

DAILY TRUST

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 2010 RABI'U THANI 10, 1431 A.H.

TRUST IS A BURDEN

www.dailytrust.com VOL. 23 No 95 N150

New Columnists For Trust

Dr. Abba Gana Shettima of the University of Maiduguri and Hajiyayye Liman, a housewife in Kaduna have joined the ranks of incisive writers in the Media Trust stable. From today and every Friday, both writers will maintain regular columns to discuss issues of local, national and international relevance.

Shettima is not new to Trust readers; he was a regular columnist in the early days of the Trust titles. Hajiyayye Liman has made a couple of contributions to the Trust stable in the past, and will now bring her unique writing style to bear on issues of interest to our readers every Friday.

Emodi may replace Akunyili

...As Appeal Court sacks Senator

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Akwa & Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

WITHIN hours after the Court of Appeal, Enugu Division threw Mrs. Joy Emodi out of the Senate, several senators commenced a campaign for Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to nominate her as a minister to replace the controver-

sial former Minister of Information and Communication Prof. Dora Akunyili, who is one of the nine former ministers already nominated for reappointment. Emodi, like Akunyili, is from Anambra State.

The Court of Appeal had ruled yesterday that Mrs. Joy Emodi, who is a Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) member, was not the Senator duly-

elected to represent Anambra North senatorial district. The Court, led by Justice Ola Kayode Ariwola, unanimously ruled that Mr. Alphonsus Uba Igbeke of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) was the authentic winner of the seat in the April 28, 2007 election.

A reliable source at the Senate told *Daily Trust* Continued on page 5



A loaded articulated vehicle fell on a police truck and a car at the Orile Iganmu bus Stop in Lagos yesterday causing traffic hold up.

N/Delta militants: We are frustrated

By Mohamed Bello with agency report

AHEAD of today's scheduled meeting between Acting President

Goodluck Jonathan and stakeholders from the restive Niger Delta region, leaders of the militant groups said they are gradually los-

ing patience over unkept amnesty promises, placing the deal at risk of coming off track.

Ailing President Umaru Yar'Adua

last year granted thousands of "militants" an unconditional pardon. By October, some 20,000 had Continued on page 5

Inside Today's Daily Trust

Business

Solid mineral producing states will start collecting derivation fund from federal government in May **29**

Sport

Super Eagles coach Lars Lagerback will today meet the Nigerian press for the first time in Abuja **61**



Politics

Barrister Festus Okoye says INEC is right in releasing two sets of timetable for the 2011 elections **55**

Digest

Scientists are trying to unravel the meaning behind the disturbing dreams that leave us in sweat **43**

Nigeria is showing signs of failed state – Gov Aliyu

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

NIGERIA is showing signs of a failed state because of the inability of its leaders to provide basic amenities like electricity, potable water, good roads, the near comatose economy and the senseless killings across the country, the Governor of Niger State and Chairman of the Northern Governors Forum Babangida Aliyu said yesterday.

Babangida who said this in his opening speech at the NGF meeting added that it was sad that in the year 2010 and after

almost 50 years of independence, Nigeria was still witnessing such, while other countries had started manufacturing air-planes and automobiles.

"Our nation is indeed going through interesting and challenging times, requiring our collective sense of patriotism, political maturity, dexterity and innovation in governance. We must therefore continue to appreciate the norms of our society while we continue to respect our constitution and play according to the rules of the game to engender political

stability and sustainable development in our great nation", he said.

The chairman of the NGF who urged Nigerians to cooperate with the government in power said all the 19 northern governors had pledged their loyalty to the Nigerian constitution. The meeting was attended by 11 governors, four deputy governors and four Secretaries to State Governments. Governor Aliyu also expressed concern over the increasing number of Northerners begging and prostituting in Saudi Arabia, saying it was damaging the

image of Nigeria and Nigerians.

"Begging, prostitution and other social vices are anti-Islam and therefore must be discouraged and condemned. We need to take decisive steps to address this embarrassing trend which is becoming a norm in our society. Time has come for us to act more reasonably and stop politicking over every issue and abandoning our responsibilities to the people that we have sworn to serve. We must work hard to regain the confidence and trust of the people", he said.



FROM left: Mr John Ndukauba, News Agency of Nigeria Deputy Editor-in-Chief, (DEIC) Elizabeth Frudeau, Director, Africa Media Hub, Wangui Muchiri, Deputy Director, Mr. Isaac Ighure, DEIC, listening to Mr. Dipo Ogbede, EIC, during the visit of the Executives of Africa Media Hub to the Agency in Abuja yesterday.

NECO registrar explains mass failure

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Registrar of the National Examination Commission (NECO) Professor Promise Okpala yesterday said most of the people who sat for the examination were mostly primary school drop outs and labourers, calling on Nigerians not to take the mass failure recorded in the 2009 November/December examinations too hard. Speaking in Minna, he said all sorts of people take the examination.

"Though the general performance in the 2009 Nov/Dec SSCE examination is not encouraging, the general public should note that the external examination has a peculiar nature of helping candidates correct their deficiencies in one or two related subjects. Therefore these candidates should not in any way be compared with those in schools, considering that the Nov/Dec candidates are to a large extent those who failed the school based examinations", he said.

He maintained that the performance ratio of candidates who write the Nov/Dec examination was far below those just out of secondary school.

"Most candidates need one or two subjects to remedy their deficiencies, but must register for eight or nine subjects as required by the national policy. For these candidates, they only concentrate on subjects desperately needed", he said.

When asked if the examination body will reduce its standards for external students, he said the standard must be maintained, adding that the candidates are the ones who should change their attitudes towards examinations.

'Divorce occurs in every 2 marriages in Kano'

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

A research conducted in 2008 by the Kano State Societal Reorientation Directorate shows that in every two marriages in Kano, one divorce is recorded. Speaking yesterday in Kano at an occasion to mark the International Women's Day, organised by the Partnership for the Promotion of Maternal and Child Health, a lecturer at the Department of Sociology in the Bayero Univer-

sity Kano, Dr Isma'ila Zango, said the revelation was alarming.

The sociologist said a survey conducted in 2001 across three states of the North-West region had a similar result. Dr. Zango said the data collected from 500 women from Kano, Sokoto and Katsina States revealed that 35.5 percent of the women were divorced.

She warned that divorce affects the psychological and social balance of the family.

"Women and children are always at the receiving end. There is a need to get to the root of the matter and make a strict legislation on divorces. Earlier, the district head of Albasu, Alhaji Wada Aliyu Gaya called for woman empowerment.

"Women should be accorded respect and given an opportunity to live a decent life," he said.

He maintained that the Emirate Council was ready to support them.

Crisis erupts in Bukuru, DPO injured

From Andrew Agbese & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THREE persons including the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of 'B' Division, Bukuru Mr. Dauda Uaja, were injured in a skirmish involving some

youths in Bukuru, Jos, Plateau State.

The scuffle which started around 5 pm Wednesday was said have lasted for about an hour and caused tension in the metropolis. Our correspondent learnt that the

commotion was as a result of a fight between some youths during a football match. The scuffle later escalated when the youths blocked major roads in that part of the town and started assaulting passersby. Brigadier General Donad Oji on

behalf of the Special Task Force in Plateau State confirmed the incident, saying four persons had been arrested. He added that the situation was under control. Oji in a statement warned youths to desist from taking laws into their

hands and appealed to parents and elders in the state to advise youths against violence.

"They should note that the task force is only exercising restraint, not that it cannot deal with them appropriately", he added.

N/Assembly passes N4.6tn budget for 2010

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar, Nasidi A Yahaya & Turaki A. Hassan

THE National Assembly yesterday approved a budget of N4.608 trillion for the 2010 fiscal year with an increase of N530 billion to the N4.079 trillion proposed by the executive arm.

Presenting the budget report, Chairman Senate Committee on Appropriation Senator Iyiola Omisore said the delay in passage of the budget was largely due to increases made by the executive to the original proposal.

He said executive arm made increase of the sum of N336bn during consideration of the budget saying "We therefore advise that the executive should complete their work on time and minimize further submission after presentation of the initial proposal. For instance, we received the last correspondence for adjustment on March 8."

Omisore said both chambers of the National Assembly has harmonised the budget adding "The Bill we are presenting today is harmonized with the House of Representatives. Within the past three months, most of our sub-committees worked with their House counterparts to come up with acceptable figures."

The House of Representatives also passed the same version of the budget thereby making it an Act of the National Assembly awaiting presidential assent.

Breakdown of the budget shows that Net Retained Revenue is N3.086 trillion, Aggregate Expenditure N4.608 trillion, Statutory Transfers N180.2 billion, Debt Service N497 billion, Non Debt Recurrent N2.077 trillion, Capital Expenditure N1.853 trillion and the budget deficit is N1.521

trillion.

On capital expenditure, the Ministry of Works, Housing and Urban Development is to receive highest grant of N211.231 billion followed by the Ministry of Power is to receive the highest allocation of N189.783 billion.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources gets N149.9 billion, the Federal Capital Territory Administration N138.360 billion, Ministry of Transport gets N127.548 billion and the Ministry of Education is allocated N97.208 billion.

Other big spending ministries on the capital side include Ministry of Niger Delta with N90.908 billion, Ministry of Police Affairs N80.371 billion, Ministry of Defence N74.378 billion, Aviation Ministry N71.310 billion, Ministry of Health N67.277 billion, Office of the Security Adviser N65.686 billion and the Environment Ministry which is allocated N26.124 billion.

The huge spenders on the recurrent (non-debt) side of the budget are; the Ministry of Defence with allocation of N217.340 billion, followed by the Ministry of Education with N198.084 billion while Police Formation and Commands got N191.428 billion.

Other ministries with huge recurrent expenditures include, the Ministry of Health N112.722 billion, Interior Ministry N81.567 billion, Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) N45.962 billion, Ministry of Youth Development N43.213 billion and the Niger Delta Ministry with allocation of N41.458 billion.

Key macroeconomic assumptions and parameters on which the 2010 budget is predicated are; Benchmark for

Crude Oil \$67 USD per barrel, Crude Oil Production of 2.350 million barrels per day, Joint Venture Cash Calls of \$7 billion USD, Gross Domestic Product is put at 5.47 percent, Inflation Rate is put at 11.2 percent with an Exchange Rate of N150 to \$1 USD.

The Financing Items in the budget are to come from proceeds of Sale of Government Property N9.56 billion, Privatisation Proceeds N107.208 billion, Net FGN's Consolidated share of the proposed Excess Crude Account (ECA) N309.13 billion, FGN share of signature bonus N132.312 billion, International bonds N75 billion and Domestic Borrowing N897.3 billion.

The budget also provides for N27 billion as payment for local debts owed to 698 verified contractors and 4931 unverified contractors to be verified. The United Bank for Africa Development (UBA) will also get N5 billion as repayment of loan for the Save Tower Project in the aviation sector.

National Assembly also approved N123.486 billion as Capital Supplementation for some major ongoing projects under Quick Win projects and Millennium Development Goals (MDG) projects.

The Appropriation Act as passed provides that "The Accountant General of the Federation shall forward to the National Assembly full details of funds released to the government agencies immediately such funds are released."

President Umaru Musa Yar'adua had through his Special Adviser on National Assembly Matters; Senator Mohammed Abba Aji laid a budget proposal of N4.079 trillion to the National Assembly on November 24, 2009.



ENUGU State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Uche Uzochukwu (left) with wife of Enugu State governor Mrs. Clara Chime at the launching of the 3rd phase DFID Drug Revolving Fund in Enugu yesterday.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2010 BUDGET

a. Key Macroeconomic assumptions and parameters for 2010 budget

1. Benchmark of Crude Oil Price	\$67 per barrel
2. Crude Oil Production	2.350 mbpd
3. Joint Venture Cash Calls	US\$7-billion
4. Gross Domestic Product (GDP)	5.47%
5. Inflation Rate	11.2%
6. Exchange Rate	N150 to US\$1

b. Summary of FGN Retained Revenue and the Aggregate Expenditure for 2010 budget

1. Net Retained Revenue	N3.086 trillion
2. Aggregate Expenditure	N4.608 trillion
3. Statutory Transfers	N180.2 billion
4. Debt Service	N497 billion
5. Non Debt Recurrent	N2.077 trillion
6. Capital Expenditure	N1.853 trillion
7. Deficit/Surplus	N1.521 trillion

c. Financing items for the 2010 budget

1. Proceeds of Sale of Government Property	N9.56 billion
2. Privatization Proceeds	N107.208 billion
3. Net FGN's consolidation share of proposed ECA of 2010 (US\$2.1 billion)	N309.13 billion
4. FGN share of signature bonus (2010 bid rounds)	N132.312 billion
5. International Bonds (\$500 million)	N75.00 billion
6. Domestic Borrowing	N897.3 billion

Electoral reform: Reps differ from Senate

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives ad-hoc committee on the review of the 1999 constitution yesterday presented its report to the House in which it differed with amendments that have been adopted by the Senate.

While the Senate okayed the cross-carpeting of candidates from one political party to another, the House recommended that where persons are expelled by their parties, they shall retain their seat provided they do not join any party.

In the report which was presented by the chairman of the committee and Deputy Speaker, Rep Usman Bayero Nafada (PDP, Gombe State), the committee recommended that "where a person is expelled by his political party, he shall retain his seat provided that he does not join any political party".

The committee also recommended amended sections 145 and 190 of the constitution on election periods, saying they "have altered from a maximum of sixty days to a minimum of thirty days before the expiration of the term of office of the last holder of that office to a minimum of 120

days and a maximum of 150 days before the expiration of the term of office of the last holder of that office".

On the selection of INEC body, the committee suggested for the post of deputy chairman who shall not be of the same gender with the chairman.

