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# DAILY TRUST

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Minister: Dont expect stable power soon



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Kano market fire very disturbing - Jonathan



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# 18 wedding guests perish in Katsina

By Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

EIGHTEEN people were confirmed dead and another thirty five were seriously injured when

a busload of guests travelling to a wedding ceremony were involved in an accident with an articulated truck at Modoji village in Katsina State on Saturday evening.

A nurse at the Katsina General Hospital told *Daily Trust* that eight people were brought dead to the hospital and another ten victims who were admitted with injuries

later died in the hospital.

The accident occurred at a newly constructed ring road just outside the state capital. It involved a blue-coloured tipper with regis-

tration number XA145KTN and a J5 bus with registration number XA 217DTS. There were some thirty passengers in the J5 bus, which left

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SCENE of the accident where 18 people on their way to a wedding ceremony lost their lives in Katsina on Saturday.

## 3 princes jostle for Lamido's throne

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar and Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

AS Lamido of Adamawa Alhaji Aliyu Mus-

dafa, who died in Yola on Saturday evening was buried yesterday, at least three of his children and other princes have begun to jostle for the vacant throne. The late

Lamido's first son, Chiroman Adamawa Barkindo Aliyu Musdafa, his second son, former Comptroller General of Nigeria Customs Service Alhaji Ahmadu Musdafa

as well as the former Secretary to the Adamawa State Government Adamu Aliyu, who is Sarkin Dawakin Adamawa, are regarded as frontrun-

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EFCC to summon Hoddle, Lagerback, NFF officials



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# Don't expect stable power soon - Minister

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

NIGERIA should not expect a stable power supply any time soon as the sector requires \$5 billion annually, Minister for Power Olanrewaju Babalola has said.

The minister who addressed newsmen at the weekend said the federal government does not have the required investment and cannot turnaround the comatose sector alone.

He said for the sector to be revived, the government needs to embark on a major reform to

attract private sector participation who will partner with the government to solve the myriad problems of the power sector.

According to him, Nigerians should see power issue beyond the 6000MW, adding that the power sector can only revive if the FG carries out a total overhaul of the sector.

"Without an effective reform and restructuring in the sector it will be difficult to have achieved the desired goal in the power sector.

"Government can equally attract the \$ 5 billion dollars

through the private and foreign investors in order to revive the sector but needs to clean up the system in order to attract investors," he said.

The minister added that to run an effective power station in the country, state governments should be allowed to invest and control the distribution segment, private investors to handle the generation of the power while the federal government should superintend transmission of power.

He said when the power sector is effectively and efficiently

reformed, it will attract better investors, adding that the without radical revolution found in the telecommunication industry today Nigeria will not have been enjoying the better services.

He however assured Nigerians that the power sector is working seriously to ensure that electricity is more effective and efficient in the country at shortest possible period.

Babalola said the government is concentrating on building power plants and concentrate on hydro station to aid the power distribution since gas

availability to PHCN has been major constraint of the power company in recent time.

He said PHCN has come up with a plan that could be used as an alternative source of fuel such as Low Pour Fuel Oil (LPFO) and Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) to power the plants that are currently idle.

The minister said frequent shut down of gas pipelines in the country affects power generation in the country, stressing that government spent over N 2 billion to procure LPFO to run the hydro stations in the country.

W/Bank:  
Over 50%  
drugs sold  
in 1990s were fake

By Idris Ahmed

MORE than 50 percent of drugs sold in drugstores in Nigeria in the 1990s were counterfeit, the World Bank said in a report.

In its Africa Development Indicators 2010 report, released at the weekend, the bank said "Quite corruption" is undermining development in Africa, including Nigeria.

Quiet corruption, according to the bank, is the failure of public servants to deliver goods or services paid for by governments.

This is pervasive and widespread across Africa and is having a disproportionate effect on the poor, with long-term consequences for development, according to the report.

The report said that the number of people living with less than \$2 a day in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) has nearly doubled since 1981 from 292 million to about 555 million in 2005.

"Every day thousands of people, many of them children, still die from preventable diseases. Aids and malaria are still ravaging the Africa continent, especially SSA," the report added.

The new study shifted from the usual focus on an exchange of money - bribes to powerful political designers or kickbacks to public officials but focused on how "quiet corruption" leads to an increasingly negative expectation of service delivery systems, causing families to ignore the system.

According to the Chief Economist for the World Bank, Africa Region, Shanta Devarajan, tackling quiet corruption will require a combination of strong and committed leadership, policies and institutions at the sectoral level, and increased accountability and participation by citizens.



FEDERAL Government delegation led by Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed being conducted round the burnt Kantin Kwari market in Kano yesterday.

PIC: LAWAN DANJUMA ADAMU

## 2011: INEC begins distribution of non-sensitive materials

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) said it has begun the advance distribution of non-sensitive materials to the six zonal stores in the country to prevent logistics bottleneck that might mar the 2011 election.

Director of Public Affairs of the commission Emmanuel Umenger, who made the disclosure yesterday in Abuja, however lamented that "the commission's earnestness is being hampered by what appears to be the overzealousness of some members of the Nigeria police."

He said that the commission received reports that a consignment of collapsible voting cubicles being conveyed to its Oshogbo zonal store has been intercepted by the police, adding that the commission has since appeal the Ondo State Commissioner of police to intervene so that the consignment could be released.

"It would be recalled that shortly before the Anambra state governorship election, a truck conveying similar voting cubicles, destined for the Port Harcourt zonal store, was involved in a minor accident at Okija, Anambra state. The truck was inexplicably detained in spite of detailed explanations by officials of the commission and the contractor conveying the cubicles. But for the maturity of the candidates contesting the governorship election in Anambra state who accepted the commission's explanation in good faith, the said election would have been endangered. He said though security agencies must be vigilant, "We however appeal to the hierarchy of the Nigeria Police to prevail on its overzealous members to show sensitivity and understanding to the commission's efforts at delivering these materials.

## Space agency to release geo-hazard map on quake

THE National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA) will soon release a geo-hazard map on areas vulnerable to earthquake, Director General of the agency Dr Seidu Mohammed has said.

He said in Abuja yesterday that the map would help people to understand how vulnerable the country was to earthquake.

Mohammed explained that one of the agency's centres, the Centre for Geodesy and Geodynamic, Toro, Bauchi State, was working with other experts to prepare the map.

"During the recent tremor in Ibadan, several publications and releases were made and that should be a guide," the director-general said.

Mohammed said that experts in geodynamics would address major issues in terms of tremors and the need to further establish more stations for the agency to predict accurately in the event of problems. He advised the federal government to constantly monitor the fault along the Atlantic Ocean which terminated at Minna, Niger State, to prevent the occurrence of earthquake. Mohammed said the country was establishing an electronic platform through the web, where all maps over the Nigeria territory could be accessed.

He said that efforts were being made to properly establish the platform where maps could be accessed. The director general said that the agency had just concluded training on the platform for four agencies, including NASRDA, Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation, Geological Agency of Nigeria and the National Population Commission. He said NASRDA was providing various information on the soil map of Nigeria to help experts monitor quake.

Mohammed said the map would show geologic maps, drainage pattern and density, as well as vegetation cover over the Nigerian territory.

He said the map would also show locations of hospitals, roads and tertiary institutions in the country, using globally positioned system. He explained that NASRDA had in 009, completed two thirds of Nigeria's land cover mapping at the scale of 1:100000.

Mohammed said the remaining mapping process would be completed this year to enable the country to have information about its resources in terms of total land cropped vis-a-vis desert encroachment. (NAN)

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# N150m lost to Bauchi market fire

From Mohammed Abubakar, Bauchi

OVER 300 shops at 'kasuwar Kofa' market along Railway road in Bauchi State were gutted by fire Saturday. The interim chairman of the market, Abdulkadir Yakubu, told the state Deputy

Governor Babayo Garba Gamawa who visited the market to sympathize with the traders that they lost goods worth about N150 million. Abdulkadir Yakubu said the incident was as a result of a power surge.

The chairman appealed to the

state government to assist those affected by the fire so that they could continue with their businesses. He commended the state Fire Service for their prompt response, saying they arrived there with three tankers and did their best to put out the fire.

In his response, the state deputy governor assured of government's readiness to assist the victims. He said he would provide them with additional land in the area so that they could expand the market.

In a similar development, fire at the weekend gutted buildings

in 3 villages of Tudun Wadan Kadade in Toro Local Government Area of the state.

The Chairman of the council Alhaji Hamisu Mohammed who advised people to be careful with fire asked some councillors to take stock of the damage.

## Cattle dealers suspend warning strike

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

THE warning strike embarked upon last week by cattle and foodstuff traders in protest against what they described as "multiple tax" collected from them by various local council revenue personnel on the federal highways has been suspended.

The traders under the aegis of Amalgamated Foodstuff and Cattle Traders Association of Nigeria however said they would go on an indefinite strike in two weeks time if the authorities concerned failed to check the "continued injustice against their members" on the highways while transporting their goods and animals to the South.

Giving an up-date on the situation, association's Secretary-General Alhaji Kabiru Alhassan Rurum, who announced the suspension of the one-week warning strike when he visited Media Trust's Kano regional office yesterday, said they were deeply touched by the escalating cost of foodstuff and animals in the South following the strike.

He said the strike became necessary given the "illegal activities" of the council revenue officials on the federal highways, saying their action would strengthen the trade and make government to intervene for permanent resolution.

"We are really disturbed by the situation in the south where tomatoes, meat and other foodstuff supplied from the north are costly because of the warning strike. The strike was not to punish the people unnecessary, but only to strengthen the trade and stop the injustice", he said.

The secretary-general expressed regrets that throughout the period of the warning strike that lasted for one week there was no response from the Federal Government signifying its intention to intervene with a view to resolving the crisis. He said only Lagos State government responded, saying its Commissioner for Home Affairs met with their members and assured them that his government would do something to resolve the misunderstanding.

While calling on the Federal Government and other concerned state governments to look into the problems of the traders, the Secretary-General thanked all members of the association for their cooperation during the warning strike.



MANAGING Director of Media Trust Limited Alhaji Isiaq Ajibola (right) presenting souvenir to the Executive Secretary, FCDA, Engineer Muhammad Sani Alhassan, during a courtesy call recently in Abuja.

## Sheriff appoints Abba Tor as emir of Dikwa

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

BORNO State Governor Ali Modu Sheriff at the weekend appointed Alhaji Abba Tor Shehu Masta II, as the emir of the newly created Dikwa Emirate.

The governor had on Wednesday last week splitted the 100 year old Dikwa Emirate into two: Bama and Dikwa Emirates. The old Dikwa Emirate was made up of four local government areas: Bama, Ngala, Dikwa and Kala- Balge with 24 districts with the palace in Bama town. The new Dikwa Emirate now has three local government areas: Ngala, Dikwa and Kala-

Balge with 12 districts while Bama Emirate now has one local government area with 12 districts. The Assembly had weeks ago passed a law granting powers to the governor to create new emirates.

Sheriff in a letter to the new emir on Friday said the appointment was effective from Thursday, March 11, 2010. The governor said given the new emir's wealth of experience in the public service, he had no doubt that Abba Tor would lead the people of the emirate with wisdom, sincerity, commitments and patriotism. Speaking with our correspondent at the weekend in Maiduguri,

the new emir promised to carry everyone along without favour. He said he regarded his appointment as the will of God because his late father was the one who moved the palace of the old Dikwa Emirate from Dikwa town to Bama. The new emir said he would unite the people of the emirate.

Alhaji Abba Tor was born in 1946 and is son of the late Shehu Masta II otherwise known as Shehu Masta Kyarimi who was appointed the Shehu of Dikwa in 1937 with his palace in Dikwa town, but later moved the palace to Bama in 1942 on the request of the then colonial administration.

## Northern governors mourn Lamidon Adamawa

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

CHAIRMAN of the Northern Governors Forum and Governor of Niger State Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu yesterday on behalf of his colleagues mourned the death of the Lamido of Adamawa Alhaji Aliyu Mustapha.

Governor Aliyu described the death of the Lamido as a great loss, not only to the people in the North, but to the entire country. Dr Aliyu who spoke through the Acting Governor of Niger State Alhaji Ahmed Musa Ibeto in a statement signed by the Director Media and Publicity Alhaji Bala Abdulkadir yesterday in Minna said the late Lamido would be remembered for his faith in God and ability to unite communities within his domain and region.

He lamented that the nation would miss his iconic leadership, especially at a time the country was passing through a phase which demanded the wisdom of a rare gem like himself.

"This is the time the nation requires this gentleman of great repute who is gifted with rare traditional strategies to ensure unity, peace and development of the nation.

He was a man known to have advocated for peace" the group said.

The Northern Governors Forum condoled with the people and government of Adamawa State and the 19 Northern states, praying Allah to grant them the fortitude to bear the loss.

## Borno records 48 meningitis cases

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

FORTY-EIGHT cases of cerebrospinal meningitis have been reported in Borno State with four deaths, the North East zonal office of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) has said. This was indicated in statement by the Information Officer of the agency in the North-East,

Mr. Ibrahim Farinloye at the weekend.

While saying there was the need for government at all levels to commit more resources to the resuscitation of the Risk Surveillance Units at medical institutions, the statement said it is only when this is done that hospitals and community health centres would be able to handle emer-

gency situations. Mr. Farinloye added that casualties had also been recorded in other states in the region with Bauchi recording 26 deaths out of the 190 reported cases, Gombe 61 with four deaths, Adamawa 51 and nine deaths while Taraba has recorded 18 cases and three deaths.

The agency added that because Nigeria was situated in the "Men-

ingitis Belt" where seasonal epidemic was expectedly a cyclic pattern as a result of the dry weather, dusty winds, cold nights and large population, people were vulnerable to respiratory infections. NEMA had last week raised alarm over the spread of CSM in the North-West region, urging Nigerians to take measures to avoid its spread.

PHOTO: NAN

# Reps summon CIPPO boss over pension

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives Committee on Pension Matters has summoned the acting director of the Customs, Immigration and Prisons Pension Office (CIPPO) Abdulrashid Maina.

Maina is to appear before it to explain why he left the committee stranded during a scheduled visit to his office last Thursday on oversight duties. Chairman of the committee, Rep Rasaq Adewusi (PDP, Oyo State) warned that failure to appear before the committee or risk being arrested as contained in section 89 of the 1999 constitution.

The section reads in part: "(1) For the purposes of any investigation under section 88 of this Constitution and subject to the provisions thereof, the Senate or the House of Representatives or a committee appointed in accordance with section 62 of this Constitution shall have power to -

"(d) issue a warrant to compel the attendance of any person who, after having been summoned to attend, fails, refuses or neglects to do so and does not excuse such failure, refusal or neglect to the satisfaction of the House or the committee in question, and order him to pay all costs which may have been occasioned in compelling his attendance or by reason of his failure, refusal or neglect to obey the summons, and also to impose such fine as may be prescribed for any such failure, refusal or neglect; and any fine so imposed shall be recoverable in the same manner as a fine imposed by a court of law."

According to the letter summoning the CIPPO boss, signed by Adewusi the House frowned at the deliberate absence of Maina and his entire management team to receive them, noting that visit was a re-scheduled one with the knowledge of the CIPPO.

The committee also complained that previous requests for documents relating to budget performances and reminders were never honoured, leading to the visit to the office.

Previously requested for some provisions, well as scheduled Budget defence with CIPPO, which the Acting Director and Management have refused to honour, despite several reminders and contact," the Committee noted.



SPEAKER Dimeji Bankole



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

# 18 wedding guests perish in Katsina

Continued from page 1

Rimi Local Government Area on its way to Kaita for a wedding ceremony. The bus left Rimi town at around 2pm on Saturday for the wedding Fatiha of Malam Hafiz Amadi, an indigene of the area slated for 4pm in the neighbouring Kaita local government area. Amadi himself was in the J5 bus; survived the accident and is recuperating at the Katsina General Hospital.

Malam Bello Isa MODOJI, who witnessed the accident, told our reporter that the tipper truck, loaded with sand and with six labourers sitting in it, collided with the bus at around 3.30pm. He blamed the heavy dust that

pervaded the scene after some vehicle drove on the newly constructed road site for the accident.

Mallam Bello, who participated in the rescue effort, said six people died on the spot and that all the injured were rushed to Katsina General Hospital. He said it appeared that the drivers of the two vehicles did not see each other's vehicles due to the dust.

Sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in Katsina Mr Hammud Ali also attributed the accident to over loading and very high speed, saying the command will nonetheless continue with its safety education for motorists.

When our correspondent visited Rimi town, from where the J5

bus departed, funerals were being held by different families from Saturday night up until Sunday evening, when the 18th accident victim was laid to rest.

Most of the deceased were buried at the Main Rimi graveyard after funeral prayers conducted by various local imams, while many family members were seen receiving condolences at various places in the town.

Deputy Speaker of the Katsina State House of Assembly Alhaji Bilyaminu Mohammed Rimi and the local council chairman Nasiru Ala Iyata were seen moving from house to house to commiserate with those who lost their loved ones and to sympathise with those that sustained various

injuries.

The council chairman described the event as a big tragedy for the entire people of Rimi and said the local council has already undertaken to pay the medical bills of all those that were injured in the crash.

The chairman also told *Daily Trust* of another marriage tragedy at Ladanawa village of the same Rimi local government, where three people lost their lives when an articulated vehicle with some twenty people on their way to attend another wedding fatiha was also involved in an accident.

However, the FRSC sector command said he had not received any reports about the Ladanawa accident.

# 3 princes jostle for Lamido's throne

Continued from page 1

NERS in the race to succeed their father. A new Lamido is expected to be named within the next few days according to the traditions of Fombina emirate. A Lamidon Adamawa was last selected in administration.

Lamido Aliyu Musdafa, who died on Saturday after a brief illness, was buried in his palace at a funeral ceremony attended by top government officials, leading traditional rulers from Nigeria and Cameroon as well as senior politicians.

The remains of the 11th Lamido were committed to earth at the royal graveyard within the Lamido's palace in Yola in accordance with the Islamic rites. Even though his remains were inside the palace, the burial could not be conducted until 3p.m due to the massive crowd which turned up at the palace as early as 12 noon.

The prayer session was led by the Chief Imam of Yola Khadi Ahmadu Bobboi and was attended by leading Islamic scholars, including Sheikh Dahiru Usman Bauchi.

Sultan of Sokoto Muhammadu Sa'ad led a large delegation of Northern emirs, including the Umar Garbai El-Raneri, Emir of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero and Emir of Zazzau Alhaji Shehu Idris. Other royal fathers present included the Emirs of Gombe, Muri, Nasarawa, Katagum, Ningi, Bade and Lafia.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan was represented by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, who led a Federal Government delegation that included the National Security Adviser, General Aliyu Mohamed Gusau.

Host Governor Murtala Nyako of Adamawa State, Governor Ali Modu Sherrif of neigh-

bouring Borno State, Taraba State Danbaba Suntai, Kano State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau, former Vice President Atiku Abubakar [who is a son-in-law of the late Lamido], Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Affairs Professor Jibril Aminu, former minister of industries and current member of the presidential advisory panel Alhaji the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation (NDIC) Hassan Adamu, Wakilin Adamawa as well as Third Republic governor of Adamawa State Abubakar Saleh Michika were also at the funeral.

Other notable politicians in attendance include former governorship candidate of the Action Congress Ibrahim Bap- etel, ex-ANPP candidate Adamu Modibbo, ex-PDP governorship aspirant Alhaji Muhammadu Kwairanga Jada, who is the Matawallen Adamawa, and former federal lawmaker Auwal Tukur.

Traditional rulers from Cameroon Republic at the funeral ceremony include Lamido Aliyu Hayatu and Lamido Musa.

At the time of filing this report, many more dignitaries were still pouring into Yola to condole with the family and the state government.

SGF Yayale Ahmed described the late Lamido as an icon of the federal government to ensure the sustenance of peace in the country.

Senator Jibril Aminu said the peace being enjoyed in Adamawa State was the result of Lamido Aliyu Musdafa's unparalleled efforts. Wakilin Adamawa Hassan Adamu said the late Aliyu Musdafa was not just the Lamido of Adamawa State, "he was the Lamido of Nigeria".

The late Lamido Aliyu Musdafa, who was 88, was survived by wives, more than 50 children and many grandchildren.

# Plateau polarized into two, say police

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

PLATEAU State Police Commissioner Mr Ikechukwu Aduba said Plateau State has been polarized into two due to the incessant crises that kept recurring in the state.

Mr Aduba told the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo in Jos that "in the state there are some areas where Muslims cannot go and there are some areas where Christians cannot go, which is unhealthy development for the true

peaceful coexistence among the inhabitants."

He said unless community and religious leaders intervened and preach peace to their people, the situation will be dangerous.

The commissioner said they are making effort to address the problem and appealed to the IGP to provide them with adequate working materials and pay staff allowances to help them continue with their duties of protection of lives and property and to restore peace in the state.

IGP Onovo appealed to the warring factions to sheathe their swords and embrace peace for the socio economic development of the state.

He commended the police and other security forces for the professional role they are playing in the restoration of peace on the Plateau and urged them to do more in order to return the name of the Plateau as home of peace and tourism.

He said no amount of blackmail or accusation will detract the police who have remained composed.

"Continue with your work till you achieve peace and protect lives and property which is the cardinal objective of your work," he said.

Onovo said duties of Police Officer must be 24 hours and Division Police Officers will hence forth be held responsible for any insurgency discovered in their area.

The IGP said the police will deploy their officers in to all the nooks and crannies of the state including the remote areas with bad and difficult terrain prevent

further insurgencies and pledged to provide the command with vehicles and communication facilities to ease their work.

Meanwhile, General Officer Commanding 3rd Armoured Division Major General Saleh Maina commended the cordial relationship existing between police and the army adding that Police are doing their work efficiently, boldly and professionally under the task force for the restoration of peace on the Plateau.

PIC: NAN

## Waku warns against plot to remove Farida

By Muideen Olaniyi

SENATOR Joseph Waku yesterday warned against any move to remove the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Mrs Farida Waziri.

Speaking with newsmen in Abuja, Senator Waku accused prominent members of the Save Nigeria Group (SNG) of waging a campaign to dislodge Farida and bring in ex-Military administrator of Kaduna State Col. Abubakar Dangiwa Umar.

But a prominent member of SNG who spoke with Daily Trust yesterday dismissed the allegation, saying the group was interested in the invocation of Section 144 of the Constitution in the handling of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's health challenges as contained in the petition written to Acting President, implementation of the Uwais report on electoral reform and the sack of the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Professor Maurice Iwu as well as the reconstitution of the commission.

Senator Waku, who is the National Vice Chairman of the Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF), ever advised the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to remain focused on the path of moving the country forward, saying that he should not allow himself to be dragged into nepotism and sectionalism.

"Though I read yesterday (Saturday) that the Presidency has put a lie to such a dangerous speculation, but I think it is necessary to still sound a note of warning to those bent on not allowing the commission to concentrate on its good work," he further stated.



SOME of the 44 suspected armed robbers arrested by security personnel in Riyom, on Abuja-Jos road in a truck conveying cement to Bauchi yesterday.

## Muhtar calls for public service reform

By Idris Ahmed

MINISTER of Finance Mansur Muhtar has called for reform in the public service to make it more efficient.

He said this at the weekend in Abuja at a dinner held for the four newly sworn-in permanent secretaries drawn from the office of the Accountant General for the Fed-

eration (AGF). The permanent secretaries are Muhammed Sambo, Fatimah Binta Bamidele, Danladi Ilya Kifasi and Oyinbola Oyewumi Ezekael.

"We need reform in the public service; there is no doubt about that. Don't do things the old ways", he told the permanent secretaries.

The minister urged them to learn from the experience of those before

them and that they should respect the rule of law in everything they do.

He also asked them to cope with the challenges of transforming the nation's economy.

Chairman of the Civil Service Commission Ambassador Ahmed Al-Gazali said, "I know for some of you it will be very difficult but we will guide you and protect you for the best of this country."

He said a good public service is synonymous with good governance, "I charge you all to assist this country to achieve the greatness and to occupy position that rightly belongs to her."

The Accountant General of the Federation Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo said the four permanent Secretaries were selected because of their hard work and competency.

## Senator praises army for protecting democracy

By Misbahu Bashir

A Senator said weekend the military exhibited good attitude for not overthrowing government when the ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua was receiving medical attention.

Chairman Senate Committee on Defence Ibrahim Ida said this during

the presentation of book 'Winning Hearts and Minds' on community relations approach for the Nigerian army in Abuja, by Ebere Onwudiwe.

He said in spite of expectations by the people that the President would be overthrown by a military coup d'etat, when the President was away on health grounds, the armed forces refused to intervene into politics. He said military

exhibited excellent behaviour.

People were apprehensive when the president was away because the matter was not properly handled

and Vice Chancellor of Bayero University Kano Professor Attahiru Jega said Nigeria faces enormous challenges in civil-military relations. He said the people failed to appreciate

the contribution of the military in politics and the military failed to accommodate the people or "blood-drinking" civilians.

He said the book will improve the civil-military relations and urged government to provide enough money to the military to undertake community projects such as schools, bridges and roads.

## Over 40m children immunized in Nigeria - Pate

By Ruby Rabi

OVER 40 million children have so far being immunized against polio and other childhood tropical diseases in Nigeria, the National Health Care Development Agency's (NPHCDA)

executive director, Muhammed Ali Pate has said.

He said only one case of polio was recorded as at March 10 till date.

Attributing the success of the exercise to sustained efforts by all stakeholders in the fight against

polio, Pate explained that the polio type 1 discovered in Delta State was as a result of attitudes of health workers who have become complacent at their duty posts.

The executive director who was speaking during an interactive session with media moni-

tors on their experiences on the field, described the March, National Immunization Plus Days (NIPDs) as a huge success.

He commended the efforts of the federal government, the MDG office and the debt relief fund for all the funds released to assist in

the eradication on the polio virus.

"We would be putting in a lot of funds into routine immunization to boost the programme; that apart we would also be introducing new vaccines, so our cold chain rooms needs to be functional and operational," he said.

# CNPP disowns spokesman over comments on NITEL

By Abbas Jimoh

CONFERENCE of Nigerian Political Parties (CNPP) has dissociated itself from remarks credited to its spokesman Mr. Osita Okechukwu attacking Acting President Goodluck Jonathan over the privatization bid of NITEL/Mtel.

Okechukwu, who is CNPP's National Publicity, had last Wednesday at a press conference warned Jonathan not to tamper with the outcome of the bid exercise, adding that it would be too early for the acting president to allow 'predators and scavengers' to deceive him by cancelling the bid.

CNPP's National Chairman Alhaji Balarabe Musa said yesterday in Abuja that opposition parties were embarrassed and shocked at the remarks credited to its publicity secretary without any discussion with the leadership or clearance for such comments because "at no time did the CNPP meet or agree to take any position on the controversial Nitel/Mtel bid".

Musa said CNPP leadership would investigate the circumstances surrounding the press conference and would take action on Mr. Okechukwu accordingly.

"We have Buba Galadima, Yisa Tanko, Willy Ezugwu, Oyetakin Ebenezer, Edozie Ezugwu and the rest as the leaders in the secretariat, but he (Oke-

chukwu) will not consult them," Balarabe Musa said, adding that "This same young man made unsavoury comments the other day against the lawmakers over the PTDF issue and on finding out, we discover his comments were false and I had to go to the National Assembly to apologize."

"We never even made him the publicity secretary, it was Kenny Martins who was our national publicity secretary but he became too busy, Osita who was a member of a publicity committee of CNPP started performing the function. You can see our dilemma, people keep calling me over CNPP positions published by him without our knowledge," Musa said.



FROM left: Dr. Temitope Oshikoya, Director-General, West African Monetary Institute (WAMI), Mr. Gabriel Edgal, Managing Director, UBA Ghana and Mr. Oti Ikomi, Head of E-Transactions, Ecobank Nigeria at the regional policy workshop on Payment System and Cash Couriers in West Africa, Abuja, recently.

## PTDF revokes contracts in Kaduna collage

By Hamisu Muhammad

EXECUTIVE Secretary Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) Engr. Muttaqa Rabe Darma has ordered the revocation and termination of two ongoing contracts for the physical upgrade and redevelopment of the National College of Petroleum Studies, Kaduna, due to poor performance.

The PTDF has also stopped some contractors whose performances were considered to be below standard and were

weeks behind the completion periods.

The N14.5 billion project commenced in June 2009 with a 12 month completion target set for most of the components of the project.

"Though there is evidence of massive construction at the 90 hectre expanse of land, almost all the contractors are 8 to 14 weeks behind schedule, nine months into the project. Others, whose contract periods had expired, did not reach any reasonable stage of completion, the fund said in a

statement on Friday.

The project manager Architect Mohammed Dewu confessed to the PTDF boss that, "We have disappointed you because almost all contracts are behind schedule."

The revoked contracts include college clinic, which contract period expired 4 weeks ago, and the contract for the construction of the internal road network and drainages. The period for the execution of the contract expired last month with only 30% work done.

## Nigeria requests for 100,000 hajj slots

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

NIGERIA has pleaded with the Saudi authorities against the arbitrary arrest of Nigerian pilgrims over frivolous accusations.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Alhaji Jibril Maigari made the call in Saudi Arabia when he led the Nigerian delegation to the Saudi Minister of Hajj Dr. Fuad Bin Abdussalam al-Farsi.

Discussing issues on this year's hajj operation, Maigari also called for

the ban of street hawking in its Mina tents in order to keep the surroundings "clean and tidy" during hajj exercise. It also asked for more tents space for Nigerian pilgrims in Mina and requested for the provision of more toilets and dustbins.

Among the related request also filed before the Saudi authority is to support the Nigerian Hajj Authorities to take control of feeding their pilgrims at Mina and Arafat, with provision of special passes to allow vehi-

cles to bring food to Mina tents and at the King Abdul-Aziz International Airport.

Nigeria also requested for "the increase of Hajj seats allocated to Nigeria from 95,000 to 100,000."

Earlier in his speech, the Saudi Minister of Hajj, Dr. Fuad noted the rapid improvement in Hajj operations in the last three years and called for the enlightenment of Nigerian pilgrims on the importance of patience, which is a condition for an acceptable hajj.

## ECOWAS begins training for members on statistics

By Aisha Umar

REGIONAL officials involved in trade statistics in ECOWAS member states will today begin a training programme in Lome, Togo, to ensure a common understanding and application of the methodology for compiling external trade statistics.

The five-day workshop is a joint

project of the ECOWAS and UEMOA commissions as well as the European Union and Eurostat, the commission said in a statement.

The training is also part of the capacity building programme for the 20 participants in order to harmonize the procedure for compiling such statistics which are mostly obtained from customs declarations.

Participants will be trained using a template already developed by ECOWAS, UEMOA, the EU and Eurostat, the Luxembourg-based European statistics office and using the model developed by the ECOWAS Commission for Benin which is already applying it in compiling its external trade statistics.

## Group asks Jonathan to sign rights bill into law

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has been urged to quickly sign the recently amended National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria bill into law to bequeath a lasting legacy to Nigerians.

A nongovernmental group, Human Rights Writers' Association of Nigeria (HURIWA), made the call in a statement jointly signed by

its National Coordinator Comrade Emmanuel Onwubiko and Senior Program Manager Barr Ogom Kifordu.

The group said it was disturbed that Nigeria has continued to record abysmal human rights record in the comity of nations and commended the Senate headed by David Mark for passing the bill to

give the Rights Commission financial and HURIWA said signing the bill will also boost respect for the human rights of Nigerians and the enthronement of the regime of respect to the principle of the rule of law, adding that it is worried by the unprecedented rate of violations by security operatives of the rights of citizens.

### PROPERTIES FOR SALE IN ABUJA /LAGOS

1. A PLOT OF LAND AT DAKIBIYU, JABI MEASURING 1,332M<sup>2</sup> WITH C OF O = N17 MILLION
2. A 3 FLOOR OFFICE SPACE WITH BASEMENT MEASURING 250M<sup>2</sup> AT AMAC PLAZA OFFICE COMPLEX, OPPOSITE HERITAGE HOUSE, WUSE ZONE 3, ABUJA = N45 MILLION
3. A SHOP AT AREA 1 SHOPPING COMPLEX = N4.5 MILLION
4. A 9M<sup>2</sup> LOCK UP SHOP IN GARKI 2 ULTRA MODERN MARKET = N5.5 MILLION
5. A BLOCK OF 4 UNITS OF 3 BEDROOM FLATS AT ENGBO, LAGOS = N20 MILLION
6. A PLOT OF LAND AT DAPE DISTRICT (LIFE CAMP EXTENSION) BEHIND TREM MEASURING 1,200M<sup>2</sup> WITH C OF O = N15 MILLION
7. A PLOT OF LAND AT ANWOYIA EPLTU IBEJI (MAYFAIR GARDENS) LAGOS STATE MEASURING 676.337M<sup>2</sup> = N15 MILLION
8. SPECIALIZED SHOP (UP & DOWN) MEASURING ABOUT 100M<sup>2</sup> AT GUIDU MARKET BEHIND APC QRTS = N8 MILLION
9. TWO (2) UNITS OF WAREHOUSE SPACE AT MABUSHI SHOPPING MALL = N6.5 MILLION

### PROPERTIES TO LET IN ABUJA

1. TWO (2) UNITS THREE BEDROOM FLAT WITH A ROOM BQ AT UTAKO = N1.6 MILLION PER ANNUM X 2YRS  
ANNUAL SERVICE CHARGE = N240,000.00
2. TWO (2) UNITS OF 3-BEDROOM FLAT AT WUSE ZONE 4 = N1.8 MILLION PER ANNUM X 2YRS (WELL FINISHED WITH POP, etc.)
3. AN OFFICE SPACE (PENT HOUSE) AT AMAC PLAZA OPPOSITE HERITAGE HOUSE WUSE ZONE 3 = N850,000 PER ANNUM X 2YRS
4. AN OFFICE SPACE OF ABOUT 100M<sup>2</sup> (UP & DOWN) AT AMAC PLAZA OPPOSITE HERITAGE HOUSE WUSE ZONE 3 = N1.5 MILLION PER ANNUM X 2 YRS
5. 23M<sup>2</sup> SHOP AT GARKI II ULTRA MODERN MARKET = N600,000 PER ANNUM X 2YRS

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# Kano market fire very disturbing, Jonathan says

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu & Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu

ACTING President Jonathan Goodluck yesterday sympathized with victims of the recent fire incident in Kantin Kwari Market in Kano State. Jonathan who sent a Federal Government delegation to commiserate with the victims and assess the level of damage described the fire as "very disturbing."

The delegation which arrived the scene of the inferno around 12pm yesterday was led by the Secretary to the Government

of the Federation Alhaji Yayale Ahmed and was conducted round the affected areas by the Chairman of the Kantin Kwari Market Traders Association Alhaji Bature Abdul'aziz.

The delegation included the Minister of the Federal Capital Territory Alhaji Adamu Aliero, Minister of State for Health Dr. Aliyu Hong, the National Security Adviser retired General Aliyu Gusau and other senior government officials.

"The Acting President sent us to convey his sympathy and that of the country to the people of

Kano, especially the traders who have suffered this great loss", the SGF said.

He said they would assess the level of damage at the market to see how the Federal Government could assist those affected by the inferno. He said the incident did not only affect Nigeria, but the entire region.

He advised the victims to take solace in God, saying Kano had achieved its status as a successful commercial city because of its people's fate in destiny, whether good or bad.

"Because of your fate in Allah,

I'm sure in two years time, this tragedy will be history. You will bounce back as though this incident never occurred," he said.

He prayed Allah to grant eternal rest to those who died. Earlier, the delegation visited Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau who appealed to Federal Government to assist in rehabilitating the victims of the disaster, saying the state government could not handle the project alone. Shekarau commended Acting President Jonathan Goodluck for dispatching a delegation to assess the level of damage.

He also commended the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the Kano State Fire Service for their efforts in putting out the fire.

Former President Ibrahim Babangida, the Emir of Daura Alhaji Umar Faruk and Chairman of the Jama'atul Izalatul Bid'a wa Ikamatusunna Muhammad Sani Yahaya Jingir also sympathized with the affected traders.

Babangida who was represented by Colonel Habibu Shu'aibu prayed God to repay the victims. The Emir of Daura and Sheikh Jingir prayed for the souls of the deceased.



LAGOS State Governor Babatunde Fashola (right), his predecessor, Asiwaju Bola Ahmed Tinubu (left), the newly installed Oba Abdul-Fatai Aremu Aromire (Oyegbemi II), Ojora of Ijoraland, displaying the instrument of appointment to his subjects and other guests at Ijora on Saturday.

## Edo accuses PDP of destabilisation plot

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

THE Edo State government has accused the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state of a destabilisation plot, saying it wanted to make the state ungovernable.

The state Commissioner for Information and Orientation Anselim Ojezua made the accusation at the weekend in Benin while reacting to attempted bombings of some property belonging to the state government.

The commissioner wondered why the police was yet to arrest some members of the state House of Assembly who allegedly used weapons against their colleagues while trying to remove the former Speaker of the House of Assembly Zakawanu Garba.

He alleged that the plan of the PDP in the state was to remove Governor Oshiomhole from office through impeachment and since this was not possible because the Action Congress controlled the state House of Assembly, the party wanted to make the state ungovernable by bombing set targets.

"In my response to these unfortunate incidents, I reminded security agencies of the need for them to be alive to their responsibilities. I asked the police to arrest the culprits with a view to commencing investigation and possible prosecution", he added.

He said Edo State was undergoing an irreversible process of democratisation and developmental transformation.

## Shekarau raises c'ttee to assess traders' losses

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE Kano State government yesterday inaugurated an 18-man committee to assess the damage caused by last Friday's fire at the Kano textiles market, Kantin Kwari. The committee is to submit its report within four weeks.

Inaugurating the committee, Governor Ibrahim Shekarau said setting up a committee

became necessary as that was one of the best ways through which the cause of the fire could be ascertained.

Shekarau who spoke through his deputy Engineer Tijjani Gwarzo said the committee was mandated to identify and work closely with the victims of the incident in order to come up with recommendations on how best to assist them revive their businesses.

The committee is to be chaired by the state's Commissioner for Projects Monitoring and Evaluation Alhaji Ibrahim Garba while the Permanent Secretary in the state's Ministry of Higher Education Alhaji Umar Muhammed will serve as secretary.

Other members were drawn from the state's Police Command, the state Fire Service, representatives of the Kwari market traders association, the state's

chapter of the Nigerian Labour Congress, the state's emirate council, the state's Chamber of Commerce and other government officials.

Speaking on behalf of the committee members, Chairman of the committee, Alhaji Ibrahim Garba, said the committee would liaise with previous similar committees to hasten its work. He pledged a timely submission of the report.

## ...Traders disagree with govt over 'inciting' broadcast

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Kantin Kwari Market Traders Association has dismissed government's claim that Freedom

Radio incited the traders against the government, saying the radio station only helped in mobilising people and corporate bodies to put out the fire.

Sequel to the broadcast station's live update on the fire incident, Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau criticized Freedom Radio for "instigating the traders"

against government rather than sympathising with the victims.

Speaking with our correspondent yesterday in Kano, the Chairman of the market association

Alhaji Kabiru Sarki Sagagi said the radio station should be commended for airing the update and calling on people to help in putting out the fire.

# Nigerians in diaspora call for brotherhood bond in Jos

From Ibrahim Chonoko, London

THE Nigerians in Diaspora Organization Europe (NIDOE) has appealed to inhabitants of Jos, Plateau State, to collectively work towards re-establishing the peaceful atmosphere and brotherliness that existed between them prior to the outbreak of violence in the state.

In a press statement issued in London at the weekend and made available to the Daily Trust by its Chairman Mr Alistair Soyode, NIDO traced the genesis of the communal violence to the creation of

Jos North Local Government in 1991, regretted that the recurring crises had turned the exercise "into a doom on the land" rather than "bringing the gains of democracy to the people".

It further lamented that since the creation of the local council, "peace has since fled from the people", adding that the city of Jos, which was famous for its tin mines, is now "notorious as a place where people are constantly sent to the gallows".

"It is in this sense that the Jos crisis is not just religious, but socio-economic and political in nature", it noted, stressing that the

City's strategic location between the North and South had contributed to its becoming a "hotspot of religiously and economically motivated violence".

"The ugly images of people who had lived peacefully together for generations now suddenly killing one another cannot be reduced to mere religious intolerance of one section of the populace or the other", the statement added.

It urged the Federal Government "to stand up to her responsibility of providing security for all her citizens in general and the citizens of Jos in particular.

# Permsec: Nigeria committed to youth development

By Romoke W. Ahmad

NIGERIA is committed to initiatives that would facilitate the development of youth knowing full well that they are the nation's greatest asset, Permanent Secretary of Youth Development Ministry Ms A. N. Ene-Ita has said.

The permanent secretary said this while declaring the Commonwealth Africa Regional Youth Caucus meeting in Abuja.

Ms Ene-Ita said Nigeria has embarked on the formulation of national youth policy and to foster regular report on youth development

index, implement national youth employment action plan and the construction of national youth development centres.

She said her ministry has also established the Nigerian youth parliament which is aimed at preparing young people into leadership position as well as empower them to fully realize their potentials.

The permsec urged participants to devote their time and energy to major issues, deliberate exhaustively and consider new measures for bridging the inter-generational gap as a means of

youth empowerment.

Also speaking at the occasion, the Regional Director Commonwealth Youth Programmed Mr. A James said the meeting will afford African youth leaders to learn from their counterparts from other countries in terms of youth development.

Earlier, Nigeria youth representative to commonwealth Ewajesu Asala said she is happy hosting her colleagues in Nigeria especially at a time when the region is facing series of challenges and hoped their deliberation will go a long way in assisting the region.

# BPSR wants support for public servants

By Nasir Imam

THE newly appointed Permanent Secretary of the Bureau of Public Service Reforms (BPSR) Mr. Dauda Kigbu has called for commitment from public servants to achieve sustained and efficient public financial management, transparency and accountability in government business.

Kigbu made this call while declaring open the capacity building training for select staff of MDAs and civil society organisations in Abuja.

In his remark as chairman of the steering committee of the anti-corrup-

tion issue based project, Mr. Kigbu referred to civil servants as "foot soldiers" in the pursuit of the Federal Government agenda of anti-corruption and accountability.

Kigbu, who was making his first outing as permanent secretary of the bureau, drew the attention of the participants to the enactment of the Public Procurement Act in 2007 which is the regulatory framework with which agencies operate and implement due process in procurements.

Earlier in her opening remarks, the Head of Department of Communication of the Bureau Dr. Anthonia Akpabio Ekpa

said that accountability and anti-corruption are reform issues of the Federal Government and that in line with its mandate of initiating, coordinating, monitoring and ensuring full implementation of government reform policies and programmes, the BPSR has partnered with stakeholders.

The capacity building programme which drew 22 participants was organized by the Anti-Corruption Issue based Project, conceived and initiated by Coalitions for Change Project (C4C) with the support of the UK Department for International Development (DFID).

# Labour Minister says workers to get pay raise

By Francis Okeke

MINISTER of Labour and Productivity Senator Ibrahim Kazaure has assured public servants of government's commitment to ensuring a befitting take home pay package for workers soon.

Senator Kazaure gave the assurance at the end of a tripartite committee meeting among government, employers, organized

labour and other stakeholders on National Minimum Wage which deliberated on the threats of industrial action by the labour movement.

