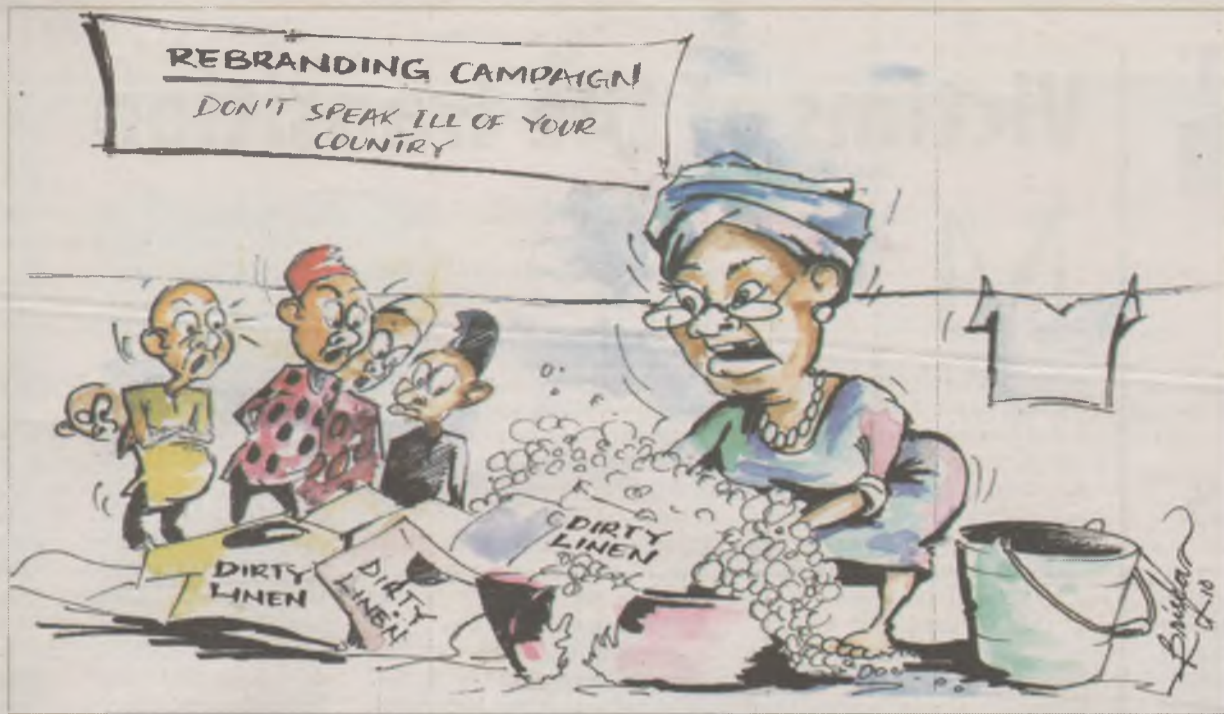
I pray that the Almighty God who made the heavens and the earth will in his mercy and power restore the health of our President.

Mr. Acting President Sir, I believe that your greatest strength is in your comportment, level headedness and lack of desperation, and I pray that the Almighty will grant you all the wisdom that you need to do the right things and do them well. I personally believe in rotational Presidency and as it stands, the rotation is to the North, when it rotates to the South, it can still come to you. So for now, make up your mind to the best you can to move the nation forward and refuse the politics of how to become the President. Even if by any act of nature you become the substantive President, ensure your best to supervise a credible and transparent transition in 2011 as an unbiased umpire.

It is my advice that you discourage any attempt to invoke Section 144 of our Constitution as it can only aggravate the tension and disunity in the country. Even if President Yar'adua will come and reverse some or all you have done as Acting President when he becomes fit and takes over, don't worry, just do your best bearing in mind justice, equity, fairness and posterity.

God Bless Nigeria.

Omotinugbon can be reached at (woletinugbon@yahoo)



Your Letters

Some light on the killing of 'disabled boko haram members'

I wish to make an important clarification on the identity and circumstances of the "disabled" people who were shot and killed by some mobile policemen in Maiduguri during the *Boko Haram* crisis which took place in parts of some Northern states some seven months ago. The *Al Jazeera* exposé has clearly shown without any ambiguity scenes of extra-judicial killings of under age children and what looked like disabled per-

sons. Those seen in the *Al Jazeera* footage with P.O.P on their legs and arms as well as some who limped, holding clutches were actually not disabled people.

They are *boko haram* members who were shot at the Custom area roundabout in Maiduguri some few weeks before the actual *boko haram* uprising. People could remember that when the *boko haram* members formed a funeral procession on their way to bury four of their members who died in a car crash on their way to Biu in Biu local government area of Borno state, they had some altercation with a unit of the dreaded Operation Flush anti-crime squad who opened fire and wounded some of them. About 12 members

of the *boko haram* and three other bystanders were hit by bullets and they were subsequently taken to the nearby University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) where some with minor injuries were treated and discharged while those with serious injuries were admitted.

Ironically, it was these people that were undergoing treatment at the UMTH that were bundled out of the hospital in their pains, taken to the police headquarters and made to lie face down before being shot at point-blank range, along with the minors shown by *Al Jazeera*. Can anything be more callous and irresponsible?

Babakura Ahmed, Shehuri North, Maiduguri.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Do you remember?

WHEN ex-Justice Minister Aon-doakaa said Akunyili was making herself a cheap hero by talking too much, some Nigerians rained all sorts of abuses on him. It's glaring now that he was prescient.
ENGR. Terhembra Agber, Makurdi, 07035505280.

Terrible roads

FEDERAL government should please come to our aid; the road from Mangu L G C to Bwai, linking to Chisu to Bokkos L G in Jos Plateau State, is a nightmare. It's as if we don't have government. One painful thing is that these communities feed the nation with maize, potatoes, millet, rice, groundnuts, cocoa yam, Sweet potatoes, beans, etc. All our leaders after their annual manifestoes, leave with their promises and vision unfulfilled.
ZACHARIAH Bulus Ali, 08032176014.

Behind the figures

I never realised that as a parent I had to make "strenuous efforts.... to secure admission..." for my daughter that passed WAEC,

JAMB, post-UME and even IJMB hurdles. ABU is now something else, where merit no longer counts. I am disappointed, especially with lack of transparency in the admission process.
BASHEER, G.U., 07030692301.

The agonies

WHEN will there be one Nigeria? Lot's of people have been writing and passing JAMB/post-UME, etc, but never get admission because of the so-called indigene status of candidates.
08034865557.

Haba Gov Nyako

YOU should concentrate on delivering your campaign promises instead of orchestrating the impeachment of Local Council Chairmen. The Electorates, E.F.C.C are watching you.
ALIYU B. Ibrahim, Wuse, Abuja, 07030056667.

Softly, softly Mr Goodluck

FIRST you should steady the ship of state before making changes to the cabinet. You should also handle the issue of the military with caution. Remember the military is

the biggest and most potent opposition party in Nigeria. Do not provoke them now; wait until you consolidate your hold on power.
ABU Kaita, Kaduna, 08083144567.

Jonathan's think tank

NIGERIANS should not be held to ransom by the constant "recycling" of the people who have been ruling this country since independence, and who are responsible for the current pathetic state of the nation.
MURTALA Mohammad, Abuja, 08035137015.

Spare a thought

IF we spent as much time praying for Yar'dua's recovery as we do in criticising him, I am sure he would have been better by now. He didn't wish for this. May God help us all.
07034951075.

More sports pages, please

THANK you, *Daily Trust*, now that you people are wiser to dedicate a page to the national league. Keep it up, but please do more.
ISA Musa, 07026029903.



By Abdullahi Usman Danjaba

Needless politicisation of Sokoto election case

Of all the election petition cases since 1999, none has received as much attention, publicity and enveloped in mystery as *Wamakko vs Dingyadi* in Sokoto state. Arising from 2007 general elections, the case had initially resulted in the sack of Wamakko as governor and effectively barred him from standing re-run election. But for the perceived contradiction in the Kaduna Appeal Court verdict annulling the election on the ground that Wamakko was as at April 14, 2007 not eligible to contest the election; on the other hand it ordered that only parties and candidates in the election result sheet could participate in the subsequent re-run.

No sooner was the verdict passed than the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) approached the judiciary for interpretation of what was considered contradictory portion of the judgment: Wamakko's illegibility to contest the April 2007 election and legibility to participate in the re-run election in 2008. The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) organized the re-run gubernatorial election on May 24, 2008, with Wamakko being the candidate scoring the highest votes!

An Election Petition Tribunal in respect of the re-run election was set up, and had passed its verdict, with majority and minority pronouncements. The issue of determination remained whether or not Wamakko was eligible to contest the re-run gubernatorial election. The learned men of the tribunal did their best, but bowed out.

The case thereafter moved to its final stop: Appeal Court. The case was heard, examined, opposed and defended January 2010 at the new Court of Appeal Sokoto. Later, the Court wrote to inform all parties that the judgment date had been fixed for February 24, 2010. This action by the Court simultaneously sparked a series of accusations and counter-accusations and allegations against the appellate judges handling the case.

On February 19, 2010, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) petitioned the National Judicial Council (NJC) alleging, among other things, that the judges been compromised to pass verdict in favour of DPP. Simultaneously, hooligans went into a rampage, holding the seat of Caliphate to ransom for a week to demand that the verdict should favour PDP or else Sokoto would sink underneath the desert.

It came as a jolt therefore when judgment day approached, the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN), Justice Alloysius Katsina-Alu, directed that all proceedings relating to the Appeal Court be put on hold until the Supreme Court considered the petition received from PDP. The apex court fixed March 15, 2010 for the case. The CJN has tread carefully here, lest he be accused of playing to the gallery and hand unwittingly hand the case to the undeserving party.

The disconnect can be seen in the remarks of presiding judge as the Appeal Court prepared to sit on February 24, to deliver its judgement. He pointedly noted that the judgment of the court was ready to be read, but would have been reserved because of petition by PDP to NJC touches on judges' individual and collective integrity. He added that they had to first face the NJC to clear themselves of the allegations made against them before judgment would be delivered, at a future date.

It should, however, be borne in mind that problem arose with the Kaduna Appeal Court ruling that Wamakko was not eligible to contest April 2007 general election, and at same time ordered that parties and candidates on election results sheet could participate in the re-run exercise.

Amazingly, it was DPP, and not PDP, that had since April 11, 2008 when the judgment was delivered, that had been shuttling between one court and another seeking interpretation of the judgment. The question then arises: why should it be PDP that should now run to the apex court to seek the same judgment they have all along claimed was clear and unambiguous?

Another pertinent question remains: is there any correlation between Katsina-Alu's ascension to the position of CJN and PDP's obviously belated appeal?

Questions such as these have their fallouts, one of which is the fact that the DPP appellant's counsel, Messrs Rickey Tarfa, has announced the withdrawal of Appeal filed by its gubernatorial candidate at the Supreme court pursuant to order 11 rule 1 of Court of Appeal rules 2007.

In their statement dated 22nd of January, 2010 the appellant's counsel have informed the Supreme Court to discontinue the case against all the respondents in the matter mentioned at the appeal. Where then does the Supreme Court have power to order a halt in the judgement of the Appeal Court?

Danjaba is of Faculty of Law, ABU (Kongo Campus), Zaria.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Defusing Edo assembly crisis

The crisis rocking the Edo State House of Assembly must be speedily brought to an amicable resolution before it degenerates to a bigger problem that may be difficult to manage. It took a dangerous dimension earlier this week when an improvised explosive device was found close to the premises of the house; the police bomb disposal squad had to be called in to neutralise it.

Tension had been rising in Edo State since the court ruled the election of Professor Oserheimen Aigberadion Osunbor as governor on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in 2007 invalid, and directed the swearing in of Mr Adams Oshiomhole of Action Congress (AC) in his place.

Membership of the House of Assembly is shared equally between AC and PDP, at 13 members each. That uneasy balance seems to have had the effect of making it difficult for Governor Oshiomhole, a former labour activist, to push his policies and programmes through the legislature with the ease that he would have preferred. This was particularly so when the leadership of the legislature, elected when the PDP also controlled the executive, was composed mainly of PDP members.

To change that, there was a sudden change in the leadership last week, when the speaker of the state legislature, Mr Zakawanu Garuba, and his deputy, Mr Levis Aigbogun, were removed in a palace coup and a new leadership, made up principally of AC members, elected to take their places. AC members sat, in the absence of their PDP counterparts, and elected Mr Bright Omokhodion as the new speaker. The legality of their action is being challenged in court. Even the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in the state has questioned the constitutionality of sacking Mr Garuba and other principal officers of the house, with only thirteen members taking part. While the legal tussle is going on, the attempt to create facts on the ground in the control of the legislature is further stoking political tension, with potential to veer into violence.

This slide must be averted. Party leaders, especially those of the AC and PDP, at both the state and national levels must put heads together and resolve all outstanding problems that led to the current crisis. We must state that we are disappointed in the absence of leadership in this matter by Governor Oshiomhole.

Instead of staying above the fray and trying to calm nerves and ease tension, the governor appears to compound them by his muscular attempts to play the AC against the PDP. Not unlike his attitude of his labour activist days, Mr Oshiomhole, in frequent throwbacks to his labour days, has shown that he would not shy away from all tactics, whether crude or under-the-table, to deny the opposition any say in the politics of Edo state, the very vices in governance issues that he had fought against.

The people of Edo State deserve to be served with delivery on election promises, not bickering and sloganeering that have really not had much material impact on their lives.

All parties must understand that politics is a game of give and take. In the Edo State case, both parties represented in the assembly are uniquely placed to show example of amity and compromises in overcoming their differences and yet providing effective governance. We call on the security agencies, particularly the police, to investigate the source of the explosive device, arrest those behind it and prosecute them. This will serve not only as deterrence to others harbouring similar ill-motivated conduct, but also assure lawmakers and the general public of their safety.

The legislature should not be turned into a battleground between selfish politicians to the detriment of those who elected them.

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Victims of the transition

By Liyansan Ajaka

Media houses often employ hype as strategy for promoting what in their perception must be taken as the reality even when they know this is a façade. Defined by the English Dictionary of Contemporary English as "attempts to make people think that something is good or important by talking about it a lot on television, the radio" etc, hype is employed by hack-writers to lead the gullible to draw illogical conclusions.

One is compelled to critically examine hype as a strategy because of the article of one Jude Igbanoi in *Thisday* newspaper of February 16, 2010 in which he sought to make the reader draw the fallacious conclusion that the former Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Michael Kase Aondoakaa was a failure, non-performer and a misfit. He described Aondoakaa's exit from the Justice portfolio as a "dishonourable exit". It is unfair to chronicle a catalogue of actions and inactions of a public figure without an iota of any good deed and draw conclusions from a narrow spectacle without taking into consideration the context in which he was operating. That's why it is important to examine the duty constitutionally imposed on Aondoakaa and the situation in which he found himself.

Section 174 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 clearly spells out the duties of the Attorney-General of the Federation, including taking over and continuing any... criminal proceedings that may have been instituted by any other authority or persons.

The Attorney-General is an appointee of the president. He has to perform his legal duties at the same time swim in the murky water of politics, where even the best fish can get drowned. One wonders what people expected Aondoakaa to say when even Yar'adua's closest political fair-weather friends were in a fix, a situation of "to be or not-to be", as to the state of health of the president, when they were indecisive and elusive as to whether to tell the nation the truth or not.

Not being a medical doctor, was Aondoakaa expected to declare his principal incapacitated and therefore incapable of performing the function of his office? Was he supposed to declare that someone else should take over? Is he God that he would know whether the president would live or die?

Can we count how many peo-

ple have been outlived by Yar'adua between the period of his hospitalisation and now?

Did the constitution contemplate that a letter of incapacitation would be transmitted through the electronic medium or through the BBC? The constitution is for Man and not Man for the constitution. It is a code to guide his conduct. Otherwise, the constitution would have to contain provisions as to which woman we can marry, her complexion and height, etc.

In the article in question, the writer alleged that the former AGF had a running battle with the former Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Chairman Nuhu Ribadu and claimed that Aondoakaa sought to curtail the powers of the EFCC. This

remarks capture the dilemma succinctly: "This was one of the greatest men in Umoufia."

The Whiteman has forced him to hang himself and he will be buried like a dog

Okonkwo was the victim of transition.

The former Attorney-General was also accused of not immediately transferring Nigerian suspects to foreign lands for trial when he insisted that for a case or a suspect to be so transferred there were time-tested and time-honoured laid down procedures to be followed. He demanded for the observance of these procedures. But for those who drew their own conclusions before fact and before trial the Attorney-General was shielding criminals, not even suspects. They have delivered judgement before trial. If the terms and

“Did the constitution contemplate that a letter of incapacitation would be transmitted through the electronic medium or through the BBC?”

proves ignorance of the law. It is the AGF who is constitutionally empowered to institute, undertake, criminal proceedings against any person before any court of law in Nigeria, other than a court martial, in respect of any offence created by or under any Act of the National Assembly. He is the only one who can take over any such criminal proceedings that may have been instituted by any other authority or persons. In exercising this power the Constitution gives guidelines that it behoves the AGF to follow in the public interest, the interest of justice and the need to prevent the abuse of legal process and it is expected of him to have the fear of God. If he fails to have due regard to the above conditions, the judge is the court of his conscience - which is the greatest of all courts - and the court of public opinion which must take into consideration the duties demanded of him. Therefore to have an objective assessment of his performance one must place him in the context in which he operated and the duty constitutionally imposed.

Aondoakaa is like Okonkwo, the tragic hero in Chinua Achebe's *Things Fall Apart* who was torn between traditional values and the in-coming Western culture; in the end, he hanged himself. Anoka's

conditions of international treaties are not to be observed, why do we have them? *Acta sunt servanda* is a legal maxim that agreement solemnly entered into is binding. The foundation of International Law is mutual respect for agreements. That the Attorney-General should insist on mutual respect for bilateral and time-honoured procedure can not be interpreted to be a weakness on his part.

Discerning members of the public are however impressed by the former AGF's stepping-aside remark: "I have no regret".

His preservation of the democratic institutions and resistance to fragmentation of the time-honoured processes and procedures by groups who wanted to pervert them by obscuring their application from his direct gaze should be commended. He had to wrestle for files that normally should have been channelled through his office. Yet such aberration is being supported by those whose pre-occupation is to weaken the time tested and time honoured institution of AGF Office rather than improve on it.

Until we begin to realise that we have a responsibility to the electorate, and accountable to them with all degree of transparency, until we begin to make justice, equity and good conscience the foundation of our application of the law, as long shall we continue amending constitutions and misinterpreting them, the more Aondoakaas shall we continue to have.

Even though a victim of transition of the current, we have Aondoakaa to thank for the resilience of the justice system.

Ajaka wrote from Okitipupa, Ondo State.

“The Attorney-General is an appointee of the president. He has to perform his legal duties at the same time swim in the murky water of politics, where even the best fish can get drowned”



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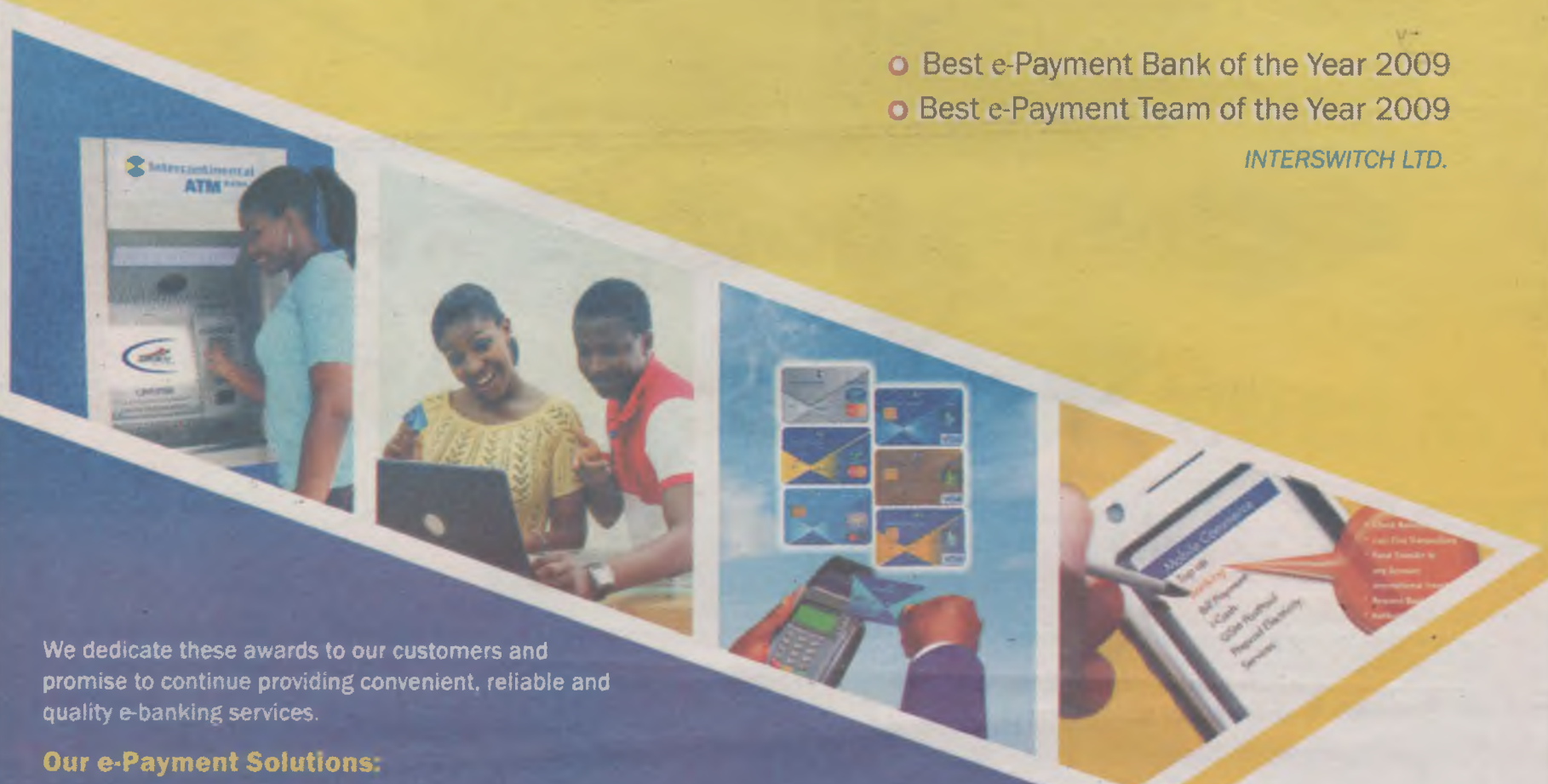
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INTERNATIONAL

UN Peacekeeper boss: Congo still needs us

THE UN could start withdrawing troops from war-ravaged Congo this year, but the head of the world body's peacekeeping division said the soldiers should remain in the east, which is still being terrorized by Rwandan and Ugandan militias.

Alain Le Roy told reporters yesterday after talks with top government officials that the U.N. is ready to start withdrawing its peacekeepers in June 2010 from Kasai and Katanga provinces. The areas were once on the front lines of a 1999-2002 war which split the country into rival fiefdoms. They have been relatively calm for years and are far from the vast nation's recent fighting.

The U.N. mission has been in Congo since 1999. It is the largest in the world with about 16,500 troops and 3,000 civilian staff.

Challenger accuses Sudan govt of plotting to rig vote

A key challenger to Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir in next month's elections accused the government yesterday of plotting to rig the outcome.

Yasir Arman, who is standing against Bashir for the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement, accused the electoral commission of restricting the campaigning of opposition parties and of paving the way for fraud by the government.

"The national elections commission recently put in place measures in line with the security and the police to restrict the freedoms of political parties. This is unacceptable," Arman said.

Opposition parties have also criticised a security law that forces them to obtain police authorisation prior to any political meeting "even inside the premises of the political forces."



TOGOLESE men display their voter identity cards outside a polling station in Lome, yesterday.

Voters flock to Togo poll in test of democracy

TOGO'S opposition icon yesterday warned that people would not accept a fraudulent election this year as citizens flocked to voting stations in the second election being held since the death of the country's dictator.

Gilchrist Olympio cast doubt on the re-election of President Faure Gnassingbe who is pitted against six other candidates. Gnassingbe, the son of Togo's long-ruling dictator, has vastly outspent the other candidates and has wallpapered the country with his campaign posters.

He hopes to win a second term and erase memories of the reportedly fraudulent election that brought him to power five years ago. But Olympio does not want people to forget.

Although seven candidates are in Thursday's race, the contest is really between two families: Gnassingbe and Olympio.

Even though the government disqualified Olympio from running in yesterday's race, the 74-year-old remains front and center in this election. Olympio is throwing his weight behind his party's general secretary Jean-Pierre Fabre, who is Gnassingbe's leading contender and who voted across town.

"I want the people who think they can play around with our election results to be very careful," Olympio told reporters soon after emerging from the voting booth Thursday, his finger stained with purple ink.

"The people will not accept it,"

he said.

Yesterday, Gnassingbe arrived at the polling station where his father used to vote, encircled by bodyguards who beat back the crowd. "It depends on the will of the people. If the people want me, I will win," the 43-year-old said.

Known simply as "Faure," the favorite son of Eyadema Gnassingbe assumed power in a military-backed coup hours after his father's death on February 5, 2005.

Under intense international pressure, he agreed to briefly step down and hold elections, but the vote was marred by serious allegations of fraud including polling stations where the military burst in and made off with ballot boxes.

At least 400 people were killed

in the violence that engulfed the country after the controversial results were announced.

Gnassingbe's father had come to power after killing Togo's first president Sylvanus Olympio in a pre-dawn massacre that marked tropical Africa's first coup 47 years ago.

Gilchrist Olympio, the slain president's son came back to Togo over the weekend to rally support for his opposition party.

Olympio has tried and failed to run in almost every single presidential election in the past two decades, but nearly every time the government finds a technicality to disqualify him, including this year when he was barred from the race because he had improperly filled in his health certificate.

Ivory Coast opposition enters new government

IVORY Coast's opposition parties yesterday entered a new government, putting an end to a political crisis triggered when President Laurent Gbagbo last month dissolved the previous cabinet.

The 11 posts reserved for opposition parties in a 28-member team led by Prime Minister Guillaume Soro were handed out in the morning, under a decree read by Gbagbo's secretary-general in the

presidency, Amedee Couassi Ble.

The whole government headed by Soro, the leader of the former rebel New Forces, held a cabinet meeting which was chaired by Gbagbo.

The formation of a government for the divided West African country follows the creation last week of a new Independent Electoral Commission (CEI), after Gbagbo dissolved the previous one on February

12, the same day as he ditched Soro's last government.

The dual dissolutions plunged Ivory Coast into crisis and led to a wave of opposition protests in which at least seven people were killed.

International

UN envoy says it's 'time to talk' to the Taliban



UN representative to Afghanistan Kai Eide speaks during his last press conference in Kabul, Afghanistan, yesterday.

THE head of the UN mission in Afghanistan said yesterday that it's "high time" a political solution is found with the Taliban to resolve the more than 8-year-old conflict.

"It's time to talk," Kai Eide said. In his last news conference as the UN representative, Eide said he hoped a spring peace jirga — or conference — that Afghan President Hamid Karzai is organizing would result in a national consensus for peace that the entire nation could rally around.

In a wide-ranging news conference at the heavily secured UN compound, Eide said he has always been behind a policy of engagement, but has no allusions about the complexities of negotiating peace with Taliban leaders.

He also said he would continue his push for electoral reform following Karzai's decree last week giving the Afghan the authority to appoint members of a formerly independent Electoral Complaints Commission.

The panel, which monitors election fraud, was previously dominated by UN appointees, who uncovered massive fraud in last year's presidential election.

Eide said he met with Karzai yesterday morning to ensure a fairer ballot during parliamentary elections this fall. "We have made some progress for instance with regard to international participation in the Electoral Complaints Commission," Eide said.

He sounded optimistic about the ongoing negotiations but did not provide further details. Eide, a Norwegian diplomat, is stepping down after a two-year tenure marked by a deadly Taliban attack that killed five UN workers at a small hotel in the Afghan capital, Kabul.

His stewardship also was tarnished by allegations from his American deputy, Peter Galbraith, that he was not bullish enough in curbing the fraud in the August presidential election.

Karzai was declared the winner three months later after his last remaining challenger dropped out of a scheduled runoff.

Eide has denied that the election controversy was linked to his decision not to renew his two-year contract.

Syria denies concealing nuclear activities

SYRIA yesterday denied hiding nuclear activities from the world and said Israel was the source of suspicious uranium particles found at a Syrian desert complex bombed two years ago by the Jewish state.

The Syrian comments to the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors were strongly backed by Iran and came in response to Western demands that Damascus stop stonewalling IAEA attempts to investigate suspicions that it ran covert nuclear programs — some with possible weapons applications.

While Iran remains the main focus of the board, Syria's refusal to allow IAEA

inspectors into the country for follow-up visit to sites possibly linked to secret nuclear work was the principal theme of Thursday's closed board meeting.

A recent IAEA report prepared for the board said for the first time that uranium particles found at the desert facility destroyed by Israeli warplanes in September 2007 indicate possible covert nuclear activities at the site.

The finding lent backing to Western allegations that the bombed target was a nearly completed nuclear reactor that Washington says was of North Korean design and meant to making weapons-grade plutonium.

Brother of Sinn Fein leader surrenders to police

POLICE say the brother of Sinn Fein party leader Gerry Adams has surrendered to Irish authorities to face 23 charges of sexually abusing his daughter. Liam Adams walked in to a central Dublin police station yesterday the day after the Irish High Court issued a European-wide warrant for his arrest.