It said: "the third schedule on the Federal Executive bodies is altered in paragraph 14 dealing with the Independent National Electoral Commission to: make provisions for the post of deputy chairman who shall not be of same gender with the chairman; contain additional qualification of possessing commensurate professional, administrative and academic experience for the members of INEC".

On the delivery of the judgment by an election tribunal, the committee recommended 120 days from the date of filing of the petition. It stipulated 60 days within which an appeal from a decision of an election tribunal or court shall be heard and disposed of from the date of the delivery of judgement of the tribunal.

The committee proposed disposition of all election petitions as conditional precedent to assumption of office by any person elected.

Jos crisis c'ttee submits report to Jonathan

By AbdulFattah Olajide and Mohammed S. Shehu

THE Chief Solomon Larded 15-member presidential advisory committee on the January 17 sectarian violence in Jos, Plateau State, yesterday submitted its interim report to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Receiving the report, Jonathan vowed to take "crucial steps to stem the tide of grievance and intractable violence in Jos and environs."

Governor Jonah Jang of Plateau State, who also met with Jonathan separately after the presentation of the report, said he was in Abuja to brief the acting president on security situation in the state.

Jang said the state government has started talk-

ing to various groups; particularly Fulani "who have been living here for so many years," describing them as his age-long neighbours.

Recalling his childhood experience with Fulani, Jang said "I can assure you that I was born in a neighbourhood of the Fulanis. The neighbour of my father was a Fulani man and I grew up with his children and even went to attend to his cows, and if you look at my age now, around 66, then you would understand how long the Fulanis have lived around the Berom and other indigenes of Plateau State.

He said the government would do everything to ensure that all outsiders coming in to create disharmony do not succeed, adding that

as Nigerians "we must be able to live together."

Meanwhile, Jonathan, in a statement by his spokesman Ima Niboro said the acting president thanked the committee for hard work and expressed hope that its final report would provide practical and workable solutions to the Jos crisis.

Earlier, Chief Lar informed the acting president that the full report would be ready soon, explaining that the committee still requires the input of certain critical segments to finalise the document.

Jonathan set up the committee in February during a consultative meeting at the State House, Abuja following the crisis that left over 300 hundred dead.

'Africa media hub to ease access to US officials'

By Aisha Umar Agaie

A media hub was opened by the United States in Johannesburg, South Africa, so that the US government message is visible, active and effective in advocating US policies, priorities, and actions with African audiences.

This was disclosed by the Director of the African Regional Media Hub Mary Deane Connors when she visited the corporate

headquarters of Media Trust limited in Abuja yesterday.

She said the U.S will ensure that policy makers read papers like *Daily Trust*, instead of reading foreign papers about Africa because the news might not be accurate, out of lack of understanding.

She said President Barack Obama prioritized relationship with African countries and looks at countries like Nigeria as

focus for foreign policy, "not just to make the message out but to ensure that he and his administration officials are hearing what is coming out of Nigeria."

"What we do is to ensure that you have access to U.S officials about things you need which can be arranged with media in East Africa or South Africa on issues like food security, human trafficking and on continental issues towards election period, democ-

racy, good governance," she said.

According to her, "If you come to us and say you are working on U.S trade story, and you want high level official to speak on what is happening in U.S., we will connect you with the direct officer who can speak on the matter and if you have somebody in mind we can link you up."

"We are not promising to link you up with President Obama; if we cannot help you we will be honest

and tell you the truth," she added.

The Deputy Director of Africa Media Hub Wangui E. Muchiri said "When there is a guest from U.S. in Africa, we can help you set up interview. If for instance the guest is in Namibia and you are not in Namibia, and you believe the interview will add relevance to your report, you can do it directly by telephone call or set up the questions and send it to me via e-mail and I will do it for you."



FROM left: Alhaji Aliu Akoshile, General Manager, Business and Strategy, Media Trust Limited, Governor Ibrahim Shema of Katsina State and Alhaji Mannir Dan Ali, Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief, Media Trust, during their courtesy call on the governor in Abuja on Wednesday.

Prison service sets to fight internal corruption

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE Nigerian Prison Service yesterday held an anticorruption sensitisation lecture to fight internal corruption within the service.

Speaking at the forum, the Prisons Controller General Mr. Oluola Ogundipe said the lecture and rally programme were not meant to witch-hunt or intimidate any worker.

He said the lecture was to remind not only prison staff but also the public "on the need to do

things right at the right time and always, as ignorance of the law is not an excuse for wrong doing in government business."

The CG therefore urged the prison staff to shun "gratification and unnecessary inducement by making sure that due process and transparency is followed in the performance of your official duties as this will enable you to sleep with your eyes closed as there will be no need for watch-hunting."

The guest lecturer at the occasion, ICPC officer Mr. Kennedy

Ebhotemen said the formation of the Anti-Corruption Unit in Federal Ministries, Department, and Agencies were aimed at making Nigerian and government officials transparent and accountable for their action or inaction.

He called on the prison staff to always give prison inmates equal opportunities and treatments during the training, education, reforming, and rehabilitation exercises because "corruption practices do not apply to management of funds alone, but all the facets of our daily lives."

Mark calls for prayers ahead 2011 polls

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

SENATE President David Mark has implored religious leaders to pray for God's guidance and success in the upcoming general elections in the country.

Senator Mark said this yesterday in Abuja while playing host to Catholic Women Organization (CWO) from Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Maitama at the National Assembly.

He said Nigeria needs prayers more than ever before in this critical period as political activities gather momentum towards the 2011 general elections.

He noted that the courage to succeed as a politician requires God's intervention, "It takes courage to do what is right before men and God.

We all know that on the final day, we shall all account for our stewardship."

Mark said women are agents of development in the society and called for mutual understanding and cooperation both at the family level and also in governance.

Senator Mark was later honoured and decorated as the Grand Patron of the Catholic Women Organization, Holy Trinity District.

Earlier, the President of CWO, Maitama District, Lady Chinyere Ufere, commended Senator Mark for encouraging gender equality in the selection process at the upper house and commended the legislature for discouraging bills that are obnoxious and harmful to women and children, especially the girl-child.

Orji may dump PPA for PDP

By Muideen Olaniyi

ABIA State Governor Theodore Orji may leave the Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA) for the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) as a result of frosty relationship with the party's Board of Trustees (BOT) Chairman, Chief Uzor Orji Kalu.

Daily Trust learnt yesterday that the alleged withdrawal of some ongoing contracts from certain contractors which were re-awarded to other companies without the consent of Chief Kalu was a pointer to the disagreements between the two.

A source said Chief Kalu may not support the Orji's second term ambition in 2011, adding that "initially, Governor Orji toyed with the idea of abandoning the governorship race and going into the Senate but his associates and kinsmen are

urging him to fight on as a sitting governor."

It was further learnt that some of the contracts the governor withdrew were re-awarded to some companies own by an Action Congress (AC) chieftain needed by Governor Orji to prosecute his re-election on the platform of AC if is unable to get either the PPA or the PDP ticket.

The source however said that Orji's interest in PDP is being hindered by ongoing case at the Court of Appeal in Owerri with the PDP defeated governorship candidate in 2007 Chief Onyema Ugochukwu.

PDP National Publicity Secretary, Professor Rufai Ahmed Alkali, refused to react to the development, arguing that PDP would not speak based on speculations in spite of its belief that the party's umbrella was large enough to accommodate everybody.

HIV/AIDS: SGF harps on preventive measures

By Ruby Rabi

NIGERIA can win the fight against HIV/AIDS if efforts put in place are sustained and maximum priority given to preventive measures, Secretary to the Government of the Federation Alhaji Yayale Ahmed has said.

The SGF noted that though

the level of new infection is still high and needs to be checked, recent statistics showed that there has been decline in the number of persons getting infected by the virus.

Alhaji Yayale Ahmed spoke during the public presentation of the National HIV/AIDS strategic documents in Abuja.

He commended NACA for its efforts towards providing universal access to all those infected adding that the strategic documents would proffer solutions to the challenges faced by the country.

The chairman of the governing board of NACA Professor Umaru Shehu called for greater

financial commitments from all stakeholders in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

He said there is a steady rise of the epidemic especially in Nigeria adding that though over 300,000 persons are on the treatment a lot of others are still on the waiting list due to financial constraints.

Earlier, Director General of National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA) Professor John Idoko said "Majority of Nigerians are HIV negative and keeping them uninfected is critical for altering the epidemic, this underscores the importance of prevention as a cornerstone of the national HIV/AIDS response."



A taxi cab with registration number XF 777 had an accident along Mabushi-Wuse, Abuja yesterday. Our photographer Kennedy Egbonodje was in the taxi cab.

PHOTO: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

Militants: We are frustrated

Continued from page 1

down their arms amid pomp and promises for training, jobs and cash. Five months on, some of the former fighters claim the programme has lost steam.

"They promised a lot... employment, good living," Gospel Tamouno aka JP, a former commander of a unit of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), the most outspoken of all armed groups, told AFP. "Nobody is happy, but the youths are still waiting and hoping."

He however added, "Some have patience but some might not have. The impatient ones are the ones forming the revolution," said Tamouno in reference to a new armed group, the Joint Revolutionary Council (JRC), which has recently laid claim to a wave of attacks on oil pipelines.

Yar'Adua's absence due to ill health is widely cited as the reason for stalling the exercise.

"I was surprised. I have never seen a Nigerian president with such ideas. He (Yar'adua) has done the greatest thing of granting a presidential amnesty for the Niger Delta youths," Tamouno said.

He said hundreds of militant groups operating in the delta had embraced the amnesty, not a mean feat. "It's not easy to bring people from the creeks. Some of them had never seen a car, but today they are happy, they can walk freely on the streets even if still in poverty," said a clean-shaven Tamouno, dressed in a dark suit and sitting in a hotel lobby in the oil city of Warri.

Newspapers reported this week that a training exercise for 20,192 former fighters at three rehabilitation centres in Rivers and Delta States have been placed on hold until a new government is in place.

Just before the cabinet dissolution, a minister said Acting President Jonathan had set aside eight billion naira (around 53 million dollars) for the post amnesty programme.

The disarmed militants get a monthly stipend equivalent to around 400 dollars, but some complain that have been left out of the payouts list.

On Tuesday, hundreds of militants staged street protests at non-payment of promised payouts in Edo State.

"The danger is that people can come (up) with others and ...as leaders (we) cannot control them," Tamouno said. "They are people... who have been neglected under the amnesty."

He said if the militants submitted 10,000 rifles under the amnesty, it is possible there are 30,000 others out there which could be turned to use "if they (government) don't follow the original plans".

"There is no sea or stream in Abuja, but they build bridges all over the place. We need such bridges all over the Niger Delta".

Acting President Jonathan is expected to meet militant leaders in Abuja today.

Emodi may replace Akunyili

Continued from page 1

that many senators are determined that Mrs. Akunyili will not return to the Federal Executive Council. They said the Acting President should either drop her nomination or they will ensure that she fails at the Senate screening. As soon as Emodi lost her Senate seat yesterday, they cashed in on it and proposed her as a replacement.

The Election Petition tribunal had earlier returned Emodi as winner of the 2007 election, but Igbeke appealed the ruling on the grounds that she was not duly elected by a majority of lawful votes cast at the election and that her return was invalid by reason of substantial non-compliance with the Electoral Act, 2006. He said he polled the majority of lawful votes cast at the election and ought to have been declared winner of the election.

He said there was no election in all the polling units/booths in Onitsha South and Ayamelum local government areas of Anambra North Senatorial District on April 28, 2007 and that all the votes credited to all the candidates at the polling units in both Onitsha South and Ayamelum LGAs be set aside and nullified.

According to him, election held in only five out of seven LGAs of Anambra East, Anambra

West, Ogbaru, Onitsha North and Oyi LGAs of Anambra North Senatorial District but the electoral body did not collate the results of all the wards and LGA collation centres but proceeded to award arbitrary figures to the candidates not related to the votes cast at the election as declared by the Presiding Officers, and that they went ahead to return Emodi as the winner of the election.

He said that the non-conduct of the election in the two LGAs of Onitsha South and Ayamelum due to non-supply and distribution of election materials in these areas did not materially affect the result of the election, going by the total registered voters.

The Court agreed with him and directed the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to withdraw the Certificate of Return issued to Emodi and return same immediately to Igbeke.

Reacting to the judgment, Onwuegbuka, said as a lawyer, he accepted the judgment since the Court of Appeal is the final arbiter. Also speaking, counsel to Igbeke, Gozie Obi described the judgment as sound, saying though justice had been done, it took a fairly long time in coming. On his part, Igbeke expressed happiness at the judgment and said it showed that the judiciary is the

last hope of the common man.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* on condition of anonymity last night, a senator said, "Several of us have resolved that Akunyili would not be allowed to return to the cabinet which she helped destabilise by her unguarded utterances before the dissolution of the FEC. We have started working to ensure that she is replaced by Senator Emodi who is also from Anambra state."

The senator said Akunyili's nomination is bound to face stiff opposition due to her comments in the wake of the political logjam caused by the illness of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

"She made comments unbecoming of a public officer. If you could remember, she was called to order by several highly placed individuals and institutions in the country, including the House of Representatives. Such a person should not be allowed to return to the cabinet," the senator said.

Daily Trust learnt that the senators have met after a meeting to push the proposal forward by convincing Senate President David Mark to support the replacement of Akunyili with Emodi.

The senators, according to our source, have resolved that should their bid for the replacement of Akunyili fail, "We will stand as opposition to her nomination

during the screening and we will ensure that she is disqualified."