He noted that the maturity displayed by Labour leaders over the wages/salaries matter has placed their demands at the heart of the government, and the government is willing to address the issues with utmost regard to the well-

being of the Nigerian workers for efficiency and high productivity.

The minister commended civil servants for enduring the hardship posed by the global economic meltdown.

He enjoined Nigerian workers to exercise patience as government is working to ensure that public servants enjoy the dividends of democracy in the area of wages and salary review.



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**SOKOTO:**  
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# NYSC to avoid crises prone states

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE National Directorate of the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) will not post corps members to any state where their security cannot be guaranteed, the Direc-

tor General of NYSC Brigadier General Maharazu Tsiga has said. He said this at the weekend while addressing the Batch A 2010 corps members posted to Gombe State. He maintained that the scheme placed a very high premium on the security of corps

members, saying they were collaborating with security operatives in the country to protect the lives and property of corps members in the country.

He called on the corps members to be dedicated to their duties, adding that the

training they were receiving in the camp would prepare them for leadership positions. Tsiga told the corps members that anyone seeking redeployment should not hesitate to apply for it, saying redeployment was a right, not a privilege.

## Jos crisis: Madugu faults Army's response

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

FORMER Minister of State for Agriculture Dr. Jonah Madugu has faulted explanations by the Nigerian Army on the recent Jos crisis. Madugu who spoke with our correspondent in Jos at the weekend said the explanation by the army on why they couldn't get to the villages on time was not satisfactory.

The former minister challenged the army to show to the world the corpses of the four Fulanis he said were killed and the one arrested by the army if it was true that they shot any of the attackers.

In a related development, the Plateau State chapter of the National Youth Council of Nigeria says it is not satisfied with the explanations given by the police and army on last Sunday's killings, saying both security agencies still had questions to answer.

Chairman of the state chapter of the group, Iliya Lar, said the response by the army over alleged neglect which made it possible for



GOVERNOR Jonah Jang

the attackers to invade and kill in the three villages was not enough. He said even if the army denied that it was alerted before the incident, it should explain how its intelligence arm failed to detect the presence of the

armed men.

He said Governor Jonah Jang had every right to question the operations of the army. The group also berated the police for claiming that the attack was a reprisal.

## Bishop flays calls for military take-over

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THOSE people calling for the take-over of government by the military are not fair to the Nigerian public and they should not be taken seriously, Bishop of the Kaduna Anglican Diocese, Rt. Reverend Josiah Idowu-Fearon has said.

Speaking on the state of the nation at the weekend in Kaduna, the bishop said,

"I beg the Military not to take over power because we are still working hard to recover from the harm done to the country during their reign. We will rebel

against them. They should allow us to go through the learning period of democracy", he said.

He advised that the provisions of the constitution be adhered to in solving all issues in the country including the president's health.

"Nigerian politicians should always put the interest of the common man first before theirs," he added.

He said the recently constituted advisory council was populated by old people, urging the Acting President to get young and vibrant people who would

assist him in developing the country.

He said the crises in Plateau State was not religious as claimed by some people.

"It is very sad that Nigerians can kill each other. The reason for the last crisis was not genuine at all. If we can agree and say that something is bad when it is, no matter those who did it, we are going to be better for it," he said.

According to him, what is bad is bad even if it is done in the name of religion. He said the Nigerian justice system should be allowed to take its course.

## Borno community wants new emirate

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

THE people of Tokombare in Gwoza Local Government Area of Borno State have called on Borno State Governor Ali Modu Sheriff to carve out Tokombare emirate out of the existing emirate in the local ment.

Spokesperson of the community, Muhammed Ali Izge, while addressing journalists in Maiduguri at the weekend said the creation of a new emirate would bring government closer to the people of the area and accelerate development.

"We believe that the creation of a new emirate out of the present Gwoza

emirate will help us to fight various ecological, developmental and security problems effectively", he added.

According to Izge, it is the consensus of the people of the area, adding that the people of the proposed emirate had identical cultural, social, political and historical background.

## Orphans, vulnerable children assured of basic education

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

ABOUT 15,000 orphans and vulnerable children in Sokoto State have been assured of basic education through the intervention programme of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

USAID recently launched three intervention projects on health, education and governance in Sokoto State. The pilot projects are to be undertaken in Sokoto and Bauchi States.

Speaking at the launch in Sokoto, the Mission Director of USAID Nigeria Dr. Ray Kirkland said the projects would increase

access to quality social services and enhance responsive governance.

He assured of USAID's commitment towards achieving positive impact and improving the quality of lives of people in the state.

Sokoto State Governor Aliyu Wamakko reiterated the state government's continued support to the success of all intervention projects aimed at improving the living conditions of people in the state. The governor who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government Alhaji Sahabi Isa Gada commended the American government for establishing agencies such as USAID whose activities he noted had contributed to

the development of people in Africa.

The Commissioner for Health Dr. Muhammad Jabbi Kilgori expressed appreciation to USAID for selecting Sokoto as one of the beneficiaries of the projects. He maintained that the state would benefit from the projects.

“The projects would increase access to quality social services and enhance responsive governance.”



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Completed application forms must be returned to the School Coordinator not later than **July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010**.

Oral interview will be conducted on **August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010** in the department of Medical Social Services.

Only successful candidates will be contacted.

**Prof. Akin Osibogun**  
Chief Medical Director

# Mark warns against stigmatizing AIDS victims

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATE President David Mark has warned against stigmatization and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS.

Speaking when he received officials of the Institute of Human Virology (IHVN) who visited him, Mark said stigmatization remains one of the major factors militating against

control of the HIV/AIDS scourge.

He commended the IHVN for its commitment to fighting the HIV pandemic in the country.

Mark identified education as the key to fighting HIV/AIDS saying "The fear of stigmatization and discrimination has discouraged voluntary testing and assessing of drugs by patients."

He expressed appreciation to the

institute over its efforts at controlling the scourge especially in his senatorial district and promised to provide assistance in any way possible.

Speaking earlier, Chief of Party/Country Director, Dr Patrick Dakum, said IHVN is expanding its activities in the country.

He said in Benue South, the institute is supporting General Hospital, Otukpo, and through its

AIDS Care and Treatment in Nigeria (ACTION) Project, expanded to General Hospitals in Ugbokpo and Wannune; and Comprehensive Health Care Centers in Ijadogah and Ugbokpo.

Dakum said IHVN is also providing care and support to 5,178 people living with HIV/AIDS, and has provided 16,338 people with HIV counseling and testing services.

Dr Dakum who was accompanied by the Deputy Chief of Party and Managing Director of the Institute, Mr. Charles Mensah commended the choice of Dr. John Idoko as the Director General of NACA saying "it is a round peg in a round hole." He called on government to assist the centre with challenges in water supply, and other infrastructures.

## States get N2.6m for literacy by radio programme

By Maureen Onochie

THE Federal Government has released the sum of N2.6 million to state governments including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) to kick-start the literacy by radio programme.

Minister of State for Education Hajiya Aishatu Jibrin Dukku who stated

this also presented laptops to stakeholders of the 6 geopolitical zones of the country at the press briefing on the release of support to the states and FCT for literacy by radio and official flag off of the 2010 literacy by radio broadcasting in all states of the federation and FCT.

Hajiya Aishatu said the programme

is important to the nation as it will go a long way to reduce illiteracy, which causes poverty, violence and child mortality.

"This method has been employed by Cuba and Kenya and it has been discovered to be very effective, because it gets to rural areas faster as everyone can easily afford radio. The nomads are also

learning while tending their cows in the remotest bush," she said.

Chairman of the Governing Board of National Commission for Mass Literacy, Adult and Non-formal Education (NMEC) Comrade Paschal Bafyau, urged the stakeholders to ensure that there is transparency and accountability in using funds given to them.

## Muslim journalists task security agencies on crises

By Abbas Jimoh & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

MUSLIM Media Practitioners of Nigeria (MMPN) yesterday urged security agencies to be more alert in the discharge of their duties to stem crisis as experienced recently in parts of Plateau State.

The association also said in a

communiqué issued at the end of its monthly meeting in Abuja that media houses should be objective and fair to all concerned in their reportage of crisis.

"As an umpire, our duty is to be fair, just and balanced in our reportage of any event, not only in the Jos crisis, but any other matter or event in line with the ethics of

the journalism profession," it said.

The communiqué signed by the group's chairman Alhaji Abdur-Rahman Balogun equally advised media practitioners to always authenticate their facts before publication.

The group advised Muslims and non-Muslims alike in Plateau and other parts of

the country to continue to live in peace and harmony as dictated by the two religions in their respective holy books.

MMPN advised Plateau State to take a cue from cosmopolitan cities and states like Lagos, Kano, Port-Harcourt, where people live in peace and harmony despite religious and cultural differences.

### HUSSAINI ADAMU FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, KAZAURE (OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR)

#### 2<sup>ND</sup> CONVOCATION CEREMONY

The Rector Dr. M. A. Kazaure, MNI FSCN on behalf of the Council, Academic Board cordially invites members of the public to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Convocation ceremony of the Polytechnic Graduands. The General Public are kindly request to take note of the following activities which have been lined up as part of the ceremony:

Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010

- (i). Convocation Lecture  
Quest Speaker: Alahji Sule Lamido  
Executive Governor, Jigawa State  
Topic: "Reflections on Politics in Nigeria"  
Venue: Multipurpose Hall  
TIME: 3.30PM  
SATURDAY: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010

- A. Convocation Ceremony for the Awards of National Diploma and Presentation of Prizes to deserving graduands.  
Venue: Convocation Ground, Hussaini Adamu Federal Polytechnic, Kazaure  
Time: 10.00am  
Guest are to be seated by 9:30am

1. Graduands are required to be physically present to receive their Diplomas. In exceptional cases, Diplomas may be awarded in absentia to those who may be unavoidable absent provided acceptable reasons have given prior to such absence.
2. Each graduand will be issued two invitation cards which will be available for collection as from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010 between 10.00am and 4.00pm daily from the School Officers. And invitation card admits ONE guest only to the Convocation ground.
3. It is mandatory for all graduands to participate in the academic procession and to wear a complete set of the approved academic outfit.
4. Academic gowns will be available for collection on "first-come-first served basis" from the relevant School Officers as from Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2010 between 10.00am and 4.00pm daily on payment for non refundable fee of N1,000.00 (inclusive of the cost of convocation brochure) in cash to the Polytechnic Bursary and presentation of receipt for the payment. Gowns should be returned at the close of ceremony or latest by Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2010. Failure to return the gowns on the due date will attract a fine of N200.00 only per day up to a maximum of five (5) days after which defaulters will be made to pay the full cost of the gown.

Signed:

Rabi'u M. Danmalam  
REGISTRAR



www.britishcouncil.org/africa

## VACANCY

The British Council is recruiting for a Caretaker post in Abuja, Nigeria.

#### DUTIES

The selected candidates will assist facilities managers in-country to manage facilities, estate, office vehicles, and procurement as defined in the Regional and Country Delivery Plans in all key sectors of the British Council programme; maintain the office and estate by ensuring security and optimum delivery of customer care including opening and closing of the office premises on schedule every day.

#### HOW TO APPLY:

To apply, you need to use the following documents which can all be found at [www.britishcouncil.org/africa-vacancies](http://www.britishcouncil.org/africa-vacancies): Job Description, Job Application Form, Behavioural Competency Dictionary, Generic Skills Dictionary, Guidance for Applicants, How to complete the Application and Equal Opportunity and Diversity Questionnaire. Please read all the documents carefully before you fill in the Job Application

#### FORM:

Applications received after the deadline will not be considered. Telephone Applications or enquiries will not be considered. **Only candidates shortlisted for interview will be contacted**

**DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: 10.00A.M ON 26 MARCH 2010**

**WE DO NOT ACCEPT CVs, HANDWRITTEN APPLICATIONS OR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

The British Council is committed to a policy of Equal Opportunity and Diversity and we welcome applications from every section of community. Candidates with special needs should please ask for this information in alternative formats. We guarantee an interview to disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria. We are the UK's international organisation for cultural relations. We are registered in England as a charity.



## WEST AFRICAN POWER POOL (WAPP) VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

WAPP is a specialized institution of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) comprising nineteen (19) African Electric Power Utilities.

WAPP Vision is to integrate the operations of the member power utilities into a unified sustainable regional electricity market, with the ultimate goal of providing the ECOWAS Member States with stable and reliable electricity supply, at affordable cost, in the long and medium terms.

The WAPP General Secretariat has its headquarters in Cotonou, Republic of Benin.

With the support of the World Bank, the WAPP Secretariat wishes to engage the services of the Procurement Specialist within its institution.

The Procurement Specialist shall be engaged as an internal expert responsible for planning, managing and implementing procedures in the acquisition of goods, works and services of overall WAPP needs. The interested candidate should be conversant with procurement procedures of donor institutions. The job description for the post is attached as appendix.

The contract position is for an initial period of three (03) years with a probationary period of twelve (12) months. Upon completion of the initial contract, the candidate may be awarded a permanent contract with WAPP.

The candidate must be fluent in French and English.

Interested candidates are invited to consult the link: <http://www.ecowapp.org/careers.html>, for further information on this post.

Women are encouraged to apply for this position.

WAPP offers attractive salaries and competitive benefits comparable to similar International Organisations.

Application letters marked as "Application/Procurement Specialist" may be sent by email to: [info@ecowapp.org](mailto:info@ecowapp.org) or by post to:

**Secrétaire Générale  
Système d'Echanges d'Energie Electrique Ouest Africain  
Akpakpa Pk6 - Zone des Ambassades  
06 BP 2907 Cotonou  
République du Bénin**

Deadline for applications: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010 by 5pm Cotonou time.

### Job Description:

**Department:** Office of Secretary General

**Position:** Procurement Specialist

**Location:** Cotonou, Benin

**Reports to:** Secretary General

**Subordinates:** n/a

**Job Summary:** Procurement Specialist is responsible for planning, managing and implementing procedures in the acquisition of goods, works and services of overall WAPP needs. He should manage the related activities in understanding with Purchasing Committee of the WAPP and in conformity with the provisions of WAPP Procurement Guidelines.

### Essential Duties:

- Plan, develop and manage all procurement and contractual aspects of diverse products and services for the WAPP Secretariat.
- Advise requisitioning units and recipient entities on the full range of procurement issues, providing support and guidance at all stage of the procurement cycle.
- Prepare or review bidding and request for proposal documents.
- Prepare/oversee preparation and distribution of invitations to tender and manage/conduct all aspects of bid/proposal evaluation.
- Formulate strategies and design innovative solutions to resolve issues/conflicts for complex procurement projects.
- Establish and maintain work program and schedule for ongoing contracts and newly planned ones.
- Participate in negotiations with WAPP Procurement Committee, prepare sign procurement orders up to the authorised limit, and, in cases where the amount exceeds authorised signature authority, seek approval of authorised officials and, if applicable, prepare submissions to the Procurement Committee for review and subsequent approval by the authorised official.
- Conduct market research to keep abreast of market developments, research and analyze statistical data and market reports on the world commodity situation, production patterns and availability of goods and services.
- Identify new technologies, and products/services, evaluate and recommend potential supply sources and participate in the incorporation of research results into the procurement program;
- Oversee adherence to contractual agreements, recommends amendments and extensions of contracts, and advise concerned parties on contractual rights and obligations;
- Maintain a complete and systematic set of records of day-to-day business transactions.
- Prepare a variety of procurement-related documents, contracts, communications, guidelines, instructions, etc.
- Provide guidance to, and may supervise, new/junior staff
- Keep track of orders and determine causes of any delays
- Answer any questions or clarifications from suppliers, and resolve any problems
- Reconcile purchase orders with the shipments, ensuring that they match
- Notify vendors when invoices are not received, and verify that the bills concur with purchase orders
- Oversee inventory control system, maintaining inventory spreadsheet and placing orders when materials on hand are insufficient
- Handle procurement issues as procurement focal point of the WAPP with donors
- Participate to procurement supervision and audits/review missions
- Prepare procurement reports

### Minimum Qualifications/

**Skills & Knowledge Required:** Education: Advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent) in Business Administration, Public Administration, Commerce, Engineering, Law or other related field. Training in law, or a certification in procurement is desirable.

### Years of Experience:

A minimum of five years of progressive responsible experience in procurement and administration in public or private sector, of which at least two years should be directly related to first hand procurement and/or contracting experience at the international level.

- \* Demonstrated understanding of contracts and purchasing preferred.
- \* Familiar with International Financial Institutions Procurement Procedures (World bank, EIB, AfDB, IBD, etc.)
- \* Experience in an energy sector organisation a plus
- \* Demonstrated experience in word processing and spreadsheet software
- \* Strong oral and written communications skills with a proven ability to convey information clearly and concisely
- \* Ability to coordinate cross-departmental efforts to achieve common goals on time
- \* Strong organizational skills with the ability to prioritize work load, handle multiple tasks simultaneously and attend to detail
- \* Demonstrated integrity, objectivity, and confidentiality

### Language:

Fluent in English and French

Advertorial


**RENAISSANCE**  
 Practitioners

*• Solicitors • Advocates*  
*• Arbitrators • Notaries Public*  
*• Consultants*
12<sup>th</sup> March, 2010**The President**

Honourable Justice Isa Ayo Salami JCA

Court of Appeal

Three Arms Zone

Abuja

Dear Sir,

**RE: OUR PETITION IN RESPECT OF SOKOTO STATE GOVERNORSHIP APPEALS**

**W**e are solicitors to Alhaji Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko (hereinafter referred to as our client) and on whose behalf we are writing this letter.

Without prejudice to the petitions before the National Judicial Council in respect of the above matter, we are writing to protest on the Sokoto State Governorship Appeal Panel strongly on the intention of the panel to deliver judgment on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010 in the matter as set by the notices issued for that purpose, thus negating the order of the National Judicial Council.

We are constrained to write you this letter by compelling circumstances surrounding the Notice of Judgment issued by the Court of Appeal, Sokoto in respect of the appeal before the Court of appeal, Sokoto Division

According to the Notice, the Court of Appeal, Sokoto has scheduled Tuesday March 16, 2010 to deliver judgment on the matter.

You no doubt would recall that this same Court of Appeal, Sokoto had earlier scheduled judgment for February 24, 2010 but was barred from going ahead by instructions from the Chairman of the National Judicial Council and Chief Justice of Nigeria citing petitions before the Council which substantially challenged the judicial propriety of the Court's manifest intention to deliver judgment, that is already leaked and it has come to the knowledge of the general public which questioned the integrity of the Justices on the panel. In acceding to the orders of the Chairman of the National Judicial Council, the Court of Appeal, Sokoto gave a ruling after been addressed by counsel that it could not deliver judgment without allowing the Council to look into the petitions and reach a decision on their veracity or otherwise and as well after taking the outstanding Motion which seeks for reference to the Supreme Court pursuant to Sec 295(3) of the Constitution. The Court also conceded that obeying the Council's instructions would protect the integrity of the Justices. It therefore adjourned the hearing of the Motion before them and the judgment *SINE DIE*. It is pertinent to also state that the notices issued for the Judgment had totally ignored that there is a motion pending which must be taken before any Judgment could be delivered.

The sudden issuance of another Notice of Judgment by the Court of Appeal, Sokoto scheduling March 16, 2010, without any further correspondence from the National Judicial Council to the Court of Appeal, Sokoto and other parties in the matter, either conveying the

outcome of its investigations or expressly lifting its stay action order, amounts to yet another brazen act of contempt and deliberate disregard and disrespect for the National Judicial Council. Moreover, the petitioners are yet to be invited by the Council or its Committee, to appear before it to substantiate or respond to issues that may have arisen in the course of its investigations. Neither has the Council informed the petitioners of the conclusion of its investigations and withdrawal of its stay action order on proceedings at the Court of Appeal, Sokoto on this matter.

With due respect to your office, we wish to submit that as President of the Court of Appeal and a subject of the petitions before the National Judicial Council on this matter, you must be fully aware of the facts and issues raised in this letter, particularly the effrontery of the Court of Appeal, Sokoto towards clear and subsisting directives of the National Judicial Council which were in any case copied to you. Without prejudice to the petitions still before the Council and its on-going investigations into same, this latest instance of unwarranted intransigence on the part of the Court of Appeal, Sokoto discredits its earlier avowed respect for the National Judicial Council's lawful orders and purported concern for the protection of the integrity of the judiciary, on the basis of which it adjourned judgment *SINE DIE*. Indeed, widespread suspicion of the motives of the Court of Appeal, Sokoto in exhibiting a frantic haste to deliver a judgment that had been surreptitiously leaked to and publicly celebrated by the appellants far in advance of the date which they also had exclusive foreknowledge of, has only been strengthened, if not vindicated.

Mercifully, the Court of Appeal in its entirety cannot constitute a law unto itself against which there is no recourse for the unfortunate victims of its extra-judicial agenda. This is why it has remained alone and isolated in pursuit of an ill-considered course of action that continues to expose its dark underbelly. Justice must not only be done but seen to be done if the integrity of the judiciary is to earn the endorsement of the public. But if even the judiciary through the misdemeanor of its constituents de-robes itself of honour and integrity, it seizes to have the locus standi to dissuade litigants from recourse to extra-judicial means of settling scores and becomes a mere accessory to the crime of promoting anarchy and civil disobedience.

As President of the Court of Appeal, these are certainly not the best of times, but it is not too late to avert the worst case scenario that looms large on the horizon.

Call your justices to order please

Alfred N. Agu Esq.

**Cc: Chief Justice of Nigeria/Chairman, National Judicial Council**  
**Three Arms Zone,**  
**Abuja.**



By Adamu Adamu

## Jos: Solution looking for problem

In retrospect, one should have seen the latest clash in Jos coming. In November 2008 and January 2010, Hausa-Fulani were killed in operations in which they found the Plateau State government complicit, Governor Jonah Jang contemptuous, themselves without compensation, and without so much as a kind, soothing word. And while the people were bitterly complaining of police partisanship, Jang was praising the police for their loyalty, dedication and commitment to duty.

Following the November 2008 crisis in Jos, the Inspector-General of Police undertook a reorganization of the Plateau State Police Command. This action, which many expected would include a crackdown on partisan personnel, merely involved the transfer of some officers and men from Plateau to other commands.

Details of the reorganization were conveyed to the command in two letters from headquarters—SB: 4770/PMF/

This action, which many expected would include a crackdown on partisan personnel

FHQ/ABJ/VOL. 1/50 of 21/11/2008 and CB: 4770/WEL/FHQ/ABJ/SUB. 1/3 of 26/11/2008. But on January 10, 2009, a few weeks after the postings, Jang wrote the IG requesting him to cancel the transfer of 60 affected policemen—seven inspectors, 23 sergeants, 16 corporals and 14 constables—all of whom, except for the sprinkling of a few names, were Berom. Jang said he “found them most loyal, dedicated and committed to their duties.” Astonishing as it might sound, the IG obliged him and all the transfers were cancelled.

Then we all woke up to the tragedy of Sunday. According to the police, what happened were reprisal killings by the Fulani retaliating for what happened to them in January. But according to Gregory Yenlong, Plateau State information commissioner, what happened at Dogo Nahauwa was ‘ethnic cleansing by Fulani against Berom.’ Jang himself said ‘some people came across the border of Plateau State and started attacking villages,’ and the Plateau State Christian Elders Forum said they came from Bauchi. All this is an improvement, because in January, words seemed to have failed all of them—they never told the world what happened at Kuru Karama and surrounding villages with the same passion.

Now, perhaps out of that dedication and commitment to duty which Jang said he saw in them, the police have arrested close to 100 Fulani herdsmen, the majority of them near Mangu, away from the theatre of conflict, in fact diametrically opposite the direction from which the Plateau Christian elders said they came. Presumably, they came, as said by the elders, at 1:30 am or earlier, precisely at 9:00 am, as said by Jang, who also said he received security reports from

villagers at that hour, and they did the killings; and by 3:30 am they had left—presumably eastwards—back to Bauchi from where specifically the elders said they came. So, how could they have been arrested at Mangu, to the south, two days later?

But why should all this be happening? Certainly, if in January, Jang had shown half the concern he is showing now, and the *Gbong Gwon* Jos, who is supposed to be a father to all, had demonstrated a tenth of the activism and interest he is displaying now; and all the several other officials engaged in the current, instant, inflated body count; the setting up and running of a ‘search, recovery and evacuation’ unit; and the prompt arrest of the ‘killers’ had been up and doing, the victims of January then would have understood that there was indeed a government in Plateau State that cared about them, that would protect them, that would bring their killers to book; and they wouldn’t have found it necessary to undertake any revenge missions.

The people’s complaint about government complicity in the January killings has now been corroborated by the Nigerian Army, whose spokesman, Brigadier-General Chris Olukade, said Jang was “extraordinarily partisan” in the Plateau conflict. All this would seem to have been reinforced by Jang’s continuing total lack of remorse, an attitude in sharp and revealing contrast to the current mournful visage of Plateau officialdom. And that is the real trouble—that even after this tragedy, or perhaps because of it, Jang is still unrepentant and behaving as if he is governor only of the Berom and not of Plateau State.

On other hand, acting as the original title—Chief of Birom—suggested, rather than what was expected of him because of the new title—Gbwon Gwom Jos—which he now bears, His Highness Buba Gyang gave the impression that he had no case to take to Abuja last January, because what happened then didn’t seem to concern him; but last week, he was fulminating as he threatened to descend on Abuja over the “act of man’s inhumanity to man” that happened at Dogo Nahauwa. Under normal regal circumstances, traditional authority would be exercised with a larger heart and a wider embrace.

It was because of this feeling of abandonment and extraordinary partisanship of Plateau leadership, which left them to their own devices, that the victims of the November 2008 and January 2010 crises reached the conclusion that the only language killers would understand was the one that they spoke—violence. And they rose up.

But it goes without saying that so long as the Hausa-Fulani or any other group in Plateau State live in despair of justice and equity at the hands of the Plateau State government, so long will taking the law into their hands continue to hold its attractions for them. And we must lay all the blame for what they do where it properly belongs—at the doorstep of Jang’s incompetent and partisan administration that has successfully made a preventable tragedy inevitable.

Adamu Adamu, adamuadamu@dailytrust.com



By Kole Shettima

## I could have been a Nigerien but for the Fulani

According to folktale, the Nigeria/Niger border, like others, was a bizarre creation. The British and the French agreed that the border between the two countries in the area now known as Yobe State was to be any point their troops met.

The colonialists agreed to start their journeys in the morning. For the British, who were architects of Indirect Rule in Nigeria, morning meant dawn, after the Muslim morning prayers; for the French who had a policy to assimilate their colonialists, morning meant after midnight.

Hence, by the time the two troops met, the French had “cheated” by 5 hours! I missed being a Nigerien by 2 kilometres or less than 30 minutes as a result.

February 26 this year marked the 125th anniversary of what is popularly known as the Berlin Conference. Officially, according to the hosts, the Germans, it is the “Kongo conference”. This set the Scramble for Africa, an event second only to slave trade in its historical consequences on Africa. From November 1884 to February 1885, thirteen European powers (France, Portugal, Spain, Russia, Netherlands, Italy, Austria-Hungary, Denmark, Belgium, Great Britain, Sweden, Turkey, Germany) and

Independent Africa leaders were divided on what to do with the tapestry of peoples and territories they inherited from the colonialists

the United States partitioned the continent into their colonies. Chancellor Otto von Bismarck of Germany was the chief host. Is it not ironic that they met during winter to decide the fate of those who live in tropical climate?

Prior to February 26, only some coastal areas of Africa were under direct European control. The hinterland, according to Joseph Conrad, was the “heart of darkness”. He added that the Berlin Conference was an “International Society for the Suppression of Savage Custom”. In other words, those territories were organized according to institutions that were never like those of the invaders.

According to Mahmud Tukur, the territory now known as Nigeria in 1884/85 was made up of many polities of different sizes among which were the Kingdom of Benin, the city states of the Niger and the Delta, Borno, Alafinate of Oyo, the Sokoto Caliphate and the group communities among the Tiv, the Ekoi, the Igbo, the Ibibio, the Igbirra, the Idoma and the Urhobo. Only Lagos was a British colony.

Borno by that time comprised among other principalities Damagaram, Muniyo, Maine, Kazalmari, Kanem, Kuseri, Logon, Mandara, Dungas, Miriya, Kwaue, Gumel in addition to its metropolitan districts. Most of these principalities are in present day Niger, Chad and Cameroon.

Over cheese and wine, the colonial-

ists haggled, bargained and tore the

Continent into 50-plus countries which, according to the *New African*, “cut across the logic of nationality, geography, language, culture and other unifying forces”. A decade after the event, only Ethiopia and Liberia were the African countries not under colonial rule.

The trigger for the conference was the rivalry between Belgium, France and Portugal to control the resources of the Congo Basin. At the end of the conference, the booty, the Congo Basin, was shared as follows: France got 257,000 sq miles which is now Congo Brazzaville and the Central African Republic, Portugal was rewarded with 351,000 sq miles which is current Angola and Belgium was given the lion share of 905,355 sq miles which is now the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)! In fact the gift was personal to King Leopold and not Belgium!

Comparatively the size of Belgium which King Leopold presided over is 30,528 sq km, compared with the DRC which is 2,344,858 sq km. The DRC is the 12th largest country in the world as opposed to Belgium which is the 140th. To stamp his ownership, King Leopold, named the colonial capital as Leopoldville. By the time that Belgium bought the colony from King Leopold, the population had decimated to 6 million from 20 million due to inhuman exploitation.

If Nkrumah-Achaempong, the heroic Ghanaian at the Vancouver Winter Olympics, was in snowy Berlin, the tragedy which befell the Togolese national football team during the African Cup of Nations could have been avoided, and Cabinda Province couldn’t have been “added” to Angola.

Who knows Emmanuel Adebayor would have played for the Super Eagles instead of Sparrow Hawks.

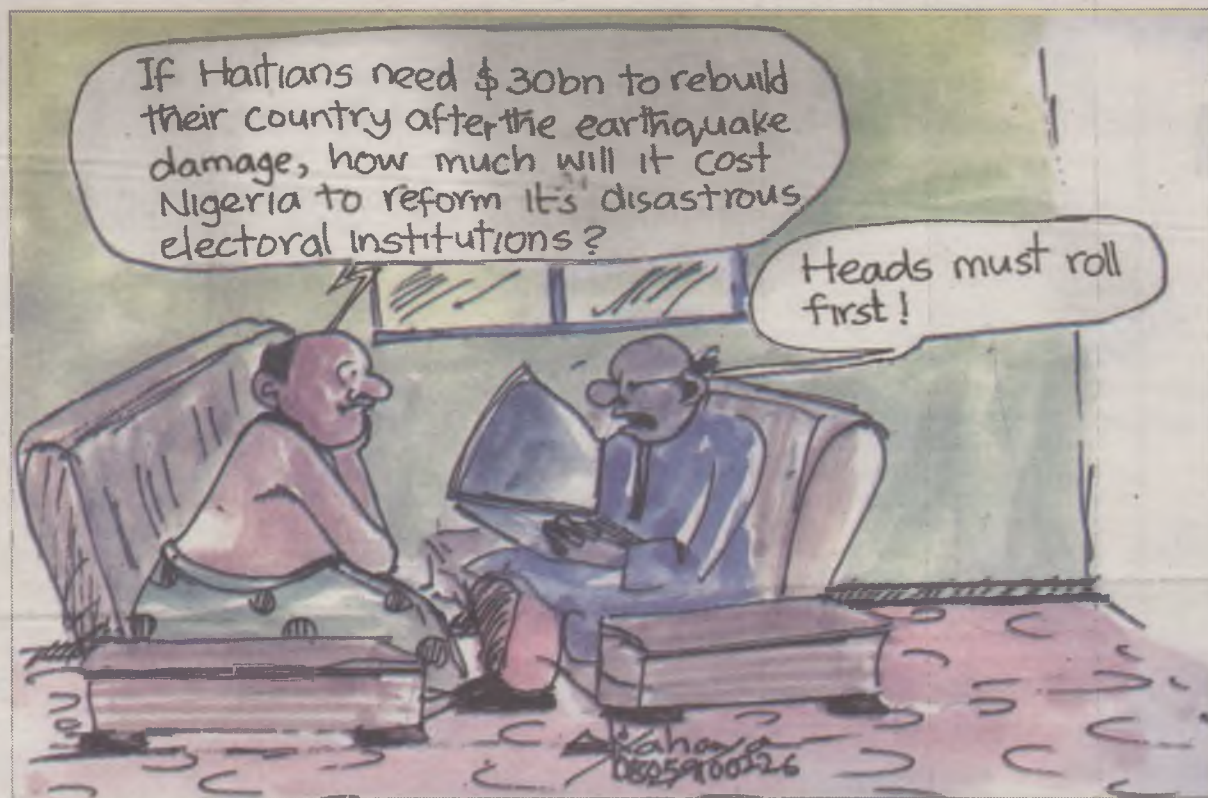
Post-colonial leaders of DRC must be good students of King Leopold. Mobutu exterminated all those who opposed him. For him the government treasury and his personal wealth were two sides of the same coin. Indeed by the time he was ousted, Mobutu’s loot was estimated to be \$4 billion richer stacked in Swiss banks.

According to Peter Muller, King Leopold’s reign of terror was Africa’s most severe demographic disaster. It seems not much has changed. The war in DRC is said to be Africa’s world war with an estimated death of more than 5 million. An epidemic of sexual violence has broken out in the country.

Independent Africa leaders were divided on what to do with the tapestry of peoples and territories they inherited from the colonialists. The radicals among them led by Kwame Nkrumah wanted to establish a United States of Africa whereas others were for a gradual process of unification.

This led to the formation of the Organization of African Unity in 1963 based on the inherited colonial boundaries. As recently as February 2009, African leaders debated the idea of the United States of Africa.

Shettima is the Director of the MacArthur Foundation, and Chairperson Technical Committee of the Ahmadu Bello Foundation.



## Your Letters

### Zuru: Fostering unity in diversity

Consider myself and my kinsmen from Zuru emirate to be lucky citizens of our beloved and God chosen state of Kebbi, the "land of equity" the meaning of which can be another subject of intense and indulging discourse. We are lucky for various reasons ranging from our geographical location, ethno-cultural diversity, and our intellectual and academic prowess as a people.

None of these can be over-emphasised when it comes to their peculiarity to Zuru emirate and the good people of Zuru. Nowhere else in the state will you find such a rich mixture of ethnic, cultural and religious diversity condensed into one community, this I believe is one of our greatest assets that has in many ways fostered unity, tolerance, educational excellence and above all, uniqueness.

But for the timely intervention

of Governor Saidu Nasamu Dakingari and his eminence the emir of Zuru, Muhammad Sani Sami, Sami Gomo II and a few like-minded sons of Zuru, this diversity was fast becoming our albatross as a people, threatening to shred the very fibre that binds us together as a people.

People are often quick to identify little things through which we differ in total disregard to the many things that makes us one and the same. Political vultures abound, hovering in ambush for cracks in the concrete wall of our unity. Such vultures cause dissention, religious and ethnic intolerance which consequently creates a social and political divide among our people.

It is only when such social discord is prevalent that these vultures are able to perpetuate their evil political agenda by enthroning their cronies in elective offices which ultimately translates to amassing of wealth through juicy contracts, and other political favours. Even societies with ethno-religious hegemony fall prey to such political vultures.

The administration spreads projects evenly across all the four emirates in the state; the governor gives a listening ear to every community through their emirs and political representatives.

Those political opportunists who peddle rumours and political blackmail now find it difficult to get patronage in the affairs of the state. People are getting enlightened daily on the need to shun religious and ethnic differences in order to close any division among them. Today, one can proudly say that the much dreaded politics of candidate imposition is slowly but surely grinding to a halt in Kebbi state.

The coming months in preparation for the upcoming elections in 2011 will be a litmus test for the much preached about change in Kebbi state in the politics of candidate selection through primaries, through the campaigns and culminating in the general elections.

Mohammed Danjuma Dago (jnr), [m\\_danjay@yahoo.com](mailto:m_danjay@yahoo.com), Zuru, Kebbi State.

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### He's still there?

IT is a pity that Obasanjo is still bent on orchestrating Yar adua's removal. He claimed to have handed him the presidency, thinking that he won't last a month. The Almighty has not granted him his wish. Therefore he should shut up because he is losing the little respect he has. We will continue to pray for our dear president to get well.

MARYAM Yakubu, 08034389923.

### It's frustrating, really

DO you have other conditions to publish text messages? I am becoming frustrated in sending many messages without you publishing them.

SALIHU, AB, Katsina, 08057516623.

### EFCC should go to Ikara

PLEASE come and investigate the activities of Ikara local Government top officials because they are doing nothing but conniving with few people to mismanage and transfer our monies into their personal pockets.

SURAJO Ibrahim, Ikara, Kaduna State, 08065949291.

### Did he say that?

HABA Bamanga Tukur! He was reported to have said in an interview that the current call for power shift to the North was deceitful and that the North should compete with other regions in order to get it. We are not surprised at Bamanga's comment because as a capitalist, he looks at things from the so-called survival of the fittest maxim. The

belief is callous, wicked and selfish. Zoning principles is constitutional and the South also needs it just like the North.

DANLAMI Baban Takko, Bauchi, 08030539506.

### E-payment, e-wahala

AREA Councils in the F.C.T are hiding under the umbrella of e-payment and delaying teachers' salaries. Teachers in F.C.T public primary schools are being paid once every two months. While their counterparts in Senior Secondary and Junior secondary schools are preparing for their present month salaries, primary schools teachers are fighting for their last month's salaries.

ALIYU A. Yusuf, Kwali, Abuja, 08065506818.



By Ja'afar Mohammed Zakari

## Before Jos breaks Nigeria

Once again, Jos has erupted. Hundreds have been killed, property burnt. Arrests are being made, and people will be charged to court, as both sides of the conflict claim official complicity against them. Panels of investigation will be set up by various levels and arms of government. Reports will be produced. The peacekeeping army and police personnel will be eventually withdrawn, and then the cycle of violence will begin all over again. This has been the predictable pattern. It is getting worryingly more frequent, more brutal and more threatening to national peace and cohesion. Jos, if not permanently resolved, can break Nigeria.

Jos should be resolved, immediately and decisively. Not by the government of Plateau State, but by the Federal Government. The Constitution has made the provision for that. And the Federal Government must not shy away from declaring a state of emergency there. All the arguments and considerations in favour of not taking this absolutely necessary step are hollow, illogical and self-serving. The state government and entrenched interest blocs have, for the umpteenth time, shown that they cannot resolve, or do not want to resolve the crisis. So, we must not wait until they turn the whole of Nigeria into one boiling cauldron. We should attack the problem hard and decisively. In so far as Governor Jonah Jang has failed to stop these killings, in so far as he has shown neither the will nor the ability to, he should be constitutionally removed and then be fairly investigated. The *Gbom Gwom* Jos, the Chief Imam of Jos, the traditional ruler of Bukuru and all the key traditional heads of the affected communities, from both sides of the conflict, should be removed and properly investigated. Their removal is both for their failure to ensure the security of the people in their communities, as well as to allow proper investigation of what roles they played, if any.

The National Assembly, which of late has stirred to national call and duty, must give full cooperation to the President to declare this state of emergency in the troubled state. In doing this, absolute care and attention must be paid to the picking of a sole administrator. This is because ultimately, the declaration of state of emergency is not an end in itself. It is a means to an end. And the end being to see to the cessation of hostilities, as well as to establish abiding peace, order and harmony, the person chosen as the sole administrator must be one that is, beyond all shadows of doubt, capable of achieving these within reasonable time.

The sole administrator chosen should be one who should be firm, fair and just. He must be beyond seeking personal political gain and certainly above the art of thievery. He must, in reality and in perception, be considered by all citizens of the state as non-partisan. He must have immense administrative, security and diplomatic experience.

Nigeria is blessed with quite a few people who approximate this job requirement. There is Senator (rtd Gen) Omar Sanda Ike Nwachukwu, and there is Ambassador Emeka Anyaoku. We have retired Air Marshal Allamine Daggash, the former Chief of Defence Staff, as we have retired Admirals Augustus Aikhomu and Mike Akhigbe. Alhajis Umaru Shinkafi and M. D. Yusuf are fairly suitable. As is Dr. Iyorchia Ayu, the former Senate President. Any of Mallam Gidado Idris or retired General John Shagaya can do. Retired Lt. Gen. Domkat Bali can also do; as can General Lawrence Onoja and many others, both civilian and military.

So, amongst members of this college, who does the cap fit most?

President Shehu Shagari is eminently qualified and suitable. He has proved himself selfless and above sectional bias and prejudices. But at 85, he needs rest. We should grant him that. He has earned it.

With due respect, Obasanjo is totally out. For, apart from having left office too recently, by style, character and temperament, he is unlikely to stay within his mandate. We want a solution, not a compounding of the problem.

Gentleman Chief Earnest Adegunle Shonekan is too unassertive. And assertiveness goes with the territory. You need a lot of it to succeed in Jos.

General Muhammadu Buhari has assertiveness writ bold all over him. And he knows Jos fairly well. Buhari will execute his mandate to the letter, like the soldier that he is. Plus, the diamond drill of politics has cut away some of his rough, undemocratic edges. And that is where the problem is - he is too much into partisan politics to be considered disinterested.

IBB? IBB is Mr. Nice. In fact, Mr. Too Nice, as history is beginning to show.

Zakari can be reached at [jjzakari5@gmail.com](mailto:jjzakari5@gmail.com)

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

No. 20 P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent, Off Solomon Lar Way,  
Utako District, Abuja  
09-6726241, 6715364

## Detention of Nigerians abroad

**T**he reported arrest of the well-known Islamic preacher and scholar, Dr Ahmad Abubakar Gumi, in Saudi Arabia has raised concerns among Nigerians generally, and Muslims in particular, about the personal safety and human rights of Nigerians in foreign lands. Why was he arrested by the Saudi secret police, and why are the authorities saying very little, even to officials of the Nigerian mission, to clarify his status, over two weeks after he was detained?

Initial reports said no one was being allowed to see the detainee. This draconian rule was slightly modified to allow only a few people, including officials of the Nigerian Embassy to have access to him. But to date, there has been no definitive statement from any quarter regarding the reason for his arrest. This new trend of arresting Nigerians abroad, and not telling their families or coordinating with the home country authorities what their offences are, is a troubling development.

A few weeks before Gumi's arrest, two Nigerian students in Malaysia were arrested in what the country's authorities described as a crackdown under that country's internal security Act. Up to now no one has been informed on what specific terror offences they committed. National laws and international conventions state that suspects are presumed innocent until proven guilty by a due process, but the manner of arrests and detention mentioned here is a negation of this requirement and stand condemned.

The Nigerian embassies in these countries should to spare no effort to find out why these individuals are being held, and to insist on providing consular services to them. In both cases the arrested Nigerians had initially been denied access to our diplomats and have not yet been presented before a court of law. While we do not support any breach of the law of their host countries, we believe the conduct of the Saudi security agencies and their Malaysian counterparts contravenes international best practices.

In Dr Gumi's case, after arresting him and taking documents from his home, the Saudi police promised to give the Nigerian embassy a report; as far as we know, they have not kept their word. The only development so far is that he may have been allowed to call members of his family on phone. For someone who had been resident in the kingdom for two decades, Dr. Gumi's record as a law-abiding Islamic scholar should have earned him a better treatment from the authorities, whatever his current misdemeanour may be.

**W**hatever it may be, we do not believe that this should be license to the Saudi police to act the way they have. Equally disturbing is the silence of Gumi's colleagues and leading Islamic organisations like the Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs, to his current travails.