Brazil rebuffs US, says it will go own way on Iran

BRAZIL rebuffed a US appeal for new sanctions on Iran over its nuclear program, vowing during a visit from US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton not to "bow down" to gathering western pressure.

Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva pre-empted Clinton even before she could make the case for new United Nations Security Council penalties.

Silva is an outspoken opponent of sanctions, and his country currently sits on the Security Council, which will be asked to approve its toughest-ever penalties on Iran later this year.

"It is not prudent to push Iran against a wall," Silva told reporters hours before meeting with Clinton. "The prudent thing is to establish negotiations." Clinton told a news conference she respects Brazil's position but thinks if there is any possibility of negotiating with Iran, it would

happen only after a new round of sanctions.

Iran has accelerated its disputed nuclear program in the face of previous U.N. penalties, but the United States and other supporters say a renewed demonstration of world resolve could finally push Iran to the bargaining table.

"The door is open for negotiations. We never slammed it shut," Clinton said. "But we don't see anybody, even in the far-off distance, walking toward it." The Obama administration took office last year pledging to reach out to Iran and make the case that Tehran had more to lose than gain from pressing ahead with nuclear development that much of the world suspects is aimed at building a bomb.

Yet the administration has done an about-face after a frustrating year that saw nuclear gains by Iran with no sign the country is interested in serious talks with Washington.



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DISCLAIMER



The general public, especially traders in AMML-Managed Markets and Neighbourhood Centres/Shopping Complexes in the FCT are hereby informed that Mr. OWEN NWAFOR whose photograph appears above is no longer in the employment of Abuja Markets Management Limited (AMML).

Henceforth, anyone who enters into any AMML-transaction with him does so at his or her own risk.

Signed
Management



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF POWER

FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, PHASE 1 ANNEX III,
MAITAMA - ABUJA

STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP ON POWER

The Hon. Minister of Power **Dr. Lanre Babalola**
cordially invites Stakeholders in the Power Industry in particular and the general public
to a **TWO-DAY WORKSHOP ON POWER**, scheduled as follows:

(i) Date: Monday & Tuesday, 8th and 9th March, 2010
(ii) Time: 9.00 a.m. daily
(iii) Venue: Sheraton Hotel & Towers, Abuja

DAY 1

OPENING SESSION: 8.30 A.M -11.00 A.M

- 8.30 a.m. - All guests are seated
- 8.40 a.m. - Directors and CEOs of Parastatals arrive
- 8.50 a.m. - The Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Power: **Alh. I. B. Sali** arrives.
- 9.15 a.m. - The Honourable Minister of State for Power: **Architect Nuhu Somo Wya** arrives.
- 9.30 a.m. - Arrival of the Honourable Minister of Power: **Dr. Lanre Babalola**.
- 9.35 a.m. - Members of the Federal Executive Council arrive
- 9.40 a.m. - Arrival of Members of the National Assembly
- 9.45 a.m. - National Anthem
- 9.50 a.m. - Opening Prayers
- 9.55 a.m. - Introduction of Members of the High Table by the Master of Ceremony
- 10.00 a.m. - Welcome Remarks by the Honourable Minister of State for Power, **Arc. Nuhu Somo Wya**.
- 10.10 a.m. - Keynote Address by the Honourable Minister of Power: **Dr. Lanre Babalola**
- 10.40 a.m. - Coffee/Tea Break

1ST PLENARY SESSION - 11.00 A.M. -1.00 P.M.

Chairman of Session - **Dr. Tanimu Yakubu**,
Chief Economic Adviser to
Mr. President.

- 11.00-11.20a.m. **1st Paper - Coal to Power by Mrs. Diezani K. Alison-Madueke**,
Minister of Mines & Steel Development.
- 11.20 - 11.40 a.m. **2nd Paper - Power Sector by Dr. Mansur Muhtar**,
Minister of Finance
- 11.40 -12.00 p.m. **3rd Paper - Hydro Power by Dr. Abba Sayyadi Ruma**,
Minister of Agriculture & Water Resources.

12.00 - 1.00 p.m. Discussion/Questions and Answers

2ND PLENARY SESSION: 2.30 - 4.30 P.M.

- Chairman of Session
Dr. Emmanuel Egbogah,
Special Adviser to Mr. President on Petroleum
- 2.30 - 2.50 p.m. **1st Paper - Connecting and Expanding the Grid by Managing Director/CEO, Transmission Company of Nigeria**

- 2.50 - 3.10 p.m. **2nd Paper - Gas**
The Managing Director, Nigerian Gas Company.
- 3.10 - 3.30 p.m. **3rd Paper - Experience of an Independent Power Producer by Dr. Barth Nnaji**,
Chief Executive Officer,
Geometric Power Limited, Aba
- 3.30 - 4.30 p.m. Discussion/Questions and Answers
- 4.30 - 5.00 p.m. Coffee Break

3RD PLENARY SESSION 5.00 - 6.10 P.M

- Chairman of Session:
Engr. Ajibola, FNSE
President, Nigerian Society of Engineers
- 5.00 - 5.20 p.m. **1st Paper - Human Resources & Capacity Development by General Secretary, National Union of Electricity Employees**
- 5.20 - 5.40 p.m. **2nd Paper**
The Role of Union/Government partnership in Power infra structural Development by Secretary-General, Senior Staff Association of Nigeria

DAY 2

4TH PLENARY SESSION: 9.30 - 2.30 P.M.

- Chairman of Session: **Engr. Joseph Makoju**
Special Adviser to Mr. President on Power
- 9.30 - 9.50 a.m. **1st Paper - Tariff Regulation and Licensing by Imam Taiba**, Administrator, NERC
- 9.50 -10.10 a.m. **2nd Paper - Off Taker by Engr. O.C. Akamnonu**
Chief Executive Officer,
Ikeja Distribution Company
- 10.10-10.30a.m. **3rd Paper - Trading Arrangement by Engr. U.S. Achinaya**
Executive Director (Market Operator) PHCN
- 10.30 -11.30 a.m. Discussion/Questions and Answers
- 11.30 - 1.00 p.m. Drafting of Communique (By a Select Group)

CLOSING SESSION 3.00 - 4.00 p.m.

- Chairman of Session:
Dr. Lanre Babalola
Honourable Minister of Power
- 3.0 p.m. - 3.30 p.m. Reading and Adoption of Draft Communique
- 3.30 p.m. - 3.45 p.m. Vote of Thanks
- 4.00 p.m. National Anthem
- 4.01 p.m. Departure

I.B. Sali
Permanent Secretary



KADUNA STATE GOVERNMENT

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SENSITIZATION ON THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS ON-GOING REFORMS OF THE PETROLEUM SECTOR

The Kaduna State Government recently received formal written briefings from the Federal Government, through the Hon. Minister of Finance on the on-going Federal government of Nigeria's commitments and efforts to reform the Petroleum Sector. Towards this purpose, a bill is already before the national Assembly.

2. Notably among the Petroleum Sector Reform agenda is the proposed deregulation of the downstream sector; which will automatically affect the current official prices of petroleum products. The briefings received included the following revelations
 - a) Between the year 2006 and 2009 the Federal Government disbursed N1.61 trillion Naira to subsidize petroleum products Nation-wide. Both Kaduna State Government and its 23 Local Government Councils contributed, rather un-willingly N22,835,001,802 to the subsidy funds. Furthermore, the State and Local Governments have the outstanding sum of N12,479,482,251 to pay in respect of the period 2006 to 2009. For the year 2010, the state government was requested to make budgetary provisions of not less than #20 billion as its contributions to the cost of subsidy for the year 2010.
 - b) The subsidy has caused so many set-backs, among which are:
 - i) Price distortion
 - ii) In-efficiency in Petroleum Management
 - iii) Leakages and loses
 - iv) Massive corruption
 - v) Continuous artificial shortages
 - vii) Importation of bad quality petroleum products,
 - viii) Discouraging investment in the oil sector, thus drastically reducing capacity.
 - c) That eighteen (18) licenses were issued between 2002 2004 to corporate citizens for the establishment of new refineries in Nigeria. To date, none is on stream, due mainly to the subsidy.
 - d) The DPR, with a little over 4000 staff are incapable of monitoring and controlling the over 15,000 filling stations Nation-wide, and still growing phenomenally.
3. The Kaduna State Government studied the submissions and decided to support the Federal Governments reforms agenda of the Petroleum Sub-Sector, including deregulation for many reasons, including:
 - a) a means to stop the colossal deductions of huge funds due to the State to fund the subsidy;
 - b) the negative effect the subsidy, as it is being administered, has on our economy and economic plans and the well being of our citizens. Infact we have no gain what so ever.
 - c) the assurance by the Federal government to invest the subsidy funds to be withdrawn (FGN share) to re-activate the refineries, the railway services, repair our roads, build new ones, invest in the immediate and meaningful revival of industries nationwide, address poverty issues squarely, through viable economic empowerment measures to be incorporated into the National budget and reaching an understanding with the Labour Unions.
4. His Excellency the Governor, Arch. Mohammed Namadi Sambo, FNIA has formed a special sensitization Committee to inform and enlighten the general public, and to seek for their understanding, support and active contributions. This advert is the beginning of the campaign, which will soon reach all corners of the State.
5. Please give us your audience and objective contributions, to enable the government contribute appropriately to the Petroleum Sector Reform Agenda.

Signed:
(HABIB B. YAKUBU)
Committee Chairman
3rd March, 2010.



YOBE STATE GOVERNMENT

Address By His Excellency the Executive Governor of Yobe State, Alhaji Ibrahim Gaidam FNCA, CPA at the Reception to Mark His Victory at the Supreme Court Held at the August 27th, Stadium on Tuesday 23RD February, 2010

Bismillahi-Rahmanir-Rahim

PROTOCOLS

Ladies and Gentlemen

I am indeed humbled by the teeming supporters and mammoth crowd of well wishers who have come from within and outside the State to celebrate with us the confirmation by the Supreme Court on Friday, 19th February, 2010 of the mandate given to me by the good people of Yobe State as their duly nominated and elected Governor.

2. Today we are celebrating victory for our great party, the ANPP, victory for democracy, the rule of law and for the electorate who voted for us in the April 14th, 2007 gubernatorial election. While welcoming you to this important occasion, I thank the Almighty Allah (SWT) for His favour that came our way on a blessed Friday.

3. As we celebrate the Supreme Court's dismissal of the application by Senator Usman Albishir for extension of time to appeal, I wish to take this opportunity to recall how a simple intra party disagreement transformed into a protracted legal tussle. As you are aware, on the 13th February, 2007 our great party, the ANPP guided by the indictment of Senator Usman Albishir by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) substituted him with Senator Mamman Ali as its gubernatorial candidate and my humble self as his running mate. When all attempts to get the concerned parties to accept the change in good faith failed, the aggrieved Senator filed a suit in the Federal High Court, Maiduguri challenging his substitution. In its ruling, the Court struck out the suit citing lack of jurisdiction to entertain it. In addition to the case filed before the Gubernatorial Election Petition Tribunal in Yobe State challenging our election which we also won, the legal battle continued and took us to Federal High Court in Kaduna, Courts of Appeal in Kaduna and Jos, and the Supreme Court twice over a period of three (3) years.

4. Now that the case has ended, I would like to commend the people of Yobe State and all our friends and well wishers for the support, cooperation, goodwill, prayers and sacrifice throughout the long process of litigation. It is not possible to mention all those who contributed to our success because they are too numerous. However, I should acknowledge the roles played by our Party Executives, Elders, Women and Youth at the National, State, Local Government and Ward levels. Our legal team led by Mr. Yusuf Ali SAN also deserves commendation for its focus, patience but most importantly, the sound professional advice it gave throughout the legal processes. Similarly, we should also pray for the repose of some of our compatriots with whom we started this struggle but are no more with us as they have answered the call of the Almighty. May Almighty Allah (SWT) have mercy on the Late Governor Senator Mamman Ali and all our colleagues who passed away and grant them Aljanna Firdausi as their eternal abode. Though they are not here to celebrate with us, our victory on Friday is a glowing tribute to them and a clear testimony that their efforts were not in vain.

5. Your Excellency, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, the conclusion of the legal case is a challenge to us to continue the work the present administration has started. Politics is all about the administration of public affairs, the management of resources, the preservation of peace, protection of the rights of citizens and the improvement of their morals. It is therefore about service to the people. To my mind, this was what the former Premier of the Northern

Region, Sir Ahmadu Bello, the Sardauna of Sokoto meant when he said and I quote:-

"I am not unaware that I have often been a controversial figure..... but the views of others have never made me deviate from the path which I am certain is the one which will benefit my people and country. I have always based my actions on my inward convictions, on my conscience and the dictates of my religion".

In another speech on the unification of the North, he was also quoted to have said:-

"Here in Northern Nigeria, we have people of many different races, tribes and religion who are knit together to common history, common interest and common ideas, the things that unite us are stronger than the things that divide us".



His Excellency,
Gov Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State

6. Coming down to our situation in Yobe State, we should strive to appreciate some of the Late Sardauna's legacies which include a principled and selfless leadership style which puts the general rather than the personal interest first in the conduct of public affairs. We must also imbibe the spirit of prudent, transparent, honest and accountable use of our resources. Our administration will continue to welcome constructive ideas so that our collective decisions will move the State forward. Yobe is known for its relative peace and the unity of its people. Rather than engage in promoting ethnic or political divisions, our focus now should be to bring development to our people and improve their conditions of living. It is only then they would appreciate democracy more, and be convinced that they made the right choice. The politics we need is the type the President of the United States of America Barack Obama describes as "the politics of hope".

7. Let me say that we should be magnanimous in victory. As I indicated earlier, the legal battle which ended on Friday was as a result of disagreement among members of the ANPP family in Yobe State. Though we are the victorious side, we do not see our new situation in terms of the "Victor" and the "Vanquished".

We are not angry with our aggrieved colleagues for taking us to various Courts. We see their action as an exercise of their fundamental rights as provided by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Our doors are open and we hope they will take advantage of that to resume their roles as faithful and loyal members of our great party, the ANPP, so that the process of re-unification and consolidation of the party structure in the

State could be completed within the shortest time possible. All aggrieved party members who have a genuine desire for reconciliation therefore, have nothing to fear. Let me remind them of the saying of a former Prime Minister of England, Sir Winston Churchill that "in war you can only be killed once, but in politics, many times". They should put everything behind them and contribute towards building the party and the State. A high powered Committee of prominent and respectable political leaders will soon be constituted to embark on the reconciliation programme.

8. In this regard, I am glad to note that our sincerity of purpose, sense of fair play and respect for the rule of law have been acknowledged by the aggrieved members in a paid advertorial in the Daily Trust of Thursday 18th February, 2010 at page 32 and I quote:-

"We must also say that the sitting government of Yobe State has in recent times shown some level of democratic culture in which tensions previously shared amongst citizens with contrasting views has been doused even though these views still exist. This is nonetheless healthy for our people to enjoy their rights of association and this deserves some applause".

9. However, I must sound a note of caution. This spirit and gesture of reconciliation should not be misunderstood to mean weakness or taken as an opportunity to continue with mischief and lawlessness. It should be obvious that rancor and breach of peace are not what our people need and will therefore not be condoned. As the Chief Security Officer of the State, I have a responsibility to ensure security of lives and property. Any attempt to test our will through unruly behavior shall be dealt with appropriately by law enforcement agencies in accordance with the law.

10. Before I end my speech, I wish to say that it is with a deep sense of humility that I accept the endorsement as the gubernatorial candidate of our great party, the ANPP in the 2011 elections in Yobe State. This endorsement of my candidature is a measure of the confidence the people of Yobe State have in me and the policies and programmes of our administration.

May I therefore, express my appreciation to some of our National Assembly members, the Honourable Speaker, Deputy Speaker, other Principal Officers and Honourable Members of the State House of Assembly, Party Executives and indeed all stakeholders in our Party, for graciously endorsing me to fly the flag of the ANPP. I wish to assure you all that we will Insha-Allah justify the confidence reposed in us. I call on our Party members to close rank and work hard towards realizing our dreams in the 2011 general elections.

11. In conclusion, I wish to commend the judiciary for its principled stance on the entrenchment of the rule of law in our Nation. While dedicating our victory to the glory of God, and the good people of Yobe State, I wish you all journey mercies to your respective destinations and homes. Please remember that Yobe State must unite and forge ahead.

I thank you for your attention and God bless us all.

Assalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Ta'ala
Wabarakatuhu

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
ON FRIDAY THE 19TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2010
BEFORE THEIR LORDSHIPS**

DAHIRU MUSDAPHERJUSTICE SUPREME COURTGEORGE ADESOLA OGUNTADEJUSTICE SUPREME COURTFRANCIS FEDODE TABAIJUSTICE SUPREME COURTIBRAHIM TANKO MUHAMMADJUSTICE SUPREME COURTOLUFUNLOLA OYELOLA ADEKEYEJUSTICE SUPREME COURT

SC 133/2009

BETWEEN

ALL NIGERIAN PEOPLES PARTY

APPELLANT

AND

1. SENATOR USMAN ALBISHIR)

2. INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL)

RESPONDENTS

COMMISSION)

JUDGMENT(Delivered by George Adesola Oguntade, JSC)

This appeal challenges the propriety of the order made by the Court of Appeal, Jos (hereinafter referred to as 'the court below') on 8-04-09. The 1st respondent before this Court Senator Usman Albishir was the applicant before the court below where he sought three principal reliefs which read:

1. An order extending the time within which to seek leave to appeal against the ruling of Hon. Justice Adamu Hobon of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri in Suit No. FHC/MG/CS/08/07 between Senator Usman Albishir v. Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) & Anor. which said Ruling was delivered on 21st February, 2007.
2. An order granting leave to the Appellant to appeal against the ruling of Hon. Justice Adamu Hobon of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri in Suit No. FHC/MG/CS/08/07 between Senator Usman Albishir v. Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) & Anor. which said Ruling was delivered on 21st February, 2007.
3. An order extending the time within which to appeal against the ruling of Hon. Justice Adamu Hobon of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri in Suit No. FHC/MG/CS/08/07 between Senator Usman Albishir v. Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) & Anor. which said Ruling was delivered on 21st February, 2007.

In the concluding paragraph of the ruling granting the application, the court below at page 59 of the record said:

"The application having duly satisfied both conditions of order 7 rule 10(2) of the Rules this court, I have no hesitation in granting it which in my opinion is meritorious. Time is hereby enlarged within which the applicant is to appeal against the Ruling of the Federal High Court Maiduguri delivered on 27th February, 2007. Applicant has seven days (7) from today to file his Notice of Appeal."

The appellant, All Nigerian Peoples Party was dissatisfied with the ruling of the court below. It brought this appeal against it on three grounds of appeal. In the appellant's

brief filed, the issue for determination in the appeal was stated to be:

"Whether the court below was right having regard to the facts and circumstances of this case and the extant law to have granted extension of time to the 1st respondent to appeal to the court below on the ruling of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri delivered on 21st February, 2007 in Suit No: FHC/MG/CS/08/07 when he failed totally to meet the conjunctive requirements as set out in the Court of Appeal Rules".

This appeal raises the necessity to consider the applicability and effect of Order 7 rule 10(2) of the Court of Appeal Rules which provides:

"Every application for an enlargement of time within which to appeal shall be supported by an affidavit setting forth good and substantial reasons for failure to appeal within the prescribed period, and by grounds of appeal which *prima facie* show good cause why the appeal should be heard. When time is so enlarged, a copy of the order granting such enlargement shall be annexed to the Notice of Appeal".

The above provision of the Court of Appeal Rules has come before this court for consideration in multiplicity of cases such that its applicability or interpretation although being constantly done against the background of varying facts, should not be problematic. What then are the facts in this case?

The 1st respondent as applicant had, on 25th /08/2008, brought his application for extension of time to appeal. He deposed in paragraphs 3 to 26 and 31 of the affidavit in support of the application thus:

3. That I filed this suit at Federal High Court, Maiduguri, challenging the Respondents' move to remove my name as the *bonafide* Gubernatorial Candidate of the 2nd Respondent herein in the April 14th 2007 Gubernatorial Election in Yobe State having won the 2nd Respondent's Gubernatorial Primaries in Yobe State.

Attached hereto as **Exhibit A** is a copy of the letter dated the 17th day of December, 2006 by the second Respondent nominating me as its candidate for the said election.

4. That pursuant to the submission of my name as aforesaid I was invited for screening by First Respondent herein and after considering all complaints against my candidature the said Respondent cleared me to contest the said election. Attached hereto as **Exhibit B** is a copy of the First Respondent's letter dated the 13th day of February, 2007.
5. That in a letter purportedly dated the 13th day of February, 2007 the second respondent herein without giving a cogent and verifiable reason or any reason at all purported to substitute me as its candidate for the said election. Attached hereto as **Exhibit C** is a copy of the said letter.
6. That on filing the said suit, I also filed an application for an interim order of injunction as well as a Motion on Notice for an order of interlocutory injunction to restrain the Respondents from removing my name as the *bonafide* Gubernatorial Candidate of the 2nd Respondent in Yobe State for the election aforesaid.
7. That the learned trial judge while delivering ruling on the said interim application for injunction *suo motu* raised the issue of jurisdiction and without calling on any party to address him on the jurisdictional issue so raised by him proceeded to hold that he lacked the jurisdiction to entertain the suit and consequently struck it out. The said ruling of the trial court is attached hereto as **Exhibit D**.
8. That at the time of the ruling my solicitor, Dr. Izinyon was not readily available.
9. That in view of the time constraint given that the election was fast approaching I instructed on Haruna Mshelia Esq. a legal practitioner based in Maiduguri to file an appeal in the name of my said Solicitor Dr. Alex Izinyon, SAN. A copy of the said Notice of Appeal is attached hereto as **Exhibit E**.
10. The **Exhibit E** was filed within time in February, 2007
11. That due to communication breakdown as well as the immense tension and political pressures I found myself in during that period I was not able to inform my solicitor about my instruction to Mr. Mshelia on time.
12. That on hearing about the Notice of Appeal filed in his name by Mr. Mshelia, Dr. Izinyon wrote the lower court denouncing the said Notice of Appeal.
13. That in his bid to carry out the instruction I gave him, Mr. Mshelia Signed the Notice of Appeal without putting his name on the Notice of Appeal.
14. That all along I had been advised by my Solicitors that I have a valid appeal.
15. That also relying on the instruction of one of my Solicitors Musa Tende Esq. I came to believe that I could file another action at the Federal High Court since the Maiduguri case was struck out as opposed to being dismissed.
16. That relying on the said advice I instructed Musa Tende Esq. to commence another action at the Federal High Court and he consequently filed suit No: FHC/KD/CS 42/2007.
17. That in the said Kaduna case the First Respondent in its defence also found and relied heavily on **Exhibit C** purportedly written by the Second Respondent allegedly substituting me. Attached hereto as **Exhibit F** is a certified (sic).....
18.
19.
20.
25. That I am very desirous of pursuing this appeal which was against the ruling of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri.
26. That I verily believe that it will take an inordinately long period of time to prepare the record of appeal at the trial

court's registry."

27.
 28.
 30. That the failure to file the Notice of Appeal within time was not out of disrespect to this Honorable Court but rather due to the various advice aforesaid as a result of which I was under the mistaken impression that I had a valid Appeal.
- The appellant, who was the 2nd respondent before the court below deposed to a counter-affidavit. Paragraphs 3 to 15 of the said counter-affidavit read thus:
- "3. That a copy of the applicant's motion dated 25th August, 2008 was passed on to me by the Secretary of the 2nd Respondent, Senator Saidu Kumo, with a firm directive that I react and/ or respond to same.
 4. That I have gone through the said motion together with the affidavit in support of same and the attached exhibits and perfectly understand the content thereof.
 5. That I know as a fact that paragraph 4, 5, 7, 8, 20, 24, 26, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33 and 34 of the affidavit in support of the said motions are untrue.
 6. That in reaction to paragraph 5 of the applicant's affidavit, I know as a fact:
 - (i) That Senator Mamman B. Ali was the duly nominated gubernatorial candidate of the 2nd Respondent for the election of 14th April, 2007 and he won the said election as the Governor of Yobe State.
 - (ii) That the applicant commenced an action before the Federal High Court, Maiduguri which action was duly struck out for want of jurisdiction on 21st February, 2007.
 - (iii) That the applicant who initially appealed against the striking out of his case later withdrew the appeal vide his counsel's letter of 24th February, 2007, a copy of which is now shown to me and attached herewith and marked as Exhibit ANPP1.
 - (iv) That in further repudiation of the said appeal, the Applicant herein again wrote another letter through his lead counsel disclaiming the Notice of Appeal and asking that the Court record be wiped clear of same. Now shown to me and attached herewith and marked Exhibit ANPPII is a copy of the said letter.
 7. That I know as a fact that the withdrawal of the initial Notice of Appeal and/or disclaimer of same by the applicant was a deliberate choice and/or option, going by exhibits ANPPI and II
 8. That I know as a fact that the applicant before withdrawing the said appeal filed another action before the Federal High Court, Kaduna to press for the same reliefs which was the subject of the case before the Federal High Court, Maiduguri that became the subject of his appeal to the Court of Appeal, Jos Division.
 9. That I know as a fact that the applicant has been moving from one court to the other pressing for the same reliefs on the same subject matter.
 10. That I know as a fact that the applicant had equally lost his attempt to press his claim afresh before the Federal High, Kaduna in preference for his appeal before this Honourable Court.
 11. That I know as a fact that this present application is a further forum shopping exercise by the applicant

- who has met a brick-wall in his preferred choice or option of relitigating the Federal High Court's decision.
12. That I know as a fact that the applicant is now using the processes of the courts to annoy, irritate, distract and embarrass the 2nd Respondent.
 13. That I know as a fact that the present application is a gross abuse of the processes of this Honourable court.
 14. That I know as a fact that there is no urgency of any kind in this case which is an ordinary civil case that can wait its turn in the registry of the court.
 15. That I know as a fact that any purported urgency in this case is self induced by the applicant who has been inconsistent in his choice of forum and has traversed all the superior courts of record including the Governorship Election Petition Tribunal of Yobe State.

(Underlining mine)

Each of the 1st respondent and the appellant annexed documentary exhibits to their affidavit and counter affidavits before the court below. I shall have cause to reproduce extracts from some of the said exhibits in the course of this judgment. The court below at page 517 of its ruling stated thus.

"In the present case, I am satisfied from the facts deposed to in the supporting affidavit that it discloses good and substantial reasons why the applicant failed to File his notice of appeal within the time prescribed by law. Hence the applicant in my opinion has satisfied the first requirement of Order 7 rule 10(2) of the Rules of this court"

In its ruling, before coming to the conclusion reproduced immediately above, the court below at pages 515-517 of the record had said:

"In the present case, the trial court gave its decision on 21st February, 2007 but Applicant filed his Notice of Appeal against the said decision on 25th August, 2008 after a period of eighteen months.

The applicant stated reasons for the delay in bringing the application in paragraphs 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25 and 31 of the affidavit in support. The said paragraphs are hereby adumbrated as follows:

18. That relying on advice of solicitors I all along verily believed that I had a valid appeal against the decision I am now appealing against.
19. That it was only recently that this Honourable Court held in Motion No. CA/J/157M/2008 that the said appeal filed on my behalf by Mr. Mshelia was invalid. Attached hereto is a certified true copy of the said decision of this Honourable court marked as **EXHIBIT G**
20. That I could not file another appeal immediately after delivery of the decision in EXHIBIT G because my Solicitor Dr. Alex Izinyon was out of the country and I was afraid to repeat the mistakes that led to the invalidation of the previous appeal.
21. That I also had to travel abroad on an extended trip for medical checkup and I just came back into the country.
22. That my failure to file another appeal immediately after the decision in EXHIBIT G is not out of disrespect to this Honourable Court but rather due to the reasons deposed to in the preceding paragraphs.
24. That when on 22nd August, 2008 when Dr. Alex Izinyon (SAN) returned to the country, he informed me in his chambers at Wuse Zone 6, and I verily believed him that a fresh application should be brought to this Honourable

court rather than an appeal hence this application.

25. That I am desirous of pursuing this appeal which was against the ruling of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri.
31. That the failure to file the Notice of Appeal within time was not out of disrespect to this Honourable Court but rather due to the various advice aforesaid as a result of which I was under mistaken impression that I had a valid Appeal.

The applicant stated as part of his reason for failure to file the Notice of Appeal the various advices he received from his counsel resulting in his mistake impression that he had a valid appeal.

It has been argued by counsel to the Respondents that the blunders, ill advice, misadventure or short coming of counsel resulting in wrong and/or defective professional decision of counsel should not be a reason to be considered in granting an application for enlargement of time to file an appeal. Learned senior counsel for the 2nd Respondent said that it is a clear exception to the general principle that inadvertence or sin of counsel will not be visited on the litigant."

Put simply, the court below in its ruling accepted as a good and sufficient reason for extension of time to appeal the explanation given by the 1st respondent that he believed he had a valid appeal in court until the Court of Appeal, Jos in appeal No. CA/J/157M/2008 on 17/07/08 vide exhibit 'G' ruled that he had no appeal and that he was then prompted to bring his present application.