It was also gathered that lobbying has been intensified by former National Planning Minister Senator Sanusi Daggash to persuade senators to support his confirmation during the screening hearing.

"We have suggested to him (Daggash) that he must try to approach every senator because there is problem. There are senators that are bent on disqualifying him because of the problems he had with the Senate when he was minister.

If you observe, his name was even booed by senators when it was announced," a source said.

Prof. Akunyili presented a memo to the last FEC seeking to declare President Umaru Musa Yar'adua incapacitated and she severally accused some of her colleagues of being part of a "cabal" standing between then Vice President Goodluck Jonathan and full presidential powers.

Her comments attracted condemnations from many quarters, including the National Leadership, the National Governors Forum and the House of Representatives. She was later sacked when Jonathan dissolved the FEC, only to resurface among the 33 nominees whose names have been sent to the Senate for confirmation, the process for which begins on Monday.

Corrections

In the Weekly Trust of Saturday March 20th on page 45, the title of the article should have been 'What's the fuss about younger husband-older wife?' not 'What's

the fuse about younger husband-older wife?' as it appeared.

Also on page 52 of Weekly Trust of the same date, the name of Nasarawa state governor was

given as Aliyu Akume Doma not Aliyu Akwe Doma, in the synopsis to the analysis. We apologise for the error.

In the Daily Trust of March

23rd on page 30, the title of the article should have been 'As Nigeria goes nuclear' not 'As Nigeria going nuclear', the way it was published. The error is regretted.

Ex-ministers must declare assets — CCB

From Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Lagos

MINISTERS who were recently relieved of their appointments and had not declared their assets in line with the Constitution have been asked to do so.

A statement by the Head of the Press Public Relations Unit of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) Mrs. Idowu Jokpeyibo called on the former ministers to obey the provisions of para-

graph 11 of the 5th Schedule of the 1999 Constitution and declare their assets.

"The former ministers irrespective of whether they would be re-appointed or not are expected to declare their assets at the end of their tenures in office and also do same at the beginning", the statement said.

The bureau's spokesperson advised those who were not given the assets declaration forms to go to the CCB Assets

Declaration Department and obtain their forms and return same to the bureau within 30 days upon receipt.

"Declaration of Assets does not end with the submission of forms as the bureau verifies these declarations to ascertain the veracity of claims in the forms. This is to ensure that government business is conducted in a most transparent and accountable manner", the statement added.

Gaidam commissions varsity projects

Hamza Idris, Damaturu

AHEAD of the second matriculation ceremony for new students admitted into the Yobe State University, Damaturu yesterday, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam yesterday commissioned various projects executed by his administration to bring the state university to standard.

The projects at the Bukar Abba Ibrahim University, Damaturu, include three science laboratory complexes, offices for lecturers and staff and two multi-purpose halls. The governor also inspected ongoing works for the construction of a new faculty of arts complex consisting of 12 departments, road network within the University as well as a new library complex.

Governor Gaidam said the projects were designed to improve the standard of the university and provide favorable conditions for teaching, learning and research. He said his administration will continue to support the university that in the coming years, 'it will be rated as the best in the northeast zone and one of the best throughout the country.'

Gaidam urged the university administration and academic staff to strive to do Yobe State proud by remaining true to the ideals of such an academic environment.

The Vice Chancellor Professor Musa Alabe expressed appreciation to the governor for the 'unwavering support' to the university, noting that all the major projects executed so far or currently under construction were carried out from June 2009 to date with the support of the governor.



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State assisted by the Vice Chancellor Bukar Abba Ibrahim University, Damaturu Professor Musa Alabe and other officials commissioning laboratory, lecture theatre and classroom projects executed by the state government at the University in Damaturu yesterday.

Women take over oil well in Delta

ELDERLY women in Olehi in Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta have taken over an oil well to protest against what they termed "the wrong naming of the well".

The women who were in hundreds took over the oil well which belongs to the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) demanding its renaming. The spokesperson for the women said the oil well located on their land was named Irhi Oil Well after a neighbouring community instead of Oleh Oil Well.

The workers of the oil company have been chased away and the women now sleep and cook by the oil well while chanting solidarity songs. The Special Adviser to Gov. Emmanuel Uduaghan of Delta on Oil and Gas, Mr David Ekerokosu, confirmed the development.

He said that the women had been at the site for about seven days.

"I have been there in my capacity as special adviser to appeal to them to leave the site for work to continue, but

they refused," he said.

He said he had met with representatives of the Oleh community, the oil company and the Oleh Community Development Committee on the issue.

According to Ekerokosu, Agip has given its commitment to change the name of the well from Irhi Oil Well to Oleh Oil Well.

"But the information I got today is that the people have refused to heed to our appeal to vacate the Oil Well to enable Agip to commence work. They are insisting that the change of name must be effected before they leave," he added.

He said the state government would continue to appeal to their conscience to leave the site, more so when the people involved were elderly women.

"Besides, the women will be exposing themselves to various hazards like mosquito bites and other hazards if they continue sleeping at the site of the well. We are not going to employ any form of force to make them leave," Ekerokosu said. (NAN)

Al-Mustapha: Power failure stalls trial

From Sunday Ejike Benjamin, Lagos

POWER failure at the Ikeja High Court yesterday stalled the on-going trial of the former Chief Security Officer to late Head of State General Sani Abacha, Major Hamza Al-Mustapha. Al-Mustapha is standing trial for the attempted murder of *Guardian* Publisher, Akex Ibru and former Delta State Director of Sports, Isaac Porbeni.

The court had on Wednesday adjourned till yesterday for the prosecution to show the video recording of the Special Investigation Panel (SIP) for the witness to identify. The witness, Felix Ogbodu, had at one time told the court that during the SIP investigation in May 1999, the proceedings were recorded and

it was consolidated into three tapes after editing unnecessary scenes.

Al-Mustapha is standing trial alongside a former Commissioner of Police, James Danbaba, former Military Administrator of Zamfara, Col. Jibrin Bala Yakubu and CSP Rabo Lawal over the attempted murder.

The defence team had at past sittings objected to the viewing of the SIP video tape and requested that the master/original tape of the recording should be produced.

They had earlier alleged that the tape was edited because there were portions in the proceedings of the SIP that contained images of torture and verbal abuse of the defendants. The matter has been adjourned till Tuesday March 30, 2010.

700 NYSC corps members posted to Jos want redeployment — Coordinator

NO fewer than 700 Batch A corps members deployed to Plateau State have indicated interest to redeploy from the state, the state Coordinator, Mr Tunde Baba-Ahmed, has said. Baba-Ahmed, who spoke with newsmen in Jos yesterday said more corps members submitted their redeployment forms after the initial 400.

"Now, there are about 700 corps members who have filled the forms for redeployment. We have sent the first batch of the redeployment forms to Abuja. We may send the second batch latest Tuesday. But there are others who also have not submitted their forms. Those ones will be posted within Jos after their orientation. The House of Representatives resolution only affects the Batch "A", but any Batch "B" or "C" member who is already serving but thinks he is not safe can also redeploy", he said.

The coordinator said he was only acting on the directive from the Federal Ministry of Youths, saying he could not contravene the order. However, the Plateau government has

said that it would go to court if the NYSC Director-General, Brig.-Gen. Ismaila Tsiga redeployed the corps members.

The Commissioner for Information Mr Gregory Yenlong said the NYSC was established as an instrument of national integration and development.

"From Bauchi to Maiduguri, Kaduna to Kano, Nigeria has suffered series of crises such as the Maitasine, Sharia, Miss World, Boko Haram and Kala Kato. As the whole world knows, the Niger-Delta has for the past few years remained a theatre of conflicts and crises, yet corps members have never been removed from these areas," he added.

According to him, the redeployment is against the policy of the scheme, as corps members are redeployed only on marital ground and extreme cases of ill health. He said the state's governor, as the Chief Security Officer was the only competent person to declare the state insecure or otherwise, and commended the corps members who rejected the redeployment. (NAN)

WHO: Nigeria accounts for 120,000 new TB cases

By Ruby Rabi

NIGERIA accounts for about 120,000 new cases of tuberculosis which kills more than 1.5 million persons yearly, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

This makes Nigeria the 20th in the world and the country with the highest cases in Africa.

Permanent Secretary of the

Federal Ministry of Health Mr. Linus Awute who disclosed this yesterday at the ministerial briefing to mark 2010 World Tuberculosis Day lamented that the disease still ranked high among the diseases of public health importance in Nigeria.

He said though tuberculosis is infectious it is curable with an 8-month course of antibiotic freely available but wondered why

the 20 years effort to reduce the negative impact of the TB burden in the country proved abortive.

"Tuberculosis still ranked high among the diseases of public importance in Nigeria; despite efforts of the National TB and Leprosy control programme created 20 years ago to reduce the negative impact of the TB burden in the country," he said.

According to him, over 96,000

cases of all forms of the disease were detected nationwide in the previous year.

Awute opined that the commemoration of the World TB day this year in the country presented Nigeria with opportunities to celebrate innovative partnership for TB control and to review the progress towards reaching the MDG target of 2015.

He called on all stakeholders

to move with this year's theme which is "Innovation" with slogan "On Move Against TB, Innovate to Accelerate Action" on the way forward.

Speaking at the occasion, WHO Representative Dr. Klint Nyananyekange said "Africa, with approximately 12 percent of the world population, disproportionately accounts for at least 22 percent of new TB cases every year".



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

CHAIRMAN, National Population Commission, Chief Samu'ila Danko Makama (right) with the guest speaker, Professor Sam Aluko, during the Federal Government national dissemination workshop on the housing component of 2006 population census in Abuja yesterday.

EFCC declares Bayelsa commissioner wanted

By Boco Edet

THE Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, has declared Bayelsa State Commissioner for Finance Dr Charles Sylva Osuala wanted over a case of money laundering and diversion of public funds.

A statement from the spokesman of the anti-graft agency Femi Babafemi said Osuala was declared wanted for refusing to honour three letters of invitation sent to him by the EFCC.

N2m scam: Court grants bail to Admiral Ombu

By John Chuks Azu

AN FCT High Court on Thursday granted bail on liberal terms to Rear Admiral Godswill Ombu (rtd) who was alleged to have conspired with one Tony Oyatedo now at large to defraud the Comptroller General of Customs and Excise Alhaji Abdullahi Dikko of the sum of N2 million.

While ruling on the bail application brought by the first accused premised on the principle that an accused person is presumed innocent until he is convicted of the offence, Justice Baba Yusuf observed that it is in the "best interest of justice and criminal administration for the first accused to be granted bail". He further approved of the bail on the condition of N500,000 for the accused and a reliable surety in like sum. The surety, he added, must be resident in the FCT.

The accused persons were arraigned on four-count charge by the Inspector General of Police in October 2009 for allegedly obtaining N2million naira from Alhaji Dikko to bar a London based magazine from publishing his purported fake certificates scandal.

The case has been adjourned till April 29, 2010 for further hearing.

Soup mistaken for drugs, Nigerian detained in Mexico

A Nigerian-born U.S. citizen says he spent two days in a Tijuana jail after Mexican authorities mistook the soup ingredients he was bringing to a relative in Mexico for illegal drugs.

San Diego social worker Okoronkwo Umeham, 73, said he was detained while crossing the border from San Diego to Tijuana on March 15 because inspectors thought he had five bags of khat, a stimulant popular in East Africa.

According to The Associated Press report, Umeham said he was bringing dried fish, vegetables and spices — ingredients for "ugu," a spicy Nigerian soup — to a younger relative, Xavier Nnanna Nwafor, who lives in Tijuana.

Umeham took the same ingredients to Nnanna last September without incident and turned them over to inspectors this time without imagining they looked the least bit suspicious, his wife Gail

Umeham said Wednesday.

The Mexican inspectors asked if the labeled packages contained marijuana, and Umeham said no. He didn't speak Spanish and couldn't explain what they were.

He said Mexican authorities put him in jail, telling him they needed to test the suspicious materials. Javier Cossio, the head of the federal attorney general's office in Tijuana, confirmed Umeham's arrest. Cossio told the

San Diego Union-Tribune that contents of the bags that Umeham was carrying had to be tested and that Umeham had to be checked for drug use. Authorities concluded "he was not carrying any drugs." He said Umeham also did not test positive for any drug.

He was released after two days but his wife said he was humiliated by the experience. "It would have been nice if someone had said sorry," she said.

No Nigerian is a settler in Kaduna, says Gov Sambo

By AbdulFattah Olajide & Mohammed S. Shehu

ONE of the reasons why Kaduna State is now enjoying peace is because the state government is being fair to all residents irrespective of political, tribal and religious affiliations, Governor Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State has said.

He said no group of people in the state are tagged as settlers,

which he said, helps the state government to foster peace and harmony.

"Because peace is not by the number of police that you put, peace is about fairness, it is about the people feeling safe and also for the people to believe that they have fair dealings with the people administering them," Sambo said.

He stated this yesterday to State House correspondents after

he met with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan at the Presidential Villa, Abuja.

Also seen at the State House yesterday were Governor Martin Elechi of Ebonyi State and former Senate President Adolphus Wabara. They all met with Jonathan separately but refused to comment on their visit to the Villa.

Sambo said, "We must first of all thank God for allowing peace

to continue in Kaduna State but the essence here is that Kaduna State government is being very fair to all parties in the state.

On the list of ministers now before the Senate for confirmation, Sambo said all his colleagues were consulted before the final list was drafted and expressed satisfaction with the nominees.

He urged the Senate to put the interest of the country first during the screening exercise.

Foreign ministry clears the air on N500m in fraud

By Aisha Umar Agaie

PERMANENT Secretary of Foreign Affairs Ministry Ambassador Martin Uhomoibhi yesterday shed light about media report on misappropriated N500 million in three Nigerian missions in France, Portugal and Russia.