We are once again disappointed that the Nigerian foreign affairs ministry has not taken aggressive measures to protect Nigerian citizens abroad, like other nations do. The recent case of a British national sentenced to death for drug-related offences in China is a good case in point. Even after conviction Britain did all it could, first to rationalise his action and, then to secure his release and repatriation, which failed also. Most of the release of most of the inmates of Guantanamo Bay's prison camp during George W Bush's US presidency was made possible after intense diplomatic pressure by their home countries. We often wonder why the Nigerian foreign ministry does not deploy its diplomatic leverage at finding out why these Nigerians are being held, and do all that is possible to secure their freedom. Whatever their offences, they are Nigerians, and they should not be abandoned. It is only when their freedom is secure that we can rebuke them at home for any offence they may have committed abroad.

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**ABDULKADIR ALIYU:** Head, Advert

e-mail: [opinion@dailytrust.com](mailto:opinion@dailytrust.com)

## Reading the news

**F**or whatever reason, twice the acting President, Goodluck Jonathan reportedly did not preside over the weekly Federal Executive Council meeting. Following the resolution of the Senate legitimizing his acting capacity, yours truly had observed that hence forth blessed is the sick President Musa Yar Adua for he would no longer be suspected of perennial power failure, lingering fuel scarcity, non-performing/ conflict-prone cabinet ministers and other scores of manifestations of governance crisis. On the contrary, the governance search light beams henceforth on a visible healthy and fit Goodluck Jonathan, certainly not invisible sick President Yar Adua. Given the lorry load of socio-political problems before him, it was also noted that there is no iota of luck whatsoever in Goodluck's power ascendancy as the acting Presidency of the country. Nigeria needs more than just good or best luck to be governed in the conditions of socio-political melt down we are in today. Yours sincerely however never thought that Goodluck Jonathan would conclusively prove my acid test so soon.

Mid-week news had it that last Wednesday, the acting President suffered some work load fatigue and put off the weekly FEC meeting. Reading this news for me conclusively confirmed the position of those who say making fetish of Yar Adua's illness, his absenteeism is nothing but a cheap diversion from the real crisis of governance facing the country.

**O**ne of the loud demagogic slogans of the protesting Save Nigeria Group (SNG) last Wednesday reads: END INVISIBLE PRESIDENCY. General Alani Akinrinade (one time visible actor in obviously invisible or evidently non-transparent military regimes of the recent past, but today a born again protester) shed some light on the mindset of the drafters of the slogan. According to him "Nigeria does not need two Presidents, one acting and the other sick. We want an effective President who shall be fully in charge."

President Barack Obama, in July last year ago in Ghana counselled that "Africa doesn't need strongmen, it needs strong institutions". Akinrinade must have simply ignored Obama's advice (as I did) because Obama's advice was purely academic (strongmen or, strong women and strong institutions are not mutually exclusive). Whatever is Akinrinade's motivation the key word in his sermon at the rally was "effective President" a kind of a strong man. How effective is an acting President who scaled down scheduled statutory cabinet meeting because of some high profile talk shop on agribusiness? Which one takes precedence; a passing fad called international conferences or a cabinet meeting of an acting President whose chief adviser, T Y Danjuma recently admonished

**Issa Aremu, mni**  
[issaaremu@yahoo.com](mailto:issaaremu@yahoo.com)

to act "quickly and aggressively"? How "proactive" (again Danjuma's word) is Jonathan who through rally fatigued messenger Yayale Ahmed, (Secretary to the Government of the Federation SFG) casually put on hold a structured meeting at the last minute for which his ministers had assembled?

**A**sick President is invisible at FEC meeting, an acting President is visible at other meetings other a policy making meeting he was (out of "doctrine of necessity") made to act. Pray, whence the difference between the two in terms of governance impact? Of course one is sick, the other is healthy but neither Yar Adua nor Jonathan was counted at the first FEC meeting coming after more hundreds of citizens added up to January massacres that took place in Plateau state and the nation looked

one person, albeit the President, while we are scandalously indifferent to serial mass burials of the critical unanimous mass in Jos.

Still on news. It was morally uplifting seeing women in their number on the streets of Abuja tasking what is left of our conscience about the killings in Plateau state. The latest was organized by the Plateau State Women Development Association. We recall that in the wake of January killings women under the auspices of Federation of Muslim Women (FOMWA) had also legitimately organized mourning protest match to draw attentions to the worsening plights of widows and orphans of Jos mayhems. Women have shown that ultimately they are their own liberators from the wars of attritions promoted by men of mean values. The question however is: if women are sadly brought together by agony, sorrow, tears and blood, why should they be so regrettably divided in resistance? Women should know that in reinventing Plateau state

The bane of the campaign by Save Nigeria Group is its false consciousness. It is a false consciousness to simply assume that the greatest problem facing Nigeria is that of a sick Presidency. Nigeria's governance crisis is certainly not as simplistic

forward to new deliberations to prevent more mutually assured madness. The bane of the campaign by Save Nigeria Group is its false consciousness. It is a false consciousness to simply assume that the greatest problem facing Nigeria is that of a sick Presidency. Nigeria's governance crisis is certainly not as simplistic. Of course Nigerians deserve a healthy President. But healthy president or acting President with "full powers" is just the means. The end for the citizens is service delivery and good governance. Nigeria is never short of healthy and fit leaders anyway. Former President Obasanjo was healthy for as long as he presided. But he inherited a country of power failure and left a country of endemic power failure. The election through which OBJ emerged as President was "freer" and "fairer" (or at least less disputed) than the one that he supervised to produce his successor. We do not have to necessarily make fetish of the health of a President through cheap politicisation no less than we must interrogate the content and quality of his governance service delivery. For now let our searchlight be in the direction of a healthy acting President who for whatever reason postponed meetings of FEC meeting so casually. Or put in another way; our sensitivity and concerns cannot be so indivisible. We cannot be taken serious while we periodically shout from the roof tops for full disclosures on the health of

their strength lies in unity in protests. An injury to one is an injury to all. If we fight separately, we may be defeated separately. Women (together with men concerned with well being not well having and well grabbing) certainly have the responsibility to save Plateau and indeed Nigeria. They must however know that solidarity is solid if it is not divisible. It is the senseless divisions into settlers/ indigenes Muslims/ Christians that have driven us on the verge of the current scenario comparable to Israel/Palestinian binary mutual annihilation. Women should not dignify these hopeless divisions.

**S**till on news. The recent earthquakes that devastated Chile and Turkey have shown that disasters are not country specific or race bound. The global media coverage of Haitian earthquakes in which as many as 200,000 people died was to say the least racist. The grim inhuman pictures of dignified victims of Haiti contrast sharply with the measured, more sympathetic and even more sensitive coverage of more riotous victims of Chilean quakes. But all observed whether in Haiti or Chile or Turkey, causalities are unavoidable victims of natural disasters. In contrast in Nigeria we count victims of avoidable crisis of governance daily. Sadly too our media coverage is no less inhuman and patently bias depending on which side we shamelessly hole ourselves.



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**Mr. B. Sailes**  
Principal



# ADESOYE COLLEGE, OFFA



## BORNO STATE GOVERNMENT

### INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAIHI RAJI'UN



**O**n behalf of Government and people of Borno State, I commiserate with the Government and people of Adamawa State and indeed all Nigerians over the sad death of the Lamido of Adamawa, Alhaji Aliyu Musdafa, which occurred on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. The death of the late Lamido is not only a great loss to the Government and people of Adamawa State but it is also a huge loss to all Nigerians. I am deeply touched by the passing away of this great statesman of impeccable character who had contributed to the unity, peace and development of our great nation. The passing away of the late Lamido is indeed a most regrettable loss coming at a time his wise counsel and prayers are required to take our beloved country to greater heights.

On behalf the Government and people of Borno State, I express our heartfelt condolences to the Government and people of Adamawa State and the families of the late Lamido. We fervently pray to the Almighty Allah to grant his gentle soul eternal rest and give the family the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss.

His Royal Highness

**Alhaji Dr. Aliyu Musdafa** CBE, CFE, LLD  
Lamido Adamawa

Signed

**HIS EXCELLENCY, SENATOR (DR.) ALI MODU SHERIFF**  
Executive Governor of Borno State

# INTERNATIONAL

## Coup scare in Central African Republic

CENTRAL African Republic's government has said it had foiled a plan to launch a coup d'état this week, with intelligence implicating former president Ange Felix Patasse who strongly denied any involvement.

National Security Minister Jules Bernard Ouande said in a recorded radio statement obtained by AFP that the government obtained detailed information at the weekend about a plan by unnamed soldiers and politicians to overthrow President Francois Bozize. "It was marked

'Plan of Attack,' Ouande said, reading the document over Radio Centrafica.

"I can tell you that when it obtained this information, the Central African government took all necessary action," Ouande said in the statement.

The coup was to have been launched today with meetings of those involved, including "commandos, mercenaries, kamikazes and militiamen."

The next stages, including "distribution of weapons, munitions, uniforms," naming of heads

of operations, handing out of money, reconnaissance and cutting of all telephone lines were to have taken place from March 16 to 19.

These actions were to have culminated in a spokesman for the movement making a statement on March 20, hours before "the opening of the borders and a statement by the head of state whose name I don't wish to divulge," Ouande said.

While stating several times that he did not want to give the name, the minister mentioned

a passage in the document that spoke of "reinforcements in the home of AFP" the initials of Patasse who was president from 1993 to 2003.

Patasse, reached on the phone from Libreville, denied any involvement in an attempted coup saying he had always "fought for the vote." Patasse, widely known in the Central African Republic as AFP, said he suspected the authorities were trying to eliminate him as a threat in presidential elections due April 25 along with general elections.

The former president, who was overthrown in March 2003 by Bozize, declared: "I have been elected twice, this time I'll go (to the polls) and I'll win!" Under a presidential decree the electoral campaign will run April 12-23.

The landlocked country located squarely in the centre of the African continent has been trying to complete a peace process after years of rebellions, coups d'état and various kinds of violence by rebels, soldiers and brigands setting up roadblocks.

### 15 killed in inter-clan fighting in Somalia

A clan elder in Somalia says a fight over land rights between two rival clans has killed at least 15 people.

Clan elder Abdulahi Bashir Jama says the weekend's fighting was triggered by long-standing hostilities over land ownership. The fighting took place in Amara village in the country's north, far from the capital of Mogadishu, where Islamist militants have been clashing with government troops.

Somalia has not had a functioning government for a generation, since clan warlords overthrew a socialist dictator in 1991.

They then turned on each other, and the Islamist movement which held the capital and much of the south for the second half of 2006, was the first force that built lasting alliances across clan lines.

### Guinea interim leader rules out presidential bid

GUINEA'S interim leader says he will not run in presidential elections planned for June in the small West African country. Gen. Sekouba Konate also said at the weekend that prominent transitional government figures cannot stand in the June 27 election.

It could be the nation's first democratic vote, as a coup leader grabbed in power in 2008 and the nation had previously been led by two dictators since gaining independence from France. The coup leader agreed to go into voluntary exile after he survived an assassination attempt following a massacre at a pro-democracy rally in September.

The transitional government was established with help from international mediators. The transitional council was also inaugurated at the weekend.



SUPPORTERS of opposition Togolese party Union of Forces for Change (UFC), rally in the center of Lome.

## Togo's opposition, pro-government backers face off

THOUSANDS of opposition supporters and rivals backing President Faure Gnassingbe faced off in Lome at the weekend, staging competing rallies nine days after Gnassingbe's disputed reelection.

Security forces intervened to form a barrier as rival marches bore down on a central square in the capital, averting potentially violent clashes amid a tense standoff. Supporters of the ruling Rally of the Togolese People party quickly quit the scene.

But opposition marchers remained, vowing to regularly stage rallies in this tiny west African nation, ruled for 38 years by Gnassingbe's father, Gnassingbe Eyadema. Following his death, Gnassingbe took power in 2005.

Opposition leader Jean-Pierre Fabre claims that he was robbed of victory by Gnassingbe in the March 4 presidential and sup-

porters of his Union of Forces for Change (UFC) turned out in force for the protest, donning the party colour yellow.

"Every time, they rob us, but this time we will show them we are watching and will not give up," said Fabre supporter Yves Messan, a motorbike taxi driver.

Fabre supporters wielded banners demanding that their votes be counted with one reading "Victory or death, but with dignity." Some turned on journalists as tension grew, accusing them of "creating problems" by telling "lies."

Fabre's party and three other smaller opposition parties are contesting the results of the presidential poll which officials say was won by Gnassingbe with 60.92 percent of votes. Fabre, who attended the rally in person, scored 33.94 percent in the official vote count and maintains that

electoral fraud robbed him of victory.

"We will stage regular protests to chase them out of power, we will organise crippling strikes in Lome and across Togo," UFC vice-president Patrick Lawson said, urging the opposition to "remain mobilised." Backers of the president, who say the election was free and fair, decided to launch their own downtown march while wearing white tee-shirts with Gnassingbe's image on them.

In a more festive atmosphere, they sang and danced to fete his victory. "Long Live Faure" and "We want the young one," they chanted, a reference to Gnassingbe's father, who in his lifetime was Africa's longest serving ruler.

"We came here to support the young one because he won. He should be allowed to finish his second term because he is doing a lot

for our country," said Ali Alazou, a pro-government rally official. As if in response to opposition cries of fraud, one pro-government rally banner said "the dogs are barking while the procession passes by."

Officials earlier said that the rival marches which began from different areas of the capital were routed separately and pro-government and opposition supporters were not expected to come face to face. Gnassingbe's initial election after the death of his father was accompanied by violence that left 400-500 dead, according to the United Nations. But his re-election earlier this month took place amidst calm. However an opposition rally in Lome last week, which brought together only a couple of hundred protesters, was dispersed by security forces using batons and tear gas.

## International

## Israeli leader urges calm over row with Washington

ISRAEL'S prime minister tried to play down a serious diplomatic dispute with the United States yesterday, urging calm after another stern rebuke from Washington over plans to build 1,600 new apartments for Jews in contested east Jerusalem.

Reflecting the high tension, Israel deployed hundreds of security forces around Jerusalem's Old City, the scene of clashes with Palestinian protesters in recent days. The Israeli military also extended an order barring most Palestinians from entering Israel from the

West Bank.

Israel's already strained relationship with the US hit a new low last week when it announced the construction plans during a visit by Vice President Joe Biden. The timing of the announcement deeply embarrassed the Obama

administration and put plans for indirect peace talks with the Palestinians in jeopardy.

The US responded with repeated condemnations, including a lecture from Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton over the weekend.

Netanyahu has been trying to dispel the impression that relations with the US have degenerated into a crisis. His attempt Sunday to ease concerns were his first public comments since the feud erupted.

"We opened the newspapers this morning and read all kinds of commentary and assumptions regarding the crisis with the US. I recommend not to get carried away and to calm down," Netanyahu told his Cabinet.

Netanyahu, however, gave no indication that he would cancel the east Jerusalem construction plan, despite warnings from Washington that it could undermine the negotiating climate as indirect peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians are about to begin under US mediation.

"Israel and the US have mutual interests," Netanyahu told the Cabinet, then pointedly added, "but we will act according to the vital interests of the state of Israel."

After working for more than a year to get peace talks back on track, the US viewed the Israeli construction plan as a provocative move that could derail the negotiations before they even get under way. Biden condemned the construction plan, using exceptionally harsh diplomatic language. But at the end of his visit Thursday, he toned down that criticism in an apparent effort to keep the feud from escalating.

Clinton shattered the newfound calm a day later by calling the new housing plan a "deeply negative signal" for Mideast peacemaking and ties with the US.

She spoke to Netanyahu by phone for 43 minutes to vent Washington's frustration with the announcement and its timing.



ISRAELI Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu arrives at the weekly cabinet meeting in his office in Jerusalem yesterday.

## ...Captures senior Hamas commander in West Bank

A top Hamas commander in the West Bank has been arrested by the Israeli security services after more than a decade on the run, an Israeli military spokesman announced yesterday.

Maher Uda, 47, a senior commander in Hamas's armed wing in the occupied territory, was cap-

tured overnight in the West Bank political capital of Ramallah, the spokesman said.

"He had been on the wanted list since the end of the 1990s for his implication in a series of suicide attacks in Israel which claimed 70 lives," the military spokesman told AFP. Hamas

spokesman Fawzi Barhum said the arrest was "the fruit of dangerous security coordination between the Palestinian Authority and the (Israeli) occupation, because he was wanted and hunted by both parties."

"The continuation of this security coordination is going to

bury reconciliation alive because it comes in the context of uprooting Hamas and strengthening Fatah," he told AFP.

A Palestinian security official in the West Bank said his forces did not know of Uda's whereabouts because he had gone underground several years ago and said

they had yet to determine where exactly he was arrested.

"If there were an earthquake or a flood in the West Bank, Hamas would blame it on the Palestinian Authority," he said on condition of anonymity. "They don't want to admit they have informers within their ranks," he added.

## Iraq PM takes poll lead in key province

PRIME Minister Nuri al-Maliki's bloc built on its gains in Iraq's parliamentary election, initial results showed yesterday, as he took a comfortable lead in the key province of Basra.

In northern Iraq, the country's Kurds also appeared to be voting for more of the same, with the traditional parties holding off a new challenger.

Though the figures remain far from complete, Maliki's State of Law Alliance has taken strong leads in two of Iraq's three biggest constituencies, and remains ahead in six provinces overall.

The results from Iraq's second parliamentary election since Saddam Hussein's ouster in 2003, come less than six months ahead of a US downsizing which will see all American combat troops leave

the country by the end of August.

Figures released yesterday also showed, however, that secular ex-premier Iyad Allawi, a Shiite like Maliki, was ahead in the Sunni bastion of Anbar, the fourth province in which Allawi's Iraqiya bloc has a lead.

According to the latest results, State of Law held a lead of around 100,000 votes in Basra, with the Iraqi National Alliance (INA), a coalition led by Shiite religious groups, coming in second. Iraqiya was a distant third. Along with Basra and Baghdad, State of Law was also ahead in the southern Shiite provinces of Babil, Najaf, Karbala and Muthanna, while INA leads in Maysan and Diwaniyah, also mostly Shiite southern provinces.

## Supreme leader tells Iranians to shun fire festival

IRAN'S supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday urged Iranians to shun next week's Persian fire festival as an un-Islamic event which causes "a lot of harm." Seven people have already been reported killed in the run-up to the festival, ISNA news agency said, quoting a police chief.

Charshanbe Soori, an ancient pagan festival, is held on the eve of the last Wednesday of the Persian calendar year. This year, the ritual falls on the night of March 16.

Khamenei, Iran's all-powerful cleric, said on his website that Charshanbe Soori has "no basis in sharia (Islamic religious law) and creates a lot of harm and corruption, (which is why) it is appropriate to avoid it."

Several casualties are reported from the event every year and many participants suffer burn wounds, including from accidents with firecrackers linked to the event, as they start marking the festival's days in advance.

## International

# Taliban say Kandahar blasts 'a warning to Western troops'

DEADLY bomb attacks in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar were a warning to NATO's top general that the Taliban are ready for a coming offensive in their heartland, the insurgents said yesterday.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousef Ahmadi said the bombings show the insurgents are still able to operate despite the buildup of

international troops in the south in preparation for a push into Kandahar province.

"With all the preparations they have taken, still they are not able to stop us," Ahmadi said. The multiple bomb attacks Saturday night killed 35 people but failed to free insurgents from the city prison, apparently the main target.

A separate, Taliban-linked Web site called the attacks a "warning" to Gen. Stanley McChrystal. The top NATO general has said Kandahar province is the next target for coalition forces who recently drove the insurgents from a town in neighbouring Helmand province.

"Gen. McChrystal has said that

soon they will start their operations, and now we have already started our operations," Ahmadi said by telephone. The Kandahar provincial governor demanded more security forces around Kandahar city, the largest in southern Afghanistan, yesterday. A spokesman for the Ministry of Interior said the government is consider-

ing the request.

Gov. Tooryalai Wesa said the blasts included two car bombs, six suicide attackers on motorbikes and bicycles, and homemade bombs. The attackers targeted the city's prison, police headquarters, a wedding hall next door and other areas on roads leading to the prison.

## ...As Pakistani jets pound hide-outs

PAKISTANI fighter jets pounded a series of Taliban hide-outs near the Afghan border yesterday, killing nine insurgents, a local official said.

The hide-outs were in the village of Mero Bak in the Taliban stronghold of the Lower Orakzai tribal region, said Rasheed Khan, an Orakzai official. One of the bombed houses belonged to a local Taliban commander, Aslam Farooqi, but it was not clear if he

was among those killed.

Orakzai is the base of Pakistani Taliban chief Hakimullah Mehsud, who officials believe was killed in a U.S. missile strike early this year. The group insists he is alive, but has not provided any evidence to back up its claims.

Violence has surged in Pakistan in recent days as militants — thought to be part of a loose network of Islamist insurgents fighting the U.S.-allied Islamabad

government — launched a wave of suicide bombings. The attacks have killed 88 people in a little over a week. At the weekend a suicide bomber killed 13 people at a security checkpoint in the Swat Valley in northwestern Pakistan.

Elsewhere in Pakistan, suspected militants tried to blow up a NATO oil tanker yesterday in the southwestern province of Baluchistan, near the Afghan border, police official Zia Man-

dokhel said.

A bomb, planted in the truck's undercarriage, misfired, causing just a hole in the tanker and an oil spill, he said. One person, a civilian, was injured. The incident occurred in the border town of Chaman along an important route for NATO supplies heading into Afghanistan. Militants regularly target trucks taking supplies to U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan.

## Protesters surge into Bangkok, demand new election

TENS of thousands of red-shirted protesters rallied in Thailand's capital yesterday to press their demand that the government dissolve Parliament or face massive demonstrations at key sites in the city. The protesters, many from the impoverished northeast and north, want Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva to call new elections, which they believe will allow their political allies to regain power.

The crowd estimated by police at more than 100,000 rallied peacefully under a blazing sun. Loud pop music and rural delicacies such as spicy papaya salad competed with fiery rhetoric for their attention.

Bangkok's notorious traffic was light and businesses were shuttered as many citizens feared a repeat of past violence during the four-day demonstrations, which officially began Sunday but have been building for two days as caravans of protesters poured into the city.

The demonstrators stressed they will use only peaceful means. Many of the protesters, popularly known as the Red Shirts, back former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted by a 2006 military coup for alleged corruption and abuse of power.

They believe Abhisit came to power illegitimately with the connivance of the military and other parts of the traditional ruling class who were alarmed by Thaksin's popularity, particularly among the poor. Police Gen. Wichai Sangprapai, commander in the main protest area, estimated the number of protesters could reach 150,000.

"We're demanding the government give up its administrative power by dissolving Parliament and returning power to the people," a protest leader, Veera Musikapong, told a sea of red-shirted followers. "We're giving the government 24 hours."

In his weekly radio address yesterday morning, Abhisit indicated he had no plans to dissolve the legislature. "Dissolution and calls for resignations are normal in a democratic system."



CHINA'S Premier Wen Jiabao gestures during his annual news conference following the closing session of the National People's Congress in Beijing's Great Hall of the People, China, yesterday.

## China PM defends assertive trade, foreign policy

CHINA sought yesterday to deflate rising pressure from the U.S. and other powers over Chinese economic policies and growing assertiveness in world affairs, with its prime minister promising cooperation to bolster the global recovery.

Premier Wen Jiabao took on critics in the West who say Chinese policies lift China while keeping global growth anemic. He defended China's currency

against charges that it is undervalued to boost Chinese exports. He promised that Beijing would import more and urged countries to resist protectionism, saying one country should not seek to disadvantage others during the fragile economic recovery.

"We are opposed to the position of engaging in mutual finger-pointing or taking strong measures to force other countries to adjust exchange rates," Wen said

in a more than two-hour news conference. Wen also criticized Washington for souring relations with the recent White House reception for the Dalai Lama, and for approving arms sales to Taiwan, which China claims as its own. "The responsibility does not lie with the Chinese side, but the United States," he said.

His arguments, while breaking little new ground, were offered in Wen's characteristically mild,

carefully rational manner. No. 3 in the Communist Party hierarchy and chiefly in charge of the economy, Wen is also the generally stiff leadership's most popular figure; grand-fatherly and solicitous, he is known as the "people's premier."

The Chinese currency, known as the yuan or the renminbi, has become a focal point for criticism in Washington, Europe and other countries.

## International

## Vatican denies celibacy led to sex abuse scandal

THE Vatican yesterday denied that its celibacy requirement for priests was the root cause of the clerical sex abuse scandal convulsing the church in Europe and again defended the pope's handling of the crisis.

Suggestions that the celibacy rule was somehow responsible for the "deviant behaviour" of a few priests have swirled in recent days, with opinion pieces in German newspapers blaming it for fueling abuse and even Italian commentators questioning the rule.

Much of the furor was spurred by comments from one of the pope's closest advisers, Vienna archbishop Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, who called this week for an honest examination of issues like celibacy and priestly education to root out the origins of abusive priests.

"Part of it is the question of celibacy, as well as the subject of character development. And part of it is a large portion of honesty, in the church but also in society," he wrote in the online edition of his diocesan newsletter.

His office quickly stressed that Schoenborn wasn't calling into question priestly celibacy, which just this week Pope Benedict XVI reaffirmed for priests as an "expression of the gift of oneself to God and others." But Schoenborn has in the past shown himself receptive to arguments that a celibate priesthood is increasingly problematic for the church, primarily because it limits the number of men who seek ordination.



POPE Benedict XVI greets the faithful from his studio's window at the end of the Angelus noon prayer in St. Peter's square at the Vatican, yesterday.

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University of Essex

## 24 killed in western Mexico; 11 in one shootout

A series of shootings killed 24 people at the weekend in a Pacific coast state plagued by drug gang violence. Nearly half died in one shootout between soldiers and armed men.

The gunbattle erupted when attackers opened fire on soldiers patrolling the small town of Ajuchitlan del Progreso, said Valentin Diaz, director of the Guerrero state investigative police. Ten gunmen and one soldier were killed, he said. Diaz said the shootout broke out in the middle of the day in the center of the town as it was full of bystanders. He said state police were investigating and soldiers had reinforced security.

President Felipe Calderon has deployed tens of thousands of troops to Guerrero and other drug-trafficking hotspots across Mexico in an effort to root out

cartels. Gang violence has surged since the crackdown began three years ago, claiming more than 17,900 lives.

Thirteen other people were killed in Guerrero in several other incidents before dawn, according to a state police report. Two decapitated men were found on a scenic road packed with nightclubs in the resort city of Acapulco. Another man was found shot to death on the edge of the city.

Gunmen, meanwhile, killed five police officers on patrol in Tuncingo, a rural area outside Acapulco. In the same area, police found the bullet-ridden bodies of five other men, including two who had been beheaded. Police mentioned no possible motives, and it was unclear if the killings were related.

## British kissing couple awaits jail verdict in Dubai

A British couple accused of kissing in public in the Muslim emirate of Dubai will find out next month if an appeals court will uphold their one-month prison sentence, their lawyer said yesterday.

The couple is accused of "committing a sexual act (by) kissing on the lips and touching," lawyer Khalaf al-Hosani told AFP. "A final verdict will be reached on April 4," by the Misdemeanours Appeals Court, he said. The two, named by the press as Ayman Najafi, 24, a British expat in Dubai, and British tourist Charlotte Lewis, 25, were arrested in November, after an Emirati woman accused them of kissing in a restaurant in the trendy Jumeirah Beach Residence neighbourhood.

They are also accused of consuming alcohol, a charge to which they pleaded guilty, but said they only kissed on the cheek.

They were convicted in January and sentenced to one month in prison. But they have been on bail since their arrest, with their passports held by the authorities, Hosani said. The lawyer said he told court that the only witness, a 38-year-old Emirati woman, has presented different statements. "She told the police that she saw them kissing, while she told the prosecution that her children saw them," he said, adding that the defence is arguing that the couple only kissed on the cheek "as a greeting" which is allowed.

## TO MEMBERS OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF QUANTITY SURVEYORS

### ENOUGH OF SELF INFLICTED DESTRUCTION

Dear members and other concerned sister Institutes,

We have watched and painfully waited for the leadership of our noble Institute to settle down after the Biennial Conference and Election of October 2008, and move our Institute forward and indeed promote our common destiny, the QS profession.

But alas, after 17 months out of a 24 month constitutional tenure, the President Mr Felix Okereke-Onyeri rather than perform, is still struggling to change the composition of our elected and mandated National Executive Council.

It should be known and remembered, that at Kaduna 2008, the venue of "The Biennial Meeting" stipulated by our constitution, we the members of the Institute voluntarily made our choice of who to be in our National Executive Council and to comprise of only 12 members as enshrined in our constitution! Any "arrangement" other than this, put together by the President or surreptitiously procured through any court action by some trouble formenting "law school attended" members of our Institute is not acceptable and will be rejected.

Truly, we know all the antecedents of the current President and his game plan to do 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and up to 7<sup>th</sup> terms in office and for which he is "testing the waters" by suggesting a 6-month extension of his standard tenure which ought to end in October, 2010. He did it at the Institute of Construction Industry Arbitrators, which he eventually laid to permanent rest in 1998! The NIQS will not go this way.

Enough is Enough now!

**PLEASE, ALL MEMBERS MUST BE IN ABUJA, ON 20<sup>th</sup> MARCH, 2010 BY 11:00 A.M PROMPT FOR THE EMERGENCY GENERAL MEETING OF THE INSTITUTE.**

Signed

QS Professionals  
Qsprofessionals@yahoo.com

## THE BODY OF NORTHERN SENIOR ADVOCATE OF NIGERIA

### Resolutions

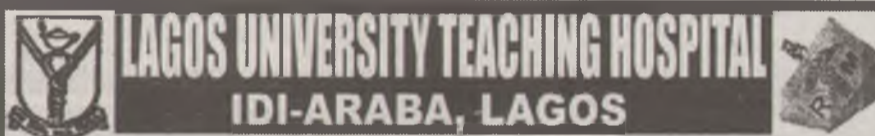
The Body of Northern Senior Advocates of Nigeria met in Kaduna on 27/2/2010 and resolved as follows:

1. There must be an immediate end to the confusion as to who is in charge of the presidency of Nigeria. Specifically.
  - (a) That constitutionality should be followed in all the affairs, and happenings at the Presidency. Therefore, that immediate constitutional steps be taken to ascertain the true state of the health of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua so that our great nation can move forward.
  - (b) That the acting President Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan should be supported by all and sundry to provide true and committed leadership to Nigeria.
  - (c) That the perpetrators of the Boko Haram and the Jos crises should be brought to book to serve as a deterrent to any future occurrence.
  - (d) That the degenerating security situation in Nigeria should be arrested immediately including the national malaise of extra Judicial killings and the spate of kidnappings for ransom.
  - (e) That Nigeria should be and remain one indivisible and indissoluble Nation.

Dated this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2010.

Signed:

MR. EMMANUEL J.J TORO, SAN  
Chairman



### ADMISSION INTO THE SCHOOL OF MIDWIFERY FOR THE 2010 ACADEMIC SESSION

Applications are invited from qualified candidates for admission into the School of Midwifery, LUTH for 18 months course in Midwifery.

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENT

Candidates must be REGISTERED NURSES with at least one year post qualification experience with a valid License and Must possess five (5) Credits at 'O' Level in the following subjects: English, Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Combination of results not more than 2 Sittings of the same examination body e.g. GCE/GCE, WAEC/WAEC and NECO/NECO.

#### METHOD OF APPLICATION

Applicants should note the following:

1. Submit handwritten application letter addressed to the Principal, School of Midwifery, LUTH.
2. Pay application fee of N5,000.00 to the cash office, LUTH in Bank draft from the following banks in LUTH: Union Bank, Skye Bank, G.T.B and U.B.A.
3. Make a photocopy of the receipt with applicant's passport photograph on the left hand corner.
4. Collect the admission form from the School of Midwifery at the Manpower Resource Centre, LUTH.
5. Submit completed application form with photocopies of Credentials, 3 passport photographs and photocopy of receipts enclosed in a big brown envelop.
6. Sale and submission of application forms will close on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 2010.
7. Course Fees: Details will be provided on Admission.

Examination Date : 3<sup>rd</sup> OF JULY 2010

Time: 8.00am

Venue: MANPOWER RESOURCE CENTRE, LUTH

Applicants should bring along pencil, eraser, ruler, pen, and original receipt issued by the Cashier with the attached certified passport photograph to the Examination Venue.

PROF. AKIN OSIBOGUN  
Chief Medical Director



# NIGERIAN TURKISH INTERNATIONAL COLLEGES

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## ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

Into JS 1 2010-2011 Academic Session  
Date: 20<sup>th</sup> March 2010, Time: 10:00 AM

Admission is in progress for  
2010-2011 Academic Session

### SUMMARY OF INTERNATIONAL MEDALS WON

18 GOLD MEDALS

17 SILVER MEDALS

21 BRONZE MEDALS

### ENTRANCE EXAMINATION CENTRES AND FORMS AVAILABLE AT

- Abuja**  
★ Nig Turkish Int'l College, Ahmadu Bello Way by Kashim Ibrahim Way, Wuse II Abuja Tel: 09-413 47 31
- Ogun**  
★ NTIC, Isheri: Ogd Drive, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Isheri, 01-7400915
- Kano**  
★ NTIC, Hadeja Road By Pass By Ring Road, Yankaba-KANO. 07034988405
- Jigawa**  
★ Dutse Capital School, PMB 7072 Dutse. Tel: 0803689487/08036512217
- Katsina**  
★ Hazel Int'l Sch. Hassan Usman Way KATSINA. Tel: 08036373805, 08036871266/08035678258
- Zamfara**  
Federal College of Education Staff School, GUSAU. TEL: 07036546997
- Sokoto**  
Sultan Muhd Machado Inst. for Quranic & G.S. El-Sudais road. 08033528040
- Kebbi**  
Abdullahi Fodiyu Islamic C. Ahmadu Bello W., BIRNIN KEBBI Tel: 08026496658, 08033318632
- Kaduna**  
★ NTIC, Rigachukun 15km along Kaduna-Zaria Road. Tel: 08033181711.  
★ Zaria Children's S. Queen Elizabeth Road. 08036301619/08025267352
- Bauchi**  
★ Saadu Zungur Primary School, Bauchi. 08022607711
- Plateau**  
★ Obasanjo Model Primary School, Opp. Platzau Polytechni. 080338436218
- Yobe**  
★ NTIC Yobe, Potiskum-Damaturu Express Way, Mamudo. 08037434060
- Borno**  
★ Federal Government College. Tel: 080 65459044.
- Rivers**  
★ Montessori International School GRA Port Harcourt.
- ONLY FORMS ARE AVAILABLE AT**
- Lagos**  
★ NTIC Nur & Pry. Sec., 4a Agbaoku St. off Opebi Rd, Ikeja. 017749545  
★ Crescent School: 1004 Housing Estate Victoria Island 08023196227  
★ St Leo's Catholic School: Off Toyin Street, Ikeja, 08053247514  
★ St Bernadette College: Federal Housing Estate, Ipaja, 08033546237  
★ Nazareth School: 3rd Avenue H Close, Festac Town, 07033383839
- Oyo**  
★ The West Prime Model School: Old Bodija, Ibadan, Oyo, 08053052568
- Ogun**  
★ King Kiddies: 101, Obafemi Awolowo Road, Ibara, Abeokuta, 8033879194
- Osun**  
★ Saint Clare's N/P School, Isale Aro Osogbo, Osun.
- Ondo**  
★ St Louis N/P School: Ondo Road, Akure, Ondo, 08073624460
- Anambra**  
★ Central School Awka. 08052120399
- Kogi**  
★ Holy Trinity Primary Sch., Lokoja. 08036784925
- Kwara**  
★ St. Joseph Nur. & Pry. School, Ilorin. 08058746733
- Nasarawa**  
★ Government Science School, Lafia
- Niger**  
★ Ahmadu Bahago S. S., Minna. 08036318319
- Gombe**  
★ Family Support Primary-Nursery School.
- Adamawa**  
★ Gen. Murtala Moh'd College GMMC, Yola.
- Abia**  
★ Amuzike Comm. Primary School, Umuahia. 08037745641

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

1. Time of examination: 10:00 AM Prompt
2. Entry form fee: 3000 Naira
3. Dead line for submission of entry forms: 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2010
4. Nature of examination: Objective type, examination covers primary school curriculum.
5. Eligibility: Entries are open only to primary 5&6 pupils
6. For further information:  
(I) Visit Our Website: [www.nticnigeria.com](http://www.nticnigeria.com)  
E-mail: [info@nticnigeria.com](mailto:info@nticnigeria.com)  
(II) Any branch of Nigerian Turkish Int'l College  
(III) HeadMaster/Mistress of your school
7. Application form can be downloaded from the web site. After filling the form it can be mailed to the following address [info@nticnigeria.com](mailto:info@nticnigeria.com).

Abuja Day Co-education 09-4134731  
Abuja Nursery-Primary 09-4139762  
Abuja Boys Boarding 09-4139763  
Abuja Girls Boarding 09-4139285

Abuja Nursery-Primary 09-4139762  
Abuja UFP 08059129977  
Nigerian Turkish Nile University 09-4134731

Kano Boys Boarding 064-315040  
Kano Girls Boarding 064-641720  
Kano Nursery-Primary 064-641720

Ogun Boys Boarding 01-7400915  
Ogun Girls Boarding 01-7749545  
Lagos Nursery-Primary 01-7749545

Kaduna Boys Boarding 08037687860  
Kaduna Girls Boarding 08037687860  
Kaduna Nursery-Primary 08075872442

Yobe Boys Boarding 08037434060  
Yobe Girls Boarding 08037434060

[www.nticnigeria.com](http://www.nticnigeria.com)

[info@nticnigeria.com](mailto:info@nticnigeria.com)



## NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME

### Corporate Headquarters, Abuja

#### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE CONDUCT OF BASELINE SURVEY IN TWELVE STATES BENEFITTING FROM THE NHIS-MDG/MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH INTERVENTION PROJECT

A. The National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) is collaborating with the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on the Millennium Development Goals (OSSAP-MDGs) to fund an MCH intervention Project in select States. The Project is aimed at significantly reducing the children under five and maternal morbidity and mortality indices in the country, towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. The Project is currently being implemented in twelve States comprising of Niger, Imo, Oyo, Sokoto, Gombe, Bayelsa, Bauchi, Cross River, Jigawa, Katsina, Ondo and Yobe.

B. The NHIS is desirous of conducting Baseline Survey in these states for the purpose of generating baseline data for Project monitoring and Impact Evaluation.

C. The NHIS thus seeks to engage competent consultancy firms with good track record and relevant experience to conduct baseline survey in the benefitting States mentioned above. It is expected that a lead consultant (LOT 1) will coordinate and drive the entire process, while six other zonal consultants (LOTS 2 - 7) shall each take responsibility for the conduct of the survey in their zones as detailed in Section E.

D. The aim of the study is to generate baseline data on the status of maternal and child health, including existing MCH services and current burden (out-of-pocket expenditure) in accessing these services in 36 LGAs across the twelve states benefitting from the Project.

The specific objectives are:

- I. To determine maternal and child health status of women in the reproductive age group and children aged less than five years in the 36 LGAs.
- II. To assess coverage with key maternal and child health interventions.
- III. To determine infant and under-five mortality rates.
- IV. To assess maternal mortality rate.
- V. To assess maternal and child health services resource availability and utilization.
- VI. To assess the current burden (in terms of out-of-pocket expenditure) in accessing available MCH services.

#### E. LOTS

- Lot 1: Lead consultant  
 Lot 2: Zonal Consultant (SW) – Oyo and Ondo States  
 Lot 3: Zonal Consultant (SE/NC) – Imo and Niger States  
 Lot 4: Zonal Consultant (SS) – Cross River and Bayelsa States  
 Lot 5: Zonal Consultant (NW) – Sokoto and Katsina States  
 Lot 6: Zonal Consultant (NE) – Yobe and Gombe States  
 Lot 7: Zonal Consultant (NW/NE) – Jigawa and Bauchi States

F. **Methodology:** for the purpose of achieving a good Impact Evaluation, the prospective Lead Consultants must ensure that their methodology design recognizes the need for a valid counterfactual and therefore, treatment and control groups will be required for the conduct of the baseline survey.

#### G. Scope of Work

##### Lead Consultant

The lead Consultant is expected:

- To design the methodology, work plan and tools/instruments for the conduct of the survey in the twelve States.
- To work with the six zonal consultants in reviewing, pre-testing and finalizing all tools/instruments for the conduct of the survey in the zones.
- To coordinate and supervise the entire activity in the twelve States.
- To ensure standardization of data collection, collation,

analysis and interpretation in the twelve states.

- To work with the zonal Consultants in developing a comprehensive report of the survey, to be submitted to the NHIS within six weeks after the completion of the survey.

#### Zonal Consultants

The Zonal Consultants are expected:

- To recruit and train field officers for the effective conduct of the survey in their Zones.
- To ensure collection of quality data, its collation, analysis and interpretation.
- To produce a detailed report of the survey for their respective Zones and to submit same to the Lead Consultant within four weeks after the completion of the survey.
- To work with the lead consultant in developing a final report, to be submitted to the NHIS within six weeks of completion of the survey.

#### H. Requirements

Expression of Interest from interested consultancy firms should be submitted with the following documents:

- i. Evidence of registration or incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)
- ii. Current Tax Clearance Certificate.
- iii. VAT certificate
- iv. Profile of the company including details of its Directors/Management, total staff strength, competences, expertise and experience.
- v. Verifiable evidence of relevant experience in baseline survey and other relevant projects
- vi. Evidence of financial viability and bank reference.
- vii. Evidence of the company's audited accounts for the last three (3) years

#### I. Submission of Documents

Interested consultancy firms that fulfill the above requirements should submit five copies of their **Expression of Interest** in a sealed envelope marked: **NHIS-MDG/MCH BASELINE SURVEY** not later than 11:30am (Nigeria local time) on or before **Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2010**. This should be addressed and delivered to:

**The Head, Procurement Division  
 National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS)  
 Plot 297, Shehu Yar'Adua Way  
 Utako District,  
 Abuja.**

Only shortlisted consultancy firms will thereafter be contacted to collect the Terms of Reference (TOR), which will form the basis for the submission of detailed proposal, including financial implications. Short listed Lead Consultancy firms may be required to make a presentation to the NHIS management.

Shortlisted Consultancy firms shall be required to pay a non-refundable processing fee of Fifty Thousand Naira (N50,000.00) before collecting tenders documents.

Submissions should be made on or before **11:30am April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2010**. The documents will be opened on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 at 12:00 noon** in the NHIS Board Room. Representative of companies are advised to be at the opening. The National health insurance scheme reserves the right to reject any or all submissions.

**Signed  
 Head, Procurement Division  
 For: Executive Secretary**



# Yakubu A.H. Ruba & Co.

## Barristers & Solicitors Of The Supreme Court Of Nigeria

CHAMBER:  
61/33A Bauchi Road,  
(Opp. Dogon Agogo)  
P.O. Box 13172  
08037040491  
Tel/Fax: (073-459613)  
E-mail: rubaj28@yahoo.com  
Jos Plateau State Nigeria

### RE:REJOINER BY THE STAFF OF NATIONAL VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE NVRI ON THE COUNCIL OF ULAMA AND STAND ON THE RECENT JOS CIVIL CRISIS.