I am, speaking frankly, very much disturbed by the approach of the court below to this application. The court below has by its reasoning trivialised the importance and necessity to comply with time-frame for brining an appeal. The Court of Appeal, a creation of the 1999 Constitution of Nigeria must not inhibit a citizen a right of appeal as conferred by the 1999 Constitution. On the other hand, the court must not convey to a litigant the impression that the Court of Appeal Act which creates a time-frame for brining an appeal is irrelevant and inapplicable as to the time frame for the exercise of a right of appeal. The Court of Appeal has a duty to ensure that a would-be appellant who has grounds of appeal which *prima facie* show good cause why the appeal should be heard is not denied his right under the 1999 Constitution. Indeed, the court must encourage such litigant where it is satisfied that the right of appeal is being pursued in good faith.

Having said the above it is equally important that an applicant who has not shown by affidavit "good and substantial reason for failure to appeal within the prescribed period" and good grounds of appeal must not be granted such favour or the leave of the Court of Appeal to appeal out of time.

In *Nigerian Airports Authority v. Chief Dick Celestine Okoro* [1995]6 NWLR (Pt. 403) at 510-524, this Court considering an appeal on the grant of extension of time to appeal observed: "An appeal court will not interfere with the exercise of discretion by a lower court when such a discretion has been exercised judicially. It is only when the lower court exercised the discretion upon a wrong principle or mistake of law or under a misapprehension of the facts or has taken into account irrelevant matters or on the ground that injustice could arise or has arisen that the appeal court will interfere-*Kudoro v. Alaka* [1956] 1 SCNLR 225, *Enekebe v. Enekebe* [1964] 1 All NLR 102; *Saffiedine v. C.O.P* (1965) 1 All NLR 54; *Odusote v. Odusote* (1971) 1 All NLR 229; *State v. Gali* (1974) 5 SC. 67; *Awani v. Erejuwa II* (1976) 11 SC. 307; *Omadide v. Adajero* (1976) 12 SC. 87; *Demuren v. Asuni* (1967) 1 All NLR 101 (Reprint); *Ntukidem v. Oko* (1986) 5 NWLR (Pt. 45) 909."

The crucial question which the court below ought to have taken into account is whether or not the reason for failure by the 1st respondent to appeal within the prescribed time could have been true. When it is demonstrably shown that the reason or excuse upon which an applicant for extension of time has premised his application is false or untrue or unreasonable, such reason or explanation could not be accepted under Order

7 rule 10(2) of the Court of Appeal Rules.

In paragraph 8 of the counter-affidavit before the court below, the appellant (who was the 1st respondent) deposed thus:

"That I know as a fact that the applicant before withdrawing the said appeal filed another action before the Federal High Court, Kaduna to press for the same reliefs which was the subject of the case before the Federal High Court Maiduguri that became the subject of his appeal to the Court of Appeal, Jos Division"

The question that must follow is this. Was it true that the 1st respondent had brought a suit before the Federal High Court Kaduna which was the same or similar to the suit struck out by the Federal High Court Maiduguri in respect of which the 1st respondent brought his present application for extension of time?

The court below had before it the judgment of the Court of Appeal, Kaduna delivered on 13-3-2007. The said judgment set out the questions which the 1st respondent wanted the Federal High Court Kaduna to determine and the reliefs which the 1st respondent was seeking thus:

- "1. Whether having regard to the combined effect of the provisions of Section 36, 177 and 182 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and Section 34 of the Electoral Act, 2006 (as amended) the 2nd defendant can without giving any reason whatsoever change the candidature-ship of the plaintiffs as earlier submitted as the gubernatorial flag bearer/running mate for Yobe State in the April 2007 general elections.
2. Whether having regard to Section 36 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 and Section 34(2) of the Electoral Act 2006 (as amended) whether without giving any reason at all the 1st defendant can accept any change or substitution with any other person whatsoever.

They also sought the following reliefs from the court upon the determination of the above questions:

1. A declaration that the plaintiffs having been lawfully nominated and their candidature accepted by the 1st defendant, they are entitled to fair hearing as to any reason given by the 2nd defendant for their replacement or substitution by any other person.
2. A declaration that the 1st defendant cannot change the plaintiffs as its gubernatorial candidate/running mate for the April, 2007 gubernatorial election in Yobe State without giving any cogent reason.
3. A declaration that the 1st defendant cannot accept any replacement or substitution of the plaintiffs by any person whatsoever without the 2nd defendant giving any cogent reason.
4. A declaration that the failure of the 1st and 2nd defendants to give the plaintiffs an opportunity to defend themselves for by (sic) reason given amounts to denial of fair hearing.
5. An order setting aside any substitution whatsoever made by the 2nd defendant to the 1st defendant as the gubernatorial candidate/running mate in Yobe State.
6. An order of injunction restraining the defendant, their agents or servants from tampering with or doing anything whatsoever to the names or otherwise of the plaintiffs as already verified and cleared as the gubernatorial candidate/running mate for Yobe State in the April, 2007 general election."

In paragraphs 3 to 7 of the affidavit filed by the 1st respondent which I reproduced earlier in this judgment, the 1st respondent deposed to the nature of his claim before the Federal High Court Maiduguri and how it was struck out. At the Court of Appeal, Kaduna, the appellant in contending that 1st respondent's suit

was an abuse of the process of court raised objection to the assumption of jurisdiction of the Federal High Court, Kaduna over the Suit. The Court of Appeal, Kaduna in its judgment on 13-07-2007 concluded thus:

"Now in the Maiduguri case, the learned trial judge held that he had no jurisdiction to hear and determine the action. It is a court of concurrent jurisdiction with the Federal High Court, Kaduna which heard the case on its merits. Once the court had held that it had no jurisdiction to hear the case, a court of concurrent jurisdiction could not then entertain it. The only option open to the aggrieved party was to appeal against the decision. See: *Abubakar v. Bebeji Oil and Allied Products Ltd. & Ors*, 9(2007) 2 S.C.N.J 170 at 202; *N.D.E.C v. S.B.N Plc* (2003) 1 NWLR (801) 311.

Indeed the 1st respondent promptly filed a notice of appeal against the decision. To have subsequently instituted another action before the same Federal High Court sitting in another division for the same reliefs while the appeal was still pending, in my humble view, was an attempt to interfere with the due administration of justice by overreaching the Court of Appeal sitting in Jos. I am also of the view that the institution of the suit before the Federal High Court, Kaduna was done *male fide*. I therefore hold that the institution of the proceeding before the Federal High Court, Kaduna amounted to an abuse of process and the said court ought not to have entertained it. The second issue for determination is accordingly resolved in favour of the appellant.

The effect of my findings in respect of issues 1 and 2 is that the learned trial judge lacked jurisdiction to entertain the suit before him. In the circumstances I am of the view that a consideration of the third issue for determination would amount to an academic exercise.

In conclusion therefore the appeal succeeds and is hereby allowed. The judgment of the Federal High Court in suit No. FHC/K/CS/42/2007 per Liman J. delivered on 19/3/07 is hereby set aside. The suit is accordingly struck out for lack of jurisdiction. Cost of N10, 000.00 are awarded in favour of the appellant against the 1st and 2nd respondents. I make no order for costs against the 3rd and 4th respondents".
(Underlining mine)

The position we now have may be summarized thus;

1. The 1st respondent filed a suit at the Federal High Court, Maiduguri on 21/02/07 contending that he was improperly substituted as the Appellant's Governorship candidate for the 2007 Governorship election in Yobe State.
2. On 21st February, 2007, the said suit was struck out by the Federal High Court, Maiduguri.
3. On 22nd February, 2007, the 1st respondent filed a Notice of Appeal against the order striking out his suit by the Federal High Court Maiduguri.
4. On 24-02-07, the chambers of Haruna Mshelia & Co. wrote to the Registrar of the Federal High Court, withdrawing the Notice of Appeal filed on behalf of the 1st respondent on 22/02/2007.
5. On 23/02/07, the 1st respondent filed an originating summons before the Federal High Court Kaduna claiming similar reliefs as he claimed at the Maiduguri Federal High Court which said reliefs were struck out on 21-02-07.
6. On 19-03-07, the Federal High Court granted all the reliefs claimed by 1st respondent on the originating summons.7. Dissatisfied, the then Governor of Yobe State, Senator Mamman Ali (now deceased) brought an appeal before the Court of Appeal, Kaduna.

I reproduced earlier the excerpts of the judgment of the Court of Appeal, Kaduna wherein the judgment of the

Federal High Court, Kaduna was set aside as an abuse of court process. From what I have said above, it is manifestly clear that the 1st respondent in order to be able to initiate a new action at the Federal High Court, Kaduna and in order to render nugatory the order of the Federal High Court, Maiduguri consciously and deliberately withdrew the appeal which he caused to be filed on 21/02/07. How else could he have proceeded with the suit at the Federal High Court, Kaduna if there remained pending at the Court of Appeal, Jos an appeal which he caused to be filed. The Court of Appeal, Kaduna saw through the manipulations of the judicial process which the 1st respondent indulged in. But regularly the court below did not. Rather the court below at page 516 of the record reasoned thus:

"The applicant stated as part of his reason for failure to file the Notice of Appeal the various advices he received from his counsel resulting in his mistaken impression that he had a valid appeal.

It has been argued by the counsel that the blunders, ill advise, misadventure or short-coming of counsel resulting in wrong and/or defective professional decision of counsel should not be a reason to be considered in granting our application for enlargement of time to file an appeal. Learned Senior Counsel for the 2nd respondent that it is a clear exception to the general principle that inadvertence or sin of counsel will not be visited on the litigant."

I think otherwise. The truth of this matter is that the 1st respondent and his counsel chose to abuse the administration of justice. Why would the 1st respondent whose case was struck out at the Federal High Court, Maiduguri go to the Federal High Court, Kaduna to seek reliefs which he did not get in the Maiduguri Federal High Court? As it turned out, he got a favorable judgment at the Federal High Court, Kaduna. If the Court of Appeal, Kaduna and this court which affirmed the judgment of the Court of Appeal, Kaduna had not seen through the games which the 1st respondent played with the administration of justice, he would have got his way. The same 1st respondent now says he wants to appeal out of time and ascribes as his excuse the explanation that he received conflicting advice from counsel.

The relief derivable under Order 7 Rule 10 of the Court of Appeal Rules is only available to persons who through inadvertence or some importunity are unable to promptly file their appeals within the time frame set under the Court of Appeal Act. It is not created as an alternative route of appeal to persons who have tried and failed through other procedures. It is not for gamblers or speculators. Surely if the Court of Appeal, Kaduna had not in its prudence allowed the appeal against the order made by the Federal High Court Kaduna, the 1st respondent would not have come back to seek extension of time to appeal before the court below. In other words, the 1st respondent was intent on using the court below as a back-up or last resort in the event he failed in his gamble. See *Kotoye v. Saraki* (1995) 5 NWLR (Part 395) 256. The reasoning of the court below that the 1st respondent was unable to appeal within time because of the ill advise or blunders of counsel is grossly untenable. Rather, the 1st respondent had consciously and deliberately adopted a course of action which turned out in the end to be wrong or unrewarding.

In *Ikenta Best (Nig) Ltd. V. A. G. Rivers State* (2008) 6 NWLR (Pt. 1084) 612 at 642; this Court per Tobi JSC said:

"As it is, rule 4(2) provides for two conjunctive conditions for enlargement of time to appeal. They are good and substantial reasons and the grounds of appeal *prima facie* showing good cause. I want to say again that the two conditions are conjunctive not disjunctive. This means that the two conditions must be present in the affidavit or proved by the applicant.

The reasons must be good. In other words, the reasons must possess the quality that is satisfactory, favourable, useful or suitable to the application. The reasons must not be bad in the sense that they are unacceptable. Substantial reasons are essential, material and important reasons. Reasons which are peripheral or dance around the periphery strangely cannot suffice. The pendulum should weigh in favour of granting the application and not just enough to balance the weight or on an even keel.

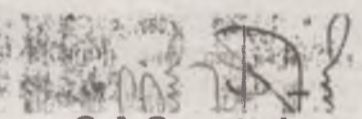
Grounds of appeal... The mirror through which the court takes a peep at the appeal. Although grounds of appeal are not barometers for the initial determination of the strength of the appeal, they provide some useful information, even if speculatively on the likely trend or outcome of the appeal. As the first point of contact with the appeal, the grounds of appeal should, at the first sight of the appellate judge or on their face, show good cause why the appeal should be heard. And here good cause means good reason. It should be emphasized that the good reason is for the hearing of the appeal and not that the appeal will succeed. No. That will be jumping the gun. At the stage of considering an application for extension of time to appeal, the court is concerned with the strength of the grounds of appeal and not with the success of the appeal.

What was the reason given for the inability or failure to appeal within time? The resin is deposed to on paragraph 10 of the affidavit in support and it is 'because successive Attorneys-General felt that not being the party to a contract between the plaintiff and West Africa glass Industries Plc, the 1st defendant/respondent, that liability was exclusively that of the 1st defendant/respondent.....'

Is that a good reason? The answer is 'No'. How can Attorneys-General, first law officers of the state and leaders of the States Bar and expert of the law, not able to take a decision on the law of contract? Attorneys-General know better than that or should know better than that. I entirely agree with the minority ruling of Ikongbeh, JCA. See also *Oladele v. Aromolaran II* (1991) 3 NWLR (Pt. 181) 654 at 569 570

It is a correct statement that in the exercise of the power to grant extension of time to appeal, the court is called upon to exercise discretion. The grant of extension of time ought not be done if the excuse offered is patently untrue or crafted to gain an undue advantage as in this case. In this appeal the 1st respondent has made appearances in virtually all the courts including the election tribunals, Federal High Courts Kaduna and Maiduguri, Courts of Appeal, Jos and Kaduna and finally this Court. He now seeks to be allowed to re-route and go back to the Court of Appeal, Jos.

It is with respect that the court below ought not to have granted the 1st respondent the satisfaction that he succeeded in fooling everybody. This appeal has immense merit. The application by 1st respondent for extension of time to appeal ought to have been dismissed. It is accordingly dismissed. The appeal is allowed with N50, 000.000 costs in favour of the appellant against the 1st respondent.


G.A Oguntade
Justice, Supreme Court

Mr. Yusuf Ali S.A.N (Mr. A.O. Adelodun, Dr. Egbewole, Abu Adamu, K.K Eleja, S.A Oke, M. Abdullahi, Etukwu Onah, B.E Offione, N.N. Adegboye, Murtar Abubakar, Alex Akoja with him) for the appellant.

Dr. Alex A. Izinyon, SAN (D.D Dodo SAN, Dr. Akin Onigbinde, I.N Ambule, Esq., S.A Yelwa, Esq., M.S Shuaibu, Esq., Haruna Albishir, Esq., B.K Abu, Esq., P.M. Ayam, Esq., F.O Izinyon, Esq., Festus Jumbo, Esq., Umar Bukar Gana, Esq., Ejovi Oghojafor, Esq., Alaci John, Esq., Tehemba Gbashima, Kaduna Penzin with him) for the 1st Respondent.

Mr. Wole Adebayo (Messrs Chuka Ugwu and Haiifa Kafo with him) for the 2nd Respondent.

0809

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0818



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IT IS TIME TO FELICITATE WITH OUR OWN, THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR OF KWARA STATE, THE TURAKI OF ILORIN, CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNOR'S FORUM ON THE RECENT AWARD BY THIS DAY NEWSPAPER AS 2010 "EMERGING TIGER" HELD ON SATURDAY 20TH FEBRUARY, 2010.

THIS AWARD AND OTHERS DID NOT COME TO US AS A SURPRISE CONSIDERING YOUR EXCELLENCY'S LEADERSHIP QUALITIES, ADMINISTRATIVE PROWESS, POLITICAL MASTERY, FLAIR FOR JUSTICE AND FAIRNESS AND SENSITIVITY TO THE NEED OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE IN PARTICULAR AND THE COUNTRY IN GENERAL.

YOUR EXCELLENCY'S LOVE FOR THE ELECTORATE INSPITE OF PARTY AFFILIATIONS AND DIFFERENCES HAS NATURALLY POSITIONED YOUR EXCELLENCY AS A GIFTED LEADER OF OUR STATE.

WE, THE STATE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS HAPPILY REJOICE WITH YOU. AND WISH YOUR EXCELLENCY MORE GRACE TO YOUR ELBOWS SIR.

HIS EXCELLENCY, (DR.) BUKOLA SARAHI THE EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, KWARA STATE

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SECRETARY TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT, KWARA STATE

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



A refinery

'Kaduna refinery produces 14m litres'

From Mohammed Shosanya Lagos, Hamisu Muhammad, Abuja & Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE Kaduna Refining and Petrochemicals Company (KRPC) has produced 14.989 million litres of Premium Motor Spirit and evacuated by 454 trucks between 19 February and March 2, Managing Director of the Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company, Mr. B Ayodele said.

Similarly, 6 million litres of House Hold Kerosene (HHK) has since been produced and evacuated by 184 trucks, another 12 million litres of Automotive Gas Oil (AGO) has been produced and evacuated by 411 trucks, while 13 million litres of Low Pour Fuel Oil (LPFO) has been produced.

The refinery that has been down for several months began operation last two weeks.

Daily Trust reporter who went to the refinery in Kaduna to investigate whether oil are being lifted reports that trucks were seen loading fuel at the loading bay, and workers as well were seen doing their works in the production units.

Independent Marketers association of

Nigeria (IPMAN) official confirmed yesterday that there is an ongoing massive loading of oil in the refinery which began on Monday. IPMAN's media officer Danladi Fasali said most of the refined products from the Kaduna refinery were moved to Abuja to ease the scarcity.

Nigeria produces 2.5 million barrel of crude oil per day, out of which 30 million litres of Premium Motor Sprit or petrol are required for local consumption.

The current 30 million litres demand is equivalent to 600,000 barrels of crude to be refined. But on the contrary, Nigeria's four refineries run on a production capacity of 336,000 or less.

Nigeria's refineries in Kaduna, Port Harcourt and Warri refineries have a daily refining capacity of 445,000. But production is just picking up after the Turn Around Maintenance (TAM).

Ayodele said TAM which lasted from November 2008 to November 2009 gulped \$69 million, adding that another TAM is expected to take place after 30 months.

Experts believe that the commencement of production by these refineries will help in reducing fuel scarcity in the country.

Our reporter doubts if the resumed refin-

ing of oil in Kaduna and Warri can be sustained given the continuing activities of vandals.

NNPC had announced last week that N175 billion were lost due to the activities of vandals between the years 2000 and 2009 in different parts of the country.

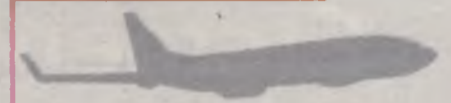
Since the refineries resumed two weeks ago 47 breaks have been recorded along the pipelines that transport crude to Kaduna and Warri. But our reporter said the problems currently associated with bridging of petroleum products to the 21 depots in the country covering some 5,000, will be eased if the refining of fuel by the refineries can be sustained.

International oil companies have said the proposed oil reforms by Nigeria-world's eighth largest producer of crude oil and Africa's second biggest - will affect their investment and will cost Nigeria billions of dollars in losses.

Experts said Turnaround maintenance is normally carried out after every 36 months of continuous production. However, these were delayed for several years. These delays led to equipment wear.

The Kaduna refinery started working Feb 19.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE



Arik Air

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

Aero Contractors

Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16.45 (Sat). Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30, 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30 (Sat); Lagos-Ben: 07.45; 11.00; 15.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12.30; (Sun); 15.30 (Sat).
Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12.30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun); Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun); Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun); Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00 (Sun); Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)

Chanchangi Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 17.30
Abj-Lagos: 08.00, 11.45, 13.40, 15.30, 17.00
Lagos-Kad: 10.45, (on Fri), 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Kad-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon-Fri), 08.00 (Sat/Sun)
Nigerian Eagles Airlines (Virgin Nigeria)
Abj-Kano: 18.40 (Mon-Fri)/Sun
Kano-Abj: 08.35 (Mon-Fri)/Sat
Abj-Soko: 09:35, (Mon), 10:10 (Fri), 11:20 (Wed/Sun)
Soko-Abj: 11.35 (Mon), 12.00 (Fri), 13:20 (Wed/Sun)
Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 11.40, 14.00, 16.30, 17.00, 17.20; 18.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun), 8.00; 12.40; 13.10; 20:00 (Fri)
Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.30, 11.15, 16.15; 19.15, 19.25, 19:35 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 14:55; 15:15; 20:45 (Fri); 19:45 (Sun); 11:25, 13:35, 16:25 (Mon)
Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00, 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20, 12.45, 15.30, 16.15, 17.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Lagos-Owr: 12:15; (Tue-Fri/Sun); 12:40 (Mon/Sat)
Owr-Lagos: 14:25 (Tue-Fri/Sun) 14:50 (Mon/Sat)
Lagos-Cal: 08:00 (Fri), 09:10 (Wed-Thu), 12:40 (Tue/Sat/Sun), 13:10 (Mon)

CBN EXCHANGE RATES			BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES			
	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)			
CFA	0.2897	0.2997	0.3097	BUYING		
DANISH KRONER	26.8799	26.971	27.062	DOLLAR.....	N151	
EURO	200.1899	200.8681	201.5462	EURO.....	N206	
POUNDS STERLING	230.5512	231.3322	232.1132	POUNDS.....	N235	
RIYAL	39.36	39.4934	39.6267	SELLING		
SDR	226.2265	226.9929	227.7592	DOLLAR.....	N152	
SWISS FRANC	136.5655	137.0281	137.4907	EURO.....	N208	
US DOLLAR	147.6	148.1	148.6	POUNDS.....	N238	
WAUA	226.801	227.5693	228.3376	Source: S&J Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.		
YEN	1.6378	1.6434	1.6489			

Stock Market Index	
Date:	Thursday, March 4, 2010
Index:	23,003.57
Deals:	7,541
Volume:	364,387,866
Value:	N 3,113,546,883.24
Cap.:	N 5,540,219,880,431.68

Gains of Par

Elements of the Paradigm Shift

- ▶ deployment of a minimum of 85% of BOI's resources to financing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) that:
 - utilize local raw materials- especially agricultural produce
 - have high employment generation and export potentials
 - promote linkages between MSMEs and large enterprises
 - are promoted by women and enhance their empowerment.
- ▶ deepening the bank's credit delivery process by lending to cooperative groups (mostly women and youths) under collective guaranty arrangements and the establishment of a Microfinance Bank.

SNAPSHOTS OF SOME OF THE PRODUCTS OF THE PARADIGM SHIFT



Cassava Processing



Women Empowerment



Garmenting



Fish Processing



Cocoa Processing

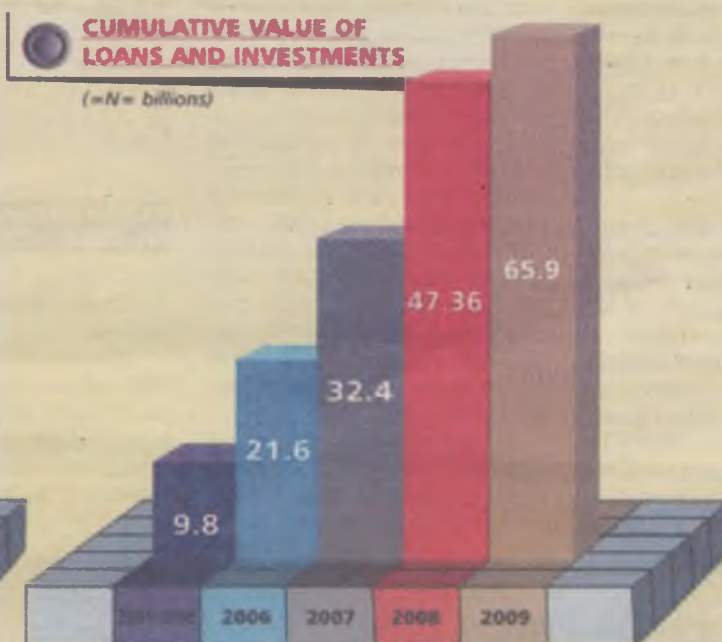
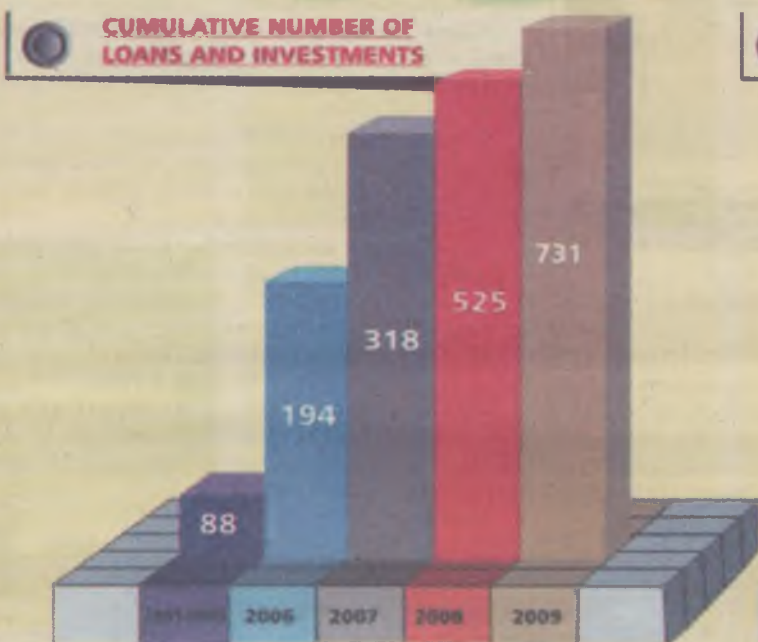


Rice Processing

Paradigm Shift

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RESULTANT DEVELOPMENT IMPACT OF BOI'S OPERATIONS

- Four years after the launch of its PARADIGM SHIFT INITIATIVE in January 2006, the Bank of Industry Ltd has continued to witness unprecedented expansion in its credit operations without compromising the quality of its investments and post impressive financial results.
- While the cumulative number of approved loans and investments grew by 730% from 88 as at December 2005 to 731 by December 2009, the value of fresh loans and investments rose by 572% from N9.8 billion to N65.9 billion within the same period.
- The percentage of its annual lending to SMEs increased to 96% by December 2009 from 65% in 2005.
- More than N1.4 billion has been approved to various cooperative groups since 2008 (comprising mainly women and youths) under a collective guarantee arrangement.
- The Portfolio At Risk (PAR) declined from 65% in 2005 to an average of less than 21% in 2009. The industry average in Nigeria is 32.8%.
- The development effectiveness of its operations has been remarkable as cumulative direct and indirect jobs created exceeded 815,000 by December 2009.



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Business

No going back on deregulation - FG

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Federal Government said in Lagos yesterday that it would not go back on its plan to fully deregulate the nation's downstream sector, saying what is left now is when it would commence the programme.

Minister of Petroleum Resources Rilwan Lukman said this at the seventh edition of the Aret Adams Memorial lecture.

He said full deregulation of the downstream sector is the only solution to the current fuel scarcity in the country.

He said in 2002 when government licensed 18 private refinery operators to establish refineries it envisaged the implication of full dependent on fuel importation.

He said government thought that at least four of the licenses would be fully operation by 2010. He said: "But see where we are today. The financiers of the refineries could not muscle enough financial strength to wither the storm. Again, no rational

entrepreneur will build a private refinery in a country where product prices are set by the government.

"It is therefore important that all obstacles to the successful operation of refineries as business concerns are removed"

Lukman said it is when this is done that necessary investment on refineries can be guaranteed with not just petroleum or gas flooding the market but the many by-products of the refining process.

"Government is convinced as most people have done that deregulation is the answer to the perennial problems of the downstream sector of the industry. Apart from the huge government subsidy that benefits only a few people and thus further entrenching inequality in the society, a regulated downstream regime cannot attract investors to the sector", he said.

Lukman said government is aware of the oil marketers' antics whereby a litre of petrol sells at N100 per litre while the same marketers



RILWAN Lukman, Minister of Petroleum

would still submit bills for subsidy payment.

"As we are selling a litre of fuel at N65, ordinary Nigerians are not the beneficiaries. Unfortunately, huge amount of money being paid regularly on subsidy would have been channelled to more challenging areas of the economy", he said.

Nigeria new car imports drop by 73%

NEW vehicle imports to Nigeria slumped more than 70 percent in January on the same month last year, but could pick up in coming months if the availability of credit increases, importers said yesterday.

Nigerian port figures showed monthly imports at 2,500 units compared with more than 9,200 in January 2009, according to Chetan Mehan, head of marketing at Nigeria's Dana Motors, which imports Kia cars and trucks.

Wilson Anumudu, one of the dealers in Nigeria for Toyota Motor Corp, which controls 40 percent of the market in sub-Saharan Africa's second biggest economy, said January had seen few sales.

"We didn't have too many orders. When there are no prospects from the customers, we will not go out of our way to import," Anumudu told Reuters, adding he was hopeful of an improvement in 2010.

Car dealers said purchases would only pick up with increased availability of credit.

"As at now, financial institutions are not lending at all," said Mehan. "Importers are holding back. If we are not selling so much, why import so much?" he said, adding he nonetheless expected 13 percent growth this year.

Nigeria's central bank cut its deposit rate to 1 percent from 2 percent this week to try to stimulate lending and has said getting credit flowing again is a top priority after the crunch last year.

(Reuters.)

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Business/International

Standard Bank's profit drops by 20%

BAD debts knocked profits at South Africa's Standard Bank last year as consumers struggled to repay loans and Africa's biggest bank by assets said it expects only a slow economic recovery in key markets.

"Confidence in a sustainable but slow recovery is growing. While credit demand is expected to improve, a resurgence is only likely to follow a more tangible revival of economic activity," Chief Executive Jacko Maree said.

Standard said it would focus on restoring normalised headline earnings to 2008 levels but warned credit conditions would remain under pressure after 2009 earnings were hit by rising impairments at its retail and corporate businesses.