Speaking to journalists at the ministry, the perm sec said the figures released by the office of Auditor-General for the federation was N432,011,293.09 while the media quoted N500million.

He said "out of the N241,

021,547.98 generated by the three missions at the time, N14,324,432.91 is still outstanding but being paid. He said N226,697,115.07 has already been credited in the federal government independent revenue account in New York.

"The actual amount involved at the time using the prevailing exchange rates of N130.2500 and 182.1156 to U.S dollars and Euros respectively was N241,021,547.98 of which N226,697,115.07 has been remitted into the account leaving a balance of N14,324,432.91 which is

being accounted for."

He said for France, the audit examination conducted in 2008 revealed that £1,273,059.60 (N271,810,955.20) was realised as revenue but was not paid into the appropriate government revenue account at J.P. Morgan Chase Bank in New York.

"Contrary to the auditor-General of the federation's report, £1,153,735.76 (N210,113,280.17) was generated and not £1,273,059.60 (N271,810,955.20). The entire collection of £1,153,735.76 has been paid into the relevant fed-

eral government independent Revenue Account in New York by the mission" he stated.

"In the case of Russia, \$94,819.00 (N138,443,516.16) was said to have been realised during the same period. However, it is quite obvious that \$94,819.00 do not translate into N138,443,516.16 as indicated in the report. Going by the prevailing exchange rate at the time, the naira equivalent was N12,350,174.75 and not N138,443,516.16 as asserted. Of this amount, \$91,669 has been paid into the Independent Revenue Account

in New York in two trenches of \$62,105 (N8,089,176.25) and \$29,564 (N3,850,711) leaving a balance of \$3,150 (N410,287.50)

In the case of Portugal, "€101,902.82 (21,756,822.73) was said to have been generated by the mission. The equivalent was N18,558,093.06 instead of N21,756,822.73. The collection was on accumulated revenue from 2005. Of this amount, €25,500 (N4,643,947.80) was paid into the independent Revenue Account leaving a balance of €76,402.82 (N13,914,154.41).

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

'Poor leadership, bane of Nigeria's democracy'

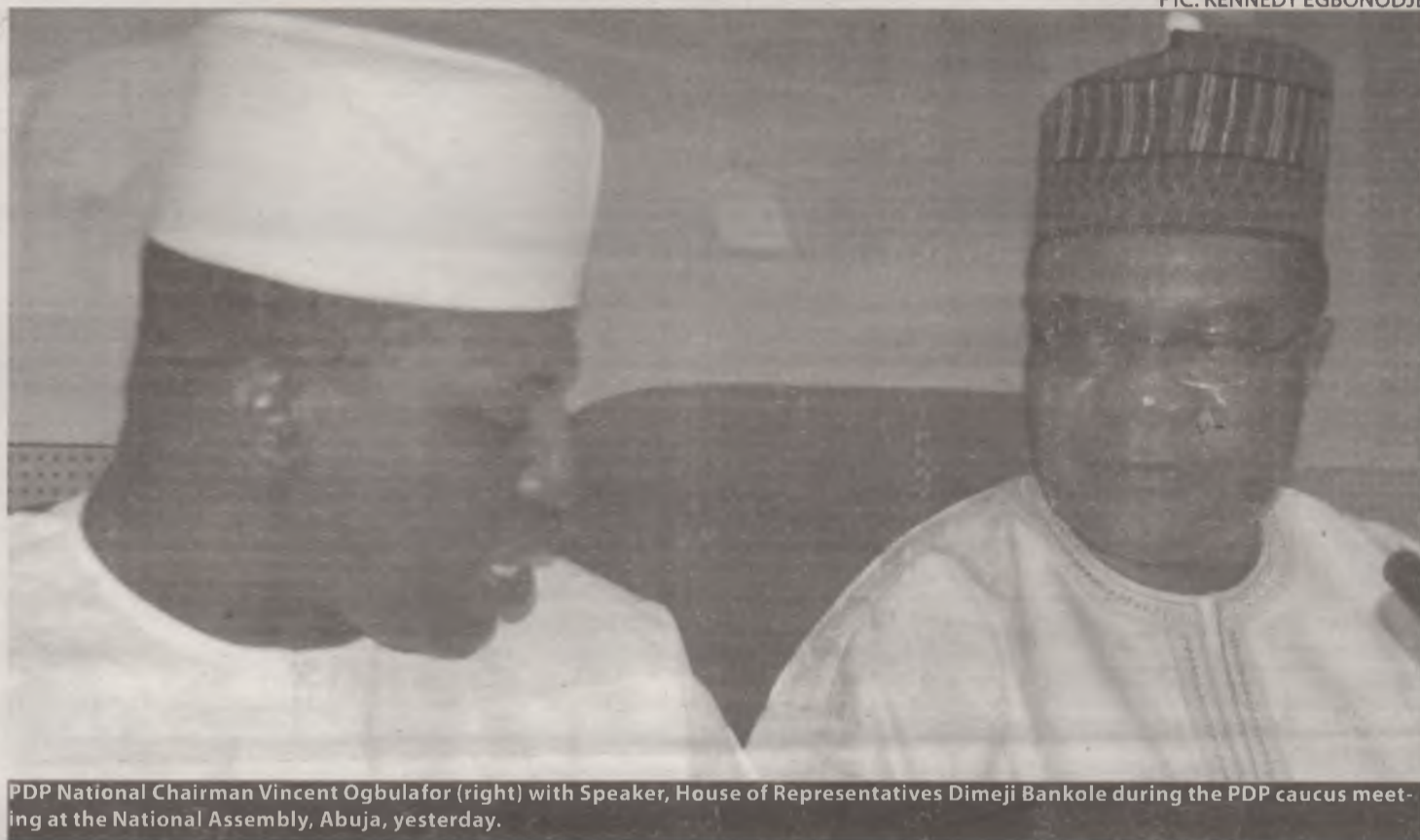
By John Chuks Azu

THE failure of leaders to provide visionary and result oriented service has been identified as the greatest factor militating against democracy and, by extension, the country's development.

Justice Lateef Fagbemi, who was the guest lecturer at the annual lecture series of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) held at the Shehu Musa Yar'adua Centre, said this in Abuja yesterday.

He described corruption as an intractable disease which has been eating deep into the fabric of the Nigerian system and called for more severe punishment for all offenders.

Speaking on the topic: "Law as a tool of Social Engineering, Demands and Challenges in Consolidating Democracy" in honour of Justice Auwal Gummi, the Chief Judge of the FCT, Justice Fagbemi regretted that unlike in the first and second republics when issues of various areas of national development dominated manifestoes of the political leaders then, that "political participation in Nigeria is no longer a matter of principles but of pockets". He lampooned the government for wasting billions of naira on INEC without restructuring the electoral body and adopting the job done by Justice Muhammed Uwais on the electoral reforms ahead of the 2011 general elections.



PDP National Chairman Vincent Ogbulafor (right) with Speaker, House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole during the PDP caucus meeting at the National Assembly, Abuja, yesterday.

Rights group to appeal Facebook ruling

A Nigerian civil rights group said on Wednesday it would appeal an Islamic court order to shut down its chat forums on Facebook and Twitter which criticise the practice of Islamic law in northern states.

An Islamic court in Kaduna on Monday ruled for the Association of the Muslim Brotherhood

of Nigeria, which sought to censor debate on the social networking sites over an amputation case that occurred 10 years ago.

The Civil Rights Congress began the debate on Facebook and Twitter last week, asking members their opinions over the amputation of a peasant farmer's hand in

March 2000 after he was convicted by an Islamic court for stealing a cow.

Shehu Sani, the group's president, said he started the discussion to highlight what he believes is the unfair practice of sharia law by Nigeria's northern states.

"Sharia law seems to only

apply to the poor and downtrodden. It is wrong that this farmer's hand was amputated, while politicians steal hundreds of millions of dollars without being punished," he said.

The rights group is expected to appeal the ruling to an upper sharia court on Monday. Reuters.

CNPP faults Senate on electoral reform

By Abbas Jimoh

CONFERENCE of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) yesterday in Abuja accused the Senate of ambushing Nigerians with the amendment of the Constitution, saying that personal interest and not national interest influenced the entire process.

CNPP Secretary General, Chief Willy Ezugwu, said the amendment the Senate is pushing down on Nigerians runs contrary to the

renewed interest that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan has shown for electoral reform.

"What the Senate has done is a charade and an insult to Nigerians who spent time and resources to make presentations during the public hearings organized by the Justice Uwais led Electoral Reform Committee. It is sad that Senate can join the PDP in cannibalizing the report from the Uwais Panel, which was hailed as comprehensive and satisfactory nationwide," Ezugwu said.

'Jonathan sabotaging Yar'adua's 7-point agenda'

By Nasir Imam

THE dissolution of the federal cabinet by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan was targeted at sabotaging the 7-point agenda of ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, the Arewa Youth Forum (AYF) alleged yesterday.

While describing the move as illegal and unconstitutional, the

AYF said that the classification of some ministers as Yar'adua's loyalists and their replacement with 'incompetent' Nigerians was unacceptable.

In a statement signed by its National President Alhaji Gambo Ibrahim Gujangu, the AYF stressed the need for the National Assembly to remain focused and ensure that Jonathan plays by

the rules and in the interest of Nigeria.

It added that the future of Nigeria's democracy lies in the hands of the lawmakers being those legislating for the country and warned that the Senate would be held responsible should anything untoward happen to Nigeria's nascent democracy at this critical moment.

Electoral reform: The 36 sections amended by Senate

Continued from yesterday

Compiled by Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SECTION 178 (election of governors) "(2) An election to the office of Governor of a State shall be held on a date not earlier than one hundred and fifty days and not later than ninety days before the expiration of the term of office of the last holder of that office."

Section 180 (tenure of office of governors) "(2) Subject to the provisions of subsection (1) of this section the Governor shall vacate his office at the expiration of a period of four years commencing from the date when

(a) in the case of a person first elected as a Governor under this Constitution, he took the oath of Allegiance and oath of office; and

(b) the person last elected to that office took the Oath of Allegiance and oath of office or would, but for his death, have taken such oaths.

(c) in the determination of the four year term, where a re-run election has taken place and the person earlier sworn in wins the re-run election, the time spent in office before the date the election was annulled, shall be taken into account."

Section 182 (disqualification) (1) No Person shall be qualified for election to the office of Governor of a State if -

(i) he has been indicted for embezzlement or fraud by a Judicial Commission of Inquiry or an administrative Panel of Inquiry or a Tribunal set up under the Tribunals of Inquiry Act, a Tribunals of Inquiry Law or any other law by the Federal or State Government which indictment has been accepted to the Federal or State Government; or" is deleted.

(j) he has presented a forged certificate to the Independent National Electoral Commission." Is retained.

Section 200 (qualification for membership) "(1) No person shall be qualified for appointment as a member of any of the bodies aforesaid if -

(a) he is not qualified or if he is disqualified for election as a member of a House of Assembly, provided that a member of any of the said bodies shall not be required to belong to a political party, and in the case of State Independent Electoral Commission he shall not be a member of a political party."

Section 221 (Prohibition of Political activities by certain associations) "(1) No association, other than a political party, shall canvass for votes for any candidate at any election or contribute to the funds of any political party or to the election expenses of any candidate at an election, except in the case of an independent candidate."

Section 222 (Restriction on formation of political parties) "(1) No association by whatever name called shall function as a political party, unless-

(a) the names and address of its national offices are registered with the Independent National Electoral Commission

(b) the membership of the association is open to every citizen of Nigeria irrespective of his place



DEPUTY Senate President Ike Ekweremadu

of origin, circumstance of birth, sex, religion or ethnic grouping;

(c) a copy of its constitution is registered in the principal office of the Independent National Electoral Commission in such form as may be prescribed by the Independent National electoral Commission;

(d) any alteration in its registered constitution is also registered in the principal office of the Independent National Electoral Commission within thirty days of the making of such alteration;

(e) the name of the association, its symbol or logo does not contain any ethnic or religious connotation or give the appearance that the activities of the association are confined to a part only of the geographical area of Nigeria; and (f) the headquarters of the association is situated in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja." This section has been deleted to be included in the electoral act.

Section 221 (Prohibition of Political activities by certain associations) "(1) No association, other than a political party, shall canvass for votes for any candidate at any election or contribute to the funds of any political party or to the election expenses of any candidate at an election, except in the case of an independent candidate."

Section 223 (Constitution and Rules of Political Parties) "The constitution and rules of a political party shall-

(a) Provide for the periodical election on a democratic basis of the principal officer and members of the executive committee or other governing body of the political party; and

(b) Ensure that the members of the executive committee or other governing body of the political party reflect the federal character of Nigeria.

(1) For the purposes of this section-

(a) The election of the officer or members of the executive committee of a political party shall be deemed to be periodical only if it

is made at regular intervals not exceeding four years; and

The members of the executive committee or other governing body of the political party shall be deemed to reflect the federal character of Nigeria only if the members thereof belong to different States not being less in number than two-thirds of all the States of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja." This section is deleted to be added in the electoral act.

Section 224 (Aims and objects) "The programme as well as the aims and object of a political party shall conform with the provisions of Chapter II of this constitution." The section is deleted to be added in the electoral act.

Section 225 (Finances of Political Parties) "Every political party shall, at such times and in such manner as the Independent National Electoral Commission may require, submit to the Independent National Electoral Commission and publish a statement of its assets and liabilities.

(1) Every political party shall submit to the Independent National Electoral Commission a detailed annual statement and analysis of its sources of funds and other assets together with a similar statement of its expenditure in such form as the Commission may require.