#### FACTS OF THE MATTER:

We noticed with utmost dismay a rash of recent publication obviously sponsored in the *Daily Trust* of Monday February, 22 2010, by some officials of the Staff Unions who showered on Dr. Lami Hannatu Lombin the Executive Director of NVRI Vom even for actions we consider as ignoble. Following the recruitment of some miscreants to perpetrate mayhem and unleash terror on innocent defenseless citizens all in an attempt to make the institute very unpleasant and hostile to the Muslim Ummah so that none would have the interest to work, live and even learn in Vom.

The selected unions officials have been playing the recognition Game and are ready to subscribe to the Executive Director's interest in absolute variance with their membership disposition. None of the unions officials consulted with the congress for their/our opinion before the release of the rejoinder.

The Senior Staff Association (SSA) Chairman, **Alh. Aliyu Atiku** (NVRI) and None Academic Staff Union (NASU) Chairman of (FCAH & PT), **Haruna Aguye**, whose purported signatures appeared on the rejoinder were not even around to attend the meeting of the unions and their signatures were forged.

This could easily be connected to the union's gross falsification of facts all in an attempt to confuse the General Public from the real substance of the issues instead of rising to the occasion to hold those who are responsible for the atrocities committed accountable for justice to take its course.

We find it difficult to even establish the basic necessity for balance in their views because of their romance with the Executive Director and their lack of accurate comprehension of the issues leading to the offensive attack launched at the Government owned staff quarters that resulted in the killings of **Garba Audi** and **Ibrahim Zakari** both of whom were staff of the institute who were killed and their bodies burnt right in the staff quarters. Also, a casual staff, **Musa Muhammad Abdullahi** was killed within the institute's road while trying to escape to safety in NIPSS. A student of Federal College of Medical Laboratory Technology, **Haruna Ibrahim** was also killed in the same manner.

This rejoinder is meant to bring out facts as they are and highlight the dangers that Muslim staff and students went through during the crisis and the negligence of the Executive Director who failed to mobilize support and protection to the beleaguered at a time of need.

So far a total of eight (8) homes of Muslims within the staff quarters were completely burnt, ten (10) others had their property removed entirely and burnt in front of their homes while five (5) cars were also destroyed. A retired Muslim staff, **Abba Madaki**, awaiting his benefit was among the victims of such vandalism.

It is important highlighting the fact that a Mosque of the Muslims staff situate at Dogan layl within the quarters was also burnt down by the same vandals.

It may interest the public to note that the Deputy Provost (planning) of one of the college as mentioned by the union was attacked at KIVom village and not at the Government owned quarters while all houses and properties destroyed at the staff quarters belong to the Muslims staff of the institute I except one Christian staff by name **Sani Maguda** whose properties were removed out and burnt right in front of his home, that was done by the attackers who perceived him to be a Muslim.

It is significant to note that the purported rejoinder by the unions was in response to the Plateau State Ulama'u/Elders Council's comment on the ignoble role of the Executive Director, and NOT the management of NVRI Vom during the crisis. It is therefore an irony

Why the so called union leaders would turn a blind eye to this and misrepresent it as an indictment of NVRI Vom as a whole.

It is worth mention here that the primary responsibility of every workers union is the protection of the interests of its members which includes their lives, property and a conducive working atmosphere.

By their conduct, the unions of NVRI Vom have therefore failed to discharge this onerous responsibility otherwise how would a responsible union fail to function in dire times of need and even callously deny atrocities against their members including loss of precious lives of some of them and we wonder why the unions leaders turn to ignore and shun our plight. Instead they are now busy propagating the virtues of the Executive Director in a sycophantic manner to the detriment of the future peaceful and harmonious co-existence of all in the institute, workers and students alike.

For the record some patriotic staff in some areas within the institute such as PW Quarters, Taylor's Quarters, some section of Vaccine and court yard Quarters Joined hands, Muslims and Christians alike to repel attacks on Muslims in those areas. This indeed is remarkable and a commendable gesture for peaceful co-existence.

It is true that Christian and Muslims Staff co-existed peacefully before Dr. Lombin assumed office as the Executive Director. Her unfathomable cynicism bordering on hatred appears to characterize her attitude towards people who disagree with her or who are not her praise singers. This character blight has robbed her, the opportunity to significantly unite the staff. She employed the divide and rule tactics and as a result the Muslims become hated, envied, despised and resented.

#### REMOVAL OF HIJAB

Dr. Lombin, through her impolite utterances instructed that all Muslim Women should remove their Hijab as quoted "*Ku Hausawannan masu masifa kucire wannan Hijabinda kuka sa, in ba hakaba, zan kore ku anan.*" Meaning "You this Hausa trouble makers remove your Hijab, if not, I will drive you out of this place" at the peak of the crisis was not only an aberration of their Fundamental Rights to Religion but also a negation to their Rights to life as contained in chapter IV Sections 33, 38 and 44 of the 1999 constitution. This is coming from the "*Mother of Nobility*" as described by the shameless union Leaders.

We note with disbelief, the assertion that Dr. Lombin accommodated over 2000 persons and provided them with feeding/Accommodation. It is true that the Muslim staff were instructed to vacate the Institution Admin Block to the NVRI staff school whose fence shared boundary with the Chaha community (another Berom native enclave), an act we viewed as exposing the fleeing persons, mostly women and children, numbering about 522 persons to a blanket Risk.

Contrary to their publication, the displaced persons were only provided with 30 loafs of bread with no tea at around 10:00am and Two Food containers of jellof rice (once daily) between 20th to 21st January, 2010, and by the morning of Thursday 21st January, 2010, the fleeing persons were able to make contacts to leave Vom following the relaxation of Government curfew from round the clock to 5pm -10am.

The demand to leave for safety came as a result of Dr. Lombin's rude and impolite utterances, which prompted individuals to scout for security cover. Military personnel were drafted to Vom to rescue the fleeing persons and the Local Security of the Institute almost prevented them from gaining entrance to the extent that Dr. Lombin, "*Mother of Nobility*" was shouted down following her uncomplimentary remarks to the displaced persons who were moved to the NDA base Camp at Anguldi by the Military personnel.

By the evening of Thursday to the morning of Friday 22nd January, 2010, before finally leaving for other destinations on Friday 22nd January, 2010.

It sounds more embarrassing for the unions to claim that there was a very harmonious relationship between the Institute and the host community, if truly such cordiality exists, then why the attack at the Federal Government owned Staff Quarters and why only on the Muslims Staff and why only in NVRI? Taking into cognizance that Vom hosts other Government and Private Establishments. Particularly NITR, WAMCO, BICOT, FECOLART, Madara limited, Root Crop Research Institute, etc.

#### LOOSE SECURITY NETWORK:

The Institute's contract Engaged Security outfit (Executive & Phahek Guards) made up mostly of the Beroms natives were, instead of protecting staff, abetting, and condoning the perpetration of the violence. Very unusual of them and for the first time since their engagement, they were sighted with many offensive weapons like bows, arrows, knives, sticks and cutlasses etc. yet the miscreants gained access to the staff quarters through the popular 7:0'clock gate which was ordered to be flung open.

#### CRITICAL OBSERVATION

The attack on the Staff Quarters at Anguwan Gara, Courtyards Quarter and vaccines Complex could be traced more to the failure of Dr. Lombin to maintain a neutral position, a loose local security outfit (Executive & phahek Guards) whom to all available intents and purpose aided the commission of the crime by the side they sympathized with.

#### IN CONCLUSION

We hereby, commend and endorse the position taken by the Ulama'u/Elders Council in its publication of Tuesday February, 2, 2010 and re-iterate that the attack were deliberately directed to expel us from NVRI Vom which some quarters consider as their "Birth Right" because their community hosts the research Institute.

In the same manner, the unfortunate incidence of Tuesday-19th January, 2010 has set a bad precedent. In the light of this we call on the Federal Government to, as a matter of urgency and in the interest of National Unity and stability take decisive and stringent measures to forestall future re-occurrence in safeguarding Federal Government Establishments across the country following the bad precedence that was set in NVRI Vom.

Similarly, we condemn in the strongest terms the selected unions officials in their rejoinder for allowing themselves to be used by someone for selfish reasons at this trying moment of our existence.

We call for an independent investigation into the roles, played by the Executive Director, a section of the unionists and the private security company employed by the Institute in the crisis. We also demand that compensation be paid to Muslim staff who suffered losses by the institute and adequate security be provided to guarantee our safety.

That action of the attackers which resulted in the killings of three hard working staff, a student and dedicated staff houses destroyed at the Government owned staff quarters has further exposed the many wrong sided approaches to leadership by Dr. Lombin since 2001.

We particularly note with appreciation the timely and demonstrated intervention by the military during the period of the crisis which greatly salvaged the situation.

Finally, we call on all to be law abiding and remain calm and cooperate sincerely with the Government to find a lasting solution to our plight.

Signed:

Barrister Aminu Sani Umar  
For and on behalf of all the Muslims staff of NVRI Vom.



## IGBINEDION UNIVERSITY, OKADA

Knowledge and Excellence  
[www.iuokada.edu.ng](http://www.iuokada.edu.ng)

### ADMISSION INTO FIRST DEGREE PROGRAMMES 2010/2011

Igbinedion University Okada (IUO) is Nigeria's first private (and secular) university. Founded in 1999 as a centre of excellence, its vision is to become a leading centre of knowledge and manpower production. Located in the serenity of Okada Wonderland and with a complement of world-class academics, support staff, research facilities, teaching hospital, entrepreneurial studies, ICT solutions including telemedicine and teleconferencing, human help services and resourceful students, IUO offers the right atmosphere for sound human development as well as innovative, productive and uninterrupted scholarship. IUO is a truly cosmopolitan university with staff and students from all the 36 states and the FCT of Nigeria and other parts of the world. Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for admission into first degree programmes in its seven colleges.

#### 1. COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

B.A. French  
*(Students attend a year-abroad programme)*  
 B.Sc. Economics & Development Studies, with options in  
 \* *Economics and Development Studies*  
 \* *Agri-business*  
 B.A. English  
 B.Sc. Geography & Regional Planning  
 B.Sc. Mass Communication, with option in  
 \* *Public Relations & Advertising*  
 B.Sc. Political Science & Public Administration  
 B.Sc. International Relations  
 B.Sc. Sociology & Anthropology  
 B.A. Theatre Arts, with options in  
 \* *Theatre Arts*  
 \* *Radio, Television and Film*

#### 2. COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT STUDIES

B.Sc. Accounting  
 B.Sc. Banking & Finance with options in:  
 \* *Banking & Finance*  
 \* *Capital Market Studies*  
 B.Sc. Business Administration with options in:  
 \* *Management*  
 \* *Marketing*  
 \* *Management Information Systems*

#### 3. OBA EREDUAWA COLLEGE OF LAW

Bachelor of Law (LL.B)

#### 4. GENERAL ABDULSALAMI ABUBAKAR COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

B.Eng. Civil Engineering  
 B.Eng. Chemical Engineering  
 B.Eng. Computer Engineering  
 B.Eng. Electrical/Electronics Engineering  
 B.Eng. Mechanical Engineering  
 B.Eng. Petroleum Engineering  
 B.Sc. Food Science and Technology

#### 5. OBA OKUNADE SIJUWADE COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES

MBBS Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery  
 B.Sc. Anatomy  
 B.Sc. Biochemistry  
 B.Sc. Physiology  
 BMLS Medical Laboratory Sciences  
 B.N.Sc. Bachelor of Nursing Science

#### 6. COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

B.Sc. Chemistry & Industrial Chemistry  
 B.Sc. Computer Science & Information Technology  
 B.Sc. Environmental Science  
 B.Sc. Physics/Industrial Physics  
 B.Sc. Microbiology

#### 7. DORA AKUNYILI COLLEGE OF PHARMACY

B. Pharm

#### GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

To be eligible for admission into the four-year disciplines and five or six-year professional programmes, candidates must possess a minimum of five credits at the GCE/WAEC, SSCE/NECO, or SSCE/NABTEB certificate examinations, which must include **English Language and Mathematics** at not more than two sittings.

In addition, candidates seeking admission into Law must possess at least a credit pass in **Literature in English**.

Candidates awaiting GCE/NECO SSCE/WAEC SSCE/NABTEB results are also encouraged to apply provided the results would be available by the time of matriculation.

Candidates may also seek admission into the 200 level of the degree programmes with the following qualifications:

Passes in at least two subjects at the Advanced level and an additional subject at the subsidiary level in the General Certificate of Education Examination. **The subjects must constitute a suitable preliminary to the intended courses.**

A Diploma/NCE at credit level pass and above in the appropriate subjects from a recognized institution.

IJMB in the appropriate subjects.

First Degree in relevant discipline.

In all these cases, candidates must also satisfy the requirements for matriculation viz: five credit passes at the GCE/WAEC SSCE/NECO SSCE/NABTEB Certificate examinations  
**JAMB Requirement** Candidates applying for admission are required to sit for the 2010/2011 UTME and obtain the prescribed cut-off marks. This is a statutory requirement for entry into Nigerian universities

#### AGE

Candidates who are above 22 years of age will not be deemed eligible for admission. Older candidates may be admitted under exceptional circumstances

#### METHOD OF APPLICATION

Candidates have the option of purchasing application forms directly or applying online.

#### HOW TO PURCHASE AND PROCESS APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms are obtainable in person on payment of a non-refundable handling and other charges fee of N6,500 only in bank draft drawn on any reputable bank, made payable to IGBINEDION UNIVERSITY, OKADA, from the following:

1. Igbinedion University, Okada
2. IUO Liaison Office at No. 69, Airport Road, Benin City, Edo State. Tel: 052-254942
3. Admissions Office: Igbinedion Education Centre, 218/220 Murtala Mohammed Way, P.O. Box 24, Benin City, Edo State. Tel: 052-258766
4. 187, Adeleke Adedoyin Street, Victoria Island Lagos, Tel: 01-2621376.
5. Intercontinental Bank Branches throughout the country
6. Equitorial Trust Bank Branches throughout the country
7. Zenith Bank Branches throughout the country
8. Alvana Model Secondary School, Owerri - Onitsha Road, Owerri, Imo State
9. Bereton Montessori Primary School, Plot 270 Stadium Road, G.R.A. Phase IV, Port Harcourt Tel: 084-239839. 571578; 08068737968
10. Hussey College, 2 (Senior); Upper Erejuwa Street, Warri, Delta State
11. Government Secondary School, Garki, Abuja
12. International School, ISI, University of Ibadan
13. El-Amin Int. High School, Minna (Near NECO Headquarters)
14. Oyemekun Grammar School Akure
15. Barrister Tony Onyia, No 7c Murtala Mohammed Way, Kano, Tel 08037861029
16. Sea-dust (Nig) Ltd. 2A Coronation Crescent, Opposite Lugard Hall, Kaduna, Tel: 08023511624; 062-373707
17. Katsina Education Trust Fund, No. 2 Gobarau Road, Gobarau Quarters, Katsina
18. Blessed Osas School, 200 Bama Road (Behind UMTH), Maiduguri. Tel: 08036380952
19. For overseas candidates, forms can be obtained from:  
 Mrs. S. Jutta, The Secretary  
 72, Winton Road,

Hampstead Garden Suburb,  
 London N.20TX  
 Telephone: +44-208-458-1417.

#### SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS

Completed application forms must be accompanied with Photostat copies of academic certificates/statements of results, birth certificate and certificate of Local Government Area of origin. All applications are to be addressed to:

The Registrar  
 Igbinedion University, Okada  
 P.M.B. 0006

Benin City

Edo State, Nigeria

Applicants are encouraged to send completed forms to the Registrar Igbinedion University or bring them along to the screening centres.

#### HOW TO APPLY ONLINE

Candidates who choose to apply online should log on to the Igbinedion University's website, [www.iuokada.edu.ng](http://www.iuokada.edu.ng), click on the Online Application Tab, complete and submit the online form, and make a printout of the successfully completed application confirmation page. The confirmation page which **MUST** carry a Registration Number should be enclosed in an envelope along with a certified bank draft of N6,500 drawn on any reputable bank made payable to Igbinedion University Okada for handling fees and other charges, and forwarded in person or by courier to:

The Registrar  
 Igbinedion University, Okada  
 P.M.B. 0006

Benin City

Edo State, Nigeria

#### Please note that any confirmation page without a Registration Number will not be processed

Any applicant who experiences difficulties with online application should please call Mr. Harry Omorogbe on 08037170685, Admissions Officer on 07032924219, or the PRO on 08078286940

#### ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation is provided for all STUDENTS at the Okada Wonderland Estate.

#### POST-UTME SCREENING DATE AND CENTRES

Screening of applicants will take place in the following centres on **Saturday July 17, 2010** (candidates are to report at the (preferred) screening centres closest to them)

**Benin City:** Igbinedion Education Centre (IEC) 218/220 Murtala Mohammed Way, Benin City, Edo State, Tel: 052-258766; **Lagos** (Sunnyside Group of Schools, 3 Tinubu Road, Ilupeju Estate, Palmgrove Lagos); **Port Harcourt** (Bereton Montessori Primary School, Plot 270 Stadium Road, G.R.A. Phase IV, Port Harcourt); **Abuja** (Government Secondary School, Garki, Abuja)  
**Time:** 10 am

Candidates who chose Igbinedion University, Okada as their first and second choice JAMB (UMTE) should also attend the screening exercise.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE UNIVERSITY OPENS FOR THE 2010/2011 ACADEMIC SESSION ON 25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2010.**

**Igbinedion University Okada, growing today's and tomorrow's leaders...**

Mr. Edwin O. Okoro  
 Registrar





ADAMAWA STATE GOVERNMENT  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE  
ADAMAWA STATE FADAMA COORDINATION OFFICE, YOLA



### Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Name of Country: Nigeria  
Project: Third National Fadama Development  
Project ID: PO96572  
IDA Credit No: 4494 NG  
Bid Issue Date: Monday, 15 March, 2010  
Title: Supply of motorcycles  
IFB Number: ADSFCO/NCB/01/2010  
Last Date of Submission: Thursday, 15 April, 2010

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in the DG market of June 19, 2009 and "Daily Trust" and "The Punch" Newspapers of Friday, July 3, 2009.

2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Third National Fadama Development Project. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to payments under the Contract for Supply of Motorcycles

3. The Adamawa State Fadama Coordination Office now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for Motorcycles shown below:

Lot	Item No.	Description Of Goods	Qty	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Delivery Location
1	1	100cc Motorcycles	55 units	At least 3% of Bid Price	60 Days	Adamawa State Fadama Coordination Office, No. 77 Lamido Road, Yola Town, Adamawa State - Nigeria

4. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the State Project Coordinator, Adamawa State Fadama Coordination Office, Tel: 08033647881; e-mail - [muhammadkabir.bello2@yahoo.com](mailto:muhammadkabir.bello2@yahoo.com). or Procurement Officer, Tel: 08036213669; e-mail - [kwajiduguri@yahoo.com](mailto:kwajiduguri@yahoo.com). The Bidding Documents can be inspected at the address given below from 9.00am-5.00pm daily on Mondays - Fridays.

6. Qualifications requirements include:

a). Financial Capability

The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following financial requirement(s):

- External Audit Report of the Bidder for the last three (3) years.
- Banker's authorization that the Bidder has the Financial Capacity or a line of credit to execute a Contract of the same magnitude (as contained in the Schedule of Requirements) for supply of goods; and
- Manufacturer's Authorization for the goods to be supplied by the Bidder

b). Experience and Technical Capacity

The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence to demonstrate that it meets the following experience requirement:

- Previous experience in supply and assembling of the Motorcycles.

c). The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence of its Business registration

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of ten thousand naira (N10,000.00) or in an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. The method of payment will be by cash or bank draft. The Bidding Documents will be sent by courier at the bidder's request and cost.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12 Noon on Thursday, April 15, 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person or on-line at the address below at 12 Noon on Thursday, April 15, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least 3% of bid price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

9. The address referred to above is:

State Project Coordinator,  
Adamawa State Fadama Coordination Office,  
No. 77 Lamido Road Yola Town,  
Adamawa State - Nigeria.

(Muhammed Kabir Bello)  
State Project Coordinator



NSDC  
Rebuilding Niger State

Niger State Development Company Ltd.

## INVITATION TO ATTEND A ONE DAY WORKSHOP

This workshop will be beneficial to States, Local Governments and the Organised Private Sector

THEME:

## LEADERSHIP & GOOD GOVERNANCE



ON WEDNESDAY, 24TH MARCH, 2010

VENUE: UK BELLO ARTS THEATRE, MINNA.

TIME: 8.30 a.m Prompt.

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR: Dr. Muazu Babangida Aliyu, The Chief Servant of Niger State

CHAIRMAN: Alhaji Abdullahi Umaru Danyaya, Head of Service, Niger State

Distinguished Speaker: Senator Ken Nnamani, Chairman, Good Governance Group (3g)

Guest Speakers: Ambassador J. T. Kolo, Chairman, Local Government Project Monitoring, Assessment and Evaluation Committee.

Dr. (Mrs) Sarah Jibril, Former Presidential Aspirant, Chairman Governing Council, Federal College of Education Asaba, Delta State.

Attendance Fee: N42,850.00 (Forty Two Thousand Eight Hundred & Fifty Naira Only) per delegate.

For further details contact: 08032280703, 08033454909, 08059787282

Visit [www.nsdc.com.ng](http://www.nsdc.com.ng)

Signed:

MOHAMMED M. ALIYU

Chief Executive Officer

# BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

## FG compiling allegations against Anyanwu

• Nitel sale put on hold

By Yunus Abdulhamid

INDICATIONS emerged at the weekend that the suspended Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) Dr Christopher Anyanwu may be asked to explain various allegations against him by the federal government.

A source at the BPE told Daily Trust that the six allegations contained in his letter of suspension are being dusted.

Dr Anyanwu was suspended via a letter transmitted by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Yayale Ahmed last Monday. Acting President Goodluck Jonathan last Friday appointed a seven man committee to probe the NITEL sale that led to New Generation Telecommunication Consortium declared as the preferred bidder after offering \$2.5 billion. It is due to submit its finding this Thursday.

Anyanwu is alleged to have unilaterally revised the criteria for the selection of a core investor for (SkyPower Aviation Handling Company Ltd (SAHCOL), deliberately directed that the proceeds of the sale of SAHCOL be diverted into an account which was opened by him without the consent of the liquidator of Nigeria Airways, initiated and executed the process which led to the revocation of the sale of NITEL/MTEL to Transcorp, and the issuance of Federal Government Bond/promissory notes for the payment of N70 billion to the creditors of Transcorp. He is alleged to have "unilaterally and fundamentally altered the conditions and guidelines approved by the NCP for the sale of NITEL/MTEL, even after these had been published in the print media, misrepresented the facts with respect to the post-privatisation evaluation of enterprises such as Niger Dock, Delta Steel and Daily Times, and embarked on needless and hastily arranged foreign trips with hand-picked members of entourage at great cost to the public and these trips have taken a toll on the efficiency and productivity of the Secretariat and Technical Committee itself."

Daily Trust's sources said SAHCOL was sold to a bidder for about N5 billion to Skyway Aviation Handling Company Limited even though the preferred bidders Eraskorp Consortium pleaded for a month to pay the rest of its 70%. "For God's



CHRISTOPHER Anyanwu

sake, even three months is not too much for such amount of money instead of selling it for juts N5bn," he said. As to the issuance of N70bn federal government promissory note to banks that supported Transcorp, Daily Trust source who was close to the transaction noted that the money was purely a private business transaction between Transcorp and the banks, and that government had no business paying them off.

Transcorp is said have owed staff of NITEL and MTEL before the revocation of the transaction and now that government has paid off Transcorp, the staff are still not paid. Daily Trust also learnt that Nigeria lawyers who were supposed to offer support to BNP Paribas the lead advisers to the NITEL trans-

action were disregarded while checks on the bidding companies were poor, right from the outset.

Members of the committee probing the sale of NITEL include; Attorney General of the Federation, Prince Adetokunbo Kayode as chairman, Minister of Finance, Mansur Muktar; Secretary of the Government of the Federation, Mahmud Yayale Ahmed; Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Humphrey Abah. Others are: Principal Secretary to the Acting President, Mike Oghiadomhe; the chairman of the technical committee of the NCP, Mohammed Hayatu-Deen and the acting Director General of BPE, Ms. Bolanle Onagorua.

### BRIEF

## Oil workers fault 'new NNPC'

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE ongoing transformation of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has been punctured by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN). President of the oil workers union, Comrade Babatunde Ogun told our correspondent yesterday that the exercise leaves much to be desired as the NNPC has not put in place structures to smooth sail the transformation agenda.

The NNPC had penultimate week kicked off the implementation of the transformation process to reposition the corporation for efficiency and international standards.

But Ogun disclosed to Daily Trust that the NNPC has failed to adequately disclose adequate information on its liability as well as its exposure to same. "As we speak today, the pension and liabilities in NNPC is so much and the pension is not funded. We have about 10,000 people in NNPC and we have about 15000 people who are already retirees. And because of the level of commitment and because those contributions are not paid before they are funding it."

### Trust Index

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

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

Stock Market Index	
Date:	Friday, March 12, 2010
Index:	24,141.72
Volume:	523,669,748
Cap.:	N5,813,870,476,320.00

## Business/Finance

# FG assesses projects execution in Northeast



MINISTER of Finance Mansur Muhtar

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

A team of evaluators from the Budget Office of the Federal Ministry of Finance are currently on the fourth quarter 2009 budget per-

formance assessment across the North East to discharge its fiscal responsibility function and fulfill its statutory role of monitoring budget implementation. The exercise is part of the Budget Office's nationwide assessment

visits across the six geo-political zones, which started on March 8, and is expected to end by March 19.

The team was in Borno and Yobe states to monitor pilot projects initiated by the federal government towards rescuing the infrastructural decay across the transport and health sectors. Progress of work on sections IV and V of the Kano - Maiduguri road dualization project, and ongoing expansion projects at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH) were assessed under the team led by Mr. Linus Egeruo in company of Haruna Hassan Penni, Jacob Auta and Julius Adepoju, along with representatives of the civil society. The inclusion of a non-governmental organization (NGO) was to track budgetary appropriations and ensure transparency and accountability in governance.

During the visit to the site

for the dualization of the Kano - Maiduguri road (Section IV), from Potiskum to Damaturu, spanning a length of 96.24kilometer, including dual carriageway by-pass, the contractor, Messrs C.G.C. Nigeria Limited were on ground undertaking site clearance, sub-grade fillings, sub-base and bridge retaining walls in expectation that the budget for 2010 would be favourable than the previous years.

In his signed template brief to the team, dated March 8, 2010, Engineer O. C. Ojinna, the engineer representative of the project, provided that total physical achievement since commencement of work stands at 22.82 percent. According to him, since February 1, 2007 when the contract commenced after it was awarded for N30.25billion, a total of N4.4billion had been committed to date, out of which compensation was paid. In his remark, he said inadequate provision of yearly budget and non-payment of certified certificates to contractor is affecting progress of work. This, the assessment notes has led to the extension of completion date from November 30, 2009 to February 10, 2012.

While assessing work progress at Section V (Damaturu - Maiduguri road dualization) axis, handled by the Chinese Civil Engineering Company Ltd (CCECC), work already executed was at 15.41 percent progress. The assessment revealed that out of the contract sum of N39.99billion, only N4.93billion had been committed since inception in August 2006. Challenges and constraints in this section of the project also include: non-payment of compensation, in addition to non-payment of interim certificates due to low budgetary allocations.

Projects assessed at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH), which were also awarded during the fourth quarter of the 2009 fiscal year at the cost of N260million comprise: procurement and installation of medical equipment, to include one CT/scanner, seven ultra sound scanners, two Logic 7 and five Logic 5 Ultrasound scanners and 12 corometrics 250 Fetal Monitors. There was also the construction of the second phase of the Virology Laboratory, construction of Nuclear Medicine/Radiotherapy Centre and upgrading of water supply.

The CT Scanners, Ultrasound Scanners and Fetal Monitors have been procured and a letter of credit has been opened, awaiting delivery

and installation. According to the Chief Medical Director, Professor Othman Kyari, while briefing the team, the objective is to improve the diagnosis, treatment and management of patients in various aspects of medicine.

The project for the construction of the second phase of the Virology Laboratory, which has been completed and would strategically place the institution ahead of any competitor. He said the institution is currently a Centre of Excellence in Virology and Infectious Diseases treatment, adding that the project would greatly improve the physical infrastructure and maintain excellence in the diagnosis and management of infectious diseases across the country.

According to Professor Kyari, all these equipment are meant to make the tertiary institution function at its peak as a centre of excellence. But most dear to his heart, he said, is the construction of the Nuclear Medical/Radiotherapy Centre, which at present is about 60 per cent. He said, "The Nuclear Medical/Radiotherapy Centre is going to be strategic and effective for diagnosis, treatment and management of cancer. It is the most important project at the moment and is dear to the heart of stakeholders in the health sector because it has a foreign component. Once it is completed, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will come in to collaborate with us."

The water supply upgrade, which was the last project to be inspected, would be installed with submersible and sewage pumps, pump starters and cables, and would be capable of supplying 12 liters of potable drinking water for the hospital.

Responding, the team leader, Mr. Linus Egeruo said it was evident that inadequate yearly budget provision was affecting delivery as schedule, but that it was time for management of tertiary health institutions to prioritize needs, while adding that projects such as the road dualization projects, would help to attain the key component of President Yar'adua's seven point agenda of rural transformation through good road networks; and would facilitate the transportation of agriculture produce and other services to urban centers, as well as to strengthen on-going rehabilitation and repairs of the country's road network across the country. The team has since left Maiduguri, to monitor other projects within the region.

“The assessment revealed that out of the contract sum of N39.99 billion, only N4.93 billion had been committed since inception in August 2006. Challenges and constraints in this section of the project also include: non-payment of compensation, in addition to non-payment of interim certificates due to low budgetary allocations.

# Business/Power

## Govt revenues paid into banks — FIRS

REVENUES of the Federal Government are usually paid into designated banks and forwarded to the federation account, Mrs Queensley Seghosime, an Acting Director in the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) has said.

Seghosime told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja on Sunday that such accounts were managed and maintained by the Accountant-General of the Federation (AGF).

She said the funds so collected were usually shared among the states during the monthly meeting of the Federal Accounts Allocation Committee meeting (FAAC).

NAN reports that the FAAC meeting is usually presided over by the Minister of State for Finance and attended by the Accountant-General of the Federation and State Commissioners for Finance.

The official said the service did not handle payments but merely issued receipts to organisations paying funds to the federal government, after notification by the office of the AGF and the receiving banks.

Seghosime said the clarification became necessary to sustain public confidence in the revenue collection and distribution machinery which formed the basis for funding development programmes across the country.

She said that contrary to media reports, the Service did not handle revenues accruing to Federal Government as the processes put in place by the government checked the likelihood of fraud.

"The Executive Chairman of the FIRS does not even see any of the funds paid into the federal government coffers and so cannot have embezzled any".

Seghosime said the country would be hosting the 31st session of the Commonwealth Association of Tax Administration (CATA) in Abuja in October.

The 46 member-association held its 30th session in Lilongwe, Malawi in September 2009. (NAN).

## NSE lifts technical suspension on Oando shares

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

OANDO PLC has announced that the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) on March 9, lifted the technical suspension placed on its shares on Wednesday October 21, 2009 and normal trading activity on the stock has resumed.

The technical suspension was placed on

the price of Oando PLC shares further to its application to raise N21 billion through Rights Issue offering, in compliance with Rule 82(C) Securities and Exchange (SEC) Rules and Regulations.

The Rights Issue, which Acceptance List closed on the 19th February, 2010, is currently being processed for allotment prior to the

announcement of the outcome of the offer.

Oando's Chief Compliance Officer & Company Secretary, Mrs. Oredeji Delano, said: "The lifting of the technical suspension means that Oando shares will now experience price movements in response to competitive forces of demand and supply in line with the NSE's trading rules.

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Director General, Debt Management Office

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Date: Tuesday 16 March, 2010  
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## Star Feature

# The heat challenge

As the dry season endures, Nigerians battle the dreadful effects of the excessive heat in their day to day activities, even as the nation records meningitis related deaths

By Tosin Omoniyi

POSSIBLY no other topic enjoys more attention from Nigerians of all social strata today, other than the intense heat that comes as a result of the dry climatic spell which the nation is currently passing through. The heat is so agonizing that many have devised new and innovative measures to survive the onslaught of the sun's unrelenting rays. In the background also, the health hazards that come as a result of intense heat on the human body, appear to be taking its toll on not a few Nigerians.

Patrick Osayon, a furniture maker resident in Dutse, located within the outskirts of the capital city, says that residents of the area have devised new ways of sidelining the terrible effects of the heat. He also explains that the effect

of the heat on members of his family has been devastating. 'Residents in this area no longer stay indoors at nights. This is because the heat we experience during the day is nowhere in comparison to that which occurs at nights. Staying indoors at night is like sleeping soundly in the center of a furnace. People simply spread their mats and mattresses outside their homes on the bare floor at nights, and sleep in groups. For those who have walls around their compounds, that is really no problem. However you will notice that most of the houses here are not cordoned by walls, so at nights it is not an unusual sight to see masses of bodies sleeping in the front of most homes. This is a security threat but who cares. At night the scene is like what you find at refugee camps, only that for these, it is not because they do not have homes to sleep

in, but the fact that they are trying to escape the horrifying heat in the homes.'

With sweat streaming down his face, he adds: 'even during the daytime, the case is the same. You cannot even sleep soundly in the house. Whenever the PHCN people even decide to give us light, it does not solve the problem. The fans simply blow hot air, rather than serve to cool the atmosphere. It was just last week that I decided to get rid of my old fan, and buy the industrial type used in churches and mosques. That appeared to solve the problem a bit. My children have also been adversely affected by this heat. Just a few days ago, they all developed a skin condition that was like heat rash. We had to spend some money on drugs, so as to stop the condition from becoming worse.'



MOST houses are built without thought for ventilation

A visit to several parts of the city especially the suburbs will reveal the fact that many people have indeed resorted to sleeping in the open air at nights, due to the ravages of the heat which is worse at nights. For those who are fearful of being attacked by reptiles or insects while sleeping on the bare floor, these simply throw open their doors at night in order to

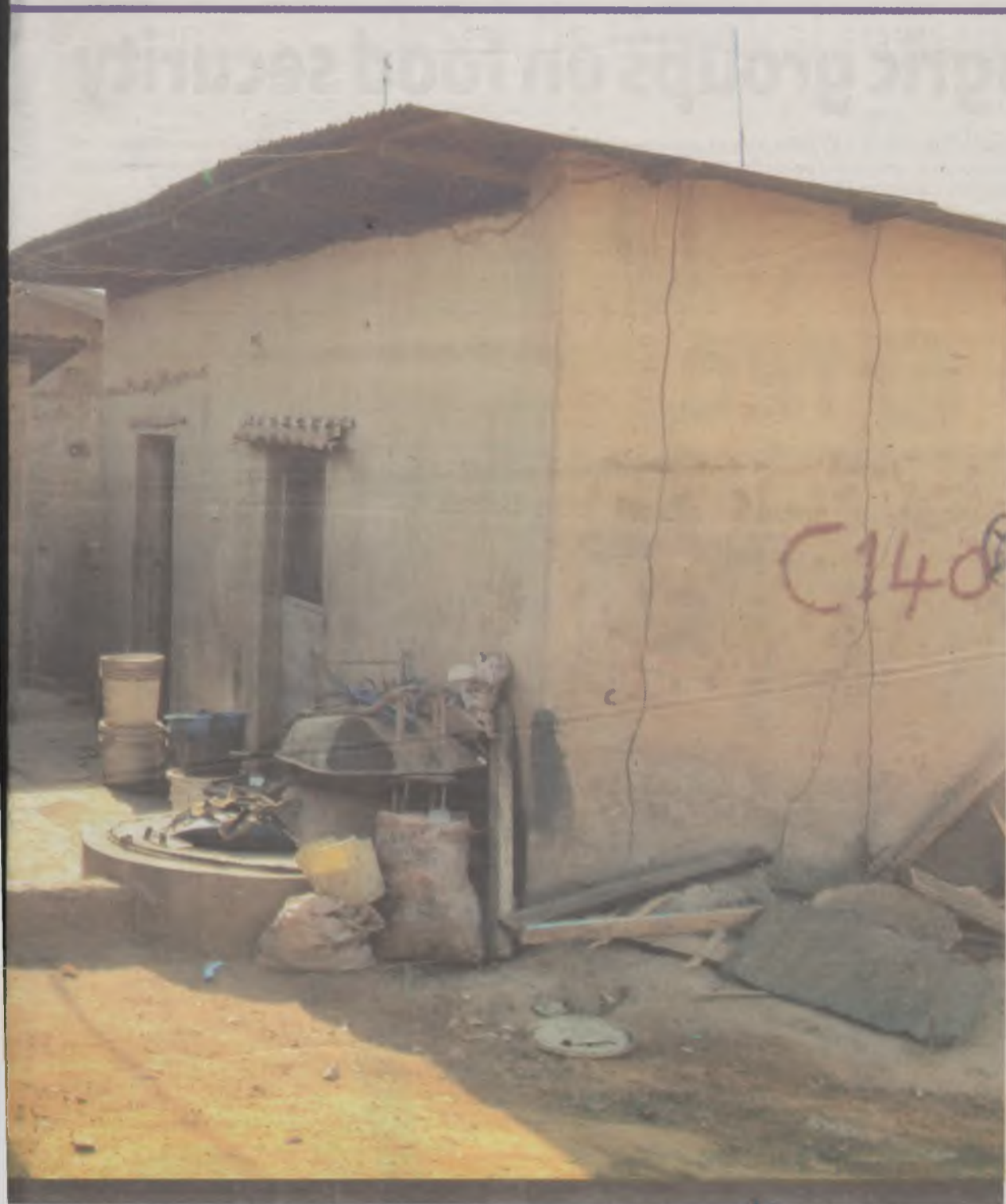
let fresh air come in, to reduce the stuffiness evident in their homes.

A builder, Mustapha Yusuf however believes that apart from the hotness of the season, the manner in which most houses are built and spread in the outskirts of the capital city, also accounts for why the ravages of heat is felt more at these areas. This he says lead to a poor and inadequate ventilation system in the areas. 'Most houses are built without thought for ventilation, or the unhindered passage of air. This can be found especially in these 'face me I face you' houses where homes face one another directly, with no apparent provision for the passage of air. Even when you enter such homes, it will amaze you to see that the same problem exists. Some homes can only boast of a single window

for every room, and this is not an acceptable way of building structures for human beings to reside in. If you go to the suburbs, houses are just built anywhere and everywhere, without proper coordination. You then begin to wonder if there are any regulatory bodies to monitor the erection of these structures,' he enthuses.

A group however seems to be benefitting from the heat wave. A seller of packaged water in Jikwoyi, Mrs Chioma Awunzia, says sales have blossomed for her, since the commencement of the dry season. 'Before I used to sell about 2 or at most three bags of pure water on a daily basis, but now this has increased due to higher patronage. I now sell up to 5 bags on a daily basis. People queue up at times to buy chilled sachet water at times from me,' she proudly states.

“Many nations have strict laws regulating outfits that carry out processes that involve the emission of hazardous chemical materials into the air, but here in Nigeria, it is not the case. The effects can be linked to the intense heat we have today.”



An environmental scientist, Yemisi Alao says that it is high time the government begins to play less lip service to the issue of the depletion of the ozone layer, due to the unmonitored emission of environmentally dangerous substances into the air on a daily basis, by most industries today. 'Many nations have strict laws regulating outfits that carry out processes that involve the emission of hazardous chemical materials into the air, but here in Nigeria, it is not the case. The effects can be linked to the intense heat we have today.'

She explains further: 'Ozone is a form of oxygen. Each ozone molecule is made of three oxygen atoms. Its chemical formula is O<sub>3</sub>. But unlike oxygen, ozone is a poisonous gas, and an increase in its concentration at ground level is not something desirable. In the stratosphere however, where ozone exists naturally, it blocks out the sun's ultraviolet rays and actually preserves the lives of humans. We have synthetic chemicals produced by several companies called chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs). Even though they are useful and completely non-toxic substances, their long term effects are hazardous to the atmosphere. They are harmful to humans because they are ozone-eaters, or what we know

in environmental parlance as ozone-depleting substances. CFCs are not the only ozone-depleting substances, but they are the most abundant. Other ozone-depleting substances are naturally occurring compounds. The ozone layer is a natural form of cloud that blocks out the deadly effects of the sun's heat. In much the same way that a cloud blocks the heat on a hot day, the ozone layer in the stratosphere blocks out the sun's deadly ultraviolet rays. It acts as our planet's natural sun block. But it is being destroyed on a daily basis by governmental and industrial negligence.'

On the health hazards, a medical practitioner, Dr Harrison Glover, says these are certainly obvious. 'Everybody is feeling a major discomfort from the excessive heat wave because

you sweat excessively. And that makes you to drink a lot of water. Again, people come down with all sorts of illnesses,

especially people coming down with attacks of malaria. But generally, I think the biggest thing we are facing is the discomfort and the loss of salt in the body, because when you sweat you lose salt and sugar. Of course, sometimes people collapse when the heat gets excessive.' He equally adds, 'the extreme effect of the heat wave is that you might collapse, but I'm not sure that there is any specific terminal illness associated with it. It does not lead to the transmission of diseases or something. But it causes rashes, scratching and general discomfort.'

He however asserts that meningitis spreads faster during the hot season. 'Meningitis obviously thrives in very hot weather. But Nigeria is in an area where meningitis is epidemic, especially in the northern part of the country. At a time like this, you might find such cases. But take for example, Lagos, there we have not seen many cases of meningitis. But in the North, when the temperature goes up and it gets dry, you record cases of meningitis.'

Few days back the media was agog with the news of the first recorded casualties of meningitis in Jigawa State in northern Nigeria, even as the relevant authorities say they are on top of the situation.

On how to mitigate the heat scourge, Glovers opines: 'what can be done is simple: bathe yourself regularly in cold water. That reduces the effect of the heat. If you used to have your bath once a day, you increase it to twice – once in the morning when you wake

up, and once at night when you want to go to bed. Then if you have AC in your apartment, switch it on. If you don't have AC, switch on your fan. This reduces the temperature to some extent. To a large degree, we are in a society where we are used to heat. So if this is happening in a place like the United Kingdom, it might be a problem. But in Africa, I think the thermoregulatory mechanism will quickly adjust, because we live in the tropics. That is why we are not getting the kind of severe effect, as we would have got if it is happening in Europe. Already, our body is conditioned to heat, and so it just needs to make a smaller bit of adjustment to what is happening.'

He says the government has its own role to play concerning the global warming challenge. He aptly notes: 'the heat wave is certainly not unconnected with global warming. This is why we talk about the greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. The effect that you get changes the weather in different parts of the world. It is either there is excessive heat or there is excessive cold; all kinds of things happen. It could be a feature of global warming. I think Nigeria should toe the line of the rest of the world: try and control global warming. It's not just an issue for Europeans; it's also an issue for Africans. Africa is always slow at everything, and so they don't catch up in things. But I think Nigerian leaders should do what European leaders are doing: control emissions, control global warming.'

“What can be done is simple: bathe yourself regularly in cold water. That reduces the effect of the heat. If you used to have your bath once a day, you increase it to twice – once in the morning when you wake up, and once at night when you want to go to bed.”