Normalised headline earnings per share in 2009 fell 20 percent to 757 cents, in line with its forecast of a 20-25 percent fall. Its credit impairment charge climbed 7 percent to 12.1 billion rand.

Like its rivals, Standard is battling rising defaults at its retail unit as credit-squeezed consumers struggle to pay back loans on houses and cars under tough economic conditions. Corporate businesses have also been hit by high bad debts.

Shares in Standard Bank were 0.5 percent at 110 rand by 0753 GMT, when the JSE banking index was down 0.4 percent and the main market index was down 0.6 percent.

"Impairments are quite a bit better than what we were expecting at this point," one Johannesburg-based banks analyst said.

"The operational performance was weaker at a top line level than we would have expected but the stronger impairment performance actually supported the reasonably robust bottom line impact."

While Standard Bank has relaxed lending criteria at its personal and business banking unit in South Africa after a string

of interest rate cuts, Africa's biggest economy is still reeling from the effects of its first recession in 17 years.

High debt levels and job insecurity have seen households cutting back on spending and taking further loans, while the appetite for commercial credit has also been curbed.

Absa, the first of the big four banks to release its 2009 results, reported a drop in profit last month due to rising impairments, while Nedbank also posted a lower profit last Thursday as retail bad debts jumped.

Standard Bank, which offers personal and business, corporate and investment banking and wealth management services, is 20 percent owned by the Industrial and Commercial bank of China (ICBC), one of the world's biggest banks by market capitalisation.

Standard said it would maintain its dividend payout at the same level as 2008's total of 386 cents. (Reuters)

Kenya licenses first credit reference bureau

KENYA licensed its first credit reference bureau yesterday, which is seen eventually leading to lower commercial lending rates by improving credit information in the banking sector, the country's central bank governor said.

For many years, Kenyan banks have had to contend with having incomplete information about borrowers that in turn translated to higher risk premiums on interest rates.

Bank industry players also say lack of credit reference information leads to a risk of overpricing low risk borrowers and underpricing high risk borrowers.

"The risk premium that is always associated with information asymmetry will be solved," Njuguna Ndung'u said while handing a licence to Credit Reference Bureau Africa Limited (CRBAfrica).

"It's the end of the serial defaulter; it's the end of those who used information asym-

metry to their own advantages."

Ndung'u said the credit bureau would be a boon for those in the informal sector, and small and medium businesses and allow those with lack of physical collateral like land and building to borrow based on their track record.

"Borrowers without access of physical collateral will always be constrained from accessing credit. Credit information sharing would thus enable those borrowers to build a track record that they can use to access credit," he said.

"This will essentially be pertinent to those borrowers in the informal sector and even in the small and medium enterprises, who ... have a good track record but that information is not captured anywhere."

Established in 1990, CRB Africa also has operations in Rwanda, Malawi, Zambia and Botswana. (Reuters)



KENYA'S Central Bank

IMF to upgrade Africa growth view

THE IMF may upgrade its assessment of Africa's economic growth prospects because some countries fared better than expected in a global recession that many feared would undo decades of poverty-fighting progress.

In an interview, Antoinette Sayeh, director for the IMF's Africa Department, told Reuters the more optimistic outlook for the region was due to stronger-than-expected performances by economies such as those of South Africa and Nigeria.

She said the fund could revise up its 2009 growth forecast to close to 2 percent from an earlier projection of 1 percent.

In addition, it could also

raise its projection for 2010 to around 4.5 percent from a January outlook of 4.3 percent.

Despite the stronger outlook, it is still a significant drop from the 6 percent growth rates of the past decade.

"Our latest estimate suggests perhaps a more muted impact on growth than we had thought a few months ago," Sayeh said ahead of a visit to Africa by IMF Managing Director Dominique Strauss-Kahn this weekend to see how the region has performed during the crisis.

As the global recession hit Africa's exports causing revenues to fall, the IMF ponied up record lending of some \$5 billion, including a \$1.4 billion loan program to Angola. (Reuters)

UNICEF wants \$24.8m for Eritrean fund

THE U.N. children's agency UNICEF is appealing for \$24.8 million to expand its programmes in Eritrea, where aid agencies say drought is causing widespread food shortages and child malnutrition.

UNICEF says it will help more than 1 million Eritreans in 2010 - approximately a quarter of the population - with supplementary and therapeutic feeding to "prevent further deterioration in their already poor nutrition status".

Some \$13 million is earmarked for nutrition, UNICEF said in its 2010 humanitarian action report, adding that in some regions nearly 17 percent of children were suffering acute malnutrition.

East Africa is facing a devastating drought. Aid agencies estimate 23 million are in danger, with 13.7 million in neighbouring Ethiopia at risk of severe hunger.

Poor rainfall has hurt Eritrea's agriculture-based economy, say aid agencies, who rank hunger levels in the country among the worst in the world.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates as many as two in every three Eritreans are malnourished, the second-highest percentage in the world

after the war-ravaged Democratic Republic of Congo.

Asmara denies there are any widespread hunger or food shortages in the country and places restrictions on the work of humanitarian organisations.

In a recent interview with Eritrean media, President Isaias Afwerki said hunger was "non-existent". Late last year he pledged "no hunger in 2010".

Asmara accuses humanitarian organisations of trying to tarnish Eritrea's image by inventing statistics. (Reuters)



The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation estimates as many as two in every three Eritreans are malnourished, the second-highest percentage in the world after the war-ravaged Democratic Republic of Congo.

Business/Agric



TOMATO farm

'FG to increase food reserve to 1.3m tonnes'

THE Federal Government plans to increase the national strategic food reserve capacity from the current 300,000 tonnes to 1.325 million tonnes to meet the nation's food security target.

Dr Mohammed Lawal, Acting Executive Director, National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA), said in Abuja that the 11 silos in the country had the capacity to store 300,000 tonnes of food.

He said the silos, located in Ibadan, Akure, Ilorin, Iruha, Minna, Lafaji, Makurdi, Ogoja, Jahun, Jos and Gombe had 60 per cent utilisation capacity.

Lawal said the agricultural sector was being rejuvenated to meet the challenges of transforming the country from a mono-cultural economy and over-dependence on oil to an agricultural and economically buoyant nation.

He said government would construct 20 additional silos

with processing centres at N47.2 billion. He said the new silos would increase the national food storage capacity to 1.325 million tonnes.

He said government would not hands-off the purchase of grains, adding that license buying agents would continue to buy grains for government to fill the reserves.

Lawal said government was also working on commodity exchange market to complement the efforts of farmers and grains merchants.

To ensure food security, Lawal said some of the silos would be handed over to private individuals, who would also buy and add value to the grains stored in the facilities.

Lawal assured Nigerians that the country would not experience food crisis, noting that currently, maize, sorghum, cowpea, garri and yam flour were being reserved. (NAN)

Nigeria, Netherlands sign MoU on agro business

By Tina A. Hassan

A Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) that would promote specific investment in agribusiness has been signed between Nigeria and the Kingdom of the Netherlands to promote and develop business potentials of the agriculture sector in Nigeria.

Hosting a business delegation from the Africa Business Council of the Kingdom of the Netherlands over the weekend, the Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources Sayy-adi Abba Ruma said developing the business potential of the sector would liberate over 20 million farming families from poverty as well as provide employment opportunity to the unemployed.

He said "establishing partnership with Netherland in agro-business would enable Nigeria reap the dividends of the

investment and boost the competitiveness of the sector with the oil sector and to also bridge the gaps in the value chain."

The delegation led by the Dutch Ambassador to Nigeria Arie Van Der Wiel said his country was interested in investing in the area of processing, storage, distributing and marketing as well as other agribusinesses in Nigeria.

He said his country's team of experts in agriculture would be looking into crucial business sectors such as Palm Oil, milk production, meat packaging and Cocoa among others.

The Director of Agro processing and Marketing of the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA) Eng. Moses Adewuyi, said the Dutch businessmen have the expertise and the leading technology and professional for Nigeria to benefit from while Nigeria has the marketing and agribusiness potential to be harnessed.

Group to empower 250 women in agric

A group, Women Initiative for Good Health in Nigeria, based in Umuahia, has concluded plans to empower 250 women in four local government areas of Abia in the 2010 farming season.

The local government areas are Bende, Ohafia, Ikwuano and Umuahia.

Miss Ikodiya Kalu, Programme Manager of the group said in Umuahia that each of the women would be given N60,000.

She said the initiative would serve the dual purpose of providing income for the women and providing food for the larger society.

She said a "well thought out community mapping and selection" would be carried out to select villages and determine the women who would benefit from the first phase of the disbursement. Kalu said the NGO had a mission to empower rural women and children.

"The little analysis we have made from our past experience is that if they are given money on good time and they are able to cultivate different crops it will have a positive impact on their lives," she said.

She said that the 2010 exercise would witness a scale up on previous outings, adding that their target were widows, people who cared for orphans, the disabled and HIV/AIDS patients. (NAN)

Africa agro-business confab opens March 8

By Sunday William & Tina A Hassan

ARRANGEMENT has been concluded by Nigeria to host African Heads of states and other stakeholders at a high-level conference on Agribusiness and Agro-Industries in Africa scheduled for March 8 to 10 in Abuja, the Minister of state for Commerce and industry, Humphrey Abah has said.

Addressing newsmen in Abuja yesterday, the Minister said the conference has become imperative in view of the need to boost the development of Agri-business and Agro-industry in Africa as a pathway to improve economic growth and food security on the continent.

Participants at the conference will discuss strategies for the promotion of sustainable and inclusive agribusiness and agro-industries development on the continent, and are expected to endorse the African Agribusiness and Agro-industries Development Initiative.

The Initiative comprises a programme framework and associated financial modalities through which the public and private sectors can mobilize resources for investment in agro-food sector development in Africa.

The event is expected to bring together government officials from some 40 African countries, as well as senior policy makers and representatives of financial institutions. Acting President Goodluck Jonathan is scheduled to deliver a speech at the event.

The Minister said the objectives of the conference is among other things to support an investment programme that will significantly increase the proportion of Africa's agriculture produce such that by the year 2020, more than 50 percent of the continents food products sold in local and national markets will be in processed form.

He said the conference is expected to develop a programme framework that will support Agri-business and Agro-industry development in the continent.

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Thursday, March 4, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	3	0.50	168,000	84,000.00
SECTOR Totals	3		168,000	84,000.00
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	50	0.90	4,941,661	4,371,464.09
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	14	0.66	197,462	127,537.44
PRESCO PLC	11	5.43	88,122	479,539.96
SECTOR Totals	75		5,227,245	4,978,541.49
AIR SERVICES				
AIRL. SERV. & LOG. PLC	7	2.37	85,309	202,182.33
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	60	8.70	397,263	3,477,292.74
SECTOR Totals	67		482,572	3,679,475.07
AUTOMOBILE & TYRE				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	5	0.50	31,261	15,630.50
INCAR NIGERIA PLC	1	1.97	100	188.00
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	47	5.29	287,839	1,499,830.33
SECTOR Totals	53		319,200	1,515,648.83
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	245	9.36	6,716,560	62,814,514.74
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	82	2.38	2,925,082	7,099,965.25
DIAMOND BANK PLC	98	8.86	4,721,341	41,638,937.63
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	145	5.55	12,529,039	69,447,829.15
F/CITY MON. BANK PLC	85	9.15	3,304,562	30,043,619.57
FIDELITY BANK PLC	112	2.61	5,804,269	15,168,816.99
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	892	14.56	15,537,997	226,457,788.75
FINBANK PLC	82	0.68	3,795,604	2,508,255.81
GTBANK PLC	471	18.00	12,580,027	227,170,617.62
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	62	8.59	1,219,208	10,449,701.82
INTERCONT. BANK PLC.	103	2.00	3,926,342	7,725,399.58
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	181	2.15	5,879,089	12,142,375.60
BANK PHB PLC	77	1.82	2,797,055	5,340,287.86
SKYE BANK PLC.	207	7.00	11,181,772	77,608,825.74
SPRING BANK PLC	40	0.90	2,162,104	1,903,693.97
STERLING BANK PLC	35	1.80	1,361,394	2,413,161.38
UNIT. BANK FOR AFR. PLC.	271	13.00	13,117,722	170,915,235.47
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	186	5.91	4,918,263	29,140,916.57
UNITYBANK PLC	39	1.06	2,687,033	2,744,731.34
WEMA BANK PLC	55	1.16	2,900,114	3,375,918.38
ZENITH BANK PLC	344	15.50	93,265,971	1,464,207,040.87
SECTOR Totals	3,812		213,330,548	2,470,317,634.09
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	73	16.20	1,135,515	18,396,322.24
BENUCEMENT COY PLC	47	50.02	622,647	31,147,219.28
CEMENT CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	57	16.22	886,630	14,503,540.50
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	57	35.00	595,435	20,887,119.25
SECTOR Totals	234		3,240,227	84,934,201.27
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	5	3.69	52,069	201,507.03
CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC	9	28.26	24,759	680,956.50
DN MEYER PLC	19	2.95	339,725	994,794.25
NIG-GERMAN CHEM. PLC	2	15.04	199	2,843.71
PREMIER PAINTS PLC.	1	13.40	15,000	190,950.00
SECTOR Totals	36		431,752	2,071,051.49
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES				
AFROMEDIA PLC	11	0.51	219,990	113,974.90
COURTV. INV. PLC	17	0.50	14,050,000	7,025,000.00
NAT. SPORTS LOTT. PLC	1	3.57	500	1,700.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	17	2.69	220,000	576,819.52
SECTOR Totals	46		14,490,490	7,717,494.42
COMP. & OFFICE EQUIP.				
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	18	0.52	708,583	373,907.33
THOMAS WYATT PLC	1	1.84	181	316.75
TRIPPLE GEE & COY PLC	1	4.37	20,000	83,200.00
SECTOR Totals	20		728,764	457,424.08
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEV. (NIG.) PLC	16	2.99	185,634	545,042.01
JOHN HOLT PLC	1	9.28	1,000	8,820.00
PZ CUSONS NIG. PLC	65	25.99	690,608	17,819,820.48
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	999	8,271.72
TRANSN. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	75	0.54	11,851,165	6,394,442.63
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	86	42.59	588,630	25,241,563.50
UNILEVER NIG. PLC	72	25.19	859,680	21,517,492.36
SECTOR Totals	316		14,177,716	71,535,452.70
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	28	5.30	842,401	4,424,462.41
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	28	27.95	405,222	11,289,925.32
MULTIVERSE RES. PLC	7	0.50	932,404	466,202.00
ROADS NIGERIA PLC	1	3.46	50	164.50
SECTOR Totals	64		2,180,077	6,180,754.23
ENGINEERING TECH.				
CUTIX PLC	5	2.89	100,000	303,000.00
NIG. WIRE & CABLE PLC.	4	0.82	210,000	171,800.00
SECTOR Totals	9		310,000	474,800.00
FOOD/BEV. & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	9	30.60	5,828	187,253.64
BIG TREAT PLC	17	0.72	1,492,815	1,066,655.95
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	83	16.00	1,572,876	24,901,025.35
DANG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	185	12.75	4,114,804	52,354,510.95
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	113	16.51	1,645,164	27,177,343.30

FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	67	45.05	523,303	23,568,089.89
H/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	36	8.61	418,761	3,621,054.60
NAT. SALT COY NIGERIA PLC	44	6.35	461,088	2,902,207.40
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	10	27.00	11,200	287,617.45
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	46	270.00	68,220	18,370,280.98
TANTALIZERS PLC	14	0.92	313,500	291,685.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	12	0.72	689,258	496,265.76
SECTOR Totals	636		11,316,817	155,223,990.27
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	7	1.00	81,300	81,315.00
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	29	2.37	1,253,524	2,886,371.69
GLAXOSM. CONS. NIG. PLC	13	27.30	79,358	2,104,416.50
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.	17	5.05	144,968	735,260.14
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	11	1.47	40,450	56,630.00
U/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	28	0.60	6,220,200	3,596,947.52
SECTOR Totals	105		7,819,800	9,460,940.85
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	6	3.30	256,375	825,217.50
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	8	1.43	107,000	153,010.00
SECTOR Totals	14		363,375	978,227.50
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.				
NIG. ENAMELWARE PLC	1	52.85	20	1,004.20
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	2	0.50	41,408	20,704.00
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	27	4.70	944,766	4,426,023.34
SECTOR Totals	30		986,194	4,447,731.54
INF. & COMM. TECHN.				
CHAMS PLC	16	0.70	428,956	290,067.74
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	4	0.50	84,444	42,222.00
STARCOMMS PLC	24	1.97	1,113,040	2,201,974.78
SECTOR Totals	44		1,626,440	2,534,264.52
INSURANCE				
AFR. ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	3,000	1,500.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	469	1.05	5,213,737	5,478,737.85
CONT. REINSUR. PLC	4	0.95	107,000	100,490.00
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC.	20	0.51	1,553,611	792,388.75
CUST. & ALLIED INS. PLC	31	2.97	3,117,050	9,133,749.50
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	75,000	37,500.00
GREAT NIG. INS. COY PLC	2	0.50	2,000	1,000.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	30	0.56	4,055,168	2,251,445.24
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	12	2.29	1,224,867	2,799,178.44
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	4	0.50	557,867	278,933.50
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	3	0.50	112,000	56,000.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	28	0.56	5,002,801	2,817,249.28
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	32	0.51	2,619,949	1,323,731.00
LAW UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	9	0.51	1,085,300	557,043.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	0.50	22,000	11,000.00
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	5	0.64	70,225	44,944.00
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	36	0.51	2,167,583	1,122,790.61
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	25	0.71	1,254,700	851,257.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	4	3.43	57,795	188,467.00
REG. ALLIANCE INS. COY PLC	1	0.50	900,000	450,000.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INS. PLC	5	0.50	252,300	126,150.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	1	0.76	250	182.50
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	38	0.50	6,911,806	3,494,143.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	5	0.76	502,000	381,600.00
UNITY KAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	3	0.95	10,999,100	10,449,145.00
UNIVERSAL INS. COY PLC	3	0.50	90,000	45,000.00
INTERCONT. WAPIC INS. PLC	19	0.95	1,683,328	1,589,637.60
SECTOR Totals	796		49,640,432	44,383,263.27
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS & LOAND PLC	29	0.65	8,835,660	5,578,638.60
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	5	0.50	2,123,000	1,061,500.00
UN/HOMES SAV. & LOANS PLC	53	0.92	2,932,519	2,576,534.72
SECTOR Totals	87		13,891,179	9,216,673.32
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	12	0.94	4,856,000	4,584,320.00
DEAPCAPMANAG.&TRUSTPLC	1	2.02	15,000	30,300.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	5	0.59	43,760	25,183.20
SECTOR Totals	18		4,914,760	4,639,803.20
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	192	39.70	2,019,817	80,364,630.33
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	4	2.13	8,000	16,240.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	4	69.79	1,500	104,900.00
CONOIL PLC	41	39.54	126,463	5,108,816.42
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	35	6.00	552,448	3,298,072.62
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	23	93.00	45,805	4,089,173.24
OANDO PLC	25	93.99	24,715	2,322,962.85
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	11	142.50	5,775	837,876.60
SECTOR Totals	335		2,784,523	96,142,672.06
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	1	9.76	1,000	9,280.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	22	5.70	239,619	1,388,285.25
SECTOR Totals	23		240,619	1,397,565.25
TEXTILES				
UNITED NIG. TEXTILES PLC	2	1.49	13,500	19,170.00
SECTOR Totals	2		13,500	19,170.00
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	16	16.01	268,200	4,294,473.60
SECTOR Totals	16		268,200	4,294,473.60
OVERALL Totals	7,541		364,387,866	3,113,546,883.24

What is Best-Efforts underwriting

A type of underwriting where the investment firm acts as an agent. The firm agrees to use its best efforts to sell the new issue of securities, but does not guarantee the issuing company that the securities to be issued will be sold.

Google

GAINERS		
CADBURY		0.75
PZ		0.70
NASCON		0.27
COSTAIN		0.25

LOSERS		
AP		1.55
UAC-PROP		0.50
BCC		

THE HOME FRONT

In Today's Edition

Fragments

Do women bring ill luck to their husbands?

Page 40

Health Interactive with Dr Aminu Magashi

Page 41



FASHION

Women and the hair colour dilemma

Page 43



Facts about conjoined twins

By Akor Ojoma

RECENTLY a set of conjoined twins were delivered in Ningi Local Government Area of Bauchi State. The Chief Medical Officer of Ningi General Hospital, Dr. Bakunawa Garba Bello, said the case was rare because they were joined at the abdomen with two 'active' legs on one side and two deformed legs on the other side, sharing one umbilical cord and anus. He said from what they could see of their genitals, they appeared to be males.

"They have some special peculiarities because of the way they are fused. It is not common to have twins joined at the abdomen with a common pelvis most likely affecting their urogenital system," he said. Births of conjoined twins, whose skin and internal organs are fused together, are rare. Conjoined twins occur once every 200,000 live births, and their survival is anything but assured. Approximately 40 to 60 percent of conjoined twins arrive stillborn, and about 35 percent survive only one day. The overall survival rate of conjoined twins is somewhere between 5 percent and 25 percent.

Though cases of conjoined twins have been known since the tenth century they became popular with a set of famous conjoined twins called Eng and Chang Bunker, who were born in Thailand then called Siam in 1811. The term Siamese twins was coined as a reference to Eng and Chang, who achieved international fame shortly after leaving Siam as teenagers.

The case of the 29-year old Iranian conjoined twins Laleh and ladan Bijani who died six years back and evoked international sympathy is another popular case in point. For some reason, female siblings seem to have a better shot at survival than their male counterparts. Although more male twins conjoin in the womb than female twins, females are three times as likely as males to be born alive.

How they are formed

Conjoined twins are genetically identical, and are, therefore, always the same sex. They develop from the same fertilized egg, and they share the same amniotic cavity and placenta.

Twinning occurs one of two ways: either a woman releases two eggs instead of the usual one or she produces only one egg that divides after fertilization. If she releases two eggs, which are fertilized by separate sperm, she has fraternal



twins. When a single, fertilized egg divides and separates, she has identical or paternal twins.

In the case of conjoined twins, a woman only produces a single egg, which does not fully separate after fertilization. The developing embryo starts to split into identical twins during the first few weeks after conception, but stops before the process is complete. The partially separated egg develops into a conjoined foetus.

Types of conjoined twins

Conjoined twins are typically classified by the point at which their bodies are joined. The most common types of conjoined twins are:

Thoraco-omphalopagus: Two bodies fused from the upper chest to the lower chest. These twins usually share a heart, and may also share the liver or part of the digestive system. **Thoracopagus:** Two bodies fused from the upper thorax to lower belly. The heart is always involved in these cases.

Omphalopagus: Two bodies fused at the lower chest. Unlike thoracopagus, the heart is never involved in these cases; however, the twins often share a liver, diges-

tive system, diaphragm and other organs.

Parasitic twins: Twins that are asymmetrically conjoined, resulting in one twin that is small, less formed, and dependent on the larger twin for survival.

Craniopagus: Fused skulls, but separate bodies. These twins can be conjoined at the back of the head, the front of the head, or the side of the head, but not on the face or the base of the skull.

Other less-common types of conjoined twins include:

Cephalopagus: Two faces on opposite sides of a single, conjoined head; the upper portion of the body is fused while the bottom portions are separate. These twins generally cannot survive due to severe malformations of the brain. Also known as janiceps after the two-faced god Janus or syncephalus.

Syncephalus: One head with a single face but four ears and two bodies.

Cephalothoracopagus: Bodies fused in the head and thorax. In this type of twins, there are two faces facing in opposite directions, or sometimes a single face and an

enlarged skull.

Xiphopagus: Two bodies fused in the xiphoid cartilage, which is approximately from the navel to the lower breastbone. These twins almost never share any vital organs, with the exception of the liver. A famous example is Chang and Eng Bunker.

Ischiopagus: Fused lower half of the two bodies, with spines conjoined end-to-end at a 180° angle. These twins have four arms; two, three or four legs; and typically one external set of genitalia and anus.

Omphalo-Ischiopagus: Fused in a similar fashion as ischiopagus twins, but facing each other with a joined abdomen akin to omphalopagus. These twins have four arms, and two, three, or four legs.

Parapagus: Fused side-by-side with a shared pelvis. Twins that are dithoracic parapagus are fused at the abdomen and pelvis, but not the thorax. Twins that are diprosopic parapagus have one trunk and one head with two faces. Twins that are dicephalic parapagus have one trunk and two heads, and two three or four arms.

Craniopagus parasiticus: Like craniopagus, but with a second bodiless head attached to the dominant head.

Pygopagus or Iliopagus: Two bodies joined back-to-back at the buttocks.

Separating conjoined twins

According to medical experts at the University of Maryland Medical Centre the surgical separation of conjoined twins is a delicate and risky procedure, requiring extreme precision and care. Therefore, the decision to separate twins is a serious one. Mortality rates for twins who undergo separation vary, depending on their type of connection, and the organs they share. For example, twins joined at the sacrum at the base of the spine have a 68 percent chance of successful separation, whereas, in cases of twins with conjoined hearts at the ventricular (pumping chamber) level, there are no known survivors. Since 1950, at least one twin has survived separation about 75 percent of the time.

It is only after twins are born that doctors can use magnetic resonance imaging, ultrasound and angiography to find out what organs the twins share. In order to determine the feasibility of separation, doctors must carefully assess how the twins' shared organs function.

Pregnant women should always attend antenatal care so that the progress of the foetus can be monitored early enough.



Home safety tips

By Tina A. Hassan

SAFETY in the home is increasingly becoming a huge challenge for several people, particularly due to the use of energy generating appliances for household activities. From gas and electric cookers to electric irons and the not too recent but dangerous entrant in the list of family safety concerns- the generator.

“The use of generators in the home to supplement power supply is on the increase, so is the risk associated with its use

The use of generators in the home to supplement power supply is on the increase, so is the risk associated with its use. Lately most homes prefer to use gas and electric cookers for efficiency, and to save time but safety precautions need to be taken in using these household appliances so as to prevent accidents.

While using the gas cooker, care must be taken to ensure that it is turned off from the cylinder source after use. This is to prevent leakages that may lead to a fire outbreak, suffocation and death eventually. The same thing applies for the electric cookers. Users of such must ensure the

“Dangerous items such as medicines, hot water or hot food and cellophane bags that can easily burn or suffocate the child should be kept in places beyond their reach

power source is switched off when not in use.

One of the first things to take into consideration when buying a generator is the place it would be kept. A generator house should not be located very close to the main house so that fumes being emitted would not be inhaled by those inside the house. Inhaling the fume constitutes a health hazard and may lead to death, especially with long exposure to such gaseous emissions.

It is also advisable to keep petrol or diesel used for the generator far away from the house especially from the kitchen and any source of fire because of its combustible nature.

Sometimes some people carelessly leave electrical cables connected to the power source when not in use. It is very important for every home to ensure that all electrical cables are disconnected

before going out of the house or when embarking on long trips. This is to minimize cases of fire accident or other hazards related to electricity.

Other safety measures concerns children because children require constant parental supervision. Dangerous items such as medicines, hot water or hot food and cellophane bags that can easily burn or suffocate the child should be kept in places beyond their reach; especially babies because they are fond of reaching out and grabbing items.

According to the Home Safety Council website, children who may have access to drugs in the home may not know how to use them. “This calls for measures to keep drugs in safe places away from their reach to prevent them from swallowing these drugs that could be injurious or poisonous to them.”

“It is very important for every home to ensure that all electrical cables are disconnected before going out of the house or when embarking on long trips

FRAGMENTS

By Safiya I. Dantiye
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Do women bring ill luck to their husbands?

AFTER the euphoria of a wedding ceremony and the living together becomes a reality, problems are bound to happen as it is normal to have misunderstandings, but some are at the instigation of relatives, friends or even soothsayers. This is especially so when the husband's fortunes begin to dwindle after the wedding or when there is a misfortune, the first person to point a finger at is the wife, they will say that she has 'farar kafa' in Hausa, which means she has brought misfortune to the husband.

As Muslims, this is quite telling on their faith because it is believed that Allah alone can make anything to happen to you, either good or bad. But due to superstition, some people still harbour such belief. The surprising thing (may be not so surprising) is that men are not accused of having any misfortune if the fortune of their wives dwindle (where they have) or where his own fortune dwindles, because it will affect the lifestyle of the wife if she comes from a wealthy family.

In one such case, a woman with five children living happily, albeit in financial difficulty, with her husband was shocked when she heard that her husband's relatives blamed her for his misfortune, according to them, since he married her he never bought a house or a car. They conveniently forgot that the woman was from a wealthy family and her parents even assisted her. The woman was so unhappy that she confronted her husband and asked him to divorce her. He was not happy, he told her that he believed in Allah and whatever happened to him was from Him.

But not all men have this man's faith, one man was into the building business before he got married, and after a few years of marriage, the business grew. Then he started having problems and he lost almost all he had, meanwhile the wife was in the business of selling clothes and her business was thriving; the tables had turned around. The man began to patronize marabouts 'Malams' and one of them told him that he would never be wealthy as long as he stayed married to his wife. He said the wife's 'star' was stronger than his. So the man divorced his wife, but even after twenty years he never became rich. Meanwhile the wife re-married and continued to get richer.