(2) No political party shall-

(a) Hold or possess any funds or other assets outside Nigeria, or

(b) Be entitled to retain any funds or assets remitted or sent to it from outside Nigeria.

(3) Any funds or other assets remitted or sent to a political party from outside Nigeria shall be paid over or transferred to the Commission within twenty-one days of its receipt with such information as the Commission may require.

(4) The Commission shall have power to give directions to political parties regarding the books or records of financial transactions which they shall keep and, to examine all such books and records.

The powers conferred on the Commission under subsection (4) of this section may be exercised by it through any members of its staff or any person who is an auditor by profession, and who is not a member of a political party." The section is deleted to be added in the electoral act.

Section 226 (Annual report on finances) "The Independent National Electoral Commission, shall in every year prepare and submit to the National Assembly a report on the accounts and balance sheet of every political party.

(1) It shall be the duty of the Commission, in preparing its report under this section, to carry out such investigation as will enable it to form an opinion as to whether proper books of accounts and proper records have been kept by any political party, and if the Commission is of the opinion that proper books of accounts have been kept by a political party, the Commission shall so report.

(2) Every member of the Commission or its duly authorized agent shall-

(a) Have a right of access at all times to the books and accounts and vouchers of all political parties; and

(b) Be entitled to require from the officers of the political party such information and explanation as he thinks necessary for the performance of his duties under this Constitution, and if the member of the Commission or such agent fails or is unable to obtain all the information and explanation which to the best of his knowledge and belief are necessary for the purposes of the investigation, the Commission shall State that fact in its report." The section is deleted to be added in the electoral act.

Section 227 (Prohibition of quasi-military organization) "No association shall retain, organize, train or equip any person or group of persons for the purpose of enabling them to be employed for the use or display of physical force or coercion in promoting any political objective or interest or in such manner as to arouse reasonable apprehension that they are organized and trained or equipped for that purpose." The section is deleted to be added in electoral act.

Section 228 (Powers of the National Assembly with respect to political parties) "The National Assembly may by law provide-

(a) For the punishment of any person involved in the management or control of any political party found after due inquiry to have contravened any of the provisions of sections 221, 225(3) and 227 of this Constitution;

(b) For the disqualification of any persons from holding public office on the ground that he knowingly aids or abets a political party in contravening section 225(3) of this Constitution;

(c) For an annual grant to the Independent National Electoral Commission for disbursement to political parties on a fair and equitable basis to assist them in the discharge of their functions, and

(d) For the conferment on the Commission of other powers as may appear to the National Assembly to be necessary or desirable for the purpose of enabling the Commission more effectively to ensure that political parties observe the provisions of this Part of this Chapter." The section is deleted to be added in the electoral act.

Section 229 (Interpretation) "Deleting the interpretation of the word: "association" and transferring same to the Electoral Act"

Section 246 (Appeal from Code

of Conduct Tribunal and other Courts and Tribunals) "(1) An appeal to the Court of Appeal shall lie as of right from -

(b) decisions of the Election Tribunals on any question as to whether -

(3) The decision of the Court of Appeal in respect of appeals arising from election petitions shall be final, provided that an interlocutory application may be decided during the delivery of judgment."

Section 285 (Establishment of Selection tribunals and time for determination of election petitions)

"(1) there shall be established for each State of the Federation and the Federal Capital Territory one or more election tribunals to be known as the Election Tribunals which shall, to the exclusion of any Court or Tribunal, have original jurisdiction to hear and determine petition as to whether -

(a) any person has been validly elected as a member of the National Assembly;

(b) any person has been validly elected to the Office of the Governor or Deputy Governor of a State;

(c) any person has been validly elected as a member of the House of Assembly of a State.

"2" is deleted

(3) The composition of the Election Tribunals, shall be as set out in the sixth schedule to this constitution.

(4) The quorum of an election tribunal established under this section shall be the Chairman and one other member.

5. (a) An election petitions shall be filed within twenty one days after the date of the declaration of results of the elections;

(b) An election tribunal shall deliver its judgment in writing within One hundred and eighty days from the date of the filing of the petition;

(c) An appeal from a decision of an election tribunal or court shall be heard and disposed of within sixty days from the date of the delivery of judgment of the tribunal;"

Section 318 (Interpretation) "Independent Candidate" means a person seeking elective office and who is not sponsored by any political party and satisfies the requirements of the Constitution, Electoral Act, and any other law made by the National Assembly.

"(c) either-

(i) service in the public or private sector in the Federation in any capacity for a minimum of ten years, or

(ii) attendance at courses and trainings in institutions for a minimum period of one year";

Subparagraph (iii) deleted Paragraph (d) deleted Relevant certificates means"-

(a) Ordinary National Diploma or its equivalent; or

(b) Nigerian Certificate in Education; or

(c) Higher School Certificate; or its equivalent; or

(d) Advanced Diploma or its equivalent; or

(e) Higher National Diploma; or its equivalent

To be concluded on Monday

ASUU warns against Iwu's re-appointment

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has warned against the reappointment of Prof. Mauric Iwu as the Chairman of the National Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) upon the expiration of his tenure this

year. This is coming 48 hours after a rally was held by a group known as the Alliance for Defenders of Democracy (ADD) in Abuja, calling for the renewal of his tenure. The National President of ASUU Prof. Ukachukwu Awuzie, who spoke at a news conference yesterday in Owerri, Imo State said

the union would stage a protest if Iwu is reappointed. He said ASUU would collaborate with the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), LLASCO and other civil society organizations to ensure the actualization of electoral reforms as recommended by the Uwais committee. On the implementa-

tion of the agreement signed by ASUU and the Federal Government, Awuzie regretted that the Federal Government had done nothing about the agreement. He said salaries of lecturers in federal universities for the months of August and September 2009 were still being withheld contrary

to the agreement. The ASUU president also lamented that the reinstated lecturers sacked at the University of Ilorin had not being paid their arrears.

He called on the Federal Government to take steps to ensure that the affected lecturers received their entitlements.

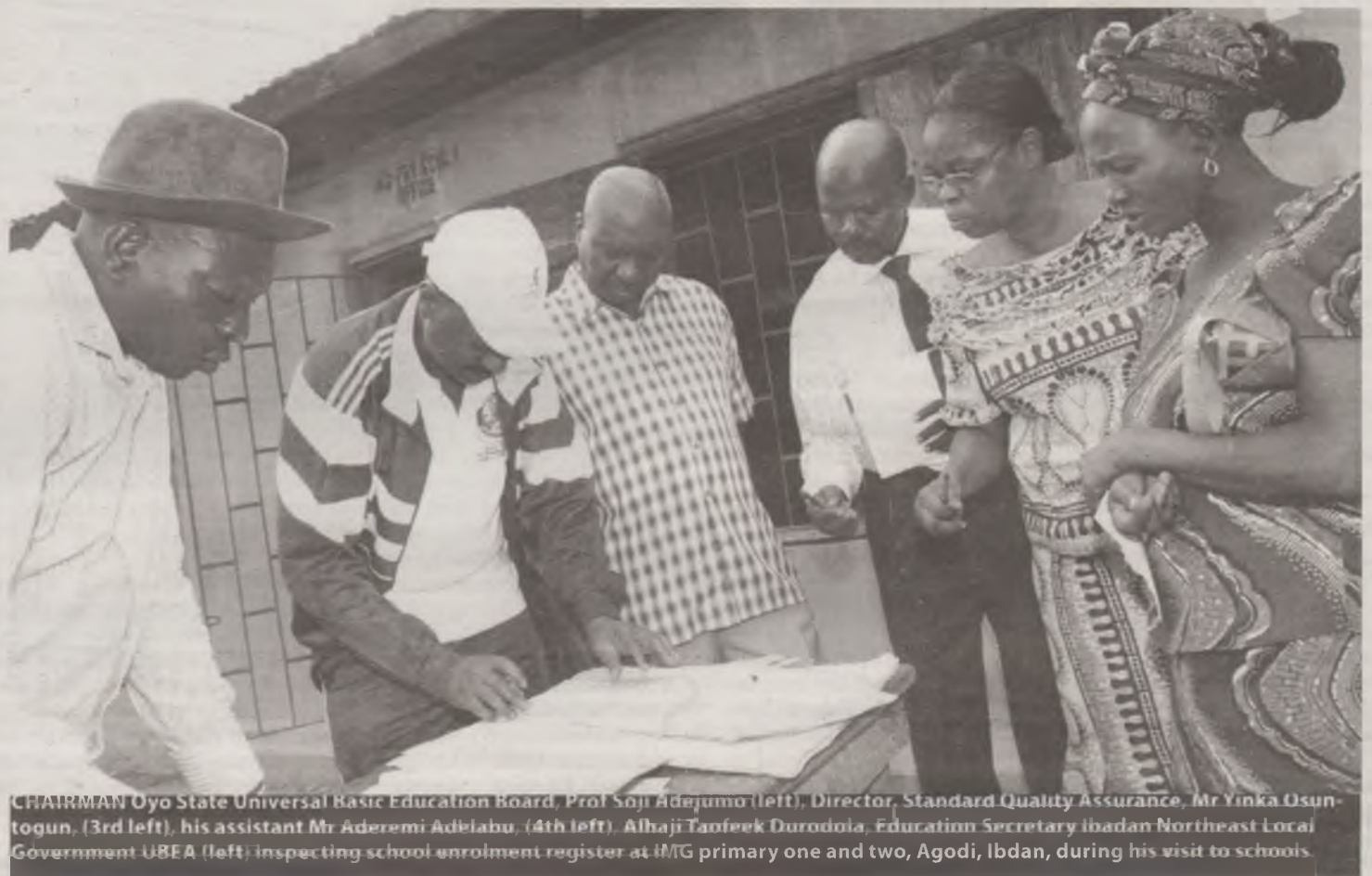
Lawmaker urges Jonathan on dev in Niger Delta

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

A member of the House of Representatives, Samson Osagie, has called on Acting president Goodluck Jonathan to develop the Niger Delta region before leaving office. Osagie, who is the Chairman House Committee on Special Duties made the call in a phone interview with Daily Trust yesterday. He said until there was meaningful development in the region, peace would continue to elude the area.

He advocated for dialogue between the Federal Government and militants.

On the recent bomb blast at the venue of the post amnesty dialogue in Warri, the lawmaker said, "The incident has exposed the fragility of our security network".



CHAIRMAN Oyo State Universal Basic Education Board, Prof Soji Aderjumo (left), Director, Standard Quality Assurance, Mr Yinka Osuntogun, (3rd left), his assistant Mr Aderemi Adelabu, (4th left), Alhaji Taofeek Durodola, Education Secretary Ibadan Northeast Local Government UBEA (left) inspecting school enrolment register at H/TG primary one and two, Agodi, Ibadan, during his visit to schools.

Police sensitise Okada riders on mob action

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Kano State Police Command has started sensitising commercial motorcyclists (Okada) against taking the law in their hands. The police flagged off the campaigns following the recent attack on a suspected kidnapper in the state. Addressing the motorcyclists at the Kasuwar Takari, Yankaba Market, Badawa Bus Stop and Hotooro Tsamiyar Boka in Kano metropolis, Public Relations Officer of the command SP Baba Mohammed Azare said the sensitization was necessary to reduce jungle justice in the state.

While calling on the motorcyclists to be law abiding and report crimes to the police, he said henceforth, anyone found at a crime scene would be considered an accomplice and made to face the law. Responding, the motorcyclists pledged not to take the law into their hands anymore, saying they would be law-abiding citizens.

We can no longer guarantee safety of NITEL installations - Workers

From Ismail Mudahsir, Kaduna

FOLLOWING the non payment of their 24 months salaries, workers of NITEL under the Senior Staff Association of Communications, Transport and Corporation (SSACTAC) yesterday in Kaduna State said they could no longer guarantee the safety of installations of the company. Addressing newsmen, the president of the workers union, Comrade Elias Y. Kazah said,

"Our major concern as a responsible union is the security of NITEL/ MTEL installations, but with the way things are going and the manner in which government is handling the sale, the safety of the installations are at risk" he said.

He urged the Federal Government to clear the outstanding salaries, saying salaries were not political issues and as such should be separated from the politics in the sale of NITEL.

"We have shown a high level of discipline, supported gov-

ernment policies, yet government has decided to suffer us. Our children can no longer go to school, no accommodation, in fact, no means of survival. If we had known, we would have behaved like oil and gas workers," he said.

He threatened that the non payment of their salaries may force them to embark on a nationwide protest, noting that all the crises in the country were due to the lack of fairness on the part of government.

"About 9000 of our workers were sent away without their entitlements and the remaining 4,000 have not been paid for 24 months. If they push us to the wall, we will make our grievances known through a mass protest. You know a hungry man, is an angry man," he said.

While questioning the lack of transparency in the move to sell NITEL, he said they learnt that the Chinese company bided for the company for 1.5 million dollars, not 2.5 million dollars as announced by the government.

Youth empowerment center to reduce unemployment

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE Chairman of the House of Representatives Committee on Youth and Social Development Dapo Oyedokun has said that the national youth empowerment centre, which would soon be established in the North-east zone would offer vocational training skills to corps members and reduce the number of unemployed graduates in the country. He said this during the committee's assessment visit to the National Youth Service

Corps (NYSC) orientation camp in Maiduguri, Borno State. He said some geopolitical zones had already started benefiting from the vocational training scheme, adding that the welfare of corps members was of paramount importance to the country.

The Borno State Coordinator of the NYSC Alhaji Habibu Kurawa commended the state government, saying it had assisted the scheme through the provision of a 100KVA generator and over 1,500 mattresses for corps members in the state.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The general Public is hereby informed that there would be traffic diversion and temporary closure of Obafemi Awolowo way (Arterial N5) at Life camp junction. This is to allow for the construction of waste water drainage system as part of the development of interchange facilities at the junction of Obafemi Awolowo way (Arterial N5) Ring Road 2.