## Business/Agric

# Kano partners agric groups on food security

From Halima Musa, Kano

THE Kano State government has reaffirmed its readiness to partner with agricultural organisations to achieve the Mass Food Production Programme.

The state commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources Alhaji Musa Suleiman Shanono made the remark when members of the Voice for Food Security paid him a courtesy call in his office last Friday.

Shanono who was represented by the permanent Secretary of the ministry Alhaji Baffa Bello said the ministry would work with the organization to improve food production in the state.

"This ministry is ready to partner with any organisation that is out to boost food production in the state," he said.

He urged farmers in the state to form organizations to enable them benefit from government programmes on agriculture.

Earlier in his speech, the leader of the delegation, Alhaji Ibrahim M Shehu who represented the coordinator of the

organisation, retired AIG Bello Ahmad said the organisation was out to ensure that public investment in agriculture meets the minimum 10% benchmark as contained in the Maputo Agreement of 2003 which Nigeria was a signatory.

He urged the state government to undertake an upward review of the provision for agriculture in the 2010 budget Shehu who noted that small scale farmers accounted for

about 80% of food production, saying in view of that, there was the need for government to provide them with credit, fertiliser, seedlings and extension services.

He further urged the state government to draw up a contingency plan with stakeholders aimed at mitigating the impact of the predicted shortfall by the National Meteorological Agency.

## Foodstuff prices soar

By Tina A. Hassan

FOOD prices have almost doubled, Daily Trust market survey has shown.

Marketers who spoke to this paper attributed the increase in prices to stoppage in food supply from the Northern part of Nigeria.

Early in the week (Monday), traders had protested unfavorable taxation and politics extortion.

For the buyers, it was a weekend of pain and surprises as most Nigerians who went to the markets to buy food met with shocking increases in the prices of various food commodities and were forced to cut their budgets.

In Abuja the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), the prices of commodities like Tomatoes, Pepper, Onion, and vegetable have also increased.

He said: "Our traders from Kano have been complaining for some time now about the difficulty they are facing in moving foodstuff to other parts of the country and nobody has paid any attention to them and this you know is not benefiting them that is why they are on strike."

You are even lucky that things are not very expensive here like in other places like Lagos so buy now if you want to buy or you can go to your customer and buy and see if the price is still the same"

In other stalls visited by Daily Trust shows that the prices of food items like Rice, Beans, Yam, Irish Potato and Water Melon were relatively stable while the price carrots especially has also gone up.

According to one of the buyers- Rachael: "This is too much, see I cannot even buy everything I came to buy and they are telling us that nothing is wrong with Nigeria. If you are not working now how would you feed?"

She expressed dismay that the traders have been neglected by the authorities. She also prayed that God will bring change to Nigeria

**“You are even lucky that things are not very expensive here like in other places like Lagos so buy now if you want to buy or you can go to your customer and buy and see if the price is still the same”**

Food item	Prices before hike	Prices during hike
Tomato	150.00-200.00	400-600
Meat	700-750	850-1000
Irish Potato	400-450	600-700



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Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange

Friday, March 12, 2010



President of the NSE Alhaji Aliko Dangote



DG of Securities & Exchange Commission Arunmeh Oteh



DG of the NSE Ndị Okereke-Onyike

STOCK Name	Prev Day Close	Open	High	Low	Price	Change	Deals	Volume Traded	Value
7UP	30.60				30.60		11	65,478.00	2,102,381.82
ABBEYBDS	1.61	1.61					1	5,000.00	7,650.00
ABCTRANS	0.93	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.04	7	183,240.00	175,180.80
ACCESS	9.60	9.41		9.60	9.40		193	22,640,359.00	216,369,189.42
AFRIBANK	2.36	2.47	2.47	2.47	2.47	0.11	32	2,484,160.00	6,135,875.20
AFRINSURE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50		5	3,505,700.00	1,752,850.00
AFROMEDIA	0.51	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.02	5	310,000.00	164,220.00
AGLEVENT	3.00			3.00	+		4	28,768.00	83,429.40
AIICO	1.05	1.04		1.08	1.03	0.03	83	17,442,791.00	18,222,563.34
AIRSERVICE	2.60	2.73	2.73	2.73	2.73	0.13	2	50,500.00	137,865.00
ALUMACO	13.55	12.88	12.88	12.88	12.88	0.67	1	50,000.00	644,000.00
AP	43.11	43.00		45.26	43.00	2.15	105	1,199,938.00	52,936,423.09
ASHAKACEM	16.30	16.50	17.11	16.50	17.11	0.81	66	1,011,939.00	17,068,453.89
ASOSAVINGS	0.67	0.64	0.70	0.64	0.64	0.03	59	17,537,012.00	11,404,377.92
BAGCO	2.39	2.40		2.50	2.40	0.11	373	4,820,446.00	11,860,218.33
BCC	55.98	58.05		58.77	57.50	2.79	46	927,742.00	53,913,462.50
BECOPETRO	2.09	1.99	1.99	1.99	1.99	0.10	8	100,900.00	200,791.00
BERGER	4.06	4.26		4.26	4.26	0.20	10	130,401.00	555,508.26
BETAGLAS	13.00			13.00			36	474,171.00	5,885,857.25
BIGTREAT	0.86	0.83	0.86	0.82	0.86		15	1,036,611.00	875,109.11
BOCGAS	10.37			10.37			2	1,100.00	11,188.00
CADBURY	17.50	17.00	18.20	16.70	18.20	0.70	120	2,673,914.00	46,259,077.61
CAP	28.26			28.26			8	12,960.00	357,659.88
CAPHOTEL	3.53	3.70	3.70	3.70	3.70	0.17	4	93,107.00	341,995.90
CAPOIL	0.50			0.50			6	90,480.00	45,240.00
CCNN	16.65	16.90		17.00	16.90	0.28	80	1,785,135.00	30,314,308.25
CHAMS	0.70	0.68	0.72	0.68	0.70		13	4,393,000.00	3,066,320.00
CHEVRON	69.79			69.79	9		5	3,500.00	245,000.00
CILEASING	2.75	2.70	2.88	2.70	2.88	0.13	24	985,660.00	2,734,481.00
CONOIL	39.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	40.00	1.00	26	117,250.00	4,687,571.52
CONTINSURE	0.95	0.94	0.98	0.94	0.98	0.03	5	173,146.00	165,485.70
CORNERST	0.52	0.50	0.52	0.50	0.50	0.02	17	1,249,000.00	634,800.00
COSTAIN	5.33	5.33	5.44	5.33	5.44	0.11	39	501,895.00	2,694,177.84
CRUSADER	0.95	0.92	0.93	0.91	0.91	0.04	12	20,401,391.00	18,766,270.67
CUSTODYINS	3.03	3.10	3.18	3.10	3.18	0.15	68	8,200,600.00	25,949,982.00
CUTIX	2.97				2.97		5	45,000.00	133,850.00
DAARCOMM	0.73				0.73		21	136,562.00	98,600.26
DANGFLOUR	13.92	14.60	14.61	14.50	14.61	0.69	268	5,486,978.00	80,009,277.75
DANGSUGAR	17.10	17.00	17.50	17.00	17.02	0.08	83	1,879,594.00	32,318,232.12
DIAMONDBNK	9.00	9.30	9.38	9.00	9.38	0.38	104	10,392,474.00	95,234,297.11
DNMEYER	3.24				3.24		1	6,528.00	21,150.72
DNMLOP	0.50				0.50		11	65,050.00	32,525.00
ECOBANK	5.95	6.24	6.24	6.24	6.24	0.29	59	1,796,660.00	11,211,158.40
ENAMELWA	52.85				52.85		1	280.00	14,058.80
EQUITYASUR	0.50						1	2,000.00	1,000.00
ETERNAOIL	7.09	7.00	7.00	7.00		0.09	53	629,421.00	4,417,307.09
ETI	16.65	16.71	16.51	16.58		0.07	31	1,393,459.00	23,132,527.65
EVANSMED	1.00	1.02	1.02	1.02		0.02	7	94,660.00	95,660.00
FCMB	9.72	9.71	9.39	9.56		0.16	61	4,673,571.00	44,476,551.40
FIDELITYBK	2.89	3.03	2.78	3.03		0.14	287	47,228,732.00	140,098,044.50
FIDSON	2.34	2.45	2.43	2.45		0.11	36	539,082.00	1,310,991.17
FIRSTALUM	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50			7	271,900.00	135,959.00
FIRSTBANK	15.80	16.40	15.50	16.40		0.60	934	37,004,448.00	589,367,865.98
FIRSTINLD	0.70	0.73	0.70	0.72		0.02	74	8,563,791.00	6,119,246.40
FLOURMILL	48.00	48.00	46.01	46.01		1.99	88	1,589,077.00	75,605,943.76
FINCOCOA	0.90	0.94	0.90	0.94		0.04	10	302,333.00	278,722.70
GLAXOSMITH	27.00	27.30	27.30	27.30		0.30	18	365,291.00	9,946,508.50
GOLDINSURE	0.52	0.54	0.52	0.54		0.02	26	3,686,287.00	1,946,429.63
GTASSURE	2.20	2.31	2.30	2.31		0.11	20	1,917,820.00	4,420,726.00
GUARANTY	18.02	18.92	18.10	18.50		0.48	472	41,866,804.00	776,129,949.92
IBTC	9.01	9.23	8.80	9.12		0.11	60	2,307,949.00	20,758,012.53
IPAUOIL	1.25	1.28	1.22	1.25			143	4,633,810.00	5,782,511.89
JBERGER	27.95			27.95			23	152,426.00	4,089,831.60
JAWUNION	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50			12	1,325,032.00	663,066.32
MOBIL	102.53			102.53		0.02	19	23,168.00	2,284,883.93
MULTIVERSE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50			4	125,000.00	62,500.00
NAHCO	8.60	8.70	8.60	8.70		0.10	122	605,736.00	5,249,651.48
NANBAK	6.00			6.00			1	2,000.00	13,300.00
NASCON	6.30	6.60	6.45	6.60		0.30	51	2,425,460.00	15,731,272.73
NBC	25.50	26.50	26.50	26.50		1.00	23	231,534.00	6,118,913.19
NEIMETH	1.44	1.44		1.44			16	79,198.00	114,760.52
NEM	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51		0.02		2,787,575.00	1,369,382.40
NESTLE	270.00			270.00				13,043.00	3,569,842.37
NIGERINS	0.73	0.76	0.70	0.70		0.03	29	1,956,300.00	1,733,157.58
NIWICABLE	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69			5	101,280.00	69,853.20
NNEM	23.00	24.15	24.15	24.15		1.15	7	131,247.00	3,107,741.00
OANDO	84.84			84.84			19	28,713.00	2,314,267.80
OCEANIC	2.15	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	0.10	57	2,397,768.00	5,381,978.00
OMATEK	0.53	0.55	0.55	0.55		0.02	7	178,531.00	96,577.36
PLATINUM	1.70	1.87	1.87	1.87		0.08	89	13,656,795.00	25,538,206.65



## FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, HEADQUARTERS, MABUSHI - ABUJA

### INVITATION FOR THE PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTORS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION/REHABILITATION OF ROADS IN THE FEDERAL HIGHWAYS NETWORK FOR 2010 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development is desirous to undertake the Construction/Rehabilitation of the under-listed roads in the Federal Highways network for 2010 financial year.

S/N	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS
1	Rehabilitation of Potiskum-Udubo-Gamawa-Gamayin Road (R333) Section II (Udubo - Gamawa - Gamayin Road) in Bauchi
2	Rehabilitation of Lafia-Obi-Awe-Tunga Road in Nasarawa State
3	Rehabilitation of Hadejia-Nguru Road in Jigawa State, Phase II Kirikasama-Nguru
4	Rehabilitation of Apapa - Oshodi Expressway in Lagos
5	Rehabilitation of Bauchi - Dass - Tafawa Balewa Road
6	Construction of Damasak - Dutse (Nigeria) - Diffa (Niger Republic) Road
7	Rehabilitation of Agwu - Ndiaboh - Mpu - Akaeze Road (40 KM)
8	Rehabilitation of Maiduguri - Dikwa - Gamboru Road, Section II Dikwa - Gamboru
9	Rehabilitation of Yana-Shira-Azare Road
10	Rehabilitation of Oshogbo - Ilesha Road in Osun State
11	Rehabilitation of Ajaokuta Bridge Across River Niger
12	Rehabilitation of Jebba Bridge

2. Pre-qualifications are hereby invited from reputable contractors for the above road projects. For this reason the Ministry is inviting eligible Civil Engineering Contractors to be pre-qualified for the projects. Successful applicants shall meet the following minimum qualifying criteria for each project as follows:

- (i) Annual turnover in construction works of at least N5,000,000,000 (for Construction Projects) and N1,000,000,000.00 (for Rehabilitation Projects) in the last three (3) years.
- (ii) Successful experience as a prime contractor on at least 1 project of a nature and complexity comparable to the works within the last three (3) years; and copies of letters/Certificates of to be attached; and
- (iii) Evidence that the Contractor has the requisite plant and equipment to execute a project of this nature and complexity comparable to these works.

3. The pre-qualification document (2 copies) shall be signed, sealed in an envelope clearly marked "CONFIDENTIAL" and boldly written "Prequalification for (Name of the Relevant Project)" and returned to:

**The Secretary (Ministerial Tenders Board)  
Department of Public Procurement  
Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and  
Urban Development, Headquarters,  
Mabushi - Abuja**

So as to reach him within 2 weeks from the date of this publication. Each pre-qualification document must be submitted with photocopies of the following documents:

- (i) Company Registration Certificates;
- (ii) Current Tax Clearance Certificate and VAT Registration Certificate;
- (iii) Certified audited Company Accounts for the last 3 years (Original may be required for authentication);
- (iv) List of CVs of key personnel to be deployed for the projects.
- (v) All claims may be verified by the Ministry.

5. Contractors who work/worked for the Ministry and have history of abandonment, termination and/or prolonged contract period need not apply.

6. Criteria to be used for evaluation include but not limited to:

- i) Turn Over
- ii) Equipment available for the project.
- iii) Number of projects at hand
- iv) Technical staff available for the project.

6. Submissions will be opened two weeks from the date of this publication in the Conference Room of the Ministry at 10.00 am. Contractors or their representatives and the general public are all invited.

7. Only Pre-qualified Companies will be invited for tender.

### INVITATION TO SUBMIT EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE ENGINEERING DESIGN OF ROADS IN THE FEDERAL HIGHWAYS NETWORK FOR 2010 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development is desirous to undertake the Engineering Design for the Rehabilitation/Asphalt Overlay of the following Roads for 2010 Financial Year:

S/N	DESCRIPTION OF PROJECTS
1	Consultancy Services for the Rehabilitation Markurdi Bridge in Benue State
2	Consultancy Services for the Rehabilitation of Murtala Mohamed bridge at Kotonkarfi
3	Consultancy Services for the Emergency Repair of Serti Bridge at KM 89+100 along Bali - Mayo Selbe - Gembu road in Taraba State.
4	Consultancy Services for the Restoration of 1No. Burnt Bridge at Ijora, Lagos
5	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Makurdi-Adoka-Ankpa Road in Benue/Kogi States.
6	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Okene-Osono-Ojirami-Igara-Okpe-Idogun in Kogi State.
7	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Omuaran-Isanlu Road in Kwara State.
8	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Dikwa-Gajiram-Gubio Road in Borno State.
9	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Mambilla Ring Road, Taraba State
10	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Ozalla-Agbogugu-Ihe-Oweru-Ogugu-Nenwe-Mgbowo Awgu Road in Enugu State
11	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Mbano-Okigwe Road in Imo State
12	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Uzouwani-Anaku-Otuocha in Anambra/Enugu State
13	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Okutukutu-Tombia Road in Bayelsa State.
14	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Bomadi-Warri Road in Delta State.
15	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Asaba-Ogwashe Ukwu -Umunede - Agbor-Edo State Border
16	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Idoani-Idogun-Imeri-Aiyegunle Road in Ondo State
17	Consultancy Services for the Engineering Design of Iseyin-Alaga-Saki-Ilesha-Baruba Rd. (Ipapo -Alyaga Section) in Oyo State
18	Consultancy Services for the Supervision for the Construction/Rehabilitation of some Federal Roads and Bridges.
19	Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Internet/Intranet Network infrastructure facilities.
20	Consultancy Services for the preparation of physical National Development 2010 to 2030

2. Expression of Interest is therefore required from qualified Road/Bridge Engineering Consulting firms to be used for pre-qualification. Interested Consulting firms must be registered with the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) and should submit the company profile which should include full name of company and contact person(s), postal, contact and e-mail addresses, telephone/facsimile/mobile numbers. The firms must show the following:

- i) Evidence of registration of firm with COREN and Incorporation with the Corporate Affairs Commission of Nigeria
- ii) Copy of current Tax Clearance Certificate of the firm
- iii) Curriculum vitae of technical staff involved in the design indicating their experience in the execution of similar works. Evidence of their educational and professional qualification should be attached.
- iv) List of computer hardware, engineering software and equipment available for the execution of the works.
- v) Evidence of availability of pavement evaluation equipment, and laboratory including the equipment required for the relevant tests
- vi) List of the relevant tests to be carried out on the pavement and road materials
- vii) List of other equipment or any other information that will assist the firm in the consultancy services.

All submitted documents are subject to verification by the Ministry.

3. The Expression of Interest must be submitted in sealed envelope(s) and in compliance with the general guidelines for the Engineering Design of Federal roads and bridges.

4. (a) The submissions will form the basis for pre-qualification/future negotiation with and ultimately a contract between your firm and the Federal Ministry of Works, Housing & Urban Development.

(b) Completed Expression of Interest should be signed, sealed and boldly written "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR THE ENGINEERING DESIGN OF (THE PARTICULAR ROAD)" and submitted two weeks from the date of this publication to:

**The Secretary (Ministerial Tenders Board)  
Public Procurement Department,  
Federal Ministry of Works, Housing & Urban Development,  
Mabushi, Abuja.**

Please note that no submission will be accepted after 12 noon on the expiry date.

5. Also note that incomplete Bids will be rejected and the cost of preparation of the proposals including traveling expenses are not reimbursable.

6. The submissions received shall be publicly opened immediately after the deadline stipulated for submission. Tenderer's or their representatives are by this information invited for the opening.

6. Please note that only those pre-qualified from the Expression of Interest submitted will be contacted to submit financial proposals.

Signed: Dr. Tukur Bello Ingawa, OON, mni  
Permanent Secretary



## FEDERAL MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, HEADQUARTERS, MABUSHI - ABUJA

### DEBT RELIEF GAINS FUNDED MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGs) PROJECTS INVITATION TO TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKS, AND SERVICES FOR THE 2010 FINANCIAL YEAR

The Federal Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development intends to implement lined projects of the Debt Relief Gain Millennium Development Goals in Urban Renewal and Slum Upgrading for the 2010 Financial Year.

**Objective:** The Objective of the Project is to:

1. Deliver basic municipal infrastructure and services in poor Urban Settlement through reconstruction/upgrading and rehabilitation of existing ones in Bauchi, Kwara, Gombe, Imo, Abia, Ekiti, Lagos, Katsina, Bayelsa, Cross Rivers, Nassarawa, Kebbi, Ogun, Oyo, Kaduna, Osun, Ondo, Kogi, Rivers, Anambra, Sokoto, Plateau, Borno, Benue, Yobe, Kano and Delta states.
2. In view of the above, the Ministry is inviting interested Construction Companies and Service providers to tender for the execution of the works and services.

#### SCOPE OF WORKS:

- A. **ROADS AND DRAINAGES WORKS**
  - \* Rehabilitation/Upgrading of intra-city roads within districts
  - \* Construction of Drainage Canals and outlet structures
- B. **COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY SCHEME**
  - \* Construction of Boreholes, reservoirs (Raw and Clear water tanks) and rehabilitation and Expansion of existing reticulation networks.
- C. **SLUM ELECTRIFICATION**
  - \* Power supply to Public Buildings/Utilities in selected urban slum communities.  
Street light
- D. **WASTE DISPOSALS/RECREATION PARK**
  - \* Construction of domestic solid waste collection points and disposal infrastructure
- E. **PUBLIC BUILDING**
  - \* Construction of Buildings (Community, Civic Centers/Clinics)

#### TENDER REQUIREMENT

Interested Construction Companies and service providers are invited to submit Technical and Financial bids including the followings:

- i. Certificate of Company Registration/Incorporation with Corporation Affairs Commission
- ii. Company current Tax Clearance for the last three (3) years.
- iii. VAT registration certificate
- iv. Evidence of financial capability and banking support
- v. Audited account of Company (If applicable)
- vi. Company profile showing:
  - a. Technical qualification and experience of key personnel to be involved in the project
  - b. Plant equipment and technology capacity
  - c. List of similar projects executed in the last three (3) years
- vii. Company local content policy
- viii. Company health, safety environment and community social responsibility Programme

#### SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

All tender documents sealed and clearly marked "TENDER" DRG/MDGs Project 2010 indicating the "WORK/WORKS" Bided for must be enclosed in one sealed envelope and returned to the office of the:

**SECRETARY,  
MINISTERIAL TENDERS BOARD  
Federal Ministry of Works,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
Mabushi - Abuja.**

On or before 12 noon, 2 weeks from the date of this publication.

#### OPENING OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

The Tender Documents will be opened exactly by 2:00 pm, 2 weeks from the date of this publication at the Conference Room of the Ministry's Headquarters Mabushi - Abuja.

### INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF 2010 BUDGET

The Federal Ministry of Works, housing and Urban Development intends to implement the projects contained in the 2010 Budget bordering on Works, Services and Goods to include the following areas:

- a) Procurement and installation of streetlights on Federal Roads and Bridges.
- b) Maintenance/Upgrading of facilities in the Ministry, Field Offices, Training Schools and Workshops
- c) Procurement/Installation of Generators, other Equipment and stationeries.
- d) Maintenance/Rehabilitation of Federal Secretariat and field Offices in some selected states.
- e) Provision of Infrastructure (Roads, Culverts and drainages) in selected Federal Government Estates.

2. In view of the above, the Ministry is inviting reputable interested Companies and Service provider to submit Tender Documents for the execution of the projects.

#### 3. Eligibility/Requirements

- i) Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- ii) Registration with COREN (If it is for Consultancy Services)
- iii) Companies Current Tax Clearance for the last 3 years
- iv) VAT Registration Certificate.
- v) Evidence of Financial Capability and banking support.
- vi) Audited Account of the Company (If applicable)
- vii) Company Profile showing:
  - a) Technical and experiences of key personnel to be involved in the project
  - b) Plants, equipment and technology capacity
- viii) List of similar projects executed in the last seven (7) years.

4. Companies currently working for the Ministry whose contracts are unjustifiably behind schedule need not apply.

5. The Tender Documents (2 copies) shall be signed, sealed in an envelope clearly marked "Confidential" and boldly written Tender for (name of the relevant Area of Interest) and returned to:

**The Secretary,  
Ministerial Tenders Board,  
Department of Public Procurement,  
Federal Ministry of Works,  
Housing and Urban Development,  
Headquarters, Mabushi - Abuja.**

So as to reach him not later than 4 weeks (insert date) 2010 by 10:00 am from the date of this publication.

6. Submission will be opened on (insert date) 2010 in the Conference Room of the Ministry at 12:00 noon. Contractors or their representatives and the general public are all invited.

*Signed: Dr. Tukur Bello Ingawa, OON, mni*  
Permanent Secretary

# THE SENATE

## FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

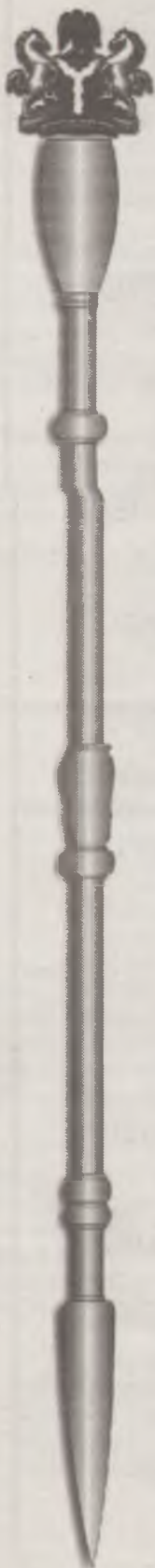
Committees on Banking, Insurance and Other  
Financial Institutions, Capital Market and Finance

National Assembly Complex  
Three-Arms-Zone, Abuja



### INVITE YOU TO THE

### PUBLIC HEARING ON A BILL FOR AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ASSETS MANAGEMENT CORPORATION OF NIGERIA FOR THE PURPOSE OF EFFICIENTLY RESOLVING THE NON-PERFORMING LOAN ASSETS OF BANKS IN NIGERIA AND FOR RELATED MATTERS



In continuation of the legislative process on the Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (Establishment) Bill, 2010, the Committees on Banking, Insurance and Other Financial Institutions, Capital Market and Finance hereby announce a one-day Public Hearing to be declared open by the Senate President, His Excellency, Senator David Mark GCON.

**Date:** Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2010

**Time:** 10.00am

**Venue:** Senate Hearing Room 2,  
National Assembly  
Complex, Abuja.

Individuals, private and public sector organizations wishing to make presentations at the hearing, should contact the Committee Secretariat in room SB 64, Basement, Senate Wing, National Assembly Complex on or before Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2010. However, the public hearing is mandatory for the underlisted individuals/organizations:

(i) Honourable Minister, Federal  
Ministry of Finance

- (ii) Attorney-General of the Federation and minister of Justice
- (iii) Honourable Minister, National Planning Commission
- (iv) Governor, Central Bank of Nigeria
- (v) MD/CEO, Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation
- (vi) MD's/CEO's of all Commercial Banks in Nigeria
- (vii) MD's/CEO's of all Development Finance Institutions
- (viii) MD/CEO, Nigerian Stock Exchange
- (ix) MD/CEO, Securities & Exchange Commission
- (x) DG, Bureau of Public Enterprises

This publication serves as a formal invitation to make presentation at the hearing.

For more enquiries and collection of copies of the Bill, please contact the Clerk to the Committee in Room SB 64 Basement, Senate Wing, National Assembly Complex, Abuja or call: 08035937458, 08025170580.

Senator NKECHI NWAOGU  
Chairman



# TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF NIGERIA

338, Ikorodu Road (Express House), Idi-Iroko B/Stop, Maryland Lagos.

Tel: 234 (1) 4701699, (1) 7369896, 08055790287  
Fax: 01- 5554822, E-mail: sescan2000@yahoo.com  
www.tucnigeria.org

## TUC 8th TRIENNIAL NATIONAL DELEGATE CONFERENCES BENIN, 2010

The Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC) wish to inform the general public, friends and allies from progressive organizations, civil society and esteemed veterans, of its 8th Triennial National Delegates Conference taking place at **Oba Akenzua Conference Centre, Airport Road, Benin City, Edo State** on **March 18th - 19th, 2010.**

**The Theme:**

### NIGERIA AT

# 50 ISSUES AND CHALLENGES

*Guest Speaker*

**PRINCE TONY MOMOH, Esq,**  
*Former Minister of Information*

*Chief Host*  
*Edo State Governor*

**COMRADE ADAMS OSHIOMOLE**

*Special Guest of Honour*

**HIS EXCELLENCY,**  
**DR. GOODLUCK EBELE JONATHAN, GCON,**  
*Acting President and Commander in-Chief of the Armed Forces,  
Federal Republic of Nigeria*

*Chairman of the Occasion*

**GOVERNOR OLUSEGUN MIMIKO**  
*Executive Governor of Ondo State*

Supported by Bauchi State Governor Isah Yuguda, Niger State Governor Chief Servant Aliu Babangida and Ministers, Senate President, Speaker of House of Representatives, and Foreign Diplomats,

Also expected are eminent Nigerians such as Chief Olu Falae, Prof. Pat Utomi, and Alhaji Balarabe Musa, etc

#### ISSUES AT THE CONFERENCE

The conference will x-ray issues on the economy, governance, international affairs and policy matters of TUC affiliates and the nation. It will also elect new national officers to run the affairs of the congress for the next three years

*[Signature]*  
**Comrade Musa Toly**  
*Chairman Planning Committee*

*[Signature]*  
**Mr. Jerry Amah**  
*Secretary Planning Committee*

*[Signature]*  
**Chief John Kolawole**  
*Secretary General*

*[Signature]*  
**Comrade Peter Esele**  
*President General*



## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLES PARTY (DPP)

### NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

20 Oro Ago Street, Opp. Holy Trinity Hospital, Off Muhammadu Buhari Way/Old CBN,  
PMB 451, Garki II, Abuja, Nigeria. Tel: (+234) 9-3146478, 08036652702, 08056814979  
Website: www.dppnigeria.com E-mail: info@dppnigeria.com

## SOKOTO GUBER APPEAL: A REMINDER TO BARR. YAHAYA MAHMOOD IN CASE HE ALLOWED SELFISH INTEREST BECLOUD HIS SENSE OF REASONING AND JUDGEMENT

This publication will go a long way in reminding Barr. Yahaya Mahmood what he has forgotten about the judgment of Appeal Court, Kaduna Division in April 11, 2008; concerning Sokoto Governorship Election and for Nigerians to know the truth of the matter and for the record to be put straight.

Barr. Yahaya Mahmood through his Arewa Chambers published various petitions on Friday, March 12, 2010 including appending his passport in Daily Trust Newspaper on Sokoto governorship appeal judgment after substantive hearing from both parties including Yahaya Mahmood who incidentally is the lawyer to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondent i.e., INEC.

On April 11, 2008 the Court of Appeal, Kaduna division went ahead and delivered its typed judgment on Wamakko's victory at the election tribunal. The Court held inter alia:

1. That judgement of the governorship and legislative houses election tribunal sitting in Sokoto delivered on October 29, 2007 in election petition no. SS/EPT/GOV/1/2007 is hereby set aside;
2. That the Sokoto state governorship election held on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2007 is hereby annulled for substantial irregularities in the conduct of the election and on the grounds that Wamakko was not qualified to contest the election as at the 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2008;
3. Costs assessed at N50,000 is against Wamakko and PDP i.e., the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Respondents.

Now, how Wamakko was smuggled into the re-run governorship election of Sokoto state then after being categorically declared by the court of appeal, Kaduna division and in an affirmative manner that he (Wamakko) was not qualified to contest the April 14, 2007 election, it is now left for the public court and other well meaning Nigerians to judge; even though people say INEC, the organisation Yahaya Mahmood represents, and PDP are members of the same family. As it is now clearly portrayed by Yahaya Mahmood by doing the bidding of both the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Respondents i.e., Wamakko, PDP and INEC. I can remember vividly and with all sound memory; in delivering the lead judgement Justice Belgore said in referring to PDP "those who disrespect their own constitution with impunity should not be seen or expected to be true or serious protectors and defenders of the constitution of federal republic of Nigeria".

The court further lashed INEC which Yahaya Mahmood (a professional petition writer) represents that "it was under this situation that INEC allowed Wamakko to be presented to it as PDP candidate. As in governor Ameachi of Rivers state vs. INEC, by acceding to the request of PDP at the stage it did in Wamakko's case pointed a picture of itself as a spineless body whose pre-occupation is dissemination of injustice. It has forgotten or it has thrown into the winds the position carved for it by constitution of the land – as an unbiased umpire".

The appeal court, Kaduna division affirmed that "the officers of INEC who Yahaya Mahmood represents have in Wamakko's case, portrayed the Commission as an irresponsible organization which is ready to perpetrate illegality and scuttle the nascent democracy for whatever reason best known to them. The court further added that "it is very clear from the circumstances of this case that the INEC which Yahaya Mahmood represents is working with gloves in hand along with PDP in Sokoto to pervert the cause of justice. The electorate is taken for granted. This is unfortunate".

The court also said that the nomination of Mukhtari Shehu Shagari as the Deputy Governor was questionable and said the nomination form filled by Shagari was "manufactured purposely to meet the challenges of the election petition tribunal". The Appeal Court observed that the form was deposited to two weeks after the April 14, 2007 governorship election. A

clear case of forgery which is a criminal case according to the Nigerian constitution. And that even the waiver sought by Wamakko from PDP for qualification to run for the election followed the wrong process and procedure. It pointed out that according to the PDP's constitution such a waiver for a member who had not spent up to 60 days and wish to run for a political office ought to be applied on behalf of the member by the state party chapter to the National Secretariat. The minority judgment of the lower tribunal in Sokoto while interpreting the meaning and qualification for a re-run election stated that "the combined effect of section 221 of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, section 32(7) of the Electoral Act 2006 and paragraph 27(3) of the first schedule of the Electoral Act 2006, a political party registered in Nigeria is entitled to submit to INEC and the INEC mandated to receive from the party, the said list for both a general and bye election. Where, however, there is nullification of a general election and a re-run election is ordered, only candidates who were lawfully nominated to contest in the nullified election can contest the re-run election since the date and period for calling for nomination and screening of candidates had lapsed".

Finally this reminder to Yahaya Mahmood has become imperative where he said in his publication of Friday March 12, 2010 and even went to the extent of appending his passport on it that "... I contacted his friend Senator Ahmed Bola Tinubu to express our misgivings on the position taken by His Lordship and informed him that his friend Hon. Justice Isa Ayo Salami had more than official interest in the Sokoto matter". That Senator Ahmed Bola Tinubu invited Hon. Justice Isa Ayo Salami to his house in Asokoro, Abuja where they had lengthy discussion after which Senator Ahmed Bola Tinubu told me that His Lordship was adamantly insisting that the Court of Appeal Kaduna division judgement must be reviewed and the Democratic Peoples Party candidate be declared winner".

Our fundamental questions here are: Does that mean that Hon. Justice Isa Ayo Salami refused to succumb to their demand which is subject to bribery and corruption? Of what and on whose interest is the involvement of a former governor and a politician from south west, Senator Ahmed Bola Tinubu in a purely legal matter? And of course, of what and whose interest is also an involvement of a Senator and a politician, Senator Umar Dahiru (Chairman, Senate Committee on Judiciary and Human Rights) in a purely election appeal petition matter? The public should please judge this; and a word is enough for the wise! Whatever interpretation one may give to this matter than ever before, the fact is clearer now that Hon. Justice Isa Ayo Salami deserves the commendation of Nigerians by standing firm and resolute against attempts to subvert the course of justice in spite of all intimidations.

Nigerians know very well that no individual has any right as a Chairman of a body to either stop or put on hold a conclusive matter that is reserved for judgement for doing that will amount to arresting judgement in which that jurisdiction does not exist in the Nigerian constitution. You can only arrest judgement through a court of law with competent jurisdiction and that only happens in a criminal case not in the civil case and it only obtains or applied in the European countries. Nigerians are wise enough; we should not allow money to be cloud our sense of judgment. We should judge people by their past performance and not allow the lure of position; power and money override our common sense.

**Abubakar Ateeku Yusuf**  
Director, Media and Publicity  
Democratic Peoples Party (DPP)  
0706877977, 08032107120

# DIGEST

## The super-sized mum who weighs 43st determined to become world's fattest woman



**DONNA Simpson already weighs 43 stone but is consuming an astonishing 12,000 calories a day in a quest to become the world's fattest woman**

DONNA Simpson already weighs 43st, but she is determined to nearly double her size to become the world's fattest woman.

The 42-year-old from New Jersey, U.S, is set on reaching the 1,000lb mark (71st) in just two years. Remarkably she insists she is healthy, despite now needing a mobility scooter when she goes shopping.

'My favourite food is sushi, but unlike others I can sit and eat 70 big pieces of sushi in one go,' she said. 'I do love cakes and sweet

things, doughnuts are my favourite.'

Donna, who wears XXXXXXXL dresses, eats mounds of junk food and tries to move as little as possible. Ms Simpson already holds the Guinness World Record as the world's biggest mother, when she gave birth in 2007 weighing 38stone. She needed a team of 30 medics to deliver her daughter Jacqueline during a high-risk Caesarean birth. Yet although she can only move 20ft before needing to sit down, she wants to be

even bigger. 'I'd love to be 1,000lb,' she said. 'It might be hard though. Running after my daughter keeps my weight down.' You might expect her long-term partner Philippe, 49, to advise her to slim down, but instead he encourages her to eat more.

He met Donna on a dating site for plus-size people and is a self-confessed fat admirer, although he himself only weighs 150lbs. 'I think he'd like it if I was bigger,' said Donna. 'He's a real belly man, and com-

pletely supports me.' To achieve her goal, Donna says she will need to eat up to 12,000 calories a day (the average woman should consume only 2,000.). To fund the massive \$750 weekly food shop, she runs a website where men pay her to watch her eat fast food.

Donna's weight problem began early. Her mother made big meals for Donna and her brothers and gave them lots of treats and fattening food. By the time Donna was nine, she weighed 13 stone. 'Food was her way of showing she loved us, she wanted us to eat, and she was very protective of us,' Ms Simpson said. 'She wouldn't let anyone say anything bad to us about our weight. She would argue with doctors who said it was dangerous.'

Donna's mother died soon after, and her dad married a woman who put the children on a strict diet. 'I used to steal food from the cupboards, which were still full because my mum used to store food,' she said.

But as she got older, Donna began to worry about her weight and started taking diet pills. Between the ages 14 and 18 she slimmed down to 11'stone, but was still unhappy. 'Dieting just made me miserable because I was thinking about food all the time,' she said. After she left school, Donna got a desk job and no longer felt the need to fit in with other girls. 'I felt so much better when the weight came back,' she said. 'It felt like who I was meant to be.' When Donna was 19 she met her first husband, who worked as a chef at a steak restaurant. 'He worked night shifts and would come home at 2 or 3am and bring the leftovers with him,' she said.

'We'd stay up and eat huge piles of steak, mashed potatoes, and gravy with butter.' I started gaining weight quickly and my husband liked it.

## How too much fruit can make you fat!

MANY of us believe that fruit can only be healthy and so make an effort to boost our intake - carrying apples in our bags, eating grapes or bananas at our desk and trying to stick to fruit salad for dessert.

But it seems some people are actually eating too much fruit, leading to health problems such as obesity, and to tooth decay.

There's no denying fruit's health benefits - it's packed with vitamins, fibre and antioxidants, which protect against disease.

It's considered so beneficial that the government's five-a-day guideline is a minimum recommendation for the amount of fruit and vegetables we should eat.

But while it is fine to exceed this amount if you are a healthy weight, if you are overweight or suffer from high cholesterol or diabetes, too much fruit could be

trouble. It could also explain why, despite your healthy lifestyle, you're piling on the pounds.

One of the problems is people forget that fruit - like all food - contains calories. And the calories in fruit can make you just as overweight as those in chocolate, explains Dr Carel Le Roux, consultant in metabolic medicine at Imperial College London.

Different people over-eat different things,' he says. 'But the people who eat fruit to excess are often weight-conscious. I've seen patients who can't understand their obesity because they eat healthily, then it turns out they are eating way too much fruit or drinking fruit smoothies all day - glugging down 300 calories in a couple of minutes.'

And it's not about lack of self-control. Fruit is packed with fructose (fruit sugar) and this doesn't

make you feel full.

When we eat sugar, our body releases the hormone insulin, which tells the brain we've had enough to eat, explains dietician Ursula Arens of the British Dietetic Association.

'High insulin levels dampen the appetite, but fructose doesn't trigger this insulin response, so the brain doesn't get the message that you are full,' she says.

Essentially, when we eat fruit we bypass this internal 'stop button,' which could explain why some of us can absent-mindedly nibble away at slice after slice of melon or munch through a large bunch of grapes.

Weight gain isn't the only health problem associated with too much fructose. It can increase levels of triglycerides, a type of blood fat known to be linked to heart disease.

Dr Le Roux says: 'We tell patients with high cholesterol to be careful with fruit. Too much drives up triglycerides. Diabetics should also take care, as the high fructose content can raise blood glucose levels.'

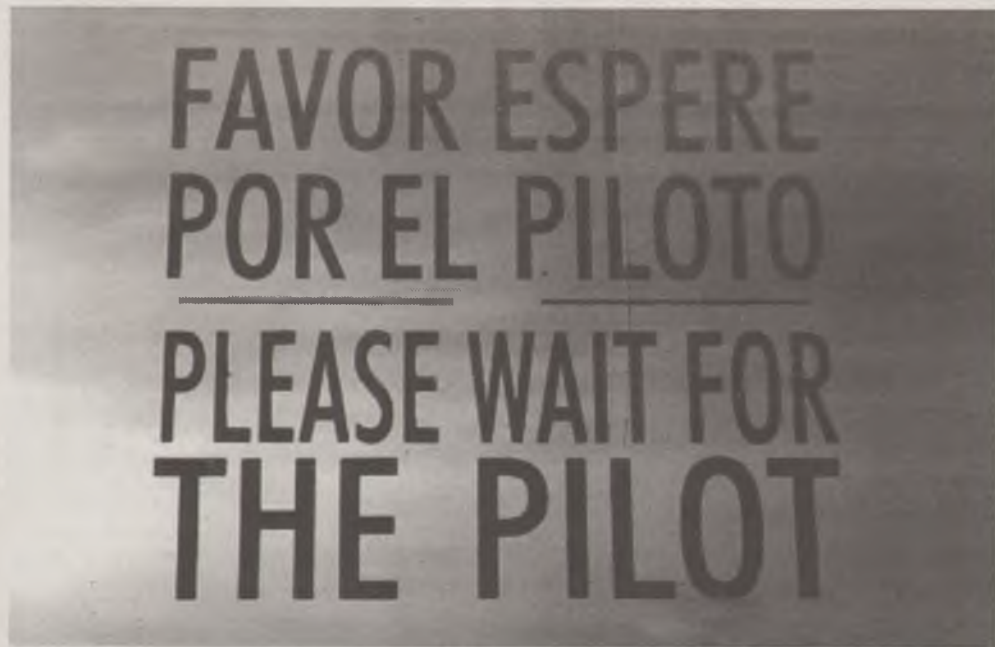
Then there's the damage fruit can cause to teeth. Chewing fruit releases sugar in the mouth, where it attacks the teeth. Fruit juice or smoothies are even more of a problem, as the juicing or blending breaks down the fruit further, so more sugar is released in the mouth.

Teeth are particularly vulnerable to acidic citrus fruits, which can soften tooth enamel. Although the enamel will harden again after about 30 minutes, if you brushed your teeth immediately after drinking orange juice, you would brush away some enamel, raising the risk of dental erosion.



**MARILYN Monroe would probably have had a shock if she had eaten that fruit expecting it to be a low-calorie snack**

Sign Language



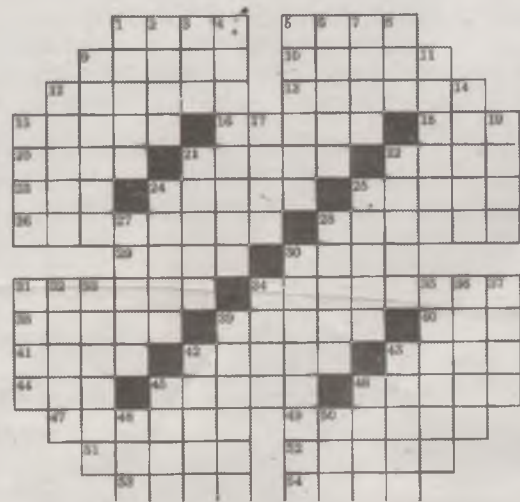
But we can't fly without one!