In another case, there was a family some people blacklisted as one with misfortune, and it is predictable that only the women of the family are categorised as such. When their married men were said to have lost their fortunes. When one man wanted to marry from the family, some of his relatives were fervently against it. But he was adamant, and said even if he lost his fortune, it would be because Allah wants it that way, since it was Him that gave him the money in the first place. “Don't you believe in the will of Allah, are you not Muslims?” He asked them in frustration. They quickly dusted their faith and chanted 'Astagfirullah' (Oh Allah forgive me), and the marriage took place. The young man's fortune kept multiplying; she seemed to have proven wrong the superstition that threatened her marriage.

The unfairness of this is that when a woman marries a man and his fortune increases she will never be praised that she has brought 'fortune' to him, it is only when there is a problem that a woman is ascribed the 'power' or rather the curse of misfortune.

However, even if the castigation of women as devil agents of misfortune is not common, because people have strong faith, or are afraid of losing their faith, which is dangerous in Islam, the fact that the Hausa people still use words as 'mai farar kafa' shows that people still believe in it, and where it happens it breaks up families or cause disaffection. After all, if you hear that people are accusing you of bringing misfortune to your husband you will never be friends with them again, even if he doesn't believe it, let alone act on it. They have become your enemies.

The earlier we do away with such superstitious beliefs the better, since no matter how hard some people struggle, they might never become rich, and some can become rich without much effort. Fortune or misfortune befalls us by the will of Allah, but if we point accusing fingers at some people, in this case women as the cause of misfortune, we will cause trouble in happy marriages and lose our faith in God.

“The earlier we do away with such superstitious beliefs the better, since no matter how hard some people struggle, they might never become rich

Health interactive

Write in confidence to healthinteractive@hotmail.com; www.healthinteractive.wordpress.com or send a text message to 080-89972539 or P.O.Box 14807, Kano, Nigeria

Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

Alcohol and Liver Problem

Thanks a lot for being consistent on the pages of Daily Trust to educate and inform the larger public on health issues. My greatest problem is drinking alcohol, which is out of proportion and I want to stop. I have been warned by my doctor that if I do not stop, my liver will be damaged. I need detailed information about what alcohol does to the liver and how I can stop. God bless you.

H. M from Benue

I will try and give you a general overview of what the liver does as well as the effect of alcohol on the liver and what you could do to reduce or stop the intake. Drinking too much alcohol can lead to three types of liver conditions

1. Fatty liver
2. Hepatitis
3. Cirrhosis.

The liver is in the upper right part of the abdomen. Among its functions are:

1. Storing glycogen, a chemical made from sugars. When required, glycogen is broken down into glucose which is released into the bloodstream.
2. Helping to process fats and proteins from digested food.
3. Making proteins that are essential for blood to clot (clotting factors).
4. Processing many medicines which you may take.
5. Helping to remove or process alcohol, poisons and toxins from the body.
6. Making bile which passes from the liver to the gut and helps to digest fats.

What happens when you drink alcohol?

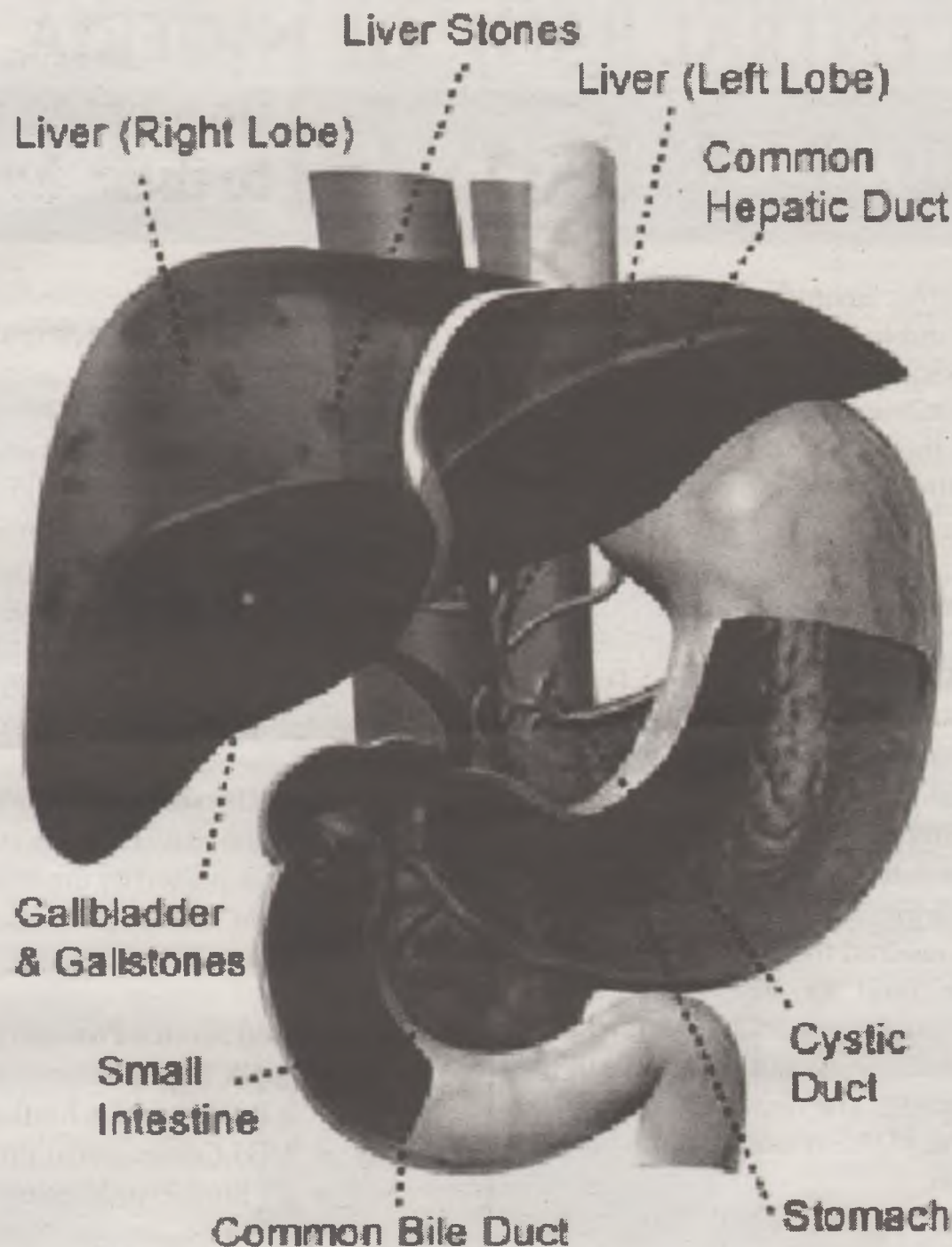
When you drink alcohol, it is absorbed into the bloodstream from the stomach and intestines. All blood from the stomach and intestines first goes through the liver before circulating around the whole body. So the highest concentration of alcohol is in the blood flowing through the liver.

Liver cells contain enzymes (chemicals) which process (metabolise) alcohol. The enzymes break down alcohol into other chemicals which in turn are broken down into water and carbon dioxide. These are then passed out in the urine and from the lungs.

The liver cells can metabolise only a certain amount of alcohol per hour. So if you drink alcohol more than your liver can deal with, the level of alcohol in your bloodstream rises.

What are the problems of drinking too much alcohol?

Your liver and body can usually cope with drinking a small amount of alcohol. Drinking too much can be harmful. If



- you drink heavily you have an increased risk of developing:
1. Serious liver problems (alcoholic liver disease).
 2. Some stomach disorders.
 3. Pancreatitis (severe inflammation of the pancreas).
 4. Mental health problems including depression and anxiety.
 5. Sexual difficulties such as impotence.
 6. Muscle and heart muscle disease.
 7. High blood pressure.
 8. Damage to nervous tissue.
 9. Accidents - drinking alcohol is associated with a much increased risk of accidents. In particular, injury and death from fire and car crashes.
 10. Obesity (alcohol has many calories).
 11. Damage to an unborn baby in pregnant women.
 12. Alcohol dependence (addiction).
- What is alcoholic liver disease?*
Drinking too much alcohol

can lead to three types of liver conditions - fatty liver, hepatitis, and cirrhosis as mentioned above. Any, or all, of these conditions can occur at the same time in the same person.

Fatty liver

A build-up of fat occurs within liver cells in most people who regularly drink heavily. In itself, fatty liver is not usually serious and does not cause symptoms. Fatty liver will usually reverse if you stop drinking heavily. However, in some people the fatty liver progresses and develops into hepatitis.

Alcoholic hepatitis

Hepatitis means inflammation of the liver. The inflammation can range from mild to severe.

1. Mild hepatitis may not cause any symptoms. The only indication of inflammation may be an abnormal level of liver enzymes in the blood which can be detected by a blood test. However, in some cases the hepatitis becomes persistent (chronic), which can gradu-

ally damage the liver and eventually cause cirrhosis.

2. A more severe hepatitis tends to cause symptoms such as feeling sick, jaundice (yellowing of the skin caused by a high level of bilirubin - a chemical normally metabolised in the liver) and sometimes pain over the liver.

3. A very severe bout of alcoholic hepatitis can quickly lead to liver failure. This can cause deep jaundice, blood clotting problems, confusion, coma, bleeding into the guts, and it is often fatal.

Alcoholic cirrhosis

Cirrhosis is a condition where normal liver tissue is replaced by scar tissue (fibrosis). The scarring tends to be a gradual process. The scar tissue affects the normal structure and regrowth of liver cells. Liver cells become damaged and die as scar tissue gradually develops. So, the liver gradually loses its ability to function well. The scar tissue can also affect the blood flow through the liver

which can cause 'back pressure' in the blood vessels which bring blood to the liver.

About 1 in 10 heavy drinkers may eventually develop cirrhosis. It tends to occur after 10 or more years of heavy drinking. Note: cirrhosis can develop in people who have never had alcoholic hepatitis.

Cirrhosis can happen from many causes other than alcohol. For example, persistent viral hepatitis and some hereditary and metabolic diseases. If you have another persistent liver disease, and drink heavily, you are likely to increase your risk of developing cirrhosis.

Cirrhosis can lead to end-stage liver disease ('liver failure'). However, in the early stages of the condition there are often no symptoms. You can 'get by' with a reduced number of working liver cells. But as more and more liver cells die, and more and more scar tissue build up, symptoms start to appear. The eventual symptoms and complications are similar to a severe episode of hepatitis (listed above). However, unlike a bout of severe hepatitis, the symptoms and complications tend to develop slowly.

The scarring and damage of cirrhosis is usually permanent and cannot be reversed.

What is the treatment for alcoholic liver disease?

1. For all types of liver disease caused by alcohol, stopping drinking is the ideal remedy. Also, you may be referred to a dietician to review your diet. This is because many people who drink heavily do not eat properly and need advice on getting back into eating a healthy diet. Vitamin supplements may be prescribed for a while.

2. If you have fatty liver, or alcoholic hepatitis which is not severe, you should fully recover from these conditions if you stop drinking.

3. If you have severe hepatitis and require hospital admission, you may require intensive care treatment.

4. If you have cirrhosis, stopping drinking can improve your outlook. It depends on how severe the cirrhosis has become. If cirrhosis is diagnosed when it is not too advanced, and you stop drinking, the cirrhosis is unlikely to progress.

However, the cirrhosis and symptoms will usually get worse if you continue to drink. In severe cases where the scarring is extensive, and the liver can barely function, then a liver transplant may be the only option.

5. Pregnant women. It is advisable for pregnant women not to drink at all.

In general, the more you drink, the more harmful alcohol is likely to be.



CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA

APPLICATION FOR BUREAU DE CHANGE LICENCE

Applications are hereby invited from interested members of the public and investors who may wish to register and obtain an operating licence as Class 'A' or 'B' Bureau De Change (BDC) in Nigeria. All applications should be addressed to the Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria in addition to the fulfillment of the following requirements:

CLASS 'A' Requirements

1. Payment of:

- Non-refundable Application fee of N100,000.00 (One hundred thousand naira) in bank draft made payable to the CBN.
- Minimum capital of N250 million (Two Hundred and Fifty Million Naira only) in bank draft made payable to the CBN.
- Non-interest bearing mandatory deposit of USD 200,000 (Two hundred thousand United States Dollars) to be paid to the CBN through Telegraphic Transfer to "BDC Mandatory Deposit Account". (Account details will be provided on request). The deposit should not be sourced from the RDAS window of the Foreign Exchange Market.
- Licensing fee of N1,000,000.00 (One million Naira), which is renewable with N250,000.00 (Two hundred and fifty thousand naira only) annually, in bank draft made payable to the CBN.

2. The proposed BDCs should have an Information Technology (IT) infrastructure compatible with CBN applications i.e. e-FASS, to ensure daily rendition of returns through a dedicated link by the CBN approved Service Providers. The IT infrastructure will be subject to CBN inspection and testing to certify its compatibility with the Bank's IT applications.

3. Requirements for dedicated connection

- Provide a minimum of six dedicated PCs (Windows XP) on the Extranet segment for VPN client installation (Two PCs for each CBN application)
- Provide a separate extranet (CBN) Zone

- High availability Links from Authorised service providers at two different sites (active & back-up)
- CBN approval for each link
- 128 kbps Bandwidth minimum
- 600 ms round-trip maximum
- A Cisco 1811/K9 Router minimum per site
 - Every participant will require 2 Firewalls to be connected back to back at each site.
 - One of the Firewalls facing CBN should be a Cisco ASA 5510 (minimum) which will be managed by CBN or her representative.
 - The second firewall of any choice to face the stakeholder's corporate LAN is to be managed by the stakeholder.
- Provide minimum of two Cisco Catalyst Switches per site

Approved Service Providers for Dedicated Links:

- ipNX Telecommunications
- 21st Century Technologies Limited
- VDT Communications Limited
- XS Broadband Limited

The list will be reviewed from time to time.

CLASS 'B' Requirements

1. Payment of:

- Non-refundable Application fee of N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira only) in bank draft made payable to the CBN.
- Minimum capital of N10 million (Ten Million Naira only) in bank draft made payable to the CBN.
- Non-interest bearing mandatory deposit of USD 20,000 (Twenty Thousand United States Dollars only) to be paid to the CBN through Telegraphic Transfer to "BDC Mandatory Deposit Account". (Account details will be provided on request). The deposit should not be sourced from the RDAS window of the Foreign Exchange Market.
- Licensing fee of N100,000.00 (One Hundred Thousand Naira only), which is renewable

Continued on next page...

Women and the hair color dilemma

By Atika Balal

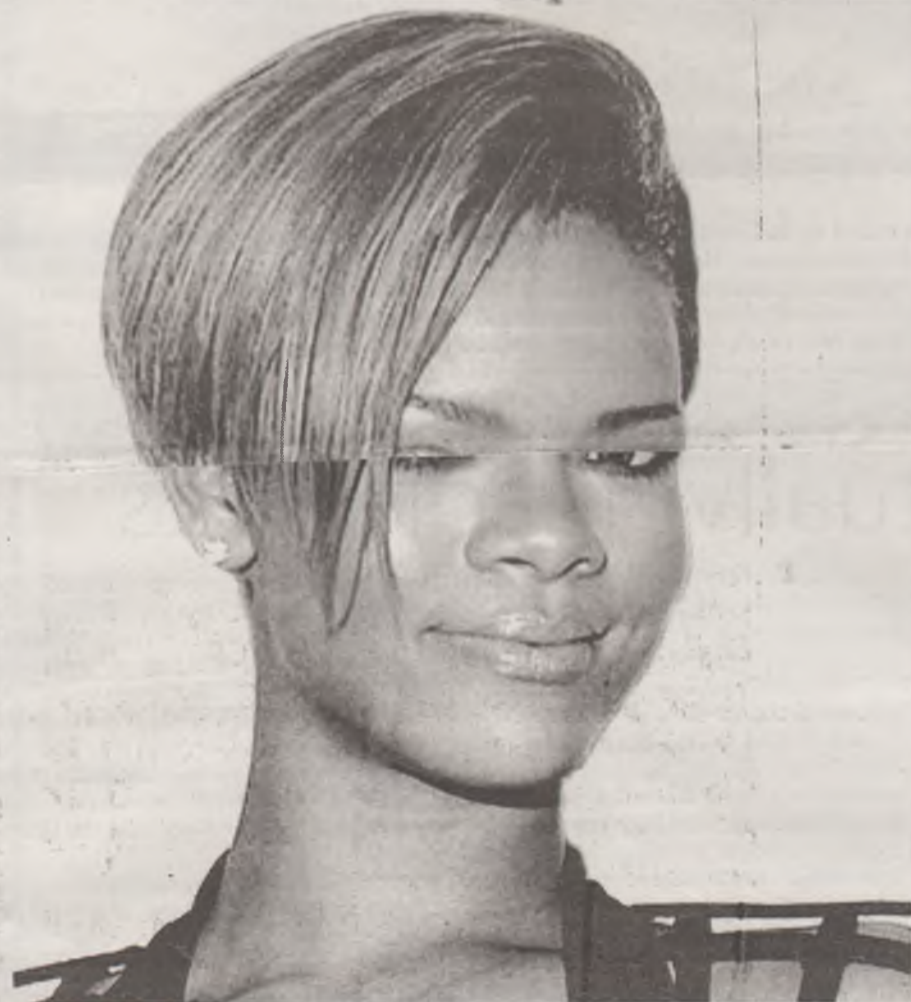
EVERY time I walk into a salon, I see several fashion conscious women, the young and old alike struggling to keep up with the latest hair trend. From crazy hair cuts or a funny hair do to wild hair colors, it takes them forever to make up their minds what they really want.

Lately these absurd hair colors seem to be the trend particularly amongst the young women. While some will do anything to get a blue hair color, others go for purple, orange, pink and even blonde on a black woman. I would say it is an exaggeration of hair color, but these young ladies who love to go with the trend simply say such change makes them look hot.

At a point, I began to wonder if women find it hard to decide what's hot and what's not. Sometimes they do look hot but most times they look like they just dropped from a different planet.

There's really nothing hot about tortured hair, especially when women are indecisive about what color best suits their complexion. It is alright to use hair colors if you want to but it'll be much better if you stick to more natural colors like brown, black or burgundy which isn't really noticeable except when you are under a bright light or sunlight.

Well, whatever the reasons why such women find themselves in a hair color dilemma, one thing to bear in mind is never to leave a salon looking like a Barbie doll. Use hair colors if you want, flaunt it if you wish but always keep it real.



APPLICATION FOR BUREAU DE CHANGE LICENCE (Cont'd)

with N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand naira only) annually, in bank draft made payable to the CBN.

2. The proposed BDCs should also have an Information Technology (IT) infrastructure compatible with CBN applications i.e. e-FASS, to ensure daily rendition of returns through an Internet or Dial-Up. The IT infrastructure will also be subject to CBN inspection and testing to certify its compatibility with the Bank's IT applications.

For Both Classes 'A' and 'B'

1. **Other Requirements:**
 - Proposed name of the BDC (with evidence of CAC name availability)
 - A copy of draft MEMART with BDC clauses entrenched therein.
 - A detailed feasibility report
 - The full address of location where business would be conducted
 - Names of banks and account numbers of the promoters/shareholders and copy(ies) of the instrument(s) for payment for shares
 - Schedule of proposed directors, shareholders/investors showing full names, addresses, shareholding and the percentages
 - Detailed and signed curriculum vitae of the proposed directors.
2. All payments must be made from owners' funds. Borrowing for payment for shares is not allowed.
3. It is pertinent to note that the grant of a licence to operate a Bureau De Change (BDC) does not automatically mean that the CBN must sell foreign exchange (cash) to such a BDC. The sale of foreign exchange to BDCs is at the discretion of the Bank.
4. **Submission** of applications for BDC licence will close on Wednesday 31st March, 2010. For the avoidance of doubt, applications not received 2010 shall not be treated.
5. All applications should be submitted to the office of the **Director, Financial Policy & Regulation Department, 4th Floor, Wing C OR Director, Other Financial Institutions Supervision Department, 4th Floor, Wing A, Central Bank of Nigeria, Corporate Head Office, Abuja.**

Management

DIGEST

Four cups of coffee a day 'could protect the heart'

DRINKING four cups of coffee a day may protect the heart, scientists said yesterday. Despite the belief that coffee can cause the heart to go into palpitations, a study indicates moderate drinkers may be at a lower risk of having heart rhythm disturbances.

More than 130,000 men and women were studied. Those drinking four or more cups of coffee a day had an 18 per cent lower risk of going to hospital for heart disturbances.

Those who had drunk between one and three cups had a 7 per cent reduction of risk.

Tony Blair has blamed his heart problems while he was prime minister on too much strong coffee during an EU conference - and doctors advised him to cut back.

He was suffering from atrial fibrillation, the most common form of heart rhythm problem. Left untreated, it can increase the risk of heart attack.

But the latest research suggests his doctors may have been wrong - and coffee may have had nothing to do with his irregular heartbeat.

Lead investigator Dr Arthur Klatsky, a cardiologist at the Kaiser Permanente health insurance company, said the study did not conclusively prove coffee protects the heart - just that there was some sort of link.

He said: 'Coffee drinking is related to lower risk of hospitalisation for rhythm problems, but the association does not prove cause and effect, or that coffee has a protective effect.'

Dr Klatsky said he believed moderate doses of caffeine may help the heart by blocking the action of the chemical adenosine, which can cause disturbed rhythm.

Other explanations for the association may include separate traits of coffee drinkers. They may happen to do more exercise and have a better diet - but the study did not look at this.

Dr Klatsky said that although the study did not provide sufficient evidence to say that people should drink coffee to prevent rhythm problems, it did show that people with rhythm problems - or who are at risk of them - do not need to abstain from coffee.

He said: 'These data might be reassuring to people who drink moderate amounts of coffee that their habit is not likely to cause a major rhythm disturbance.'

But he warned that previous studies had indicated that excessive coffee consumption can increase the risk.

The study was presented at the American Heart Association conference in San Francisco. Of the 130,054 people in the study, aged between 18 and 90, some 2



CAFFEINE buzz: Regular coffee drinkers could benefit from a lower risk of heart rhythm problems

per cent ended up in hospital for rhythm disturbances. Half of them had atrial fibrillation.

The 18 per cent reduction in risk for those who drank four

or more cups of coffee a day was the same among men and women, and between smokers and nonsmokers. A total of 14 per cent of the partici-

pants reported drinking less than one cup of coffee a day; 42 per cent had one to three; 17 per cent had four or more; while the rest never drank coffee.

Dictured: The toddler sister and her baby siblings... who are actually quadruplets



FOUR of a kind: Alice Baxter with her fellow quads Niamh, Maisy and Noah

LITTLE Alice Baxter is three years older than her baby brother and sisters - but incredibly they are quadruplets.

The four children were all conceived at the same time - yet Alice was born in 2007, while her siblings arrived in January.

Their mother Helen Baxter had her remaining embryos frozen after getting pregnant with Alice.

But when doctors defrosted and implanted them last year, no one expected all three to take hold.

In fact it is the first time experts at the Care Fertility clinic in Nottingham have seen such a set of births.

'It is most unusual to see triplets born

from frozen embryos after a successful previous pregnancy from the same batch,' a spokesman said. 'We have never seen it before and we are thrilled for the parents.'

'They now have four children who were all conceived at the same time.'

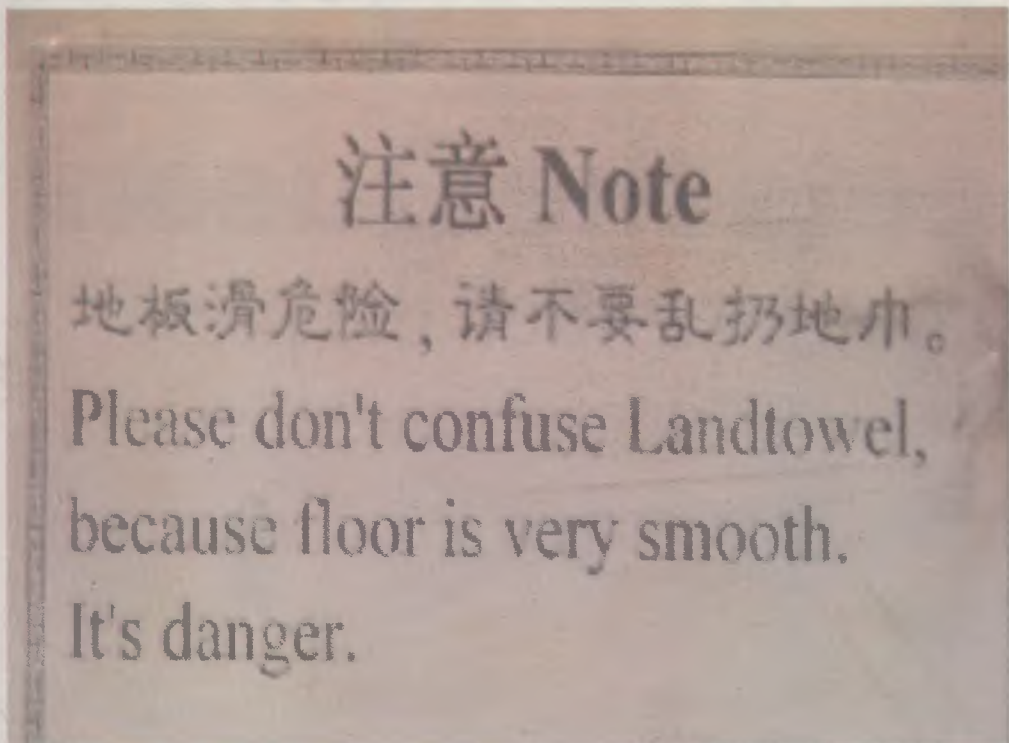
Mrs Baxter, 41, and her engineer husband Shane, 37, had been trying for 18 months for a family when they underwent fertility treatment. Tests had shown that Mrs Baxter, a personnel manager of Grantham, Lincolnshire, had scar tissue on her fallopian tubes so was unlikely to conceive naturally.

In May 2006 the couple went to the Care Fertility clinic where Mrs Baxter had two fertilised eggs put back into her womb and

four frozen. Two weeks later she discovered she was pregnant. 'We were thrilled,' she said. 'One embryo had survived. I couldn't wait to be a mum.' Mrs Baxter's pregnancy went smoothly and Alice was born in February 2007 at City Hospital in Nottingham, weighing a healthy 7lb. Soon after, the couple began trying for another baby, this time naturally, but after two miscarriages they returned to the IVF clinic and the frozen eggs.

Mrs Baxter had three implanted, hoping one would develop. But she 'nearly fell off the scanning table in complete shock' when her eight-week scan revealed she was expecting triplets.

Sign Language



You are causing the confusion with your translation.
 Photo location: Dall, China, by Kristina Rasmak
 Culled from www.signspotting.com

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.

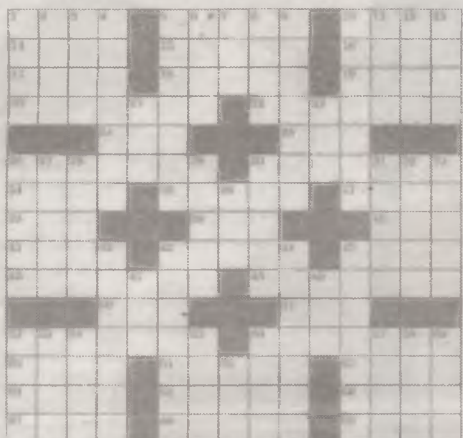
100

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

EASY CROSSWORDS

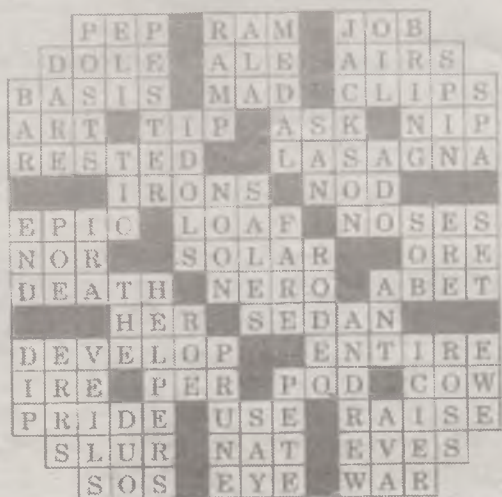
4

- ACROSS**
- 1. Desk
 - 5. Juicy purple fruits
 - 10. Downstairs (adj)
 - 14. District
 - 16. Boundary line
 - 18. Horribly wicked
 - 17. Prejudice
 - 18. Sufficient
 - 19. Put in a piggy bank
 - 20. Soap cracker
 - 22. Hoisted, as a full tub
 - 24. Knave work
 - 25. Healy and McMahon
 - 26. Bear Bunn's snacks
 - 30. Correspondence-carrying stage
 - 34. Has to repay
 - 38. Goes boating
 - 37. Dirty
 - 38. Dose, perhaps
 - 39. Common virus
 - 40. Bar "rocks"
 - 41. Undisciplined child
 - 43. Dissolves
 - 45. Escaped
 - 46. Congratiate
 - 48. Is against
 - 50. Man's date
 - 51. Glass blade
 - 52. Smacked with the palm
 - 30. Angular vegetable, or
 - 60. Anglican sura
 - 61. Abroadward
 - 65. Unpleasant habit
 - 64. Track stage
 - 65. Avoid by trickery
 - 66. Polish (text)
 - 67. Window glass
 - 68. Had a boat
 - 69. Chestnut spread
 - 1. Solar-system members
 - 6. Bright green
 - 7. "Oull" caller
 - 8. Not very spicy, as salsa
 - 9. Hi-5 step
 - 10. Whirlwind
 - 11. Russian czar
 - 12. Hit the water
 - 13. Snowy-day toy
 - 21. Groom's words
 - 22. Church arrangements
 - 26. Nodules (the hair)
 - 27. Conscious
 - 28. Shown again
 - 29. Less risky
 - 30. Disney carnie
 - 51. Handle the letter
 - 32. Rover host
 - 33. Wants
 - 36. Unwell
 - 42. Frog-to-be
 - 43. Struffed the runway
 - 44. Rained
 - 45. Always
 - 47. Draft spigot
 - 49. Pat's partner
 - 52. Bargain hunt
 - 53. Volcanic gas
 - 54. Entertaining AIDS
 - 55. Salami supplier
 - 56. Produced
 - 57. Cultural attraction
 - 58. Curative substance
 - 59. Allows
 - 62. Revolver, for example



Solution to Easy Crosswords

3



Solution to Sudoku 99

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

News Extra

Jacob Zuma meets the Queen

... A royal welcome—but don't mention the press

South African president's aides are furious about 'disrespectful' reports that have greeted state visit

Jacob Zuma, who emerged from a Bentley at 12.20pm Wednesday to shake the Queen's hand and receive a formal welcome, was a study in sartorial sobriety. Those hoping that the charismatic and often controversial South African president would bring a touch of KwaZulu-Natal exoticism to central London were destined for disappointment.