The traffic diversion and temporary closure of the road is expected to start from 28th March, 2010 till 11th April, 2010. During that period, there would be traffic signs to guide motorists and all road users on the diversion.

The inconveniences that may arise are highly regretted, please.

Signed:
Engr. S. O. U. Ugonabo, FNSE
Director, Engineering Services, FCDA.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Gaddafi: A maverick's bizarre suggestions

BEFORE Gaddafi's statement, I have discussed this issue with friends

about splitting Nigeria. To my surprise, a lot of those I had such dis-

cussions with agreed that splitting the country is one of the solutions

of our differences. This is because Nigerian unity is just a myth!

Muhammad M. Uthman
muhdibnmuhd@yahoo.co.uk



NIGER State Gov Babangida Aliyu

Plateau killings bad for Nigeria's image - Gov Aliyu

THE killings in Plateau state is beyond religious because as stated by Governor Babangida, in Islam the sin of killing anyone is transferred to the killer. There is no doubt about this, and I think it is the same thing with Christianity. The perpetrators of these acts have something else up their sleeves. I have said this before that the only alternative to this massacre is imposing a state of emergency. I am saying this in the best interest of this country even though some people are misquoting our assertion.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

Fire: FG to pull down structures under bridges

FIRE outbreaks, especially in our markets, have wrecked havoc. This was largely due to the unplanned and apparently uncoordinated expansion of the markets, the latest being at Kano's Kantin Kwari and Maiduguri's Timmer market.

These outbreaks could have been averted had those in-charged enforced the safety regulations. But today, in almost all Nigerian cities and municipalities, one sees markets cropping-up everywhere. The markets expand so rapidly that even walking through them is a hard task. All these activities occur right in the presence of State and Local Government officials. In the event of any fire outbreak, the fire services have very severe and restricted access to the scene. As a result, the fire rages on uncontrolled! It is time State governments in particular enforce the safety standards in our markets. This is not only to avert future fire breakouts but also avert catastrophic losses of life and property if these fires were to break out on busy market days.

Muhammad Nalya
naiyamd@yahoo.com

58 Nigerians deported from Sudan

THIS is a shame to our Northern Governors for their collective failure in the area of making the environment conducive for their citizens. Each time, it is either their people are being evacuated from Lagos and dumped on the streets of Kano or Kaduna or they are dumped on the tarmac of Kano Airport or that of Lagos

8 more ministers named: Why Masari was dropped

I think the removal of Masari's name was orchestrated and Masari should have been rewarded for his role in elevating Jonathan to Acting President through the SNG.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

I wish to thank the Acting President for dissolving the cabinet. This is to give way to efficiency and effectiveness. I also thank him for re-nominating Dora Akunyili for a ministerial post. Kudos for that.

Emmanuel Okon
emmanuelokon15@yahoo.com

Why do we keep recycling same names as ministers? Are they the most qualified out the 150 million Nigerians? Are there no competent, qualified, talented young Nigerians with better and dynamic

ideas to move our dear country forward? We are definitely not fair to our youths who are our future. For me, I am yet to feel or see the dividends of democracy!

Michael Ishola
sholademiooluwa@hotmail.com

The nomination of Professor Ruqayya Ahmed Rufa'i from Jigawa State was very excellent. This is a woman from a very modest background and a highly traditional community yet she was able to become a Professor and is currently the Commissioner for Education in Jigawa State where she is making a big difference. This is equally a success to the women folk across Northern Nigeria. I also console the Jigawa people for the loss of this Amazon.

Tasiu Muhd Ringim
tmringim@gmail.com



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

The 33 ministerial nominees

IT is high time for the Nigerian leaders to start displaying patriotism and being involved in the quest for a greater Nigeria.

Sagir
mushkilamafi@yahoo.co.uk

Jonathan has disappointed many of us with his list of nominees for ministerial appointments. The list does not represent a departure from the past practice of appointing 'anointees' of Governors. So long as the Executive will rely on the governors to nominate candidates, we will continue to have third-rate people that cannot deliver as our Ministers. Only a few of them are good hands for the job. We thought the Acting President would form an all-embracing cabinet devoid of partisanship because his government is a Government of National Unity, not of PDP.

The Acting president should have learnt a lesson from the mistakes of President Yar'adua.

Dan-Halilu
idanhalilu@yahoo.com

An appreciable new dawn for Nigeria as a nation. A change in names... a change in generational and genetic corruption... fresh hope. I have to admit though that it needs monitoring and sustenance. This is a senate different from that of Athor Nzeribe and Nwabara's in generational and reasonings. a Presidency that nurses the hunger of writing its name in the book of life... Ngozi Okonjo Iweala, Prof. Wole Soyinka, Buhu Ribadu and their likes should also be brought in... these are the kind of people the Presidency needs right now.

Umeokoro C. Jonas
youthbeath_co@yahoo.com

Profile of the new ministers

YOUR colleagues were recently congratulated for their appointment as ministers. Now they have been sent off unceremoniously. You are now the new group. I urge you to please put the fear of God in all your deal-

ings because one day you would be called to account for your stewardship here or in the hereafter. May Allah guide and protect you all.

Idris Keletuma
idris.kelly@yahoo.com

For Murtala Yar'adua, a false alarm

I think some people are afraid of Murtala's nomination, especially those from the president's family. They fear that after marginalizing their son from scheme of things he might emerge to step into his late father's shoe. Or have we heard even once when Murtala was ever involved in Umaru's administration? Mischief makers should go to rest and allow the quiet and patient gentleman to come and serve. Who knows? This may be the beginning of a new era in the Musa Yar'adua family. Only time will tell.

Salisu Umar

salisgaladunci@yahoo.com

...Not in Nigeria. Nobody can turn down a ministerial position. Not amongst our present set of elites anyway.

Abdulkadir s. Daura
dauraas@hotmail.com

Good Mr. Murtala Yaradua. You must serve your fatherland just like your grandfather and father did.

I know you are up to the task and may God's wisdom guide you as you serve your country faithfully.

Damian Orisakwe
orisakwed@yahoo.com

Constitution: Senate adopts 35 changes

AT last, the Senate has finally passed the amendments to some provisions of the 1999 Constitution. This amendment will provide for independent

candidacy which I believe is a positive development for our democracy.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi
elkutigi@gmail.com

Ministerial nominees: Plateau women commend Jonathan over Tapgun

THANK you, Jonathan, for giving the youths and women a voice. We thank you. The performance of the so called "experienced" elders who are only concerned with their narrow agenda has taken Plateau back to the Stone Age.

Well done Jonathan!
Mrs Naomi Gyang
ngyang@yahoo.co.uk

The choice of Josephine Tapgun is a recognition of the role of women in peace building. The challenge is now on Tapgun to make a difference.

May the Lord guide her to restore peace on the Plateau. Amen.

Maimuna Garba
mgarba@yahoo.co.uk



By Musa Abaji

Babangida, North and 2011

In the event Acting President Goodluck Jonathan is persuaded to honour the gentleman's agreement concerning power rotation between the North and the South and he does not run for the presidency in 2011, the North will have to shop for a suitable person to complete its 8-year allotment. The question is: who will be that suitable person?

I am not a politician or a political mover and shaker who will determine who that candidate could possibly be but as a northerner and therefore a stakeholder in the matter, I feel compelled to volunteer my humble opinion on the obviously contentious issue. And my humble take on the matter is that the North should go for the former military President General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida.

There are many reasons that recommend IBB as the man we should go for. Number one is experience. Due largely to the ill-health of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua and the interim, care-taker nature of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan's presidency, nothing much will be achieved in the four years of the Yar'adua-Jonathan presidency in spite of their best intentions. It will, therefore, be disastrous for Nigeria and especially for the image of the North, to lose eight years of what is

Any true patriot will agree that the quota system has done incalculable harm to the progress and development of the country

supposed to be the North's presidency if the region chooses to go for a rookie for that very important office in 2011. The North and Nigeria can certainly not afford to go for any one who will need to learn the ropes of exercising presidential powers in the crucial four years of completing the North's tenure.

IBB has eight solid years of experience in that office and having stepped aside for the past 18 years, he will go back wiser and more able and will see the chance as a golden opportunity to correct the errors he made in his first coming and etch his name in gold among the pantheons of Nigerian leaders.

This is a man who has his eyes firmly fixed on history. Of all Nigerian leaders he is the one most anxious about what history will say of him. His actions and body language tell you clearly that he wants history to record him as one of the greatest Nigerians that ever lived and governed. Nigeria has to a large extent been ill-served by most of her leaders because such persons do not seem to bother about the verdict of history on them. A man like IBB with this keen sense of history is not likely to flunk a second chance. He will be well motivated to do this nation great good. He understands the nation's main problems and with that personal motivation, will be propelled to live a string of great achievements.

And IBB has lately been giving indication about what his second coming would look like if he is given the chance. He said recently that the time has come for Nigeria to jettison the quota system in favour of a merit-based ethos. This new song sounds sweet in the ears of many Nigerians. Any true patriot will agree that the quota system has done incalculable harm to the progress and development of the country.

What is more, the man has also been saying that there is urgent need for Nigeria to devolve power to the states and local governments to ensure rapid development of the country. For a military man who should love the command and control arrangement of a powerful federal government to say for instance that there is need to even decentralize the police system of the country tells how much IBB is sold on the need to re-arrange certain arrangements in the Nigerian federal system to ensure rapid growth and development of the country.

As I said earlier, IBB's stepping aside has given him the opportunity to reflect on Nigeria and he now sees things in a better light. In fact it is correct to say that he has seen the light and has become born again. Nigeria needs to benefit from IBB's born againism.

IBB is now close to 70 and has been president for eight years. If he is asked to complete the North's remaining portion of four years, he is not likely to be tempted to upset the delicate, unconstitutional gentleman's agreement earlier referred to. If we ask a younger, more ambitious person to serve for only four years, he is likely to come up with all manner of inventive excuses as to why he must stay for much longer. He will manipulate the system to ensure a 'Third Term' for the north and Nigeria will surely be thrown into another unnecessary political crisis. To my mind, it is safer to bank on IBB.

General Babangida will not be hard to sell to other Nigerians from other regions and religions. He already has a name recognition that other possible northern candidates will not have. He is one of the greatest friend-makers that Nigeria has ever produced. He has friends and loyalists across the length and breadth of Nigeria who will rally round his banner. Even out of power for nearly 20 years now, his Hill top residence in Minna is still a pilgrimage destination to millions of fellow-countrymen and women and outsiders whose goodwill he cultivated over the years and who know the influence he still wields in Nigerian politics and social life. It is instructive that when the powerful Mrs. Winnie Mandela was here in January for the annual *Daily Trust* Dialogue, she struggled and squeezed out time to go to Minna to console with Babangida on the demise of his adorable wife Maryam.

Once indication is given that the north has endorsed IBB as its presidential choice for the 2011, the IBB political machinery will be reactivated immediately, oiled and rolled into town to sell him successfully to Nigerians and to the international community.

Abaji wrote from 34 Bujumbura Street, Wuse 2, Abuja.



By Abba Gana Shettima

Electricity: The long walk to darkness

One of the greatest tragedies of Nigeria in its 50 years of independence is the monumental failure of leadership. As a matter of fact, the country's leadership has not only failed to live up to its responsibilities but has actually become the greatest burden on the citizenry. Where else but in Nigeria can you find a leadership that has taken the nation so much for granted—spinning lies and hoodwinking the people all the time. Consider, for example, the case of electricity supply. Towards the end of 2009 when it was clear to all that the promised generation of 6,000 megawatts of electricity by the end of the year was becoming a mirage, the PDP led government kept insisting that 'it was a deal, not just a promise'.

Even as the December 2009 deadline inched closer and closer and days and nights of darkness kept blanketing us, the political spin doctors never gave up, insisting at one point that 'we have 4,500 megawatts available but because of gas constraints we are able to deliver just 2,500'. These people! They are never short of excuses; never ashamed of telling lies. Who bothers about elec-

Can any nation survive the large scale official pilfering going on here for decades?

tricity that is 'available' but can't be delivered? Similarly, who bothers about some 'enough petrol that can go round' but never reaches the consumer? Who bothers...?

In 2007 when the Yar'adua administration took over the reigns of leadership, the President announced to the nation that the preceding administration of Olusegun Obasanjo spent US\$10 billion on the power sector between 1999 and 2007 without building any power plant. This figure was soon raised to US\$16 billion by the House of Representatives, which set up a committee to probe the matter. We do not as yet know how that probe ended but while drama lasted, many mind-boggling revelations were made.