Photo location: San Jose, Costa Rica, by G. Mugele  
Culled from www.signspotting.com

EASY CROSSWORDS

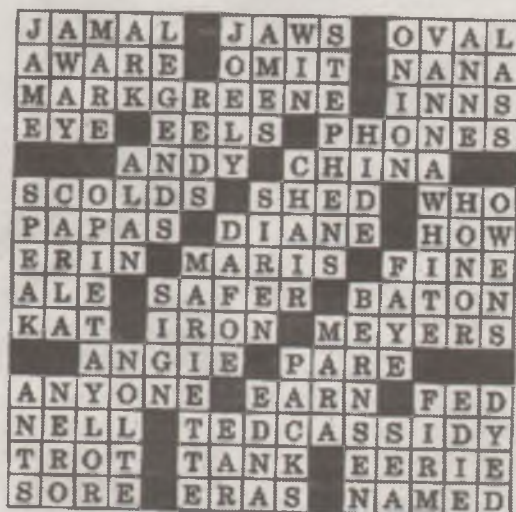
10

- ACROSS**
- 1. Hefty branch
  - 5. Crimson shades
  - 9. Competitor
  - 10. Fencing swords
  - 12. U.S. neighbor
  - 13. June and May
  - 15. A prime number
  - 16. Full of zest
  - 18. Nice assent?
  - 20. Spanish cries
  - 21. Squirrel away
  - 22. Spiral form
  - 23. Wolf's cave
  - 24. Metal buckets
  - 25. Noise at a toast
  - 26. Fasts, perhaps
  - 28. Items
  - 29. Bird "arm"
  - 30. Oil container
  - 31. Emphasis
  - 34. Complained
  - 38. Editor's mark
  - 39. Goes by yacht
  - 40. Eggs, in biology
  - 41. Squeezed (out)
  - 42. In a boring way
  - 43. Healing sign
  - 44. Gaze at
  - 45. Fable's point
  - 46. College heads
  - 47. Elfin being
  - 49. Lofty aspirations
  - 51. Oxen harnesses
  - 52. High-minded
  - 53. Student exam
  - 54. Understands
  - 6. Historic period
  - 7. Refute (an allegation)
  - 8. Adjust (an alarm)
  - 9. Large crows
  - 11. Lock: hyph. wd.
  - 12. Star, for short
  - 14. Litigator's job, basically
  - 15. — fountain
  - 17. Companions
  - 19. Sorts
  - 21. Virtuous one
  - 22. Ascend (a mountain)
  - 24. Wall coloring
  - 25. See 17-Down
  - 27. Rugged fabric
  - 28. Without doubt
  - 30. Construction sound
  - 31. Skilled pilots
  - 32. Soap units
  - 33. Macabre
  - 34. Fancy affair
  - 35. Scene
  - 36. Cowgirl Dale
  - 37. Pats daintily
  - 39. Most positive
  - 42. — on, adores
  - 43. Shuts tight
  - 45. Emcee's handfu
  - 46. Financial burde
  - 48. Become spoiled
  - 50. Buck's partner



Solution to Easy Crosswords

9



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.

106

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

Solution to Sudoku 105

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

## VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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- Ensure proper Management of staff and services with clear and efficient performance standard to achieve corporate objectives.
- Initiate, deliver and manage consultancy projects efficiently and effectively to enhance the Company's competitive position.
- Serve as the Chief Marketing Officer of the Company by effectively liaising with the stakeholders both within and outside the University to create business.
- Ensure effective corporate leadership and good management practice.
- Identify, analyze new business opportunities that will add to Company's corporate objective of wealth maximization.

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- Excellent Marketing Skill
- Cognate experience in handling Consultancy Projects
- Ability to work within a University Community
- Excellent Computer Skills

### Qualification and Experience

A University degree with a minimum of second class lower and fifteen (15) years cognate post qualification experience, of which at least 7 must have been at senior management position in a corporate organization. Possession of higher degrees and/or professional qualifications will be an added advantage.

### Remuneration

The remuneration package is competitive and in line with what obtains in the Industry.

### Method of Application

If you meet the above requirements, please forward within four (4) weeks from the date of this publication, six (6) copies of your application and detailed resume to:

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And also send a soft copy of the application and CV to [services@crystalassociates.org](mailto:services@crystalassociates.org)

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

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## News Extra

## Winnie Mandela denies giving critical interview

Winnie Mandela claims 'he let us down' story in *Evening Standard* was 'fictitious' but paper stands by story



WINNIE Mandela has denied criticising her ex-husband and describing Archbishop Desmond Tutu as a 'cretin' in an interview.

Nelson Mandela's ex-wife has denied criticising the former South African president in a newspaper interview over his decision to accept the Nobel peace prize.

The *Evening Standard* ran an interview with Winnie Madikizela-Mandela last Monday in which she accused Mandela of having "let us down".

She went on to condemn

his decision to accept the 1993 Nobel peace prize alongside FW de Klerk, the president of South Africa in 1990 who took the decision to release Mandela.

The remarks were noted in South Africa, where the country's governing party, the African National Congress, announced last Wednesday that its leaders would talk to Madikizela-Mandela when she returned to the country.

The story took a new turn

on Friday when the 73-year-old rejected the inflammatory comments attributed to her.

"I did not give ... an interview. It is therefore not necessary for me to respond in any detail to the contents of a fabricated interview," she said in a statement distributed by the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

"I will in the coming days deal with what I see as an inexplicable attempt to undermine the unity of my family, the legacy of Nelson

Mandela and the high regard with which the name Mandela is held here and across the globe."

Madikizela-Mandela was travelling abroad when the interview, conducted by Nadira Naipaul - wife of the Nobel literature laureate VS Naipaul - was published last week.

The *Evening Standard* released a statement Friday afternoon saying it "cannot understand" Madikizela-Mandela's version of events.

"Nadira Naipaul is a distinguished journalist who visited Winnie Mandela at home and spoke to her at length about her experiences," the statement read.

"Nadira and her husband, the writer Sir VS Naipaul, are photographed with Winnie Mandela and this picture was printed with the article.

"We cannot understand Winnie Mandela's denial of an event and conversation which clearly took place."

In the article, Madikizela-Mandela was quoted as calling Archbishop Desmond Tutu a "cretin" as well as criticising her ex-husband.

"Mandela let us down. He agreed to a bad deal for the blacks," the *Standard* quoted her as saying.

"Economically we are still on the outside. The economy is very much 'white'. It has a few token

blacks, but so many who gave their life in the struggle have died unrewarded."

The quotes continued: "I cannot forgive him for going to receive the Nobel [peace prize in 1993] with his jailer De Klerk. Hand in hand they went. Do you think De Klerk released him from the goodness of his heart? He had to. The times dictated it, the world had changed, and our struggle

"We cannot understand Winnie Mandela's denial of an event and conversation which clearly took place."

was not a flash in the pan, it was bloody to say the least and we had given rivers of blood. I had kept it alive with every means at my disposal."

Madikizela-Mandela said she had spoken to Archbishop Tutu about the *Evening Standard* story and would be speaking to Mandela and his wife, Graca Michel.

"Finally I repeat that I did not give Ms Naipul any interview," she said.

"Any further questions about the content of that fictitious interview should be addressed to her."

## BBC is caught up in a row over Nelson Mandela and Jeremy Clarkson 'the astronaut'

The BBC has been dragged into an embarrassing row involving Nelson Mandela after Jeremy

Clarkson revealed that the former South African president had mistaken him for an astronaut.

Senior aides of the 91-year-old were so upset by the Top

Gear presenter's decision to publicise the misunderstanding that they threatened to reject £70,000 which Mr Clarkson raised for the Nelson Mandela Foundation at a charity auction.

The mix-up occurred when the two men were introduced at a reception in Johannesburg.

Mr Mandela had been due to meet a group of American astronauts on the same day and became confused about who Mr Clarkson was.

When he asked him what the Moon was like, the star of the hugely successful BBC2 car show could not bring himself to correct the legendary leader, so he replied: 'It's rocky and dusty and there's not much gravity.'

A source who was at the reception said: 'Mr Mandela's people were extremely annoyed.'

At the weekend, Mr Clarkson declined to apologise but issued a statement via the BBC, saying: 'I was incredibly nervous and acted like a fool.'

He and his co-presenters Richard Hammond and James May were in South Africa for a series of Top Gear Live shows and to raise money for good causes. A number of arena shows are presented each year in countries where the programme has a big following.



CLARKSON says he was nervous and 'acted like a fool' after upsetting the former South African president



The confusion over Mr Clarkson's identity might have remained a private matter had the 'motormouth' TV host not later recounted the story in a newspa-

per column.

Mr Mandela's aides were so annoyed at what they claimed was

Cont'd on page 45

## News Extra



DAVID Cameron with Nicolas Sarkozy on Friday

# Sarkozy 'angry over dwarf jibe'

**D**avid Cameron is caught up in an extraordinary 'dwarfgate' row with French President Nicolas Sarkozy.

The dispute centres on a claim that Mr Cameron made a remark about 'hidden dwarfs' while discussing a photograph showing himself with Mr Sarkozy - who is

seven inches shorter than the Tory leader.

The French government was reportedly furious about the comment.

And Shadow Chancellor George Osborne allegedly fuelled the Franco-Tory war by describing a box placed beneath a speaker's lectern as a 'Sarkozy box', before bursting into a fit of giggles.

The jibes, made over a period of three days, led to French officials remonstrating with British counterparts, according to BBC2's Newsnight.

The Tories on Saturday night dismissed the dwarfgate report as 'nonsense' and claimed it was a 'Labour Party plant'. A senior Conservative source claimed that Gordon Brown was angry that Mr Sarkozy had agreed to meet Mr Cameron - and had even tried to stop the meeting taking place.

The dispute, which took place last September, emerged after Mr Sarkozy visited London on Friday and showered praise on Mr Brown as a 'great European and very good friend of mine'.

**M**r Sarkozy has criticised Mr Cameron's Euro-sceptic stance in recent months. But Conservative officials insisted they got on so well when they met at the French Ambassador's residence in London on Friday that Mr Sarkozy even offered the Tory leader tips on how to beat Mr Brown in the televised election debates.

The dwarfgate row erupted when Mr Cameron gave a newspaper interview in his Commons

office, in which he appeared to mock Mr Sarkozy.

An article described framed photographs on Mr Cameron's desk, two featuring him with Barack Obama and several with Baroness Thatcher. It continued: '...and one with Nicolas Sarkozy that prompts a joke about "hidden dwarfs".'

It went on to state that Mr Cameron boasted how he liked a photograph of himself with Arnold Schwarzenegger, the Governor of California, 'because I'm taller than the Terminator'.

It is not clear what was meant by 'hidden dwarfs', though the implication is that the phrase was uttered by Mr Cameron and aimed at Mr Sarkozy. The French were not amused.

Mr Sarkozy, who is 5ft 5in, is famously sensitive about his height - or lack of it. Photographs of him with Mr Cameron on Friday show how, at 6ft tall, the Conservative leader towers over the Frenchman.

Mr Sarkozy wears Cuban heels to give him extra inches, while his statuesque wife Carla Bruni wears flat shoes to bring her closer to her husband's level.

**T**hree days after the 'hidden dwarfs' interview, Mr Osborne added insult to injury by publicly taunting Mr Sarkozy at a business conference in Church House, Westminster, organised by the Right-wing magazine *The Spectator*.

As Mr Osborne, 5ft 11in, approached the lectern to make his speech, he stumbled on a box placed there for a previous speaker. Mr Osborne called it a 'Sarkozy box' and burst into giggles.

According to the BBC, French officials lodged a protest with their UK counterparts on the grounds that Mr Cameron and Mr Osborne had 'failed to show sufficient respect' for the French head of state.

The protest was echoed in an article by leading French political commentator Marc Roche in the Left-wing *Le Monde* newspaper, which called Mr Osborne an 'intellectual lightweight' and accused him of a 'lack of courtesy'.

A diplomatic source in Paris said at the weekend that Mr Cameron and Mr Osborne's comments had caused 'a fair amount of consternation, to say the least', adding: 'Yes, it was discussed with the French and, yes, they weren't happy about it.'

It is not the first time Mr Sarkozy and Mr Cameron have clashed. Diplomatic sources say Mr Sarkozy 'gave a stern lecture' to Mr Cameron at a meeting in Paris shortly after he became Conservative leader in 2005.

Nick Allan, press secretary at the British Embassy in Paris at the time, said: 'Cameron was on the receiving end of a tsunami of criticism. It was a 30-minute meeting, 28 of which was a monologue from Sarkozy that made No 10's "forces of hell" look like a teddy bears' picnic.'

A spokesman for Mr Sarkozy said: 'We have no comment to make.'

## BBC is caught up in a row

Cont'd from page 44

a breach of confidentiality that they said they would refuse the money.

His personal assistant, Zeldale Grange, told Paul Edmonds, director of Brand Events, the promotions company that organises the *Top Gear Live* tours on behalf of the BBC: 'We do not want your money.'

Mr Edmonds is understood to have told colleagues after the heated meeting with Ms le Grange that 'it was one of those times when you shut up and take your medicine'.

Mr Clarkson wrote in his newspaper column after meeting the former president: 'I should explain at this point that these days Mr Mandela spends a lot of his time meeting people who are passing through Johannesburg... And when you are sitting in an office all day, meeting an endless stream of people you don't know, it's easy to get them a bit muddled up.'

**A**t the weekend, the foundation tried to play down the row and indicated that it would, after all, accept the money. Spokesman Sello Hatang said: 'We have not rejected the donation. We are in discussions at the moment about the process of receiving it. There is no bad blood between us and Mr Clarkson.'

Asked if the foundation would work with the same promotions company again, Mr Hatang said: 'I am not sure what will happen in the future. We will cross that river when we get there.'

This is not the first time that Mr Clarkson has caused offence. He had to apologise last year after calling Gordon Brown 'a one-eyed Scottish idiot', while in 2005 he gave the Nazi salute on *Top Gear* while discussing a German-made Mini.

**H**e has also accused TV bosses of being obsessed with having 'black Muslim lesbians' on shows to balance out white heterosexual men.

A BBC Worldwide spokesman said: 'During downtime for the *Top Gear Live* tour in South Africa recently, Jeremy had a private meeting with Nelson Mandela. The newspaper columns that followed the meeting are not a matter for BBC Worldwide.'



INSULT to injury: George Osborne making his 'Sarkozy box' jibe

## News Extra

# How Michelle, Samantha and Sarah all talk about dirty socks, tough times

It is being dubbed the 'my imperfect hero' strategy. In her first TV interview, Samantha Cameron's description of life at home with the Tory leader bears striking similarities to depictions by those other political 'Wags', Michelle Obama and Sarah Brown.

The wifely formula appears to be: 'My husband has his flaws, like any man, and we have been through some tough times as a couple, but I love him and you should vote for him.'

The Tory leader's mother also spoke about him on yesterday's programme with Sir Trevor McDonald, recalling his childhood.

'He always had something to say, even when he was five or six. We went on holiday with another family and they said "For heaven's sake, can't you shut David up?"

In the same show with Sir Trevor McDonald, David Cameron tells how Samantha stops

**'My husband has his flaws, like any man, and we have been through some tough times as a couple, but I love him and you should vote for him'**

him making 'idiotic' decisions - and becoming big-headed.

He says: 'Where she is brilliant is she has this 40,000ft view. So I'll come home and say, "I'm wrestling with this problem, whether we should do A or B and if we do A it means this and if we do B" - and she goes, "It's obvious, if you do that you look an idiot, you must do this."

She also keeps him grounded. He says: 'The first time I met



**HOUSES in common:** From left, Michelle Obama, Samantha Cameron and Sarah Brown suffer the same problems with their husbands

Michelle Obama	Samantha Cameron	Sarah Brown
<b>On messy habits ...</b>		
<i>'He still has trouble ... putting his socks actually in the dirty clothes. Today, he still didn't put the butter up after he made his breakfast.'</i>	<i>'He, you know, he makes a terrible mess. He is not very good at clearing up as he goes along. He is not very good at picking up his clothes.'</i>	<i>'I know he's not a saint. He's messy. He's noisy.'</i>
<b>On tough times ...</b>		
<i>'Marriage is hard. Going into it, no one ever tells you that. The bumps happen to everybody all the time, and they are continuous.'</i>	<i>'We've been through some, you know, fairly tough times.'</i>	<i>'We've seen each other through some tough times. We have been through the best of times and the worst of times as a family.'</i>
<b>On loving him regardless ...</b>		
<i>'I love my husband. You don't want anybody talking poorly about the people that you love. And quite frankly, I think he's handled this stuff. I'm so proud of how he has maintained his dignity, his cool, his honour.'</i>	<i>'Ever since the day I met Dave, he has obviously taken his job very seriously and he loves politics, and I think so much of the Dave that I first met and fell in love with is Dave the politician.'</i>	<i>'He will always make the time for people, for our family, for his friends, for anyone who needs him. That's part of the reason why I love him as much as I do. That is what makes him the man for Britain, too.'</i>

Barack Obama, he came through the UK in the middle of his election tour and we were meant to have gone on our summer holi-

day to Devon and I said, "I can't darling, I've got to meet Obama." Samantha had to pack up the car and take the children while

I met Obama and then jumped on a train to Devon. I said, "It's amazing, I've met Barack Obama, great man." She said, "I'm not

really interested, that one needs his nappy changed, that one needs to get dressed, now will you get on with it?"

Mr Cameron also recalls getting lost the first time he went to meet Samantha when she was living in a rundown part of Bristol, where she was a student.

'I wound down the car window to ask someone the way and suddenly realised that the person with their head in the window of the door was not walking the streets but working the street.

'It flashed through my mind, "My political career is over before it's begun. Kerb-crawling in Bristol." I made my excuses and left, as they say.'

He jokes that Samantha got him his first break as a Tory candidate in Stafford when she fell over at a selection meeting after they had been for a drink.

'We were last on and had a pint for Dutch courage,' he says. 'As we were going up the steps to make the speech, Samantha fell on to the stage. I think the only reason they selected me was they remembered the one whose wife fell on to the stage.'

He failed to win Stafford in 1997 but was elected MP for Witney in Oxfordshire in 2001.

He talks of how they overcame the death of their disabled son Ivan, six, in February last year.

'After Ivan died, I did stop and think, "Is this what I want to do, is this life?" I took some time off, maybe I should have taken a bit more off.

'It was an enormous shock, I came through clearer, thinking, "This is what I want to do, this is what I am about, these are the things I care about."

He knows some will not vote for him because of his Etonian background. 'I accept that in the eyes of many people that is very posh, a very privileged upbringing. If the next Election is about "Let's not have a posh Prime Minister", I'm not going to win it,' he says.

He denies that a Tory billboard poster of him was doctored. 'It wasn't airbrushed, I am afraid I have a baby face. That is what I look like,' he says.

He says the expenses scandal has damaged all MPs and adds: 'A joke went round the other day that scientists were thinking of replacing rats in their experiments with politicians.

'Someone asked them why and they said, "There are plenty of politicians, no one minds what happens to them and there are some things rats just won't do'.

# IT WORLD

Hotline:08027649677

## CBN blames e-payment for low clearing activities in Kano

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

THERE was significant decrease last year in the level of clearing activities in the Kano clearing area where 352,352 clearing instruments worth more than N1 trillion were cleared compared to 2008 where 447,125 clearing instruments worth N1.1 trillion were cleared, according to Central Bank of Nigeria.

This, CBN said, showed a decrease of 14.5 percent amounting to N173 billion in value terms and a decrease of 21 percent amounting to 94,773 instruments in volume.

Speaking at the end of year 2009 Kano Bankers Dinner and

Awards Night in Kano at the weekend, CBN's acting branch controller Mr. Musa Ladan Muhammad attributed the decrease to the e-payment policy, which he said had taken the bulk of payment transactions in respect of employee salaries, contractors' payments and other payments for the federal ministries, departments and agencies.

He said the policy had now been extended to the private sector through the new CBN policy of maximum cheque limit of N10 million in line with the CBN's resolve to enhance the efficiency of the payment system.

The policy stipulates that any payment in value exceeding N10

million should be made through the e-payment mode, effective from January 1, he said. He said this along with other policies served as a risk reduction measure in the clearing operations as well as reduce the costs associated with cash handling.

The area controller also said the Nigeria Automated Clearing System (NACS) that took-off on June 1, last year in Kano clearing area was being operated by the Nigeria Settlement System (NIBSS) and superintended by CBN.

On currency management and processing operations, the controller said during the year under review total withdrawal by the

deposit money banks amounted to 38,760 boxes worth N93.1 billion while total deposit amounted to 20,071 boxes worth N164.3 billion.

He said CBN postponed the terminal date for the withdrawal of the N50, N10 and N5 paper notes indefinitely following the introduction of polymer notes in 2007, saying the paper notes would continue to circulate side by side with the N5, N10 and N50 polymer notes.

According to Ladan, Kano area office witnessed a significant improvement during the year under review with a total of 804 million dollars sold to Kano Bureau De Change operators.

He said CBN had licensed 'Class A' Bureau De Change operators, 17 of which operate in the Kano clearing area in addition to 211 'Class B' Bureau De Change operators within the clearing area.

Banking policy were among others part of the CBN development finance activities.

He said the agricultural credit guarantee scheme was a CBN programme that guaranteed 75 percent of the total agricultural loans disbursed to the farmers by the deposit money banks and the micro finance banks. This, he said, was to encourage the banks to give loans to this sector as well as give the farmers easier access to loans.

## MTN launches ePresence in Nigeria

From Chris Agabi, Lagos &amp; Yunus Abdulhamid

MTN Nigeria has launched an ePresence solution in Nigeria, the first in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Speaking at the launch in Lagos, Chief Executive of MTN Nigeria Ahmad Farouk said "MTN ePresence is a new business solution that offers in-person video conferencing experience with life-sized images in full high definition video and crisp-quality audio." The MTN ePresence is a voice activated system developed in collaboration with Resourcery Nigeria Plc using CISCO in technology.

The launch was done simultaneously in Abuja, Lagos and Port Harcourt where the services are presently available in Nigeria.

The MTN boss said it provides opportunities to hold meetings with counterparts in various locations and make or share presentations and documents "as if you were all in the same room," citing high video and audio quality as the marked differences of the new technology from the conventional video conferencing.

He noted that the experience, video quality, voice quality, microphone switching is entirely different from the conventional video conferencing.

Present at launch were top bank and business executives including Chairman of Chevron Nigeria, Senator Gbenga Aluko who was at the Abuja Sheraton of the launch.

The use of the facility is expected to save business over head costs in air tickets, hotel bills and all other risks associated with travelling. It is also to save the several wasted man hours associated travelling.

The service is currently available in Sheraton Hotel Abuja, Le Meridien PortHarcourt and Southern Sun Hotel, Lagos.

18 people can hold meeting at the same time with six people per location. Thus, important project meetings, executive interviews and negotiations can be conducted with privacy guaranteed.



From left: Gilbert Avocetien Head IT UNICEF, Mohammed Aliyu Regional Account Manager MTN, Gbenga Olalandu Senior Manager Sales North MTN during the launch of MTN ePresence in Abuja

## 'Undersea cables will boost IT business in Nigeria'

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE expected delivery of telecommunications services by two new undersea cables that are currently being laid across the sea coast of West Africa has been described as a development that will boost the businesses of transmission services companies in the region.

According to the Chief Executive Officer of Phase3 Telecom, Mr. Stanley Jegede, transmission services firms, especially those owning optic fibre cables, would greatly complement the services

of these undersea cables companies as they will help deliver all-important bandwidth for various services such as data, voice and video. The two cables, which both have Nigerian ownership and have reached various levels of completion, are MainOne and Glo-First. The former belongs to MainStreet Technologies, while the latter is owned by Globacom Limited.

According to Jegede, in a release on the plans by the firm for 2010, the entry of these cables would impact positively on the development of telecommunications and other related services in Nigeria and in other

countries where they will land as well as in those places where the bandwidth they are bringing would be distributed.

He said this was because they will bring more affordable bandwidth and provide needed redundancy and backup that would always ensure that high quality services were always available to users. Given that the laying of the cables is already nearing the final stages, Jegede noted that his firm was looking forward to the launch of services by the owners of the undersea cables, especially considering the impact they could have on the social, economic and education sectors in the region.

## IT World



PIC: CHRIS AGABI

FROM Left: Mallam Musa Rabiu, Registrar, Chartered Institute of Personnel Management of Nigeria (CIPMN), signing the MOU on e-recruitment portal solution with Mr. Roberts Ikazoboh, Executive officer Dragnet Solutions Ltd in Lagos recently. With them is Tunji Fadipe, CIPMN project manager.

## HP fights against fake printing supplies

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

TECHNOLOGY firm Hewlett Packard (HP) has announced it will step up the battle against counterfeits in Nigeria and the West Africa region this year, in response to increasing incidents of fake printing supplies.

While counterfeit printing supplies for HP's LaserJet, Color LaserJet and Inkjet printers is a global issue, Africa is an area where organized counterfeit activity is especially rampant.

"Counterfeiters and fraudulent traders frequently deceive customers into thinking they are buying genuine goods, with print cartridges either packed in copies of original HP boxes or in reused original HP boxes. Buyers of counterfeit print cartridges run several risks, ranging from substandard print quality to printer downtime due to damage by inferior counterfeit supplies," said Tina Rose, HP Anti-Counterfeit (ACF) Programme Manager for Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA).

HP routinely cooperates with law-enforcement authorities across the region to identify and

destroy fake printing supplies. For instance, during HP's 2009 fiscal year (1 November 2008 through 31 October 2009), HP oversaw more than 320,000 seized finished counterfeits and components intended for illegal re-use, 55 substantial leads, 27 investigations, 20 enforcement actions and 77 Channel Partner Anti-Counterfeit Audits (3 partners failed as counterfeits were found).

This included 14 substantial leads received in Nigeria where HP conducted 8 investigations and 15 Channel Partner Anti-Counterfeit Audits in this period. The latest large seizure in Nigeria was in April 2008 and consisted of more than 4,200 finished counterfeits and components intended for illegal re-use.

HP's cooperation with local authorities in EMEA) led to the seizure of nearly 2 million counterfeits and components intended for illegal reuse, more than twice the number of items confiscated during the previous year.

HP's overall track record for EMEA during fiscal years 2007-2009 includes 5.9 million seized counterfeits and components,

more than 1,500 substantial leads, close to 850 investigations and around 550 enforcement actions.

Globally, from 2005-2008 HP conducted 4,620 investigations in 55 countries resulting in 3,528 enforcement actions (raids and seizures by authorities) seizing a total value of more than \$795 million worth of counterfeit HP supplies products.

During HP's 2009 fiscal year, local authorities in Africa seized 320,000 fake print cartridges and components. Major raids took place in Egypt, Ghana, Kenya and Tanzania.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) estimates the annual value of international trade in counterfeit goods at \$200 billion. The World Customs Organization (WCO) and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) believe that counterfeiting drains an estimated €500 billion per year from the global economy, equivalent to the loss of about 5-8% of trade in brand-name goods worldwide, including the illegal trade in fake printing supplies.

## MTN introduces switch to boost quality service

From Chris Agabi, Lagos

MTN Nigeria has launched a new media gateway (switch) with a capacity to process between 4 million to 8 million calls at the same time with same network quality.

Mr. Karl Toriola, Chief Technical Officer of MTN said at the launch that with it is a "giant leap to improve quality of service and significantly improve customer experience on the network."

He said with the facility, MTN has effectively reduced if not eliminated the incidences of drop calls and net-

work failure were its network is available.

The switch, developed by communications solutions provider, Ericsson, is said to be a result of years of research aimed at shrinking the size of traditional switches while achieving quantum improvement in their capacity to process huge traffic.

The new media gateway, the MGw GMPv4 switch, the first of its kind delivered by Ericsson is expandable to 80,000 erlang and it is adaptable to different traffic models, Mr Toriola said.

## Etisalat reaches out to USA, Canada

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

ETISALAT Group says it has struck an agreement with Internet Protocol (IP) solutions provider Global Crossing to provide seamless connectivity alternatives to customers who want to expand their connectivity to the US, Canada and Latin America from the UAE.

As part of this alliance, according to a statement, Etisalat has set up its own node in New York with last mile connectivity provided by Global Crossing to offer global connectivity solutions through a secure and fully owned IP/MPLS (Multiprotocol Label Switching) network as part of Etisalat's long-term strategy of enhancing global connectivity options for its corporate customers, the company said in a statement.

According to Abdulla Hashim, Etisalat Senior Vice President, Business Solutions, "This partnership with Global Crossing is significant in terms of expanding the connectivity alternatives for our customers across the US, Canada and Latin America."

This will enable us to leverage their local presence and the capabilities of their integrated IP-based network to support our customers, he said.

Global Crossing's head of Carrier Sales for South Europe, Middle East and Africa Habib Issa noted that as Etisalat's business clients take advantage of globalisation and IP convergence market trends, they can benefit from Etisalat's support model, strong regional presence and the global seamless network enabled by Global Crossing's IP infrastructure.

Etisalat aims to extend its customers connectivity in countries where it doesn't have coverage by being part of the Global Crossing MPLS network. This will enable UAE based customers to extend their connectivity through Etisalat across the US, Canada and Latin American markets. The move will also translate into pricing advantages which will be passed on to customers since Etisalat will manage its own network from end-to-end in a seamless manner, the company said in its statement.

## NCS commends firm for winning award

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE Nigeria Computer Society (NCS) has commended SystemSpecs for for what it described as its leadership and giant stride in Nigeria Information Technology landscape, a statement from the company has said.

According to Moses Braimah, Head, Brand & Marketing of SystemSpecs, Dr. David Adewumi, 1st Vice President NCS, who led a four-man delegation to pay a courtesy visit for winning the Software Company of the Year Award, said NCS is proud of SystemSpecs.

"SystemSpecs is a pride to us in the information technology industry, their performance and consistency over the years has

shown that Nigeria IT firms have come to stay, Dr. Adewumi was quoted to have said.

In his remarks, Mr. Obaro said, "we remain humbled by this recognition from our professional colleagues and accept the responsibility it has conferred on us. We will continue to pursue excellence in order to make our country a worthy name among the major IT nations of the world."

The NCS delegates who later toured the SystemSpecs' office premises were received by John Obaro, Managing Director SystemSpecs; Mrs. Eunice Ikekhuah, Executive Director SystemSpecs; Dr. Hakeem Bakare, Group Head, Corporate Strategy SystemSpecs and Moses Braimah, Head Brand & Marketing SystemSpecs.

## Main One appoints management staff

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE Main One Cable Company has announced top management appointments including that of Mr. Babatunde Dada as its Chief Finance Officer (CFO) in preparation for offering commercial services starting from the middle of this year.

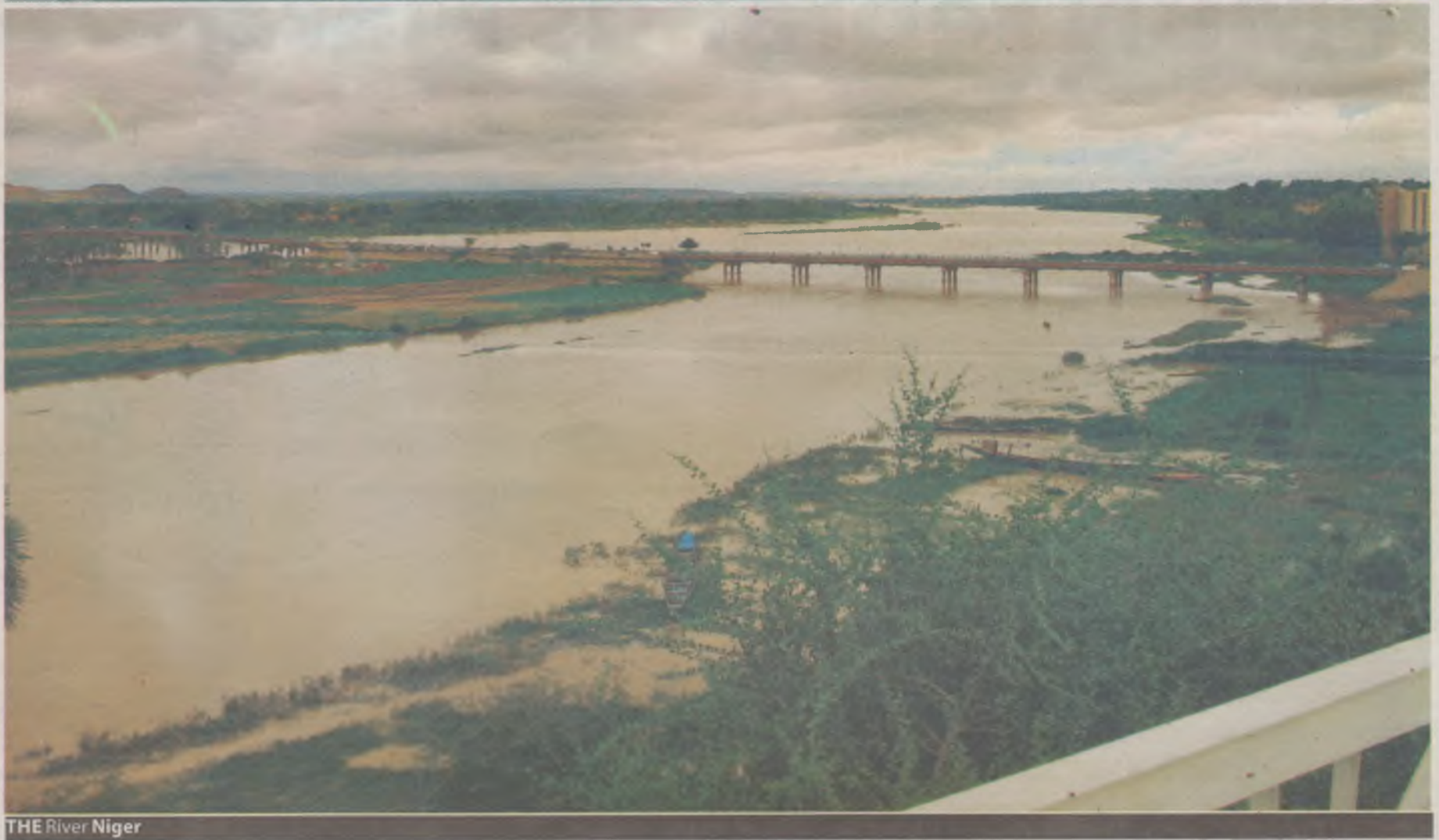
The new Legal Counsel to the Company is Mr. Kazeem Oladepo, who until this appointment was the Director of Corporate Strategy and Development at Starcomms Plc. In the technical arena, Main One announced the appointment of Mr. Johnnie Coleman and Mr. Ifio Moses as Head, Network Planning and Implementation and Head, Network Operations respectively.

Mr. Dada, a fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria, was until his appointment the Group Chief Finance Officer of Hygeia Group. A 1995 Master's Degree holder in Banking and Finance, Mr. Dada has multifaceted finance experience spanning close to three decades, a statement issued by the company said.

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THE River Niger

## Bio tasks contractor over Onitsha River Port

Beatrice Onuchukwu, Onitsha

MINISTER of Transport Ibrahim Bio at the weekend in Onitsha, Anambra State, instructed Inter-Bau Construction Company Limited, the contractor handling the N4.5 billion Onitsha Inland River Port project, to ensure high quality finishing and prompt delivery of the contract.

Bio said that the federal government attaches much importance to the rehabilitation of the port project and there is a great need for the Inter Bau contractor to complete it within nine to ten -months which is the stipulated time contract period to enable clearing and forwarding activities commence.

He added that vessels and barges are also expected to start loading and off-loading of goods and services within the stipulated time frame.

The Minister, during an inspection tour of the project site in Onitsha, Anambra State, said that government decided to award the project for reconstruction to create avenue for clearing and forwarding services, particularly now that the River Niger dredging project is on course in

order to create an all-year-round navigable activities from Warri in Delta State to Baro in Niger State.

He said, "A year ago I visited Onitsha port it was an eyesore "but recall that the project was first conceived and awarded in 1983 during the regime of former President Shehu Shagari but was abandoned midway, while the valuable materials put in place were vandalized, dilapidated and collapsed.

Bio said that the Federal government decided to award to contract to Inter-Bau because the chairman of the company, Chief Nath Okechukwu, is an indigene of Anambra State with a very reputable construction company and as such cannot afford to fail to deliver, because "if he fails, he has not only failed his Anambra kinsmen but the entire Southeast region."

He also promised that the federal government would fulfil its own part of obligation as stipulated in the contract agreement.

Bio disclosed that government has decided to award the two phases of the project which included erection of structures and installation of equipment to Inter-Bau, so

that only one firm would be held responsible for either the successful or failure of the project at the end of the completion.

He further said that government has adopted a one-stop-shop method of clearing of goods in ports aimed at ensuring port decongestions.

Bio stressed that the on-going Onitsha river ports project was designed in such a way that all the stakeholders involved in the clearing business would be positioned in a single large hall to quicken the clearing services.

In his response, the chairman of Inter-Bau, Okechukwu who conducted the minister and his entourage round the project site, assured him of completing the project on or before the stipulated frame time of nine-months, adding that he had already covered about 55 percent of the job since the commencement project this year.

Okechukwu noted that the company is fully equipped technically and with adequate manpower to tackle load work ahead, just as the company has successfully executed many other projects in various parts of the country, including Anambra and Delta States.

## Kokona LG decries lack of infrastructure

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE people of Kokona local government area of Nasarawa State have decried the alleged lack of infrastructural development in the area as they have called on the State House of Assembly to intervene and call their chairman, Basiru Abubakar Sharubutu to order over his claims for performance.

They said at a time when the people have been abandoned to use any means at their disposal including communal labour to provide basic infrastructure including water, access roads and drainages, the chairman have embarked on what they called "a deceptive campaign to claim performance in infrastructural development". They named the provision of sign posts, many of which have adorned the Keffi-Akwanga highway at Garaku, the council headquarters as the chairman's idea of development.

## FHA to explore co-operative housing

By Nasir Imam

THE Federal Housing Authority (FHA), has come up with cooperative housing as a new do-it-yourself delivery model to meet the accommodation need of low income earners.

Under the new initiative, the authority will provide the necessary expertise to assist members of the cooperative to build their houses at their own pace. Through this, the FHA plans to deliver about 106,000 housing units across the country in the next three years.

The initiative, developed by the management of the authority since it came on board under the 2009-2013 Action Plan, is envisaged to deliver more houses to the citizenry. To achieve this, the authority has registered housing cooperative across the country.

Managing Director of FHA, Mr Terver Gemade, an architect, who disclosed this recently said the authority recognised that a great percentage of its compatriots were low income earners who could not muster the required funds to pick up houses

on the shelf.

He stated that, in a bid to offer a window for house ownership to such people, FHA has come up with the new initiative as a delivery model.

His words: "The authority will provide the necessary expertise to assist members of the cooperatives to build their houses at their own pace. Under the 2009-2013 Action Plan being implemented by the management, it is envisaged that a total of 100,000 housing units will be delivered through our cooperative housing scheme over the next three years."

## Property



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# FMBN rebrands March 25

By Idris Ahmed

THE Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria (FMBN) will get a new logo and identity on March 25, Daily Trust learnt.

The rebranded FMBN will be presented to the public by the Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development Alhaji Hassan Lawal in Abuja, a statement from Kabir Dangogo Chief Executive Officer of Timex Communications (Nig) Ltd, said.

The new brand was designed to drive the FMBN as Africa's number one mortgage banking institution.

The Bank's new corporate identity which comes in green, blue and grey as the dominant colours are premised on the pursuit of its mandate of assisting every Nigerian to own a house of their choice.

According to the statement, the green colour represents Nigeria, the three shades of blue hovering on the new logo signify "one house for me, one for you and one for the other person (a house for everyone)."

The grey colour represents political neutrality, professionalism and flexibility.

The Bank's Managing Director/ Chief Executive Malam Abdulsalam Ahmed said the move was in response to the necessity of projecting "our new brand through a strategic deployment of well thought out approaches."

He said the management of FMBN designed the new corporate identity tools with a view to "facilitating the attainment of our business objectives. We strongly believe that these unique tools will help the FMBN to establish market credibility and enhance our reputation to sell more products and services."



THE Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs building nearing completion

## FG plans East-West railway projects

THE Federal Government has finalised plans for the design and construction of East-West railway so as fulfil part of the promise made to the people of the Niger Delta region in the wake of the amnesty programme.

The Federal Government, last week started a process for the design and construction of the multi-billion naira East-West railway and the inland waterways transportation system in the region.

Chief Ufot Ekaete, chairman of the Infrastructural Sub-Committee of the Amnesty programme and minister of Niger Delta Affairs said at a meeting with members of the sub-committee in Abuja last week, that the multi-billion naira projects were part of the post amnesty infrastructural projects approved by President Umaru Yar'Adua.

The meeting was attended by his counterpart in the Finance Ministry, Dr. Mansur Muhtar and two other new members appointed by the government from the oil producing communities of Rivers and Ondo states.

Ekaete said the sub-committee was to review the progress made so far since the inaugural meeting held in January 2010 where it unveiled development guidelines for deepening critical infrastructural growth for the region. Besides, he said the government has also approved N18 billion for the construction of six inter-state roads across the region.

## Encroachment: Railway c'ttee indicts states

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

STATES government have encroached into many properties of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) while thinking that the corporation would not bounce back, chairman of the committee set up by the minister of transportation to assess the level of the encroachment, Alhaji Abubakar Abdullahi Othman has said.

As result of the alarming rate of the encroachment into NRC properties in across the country, the minister of transportation, Alhaji Ibrahim Bio inaugurated the committee last year. The

committee has three months for its assignment.

Speaking to Daily Trust in Kaduna when he led members of his committee to tour the properties of the corporation in the state, he said the level of encroachment in River state was worrisome as the state government facilitated it.

"All states in the country have encroached into the NRC properties but the situation is more worst and worrisome in River state as almost the corporation properties in that state especially landed have been encroached. The wrong impression was that the corporation is dead and now that it is bouncing back, the properties

needs to be re-claimed," he said.

The chairman, who said his committee had visited four states, stressed the need for the regrouping of the landed properties of the corporation in across the country for the successful revival of the corporation.

On the controversial Kaduna junction market popularly known as station market, he said the corporation has leased the land to a company known as dulz international development company for the building of an ultra modern market.

"The land was leased in 2007 to the company for the building of ultra modern market in order

to be beneficial to the Nigerian populace and the plan is still own, the company need fund for such a gigantic project," he added.

When the traders at the market were sacked years back, speculation was rife that the corporation has sold the land to mega billionaire, Alhaji Aliko Dangote for the construction of warehouse.

He said based on the documents presented to his committee due-process was followed in the leasing of the corporation properties in across the country by the railway property company. He said his committee would tour all the state of the federation to assess the corporation's properties.

## 'Correct housing policy will improve economy'

By Mustapha Suleiman

MINISTER of State for the Federal Capital Territory Chief Chuka Odom has said that the nation's economy would bounce back if the federal government adopts the right approach to housing policy in the country.

He added that the nation's current framework for housing development lacks a lot of government inputs saying "government has primary responsibility for certain inputs if we have to have sustainable housing approach".

The Minister who also said that the Public Private Partnership arrangement to mass housing is not a substitute to government intervention in provision of sustainable housing for the masses remarked the global financial crisis started when the housing market in the United States of

America collapsed.