Instead, the 67-year-old president rolled up in a dark grey suit, dark overcoat, black shoes and black scarf. His somber attire was echoed by the heavy coats and patriotic scarves of his fellow South African delegates, who looked on proudly from the sidelines, and complained from time to time about the unpredictable cruelty of Britain's springtime and the predictable cruelty of its press.

It was left to Zuma's third concurrent wife, 38-year-old Thobeka Madiba Zuma, and the Queen to inject a little colour into proceeding with their respective outfits of gold and purple. Zuma's muted clothes reflected his desire to reiterate that, despite his five marriages, 20 children and turbulent political and personal past, he is a potent figure on the international stage.

Not only is the ANC veteran head of one of the most important developing countries in the world, he is also the pre-eminent regional powerbroker and a man who could help cure the UK of one persistent headache: Zimbabwe.

Sadly for Zuma and his entourage, much of the media coverage so far has focused on the man rather than the office. His aides are furious about the "disrespectful" reports that have greeted this week's three-day state visit, not least one newspaper's description of Zuma as a "sex-obsessed bigot" and "vile buffoon".

Zuma himself was sufficiently incensed by the comments to risk offending his hosts. Hours before meeting the Queen, inspecting the guard of honour and listening to the band play both Nkosi Sikilele Africa, and God Save the Queen, the president told South Africa's *Star* newspaper that he was fed up with being judged and sneered at by a country with a hypocritical attitude towards its former colonies.

There were, however, no discernible signs of that anger as he smiled and chatted with the Queen before climbing into the Australian state coach for a trip down the Mall to Buckingham Palace. As the coach drew away,



THE Queen and Mr Zuma share a joke at the start of the state banquet

The Zuma he remembered, he said, bore little resemblance to the cartoonish and libidinous man the press were presenting



PRIME Minister Gordon Brown and Jacob Zuma at Downing Street

the Queen pulled a blanket up to guard against the chill and the president of South Africa, who joined the ANC at the age of 16, wiped his nose with a handkerchief.

At the palace, Zuma was treated to a private view of memorabilia relating to UK's links with South Africa. There were personal photographs recording the Queen's first visit to Zuma's country as Princess Elizabeth 63 years ago. That was a trip that yielded two famous moments. The first was the future Queen's promise to devote her life to the service of the Commonwealth. The second was the Queen Moth-

er's misidentification of a loyal subject; when a man jumped on to the running board of the royal car, she feared the worst and beat him off with an umbrella. It later transpired that he had been trying to give Princess Elizabeth a 10-shilling note as a present on her 21st birthday.

The three-storey Edwardian house at 51 Alexandra Park Road, in Muswell Hill, made an unlikely shrine, but, as the green plaque on its front attested, the building had played a crucial role in the fight to end apartheid. For 30 years it was home to Oliver Tambo,

the once exiled president of the ANC, and a beacon for freedom fighters, politicians and intellectuals. The house has been bought by the South African government and could become a museum.

The posters on the staircase – "ANC demands one person, one vote in South Africa" – and the huge framed photo of a smiling Zuma, already offered a succinct chronology of recent South African history. Returning to the house, said Zuma, brought a bittersweet time back to life. "The reflections [we shared] were about the struggle," he said, after unveiling a plaque in the company of Tambo's son, Dali, and

guests including David Steel and Glenys Kinnock. "Some of us used to come here to give reports and bring messages. It does bring back those days when we could not speculate about when would be the day of freedom."

The house holds more memories and more ghosts for Dali Tambo, who can remember the great gatherings, the break-ins and the knowledge that his family was under constant surveillance.

"It was very much a home to all South African exiles from any faction within the struggle," he said. "We always felt that if we were going to land anywhere in the world apart from your own home, the best place was London. My mother called it a soft landing as you were landing in a liberal democracy."

As he waited in the cold for the presidential motorcade to arrive, Tambo, who was educated in London but lives in Johannesburg, pondered Zuma's progress from visitor to Muswell Hill to visitor to Buckingham Palace. The Zuma he remembered, he said, bore little resemblance to the cartoonish and libidinous man the press were presenting. "You'll always have the media caricaturing politicians and I guess that's part of their job," he mused. "But it's unfortunate that it ignores a very noble personal history. He has spent his entire life fighting for the liberation of his people. We view him as an honourable man."

Culled from guardian.co.uk

News Extra

Hospital sent toddler home with plaster cast on the wrong leg



FIVE weeks in plaster: A series of blunders saw Rafe (pictured with mother Bella) have the wrong leg plastered and then the correct leg's plaster removed before the bone had healed

A toddler with a broken leg was sent home from hospital with a plaster cast on the wrong limb.

Medical staff blamed Rafe Powell's mother for not noticing their mistake after they strapped up her 21-month-old son's healthy right leg – leaving him in agony with a fractured left leg.

Bella Powell, 45, took Rafe to the accident and emergency department at Torbay Hospital in Devon after he fell out of his high chair at their home in nearby Brixham.

X-rays revealed that he had broken his tibia, and after nurses had fitted the crying child with a cast, he was discharged.

But when they arrived home, Mrs Powell and husband Guy, 48, who have six children, noticed that Rafe's left leg had become red and swollen.

They made a second trip to the hospital – where staff implied that Mrs Powell was at fault for failing to spot the error during the first visit.

On Wednesday, the hospital apologised for its mistake and the 'unacceptable comments' made to Mrs Powell.

Mr Powell, a retired police-

man, said: 'For a mistake like this to be made is too surreal to believe. The worst thing is that

broken leg down and put a cast on the wrong leg.

'He is a 21-month-old boy – he was upset and in shock and unable to point out which leg hurt so you have to trust the hospital staff to treat the right one.'

'The hospital staff were very dismissive the whole time. It was like we were invisible.'

Housewife Mrs Powell added: 'It was all quite an ordeal, with Rafe crying as they held him down while they tried to plaster his leg.'

'I couldn't believe my ears when the doctor tried to say it was my fault and why hadn't I said – I felt absolutely awful.'

A hospital spokesman said they had sent a letter of apology to the family and implemented changes to avoid a repeat of the mistake.

He added: 'We have taken measures ensuring all plaster casts that are applied are checked by another member of staff.'

'The two male members of staff who they felt made inappropriate comments have also offered their apologies.'

Rafe will return to the hospital next week for further X-rays to check whether his leg has healed and the cast can be removed.

A hospital spokesman said they had sent a letter of apology to the family and implemented changes to avoid a repeat of the mistake

they tried to deflect the blame on to my wife.

Bella had to do her best to comfort our son as they held his

The Chinese girl who weighs 6.5st at the age of two

She may be just two years old, but Pang Ya is already tipping the scales at 6.5st.

The toddler's size means she now weighs the same as an average female Chinese adult.

Although her alarmed parents admit that their daughter has a healthy appetite, they are desperate for help.

Her father said: 'Doctors can't figure out the reasons for her obesity, which worries us a lot.'

Pang Ya, who is from Taocun town, Shanxi province, was born weighing an average eight pounds.

A recent government survey declared there are 60 million obese people in China, with the number doubling between 1992 and 2002.

Two years ago the country got its first Kentucky Fried Chicken fast food restaurant.



PANG Ya (left) poses next to a healthy two-year-old Chinese friend



THE toddler's parents are anxious for assistance in helping Pang Ya lose weight

News Extra

Probe launched after boy, 10, directed' planes from JFK's control tower

As every parent knows, it can be a struggle to find ways to entertain children over the school holidays. But one father may now be regretting his decision to take his son to work during half-term.

Pilots flying out of one of the world's busiest airports were stunned when they heard a child's voice directing planes from the control tower.

The boy, who is estimated to be around ten years old, made five radio transmissions at New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport.

In audio recordings of the child's broadcasts, his father, who works at the control tower, can be heard joking with pilots: 'That's what you get, guys, when the kids are out of school.'

Airport authorities refused to reveal the boy's identity, but his father and a supervisor have been assigned to other duties while the Federal Aviation Administration investigates.

Ninety airlines operate out of JFK, including British Airways and Virgin. The New York to London Heathrow route is the airport's busiest, serving almost three million passengers a year.



THE air traffic control tower at JFK airport in New York where a child was heard directing planes

FAA spokesman Jim Peters said tower employees' children were allowed into the high-security area with FAA approval but - not surprisingly - were not permitted to direct air traffic.

'This behaviour is not acceptable and does not demonstrate the kind of professionalism expected from all FAA employees,' he added.

A spokesman for the traffic controllers' union said: 'We do not condone this type of behaviour in any way. It does not represent the highest professional standards control-

lers set for themselves.'

Most of the boy's transmissions were directed to pilots on the runway. In recordings released on Wednesday he can be heard calling out their flight numbers, asking them to contact departure and using air traffic control terminology.

His instructions include 'Jet Blue 171, clear for take off' and 'Aeromexico 403, contact departure'.

Adults in the control tower laugh in the background, as one pilot tells the boy his directions are 'awesome'. The child even ends one call

WHAT HE SAID TO THE PILOTS

■ Boy: AMX 403, Contact departures. Adios

■ Pilot: Contact departures. Aeromexico 403. Adios

■ Boy (continues in Spanish ending): Adios amigos

■ Boy: Jet Blue 171 cleared for takeoff

■ Pilot: Cleared for takeoff. Jet blue 171

■ Boy: Jet Blue 171 - contact departures

■ Pilot: Over to departures. Jet blue 171. Awesome job (chuckle)

(Laughter in control tower can be heard)

■ An adult (reportedly a controller): That's what you get when the kids are out

in Spanish, telling the pilot 'adios amigos'.

With 25 miles of taxiways and dozens of planes lined up for take-off at any time, JFK has one of the worst reputations in the U.S. for delays and safety issues.

The airport, which has just started extensive runway renovations, ranks 28th out of 31 major American airports for on-time departures. One in every five flights leaves late, with the average delay

more than an hour.

Two of the worst crashes in aviation history happened minutes after take-off from JFK. Two months after the September 2001 terrorist attacks, an American Airlines flight bound for the Dominican Republic crashed over the New York suburb of Queens, killing 260 people on board and five people on the ground.

In 1996, 230 passengers and crew were killed when Europe-bound TWA flight 800 exploded off the coast of Long Island.

Pilot 'with fake licence' is arrested as he prepares to take off with 101 people

A pilot accused of flying with a fake licence for 13 years was arrested Wednesday as he prepared to fly 101 passengers to Turkey.

The 41-year-old Swede was at the controls of a Boeing 737 when he was held by police at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport.

He was said to have expressed relief when confronted and taken off his pilot's stripes.

Dutch police said the Swede, who lives in Milan but whose name was not disclosed, logged more than 10,000 hours flight hours for airlines in Britain, Italy and Belgium with his forged licence.

Lawyer Benno Friedberg of Turkish airline Corendon said the company had cooperated with police and had a reserve pilot prepared to take



A Boeing 737 from the airline Corendon. The Swedish pilot was preparing to take off with a similar plane when he was arrested

over the flight to Ankara.

Officers, who were alerted by a Swedish tip-off, said the man had once had a commercial pilot licence, but it had expired and it never qualified him for passenger flights.

'The pilot said he was relieved that his misdeeds had come to light, and he pulled off his stripes at the time of his arrest,' a Dutch police statement said.

'He claimed to have worked

for various companies in Belgium, Britain and Italy' over 13 years, logging more than 10,000 flight hours.

Mr Friedberg said the man had worked for Corendon for two years.

The pilot is being in custody and a judge in Haarlem, near Amsterdam, will decide tomorrow if he should be released on bail while awaiting trial for forging documents and flying without a licence.

PROPERTY

property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

Mortgage bank pays N2.5bn to investors

THE Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) has paid N2.58 billion to mortgage-backed bond investors, Mr Dauda Yusuf, the bank's Public Relations Manager, has said.

Yusuf said on Wednesday in Lagos that the repayment had made the apex mortgage institu-

tion to retain the 'AAA' rating.

FMBN floated a tranche of N100 billion bonds in 2004 to refinance civil servants' acquisition of non-essential Federal Government-owned residential houses. He said that the bank had successfully effected payment for the coupon rate on the bond to

the investors in May and November 2009.

"The sum of N1,278,000,000 billion was paid in May while N1,308,000,000 billion was paid in November 2009 and this has made the bank to retain the 'AAA' rating," he said. Besides, Yusuf said the bank made a repayment of N5

billion to the Debt Management Office (DMO).

He said that the amount was a three-year facility extended to the bank's mortgage refinancing operations.

Based on the bank's credit worthiness, he said the DMO had approved the roll over of the facil-

ity for another three years beginning from June 2009

He said the bank also recovered N2.5 billion from 42 non-performing loans.

The bank, he added, would soon float the second tranche of the N100 billion bonds in the capital market. (NAN)

Kwara govt to establish cement factory

KWARA state government is to establish cement factory at Owa-Kajola in Ifelodun Local Government Area of the state.

The factory, which is expected to cost the state government the sum of N25 billion naira, will also provide job opportunities for unemployed youths and also improve the economy of the state.

Already, the state government has completed feasibility studies on the project with the hope of using it to tackle unemployment and boost the socio-economic

development of the state.

Dr. Bukola Saraki, the governor of the state, who stated this while speaking with newsmen, at the weekend, noted that the state had enough limestones deposit at Owa-Kajola village in the state that, if well utilised would go a long way in accelerating the economic development of the state.

According to him, "the present government is committed to changing the state for economic prosperity that will match the test of time among other

states of the federation".

He said that, since assumption of office in 2003, his government had embarked on series of projects that could bring prosperity to the lives of the people and inspire the socio-economic growth of the state.

Saraki added that, by the time the project was completed, unemployed graduates would be employed while the people of the state would have opportunity to do business that would fetch them more money and this would improve their standard and living.

FCTA to spend N5bn on Abuja natives' resettlement

By Nasir Imam

THE FCT Administration will this year expend about N5 billion on the resettlement of Abuja natives.

The FCT Minister, Senator Muhammad Adamu Aliero made this revelation in his office while receiving the Chief of Naval Staff who paid him a courtesy visit.

The Minister remarked that

special attention would be paid to resettlement of the original indigenes of the Federal Capital Territory within the Abuja metropolis this fiscal year.

The Minister ordered for the returning of a plot of land in Guzape District of the Federal Capital City earmarked for the building of the official residence of the Chief of Naval Staff ear-

lier revoked. Speaking earlier, the Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral Ishaya Iko Ibrahim called for the completion of Abuja-Karshi road noting that the Naval Post-Service Housing Scheme is in Karshi.

He complained of the revocation of the plot of land meant for the building of the official residence of the Chief of Naval Staff which was revoked.

Traders give Jos South LG 30-day ultimatum over demolition

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

BUKURU Traders and Market-ers Association have given Jos South Local Government Council an ultimatum of 30 working days to reverse their position on demolition of Bukuru Market or face legal action against them for illegal demolition of their markets.

This was contained in a pre-action notice sent to the executive chairman of Jos South Local Government Area from their counsel Barrister Ahmed Garba said the council will also be charged with unlawfully obstructing their legitimate businesses as Nigerians citizen and will claim the sum of

N50 billion as damages.

Ahmed Garba said the traders are tenants in law in occupation of the markets in Filin sarki, Cattle Market Zango and Kugiya Market and the markets were affected by the 17th January 2010 crises that affected Jos North and Jos South Local Governments.

He said the traders lost a lot of properties as a result of the Jos fracas they managed to raise some funds to renovate their burnt shops in other to continue with their legitimate business but the local government is doing everything possible to stop them from continuing their business activities in these markets.

Counsel to the traders alleged that "the council had concluded plans to demolish these markets with a view to stop them from doing business activities in the markets without putting the members of clear notice, or reason to that effect to the trader and without following due process of law in the spirit of the rule of law which the Federal Government is working hard to protect" he added.

Garba said the traders presently cannot do their legitimate businesses in these markets because of the local government actions that prevented them from doing so which is causing a lot of damages to the members their families and business interest.



© Reuters
DOWNTOWN Seoul, South Korea.

PHCN orders removal of structures under transmission lines

THE Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) in Lokoja has ordered owners of structures under its transmission lines to remove them immediately.

The PHCN Business District Manager for Lokoja, Mr Abednego Akubuko, made this known in Lokoja on Wednesday in an interview.

Akubuko said that the removal of the structures had become necessary following the discovery that the transmission network lines in the town "are in shambles".

"We can have snap of lines at anytime because the high voltage lines have become outdated," he said.

Akubuko said that the order also affected those trading under the lines and reminded the violators that the organisation would not be liable in case of an accident.

He said that the PHCN had already communicated its position to the Kogi State Government and other relevant bodies.

Akubuko, however, said that the PHCN would soon upgrade all existing high voltage overhead lines in Lokoja to 100mm from its present 35mm.

The manager explained that a 60MVA Station would soon be established at Ajaokuta as part of efforts to improve power supply to the Kogi East Senatorial District.

According to Akubuko, another 11KVA feeder station will be established in Lokoja this year to complement the 15 KVA reloading station.

On the billing problems being encountered by consumers, the PHCN chief said that contract had been awarded for the supply and installation of pre-paid meters in Lokoja and its environs. (NAN)

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FCT shifts deadline on resettling inhabitants

THE Minister of State for Federal Capital Territory, Chief Chuka Odom, has said that the FCT's March 2010 deadline for the resettlement of the original inhabitants of the territory in their new locations is no longer feasible.

Odom, who made the announcement on Wednesday

in Abuja during an interview, blamed the development on the delay in the completion of basic infrastructure, such as electricity, primary health care centres and water at the resettlement sites.

Odom said the delay in the approval of the FCT 2010 budget was also responsible for the shift

in the resettlement plan.

He explained that as a result of the delay in the passage of the budget, the FCT administration was unable to pay contractors to enable them to complete all ongoing projects at the various resettlement sites.

He said, "Regrettably, we have

not been able to get the budget passed, and this is a scenario we did not anticipate or contemplate last year.

"We can't move people into such settlements if you don't have the basic things in place. We cannot embark on budgetary expenditure without appropriation.

"The contactors have not been paid. We are making efforts to ensure that as soon as the budget is approved, they will be the first line to be paid.

"I cannot, in all conscience, move people to the sites when I am sure that there are no facilities in place. (NAN)

Nasarawa plans computerisation of land administration

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NASARAWA State government has planned to raise standards in the administration and control of land with the award of a N499,036,136.55 contract for the computerization of the Lands, Survey and Town Planning ministry and related agencies.

The project which was signed earlier in the week by the Secretary to the State Government, Timothy Anjide and the representative of the contractors - J.M. Technology Worldwide, Michael Idu in Lafia, is called "The establishment of Nasarawa State Geographic Information System (NAGIS). The contract period is 32 weeks.

The project, according to the SSG, will bring an effective land administration and management. He said land administration and management has been one of the major preoccupation of the government of governor Aliyu Akwe Doma "because the future of the state lies on how well the land and its resources are put to use or controlled."

He said the project aims the computerization of the entire lands ministry and its related agencies entailing that NAGIS will enable government to fully harness its revenue drive potentials on land in the state. He also said the project will reduce land disputes, eliminate forgeries and loss of land documents, check land use abuses, ease land data storage and retrieval.

"The system will also prevent proliferation of unplanned and squatter settlements, provide easy access to topographic and base map, completely eliminate the nefarious activities of quacks and land speculators, among numerous advantages", Anjide added.

The representative of J.M. Technology Worldwide, Idu assured the project would be executed according to specification.

It is the second time Nasarawa State government would be signing contract for the same project, the first being last year. The SSG refused to say anything about this when newsmen spoke to him at the end of the contract signing ceremony.



MANAGING Director, Federal Housing Authority, Arc. Terver Gemade (left) and Chairman, Bahaus International Ltd, Dr Victor Onukugha at the signing of a memorandum of understanding for the construction of 596 housing units at Apo District, Abuja.

Kenya to send delegation to study Abuja

By Nasir Imam

FCT Minister Muhammad Adamu Aliero has consented to the request of the government of Kenya to send a delegation to study the building and management of the Nigerian Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

The Minister gave this consent on Thursday while receiving the Kenya High Commissioner to Nigeria that paid him a courtesy visit in his office.

Senator Aliero revealed that the delegation would be here to study the Abuja Master Plan and its implementation because of the success story recorded within a short time of its existence.

The Minister also accepted the invitation of the Kenyan High Commissioner for him to attend the ground-breaking ceremony of the Kenyan Chancery and residence of the High Commissioner in Abuja.

Senator Aliero disclosed that his administration is keen on developing relations with Kenya and at the same time create the avenue where the Federal Capital Territory Administration and the Administration of the city of Nairobi learn more on how giant developmental feats were achieved as well as issues concerning metropolitan management have so far been handled viz-a-viz the experi-

ences of the twin cities.

Speaking earlier, the Kenyan High Commissioner to Nigeria, Mr. Francis Sigie invited the Minister to attend ground-breaking ceremony of the Kenyan Chancery and residence of the High Commissioner in Abuja, adding that a delegation from Kenya would soon visit Abuja to study the mode of development of the Nigerian capital city with a view of employing such developmental initiatives in Nairobi since both our countries have so much to learn from one another.

Mr. Sigie emphasized that he would like to see more trade and cultural ties between Nigeria and Kenya.

Govt's demolition policy violates human rights - Group

A Geneva-based NGO, Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (COHRE), on Thursday described government's forced evictions and demolition policies as a "gross" violation of human rights.

COHRE, which is an independent International Human Rights NGO, said more than three million Nigerians have been "violently" evicted from their homes over several decades.

This was contained in a petition pursuant to Resolution 1503 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, signed by Mr Bret Thiele, Coordinator of COHRE in Abuja.

"The forced evictions documented in this petition clearly constitute gross, consistent and reliably attested violations of human rights.

"Given the scale of the practice of forced evictions in Nigeria over the past two decades and the fact that legal remedies are rarely accorded to victims support human rights violations," it said.

(NAN)

Katsina to check indiscriminate use of speed breakers

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

WORRIED by the indiscriminate use of unauthorised speed breakers by settlements along major highways, Katsina state government has this week set up three standing committees to regulate the act and ensure installation of necessary roads furniture across the state.

State Commissioner of Works and Housing, Architect Musa Sada, who inaugurated the committees in his office said the move become necessary in view of recent occurrences where every village puts series of tyres in a bid to save themselves coupled with the need to ensure sanity by road users.

He flayed the usage of tyres as

speed breakers in most villages across all the major states highways without proper articulation of vehicles which sometimes leads to accidents with loss of lives and properties.

He tasked the committees to dismantle all those obstacles mounted on the roads, identify areas of road furniture and install the appropriate signs and cautions

with a view to assist the safety of both the road users and the villagers.

He equally charged them to mobilize both sides against inappropriate road use behaviour and ensure respect for all roads caution. The committees included that of speed control and safety, and construction and installation of roads signs, and location

of motor park sites for NARTO.

In a response, a member in all the committees and permanent secretary special services, Alhaji Rabi Gambo Bakori describe the task as herculean given the need for societal re-orientation of attitudinal behaviour and express hope that, it will surmounted with the calibre of people in the committees.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

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RC 165189

On behalf of



AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSURANCE PLC
RC 2176

Announces the result of placing of 4,585,000,000 ordinary shares of 50 kobo each at 50 kobo per share to Conau Limited with respect to the Placing Memorandum dated January 21st 2010.

ALLOTMENT

A single application for the 4,585, 000,000 Ordinary Shares of 50 kobo each received from the Core Investor, Conau Limited was found to be valid under the terms of the Placing, hence processed.

The Placing was therefore 100% subscribed.

SUMMARY

INVESTOR	UNITS- APPLIED	UNITS ALLOTTED	%ALLOTTED
Conau Limited	4,585,000,000	4,585,000,000	100

The Securities and Exchange Commission has cleared the basis of allotment stated above as well as this announcement.

The shares allotted will be credited in the CSCS Account indicated on the Application Form by the successful Allottee or a share certificate in its name will be dispatched to the given address through registered post by the registrars to the Issue, Afribank Registrars Limited, 2A Gbagada Expressway, Anthony Village, Lagos, not later than 22nd March, 2010.



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In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.



FROM left, Chairman Muslim Media Practitioner of Nigeria (MMPN), Abdurahman Balogun; Guest Speaker from University of Ilorin, Dr. Badmus Lanre Yusuf and former University of Abuja Vice Chancellor, Prof. Nuhu Yaquub during the MMPN's lecture on terrorism, held in Abuja over the weekend.

Can the Imam use projector during Jumu'ah khutbah?

Is there any shar'iah objection to using modern means of giving a presentation, such as a computer screen or projector, as a tool for the khateeb during the Jumu'ah khutbah, with no sound that would drown out the voice of the khateeb? The purpose of the Jumu'ah khutbah is to remind, exhort and teach the people, and to discuss with the people their religious and daily affairs that are related to their environment and society. These tools will help to convey the khutbah in a more practical way to the worshippers, and help them to focus on the subject matter, whilst paying attention to all shar'iah aspects in the means used. Microphones and loudspeakers help to convey the khateeb's voice to a larger number of people, so they are audio tools; by the same token projectors and screens are visual tools. The Messenger of Allah (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) communicated to his Companions by means of gestures to make ideas clearer. One time we see him (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) holding his forefinger and middle finger close together; on another occasion we see him (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) drawing three lines on the ground to represent man, his lifespan and his hope, as is narrated in Muslim. These were simple matters at that time but they helped to clarify an idea or give a clearer image to the minds of the listeners?

The one who thinks that Islam does not approve of technical development and modern inventions is mistaken. Using the Internet, satellite channels and modern means of communication provide evidence for what we stated above. But that is conditional on it being in accordance with sharee'ah and not involving anything haraam that leads to negative consequences. What we think is that using a projector in the Jumu'ah khutbah is not in accordance with sharee'ah, for a number of reasons:

The Jumu'ah khutbah has a certain status and importance, as Allah called it in His Book "remembrance of Allaah", as He says (interpretation of the meaning): "O you who believe (Muslims)! When the call is proclaimed for the Salaah (prayer) on Friday (Jumu'ah prayer), come to the remembrance of Allaah [Jumu'ah religious talk (Khutbah) and Salaah (prayer)] and leave off business (and every other thing). That is better for you if you did but know!" [al-Jumu'ah 62:9]. Using

the projector as mentioned would detract from its status or take it away altogether, and is not suitable because the khutbah is remembrance of Allah, may He be exalted.

The Sunnah in the Jumu'ah khutbah is to keep it short, but using a projector and so on would make it long, which is contrary to the Prophet's guidance. Abu Waa'il said: 'Ammar [ibn Yaasir] addressed us and he spoke briefly but eloquently. When he came down (from the minbar), we said: O Abu'l-Yaqzaan, you spoke eloquently but briefly, would that you had made it longer. He said: I heard the Messenger of Allaah (blessings and peace and Allah be upon him) say: "A man's lengthening his prayer and shortening his khutbah is a sign of his understanding (of religion), so make your prayers lengthy and your khutbahs brief, for there is charm in eloquent speech." Narrated by Muslim, 869.

The projector may be visible to some people and not others, and some of the worshippers may be deprived, such as the women and those who are sitting in a place where they cannot see the projector which, in this case, will be part of the khutbah and complementary to the words of the khateeb.

In order to use this equipment, the lights have to be turned off and the lights of the projector have to be turned on. This will require some of the worshippers present to move, either to turn the lights off or turn the projector on, and they will be distracted by the operation of the projector or sounds coming from the machine, which is contrary to the rulings on Jumu'ah. The Prophet (blessings and peace of Allah be upon him) forbade touching the pebbles during the khutbah and ruled that the one who does that deliberately will be deprived of the reward for Jumu'ah. In fact he forbade playing with the pebbles which were usually on the ground in the mosque: "whoever touches the pebbles has engaged in an idle action." Narrated by Muslim (857) from the hadeeth of Abu Hurayrah. What we think is that it is not permissible to use a projector during the Jumu'ah khutbah. But in lessons, exhortations and lectures, the matter is broad in scope and there is nothing wrong with using projectors in those cases. And Allah knows best. *Islam Q&A*

USIP holds seminar on Islam in Nigeria

By AbdulFattah Olajide, with agency reports

THE United States Institute of Peace (USIP) will host a workshop with the theme "Is Nigeria a Hotbed of Islamic Extremism" in Washington on March 15.

The workshop, organised by the institute in view of the alleged attempt by the Nigerian-born Farouk AbdulMutallab to bomb an American airliner last December, will be addressed by the renowned Professor John N. Paden of George Mason University, Washington DC, United States.