For example, the nation learn that contract for the feasibility study of the huge 2,600 megawatts Mambilla hydro-electricity project was awarded to the German engineering firm Lahmeyer. Lahmeyer had an earned a fame as one of the first large international companies ever blacklisted by the World Bank, after being convicted for bribery in the Lesotho Highlands Water Project. So what do you expect such a company to deliver? Nothing but

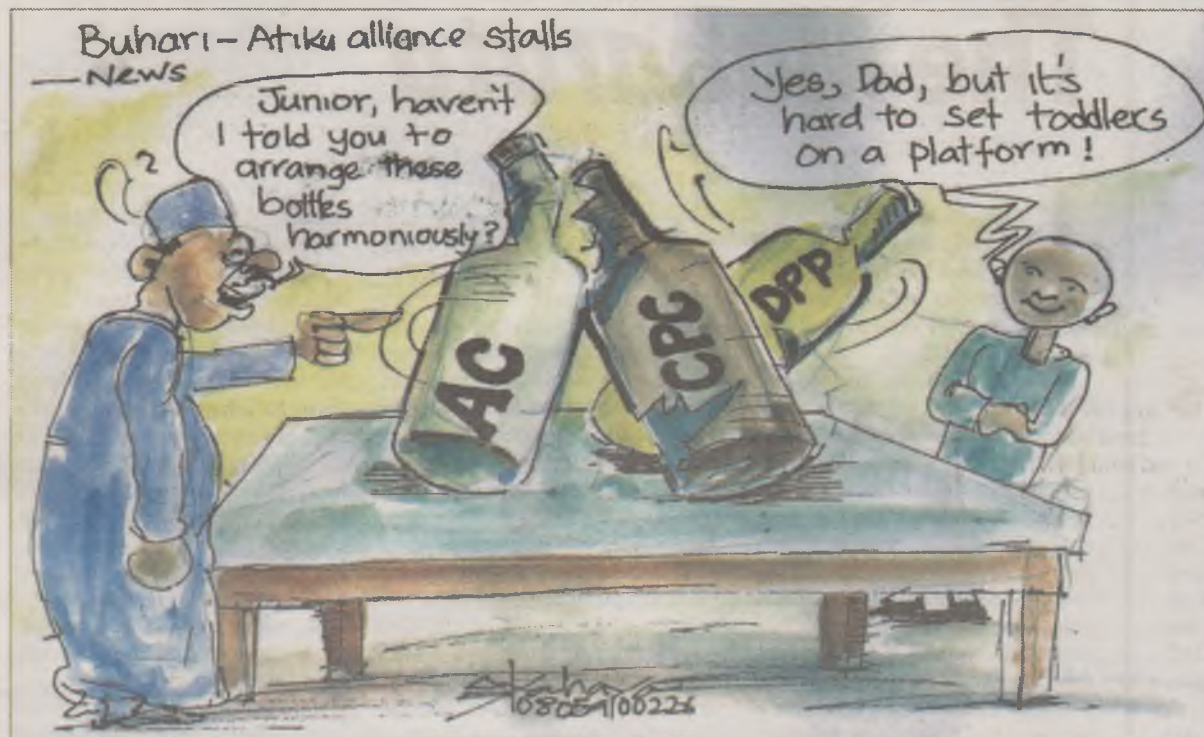
darkness of course! Lahmeyer collected US\$3.2 million and never visited the site. In addition, some US\$50 million of the power funds were paid to companies that did not even exist. Come to think of it: can any nation endure some of the things that happen in Nigeria? Can any nation survive the large scale official pilfering going on here for decades? If Nigeria were North Korea, many would have received the Pak Nam Ki treatment a thousand times over.

Now, consider also, that more recently, just before Goodluck's axe started chopping the political timber, the former Minister of Power Olanrewaju Babalola said that the nation should not expect stable power any time soon because the sector requires US\$5 billion annually; arguing that the federal government does not have the required investment and therefore, cannot turn round the comatose sector alone. Unfortunately, the former Minister was simply being economical with the truth. The problem with the power sector and many other sectors of the Nigerian economy is not lack of funds but simply the colossal corruption that has been eating away every investment. Unless the entire system is thoroughly cleaned up, US\$5 or even US\$10 billion annually will not make any difference.

Malcolm E. Fabiyi's analysis of the spending on the power sector is apt and worth quoting in full: "In 1999, the peak power output in Nigeria was about 3,000 MW. Ten years, and about \$10 billion later, Nigeria's peak power output is about 3,400 MW. Large scale power generation and transmission costs \$1,000/kW (or \$1 million/MW). This implies that the average \$10 billion supposedly spent so far on power should have gotten Nigeria an additional 10,000 MW. Since we have improved effective capacity by just 400 MW in that entire period, it implies that we have spent about \$25 million per MW of additional capacity, when the costs should have been about \$1 million per MW. The question really should be asked: what exactly were these monies spent on?"

Well, well. This is Nigeria, and the same question has been posed before in relation to the Nigerian agricultural sector. In the 1970s and 1980s, Nigerian irrigation schemes were regarded as the most costly in the world because of the level of intensive corruption. For example, while completing an irrigation project was costing N500 per hectare in Ivory Coast, N7, 540 was spent on each hectare in the Baka-lori project. Which is why every investment in agriculture has only led us to hunger; and every investment in the power sector has only led us to darkness...an enveloping darkness.

agshettima@gmail.com



Polio eradication in Nigeria: Yes we can? (III)

Cont'd from yesterday.

The Federal Government (through the NPHCDA) and in collaboration with development partners (WHO, UNICEF etc) have been quite supportive to states and LGAs to strengthen RI and PHC through various forms of capacity building, infrastructural development, supportive supervisors etc. But all these will remain elusive unless the LGAs own up this PHC which perhaps is their constitutional mandate.

Coupled with this is the need to ensure good hygiene and sanitation practice within the community, supply of potable drinking water as well as collaboration with education departments at the LGAs in order to achieve multi-sector synergy.

Communities deserve to be treated better by their leadership and must be engaged fully with clear cut explanations and or justifications for any programme or project to be successful. Their felt needs should be addressed within the limit of the resources available. The LGAs should engage locally resident community and religious leaders to enlighten the community on polio eradication and Routine Immunization. Again Friday sermons prior to campaigns can serve as an excel-

lent reminder. The role of community based organizations like the FOMWAN; Miyyeti Allah can serve as an additional tool to get to the community. So are community dialogues, majigi (film show) and local radio programmes.

This remains a golden opportunity as Nigeria joins the rest of the world to eradicate polio and also for us to strengthen the RI and PHC for the betterment of our generation and generation yet unborn. Yes we can and, with LGA commitment and community drive, yes we shall.

Concluded.
Ya'u, a staff of the NPHCDA, Abuja, is currently studying International Public Health at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. (inuwarau@yahoo.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Re: Beyond the NECO disaster
LOTS of factors contributed to the disaster: lack of motivation for the teachers by the government itself is disastrous.
IS'HAQ Ibn Isa, Barkin Ladi, Plateau State, 08060921968.

No surprise there
THE abysmal failure in NECO and WAEC public exams is really worrisome. But come to think of it, what do we expect from students that replaced home studies with watching home video? Not much, I dare say.
DR Leo, 08032016425.

Encoding vehicle documents
THE encoding exercise being proposed by the FCT DRTS is a worthless exercise. Driver's licence and vehicle particulars have expiry dates; when they do expire, what happens to the code?
AY, 08035310525.

On the zoning arrangement
YOUR Thursday column on the above is a very progressive idea. Zoning has only succeeded in

bringing more divisions among Nigerians. What we need at this critical point in our march to nationhood are things that engender unity, not the opposite. Our politicians, National Assembly, NGO's, opinion leaders and other well-meaning Nigerians to come together and reject this undemocratic abnormality called zoning. This will enable the nation get what it deserve: the best leaders. Everybody should aspire to any office at anytime irrespective of where they come from.
08033321133.

Another kind of polio
THANK God for the concentrated effort of WHO to make Nigeria a polio-free nation. But what of the other disastrous POLIO in our midst: "ILLITERACY"? This time it does not attack the individual but the whole nation. "Parental negligence of children's education needs to be criminalized too."
TONY Okafor, Jos, 07038632687.

Blatant segregation
OUR senators are among the

most illiterate. Otherwise, how can educated senators introduce such a serious division between those who do not possess Western education certificates/secondary school certificate holders and holders of tertiary school certificate? This is total injustice to deny any Nigerian the opportunity of vying for a political office, making it a preserve for only senators and their children.
K. F. Samji, Katsina, 08033138692.

Technophobic?
ARE we allergic to having technocrats as ministers? What the hell do we need numb-skulled politicians for? It's unfortunate,
08066265694.

Another wasted opportunity
WASTE of time. I see no reason why this ministerial list should be screened by the senate; after all they are the same people being recycled.
MUSA A. J, Kaduna, 08034421620.



By Attahiru Muazu Gusau

Re: Preserving the mother tongue initiative

Your editorial of February 24, 2010, on the mother tongue is both timely and educative. Yet it must be said that the editorial missed out on the fundamental question of sidelining the mother tongue [indigenous languages] and have failed to cite the most important effort made to rescue the languages. The fact is that not only are some languages disappearing or have become extinct but that Africans have been plunged in the endless pit of alienation where everything knowledge based and relevant to their lives have been successfully made to seem un-African, foreign, and beyond the modest abilities of their cultures and environment.

We have been convinced that knowledge is a sublime package beyond the bearing capacity of the undeveloped, savage and primitive African indigenous languages. The African person will thus continue to remain a bewildered stranger in the field of knowledge and his contributions to the world and to himself in this regard will remain paltry and inconsequential.

Fafunwa's experiments and conclusions have been cited time and time again, so also the Jewish revival of a dead language [Hebrew] to become a modern



Worse still is the fact that the multiplicity and diversity of languages and ethnicities in Africa have been trumpeted and made the bane of developing sound language policy that would uplift the languages to become developed and relevant in running the affairs of African people

scientific language, and the miracle of the Japanese Meiji revolution and many more examples, yet all these have become success stories only through the sheer will and determination of the adepts of the languages to see to their success.

The tragedy in Africa is that there is almost a pervasive belief in the intrinsic deficiency and inferiority of the indigenous languages against the exoglossic colonialist languages. Worse still is the fact that the multiplicity and diversity of languages and ethnicities in Africa have been trumpeted and made the bane of developing sound language policy that would uplift the languages to become developed and relevant in running the affairs of African people.

To address the question of the continuous sidelining of African languages and save them from extinction and irrelevance, African intellectuals gathered in Asmara Eritrea in 2000 for a conference titled *Against All Odds: African Languages and Literatures in the Twenty First Century*. This conference gave birth to the famous Asmara Declaration on African languages and Literature. One of the oversights of the editorial is the failure to cite this important declaration and to call for its implementation.

The National Policy on education that provides that the medium of instruction in primary schools should be the language of the environment for the first three years is good but grossly insufficient for the development of indigenous languages. We must look into the visions of the Asmara declaration and formulate policies that shall see our indigenous languages competing neck to neck with the foreign languages as mediums of instruction in all knowledge. And this is possible only if we develop the courage to implement our freedom and begin to respect our values and humanity.

Attahiru Muazu Gusau, Secretary Gusau Educational Development Association (attamuazu@yahoo.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

Don't arm the civil defence corps

If recent media reports are anything to go by, the federal government may soon provide arms to personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC). We believe that this will be a mistake, and those concerned must have a rethink over the matter. In fact the disclosure by then minister of interior that provision had been made in the 2010 budget for the procurement of weapons for the NSCDC is already generating vigorous debate and some apprehension among Nigerians. Perhaps this is due to experience garnered over the years on the terrible way and manner uniformed personnel deploy weapons in the country.

NSCDC, a paramilitary agency of the Federal Government was established to, among other things, provide measures and guard against threat and manage any form of disaster that may confront the nation, the citizenry and public facilities. It is statutorily empowered by Act No. 2 of 2003 which was amended by Act 6 of June, 2007.

Reports however quoted the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of interior, Mrs Dara Awosika, who represented the minister at an occasion to mark the World Civil Defence Day in Abuja last month, as saying that, "the preparedness of the Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps to collaborate with other security agencies depicted its readiness to assume its statutory functions including to carry arms in a safe manner".

This indeed corroborated an earlier statement credited to a member of the House of Representative Committee on Interior, Austin Nwachukwu that the issue of arms for the NSCDC had already been captured in the 2010 budget and would soon be made available to the corps' personnel. "In the 2010 Budget, arms for the agency was captured and is already provided for and you will soon have it", he reportedly said to the cheering personnel of the NSCDC, noting that other demands of the organisation were being considered and would be adequately addressed.

It is against this background that we consider it imperative to caution government against taking a decision on a matter that could be detrimental to the security and wellbeing of the populace that the proposal was supposed to safeguard. This is because experience has over time shown that some uniformed personnel have developed a penchant for misapplication of arms, which has often led to extra-judicial killings of innocent people. A case study here is the recent experience involving personnel of the Nigerian Police during the Boko Haram episode in Borno State and other related matters. It is for these reasons, and many others beside, that we believe that rather than arming the NSCDC personnel, government should place emphasis on training and intelligence gathering. In fact, the basic questions here are whether the NSCDC personnel are mentally and physically prepared to carry arms; and whether they have been properly trained in the use of firearms in a society such as ours. There is no doubt that both the Nigerian Army and the Nigeria Police Force are involved in the monitoring of public installations such as electricity transmission lines and oil pipelines, which the NSCDC officials have used as justification to advocate for possessing arms. We however expect the NSCDC can discharge its mandate for effectively without resort to being armed. Instead, we advise that the agency collaborates with other statutorily armed security agencies in the discharge of its duties such as protecting public facilities. It would help if NSCDC reviews its recruitment policy and training curriculum to include martial art and better intelligence gathering technique. Encouraging the defence corps to carry arms would tantamount to setting a bad precedent which in the long run could prove difficult to control.

KABIRU A. YUSUF: Chairman/Chief Executive Officer
ISIAQ AJIBOLA: Managing Director/Chief Operating Officer
MANNIR DAN ALI: Executive Director/Editor-in-Chief
ALIU M. AKOSHILE: General Manager, Business & Strategy
MAHMUD JEGA: Editor, Daily Trust
SHEHU O. MOHAMMED: Asst. General Manager, Finance
GARBA ALIYU ABUBAKAR: Asst. General Manager (IT)
ABDULKADIR ALIYU: Head, Advert

e-mail: opinion@dailytrust.com

The Mabarata

By Hajjiyaye Liman

I was sitting in the parlour when I saw them pass by the window. With the children at school I knew there may be no one around to answer their *salam*. So I went to the back door to receive them.