"The global financial crisis started in America when the housing market there collapsed. It is not coincidental, it underscores the importance of housing to income disparity, income savings and all the other economic issues that are associated with that collapse" he said

Chief Odom stated this yesterday while receiving in his office members of International Real Estate Agency Federation (FIABCI).

Chief Odom noted that Nigeria has a major housing deficit which could have been considerably narrowed down if the current policy in housing has had the inputs of government.

His words: "I have had cause to say publicly that our current framework for housing development lacks

a lot of government inputs. Government has primary responsibility for certain inputs if we have to have sustainable housing approach. The PPP of the private sector involvement is not a substitute for government intervention".

The FCT Minister of State stated that his sojourn in public offices has exposed him to housing and urban planning issues noting that the nation's major housing deficit gap cannot be filled alone by the government.

Speaking earlier, World President of the agency, Lisa Kurass said that Africa remains important to the world and the agency in particular adding that the agency which is over sixty years old has been reaching out to over sixty nations involving in private properties and housing around the world.

Property



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# FERMA's rough roads in Nasarawa

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

OUT of the about 686 kilometres of federal roads running through Nasarawa State – and that includes Keffi-Abuja Road which is barely seven years old after the administration of former President Olusegun Obasanjo rehabilitated and constructed its dual carriage, only a few kilometres appear to be firm. These few kilometres – about 15 of them, run between the gateway into the metropolis of Lafia, the state capital, to the outskirts of the town along the Akwanga-Lafia highway. Aside these few kilometres, the criss-cross of federal roads in the state are those of disrepair, with most of them already as bad as are now being called death traps. In most cases, these death traps are as bad as the craters which have become the common feature along Nigerian roads are as large and deep enough to bury the people who lost their lives travelling on them.

These roads are many: Lafia-Akwanga, Lafia-Benue border, Lafia-Doma-Abuja border, Lafia-Shendam, Keffi-Akwanga, Akwanga-Kaduna border, Keffi-Kaduna border, Keffi-Abuja, Keffi-Nasarawa-Nasarawa Toto and so on. They are all ridden with various forms of disrepair including potholes and depression on the carriageways, collapsed embankment, failure of the shoulders and culverts as a result of erosion, and silted drainages.

Checking on these roads in the last half of 2009 and the current year of 2010 revealed that the deterioration being witnessed in the state has been steady, and almost outstretching the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA). The agency has, however maintained its tempo with the daily check and repair – with both direct labour and contract jobs.

In the area of contract jobs, three companies have of late being awarded contracts to seal some of the most critical of these roads. Firinvest Limited was awarded a N182 million for Lafia-Shendam road, SDY Engineering Limited got a N211 million for Akwanga-Wamba Fadalkarshi Road and Wewox Limited was given the N182 million Nasarawa Toto-Keffi-Kaduna Road. Chief Maintenance Engineer of FERMA for Nasarawa State, Engr. Musa Useni said the three contractors got the job after a competitive bidding, as he expressed optimism that they will complete the respective jobs according to specification. He disclosed the job description as “patching of potholes, crack sealing and overlay.” The three federal roads have witnessed serious disrepair, with the carriageway suffering various forms of failure including craters and depression, just as the shoulders and drainages have disappeared with time. Firinvest began well, but stopped only a few kilometers outside of Lafia. FERMA's board chairman, Engr. Abdulkadir Kure who visited Lafia for a weeklong retreat, last December gave a score card of the agency's jobs especially within Nasarawa State, saying FERMA has been excellent in terms of delivery of quality jobs and quick response to failing roads. The former Niger State governor however expressed dissatisfaction with the pace of work on the N182 million Lafia-Shendam Road, urging the Chief Maintenance Engineer to match Firinvest back to site. This became a matter of argument between FERMA and Firinvest, but by middle of February, it became clear that the contractor was not going to be able to execute the job, after all. The job is now abandoned.

SDY and Wewox are however on their jobs, pushing work to some appreciable distance. Wewox particularly cleared the Toto-Keffi-Kaduna from the Kaduna border down to Keffi and is on the way to Nasarawa, according to last checks during last week.

The Chief maintenance Engineer particularly expressed satisfaction with the speed by Wewox, saying “the job so far is very impressive.” He said “we hope the job will be executed according to contract period.” He urged the contractors to maintain the pace of work, saying “funds are available and they just have to work hard to get the roads back in top form”.

Motorists spoken to say they are impressed with FERMA's response to disrepair on the several federal roads running through Nasarawa State. “I hope the agency will not break at this point that we are expecting so much from it to fix these roads and end the many accidents occurring as a result of the disrepair”, said one Solomon Agashi, a commercial driver in Akwanga.

FERMA's direct labour jobs in the state also span kilometers, covering reinstatement of embankment washouts and collapsed culverts, repair of silted drainages, patching of potholes and repair of failed sections of the carriageways, drainage improvement through construction of concrete line drains and reinstatement of shoulders. Nine of such jobs have been carried out recently. They include the reinstatement of embankment washout and collapsed culvert at Km 36 along Keffi-Akwanga Road, Lafia-Makurdi Road at Km 16 and Keffi-Akwanga Road at Km38, repair of blocked drainages on Lafia-Akwanga Road at Bukan Sidi in the metropolis of the state capital.

PIC: HIR JOSEPH



FERMA staff at a drainage site in Lafia.



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	12:15 - 17:00	BCIE, Valley View Plaza, 99 Opebi Road, IKEJA. Tel: 07034446009 or 01 899 0651
18-03-10	11:30 - 16:00	BCIE, Chalet 'E' Tahir Guest Palace (Annex), Lamido Road, Off Suleiman Crescent, (Behind Niima Hotel), Nasarawa G.R.A, KANO. Tel: 081 3540 3294, Mob: 081 3074 3252
19-03-10	15:00 - 17:00	Preparation for Life, Plot 15E Muri Okunola Crescent, Off Ajose Adeogun, VICTORIA ISLAND, Tel: 01 461 6112 01-270 6906
20-03-10	10:00 - 16:00	Global Network, Cambridge College, 64 Adekunle,Fajuyi Way, GRA, IKEJA. 08033749866

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## Confusion trails INEC's rejection of PDP aspirant

By Muideen Olaniyi

CONFUSION has continued to trail the rejection by the FCT Independent National Electoral Commission of the Peoples Democratic Party's (PDP) candidate in the Bwari Area Council's chairmanship election coming up next month.

The confusion emanated from three conflicting letters issued by the PDP's national leadership regarding the authenticity of the party's candidate between Peter Yohanna and Musa Dikko.

Yohanna, who has the party's ticket, is being accused of not resigning his appointment from the National Assembly Service Commission before contesting the party's primaries, an issue that made the party to write a substitution letter to the electoral body, which brought Dikko back into the race.

The letter written by the party's National Legal Adviser, Chief Olu-sola Oke on February 8 was later opposed by the PDP's National Organizing Secretary Prince Uche Secondus and Chairman, Chief Vincent Ogbulafor, who wrote two letters respectively dated February 15 and March 1, 2010.

City News learnt that last Thursday's meeting called by the FCT electoral body for all party candidates for the April 10 chairmanship elections was attended by Musa Dikko.

Some members of the party were aggrieved that Yohanna was not invited by INEC and they protested at the PDP headquarters in large numbers.

Bello Bikko, who read their position to Prof. Fred Onyeoziri, political adviser to the party's chairman, called on the electoral body to respect the stand of the chairman.

The letter addressed to Ogbulafor and signed by Bwari PDP Chairman, Alhaji Aminu Gumel read thus: "Your humility should not be taken for granted and INEC must honour your letter of 1st March 2010, maintaining the candidature of Mr Peter Yohanna as the party's nominee for the Bwari chairmanship election," the letter stated.

Ogbulafor's aide, Prof. Onyeoziri promised to deliver their message and informed them that those who walk on the path of peace deserve justice.

Among the protesters was the incumbent Bwari council Chairman, Isa Dara Bwari, the council's PDP Chairman, seven councillors and 110 congress delegates, who carried placards which inscriptions like 'No Yohanna, No election in Bwari Area Council' and 'Ogbulafor carry go', among others.

# Headmaster dies in bathroom

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Headmaster of Legacy Nursery/Primary School at Abaji, Mr. Bassey David, last Wednesday morning died inside the bathroom of his apartment.

Our reporter learnt that the headmaster left work at about 9 am for his house after complaining of body/head pains.

According to the late headmaster's relation, he returned home and went to the toilet, where he slumped.

"One of the headmaster's sons



LATE Bassey David

later entered the toilet and saw him lying on the toilet floor before raising an alarm that saw them

rush him to the hospital, where he was confirmed dead.

Family sources however said the deceased had been suffering from diabetes and was placed on drugs and selected food diet.

The school's Proprietress, Mrs. Asogunla Funmilayo, said the deceased came to school on that faithful day and complained to her at about 10 am that he had headache and body pains, adding that she advised him to go home and rest.

"Mr David normally becomes uncomfortable when there is

heavy sun and I saw him pouring water on his head" she stated

She said the late headmaster, who hails from Calabar, joined the service of the school in 2002 and described him as hard working as well as dedicated to his duties.

At St. Peter Catholic Hospital, Abaji, our reporter learnt that the corpse has been conveyed to the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital's morgue by relatives of the deceased, while his corpse will be taken to Calabar this week for burial.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH



ACTION Congress members protesting at Abaji on Friday.

## AC members protest alleged PDP attack

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah & Doris Afoma West

A large number of Action Congress (AC) supporters including executives Friday morning staged a peaceful protest in Abaji over alleged incessant attacks on their supporters by thugs suspected to be sympathetic to the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

The protesters carried placards with inscription that read: 'We say no to PDP's politics of intimidation and the police should take action now'; 'Enough of PDP's attack on AC members.'

The protesters marched through the streets of Abaji main town, beginning from Abaji main market to the police station, palace of Ona of Abaji and finally terminating the protest at the council's secretariat.

At the secretariat, the protesters were prevented from entering

the premises to handover their protest letter to the chairman of the council as security men locked the gate.

In his speech, AC Abaji Chairman, Mohammed Angulu Bello, lamented that their members and supporters have suffered from attacks perpetuated by thugs sympathetic to the PDP in the council.

He said since the party began its campaign rally over a month ago and is gaining massive support on daily basis, some suspected PDP thugs have unleashed terror on their supporters, especially at rural areas.

According to him, the attacks are targeted on mostly Bassa ethnic group at the rural communities, adding that four communities, Patchuwa, Kutara, Guridi and Gulida have suffered from such attacks.

The chairman told the divi-

sional police officer of Abaji that the party members/supporters decided to protest last Thursday's attack on its members/supporters at Kutara village.

He said the suspected thugs raided Bassa village and beat the councillorship aspirant representing Gurdi ward, including his family members and his supporters, adding that this is not the first time PDP has attacked Bassa people.

The Abaji Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Dan Hajji, pleaded with the AC protesters to be calm and assured them that thorough investigations will be carried out to fish out those involved.

He told the protesters to gather all necessary evidence and present them to him so that he can forward same to the police command for further action.

The Ona of Abaji, Alhaji Adamu Baba Yunusa, who

addressed the protesters through his palace aide, Ahmed Ibrahim Kure, expressed displeasure over the attack and assured them that he will meet with the DPO to address the issue.

Reacting, Abaji PDP Secretary, Alhassan Suleiman denied that his party supporters attacked AC members and called on the AC to come out with substantial proofs to their allegations.

The PDP scribe also accused the AC supporters of creating tension and crisis in Abaji town, adding that AC supporters slapped the father of the council's chairman, embarrassed, while AC members fought with supporters of the All Nigeria Peoples Party at Abaji town.

Suleiman wondered whether the AC has no elder that can advise them to control their restiveness as politics is not a do or die battle.

# I'm genuine EFCC investigator ...says accused impostor

By Abubakar Yakubu & Usman A. Bello

A man recently accused of impersonating operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and printing the commission's business cards on Saturday said he was indeed contracted by the commission on November 3, 2008 as a private investigator.

Mr Victor Osita Uwajeh told journalists at the Nigeria Union of Journalist Abuja Council centre in Abuja that he helped the EFCC cracked numerous cases and listed some as the Bode George and Lucky Igbenedion cases that led to diligent prosecution.

He showed a letter dated November 3, 2008 and signed by the EFCC Chairman, Chief Farida M. Waziri, authorising him to conduct inquiries on behalf of the commission for the next six months with specific instructions to cover inquiries in respect of certain political exposed persons and agencies of the federal government.

According to him, upon the appointment, he carried out 72 general investigations and four classified investigation for the commission that were turned in to the commission and formed the basis of the on-going prosecutions in the country.

He said he travelled at least four times in a month to some countries with his resources believing that the commission will pay him later, adding that on three occasions, he demanded for payments of his professional fees from the EFCC chairman and she assured him to continue working that the fees will be settled later.

Uwajeh disclosed that his problem with the EFCC chairman began when he requested and sent a bill of £18 million (pounds sterling) to the commissions chairman as his profession fees.



MR Victor Osita Uwajeh addressing Abuja journalists on Saturday, while his lawyer, Amobi Nzelu listens.

"On January 13, 2010, operatives of the EFCC on the instruction of their chairman swooped on my house in Abuja, arrested and handcuffed me as well as carted away from my house, relevant documents of my property, including five cars," he added.

He said the accounts of his companies/personal accounts were frozen without court order, while he was kept in an underground EFCC cell handcuffed for 15 days, adding that on January 28, he was arraigned before an FCT High Court on four counts

charges that has nothing to do with financial crime.

"The charges against me boarders on intent to commit fraud and using as genuine, forged documents but none of the charges talked about collecting money from anybody or committing any financial crime," he stated.

Uwajeh denied the allegation that he solicited for \$4 million to assist Cecilia Ibru on her investigations.

He said that after concluding the investigation on Ibru for

the commission, he spoke with Farida Waziri while she was on lesser hajj in Saudi Arabia in August 2009 and she instructed him to hand it over to the commission's director of operations, which he did.

"While in London on one of my trips, my phone rang and the person on the other side was Mrs Cecelia Ibru, who informed me that she has, been informed that I am the one investigating her matter and pleaded to allow her see me on my return to Nigeria," he said.

He said Ibru called him with telephone number 234-802-778-7777 and added that when they eventually met in Nigeria, he told her that the investigation report was already with the EFCC.

Uwajeh alleged that when the EFCC later released the lists of all Ibru's assets around the world, she threatened to deal with him.

The private investigator's lawyer, Amobi Nzelu has already written to the Acting president stating his side of the story as well as the alleged inhuman treatment melted on his client by the EFCC.

## ...As PFC hails judiciary over ruling on EFCC

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Petroleum Financial Corporate (PFC) Limited at the weekend hailed the uprightness of the judiciary in its ruling in a case the company instituted against the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) and eight banks at a FCT High Court.

PFC's Chairman, Ambassador Abdallah Ali Alfa said in 2007, agents of the EFCC seized the company's property and froze the company's accounts in eight banks based on a purported interim forfeiture order of the Federal High Court in Abuja dated October 3, 2007 that was faulted by the another court because it did not link the banks as parties.

"Since then, our relation-

ship with our local contractors as well as foreign partners, namely PFC USA and PFC Shanghai China was severed, while the contract agreements for the construction of 24 federal government universities students' hostels in Nigeria were interrupted, causing a lot of set-back to our organization, especially when viewed from the intention of the initiators of these actions that led to colossal losses, including sending innocent contractors (developers) and members of staff to already saturated unemployment market with their relations becoming objects of pity," the chairman stated.

He said the EFCC's action nearly led to the defamation of the company's image and praised the media and judi-

ciary for standing by the truth.

According to him, the March 1 court's ruling directed that the purported forfeiture of the company's accounts instigated by the EFCC is unlawful and set it aside, while all the eight banks that the company had accounts were ordered to resume bankers/customers relationship by allowing payments as well as withdrawals from the concerned accounts.

The chairman said that the EFCC was further directed to return the company's laptop computer, Bank of America cheque book, cheque books of all the eight banks, files containing contract agreements.

He commended the judiciary, the current EFCC leadership and the media for positioning themselves at the forefront to protect human rights.

## Censors Board seals viewing centres

By Orkula Shaagee

NO fewer than 11 soccer viewing centres in Dutsen area of Bwari Area Council were at the weekend sealed by officials of the National Films and Video Censors Board.

City News gathered that officials of the board in company of security men stormed the viewing centres located at Dutsen- Baupma and Dutsen- Sagbagyi when soccer fans were busy enjoying matches of the English Premier Leagues in the afternoon.

According to eye witness account, the Censors Board officials with heavily armed policemen also arrested owners of the centres and confiscated decoders belonging to them.

"We were busy watching the Chelsea match when some policemen barricaded the viewing centre's door and forcefully removed the decoders without saying anything," a witness said. He said spectators inside the

hall were shocked and afraid as to what was going on, until one of the invaders announced that they were from the Censors Board and their responsibility to seal any viewing centre that is not registered with them.

"They said until the owners of the centres comply with the Censors Board's laws, they will continue to monitor and seize their property," a spectator Dutsen- Baupma added.

Our reporter learnt that after interrogation, those arrested were made to write statements and released on Saturday night with orders to return to the board on Monday morning.

It would be recalled that early last year till date, the board has made several announcements on television, radio and newspapers, warning viewing centres against the continued use of DSTV and HITV decoders to show films and football matches for the purpose of making money.

## NGO seeks funds to sponsor students

By Ben Atonko

A Non Governmental Organization (NGO) called Maimuna Education Support Foundation (MESF) is seeking support from wealthy individuals and government to enable it send children from poor background to school.

The NGO while marking its second anniversary recently in Jiwa, Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC), gave N5,000 each to 10 children drawn from seven villages of the chiefdom.

The children also got writing materials and were promised additional N5,000 each by September this year.

Those that benefitted from the foun-

dation's gesture were: Aliyu Yusuf, Sarki Yusuf, Franca Francis, Muhammed Usman, Aoama Isa, Nasiru S. Pada, Sanusi Bala, Usman Abdulahi, Binta Hassan, Daniel Cyhus and Rufai Ibrahim.

Coordinator of the foundation, Mohammed Sani Ibrahim in a welcome address disclosed that the foundation goal is to promote education in Jiwa chiefdom and Nigeria in general.

Also speaking, the foundation's financier, Abdulahi Adamu Candido, former secretary of AMAC, said he started the foundation in order to assist less privilege persons' children from Junior Secondary School I till they get admission into university.

## VACANCY

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## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A leading Agricultural company in Nigeria is looking for competent, qualified and hardworking candidates to occupy the following positions. These positions are for applicant willing to stay in Kano.

### A. SALES / MARKETING EXECUTIVES.

- B.S.C / H.N.D in Agriculture / Social Sciences
- 3-5 years experience in the industry.
- Excellent understanding of customer, market dynamics and requirement.
- AGE: 30 - 40 years.
- The wiliness to travel extensively.

### B. ACCOUNTANTS.

- B.S.C / H.N.D in Accounting.
- Proficiency in the use of computer Software such as Ms Word, Excel Power point, etc.
- 3 - 5 years experience as an account in reputable firm.
- AGE: 30- 40

### C. SALES REPRESENTATIVE.

### D. HUMAN RESOURCES

- B.SC / H.N.D IN Economics, Business Administration and Psychology
- 5 years experience in personnel and Human resources is essential.
- Master degree/relevant professional qualification will be an added advantage.

Fresh graduate from Agriculture or Social Sciences with at least Second Class Credit division.

### Method of Application

Interested candidates should forward their C.V to [jobs.kano@gmail.com](mailto:jobs.kano@gmail.com) indicating position as the subject of the email not later than two weeks after this publication.

# Dirty toilets worry patients at Maitama hospital

By Abubakar Yakubu & Ogechi Ohalee

OUT patients who are asked to get samples of their stools and urine for laboratory tests at Maitama General Hospital have complained about the unhygienic state of the hospital's toilets, which are located close to the mortuary.

The toilet is littered with faeces that have been left for months without washing.

A hospital source told our reporter that in the past, a staff took it upon himself to clean the place and was collecting money from people going in to ease themselves.

"At that time, the toilets were cleaned on a daily basis but after the hospital authority stopped the man, it has been difficult to maintain the place and it seems the hospital authority is not concerned," the source said.

Our reporters also learnt that patients inside wards located in the first floor suffer water shortages as the taps do not run and their relatives have to assist them to fetch water from downstairs whenever they want to ease themselves.

A patient's relative said it is very difficult for patients who have no relative with them as they have to do things for themselves.

The relative alleged that a female patient, who slumped on the ground, was immediately rescued by relatives of people around, while nurses in the place refused to go near her.

"In this hospital, the doctors are very nice but the behaviours of most nurses

are bad and the hospital must do something about this," the relative said.

At one of the female wards during the weekend, our reporters noticed the unkempt state of the place as dustbins were filled and offensive odours emitting from the place.

When confronted with the allegation of dirtiness, the hospital Director, Dr. Francis E. Aluh declined to speak on the issue and directed our reporter to the hospital's secretary, Mrs. Lamishi Iyorka.

The secretary blamed the dirty state of the public toilet to lack of adequate water supply in the hospital.

"The pumping machine has mechanical fault and recently some floors don't have water, which makes patients' to defecate on the floor," she stated.

The secretary also disclosed that cleaners in the hospital's services find it difficult to clean the toilets without water.

According to her, the hospital is not totally out of water and compliments its water supply some times.

She said the stink from the public toilets does not affect people coming to asses the mortuary and the excreta littered on the floor in the public toilet near the mortuary does not stink to the level of the corpses.

On the issue of rude nurses at weekends, the hospital's secretary said such complain exists and have been investigated before internal measures are taken.

Also speaking on the issue, a senior nurse who pleaded anonymity complained of inadequate

manpower and poor staff strength during weekend shifts.

"We have only one doctor to cover the whole weekend with two nurses and how does anyone think that he/she would be given 100 percent attention? The nurse wondered.

She said patients have high expectations and when full attention is not given to them, they term it as rudeness.

Another nurse said patients like attacking nurses and if the nurse uses high pitch voice, the patients complain they are rude.

She also disclosed that pregnant women do not take their ante natal instructions seriously at advance stages of labour and come to the hospital empty handed, expecting miracles to happen, adding that nurses don't such situations stressful.

A nurse in the hospital advised that trainings should be giving to the public on how to approach as well as their attitudes towards nurses.

At the FCT Health Management Board and Human Services Secretariat, Mrs Asika, head nursing unit, said the allegations will be looked into as soon as possible and proper measures taken.

She said it is unfair for any nurse to behave rudely to a patient, adding that some nurses are not as bad as portrayed.

On the allegation of poor manpower, the head FCT nurse services debunked it and said hospitals manpower in FCT has recently improved tremendously.

## School's guard accused of negligence

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police Wednesday arraigned a 35-year-old school's security guard before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged negligent conduct, an offence contrary to Section 196 of the Penal Code Law.

Sule Isah was on duty at Government Junior Secondary School (GJSS), Lugbe, Abuja, when some unknown thieves broke into the office of the school's principal and stole six laptop computers.

Police prosecutor, Yilkudi Dungji, told the court that on March 4, one Bidda Solomon, Principal of GJSS, Lugbe, reported to the police that some thieves broke into

his office and stole six laptop computers.

"When the accused was interrogated by the police, he could not give satisfactory explanations as to how the items were stolen from the office," the prosecutor added.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied them and requested for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Ann Akobi granted the accused bail in the sum of N100,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the jurisdiction of the court.

The case was adjourned to April 2 for hearing.



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION POST-BASIC (STEP-B) PROJECT  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT GIRLS' COLLEGE, KAZAURE  
stepbfggkazaure@yahoo.com Tel: 0629 948 3 942



**IDA CREDIT NO.4304-UNI  
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)  
IFB NO. STEP-B/FGGC/KZ/NCB/01.2010**

1. This invitation for bid follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, Issue No. 591 of 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 2007.
2. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a credit from International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of **Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project** and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to the payment under the contract for SUPPLY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENTS AND CHEMICALS, E-BOARD, TEXTBOOKS & OTHER LEARNING MATERIALS, and 1 NO. 18- SEATER BUS
3. The **Federal Government Girls' College, Kazaure STEP-B Project** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the supply of the following:-

LOT NO.	DESCRIPTION OF ITEMS	QUANTITY	BID SECURITY	DELIVERY PERIOD
1	Procurement of Science & Technology equipment and chemicals	Various	At least 2.5% of bid price	30 Days
2	Procurement of e-board, textbooks, magnetic boards & accessories.	Various	At least 2.5% of bid price	30 Days
3	Procurement of 1 No. 18-Seater Bus	One	At least 2.5% of bid price	30 Days

4. Bidding will be conducted through the **National Competitive Bidding (NCB)**, a procedure specified in the World Bank Guideline procurement under IBRD loans and IDA credit, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
5. Interested and eligible bidders may obtain the bidding document on the submission of a written application to the address below upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10, 000.00) only.
6. Qualification requirement include:-
  - i. Certificate of incorporation from CAC
  - ii. Current tax certificate for the last 3 years valid up to December, 2009
  - iii. Company profile including details of key staff
  - iv. Evidence of experience in similar contract including letters of award and details of involvement
  - v. A letter from the Bank showing financial capability of executing the contract
  - vi. Additional details are provided in the bidding document
7. The bidding document must be delivered to the address below before 12:00 noon 15th April, 2010. **Electronic bidding will not be permitted.** Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders on 15th April, 2010, by 12:00 noon.
8. Analysis of pre-qualification will be carried out first. Only companies who meet the minimum pass marks will have their tender documents further analyzed to arrive at evaluated responsive bid. Evaluation will be on Lot by Lot basis or combination of Lots. Award shall also be on Lot by Lot basis or combination of Lots.
9. The address referred to above is:-  
**The Project Manager,  
Federal Government Girls College, Kazaure  
Science and Technology Education Post Basic Project  
P.M.B. 5001, Kazaure,  
Jigawa State  
Tel.08099485942, 08065346068, 08036042600  
e-mail: stepbfggckazaure@yahoo.com**

# VACANCY

A major International Organization managing a large programme to support the reform and strengthening of the health care system in Nigeria is recruiting qualified professional staff to fill the position of Voice and Accountability Officer in Kano.

The programme supports the Federal and State Ministries of Health, in transforming the health financing, management, and delivery of sustainable health services and represents a major development initiative that seeks to enhance the long-term impact of investments in the health sector by requiring alignment among projects, country ownership of development policies and strategies, and stronger accountability mechanisms.

## VOICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICER, KANO STATE

Provides support in the coordination of planning, implementation and monitoring of voice and accountability initiatives in Kano State. These initiatives are likely to include: strengthening Facility Health Committees and other community-based structures for citizen involvement in the health sector; promoting civil society involvement in policy, strategy and budget development and monitoring, working in partnership with State Ministries of Health; development and strengthening of CSO coalitions championing reform around certain health issues; putting in place mechanisms for defining and enforcing patient entitlements. This employee will be based in Kano.

**Qualification requirements** include a Masters Degree in governance, social sciences, or a health-related field, plus at least six years of professional experience in the application of social development policy concepts such as voice, accountability, rights-based development, gender equity, social inclusion, and civil society strengthening.

### Additional Requirements for the above Positions:

- Excellent computer skills, including the use of Word, Excel and other basic software packages
- Excellent and demonstrable written and spoken English;
- Ability to work to deadlines;
- Self-starter;
- Team player, comfortable working in a multi-disciplinary team;
- Excellent interpersonal skills;
- Willingness and ability to travel extensively in Nigeria;
- Ability to develop networks and manage relationships with key stakeholders.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** To apply for the above position, send an email message with your current CV and a 1 page suitability statement to: [Nigeria.Health@yahoo.com](mailto:Nigeria.Health@yahoo.com)

In the subject line of the email, Please indicate the position you are applying for. Deadline is 14 days from the date of publication.



[www.britishcouncil.org/africa](http://www.britishcouncil.org/africa)

# VACANCIES

Africa Knowledge Transfer Partnership Associate (1 position, Nigeria)

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural relations. We aim to build and develop long-term relationships with governments, organisations and people to provide mutual benefit and promote wider knowledge of UK language, arts, science, governance and education.

The British Council is implementing a new programme of Africa Knowledge Transfer Partnerships in Sub-Saharan Africa. The programme will see universities bringing their scientific knowledge to bear on applied research-based projects within the private sector. Africa Knowledge Transfer Partnerships enables recently qualified people (known as AKTP Associates) to work in companies managing challenging projects central to the development needs of participating companies. An Associate is being sought to project-manage the AKTP recently established between Zaria Industries Ltd; Ahmadu Bello University and the British Council

**Overall Job Aim and Duties:**  
You will play a key role in managing and implementing strategic development and transferring knowledge between the business and the university. You will be responsible for the delivery of all project work:

- Develop a project plan from initiation to closure
- Monitor and track project milestones in order to ensure the following outputs:
- Report on project progress in particular and project milestones in general
- Documentation of processes, specification and standards
  1. **AKTPZIL:** The project is focused on investigating the production process and potential attributions to chemicals involved and exploring

alternative processes and/or chemicals to prevent quality problems.

### The ideal candidate:

- BSc.(Textile Science & Technology) or BSc. (Chemistry Hons) or Industrial Chemistry; or B. Eng. (Chemical Engineering) at Second Class Upper Division. MSc. In any of these fields is an added advantage
- Experience of practical work in any of the above mentioned disciplines will be an added advantage
- Practical Project Management experience is not essential but would be an added advantage
- The post is based in Kano
- Project duration is 2 year

Further information about these posts, an application form and definition guide for the essential competencies for the posts can be downloaded from our website at [www.britishcouncil.org/africa-vacancies](http://www.britishcouncil.org/africa-vacancies)

Completed application forms should be submitted by email as follows: send AKTPZIL applications to [zilabuaktp@yahoo.com](mailto:zilabuaktp@yahoo.com) All applications should be sent latest by 31 March 2010 to the email addresses above.

Please note, only SHORT-LISTED candidates will be contacted.

The British Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and welcomes applicants from all sections of the community. We guarantee an interview to disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria.



### VACANCY VACANCY VACANCY

The Foundation for Public-Private Partnerships, Nigeria (FPPPN) seeks the services of an outstanding individual to serve as its first Executive Secretary (ES) based in Abuja, Nigeria. The Foundation is a new nonpolitical, non-profit making forum dedicated to advocate and facilitate the private sector involvement and participation in the delivery of public goods and services thereby improving the quality of life of the people of Nigeria.

The Trustees seek a dynamic and creative individual with impeccable integrity and knowledge in the PPP arena to consolidate the operation of the foundation, track the implementation of strategic beneficial programmes and membership drive of the foundation.

Candidates must be deeply committed to FPPPN, and should bring demonstrated interest, professional experience and a good track record of accomplishments that will satisfy a highly proactive Board.

#### POSITION I:

**Executive Secretary reporting to Board of Trustees (BOT).**

#### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- To perform duties as Chief Executive of FPPPN and fully report to the BOT.
- The Executive Secretary will assume responsibilities for visioning, missioning, and roadmapping all activities including administration, capacity building, and setting of the FPPPN goals and objectives all to be ratified by the BOT.
- Promote and publicize the principles of the foundation, its work, and produce and monitor regulations for memberships.
- Develop key relationships with external stakeholders including other PPP Associations, Donor Institutions, Media, NGO's, Federal State and Local Governments in Nigeria as policy makers.
- Liaise and work in concert with members of FPPPN in a continuous development of beneficial PPP in Nigeria.
- Develop the modalities for generating revenue.
- Responsible for the Budgeting and financial management of the FPPPN.
- Serve as Secretary of the BOT.
- Carry out any other activity as directed by the BOT.

#### QUALIFICATION

This is an exceptional opportunity for a seasoned leader and manager to design strategies that will generate positive impact into the Nigerian economy through the deliberate improvements on infrastructures and energy, advise government on development of the Nigerian private sector, train policy makers and decision takers especially at the state and local government levels on PPP opportunities to develop people and the abundant resources using Nigerians.

The ideal candidate will possess:

- At least 5 years of progressively responsible management experience, implementing and managing innovative, successful educational, business or professional associations or initiatives with increasing leadership responsibilities.
- A minimum of first degree in Education, Engineering, Policy Management, Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), Law, Social Sciences, International Development or a related field.
- A certificate or training in PPP and understanding the operative environment or models of PPP such as DB, BOT, Franchise, Leasing, BBO, DBO, BDO, Concessions, BOO, JV, Privatization and structuring PPP to serve public needs.
- High personal and professional standards and an impeccable reputation for honesty and integrity.
- Excellent analytic skills, intellectual curiosity and sound judgment.
- A superb ability to chart strategic directions that result in clear operational goals.
- Conversant with ICT and global best practices.
- Clear demonstration of good character, accountability, transparency and response to rules of law.
- Good communication ability in English and outreach capabilities.

#### SALARY AND BENEFITS

Competitive salary that is commensurate with qualification and cognate experience.

#### POSITION II:

**SECRETARY/WEBMASTER Reporting to the Executive Secretary**

#### KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

- Must have web development skills
- Ability to perform variety of Clerical/Secretarial support activities such as preparing files, word processing and reception duties, dealing with situations effectively, keeping variety of records, and filling systems.
- General Office Administration
- Good interpersonal, writing and communication skill.
- Ability to organize and coordinate meetings.
- Ability to work with little or no supervision and under pressure. Carry out any other assignment as may be directed.

#### QUALIFICATION

The ideal candidate will possess:

A minimum of first degree in Secretarial Studies, Computer Science, English, Social Sciences, in any related field.  
At least 3 years experience in a large organization.

#### SALARY AND BENEFITS

Competitive salary that is commensurate with experience.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Qualified candidates are invited to send a substantive cover letter describing interest in the position and qualifications, resume/CV and salary history to info@fpppn.org within 2 weeks from the date of this publication.

Foundation for Public-Private Partnerships, Nigeria is an equal opportunity employer and welcomes a diverse pool of candidates in this search.

## Be Part of Our Team

As part of our continuous development programme, our Company involved in marketing and distribution of petroleum products in Nigeria is interested in vibrant, energetic and intelligent candidates that have potentials to grow within the organization to fill the following vacancies:

### 1. General Manager (Car + Driver – Lagos)

#### Job Description/Responsibilities:

- Responsible for effective and efficient day-to-day management and development of the company's physical, financial, product, trademark, marketing, distribution and human resources and assets in such a manner to achieve the primary objectives.
- Responsible for the planning and achievement of future growth and development of the company.
- Manage and develop the company's distribution structures, customer base and field selling.
- Carry out all other tasks, which may be assigned by the company from time to time.

#### Personal profile:

- Proactive.
- Strong analytical skills.
- Team leader and self driven.
- Positive self-esteem.

#### Qualifications and Experience:

- A graduate from a reputable institution. Possession of an MBA will be an added advantage.
- Should be at least 40 years old.
- Broad commercial and management experience across functional disciplines at least 10 years at the management level.
- Post-graduate experience in financial services will be an advantage.
- Experience in oil and gas sector will be an advantage but not essential.
- Fluent in spoken and versed in written English.

### 2. Senior Manager Transport (Car – Lagos)

#### Job description/Responsibilities:

- Management of the fleet and database.
- Ensure trucks/vehicle documents and insurance papers are current.
- Supervise the selection and training of drivers.
- Ensure appropriate maintenance schedules and records are established and adhered to.
- Co-ordinate the procurement of spare parts, maintenance and accountability.
- Coordinate with security for accident response and documentation including personal presence at the scene if required.
- Carry out any other task to be assigned from time to time.
- Be able to drive with a valid Driver License.

#### Personal Profile

- Knowledge and experience of transport sector.
- Result oriented and proactive.
- Ability to make sound and sensible decisions.

#### Qualifications/Experience:

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- At least 3 years experience in the financial sector.

#### How to apply:

Interested qualified candidates should send their written application and CV online to: [Gml2010team@gmail.com](mailto:Gml2010team@gmail.com)

Application must be received within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication.

Only shortlisted candidates would be contacted.

# GOVERNOR IBRAHIM SHEHU SHEMA IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC

The leadership qualities of Governor Ibrahim Shehu Shema will linger for a very long time in the annals of history of Katsina, when explorers of event in the state swing into action and documentation.

Before dwelling into the giant strides of the lawyer turned politician, I want to say without any fear of contradictions that these catalogues of achievements of Barrister Ibrahim Shema are visible things, which even oppositions in the state have taken the pain to applaud.

Having been a keen observer of political events not only of that of Katsina but the entire country, it has become necessary to showcase leaders that have performed creditably well in the last three years of assumption of office.

One of such leaders is the man people of Katsina are looking up to him and promised to give him a second chance to enable him initiate more people-oriented projects and programmes that would add to the development of Katsina state having completed all the ongoing projects, which he inherited from Matawallen Katsina – the current President of Nigeria, Alhaji Umaru Musa Yaradua.

To this end, the government of Governor Ibrahim Shema has assumed an enviable status among the governors, who have touched the lives of their people positively. The style of administration of the governor, has earned the state the status of the "Home of Democratic Dividends."

For anybody who has gone to the state capital and major towns across the state in the last three years or so, Katsina – the cradle of education in the northern Nigeria, has wear more new looks added to what Matawallen Katsina did while he was governor for eight years. It is a marvelous story of achievements and development, which has never been the case in the past before the current democratic dispensation, which began in May, 1999.

When Barrister Ibrahim Shehu Shema took oath of office on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2007, he promised to continue to follow the footsteps of his predecessor, who he refers to as his political father and till date, shema has not derailed from that promise he made to the Katsinawas.



Craft village welding trainees in action

As soon as he took off, his concerns were how he will complete the projects left behind and have reached certain stage by the Umar Yaradua led administration, which he did without looking back in a short period of time.

The major projects were the completion of Katsina State University, which was named after President Umaru Musa Yaradua as a mark of respect to a great achiever, while the women and Children Hospital was named after Nigeria's first Lady, Hajia Turai Yaradua Women and Children Hospital as a mark of appreciation for her caring efforts to women and children – an effort which led to the construction of a model hospital the first of its kind in the west African sub-region.

Others includes the completion and expansion work at the Bala Usman College of Legal Studies, Daura and Hassan Usman Katsina College of Education Dutsin-ma just to mention a few.

Governor Ibrahim Shema, a one-time Deputy National Chairman of the ruling People Democratic Party PDP made it a point that none of the contracts awarded by the immediate past administration were left uncompleted. This action has accorded him lots of respect across the state among the elders, traditional rulers, men and women including youths.

A grass root mobilizer, Barrister Ibrahim Shema, is one governor who believe in dedication of power and allow other officers to perform with little involvement most especially local government chairmen, whom he make sure did not derail in the execution of laudable projects, which have direct bearings on the lives of the people.

These commitments of Governor Shema administration has been noticed not only in Katsina but across the nation. Many states across the country have borrowed a leaf from Katsina Youths Empowerment Scheme initiated by



Governor Shema (centre) inspecting furniture made by the trainees

Ibrahim Shema, many of which sent a team of officials to study the viability, implementation and the impacts of cottage industries, school buses and mobile clinics. This has culminated in the state receiving certificate and commendations from far and near for excellent performance.

A man of his words and deeds, during the campaign period, one of the foremost promises of the governor was to empower youths in the state and make them to be self reliant. This promise today has materialized in all facets of human endeavour and the 34 local government areas in the state have shown appreciation to these laudable achievements.

Today, Katsina has four Fertilizer blending Plants across the three Senatorial Districts and many youths in the areas have benefitted through interest-free loan scheme. These plants were owned by the youths, ran by the youth and they are making a living out of it.

To crown it all, governor Shema has directed the state ministry of agriculture and the 34 local government areas in the state to patronize the plants to enable the youth sustain production, maximize profit and meet up the long term repayment schedule.

The fertilizer plants which are almost three years old have recorded impressive turn-over and their product are in high demand even from neighbouring states and Niger Republic.

Governor Shema's empowerment programmes and schemes also led to the establishment of high quality Paint and Chalk manufacturing plants across the local government areas, which are also owned and being ran by the youths male and females alike.

The governor also threw his weight to market their products by directing all contractors handling construction works in the state and local government areas to apply only the made in Katsina paints, while chalks are being purchased by the state ministry of education and local government education departments.

These products are accepted by numerous customers because of the high quality with patronage from within and outside the state including neighbouring countries.

Encouraged by the impact made on the lives of the youths in the state, more vocational centers were established and more youths are being trained in various skills acquisition ventures.

Governor Ibrahim Shema administration also introduced another package of interest-free credit facility for youths, totaling about two hundred and six million naira, which has been disbursed to various trades. The beneficiaries include youths in vulcanizing, business center operation, car wash and those running barbing shops. Other viable businesses engaged by the youths in the state were also catered for in the loan disbursement.

Similarly, in furtherance of his campaign promises, Katsina State under Shema has sponsored 50 graduates that were drawn from the 34 local government areas for a specialized high technology welding of refinery pipes by some American experts in Sapele, Delta state. They have completed their training and government is assisting them to secure employment within and outside Nigeria through viable contacts.

Progressive governor Shema led administration has also awarded scholarship to over 200 qualified students to study medicine, nursing, laboratory and computer science in Sudan. To ensure uninterrupted study schedules due to delay or none payment of tuition fees, the total fees from beginning to the end has been paid to the institutions including their bursary allowances with an understanding in case of death or absconding, such monies would be utilized for fresh students.

These according to governor Shema was a long term plan to reduce maternal mortality and newborn death in the state for obvious reasons that are not far fetched. The

sponsorship to study in these fields at Sudan is a continuous exercise. One good thing about the scheme is that all the courses entered for, the beneficiaries stand a chance of being self reliance or engage in private practice in addition to government employment purely to make ends meet.

Added to that, some talented Islamic scholars without western education have been given placement to study Arabic to degree levels, at the end of which they could get teaching jobs in tertiary institutions in Katsina and Nigeria in general.

In furtherance of his campaign promises, very recently, the governor has commissioned Katsina Youth Craft Village for skill training for the youths in the state for self reliance as a way to depopulate the teeming unemployed youths.

Speaking at the occasion, the governor reiterates the commitments of his administration to provide job opportunities for every one in the state and plan a better future for all Katsinawas' wherever they may be.

Governor Ibrahim Shema used the occasion to take stock of all the efforts made by his government to empower the youths in Katsina state. He said the journey began with the abolition of payment of school and examination fees from Primary to Secondary school levels.

He said the 127 secondary schools constructed across the state were to reduce the distance covered by students daily especially those at the grass root purely to empower the youths because education is the bedrock of any form of development worldwide.

In his words, "Anybody who does not see the peasant youths as his own, who does not feel he is responsible to help them and support them to grow to be responsible men and women and contribute meaningfully to themselves and that of family and the society, certainly that person is not suppose to be in leadership position because if I want my child to go to school, acquire knowledge, come out of school, be productive, learn a trade or a profession to earn a living, so the same I want the child of every man, woman to become in Katsina state."

It was in this regard that the Craft Village marks a very important historic turning point to the Katsina youths because it gives recognition to their livelihood for the progress of members of the society and for continuity.

The Katsina Youth Craft Village have 350 trainees drawn from the entire local government areas have commenced training at the craft village in GSM Handset Repairs, Carpentry, pottery, auto mechanic and electronic. Others are welding and fabrication, wrought iron furniture making, tie and dye. Provision has been made for the take off of trainings in other trades such as still film and photography.



Craft village electronics trainees in action

The overall aim of setting the Craft Village is to provide self employment trainings to over 2000 youth. Guest at the occasion hail Governor Ibrahim Shema when they saw the products made by the trainees during a tour of the various centers that have commenced training.