Professor John Paden was part of the U.S. delegation monitoring the presidential elections there.

Paden, a Clarence J. Robinson Professor of International Studies and distinguished Africanist, has spent his career studying and teaching comparative government, international development, and conflict resolution. His publications range from a highly acclaimed interdisciplinary textbook series on African studies to a prize-winning study of Nigerian political culture and Ahmadu Bello, Sardauna of Sokoto, a biography of a Nigerian Muslim leader. Paden has been a Rhodes Scholar, Danforth Fellow, Ford Fellow, and Rockefeller Fellow, and has also earned Mellon, Lilly, Kettering and NEH grants. He is co-author of *Black Africa: A Comparative Handbook*, a major reference book on Africa, and is involved in developing global perspectives in the university curriculum.

After graduating from Occidental with a bachelor's degree in philosophy, Paden attended Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar, earning bachelor's and master's degrees in philosophy, politics and economics. He continued on to Harvard for a PhD in

political science.

While he was a student at Harvard, Paden returned to London for intensive Hausa language training, and then traveled again to western Africa, where Hausa is spoken. "I immersed myself in the culture, partly because I wanted to see where the overlap was between Western culture, African culture and Muslim culture," he says. "That turned out to be in Nigeria."

After Harvard, Paden taught at Northwestern University for many years but took a leave of absence to work at two universities in Nigeria. He was professor of public administration at Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria. He then helped to establish Bayero University in Kano, where he was founding dean of the faculty of social and management sciences.

Paden was director of African studies and the Norman Dwight Harris Professor of International Studies at Northwestern before joining the George Mason University faculty.

Other books authored by Paden include "The African Experience," which was the first major interdisciplinary U.S. college textbook on African studies, "Muslim Civic Cultures and Conflict Resolution: The Challenge of Democratic Federalism in Nigeria", and "Faith and Politics in Nigeria: Nigeria as a Pivotal State in the Muslim World".

During his career, Paden has served on several high-profile projects, including the team that helped plan the new Nigerian federal capital at Abuja, and a senior-level task force at the Brookings Institution on U.S. policy toward the Islamic world. He also worked closely with the Center for Strategic and International Studies and the U.S. Institute of Peace to inform political leaders about international Muslim communities.



PROFESSOR Paden

CITY NEWS



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Passengers beat conductor over old currency

By Hussein Yahaya

A mild drama occurred yesterday at Wuse, Zone 6 bus stop Abuja, when two passengers in a commercial bus beat up a conductor for refusing to collect N50 non-polymer notes as transport fares.

A witness said the passengers boarded the 18-seater bus from Bwari to Abuja but had problems at the Kubwa express way, when the conductor asked the passengers to pay their transport fares

and two passengers brought out old N50 notes for payment.

"The conductor immediately told passengers that the non polymer currencies of N50, N10 and N5 are no longer collected and he will not accept the notes," the witness said.

He stated that two passengers insisted on paying with the old N50 notes and said they argued that the notes were still legal tenders in the country but the conductor ignored them until it was time for them to

alight from the bus.

"As they alighted from the bus, the conductor grabbed one of them on the shirt and in the process, the other passenger slapped the conductor," the witness said.

Our Reporter learnt that it took the intervention of some police men to stop the fight and settle the matter before the bus continued on its journey.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has cancelled the March 31 deadline for the with-

drawal of the non polymer notes.

Although some residents said they were not aware of the CBN new directives, others said they heard about it on news yesterday and said such decision is commendable.

Mr. Isiaka Ayodele, a civil servant, commended the CBN for such decision but appealed to the apex bank to mount enough enlightenment campaigns on the new directives so that everyone in the country can be carried along.

Two jailed for impersonation

By Samuel Olotu & Doris Afoma West

A hair braider, Vera Ehinmenmen and a furniture maker were yesterday sentenced to six months imprisonment by an Abuja magistrate court for impersonation.

The police prosecutor informed the court that on March 1, one Lanre Balogun, the chief security officer attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs reported to the police that the accused persons impersonated employees of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources when they went to Ukraine Embassy for a visa interview.

He said during police investigation, the accused confessed to the crime, adding that the ministry's identity-cards bearing the accused persons names were recovered from them.

The accused persons pleaded guilty when the charge was read to them and begged the court for mercy.

After the plea, the prosecutor urged the court to try the accused persons summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC) and Chief Magistrate O.O. Oyewumi sentenced them to six months imprisonment without fine option.



ALIYU Mohammed was burnt by a fellow mechanic.

Mechanic jailed for burning colleague's hand

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 26-year-old mechanic, Mustapha Mohammed, was yesterday sentenced to one month imprisonment by an Abuja magistrate court for using petrol to burn the hand of his colleague.

Police prosecutor, Mohammed Ahmed, told the court that on February 28, 2010, one Aliyu Mohammed reported to the police that

the accused inflicted injury on his hand by setting it on fire.

"The complainant while in his workshop demanded for a screw driver which the accused borrowed from him on February 26, 2010, but instead of returning it to him, the accused grew annoyed, poured petrol on his hand and set it on fire," the prosecutor stated.

Prosecutor Ahmed stated further that the complainant's hand

was badly burnt and the accused committed an offence punishable under Section 243 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and begged for leniency.

"It was while we were fighting over the screw driver that we jointly held foam soaked in petrol and I collected a match box from him and struck a match

to respond to his boasting that if I am a true son of my father I should light the match stick," the accused said.

Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo sentenced the accused to one month imprisonment or to pay N5,000 as fine.

The chief magistrate also ruled that the convict must enter into a bond promising to be of good behaviour for the next six weeks.

Dutsen-Baupma residents get free HIV test

By Romoke W. Ahmad

ABOUT 126 residents of Dutsen-Baupma have received free HIV testing and counseling organized by 'Silver Lining for Needy Initiative' (SLNI) in collaboration with Gede Foundation.

The programme is aimed at assisting people living with HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.

The Founder of SLNI, Hauwa Abass, said Dutsen Baupma is one of the 12 communities in the FCT that was selected by the foundation, where monthly voluntary counseling and testing will be conducted.

She expressed happiness with the level of cooperation from the people of the area that came out en mass to receive information about HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, and voluntarily underwent HIV screening.

The Programme Officer of Gede Foundation, Helen Okoye, said they supported the programme because it coincides with their own programme, adding that Gede Foundation will be responsible for the counseling and testing of residents of communities reached by SLNI this year.

Fire guts Kubwa Shopping Complex

By Muideen Olaniyi & Abdulkair Badsha Mukhtar

A man had his two hands and face burnt, while property worth millions of naira were on Wednesday night destroyed when fire gutted Zulaihatu Shopping Complex at Kubwa, in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

The fire which lasted for close

to five hours engulfed more than 30 shops in the plaza.

A witness said the fire began at 7 pm and spread around the complex building within 10 minutes with uniformed personnel trying to handle the situation.

The witness said the fire consumed the upper part of the one storey shopping mall before it was extinguished by officials of

the Federal Fire Service at around 9.39 pm.

He said the cause of the fire could not be ascertained but it was rumored that the inferno may have been caused by fuel stored in one of the shops in the complex.

Another source said it might have been caused by a candle but the officer in charge of Asokoro Fire Station, A.A. Ashafa, said the

incident was caused by electrical faults.

He said one man was hospitalized from burns sustained while trying to put out the fire.

Ashafa disclosed that two water tanks and fire fighting engines were sent from Gwarinpa to put out the fire, adding that it underscored the need for a fire station in Kubwa for emergency response.

NUJ urges EFCC to investigate NAPEP

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) has been tasked by the Abuja council of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ) to investigate the activities of the National Agency for Poverty Eradication and arrest the agency's Director-General, Dr. Magnus Kpakol over the recent corruption allegation levied against him.

The council in a statement alleged that the agency under Kpakol has contributed in no small measures to the geometric rise of poverty in the country as over 80 percent of Nigerians are living below the poverty line of \$1 a day.

Chairman of the council, Jacob Edi, observed that the recent admission by Kpakol that the document for the supply of 500 tricycles (Keke NAPEP) valued at over N2.5 billion was missing is regrettable with the agency's mandate to alleviate poverty in the country.

He said the EFCC would be doing unemployed Nigerians and the country good by proceeding to arrest Kpakol for alleged corrupt practices as it is evident that the embattled DG of NAPEP might not have told the truth about the whereabouts of the documents for the tricycles, of which less than 400 were supplied after all the monies had been paid.

Edi warned that if Kpakol and all those responsible are allowed to go without investigation, it would send the wrong signals.

He urged the Senate not to waiver in its investigation of the NAPEP scam as Nigerians are anxious of the outcome of the investigation.



FIREMEN during a training course in Abuja recently.

Mason escapes lynching at Area one

By Lami Sadiq

A mason, Hashim Dauda, Wednesday night escaped being lynched by petrol hawkers around area one shopping complex, after they mistook him for a fuel hawker that ventured into their territory.

The incident happened when Hashim approached a group of petrol hawkers with a 20 litre gallon to buy fuel for his madam.

Hashim lamented that one of the hawkers alerted the rest of the gang that an outsider was selling fuel in their territory, which made them attack and accuse him of spoiling their business.

He said one of the hawkers warned him that only registered union members were allowed to hawk petrol around the area.

"I tried to explain to them that the fuel was not mine but that I was only assist-

ing my madam but they refused to believe me and some of them started beating me before I was rescued by some elderly men around the shopping complex," he said.

One of the hawkers complained that they have had cases of non union members selling fuel around the area, adding that anyone who wants to hawk petrol around the area must be a registered member of their union.

Motorist in court over dangerous driving

By Lami Sadiq & Bunmi Omelehin

A motorist, Charles John, yesterday denied charges of dangerous driving at an Abuja Upper Area Court.

Prosecutor Ayuba Ambi told the court that the accused drove his bus with registration number XN 299 ABC in a dangerous manner along Ahmadu Bello way, which resulted

in an accident.

He said the accused drove the said bus with no regards to human lives and property and in the process damaged a traffic light pole in the area.

"The cost of damage was N500,000 and offence punishable under Section 28 of the Road Transport Act," he stated.

When the charge was read to the accused, he

denied it and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Judge Umar Kagarko granted the accused bail in the sum of N600,000 with a surety in like sum, who must reside within the jurisdiction of the court with a fixed address.

The case was adjourned April 1, for further hearing.

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- 9th March, Krypton Educational Services, Office Abuja, suit 18/19, Tolse Plaza, Gwadabe crescent zone 6 Extension, Apo Legislative Quater, APO-ABUJA 10am

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Inside Politics

Yar'adua: PDP's failure caused stalemate, says IBM Haruna

CHAIRMAN of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) retired **General IBM Haruna** in this interview with *Daily Trust* early in the week identifies failure of leadership by the ruling PDP as being responsible for the impasse that greeted President Umaru Yar'adua's health issue. Excerpts:



IBM Haruna

By Suleiman M. Bisalla & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

ON the impasse that greeted the return of President Umaru Yar'adua

We have found ourselves in a kind of slush where augments, sentiments and emotions are being expressed adversely with respect to certain geopolitical regions being held as if they are responsible for the predicament that we have found ourselves.

I think before we start exchanging more violence and perhaps insults, we have to clarify and call on people to live up to the expectations of their oath of office and the public trust which is in their custody. They should also respect

the Nigerian citizenry and the law that binds the Nigerian citizens and their institutions. This concern is coming from me as a retired civil war General and Commander-in-Chief and as a citizen of the Nigerian nation. It is also out of my commitment to ensuring that the sacrifices made in liberating the South-South and consolidating the erstwhile Biafran nation, and in bringing up the Nigerian state to where it is today is not in vain.

We therefore note that leadership weakness, or lack of it is the constant source of our failure. And the new development further magnifies the fact that the leadership is being expected but it is not coming. Therefore it leaves a

vacuum and opportunities for detractors to insinuate, impose or plant disaffection to prove that we do not have the capacity to run a civilized nation, or develop a modern nation, where people speaking different languages and believing in different faiths can all be subordinated to one law that binds them together.

We have our fundamental law, the constitution of 1999 to which people holding offices have sworn to defend. We therefore need the commitment of leaders in truth, not in simulations and taking the advantage of the political environment or the weakness of the majority of the populace, who are scourged by poverty in various dimensions. I personally feel concerned

that we cannot take the legacy of the leadership of Zik, Awolowo, Saradauna, Aminu Kano, Tarka and others as if they did not mean something more important and valuable to us. The history that has brought us here as one Nigerian nation and the history that has brought the world to a global civilization must be recognized and respected because they were created by leaders.

We cannot have a nation lacking a leadership. What we are going through today, is perhaps the fulfilment of self prophesy by those who believe that Africans cannot build civilisation or African leaders are self aggrandizing, therefore cannot build a civilisation.

This prophesy must be ditched and the only way to ditch them is to ensure that leaders abide by the rule of law and that leaders are committed to what they profess to do for the people and the country.

Imagine after commanding the whole troops of Nigeria, after surviving 1970s where we had no victor no vanquish, after dividing Nigeria from 3 states to 36 states, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), people can still be saying let the North go and eat groundnuts. I think that is an insult on the ordinary citizen. These sentiments and emotions should not be allowed to derogate the self respect of the citizens or their regions. We may remain divided in religion, ethnicity, nationality, our profession and so on but we must all be united under one law that makes us citizens, that is the constitution.

PD.P, Obasanjo to blame

We recognize today that our political retrogression must squarely be put in the bag of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and its leadership. We most blame them. The chairman, Board of Trustees of the PDP, Chief Olusegun Obasanjo had during the Media

Trust dialogue advised President Umar Musa Yar'adua to take the path of honour and resign. That was a breach of the trust. If he knew that, why was he coming to tell the whole world? As a chairman of the board that helps determine the party's policies, he ought to have enunciated that as a policy to be considered and put into effect. But failure to do that has put us into an embarrassing situation. The PDP controls the executive and legislative arms of government and the constitution makes provision for what they should in the circumstances.

Obasanjo is the immediate past president and what he did was to manage his succession by denying other competitors during the convention of the PDP. Perhaps an ailing candidate would not have succeeded him. But subverted party's constitution and all other competitors withdrew. Now, one would have expected that when you are anointing and you know the consequences of your decision, you should have a contingency plan. The President [Yar'adua] has a history of some ill-health. He was often indisposed as Governor of Katsina State and one would naturally expect that there could be reoccurrence of that when he becomes President.

What contingency plan did he [Obasanjo] have? Was he announcing to the world that he lacked proper perception and wisdom when he decided that Umaru Yar'adua should come and be the candidate of the PDP?

The issue of the moment is one that magnifies failure of leadership. We should stand at the roof and shout, not just criticize, but call on them to exercise leadership that is consistency with their oath of office and with public trust.

On calls to declare Yar'adua incapacitated

Yes there is that wish. There is perhaps an impelling circumstance but it is not the doctrine of necessity. It is the doctrine of the law and the constitution. If the Federal Executive Council can make a resolution and the National

Assembly appoints a medical team; and the board takes an adverse decision and the National Assembly gazettes it, the vice president would be sworn in because a vacancy will exist. But until the process is completed, there is a sitting president. Admittedly, you cannot see him but there is somebody who is talking on his behalf, that is his vice who is acting for him. So you can only question the effectiveness of communication. And if you believe it is not satisfactory or it is none existent, then go to Section 145 and 146; or if they have the courage to section 143. But in all these, where the political party and its leadership come is that through the machinations and decisions of its caucus, it can embolden its members that constitute the Federal Executive Council or the National Assembly to take the necessary step. So it is PDP's lack of leadership that is causing us this embarrassment.

Advice in the circumstance

The ailing president is a politician. He is operating under a political milieu. Nigerian politics circumscribed by the political party system is open to negotiation. If they use their good political sense, they will negotiate what is best in the circumstance and operate within the law. We know that politicians who are holding on to him; who held him up where he is have to negotiate his passage, unless it is passage by God's wish. But as long as he is alive, there are issues other than his health. There are issues of political patronage; political office holding and future of his political associates that come into play. In any case, it is close to an election year and the issue of succession comes into the calculation. One would expect the leadership of the PDP to have an insight and do their political negotiation and effect the law as provided to save us from all these hue and cry and heat in the political system. I am sure if the leadership demonstrates proper will and negotiates the situation of the president, we will quickly put it behind our back.

FUTURE NIGERIA GROUP

No 17 Abubakar Rimi Crescent, NASS Quarters Apo Gudu District, Abuja.



NIGERIA AT A CROSS ROAD THE NEED TO EXERCISE CAUTION AND BE GUIDED BY PAST EXPERIENCE .

It is audible to the deaf and visible to the blind that the past days have been turbulent in the history of our dear nation. Politicians resumed from long holiday in Abuja using the moment to manifest tendencies which has unduly inflamed the polity and created an atmosphere of perceived insecurity in the land. As an organisation with a pedigree of progressive ideals, standing for truth and defined by the common purpose of humanity, democracy and rule of law as well as concerned with the progress and development of Nigeria, we summed up our resolutions on the state of the nation as follows:

FNG commends the Executive Governors under the auspices of Governor's Forum for living up to their responsibilities and helping to address the current political imbroglio. It was on record that when the nation was at crossroad and urgent action was needed, they never fainted and wavered, they acted on the part of truth, stability, peace and progress- placing the nation's interest first. They were not cowed by their myopic selfish interest but acted on broader interest of humanity driven by their concern for a greater Nigeria where justice, fairness and equity rein supreme. Consistently in the past few days, your meetings, deeds, actions and utterances have further restored confidence and engendered atmosphere of dialogue in the polity.

We concluded that the nation must tread on the part of caution and repel all inflammatory vituperations and tendencies capable of putting to test our fragile democracy and unity. What strongly flash our mind here, is the provocative and sensational utterances of Prof Dora Akunyili, Minister of information, which many Nigerians have questioned and analysed as a clear departure from simple ethics of information management. It is the general view that she has ingloriously portrayed the Executive Council of the Federation as a theatre of war rather than a platform for peace and development attending to the growing demands for dividends of democracy by the citizenry. The use of the media to depict an atmosphere of insecurity in the nation is to say the least disturbing and curious. It will make more sense and be useful to the nation, for Dora to be optimistically cautious and use her comments to heal the land and engender the spirit of one love and one nation. At this crucial moment in history, we must use words that build and not destroy, restore confidence and not create crisis, reflect on our past while keeping eyes on the future. As Dora Akunyili, she is entitled to her own opinion and could say anything but as a Minister of the Federal Republic she can only say what is meaningful and sensible. All men of great will, respect and love for the country should in the interest of greater Nigeria, call Prof Akunyili to order. When you are in a glass house you do not throw stones.

Obviously, we believe that the political imbroglio in the country has been laid to rest. The Ag. President is doing a commendable

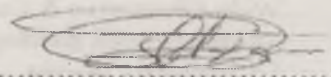
job and deserves our support. FNG deems it imperative to commend the Armed forces for openly pledging and rededicating their loyalty to the constitution and by extension the State. It is a mark of nationalistic disposition to find the military command intact and not swayed by the inflammatory comments of some politicians. The non interference principle of the military goes further reflect that the military institution has come a long way and they are properly guided. A professionalized military is a hallmark of an enduring democracy. Our ideological framework which has been re-echoed in many quarters is that it is better and in the interest of our democracy to allow politicians correct and regulate themselves.

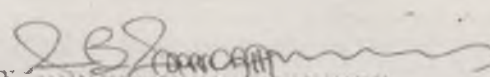
We have also noted with veneration the activities of the National Assembly to addressing this impasse with a purposeful perspective and respect for the country's stability and integration. Any other assembly could have messed up the process and revert us to status quo. In this vein the leadership of the National Assembly deserves our accolades and encouragement in ensuring that the nation is constantly in the trajectory of development and greatness by bringing meaning to what is democracy in the parlance of the common man. Our laws, amongst other things should be made in such a way to tackle the challenges of poverty and growing unemployment in the land. Great democracies, have their undying root in legislature that is proactive, ideological, disciplined, focussed and willing to promote the love for nation above love for self.

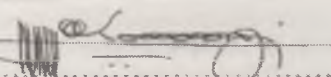
We reaffirmed our commitment to the **Amnesty Initiative of President Yar'adua** restating that it must be pursued logically and with all the vigour it deserves. If the Ag. President could among other things set in motion a process to achieving Electoral Reforms with all its practical implementation, history will remember him as a great leader who acted decisively when it was most needed. With the implementation of the Uwais report, new and competitive leaders with fresh ideas will emerge to handle the affairs of the nation.

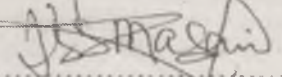
As an organisation with ideology link to Faith, we are optimistic that the health of Mr. President will not end his mission for Nigeria but create a revival of spirit and healing for his continued service to humanity and Nigeria, we are encouraged by the prayers of Nigerians even as we still solicit same so that this cup will pass over the President and by the Grace of God he will return to his duty post to continue the task of nation building. In times of tribulations and great challenges, Nigerians have always risen above pettiness by overcoming with the spirit of unity and never say die, never say never.

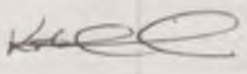
Long live Federal Republic of Nigeria

Sign: 
 Olusegun Olaleye
 (National Chairman)

Sign: 
 Abdullahi Ali-Kano
 (National Secretary)

Sign: 
 Emeka Okoroji
 (Director, Finance & Administration)

Sign: 
 Alhaji Ibrahim Masari
 (Director, Contact & Mobilization)


 Kolade V. Akinjo
 National Chairman

SOKOTO DPP'S WITHDRAWAL OF CASE IN THE SUPREME COURT AND COURT OF APPEAL, ABUJA.

12/2/10
FORM 12
IN THE COURT OF APPEAL
HOLDEN AT ABUJA
NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEAL

Appeal No: CA/A/ 276/08
 SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CS/260/08

BETWEEN :

1. ALHAJI MUHAMMADU MAIGARI DINGYADI } APPELLANTS
 2. DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES PARTY }

AND

1. INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION } RESPONDENTS
 2. ALIYU MAGATARKADA WAMAKKO }
 3. PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY }

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEAL PURSUANT TO ORDER 11
RULE 1 OF COURT OF APPEAL RULES 2007

TAKE NOTICE that the Appellants herein intend and doth hereby wholly withdraw their appeal against all the Respondents in the above mentioned appeal.

Dated at Abuja this 22nd day of June 2010

The Registrar
 Court of Appeal

Olusegun Jolaawo, Esq.
MESSRS RICKEY TARFA & CO.,
 (The Appellants' Counsel)
 NO. 2 Libreville Street,
 Off Aminu Kano Crescent,
 Wuse II, Abuja.

ATTESTED TRUE COPY

FOR SERVICE ON

1. 1st Respondent
 C/o Its Counsel
 Yahaya Mahmood & Co.,
 Arewa Chambers
 UBA Building,
 A1 Ahmadu Bello Way
 Kaduna.
2. 2nd Respondent
 C/o Its Counsel
 Wole Olanipekun & Co.,
 3rd Floor WAEC Building
 10 Zambezi Crescent
 Adjacent INEC Headquarters,
 Maitama, Abuja.
3. 3rd Respondent
 C/o Its Counsel
 Chief Olusola Oke
 Plot 1970 Michael Okpara Street
 Wuse Zone 5,
 Abuja.

ATTESTED TRUE COPY

12/2/2010
 Major...
 A K...
 12/2/2010

FORM 19
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA
NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEAL

SC No: 32/2010
 Appeal No: CA/A/ 276/08
 SUIT NO: FHC/ABJ/CS/260/08

BETWEEN :

1. ALHAJI MUHAMMADU MAIGARI DINGYADI } APPELLANTS
 2. DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES PARTY }

AND

1. INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION } RESPONDENTS
 2. ALIYU MAGATARKADA WAMAKKO }
 3. PEOPLES DEMOCRATIC PARTY }

NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEAL PURSUANT TO ORDER 8
RULE 6 OF SUPREME COURT RULES 1999.

TAKE NOTICE that the Appellants herein intend and doth hereby wholly withdraw their appeal against all the Respondents in the above mentioned appeal.

Dated at Abuja this 22nd day of June 2010

The Registrar
 Supreme Court of Nigeria

Olusegun Jolaawo, Esq.
MESSRS RICKEY TARFA & CO.,
 (The Appellants' Counsel)
 NO. 2 Libreville Street,
 Off Aminu Kano Crescent,
 Wuse II, Abuja.

ATTESTED TRUE COPY
REGISTRAR
 SUPREME COURT OF NIGERIA

FOR SERVICE ON

1. 1st Respondent
 C/o Its Counsel
 Yahaya Mahmood & Co.,
 Arewa Chambers
 UBA Building,
 A1 Ahmadu Bello Way
 Kaduna.
2. 2nd Respondent
 C/o Its Counsel
 Wole Olanipekun & Co.,
 3rd Floor WAEC Building
 10 Zambezi Crescent
 Adjacent INEC Headquarters,
 Maitama, Abuja.
3. 3rd Respondent
 C/o Its Counsel
 Chief Olusola Oke
 Plot 1970 Michael Okpara Street
 Wuse Zone 5,
 Abuja.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

THE GATHERING OF ELECTS GOSPEL MINISTRY

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Ministry has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1 Reverend Thomas Hitler Isikhuemen
- 2 Pastor Grace Obioma Isikhuemen
- 3 Pastor Emmanuel Ehizojie
- 4 Deaconess Yvonne Agbator
- 5 Pastor Odion Umoelin
- 6 Mr. Ebosele Odranose

Aims and Objectives:

1. To propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ through preaching the word
2. To minister deliverance to the captives through God's word and power
3. To establish and maintain churches and missions in Nigeria and other parts of the World.
4. To establish and maintain bible oriented and other educational institutions.

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.B 198, Maitama, Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **Evang David Daniel Amalwa**

HOPE FOR GIRLS EMPOWERMENT 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:

1. Folashade Uthman
2. Kunte Akintogbe
3. Mobolaji Akode - Chairman
4. Dipo Ojo-Osagie
5. Ummahani Ahmad Amin

Aims and objectives:

1. Increase the high school and university graduation rates of young African women.
2. Boost the participation level and visibility of young African women in sports through camps and clinics.

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

BRANDEGE WE CARE 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. Mr. Lanra Olusola
2. Mr. Akinola Benjamin Akisanmi
3. Col. Mike Sule Davis (Rtd)
4. Modupe Wigwe

Aims and objectives:

1. Impacting the immediate community running training for individual to access soft loans etc.

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:
Oluwakemi Kadir (Miss)

DISCIPLES MISSION OF CHRIST

The general public is hereby notified that the above named ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Primate Dr. Joshua Ojo Ajiboge J.P | Chairman |
| 2. Apostle Gbeminiyi Oyelade | Secretary |
| 3. Senior Mother In Israel Christina Kehinde Sanyaolu | Treasurer |
| 4. Apostolic Mother Racheal Ajiboge | Member |
| 5. Senior Mother In Israel Bukola Williams | Member |
| 6. Evangelist Ebenezer Tayo Sunday | Member |

Aims and Objectives:

1. To preach the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ.
2. To embark on evangelical mission programme all over Nigeria and world at large.
3. To organize prayer meetings and prayer conferences, revivals, crusades, prayer seminars at any place and for any adequate periods.

Any objection 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 (twenty-eight) of the date of publication.

Signed: **Ajisafe Ayorinde Esq**
120, Oyediran Estate Sabo Yaba.
Tel: 08060360715

Loss of document

This is to inform the general public the loss of the grant right of occupancy plot No. 111 in BOTP/75 Pompomary N.E. medium density layout under right of occupancy no. BO/5733 granted to Mohammed G. Benisheikh from ministry of land and survey Borno State. All affords to trace the missing document proved abortive, if found returned to nearest police station or called 07038202287.

Signed
Mohammed G. Benisheikh

Public Notice

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that **Muhammed Kabir Musa and Murtala Musa** are the sons of the **Late Malam Musa Kano** whose death occurred on 6th of April, 2009.

Until his death, **Malam Musa Kano** was a staff of the **Nigeria Airways**. In view of this and by this publication, the **Nigeria Airways**, should take note and accord **Muhammed Kabir Musa**, the opportunity to enable him collect all necessary entitlements due to him and that would be due to him thereafter.

Signed:
Muhammed Kabir Musa

FOUNTAIN OF COMFORT C & S CHURCH OF ZION NIGERIA & OVERSEAS

This is to inform the general public that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Mr. Benson A. Omowole - (General Overseer)
2. Mrs. Iyabo Omowole
3. Mr. Sam Olusegun Ayanmike
4. Mr. Abraham Adenola - (Chairman)
5. Mr. Akin Ogunsemore - (Secretary)
6. Mrs. Deborah Modupe Kadiri - (Treasurer)
7. Mrs. Adetutu Olorunjuwonko Adekoya

Aims and objectives:

1. Towards the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. To win souls for our Lord Jesus Christ.
3. Evangelism and welfare to mankind.

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:
Bello, Olurotimi Samuel
Solicitor

SICKLE CELL AWARENESS INITIATIVE (SCAI)

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Alhaji Bashir Mohammed Dalhau - Chairman
2. Hajija Balkisu Yusuf - Member
3. Alhaji Nu'uman Barau Danbatta - Member
4. Dr. Yelwa Usman - Member
5. Alhaji Tijani Abdullahi - Member
6. Mohammed Ibrahim Toia Esq. - Secretary

Aims and objectives:

1. To enlighten Nigerians on the dangers posed by Sickle Cell Anaemia.
2. To promote awareness on the need to prevent and/or ways of preventing Sickle Cell Anaemia.
3. To provide support; be it medical, financial or otherwise to victims of Sickle Cell Anaemia.

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the landed property i.e

1. Dadi Goma Farm located along B/Kebbi-Kalgo road, Kalgo local government area Kebbi State with Cet Of occupancy No. N.W.776.
2. Dadi Goma Farm located at Gwamba in Bagudo local government area of Kebbi State.

Both farms located in Kebbi State Nigeria belong to Late Alhaji Yahaya Shantali.

SIGNED
HON. HAFIZ SHANTALI
NO.1 SARKIN SHANU RD.,
BIRNIN KEBBI, KEBBI STATE.
(FOR LATE YAHAYA SHANTALI FAMILY)

CHRIST LOVE ANOINTED EVANGELICAL CHURCH

This is to inform the general public that the above named Ministry has applied for registration with Corporate Affairs Commission under Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990 part C.

The Trustees are:

1. PASTOR EBENEZER OLUJABI
2. MR EBENEZER OLUJABI
3. MR. JOSEPH AJETUNMOBI
4. MRS. BOLA FALOMO

Aims and Objectives:

- To preach the gospel
- To plant churches to feed the souls saved

Any objection to this publication should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, PMB 198, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Toye Owoeye
Suite 40 Area 2 Shopping Complex, Abuja
Tel: 08033684861

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly **MISS FARIDA MOHAMMED** now wish to be called **MRS FARIDA MOHAMMED**, All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS OLADUNNI ELIZABETH CHIADIKA**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS OLADUNNI ELIZABETH ADEBANJO**. All former documents remain valid. The general public should take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS FALILA RABE**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS FALILA IBRAHIM MUKHTAR**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

Formerly **MISS ESTHER TAIWO ADEBANJO**, now to be known and addressed as **MRS ESTHER TAIWO OLUMIDE BAJULAIYE**. Former documents remain valid. General public please note.

I formerly **MRS PEACE HORACE** now wish to be called and address as **MISS PEACE P. FRED**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS HELEN ONONIWU** now wish to be known as **MRS HELEN NWOKOLO**. U.B.A. and public take note.

I, formerly **YUSUF NUHU** now wish to be known and addressed as **MR. DAUDA YUSUF**. Nigeria Police Force, take note.

I, formerly **MISS BIODUN ESTHER SAMUEL**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS. BIODUN ESTHER IBRAHIM OJOB**. All former documents remain valid. general public take note.

I formerly known **MISS JUSTINA JOSEPH**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS JUSTINA JOSEPH ABUBAKAR**. All former document remain valid, N.Y.S.C. and general public take note

I formerly know as **MISS DINATU ADAMU**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS MARYAM ADAMU**. All former document remain valid, N.Y.S.C. and general public take note.

I formerly known **MISS DEBORAH SIMON**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS MARY DEBORAH SIMON**. All former document remain valid, N.Y.S.C. and general public take note.

I formerly **MISS LAMI LILLIAN AYUBA INARIGU** now wish to be called **MRS LILLIAN LAMI IKECHUKWU ISIKAKU**. All former documents remain valid, general public take note.

I formerly known **BUKAR YAKUBU** now wish to be known and called **GARBA USMAN DALA**. All former documents remain valid, COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, WAKA-BM, UNIVERSITY OF MAIDUGURI and general public takenote.

I formerly known **OLABANJI FUNKE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS EKECHUKWU FUNKE MARY** all former documents remain valid.

I formerly **MISS LADI JOHN** now **MRS LADI IBRAHIM TADA**. Former document remain valid, general public take note.

I formerly **LADI NTASIMDA**, now wish to be called **LADI CHRISTOPHER WABBA**. All former document remain valid, Hospital Management Board and general public take note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the Original loss of document belonging to **MR. OLUGBUYI** with Plot No. 18 situated at Sanyadu Sabon Gari Kano. Original certificate of occupancy and agreement letter. Whoever transacts business with the said document does that at his/her own risk.

AUCTION! AUCTION!! AUCTION!!!

This is to inform the general public that there will be Public Auction Sales of unserviceable vehicles in Federal Ministry of Education at FGC Kwali, FGC Bwari, FGC Ugwulawo, FGC Benin City, FIS Benin City, FGC Zaria, Uyo FGC, Okigbe FGC, Port Harcourt FGC, FGC Abia and FGC Calabar.
Date: 8th - 12th March 2010
Note, Sales will commence by 10:00 a.m.
Signed: **M/S Benneth E. Okeh**
M/S Alh. Abubakar Adamu & Sons
08035834267

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the original certificate of customary right of occupancy of Plot no 2407 of about 900 sqm² in Jokoyi Extension layout. Formerly owned by Kabiru Sule now allocated to Mr. Adeleke Abiodun No. 1 Dankama Close off Gongola Street, Area 2, Garki, Abuja is missing. If found please contact 08036319355 or 08033561270. AMAC/AGIS to please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as **MISS AMAKA RACHEL AMAEFUNA** now wish to be called **MRS AMAKA RACHEAL MUOGBO**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **EKEMEZIE NONYELUM KINDNESS** wish to be addressed as **ASIA NONYELUM KINDNESS AZUBUOGO**. All documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS EMENNIA OKON** now to be addressed as **MRS EMEN JOSEPH MUSA**. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly addressed as **MISS LARAI PAMELA AMANCHI**, now wish to be called **MRS LARAI AYUNI KITSINTANG**. Former documents remain valid. NYSC, public take note.

I, formerly addressed as **IGWE VIVIAN CHINELO**, now wish to be known as **AJIBE VIVIAN CHINELO**. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **TONY ISMAILA OSAGIE TUNDE**, henceforth wish to be called **TONY OSAGIE TUNDE**. All Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

Formerly **MISS ANIEBONAM HELEN** now **MRS HELEN SAMUEL O.** All Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly known as **OMOSEDE OMOGIATE-IGIEBOR**, now wish to be known as **MRS. OMOSEDE ALEXANDRA BATUK AYUBA**. Ambrose Alli University Ekpoma and Medical Laboratory Science Council of Nigeria. Please take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly **MISS MARYAM MAMMAN MOHAMMED** now wish to be addressed as **MRS MARYAM MOHAMMED YAKUBU ABDULLAHI**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS VICTORIA UDU** now wish to be called **MRS. OYATOYAN VICTORIA OKEOGHENE**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS JAMILA USMAN HUSSAIN** now wish to be called **MRS. JAMILA MUSA AYIYA**. N.Y.S.C and headquarters to take note.

I, formerly **HALIMAT JOY SHUAIBU** now wish to be known as **MRS HALIMAT SHUAIBU GALADIMA**. All former documents remain valid to CMFB and general public.

I, formerly known as **MOHAMMED ADAMU LAMORDE** now **AHMED ABDULLAHI LAMORDE**. All former documents remain Valid PHCN and general public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS BLESSING ASHIBUOGWU**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS BLESSING OSADEBE**. All former documents remain valid. DORBEN POLYTECHNIC and general public take note.

I, formerly **PATRICK MANYO RICHARD** now wish to be called **MR PATRICK ABANG NYANE**. All former documents remain valid. The general public take note.

I, formerly **WILIAMS, VICTORIA OLUMIDE AMAKA**, now wish to be known as **MRS ADETAYO VICTORIA OLUMIDE AMAKA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, U. I. and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ODZIE CHRISTIANA**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS BROWN CHRISTIANA**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, WAEC, Dulux Colour Centre, Dorben Polytechnic and the general public please take note.

I, formerly known as **CHRISTY O. JONAH** but wish to be known as **TESSEY (Baptismal Name) O.**, and against **JEROME ABAH** as my biological father. Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps take note.

I, formerly known and called **MISS FATIMA BABAKURA IMAM**, wish to be known and called **MRS FATIMA MAHMOOD JIBIRILLA**. All other valid documents remain the same, general public should take note.

I, formerly known as **JAMES AKUJI** now to be addressed as **JAMES AKUJI ABRAHAM**. Former Documents remains valid. General public should please note.

I, formerly known as **AISHATU IBRAHIM MUSTAFA**, now wish to be called **AISHATU DAHIR-UMAR**. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I formerly **UBAH EDITH CHIEMEKA**. Now wish to be called **MRS OMEKE EDITH CHIEMEKA**. All former documents remain valid. General public

I, formerly known as **NDETSIBA APANG** now wish to be called **MRS NDETSIBA AUDU KURUTSI**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS DIAKPOMRERE OGHENETEGA YVONNE** now wish to be called **MRS OGHENETEGA YVONNE ENUJOKE**. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria University Commission and general public take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly **MISS HYLAPAMDUWA WAKAWA** now wish to be called **MRS HYLAPAMDUWA BISHOP YAKUBU CHIWAR**. All former documents remain valid. general public take note.

I formerly **PATTI BERNARD** wish to be called **PATTI BERNARD BUBA USMAN**. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I **LADY CHIROMA JAYAJ** wish to be called **MRS LADI MARK TENE**. University of Maiduguri and general public take note.

I **LOLOTU MAUREEN KEHINDE** now wish to be called **MRS MAUREEN SUNDAY MAKAMA**. All document remain valid.

I, formally known as **MISS ESEYIN OLUWASEYI FOLUKE** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS ARINOLA OLUWASEYI FOLUKE**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formally known as **MISS BALOGUN FAUSAT OLABISI** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS LASISI FAUZIYAH OLABISI**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS SADIYA BALA ABDULLAHI** now wish to be known as **MRS. SADIYA YAHAYA IBRAHIM**. All former documents remain valid. N.Y.S.C and general public should take note

I, formerly **MISS NNEKA FRANCISCA OKAFOR** now wish to be known as **MRS NNEKA FRANSISCA ABALU**. Former documents remain valid general public should take note.

I, formerly **JAMILA IBRAHIM BAKORI**, now wish to be known as **JAMILA MANSUR DAHIRU**. All former documents remain valid. Kaduna Polytechnic, NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly **GARBA SANKIRA**, now wish to be called as **MUSA HARUNA**. All former documents remain valid. Primary Health Care Dept. Katagum LG, Bauchi State and general public to note.

I formerly **MISS ZAINAB MOHAMMED SHEHU**, wish to be addressed as **MRS ZAINAB DALHAT SADIQ**. All Former documents remain valid. DPP and General public take note.

I, formally known as **MISS PIAVEL MILDRED LONGYAL** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS DANLADI MILDRED LONGYAL**. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS JATTO OIZA FAITH** now wish to be known as **MRS OIZA FAITH**. All former documents remain valid. United Bank for Africa Plc and general public please note.

I, formerly known as **MISS OGUNMOLA BUKOLA EUNICE** now to be addressed as **MRS FABIYI BUKOLA EUNICE**. All former documents remain valid. The general public should please note.

SPORT

*Amodu takes
compassionate
leave*

Page 64



PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

Lagerback: Semi final is realistic target

By Ismaila Lere

SUPER Eagles new tactician Lars Lagerback believes the Super Eagles have the talent to reach the World Cup semi-finals in South Africa this summer.

The 61-year-old Swede watched from the stands as an under-strength Super Eagles side beat DR Congo 5-2 in Abuja on Wednesday.

After the game he was asked if reaching the World Cup semis is realistic.

"I wonder why people are pessimistic when they hear talk of semi final target. Every country that goes to a major championships wants to do well, and I believe Nigeria has the players to do well at this World Cup.

"Several people have asked me whether a semi final place is not a dream, but I tell them that we can achieve it if we all work together - the players, the coaches, the administrators and the fans".

"I think it is quite possible, I think every coach, every country going into a competition they always have their aim to winning it," he said.

"You have good individual skills in Nigeria so if we can get that together with the players, I think we have a fairly good chance to go far in the World Cup."

But he added that good planning will be the key to Nigeria's success or otherwise in South Africa.

"[I'm] trying to plan everything in as much detail as possible to get really ready when we get the team really together for the training camps," he told BBC Sport.

Nigeria have been drawn in a group alongside Greece, Argentina and South Korea at the World Cup.

Lagerback got the Nigeria job ahead of the likes of former England coaches Glenn Hoddle and Sven Goran Eriksson as well as Bruno Metsu and Ratomir Dujkovic.



SUPER Eagles Team B striker Bello Kofar Mata, left, vies for the ball with Congolese defender Kazembe Mibaya during their international friendly match in Abuja on Wednesday. Super Eagles technical adviser Lars Lagerback, inset, believes the World Cup semi final target is realistic.

Lagerback must be guided, says Amun

By David Ngobua

FOR the newly appointed Super Eagles Technical Adviser to succeed with the team, he must be properly guided by the Nigeria Football Federation and other well meaning stakeholders, former NFA Secretary General coach Fanny Amun has said.

Speaking to Trustsports on Wednesday at the Abuja national National Stadium moments after the coach was

unveiled, the former Golden Eaglets coach said in as much as the Swede has shown tremendous desire to succeed with the team, he will achieve nothing, if not guided properly.

He said Nigeria Football Federation, NFF, should provide a roadmap for the coach because he is not conversant with the terrain and there is really no time for him to spend on carrying out feasibility studies.

"They must prepare a brief

for him. Give him an enabling environment. Give him the clips of Super Eagles past matches and all other relevant materials for him to study. Make suggestions but let it be optional for him to take or not," he said.

Coach Amun noted that in as much as every body is talking of lack of time to prepare the team for the World Cup, he believes there is enough time for the foreign coach to build a formidable team for the global event.

"Everybody is saying there is

no time but which other team in the world is training for the World Cup? There is no team that is doing so. So the issue is that the performance of our boys at the club level is what we should be looking at," he added.

He said that if most of the Super Eagles key players are playing regularly for their clubs, it will make the job much easy for the expatriate coach.

On the introduction of new players into the team, the coach said it makes a lot of sense as

according to him, there is enough time for the coach to experiment with available players.

"It makes a lot of sense. It is optional. If the coach wants to inject even me into the team, why not?. If I am fit, why not? We leave that vital decision to him. There is still time".

Amun reiterated that the coach should pay more attention to foreign based Super Eagles players who are playing regularly for their clubs.

Eagles' problem is our collective fault - Eguavoen

By Ibraheem A Fatai, with Agency reports

FORMER Super Eagles Head Coach Austin Eguavoen said in Abuja on Wednesday that the recent dwindling fortunes of the senior national football team was a collective fault of all Nigerians.

Eguavoen said after the Eagles' Team B beat DR Congo 5-2 in a friendly game at the Abuja National Stadium, that no individual should be singled out for blame in Eagles' recent challenges.

"The team definitely has had a problem of not impressing many Nigerians in recent years, but it is a collective fault of all Nigerians and not that of an individual," he said.

Eguavoen, a former Super Eagles defender took over from Christian Chukwu as the team's head coach in 2005.

He said it was rather unfortunate that despite the team's huge potential, it has had its support base eroded by such unimpressive results.

"The team has a lot of talents, no doubt, and it has huge support too, both nationally and internationally.

But the team has not fulfilled the expectations of its fans worldwide, and that is a problem.

"It is a problem that we now have to tackle ahead of the World Cup in South Africa, where it is capable of surprising the world once more," Eguavoen said.

Eguavoen is one of the three indigenous coaches the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has lined up to assist new team Technical Adviser Lars Lagerback.

He, however, gave the assurance that he was ready to work with the Swede to achieve the desired success.

"I have worked under people before, and people have also worked with me before.

"It's no big deal working under him. It is all to the glory of the team," Eguavoen said.

The coach, who led the team to a third-place finish at the 2006 African Nations Cup finals in Egypt, said he was already looking forward to a meeting with the Swede who was unveiled by the NFF on Wednesday.

"I worked under Berti Vogts in 2008 after leading the team and now, I am looking forward to working with Lagerback.

"We will all sit down this week to discuss and I am ready for that," he said.

Home-based Eagles must work harder - Lawal

FORMER Super Eagles' utility player, Garba Lawal has urged Super Eagles' team B players to use the chances currently available to fight for a place in the senior national team A.

He said this shortly after the Super Eagles team B

defeated the Democratic Republic of Congo 5-2 in a friendly tie at the Abuja national stadium.

"This is an opportunity for the players to use the chances available to them especially now there is a new technical adviser for the

Super Eagles," Lawal said.

The Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) unveiled signed Super Eagles' new technical adviser, Lars Lagerback before the friendly match.

Lagerback is on a five-month contract with the

mandate to take Super Eagles to 2010 World Cup.

Lawal called on soccer-loving Nigerians to support the new technical adviser.

He also used the opportunity to send his goodwill message to Lagerback, saying that Nigeria could excel

in the World Cup if the necessary support and cooperation were accorded the team.

Lagerback said after the unveiling ceremony that he would hunt for the best players to represent Nigeria in South Africa.



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Tyson considering yet another comeback

■ The former world heavyweight champion could fight Evander Holyfield later this year.

MIKE Tyson is reportedly considering a comeback to the ring later this year, possibly against Evander Holyfield.

The boxing website, Ringsidereport.com, quoting a source close to Tyson, reports that his, "former promoter Don King has a tentative deal for Tyson to return to the ring in late 2010. The initial plan is to have Tyson-Holyfield III, but there is rumoured hesitation on the part of Iron Mike, and there is a plan B".

The former world heavyweight champion, 43, retired in June 2005 after refusing to come out for round seven against the Irish journeyman Kevin McBride. The British heavyweights Danny Williams and Lennox Lewis had also knocked out Tyson in the closing stages of his turbulent career.

The 47-year-old Holyfield is due to fight the South African Frans Botha, 41, in Las Vegas on 17 April. He fought and beat

Tyson twice, losing bits of his ear in the second bout. They spoke amicably when guests on Oprah Winfrey's TV show recently.

Alternative opponents named for Tyson include the former world cruiserweight champion Jean Mormeck, who lost his title to David Haye, and obscure heavyweights Tony Grano, Vinny Maddalone and Derric Rossy.

Tyson looked to have lost up to 40lbs for a recent walk-on appearance on the Italian TV programme, "Dancing With Stars", according to Boxing News, which would put him near his fighting weight of 15st 10lb.

Interest in Tyson historically has fluctuated according to his behaviour away from boxing, but his profile in the past couple of years has been largely sympathetic. He was moving and articulate in an eponymous documentary that won several awards, and had a small part in the hit Hollywood comedy, The Hangover.



MIKE Tyson, left, and Evander Holyfield in action during their 1996 WBA heavyweight title fight in Las Vegas.

Ivory Coast close on Hiddink deal

IVORY Coast are hopeful that Guus Hiddink will take charge of the Elephants at the World Cup this summer.

Dutchman Hiddink is contacted with Russia until 30 June and has signed a two-year contract to coach Turkey that starts in August.

But Ivory Coast football association (FIF) president Jacques Anouma told BBC Sport: "Guus is one of the people we have contacted about becoming coach.

"Probably in the middle of next week something will be concluded."

The Ivorians are looking for a coach after dismissing Vahid Halilhodzic, whose future had been in question after his team were eliminated in the quarter-finals of the Africa Cup of Nations in Angola.

Several prospective candidates have been contacted as the Ivory Coast search for a successor.

Russia failed to qualify for the World Cup after losing a play-off against Slovenia and Hiddink would have to negotiate an early release from his contract if he was to coach the Ivorians.

Hiddink has coached the Netherlands, South Korea and Australia at previous World Cups - and has admitted the interest from the Ivorians.

The 63-year-old told reporters in Holland: "I have some matters to resolve before I reach my decision."

Anouma was speaking at Loftus Road after his team lost 2-0 in a friendly against South Korea.

Several high-profile coaches

were in attendance, including former England boss Sven-Goran Eriksson.

"Sven has not been contacted but there were a lot of coaches at Loftus Road for the match and some have contacted me," added Anouma.

"Of the three or four in contention to become the next coach, Guus is the person we want but we are still talking to him.

"Talks are on going but nothing has been decided."

Hiddink would only be available on a temporary basis before taking up his new role with Turkey, but Anouma said: "After the World Cup we will look for a coach to take us to the Africa Cup of Nations but the priority is the tournament in South Africa."

Anouma said that previous coaches had failed to get the best out of a generation of players widely regarded as the best in Ivory Coast's footballing history.

But he denied the influence of senior players such as Didier Drogba would influence the appointment of the new coach.

Hiddink, who managed Drogba at Chelsea last season, has hinted that the striker had asked the Dutchman on behalf of the players to accept the invitation.

But Anouma said: "The senior players have no influence on deciding who will become coach."

Ivory Coast have been drawn in a group with Brazil, Portugal and North Korea at the World Cup and face a tough task to qualify.



AFTER rejecting Nigeria overtures, Dutch tactician Guus Hiddink is likely to take charge of Ivory Coast at the World Cup in South Africa.

Premier League rejects play-offs idea

THE Premier League has revealed it will not pursue the idea of a play-off for fourth place and the final Champions League place.

At the Premier League's board meeting on Thursday, chairmen decided against looking into the proposal any further at this stage.

Man United, Chelsea, Liverpool and Arsenal were reportedly quick to voice their opposition. However, other clubs were keen on the idea in principle.

The idea, which was put forward at last month's meeting, was for automatic Champions League spots to go to the Premier League's top three, rather than the top four, teams.

And the sides finishing from fourth to seventh would play in a mini-knockout competition.

The proposal drew a mixed reaction from top-flight bosses, with Liverpool manager Rafael Benitez completely against it, but Aston Villa boss Martin O'Neill described it as "interesting" and one that "people might go for".

Any change would have also needed the agreement of at least 14 of the 20 top-flight clubs, but there would not have been any changes for three years, anyway, as the next TV deal is in place.

Premier League chief executive Richard Scudamore admitted there was "not enough support" for the proposal.

"The main topic of discussion was the Champions League play-off for that fourth qualifying place," he told BBC Radio 5 live.

"We gave a lot of discussion, a lot of detail, a lot of data. But there was not enough support to take the idea forward, so we won't be discussing that proposal any further."

GUEST COLUMNIST

By Adamu M. Fika (Wazirin Fika)

Emir Abali Muhammadu of Fika: One year after

Wednesday, 3rd March 2010, is the first anniversary of the death of Alhaji Abali Muhammadu Ibn Idrissu – the late emir of Fika. For me the event of that day has remained fresh in my mind as if it has just now happened. My phones are always switched 'silent' for the night. And, as usual, on the morning of Tuesday, March 10, 2009, I checked them at 6.00a.m. as I always do, for any missed calls. There were none. But by 9.30a.m., when I rechecked, one phone had 12 missed calls and the other 4; and I thought we had an emergency somewhere here, but before I had time to open either telephone – my wife burst agitated and hurriedly handed over her handset.

At the other end was Alhaji Adamu Maina Waziri and he was sobbing as he broke the news that "Moi siya zini" meaning that the Emir had died. By 11.00a.m. I was on my way to Potiskum for the funeral which took place at 5 o'clock same afternoon. For Fika and for all of us it marked the end of an era. Maina Abali was born in April 1932. His twin brother died at infancy and his mother died at a relatively early age when he was fourteen years in his second year at the Middle School. He was enrolled into the Potiskum Elementary school in 1941 and proceeded to the Middle School in April 1945. He completed Middle school education in December 1949. I first met Maina Abali, as he was then known, in April 1945 when four of us from Fika Elementary School and eight of them from Potiskum Elementary school were selected to go to Bornu Middle School in Maiduguri.

We stayed together and in the same class for the next three years – up to the end of 1947 when I left Bornu Middle School for Barewa College. His first job, which he began in 1950, was that of a scribe for the Native Authority Prison. He also occasionally doubled as the Scribe for the police department. After one and half years working experience, he left for the Clerical Training Centre, Zaria which later became the renowned Institute of Administration, Ahmadu Bello University in Zaria. After graduation, he returned to the Native Authority and was appointed treasury accountant; and eventually rose to the post of Native Authority Treasurer in 1955. Within three years of his becoming the treasurer Fika Native Treasury raised to grade A. [Sound]. This was no mean achievement. For a Native Authority treasury to be graded A, it must have met a set of stringent conditions specified in the Financial Memoranda (FMM), the equivalent of Financial Regulations/Instruction in Government.

These included the ability to continually (a) collect minimum of 95% of estimated community and cattle taxes by the close of the relevant financial year; (b) acknowledge queries from the Director of Audit within two weeks of their receipt and answer them within three months and (c) submits its annual estimates three and half months in accordance with guidelines and conditions specified in the FMM by the close of the financial year. For the Native Authority to be classified as Sound, the annual estimates must conform with another set of stringent conditions specified in the Financial Memoranda (a) having a surplus of at least 10% ordinary revenue over recurrent expenditure (b) expenditure of personnel emolument (salaries and allowances) did not exceed 35% of ordinary revenue (c) recurrent expenditure on general administration did not exceed 45% of ordinary revenue (d) recurrent expenditure on central [Emir and Councillors], district [district heads] and village [village and hamlet heads] administrations did not exceed 25% of ordinary revenue. Six years on one job should be long enough for any person of that age. Maina Abali was no exception. So, in 1961 Maina Abali applied and was considered suitably qualified to attend an advanced training course at the Institute of Administration Zaria for the training of potential Administrative Officers. The training course was inaugurated in 1957. Maina Abali attended fifth of such courses which lasted one academic year. Within two years of leaving Fika Native Treasury, it was downgraded to Grade C, which meant that the operation of

the treasury would be subject to closer administrative control and in certain circumstances payment vouchers and cheques would be countersigned by a Government Officer.

After his training, he was appointed an Assistant District Officer and posted to Kano Province. Having regard to his previous experience as a successful N.A. Treasurer he was assigned to the Muffet Commission which was then enquiring into the financial operations of Kano Native Authority. The Muffet Commission assignment came to an end at a time when the Northern Nigerian Government was establishing the Revenue Division in the Ministry of Finance and staffing it with persons who had treasury background in government or Native Administration – Maina Abali was one of those so identified. He was thus transferred to the Division as a Senior Inspector of Revenue. Following the creation of states in 1967, Maina Abali was deployed to North Eastern State; and, the following year, he was appointed Commissioner of Revenue. In 1975 he was appointed a civil commissioner and in charge of Ministry of Health. When Borno State was created in 1976 out of the North Eastern state he was re-appointed as a civil commissioner and assigned to Ministry for Local Government. In August 1976 the Emir of Fika Muhammadu ibn Idrissu died after reigning for 54 years. Maina Abali was selected to succeed his late father. This was at the time of the introduction of local government reform which stripped emirs and chiefs of their powers in the local government administration effective 1st January 1977.

He was appointed Emir by a Military regime which left office in October 1979 when civilian administration took over at both the Federal and State level. For Emir Abali the periods of civilian administration became a nightmare. He had no peace of mind between 1979 and 1983, between 1991 and 1993 and between 1999 and 2009. Exception to this rule was the three months period 1st October 1983 to 31st December 1983 when Asheik Jarma was the Governor and between 24th January 2009 and 3rd March 2009 when he died and when Alhaji Ibrahim Geidam had become Governor. During the Second Republic elections in 1979 the contest for power in Borno was between NPN and GNPP. Malam Adamu Ciroma was a leading member of NPN, and so, most people in Fika and Potiskum district was won by NPN, Adamu Ciroma's party. But the state was won by the GNPP. But GNPP blamed the Emir and treated him as an enemy the four year administration. The doctrine that Emirs and Chiefs are fathers of all and so above partisan politics is. They always penalized by a new government if election results showed that people under their jurisdiction and to be closer to them voted for other than the government party. Again, during the Third Republic, the situation repeated itself with Malam Adamu Ciroma and the in around Fika and Potiskum joining and voting for the National Republican Convention, NRC, but the elections Borno and Yobe were won by the Social democratic Party, Again, during the Fourth, similar situation once more repeated itself between 1999 and 2007 when, following Malam Adama Ciroma's, the people of Fika and Potiskum joined and voted for the PDP but the election in Yobe State was won by the ANPP. Again the GNPP Government also blamed the Emir.

The grapevine had it that the Government was planning to depose. The late Malam Liman Ciroma me that he saw the Governor to dissuade him from pursuing that course of action if the rumour was true. The Governor denied the rumour. In any case it did not happen. In the second case, the SDP Government also the Emir and was openly hostile to the Emir. The Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim punished him by splitting Fika Emirate into four. The body of selectors (King Makers) went to court the action of the Governor. The case was still in court; when General Sani Abacha came to power, and ordered the restoration of Fika Emirate what it had always been.

But when Bukar Abba Ibrahim became governor once more in 1999, he again split the Emirate into four as he did before for the same political.

To be concluded on Monday.

SPORTS REPORT



SHAIBU Amodu

Amodu takes compassionate leave

Redeployed Nigeria coach Shaibu Amodu missed Wednesday's 5-2 friendly win over Democratic Republic of Congo because he applied for, and was granted compassionate leave by the NFF. NFF Executive Committee member Taiwo Ogunjobi told Kick-offNigeria.com that Amodu asked for time to take care of 'family matters'.

"We met some days

ago with him when he returned from South Africa, and he asked to be granted leave to attend to his family.

"His request was considered and granted, and so he is away with the knowledge and permission of the federation," Ogunjobi said.

In his absence, Daniel Amokachi took charge of the team and masterminded a comfortable win over the Congolese in front of new Technical Adviser Lars Lagerback.



TIGER Woods

Nicklaus expects Woods to be at Masters

Jack Nicklaus said he would not be surprised if Tiger Woods ended his seclusion and decided to play the U.S. Masters at Augusta National next month.

"I've been very non-committal because it's none of my business," Nicklaus told reporters on Wednesday following his pro-am round at this week's Honda Classic in Florida. "But playing golf, my guess as a golfer, he's going to probably try to (play the Masters). It would surprise me if he didn't."

The first major of the season starts on April 8.