To an average Katsina man or woman, Barrister Ibrahim Shehu Shema, has touched the lives of all and sundry as a prudent administrator, whose style of governance will be guiding principle to those coming after him.

The bottom line is that the young and brilliant lawyer has fulfill all his electioneering campaign now that all the projects he initiated have taken shape, some of them now enters the second phase such as the housing scheme. 500 in the state capital were allocated to the different classes in the state.

Thus, Barrister Ibrahim Shehu Shema needs another four years to consolidate on those developments which will benefit Katsinawa's yet unborn.

## Inside Politics

# Nyako, lawmakers: How long will the truce last?

From Ibrahim Muhammad, Yola

IT does appear from events unfolding in Adamawa State that the protracted political crisis between the executive and the legislature is about to end on a happy note. Just recently, 25 members of the state House of Assembly passed a vote of confidence on Governor Murtala Nyako. Shortly before that, the assembly also passed the Bill for an Act to grant pension to a person who has held office as governor or deputy governor in accordance with Section 124 (5) of the 1999 Constitution.

Already, Clerk of the House has been directed to prepare a clean copy of the Bill which would be forwarded to the governor for assent. This is coming against the background of mixed reactions over the new law. While Nyako's supporters saw the U-turn by the lawmakers as good omen for their principal, some observers said the lawmakers were only plotting to retain their seats in the next general elections. Yet others see the action as a negation of the legislator's earlier vow to 'seriously check the excesses of the executive', especially those who tested the bitter pill of the recall process earlier initiated against some members of the state Assembly.

Crisis between Governor Nyako and the Adamawa lawmakers began shortly after he won the re-run election when they threatened to impeach him. Several attempts including one by the national headquarters of the PDP only stopped the impeach-

ment but did little to improve relations between the two parties. But Nyako now appears to have won over the legislators. Only recently, the state assembly, in a rare display of support, passed a vote of confidence on the governor and subsequently passed the bill which entitles the governor and his deputy to a pension after their tenure of office.

Since the attempted impeachment, relationship between Nyako and the legislators had remained sour until last week when it came to public knowledge that indeed some kind of truce had been reached. Now, there appears to be a new found love as Governor Nyako and the state legislators begin to act in a way suggesting that they are certainly dining and wining on the same table.

The Adamawa State Governor's Pension (Amendment) Bill recommends that any person who has held the position of governor or deputy governor shall be entitled to pension and such other benefits for life at a rate equivalent to the gross annual salary of the incumbent governor and his deputy.

The law provides that a governor or deputy governor shall be so qualified only on successful completion of his tenure of office; provided that he was not removed from office as a result of impeachment.

The law also provides, among others, that where a governor or deputy governor dies in office before the expiration of his tenure, his family shall be paid pension in

proportion to the number of years he spent in office. Before the new pension bill for the governor and his deputy was tabled before the house for ratification, the state House of Assembly had passed a vote of confidence on Governor Murtala Nyako for "giving the people the state dividends of democracy."

Member representing Yola-South, Ahmed Mohammed, who narrowly escaped being a recalled not long ago, moved the motion to that effect. In the meantime, mixed reactions have continued to trail the vote of confidence passed by the lawmakers. According to one time member in the state Assembly, Abdulmumini Ibrahim Song criticised the action of the lawmakers, describing it as an act of cowardice.

"It's uncalled for and also an act of cowardice when you view it against the allegations levelled against the governor by the same lawmakers during the impeachment saga. It depicts lack of sincerity for them to now tell the world that they have passed a vote of confidence on Governor Murtala Nyako," he said.

The former lawmaker emphasised that the vote of confidence might be a strategy by the lawmakers to get automatic in 2011. But in a swift reaction, a Senior Special Adviser to Governor Murtala Nyako on inter party relations, Mallam El-Ladan Yadim, described the vote of confidence as deserving.

For now, only time shall tell whether the new romance between governor Nyako and 25



GOVERNOR Murtala Nyako

members of the state assembly dissidents within the PDP are yet will be sustained. Already, some to sheath their swords.

## 2011 rally divides Nasarawa PDP

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

AN alleged plan to endorse Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma of Nasarawa State for a second term in office at a rally of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Akwanga on Saturday has divided the ranks of the party in Nasarawa State.

Prominent party members of the Nasarawa North zone in whose area the rally to thumb up support to the governor's second term bid took place boycotted the event which attracted Senate President David Mark and Benue State governor, Gabriel Suswam - both of whom canvassed support for their host's 2011 ambition.

Prominent among those who boycotted the event were former ANPP governorship candidate,

Chief Solomon Ewuga, who returned to PDP last year, and Senator John Danboyi, both of whom are believed to be bracing up for the Nasarawa State governorship race in 2011. Those who boycotted the event also included supporters of the two guber hopefuls for the zone.

Both Ewuga and Danboyi declined comments when *Daily Trust* spoke to them at separate times, yesterday, but the state party chairman, Yunana Ilya told our correspondent on phone that in spite of the boycott of some prominent personalities including Ewuga and Danboyi as well as their crowd of supporters, "the rally still went on."

The party chairman said "Ewuga just came back to the PDP. He was

in ANPP and we defeated him at the governorship election. Whether they were not there, the occasion took place. For Senator Danboyi, we fielded him for the Nasarawa North Senatorial election and we lost the election. He did not attend but the rally took place."

Ilya said that he has no fear that the dissenting attitude of most members of the party towards the current moves to give Doma a second term may mar the governor's ambition, saying "not at all. I don't have any fear."

The party chairman had three weeks ago, organized a rally in Lafia, during which he appealed to Doma to run for the election. But Doma said, then, that he was yet to make up his mind.

## AC wants Iwu out of 2011 elections

THE Action Congress (AC) said the report that Maurice Iwu's Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) will release a comprehensive time-table for the 2011 general elections this week has sent alarm bells ringing across Nigeria, warning that Iwu should not be involved in any way in the 2011 elections if the elections are meant to be credible.

In a statement in Lagos yesterday, National Publicity Secretary of the party, Alhaji Lai Mohammed said Iwu, who organised the worst elections in the country's history in 2007, is synonymous with election malfeasance and vote heists in its crudest form.

It said the report, which is some form of kite flying

by the inscrutable INEC boss, has called into question the commitment of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to electoral reform, which is widely believed to be one of the key areas in which he wants to make a difference.

"How can we be talking of the 2011 general elections when the much-awaited electoral reform has not even started? How can we be talking of the 2011 general elections when the fate of the much-acclaimed report by the Uwais panel is not yet known? Is this a joke or what?"

"Election rigging is not carried out only on Election Day. It is a culmination of a series of processes, including voters' registration. As we have seen during the last Anam-

bra gubernatorial election, in which over 83 per cent of voters were disenfranchised, the voters' register is a key tool for rigging, especially in the hands of Iwu's INEC.

"Therefore, a biased and incompetent electoral umpire like Iwu should not be allowed to handle the registration process, not to talk of the elections, unless of course we are determined to ensure that votes will never count in Nigeria, in which case we should say goodbye to democracy," AC said.

The party noted that fortunately for the country and for all those who seek free and fair elections, Iwu is supposed to have started his terminal leave this month, as his current tenure is due to expire on June 17.

# Inside Politics

## N11.5b secretariat: PDP replies AC

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday described condemnation by the Action Congress (AC) of its new National Secretariat project as another 'feeble attempt' by the party to remind Nigerians of its existence.

AC had on Thursday last week called the 11.5 billion contract awarded to BNL Engineering and Construction Limited a monument to failure and corruption and queried the source of the contract's funds.

PDP National Publicity Secretary Professor Rufai Ahmed Alkali described AC's position as false and a deliberate misinformation to insinuate that funds for the building of the secretariat were sourced from the coffers of the state governments under its control.

Alkali recalled that the PDP carried out a fund raising ceremony in November 2008 where funds were collected from members



PDP National Chairman Vincent Ogbulafor

and supporters nationwide, noting that the party appreciated its responsibility to guide governments on 'judicious utilization' of public funds.

## 2011: Muazu cautions Jonathan against Northern govts

By Muideen Olaniyi

FORMER youth leader of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Gombe State and coordinator of the Yar'Adua/Jonathan Coalition in 2007, Alhaji Abubakar Muazu, has advised Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to be wary of some northern governors who may want to lead in the emerging political equation.

Muazu who is standing for Gombe gover-

nor in 2011 said the 19 northern governors have failed the region by their lack of cooperation. He added that most of them have only been forced to identify with the Acting President because circumstances.

He said the legacy the governors bequeathed to the region was the circles of crisis and party through sectarian conflicts.

"I want our acting president to know who some of these governors are. They

are only after their political interests and not committed to him. They cannot help him because they have failed the nation... the truth is that none of them is qualified and competent to rule this nation because of their antecedents.

"Just check the human rights records in their states and tell me who has check their democratic credentials and tell us who has tolerance for political opposition among them?" he asked.

## NewsWatch's Yakubu Muhammed joins Kogi guber race

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

VETERAN journalist and one of the directors of the NewsWatch Magazine, Yakubu Mohammed, at the weekend declared his interest in the 2011 governorship race in Kogi State.

Muhammed declared his intention to the leadership of Peoples Democratic

Party [PDP] in Dekina his country home, while meeting with the leaders of the Dekina Local Government chapter of the PDP.

He said his interest in the guber job is to contribute to the development of the state at the apex level, stressing that if elected; he would focus on the areas of youth unemployment, edu-

cation, health, roads, rural and agricultural development among others.

Mohammed said he had been motivated by the contributions journalists who made their marks in politics including Alhaji Lateef Jakande and Chief Segun Osoba former governors of Lagos and Ogun States respectively.

## Kano ANPP govt retrogressive - PDP chieftain

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

THOSE at the helm of affairs of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP led) government in Kano lack the basic skills to identify the relevant areas that can improve the well-being of the people, Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) chieftain and former national secretary of the defunct National Republican Convention (NRC) Alhaji Usman Alhaji said in Kano yesterday.

Speaking to newsmen soon after a unity rally by the Garkuwa faction of Kano PDP, Usman Alhaji also said the ANPP-led government of Governor Ibrahim Shekarau has not done enough for the people in spite of the huge amount of money the state has received from the federation account in the last seven years.

But in a swift reaction to Alhaji Usman's remarks, ANPP state secretary Alhaji Rabi'u Bako described Usman's assessment of Kano ANPP's government as unfair, saying

blind opposition should not becloud people's sense of judgment.

The former commissioner of education during the tenure of Alhaji Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso also said every well meaning Kano citizen could rightly attest that no tangible development had been made in the past seven years and many who lack knowledge of the workings of government seemed not to understand that.

"The huge amount of money received by the present administration in the last seven years was unprecedented in the history of the state. But the right people to bring the needed development for the people are not there

“Blind opposition should not becloud people's sense of judgment.

and so the money is being squandered", he said.

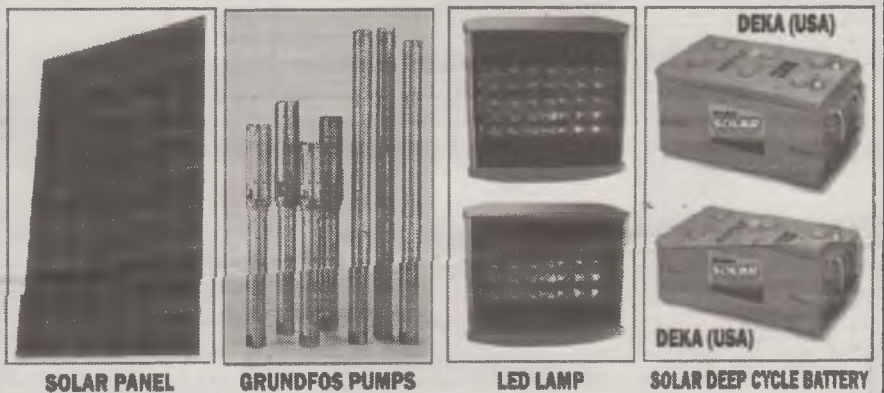
Alhaji Usman who is the leader of the PDP faction of the Garkuwa group also said local government reconciliatory committees were duly briefed on the need for the party to unite or be defeated again in the 2011 governorship elections in the state.

He said they invited all PDP members from the state to the unity rally irrespective of which faction they belonged and Alhaji Mohammed Abacha and member of the Federal House of Representatives Alhaji Farouk Lawal attended the rally.

Two former civilian governors of the state Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar and Alhaji Rabi'u Musa Kwankwaso, according to him, were equally invited to the rally but they did not attend. He said no single group could win an election without the support of the other, saying all PDP stakeholders from should see the recent Anambra election as an example of disunity.

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## HELPMET INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organization 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. Egboabo Ewemade Doreen
2. Jackson Omolewa Awopaju Babatunde
3. Stella-Maris Osarleme Edomwandagbon
4. Osakue Owamagbe Doreen
5. Onome Philip Egbogbo

### Aims and objectives:

1. To render assistance to the less privileged people at the grass-root.
2. To create awareness and give free medical treatment to health deficient people at the grass-root.

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

## GBOBANIYI CLUB OF AGEGE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Club 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. HRM. Oba Lateef Atanda Adeyemi Adams
2. Hon. Sulaiman Olarewaju Oduseo
3. Hon. Salaudan Idowu Akerele
4. Mr. Kehinde Ositelu
5. Alhaji Abeeb Aileru

### Aims and objectives:

1. To contribute towards the upliftment and development of Agege kingdom socially and economically.
2. To serve as a forum through which members can interact with one another.

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:

Hon. Sulaiman Olarewaju Oduseo

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## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public that the offer of Grant/Conveyance of Approval of Plot No. 315 with reference No. RLAC/KAC/FCDA/P&S/20/1 dated 11/11/1994 located at Chikuku Layout at Kuje Area Council, belonging to LODDO ADAMU MUHAMMAD is missing. All efforts made to trace the said documents prove abortive. If found please contact the nearest police station.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public of the loss of the original letter of customary right of occupancy in respect of plot BRDA/A/45/ RINGINN DAKWA Layout at Bwari bearing IBRAHIM IDRIS as a holder. All effort to trace the document proved abortive. But if found pls return to the nearest police station.

## TIJANIYYA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Notice is hereby given to the general public that above named Association is applying registration under part 'C' of the Companies And Allied Matters, Act 1990

### The Trustees are:

- |                                       |            |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. Alh Ibrahim Inyass Abubakar Mato   | -chairman  |
| 2. Alh Gambo Tanko                    | -Member    |
| 3. Alh Tijani Abdurrahman Anko        | -Member    |
| 4. Alh. Mal. Habibu Tajani Na Mama    | -Member    |
| 5. Alh. Husaini Baba Sufi             | -Member    |
| 6. Alh. Pham. Mustapha Ibrahim        | -Member    |
| 7. Alh. Insuwa Mayo Balwa             | -Member    |
| 8. Alh. Barr. Muhammad Tijani Yakasai | -Member    |
| 9. Alh. Yusuf Usman Yaro              | -Member    |
| 10. Hassan Sani Kafinga               | -Secretary |

### AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Self enlightenment to accept predestination and purify our souls, to work as a team to achieve our goals.
2. To enlighten Muslim on the ideology of Sufism as a means of correcting erroneous perceptions and insidious propaganda against the ideology.

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 of this publication.

Signed

Secretary  
08035589794

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Olumuyiwa Bashiru  
Managing Director

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### The trustees are:

1. Ustad Hadi Yusuf Olododo
2. Mallam Ashirul Abimbade Opedokun
3. Mallam Taofeek Omoyele
4. Engr. Rasheed Oluwakemi Sulaiman
5. Hajia Fatimah Muhammadu Jamiu
6. Mallam Mutahiru Alimi
7. Mallam Abdul Rahman Elemosho
8. Hajia Munirah Shittu

### Aims and objectives:

1. To propagate the spread of Islam and preach Islam as a way of life.
2. To enhance empowerment amongst the Muslim youths.
3. To preach world peace.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. Khadijat Musa-Sulaiman  
Legal Practitioner

## HAMID JODA 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. Hamid Joda
2. Bello Hameed
3. Fatma Joda
4. Yusuf Joda
5. Musa Joda
6. Mohammed Modibbo

### Aims and objectives:

1. To participate in and promote NGO microfinance related activities.
2. To promote access to education through scholarship, grant etc.
3. To promote activities aimed at ensuring peace and mutual co-existence in Nigeria.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

## CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly HAFSAT ISA MUSTAFA now HAFSAT IDRIS. All former documents remain valid N.Y.S.C and the general public to take note.

I formerly MISS HAUWA MOHAMMED BIU now wishes to be known as MRS HAUWA ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. General public, N.Y.S.C take note.

I formerly MISS RAFATU MOSHOOD now wish to be called MRS RAFATU AHMED OLAREWAJU ALIYU. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and General Public take note.

I formally known as MARYAM MAMMAN MOHAMMED now wish to be called MRS MARYAM SULEIMAN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formally known as OKEKE NWANNEKA CHIDIOGO, now wish to be addressed as LYNDA HILLS NWANNEKA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS NENADI FELICIA GUGONG, now wish to be addressed as MRS NENADI FELICIA SUKU. All former documents remain valid. N.Y.S.C and general public take note.

I, Formerly SUEBAT OYENIKE ADEOTI, now MRS BAMIDELE SUEBAT OYENIKE. Former documents remain valid. N.Y.S.C, General Public, please Note.

I, formerly MISS CHINONYE OLEJEME, now wish to be MRS CHINONYE ASIAPONNU. All former documents remain valid. N.Y.S.C and general public take note.

I formerly ADIKPE PATIENCE now wish to be PATIENCE ODEH ADIKPE. Former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I formerly known as MISS RUKAYYA IBRAHIM now wish to be known as MRS RUKAYYA IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. NYSC to note.

I known as EUNICE ALYNGU LIAM now known as EUNICE ALYNGU MANDEUN. Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria and general public to note.

I known as MISS ASIYA KHALIFA, now MRS. ASIYA YUSUF ZUBAIR. NYSC to note.

I formerly known as OLOYAKE PEACE UFUOMA, now wish to be known as OGOALAJI PEACE UFUOMA. NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS OSABUOHEN ITOHAN EDITH, now wish to be called MRS OMOREGBE ITOHAN EDITH. All former documents remain valid. University of Benin Teaching Hospital, public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS RASHIDAT BISOLA ABDULFATAI MATTI, now wish to be known as MRS RASHIDAT BISOLA JIMOH due to marriage. All former documents remain valid.

I formerly known as ABBA KUR KADAI, now wish to be called as MUSTAPHA ALHAJI UMARA. All former documents remain valid teaching service board and the general public should take note.

Formerly known MISS AMUSU ONYEKACHI ELIZABETH, now wish to be known as MRS OGUEJIOFOR ANANYO CHUKWU ONYEKACHI ELIZABETH. All former documents remain valid. Ebonyi state university N.Y.S.C and general take note.

Formerly MISS LYDIA JACOB ADEPOJU, now wish to be called MRS LYDIA OLUNIKE ABIJOYE. All former documents remain valid. N.Y.S.C and public to take.

I formerly Known as MISS ABDULLAHI ASIA TAHIR now wish valid. General public to note.

I formerly MISS ODETOLA ABIOLA ELIZABETH now MRS POPOOLA ABIOLA ELIZABETH. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, ALL EMBASSY, ALL BANKS and General public to note.

I formerly known and addressed as MISS AKINDELE SIKIRAT IDOWU now wish to be called and addressed as MRS LIADI SIKIRAT IDOWU. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, LASU and General public to note.

I formally called MISS SULAIMAN FATIMAH BOLATITO now wish to be called MRS ADEBISI BOLATITO PRISCILLA. All documents remained valid. SETRACO Construction Company and the general public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS KALU NGOZI, now wish to be known as MRS. NGOZI PROMISE K. CHIOWA. Abia State Polytechnics, NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS BALOGUN OLABAYOWA, now wish to be known and addresses as MRS. BALOGUN OLABAYOWA TIMILEYIN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

## SPORT

NFF member,  
Galadima,  
buried in Gumel

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# EFCC summons Hoddle, Lagerback, NFF officials

By Orkula Shaagee & Misbahu Bashir

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) confirmed that former England Manager Glenn Hoddle, Super Eagles Technical Adviser Lars Lagerback, Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) officials will be invited for questioning over allegations of contract inflation levelled against some Nigerian officials by Hoddle.

EFCC Head of Media and Publicity, Femi Babafemi, who disclosed this in a telephone chat with Trustsports, also said Hoddle's Manager John Shittu and members of the panel that interviewed and recruited the coach for Nigeria will all be summoned by the anti-graft agency.

Babafemi explained that while Hoddle and John Shittu will be invited to clarify certain things

**Hoddle said some members of the interview panel asked him to quote \$1.5 million.**



SUPER Eagles tactician, Lars Lagerback is trying to convince Manchester City defender, Nedum Onuoha, pictured above, to feature for Nigeria at the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa.

with the agency, Lagerback and the Federation officials will be asked whether Lagerback's contract was also inflated as was demanded in the case of Hoddle.

Kwara State Governor Bukola Saraki had informed that Hoddle complained to him that some officials demanded he inflate his wage demands by \$500,000

because this would guarantee the Englishman the job to lead the Super Eagles to the 2010 World Cup.

"My working with Hoddle was borne out of patriotism and my conviction that the right

thing must be done. I met Hoddle, who complained that he was asked to part with \$500,000 out of his \$1.5 million (proposed salary) and that that was the only way to do business in Nigeria," said Saraki.

According to Saraki, Hoddle said some members of the interview panel asked him to quote \$1.5 million instead of the \$900,000 he asked for.

Football agent John Ola Shittu, who worked with Hoddle for the

Nigeria job disclosed that the EFCC is now investigating this scandal after Saraki and he complained to the head of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) for the World Cup, Rivers State Governor Rotimi Amaechi.

## NPL election: Jaja heads to court

By Orkula Shaagee

FORMER President of the Nigeria Referees Association (NRA), Dr. Sam Sam Jaja who was disqualified from contesting the forthcoming election into the board of the Nigeria Premier League (NPL) has gone to court to challenge the decision.

Jaja, who was vying for the chairmanship of the NPL Board, was shut out of the

election two weeks ago by the electoral committee over allegations of irregularities in his nomination.

Having consulted his lawyers, Jaja finally headed to an Abuja Federal High where he is asking the Court to declare the electoral committee chaired by Tony Rafua illegal.

Joined in the suit which has been fixed for March 23 for hearing are Rafua and his vice Felix Anyansi Agwu, the

Nigeria Football Association (NFA), now parading as Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) and the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC).

In addition to challenging his purported disqualification which he insists is arbitrary, null and void, Jaja is also questioning the legality of the constitution of the electoral panel which he said was done without due regard for Article 11(c) 2 of the NPL status which

expressly recommend that the penal must have two lawyers of at least ten years experience.

Jaja had earlier last week petitioned the State security Service (SSS) as well as the Senate and House Committees on sports over his disqualification over trumped up claim of irregularity. He is also querying the legality of the new name and the constitution of the NPL which he said is in contravention of relevant provisions of

the Companies and Allied Matters Act.

In the suit he filed at Federal High Court 6 before Justice Okorowa, Jaja is asking the court to determine whether the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) can administer football under a name (NFF) unknown to law of the land and if the NPL can change its name without adhering strictly to the provision of section 31 of the Companies and Allied Matters Act.



# Nigeria Football Federation

## Super Eagles World Cup Song (Entries)



Are you capable of producing a hit song that will propel the Super Eagles of Nigeria to victory at the 2010 FIFA World Cup in South Africa?

If your answer is YES, then produce an indigenous, original and authentic Super Eagles World Cup Song of not more than three minutes capable of inspiring the Eagles to a great performance in South Africa.

Send your entries not later than the 31st of March, 2010 to

The Office of the Media Officer,  
Nigeria Football Federation,  
Plot 2003, Olusegun Obasanjo Way,  
Wuse Zone 7, Abuja.

*Up Super Eagles, Up NIGERIA*

Signed  
General Secretary,  
Nigeria Football Federation



## TRUST CLASSIFIED

### EDO STATE MUSLIMS ASSOCIATION ZARIA

The general public is hereby NOTIFIED that the above named Association is applying to the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990 for the following:

#### 1. Change of Name

To change its name from "Edo State Muslims Association Zaria" to "Edo State Muslims Association of Nigeria" the proposed change is to enable the Association accommodate the interest and membership of other Edo State Muslims in other states of the Federation.

#### 2. Amendment to the Constitution

That the existing Constitution be and is hereby amended to reflect the proposed new name and other relevant provisions.

#### 3. Appointment of Additional Trustees

(i) Dr. Muhammad Baribisat  
Mallam Abba Samaili Moneke

#### Additional Trustees

(ii) Alhaji Mustapha Saitu Usman  
(iii) Alhaji Muhammad Bashiru Abubakar  
(iv) Mallam Hudu Momoh

#### 4. Aims and objectives

To educate, consolidate and execute programmes / activities that can uplift the banner of Islam, sustain love, peace and unity among Muslim Ummah, so far such programmes / activities are strictly carried out as prescribed in the Holy Quran and contained in the Hadith of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (SAW)

(i) To undertake Islamic research for the development of Islam and our nation

Any objection to the proposed changes / amendments above should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B. 898, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Hafsa Mahe Hafsa & Co. (Solicitors)  
Plot 201/1, Michael Ojo Street  
Zonal, Wuse-Abuja

### BEULAH CHARITY HOME

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organization 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. Chinyere Felicia Okoye- President
2. Charles Godwin
3. Chioma Anyim
4. Ijeoma Okoye- Secretary
5. Florence Mgbogu

#### Aims and objectives:

1. To provide welfare services, to ensure the well being of orphans and the less privilege in the society.
2. To do all charity works and to restore hope to the hopeless

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:  
Barr. Oluchi Nwaogbo

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as RABI ABDULLAHI IBRAHIM now wish to be called RABI ABDULLAHI ADENIYL. All former documents remain valid.

I, formerly known as MISS NAFISAT SADIQ WILLIAMS now wish to be addressed as MRS NAFISAT MUHAMMED SADIQ. All former documents remain valid. University of Abuja and general public take note.

I, formerly known as REBECCA SUNDAY, now wish to be called as MRS. REBECCA IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Police Force and general public take note.

I formerly known as BILKISU ABDULLAHI GANUWA now BILKISU ABDULLAHI GAYAM, all former documents remain valid. FPN, NYSC and general public to note.

I formerly FORTUNE IDORENYIN ENOH now FORTUNE MFON UDOTT. All former documents remain valid. FUTO, NYSC and general public to note.

I formerly known as MISS CHINYERE BENEDETTE UGWU now wish to be known as MRS. ANAJEKWU CHINYERE BENEDETTE. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

I formerly known as OBIAJULU JACINTHA EBERECHUKWU now wish to be known as Mrs. ANAJEKWU JACINTHA EBERECHUKWU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly known as UDOYE OLUEBUBE OBIANUJU now wish to be called UDEKWESELI OLUEBUBE OBIANUJU. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public take note.

Formerly MISS OLUWAKEMI OMOWUNMI JOSEPH now to be known as MRS OLUWAKEMI OMOWUNMI BADMUS. Former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly MISS SILFAT SALAWU now wish to be known as MRS ZULFA SALAWU BELLO. All former documents remain valid, general public to note.

I, formerly LAMI AJIKPA now wish to be known as LAMI EMMANUEL DUCHI. NYSC and general public to take note.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly called, addressed and known as MISS OBIOMA LIVINA NWAMAKA, now wish to be called, addressed and known as MRS. EZE LIVINA NWAMAKA. All former documents remains valid. NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly known as ENDERLINE NNEKA EJUEJIOFOR, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS NNEKA ENDERLINE ECHETABU. All former documents remain valid. FCDA and general public to take note.

I, formerly MISS MARIAM UGBADE YUSUF now MRS MARIAM U. BETHEL. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, public note.

I, formerly known as MISS JAMILA SULEIMAN now MRS JAMILA SULEIMAN MOHAMMED NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS RABI AHMADU, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS RABI AHMADU ABDULWAHAB. All former documents remain valid. General public to note please.

I, formerly BLESSING OKOLO now MRS. BLESSING SUNNY UDONKANG. All former documents remain valid. BUK, NYSC, general public take note.

I, Formerly MISS ILOMUANYA, GERTRUDE CHINONSO now MRS OKAFOR GERTRUDE CHINONSO. Former documents remain valid. NYSC, IMSU, Owerri and General public note.

I, formerly known as FATIMA ALI MUSTAPHA, now wish to be called FATIMA HUSSAINI MOHAMMED .H. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS HADIZA IBRAHIM LARAI, now wish to be called MRS HADIZA IBRAHIM LARAI. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly MR SUNDAY UDOH now wish to be called MR OGBUDU WISDOM UDOH. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note please.

I, formerly MIS PRISCILLA ODIZURU CHIDINMA NWIGWE now wish to be known as MRS PRISCILLA CHIDINMA OKORO. all former documents remain valid. NHIS and public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS POPOOLA ADEOLA OLUTOYIN now wish to be known as MRS OLADEJI ADEOLA OLUTOYIN. All former documents remain valid. Oceanic Bank Plc and general public take note.

## Chariot eye basketball Premier League

By Ismaila Lere

CHARIOT basketball club of Lagos are not leaving anything to chance in its bid to do well at the March 26 through April 4 National Division One Championship holding in Ilorin, Kwara State.

Chariot, who are one of the clubs bidding for a slot in the Division One Championship, are planning to assemble a crack team that will take Ilorin by storm and lead other would-be premier league contenders from the Atlantic conference.

Club chairman, Luka Yakubu said that his love for the slamming and dunking game made the management of the modest Ikeja, Lagos-based outfit to want to be part of the division-one process.

"We have since contracted the services of one of the best coach in the country to help tinker the team because we believe only the best is good for our team," he said.

Luka is optimistic that the club will gain promotion to the top league when the buzzer shot went off on April 4 in Ilorin.

The ex-Naval officer commended the Nigeria Basketball Federation (NBBF) for responding to the yarning of other stake-

holders of the game. "I am indeed grateful to the NBBF for truly operating an open door policy as canvassed by the federation president, Tijjani Umar when he assume office last year and want to state that such spirit will yield positive result for the game in the country. "We have accept the olive branch extended to us, though we are already making plans to take the place of the Police who are already in the premier league before the NBBF gesture came and we have no doubt in our mind that this is one of the best thing to have happened to Nigeria basketball in the present dispensation. "We will justify this gesture as we aim to come out top at the end of hostility in Ilorin and gained promotion to the lucrative premier league and compete among the very best in the country because we are have been tested in several occasion in the Lagos City league where we've always held our own against the big teams in the Atlantic conference."

# NFF member, Galadima, buried in Gumel

THE remains of deceased NFF Executive Committee Member, Alhaji Alili Galadima was buried in his home town of Gumel on Saturday night.

Holder of the respected chieftaincy title of Ajiyan Gumel, the 47-year old, who was on his way to Niamey for Saturday's African Nations Championship qualifier between Niger Republic and Nigeria before his Jeep somersaulted on Friday evening close to Niamey, was also the Chairman of the Independent Electoral Commission, Jigawa State.

His remains, and those of two other persons who died in the crash as well as his injured driver and Police orderly, plus one man who was unhurt, were conveyed to Kano on Saturday evening aboard a Nigerian military aircraft.

Deputy Governor of Jigawa State, Alhaji Ahmed Mahmoud Gumel, top government functionaries in Jigawa and Kano States, NFF President Sani Lulu Abdullahi, NFF Executive Committee Members Shehu Adamu and Dominic Iorfa, NFF General Secretary Bolaji Ojo-Oba, his deputy Musa Amadu and Head of Marketing Idris Adama were

also there. Also there were NFF spokesman Ademola Olajire, Personal Assistant to NFF President Suleiman Yusuf and Personal Assistant to General Secretary Christian Emeruwa.

Galadima, who was married with two wives and 10 children, was Vice Chairman of the NFF Marketing Committee.

The convoy moved to Gumel Saturday night and was joined by more vehicles waiting at the City Gate, while thousands of people lined the route into the city to bid farewell to an illustrious son. His remains were first taken to the Emir's Palace before internment that night.

In his condolence message, NFF President Sani Lulu Abdullahi said: "In life, late Alhaji Galadima was an easy-going, amiable and respectable individual who carried out his duties with diligence, honour and sense of responsibility. In three-and-half years as Member of the NFF Executive Committee, he made friends everyday with his display of selflessness, candour, tact and vision".

Late Alhaji Alili Galadima founded and funded National League club, Ajiya Babes of Gumel.



LATE Alhaji Alili Galadima

## ...We're still in shock – Ogunjobi, Iorfa

By David Ngobua

EXECUTIVE Committee members of the Nigeria Football Federation have described the sudden demise of a former colleague on the board of the sport federation, Alhaji Alili Galadima as a rude shock which they are yet to overcome.

A member of the NFF Executive Committee, Galadima who also doubled as the Chairman of Jigawa Independent Electoral Commission, NEC died in a ghastly auto accident last Friday on his way to Niger Republic to watch the Africa Nations Championship

qualifying match between Nigeria and Niger.

Speaking to Trustsports, NFF Technical Committee chairman, Chief Taiwo Ogunjobi said he got the shocking news from a sports journalist in Lagos last Friday and is yet to recover from the shock of the unfortunate incident.

He said even as he had tried hard to come to terms with the reality of the death of his colleague, he is yet to believe that he is gone for good.

He said, "I heard of the death of Alhaji Alili from a journalist in Lagos. I was shocked by the news and even now, I am yet to come to

terms with the reality of what has happened.

"Galadima had great passion for the game of football and he contributed immensely to the growth of football in his state. Let me say he was the pillar of grassroots football in Jigawa State."

Ogunjobi said he and his colleagues on the board of the NFF will continue to give support to the family that has been left behind by the departed colleague.

"His death is quite painful and the only thing we can do is to continue to give support to his family," he added.

Vice-Chairman of NFF Technical Committee, Dominic Iorfa also described the sudden death of Galadima as a major set back for Nigerian football.

He said he was shocked by the news of Galadima's death and it will take him a long time to overcome the unfortunate incident.

"I lack words to express the shock that I felt when I got the news. I prayed it should be a case of mistaken identity but in the end, it was true that he had passed on. I therefore ensured that I traveled to Gumel to commiserate with his immediate family".

## Sharks, Lobi for WAFU Cup

GARDEN City outfit, Sharks FC and Lobi Stars FC of Makurdi will fly Nigeria's flag in this year's WAFU Inter-Club competition for the Eyadema Cup, the Nigeria Football Federation said at the weekend.

NFF General Secretary, Dr. Bolaji Ojo-Oba said the two teams are already registering for the com-

petition which preliminaries will begin in May. The finals will take place in December.

Since mounting the saddle as President of WAFU early 2008, Nigeria's Member of FIFA and CAF Executive Committees, Dr. Amos Adamu has spared no effort to ensure that there are no dull moments in the game within the

region.

First, there was an U-20 men's competition in Delta State in late 2008, before the Inter-Club competition which finals was played in Lome, Togo in December last year.

From April 8 to April 18, the WAFU Cup of Nations will take place in Abeokuta, Ogun State with eight countries expected.

## Pillars beat Sharks 2 – 1

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

KANO Pillars defeated visiting Sharks of Port Harcourt 2-1 to keep pace with league leaders Enyimba at the top of the Premier League.

Sharks began on a sound note when their midfielder Gomo Nduku fired home outside the 18-yard box. But, the league's highest goalscorer Ahmed Musa equalised for Pillars on the 27th minutes.

The home side grabbed the winner in the dying seconds when Musa converted a penalty to take his goal haul to 14 after Gambo Mohammed was brought down in the box.

## RESULTS

**Nigeria Premier League**  
Pillars 2, Sharks 1  
Kaduna Utd 2, Lobi 0  
Enyimba 2, Kwara Utd 0  
Wikki 0, 3SC 0  
Sunshine 1, Ocean Boys 0

**Division One**  
FC Taraba 2, El-Kanemi 0  
JUTH 3, Jigawa 0  
Bukola Babes 2, Berger 0  
Prime FC 1, Anambra Pillars 0  
Gabros 3, Grays 1

**English Premier League**  
Man Utd 3, Fulham 0  
Sunderland 1, Man City 1

**La Liga**  
Barcelona 3, Valencia 0  
Almeria 1, Malaga 0  
Villarreal 2, Xerez 0

## THE MONDAY COLUMN

Mahmud Jega

mmjega@dailytrust.com, 08054102925

## Eyes of Nyan-nyam

**B**ack in the 1970s, when some of this country's basic institutions were still functioning, the elderly Wazirin Bodinga went for a rigorous test in order to get a driver's license. The VIO in Sokoto in those days, Wagana, was well known for his no-nonsense ways. Wagana made Waziri to drive around the town, observing his driving skills and his obedience of traffic rules, until they arrived at the very steep slope at Tashar Illela, on the city outskirts.

From the bridge over the Sokoto River, VIO Wagana made Waziri to drive up the slope until they arrived in the middle of it. He then asked Waziri to stop and apply the hand brakes, which he successfully did. VIO Wagana then got out, went to the back of the car and placed a box of matches right under the rear wheel. He then told Waziri to start the car, remove the hand brakes and drive on up the steep slope without sliding backwards to crush to match box.

Waziri started the car, removed the hand brakes and the tyres rolled back and crushed the match box. He then engaged gear and drove straight home, leaving the VIO standing there on the slope. Later that night, I overheard the Waziri telling our father, who was his friend, about his bitter experience with VIO Wagana. He said, "He wanted me to look in front and also look backwards. Am I a Nyan-Nyam [the mythical four-eyed creature that has two eyes in front and another two eyes in the back of the head]?"

Try for a minute this morning to put yourself in the shoes of Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, Acting President of the Federal Republic and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. Here you are as Dr. Jonathan sitting atop a creaky Nigerian-made rotating chair, trying to juggle many things at the same time, unsure where to fix your gaze and on which levers to fix your grip.

As you sit in the President's symbolic chair, receiving visitors or presiding over council meetings, you have to glance over your shoulder to the corridors [of power] across the way from the Council chamber, to see if and when the stricken old substantive President will finally re-emerge.

Here you are, with your alleged supporters telling you not to wait for good luck, that you should push to oust the Oldman by declaring him permanently unfit to hold his office, despite the Health Minister's grim warning that no man who is not dead can be certified by medical authorities to be permanently unfit.

You are being pushed to oust the Oldman even though most ministers are reluctant to make such a move against the man who plucked many of them from political obscurity and into high ministerial office. You are still being pushed, even though the ruling party's national leaders and the powerful state governors, later backed by the party caucus, have said there should be no declaration of permanent unfitness and no contemplation of impeachment against the Oldman, every political danger considered.

You are still being pushed, when the National Assembly leaders and members are clearly satisfied to bungle on with the unsatisfactory status quo. Despite all these powerful stumbling blocks, a noisy Save Nigeria Group [SNG] is rallying and demonstrating in the streets, insisting on pushing out the Oldman, with tacit encouragement and approval from the Acting Presidency. I say so because, in the heat of SNG's last rally in Abuja, the Acting President's motorcade swept right through it and he was hailed and cheered by the demonstrators. Would you ever have driven through if it were a hostile anti-government rally?

Anyway, there was more evidence of Acting Presidential complicity when the supposedly non-political Secretary to the Government of the Federation [SGF] was falling over

himself to encourage the SNG demonstrators, climbing a political rostrum probably for the first time in his life and, in the process, committing a major blunder by saying the Acting President sent an unedited copy of the Chief Justice Uwais electoral reform report to the National Assembly, when it was actually the stricken Oldman who did so last year.

Now, look at the eagerness with which the Assembly called off this bluff, showing that it had little patience with any rigmarole to score cheap political points at others' expense.

Here you are, also, with the party and governors zoning the party's 2011 presidential ticket to the North, thereby rendering you a lame duck even before your Acting Presidency is in full swing. Here you are, an Acting President whose desire for substantiveness is for now blocked, whose grip on power is yet uncertain, who is surrounded by aides and ministers you do not trust, who is a lame duck, who has very little time to make an impact and who has been told by your new chief adviser, General T.Y. Danjuma, to make the most of the time you have to make an impact.

Pray, what is the best way to make this impact? Now, here you are, with all these temporal and circumstantial constraints, and you are still spending precious time smarting and huffing over the deployment of Guards Brigadesmen on the night of the Oldman's return, apparently unsatisfied with the Army Command's explanation that it is not involved in the deployment of the Guards.

You are oblivious of the perils posed by rattling the military brass with these public calls for probe, even when the Army is engaged in a nasty public spat with the Governor of Plateau, who blamed it for failing to ward off a reprisal attack on Berom villages. Never mind that Governor Jang showed no similar anger at the January killings of hundreds of

other Plateau citizens.

In the midst of all these, here you are, as the Acting President, urged by alleged supporters and media commentators to huff and puff about a Cabinet reshuffle [in order to weed out the Oldman's men]. You invest expensive political capital appointing a high Presidential Advisory Council, never mind that you have a Federal Executive Council, National Economic Council, National Council of State, National Defence Council, National Security Council, National Assembly leaders, Party Caucus, party Working Committee and party National Executive Committee as well as a string of advisers and assistants all available to offer you advice.

Sir/Madam, if you are still pretending to be Dr. Jonathan, I ask you, why do you need five more special advisers "in order to cope with increasing demands on his office" when you have SNG and several dozen self-appointed advisers in the media, issuing a cacophony of "advice" every day?

You see, in all these, the only advice that no one has offered to you is this: abandon all political grandstanding and concentrate on issues that build consensus, not the ones that cause tension and division. Why not, for example, fix your gaze and grip completely on the power shortage, the fuel problem, Niger Delta amnesty, electoral reform, the Plateau crises and preparations for the next elections?

These are the issues in which you are guaranteed a national consensus and success in any of which could etch your name in gold. However, if you wish to tackle these while you still fish in troubled political waters, then you probably need the four eyes of Nyan-Nyam, so that you can look backwards and you can look forward at the same time.

**You probably need the four eyes of Nyan-Nyam, so that you can look backwards and you can look forward at the same time**

## SPORTS REPORT



MANNY Pacquiao

## Pacquiao outpunches Clotey

**F**ighting on the star, Manny Pacquiao showed once again why he is such a star.

With the biggest fight crowd in the U.S. in 17 years cheering him on at Cowboys Stadium, Pacquiao dominated a strangely passive Joshua Clotey from the opening bell Saturday night to retain his welterweight title and cement his status as the best pound-for-pound fighter in the world.

The fight wasn't close, and it was never

in doubt. It was so one-sided that even those in the cheap seats among the crowd of 50,994 could tell without looking at the giant video screens over the ring that Pacquiao was in total command.

"He's a very tough opponent," Pacquiao said. "He was looking for a big shot."

Pacquiao was supposed to have been fighting Floyd Mayweather Jr. instead of Clotey, but the megafight fell apart over a dispute over blood testing.



ALBERTO Contador of Spain

## Contador wins Paris-Nice

**A**lberto Contador of Spain won the Paris-Nice race for the second time yesterday after successfully defending his narrow lead from Alejandro Valverde in the seventh and final stage.

Amael Moinard of France won the 119-kilometer (73.8-mile) stage around Nice in a sprint finish, finishing less a wheel's length ahead of Frenchman Thomas Voeckler after overtaking him at the line.

Contador was close behind in a small chasing group, which included Valverde, and raised his hands in the air as he crossed the line. Valverde was second overall, 11 seconds behind Contador.