Their faces were new to me but all the same we greeted after which there was silence. I looked closely at them with an unspoken question on my face. I really have never seen them in my life. 'Em, em', one of them started, 'I was here on Monday and you told me to come back today', she said. I was sure I had never seen her, so her obvious lie immediately pissed me off. I also had not been around on Monday. I hated being taken for a fool and had become on full alert the moment she mentioned 'Monday'. Besides, women of her age in northern Nigeria don't say Monday as 'Monday' unless 'ansha bariki' or 'anyi dandi' (negative exposure). Something just didn't click right with these women especially the way they kept looking around. So I said 'I think you've got the wrong house' and was about sending them out when one of them opened up, 'Hajjiya, gaskiya mu mabarata ne' (truth is, we are beggars)

Who are these *mabarata*? They are all around you if you care to see, roaming on our streets boldly coming up to you with pleas for assistance, now even daring to enter houses without a care for their safety. You'd see them roaming hopelessly with hunger, helplessness, often desperation written all over their faces.

This new phenomenon where able bodied men and women accept unbecoming title 'Mabarata' is disgusting. What has caused this 'mutuwar zuciya' (indolence) to tolerate this title which you would expect one to work to death to avoid.

Does it mean that these masses have succumbed to this 'mulkin kama karya' (tyranny), like the proverbial 'kashin dankali' where 'na sama ya danne na kasa', to use Ala's words.

Doesn't anybody care? Even whilst being escorted by sirens, one is bound to notice the increase in their number as they line the roadsides. To notice unlike before, they are not malams' little 'almajirai' or 'gardawa', they are not the disabled members of the society. These people are well and able. Please indulge me if I include amongst them the 'achaba' boys, car screen cleaners, hawkers of all and sundry who run after your

cars. Have you thought? Does this sustain them? Can it sustain them? I wondered. 'This is a time bomb', I mentioned to Hajo as I watch them expertly manoeuvre between vehicles inhaling exhaust fumes. 'Exactly my thoughts', she responded as we watched a group of them gather round 'mai panke' (pancake seller). 'Ishirin ishirin' (twenty twenty naira!), this 'mr biggs' kept shouting out as they wolfed down the pastry which is, most probably, brunch, for a lot of them whom I noticed, did not even bother or could not afford the five naira sachet pure water so as to be able to deliver 'balance' at the end of the day. What of the mai panke? Is it ideal that a full grown man regards selling pan cake a trade? Does it sustain him? Can it sustain him? What can he save? Can he fulfil his dreams and ambi-

up by very rich people to serve humanity. It's like 'indai ka isa' (if you are reckoned), you would have a foundation to your name, giving back to the society. It could be for researches to further our understanding of different aspects of life, the world we live in and even the space above us or just foundations to help put the poor through schools or with their health issues, with a vocation or just support fellow human beings be on their feet.

These individuals are not Government, but have a sense of social responsibility which makes them want to help not only the society but the Government itself. And this has not bankrupted them despite being at it for years.

There's joy in giving, if so, why don't we emulate them and help our people in this critical situation. Let's not allow the situation

These individuals are not Government, but have a sense of social responsibility which makes them want to help not only the society but the Government itself

tions? Does he dream of a rosy future? Secured, with guaranteed retirement benefits? Can he train his children? Can he even look after a family? The questions are as numerous as endless. Surely the increase of 'mabarata' should be a source of concern to all Northerners. We watch our people wander and roam about the streets, wasting their lives instead of living it in a way that helps us build a nation.

I grew up in Kaduna. As a very curious child in the seventies and eighties, every morning at 9.00am we watched 'Sesame Street', a program meant to educate and entertain children, on television. While my other siblings left immediately the program was over, I stayed behind to watch the 'credits' as they run because I wanted to know who was playing which puppet. It was there I heard about 'The Carnegie foundation' which was one of the sponsors of the program. As I grew up I came across some more. The Rockefellers, the Fords, the Carters, the Bill Gates, the Oprah Winfreys. All foundations set

to deteriorate further. If they find a place to help in America despite a government system that works better than ours, a welfare system that supports the needy we can start these types of foundations. Let's start from our wards and villages.

'Gayu' (guys) in your *majalissa* (joints), let 'haduwa' (sophistication) be in the number of foundations your hero is involved in, the number of students under his scholarship, not in the number of cars or houses he owns. Let his worth be measured by the number of people he has helped earn a living. Perhaps this should be the scale with which we choose leaders henceforth.

To celebrate your birthdays, instead of taking a full page in newspapers that eventually end with *mai kosai*, donate to your foundations; instead of spraying at weddings, also donate to your foundations.

Like all the foundations mentioned, we should have foundations for peace and justice, for support of education, health, economic development, human rights and for poverty alleviation etc, to serve humanity. Once in existence please advertise them so all can chip in, in cash or kind or as mere watch dogs who keep the managers and trustees of the foundations in check. This may be the course through which we can change things, we the highest producers of 'Mabarata' in Nigeria.

maumarzuq@yakoo.com

Doesn't anybody care? Even whilst being escorted by sirens, one is bound to notice the increase in their number as they line the roadsides

DANGOTE FOUNDATION: MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN KADUNA STATE



Alhaji Aliko Dangote COO

The Dangote Foundation has sunk about 50 boreholes to meet the increasing demand for potable water in different communities of Kaduna State, under the Dangote Rural Water Scheme. So far, a total of 28 communities have benefited from the borehole project, including Birnin-Gwari, Mariri-Lere, Jema'a, Kaduna city environs and Zaria Local Government Areas. Last year, the Dangote Foundation launched a Rural Water Scheme aimed at assisting communities with the much needed potable water by providing boreholes within local communities. The Foundation believes that lack of potable water constitutes a health hazard to people in many communities, and has decided to invest in this scheme in order to alleviate the problem.



Borehole at Christian Association of Nigeria [CAN] Headquarter, Kaduna State Chapter



Borehole at Zaria town

The Chairman of the Dangote Foundation, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, is of the view that this scheme will touch the lives of people, having noticed the difficulty people sometimes go through to fetch water. He is hopeful that this initiative will reduce the challenge of access to potable water being faced by many. Under this scheme, the boreholes are sunk and handed over to the local governments and benefitting communities. As part of our poverty alleviation efforts, contracts for the boreholes are spread amongst local contractors



Borehole at Sultan Bello Central Mosque, Kaduna

At Dogon-Dawa in Birnin-Gwari Local Government Area, the village head, Alhaji Ahmadu Aliyu Makama, expressed gratitude to the Dangote Foundation and its Chairman, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, for providing the community with a borehole that provides the community with clean water.



Borehole in Dogon-Dawa, Birnin-Gwari Local Government Area

This is the first in a series of water projects to be rolled out in several states across Nigeria in the coming months. This is part of the Dangote Foundation's drive to reach as many Nigerians in need of potable water supply as possible. The provision of potable water is one of the key Millennium Development Goals [MDGs] as agreed and promoted by the global community, through the United Nations. The Dangote Foundation, through this initiative, therefore, is partnering with state governments, local authorities and communities to reach the MDG targets. The ultimate objective is to provide social and economic benefits to the society.



Alhaji Hadi Ashara, Secretary of Ungwan Sanusi, Danfodio School, drinking water from the borehole

The Dangote Foundation under the able Chairmanship of Alhaji Aliko Dangote has had a positive impact on very many lives. The Foundation focuses on improving the living conditions of all Nigerians through support for projects which tackle hunger and water supply problems, strengthening the quality and quantity of health care and education and also promotes economic development at the community level. For many years the Foundation has run a feeding programme and has built many boreholes, providing water to both rural and urban communities across the country.





Discover a world where the more you talk the better it gets

Designed exclusively to fit your lifestyle, with a wide range of meaningful value added services and unique benefits.

- Special Numbers
- Access to VIP Airport lounge
- 100 Complimentary SMS
- Exclusive internet offers
- Exclusive Blackberry offers
- 50% Monthly Discount

Buy a Zain SIM card now and dial *200*# to activate. (#1,500 Monthly access fee applies).
 For more information, visit www.zain.com, dial *200# or call 111

www.zain.com

A wonderful world

www.starcomms.com

100% FREE CALLS*

All Day!

Amazing! 24Hrs
FREE TALK
Day and Night.



Load a minimum of N250 air-time and enjoy FREE ON-NET* calls for the next 24 hrs!
Don't miss this opportunity to stay in touch with friends, family and business. Grab a Starcomms Line today!

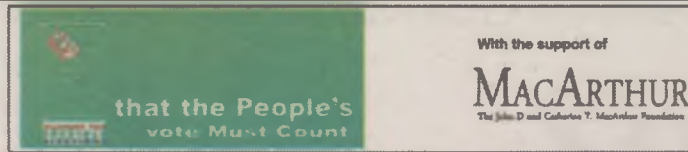
■ Offer valid for On-Net calls only ■ Available across all the Starcomms network Cities ■ Offer valid till May 31st, 2010.

Offer is not applicable on VPN & Telecenter tariff plans.
For Terms and Conditions visit www.starcomms.com or call customer care.

Call: 0702 8000 123

Nigeria's Best CDMA Operator 2009

Starcomms 
...we speak your language



PUBLIC SURVEY ON ELECTORAL REFORM ISSUES

To ensure wide participation in the electoral reform process, ACE decided to conduct a series of polls to find out the views of the Nigerian electorate on a number of issues including, the electoral reform bills, voter apathy and trust in the political process.

The first two opinion polls were conducted in the month of February (Feb 3 - 8 and Feb. 15 - 22), 2010. The survey involved telephone interviews with (2,122 in the first wave and 2,131 in the second wave) randomly selected phone-owning Nigerians, aged 18 years and above, across the six geopolitical zones in the country. The telephone numbers were drawn from a database which had been carefully selected and scientifically built to adequately represent all parts of Nigeria.

With the above sample sizes, we can say with 95% confidence that the results obtained are statistically precise and within a range of plus or minus 2% of what they would have been if the entire population had been surveyed.

It is important to note that a typical Gallup Poll in the U.S., with a population of about 300 million people, consists of 1000 interviews. Similarly, for Nigeria, 1000 respondents are adequate; however, we have over-sampled to enable inter-regional comparisons. Therefore, the sample size selected for this poll is adequately representative.

1.0 Method for Selecting and Appointing the Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) Commissioners and Chairman

Respondents were asked for their opinion on the best method for selecting the INEC chairman and commissioners. Majority of the respondents (85%) said the National Judicial Council (NJC) should advertise the positions and select the top three candidates. Only 8% felt the president should select a candidate of his choice. 1% however, felt these officers should be selected through public elections.

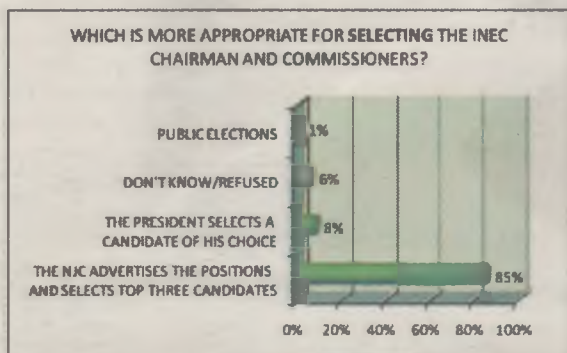


Figure 3. Appropriate Method for Selecting INEC Officers

In addition, respondents were asked for the best method for appointing an officer from the selected candidates. Over 8 in 10 respondents (84%) said the National Council of States (NCS) should choose one candidate from the previously selected three, and forward the name to the senate for confirmation. 9% however, said the president should forward his candidate to the senate for confirmation without going through a selection process, while 6% had nothing to say on the issue.

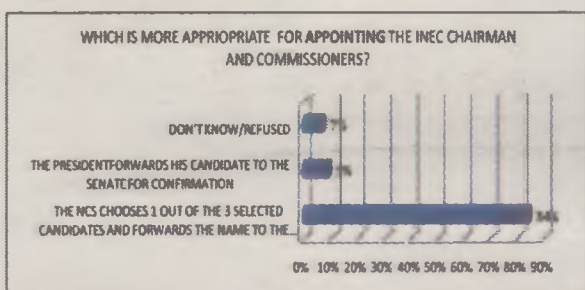


Figure 4. Appropriate Method for Appointing INEC Officers

1.1 INEC Funding

Regarding INEC funding, respondents were asked for their opinion on the best approach to managing spending. 85% of the respondents said INEC should control how the funds are spent after the budget is approved by the National assembly, compared to only 9% who said the president should control how the funds are spent.

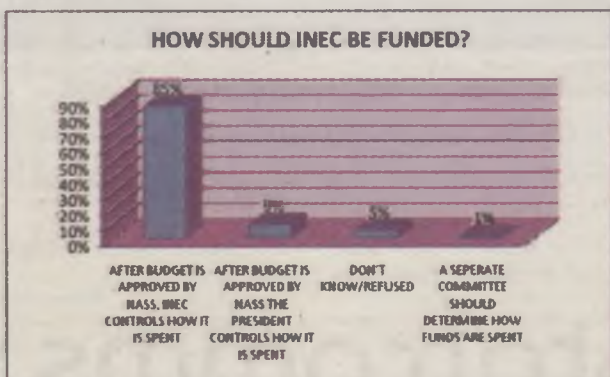


Figure 5. INEC Funds

1.2 State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECS)

When asked whether or not SIECS should be reformed, 3 in 4 respondents (75%) said yes, 12% said no reforms were required while 13% had nothing to say on the issue.

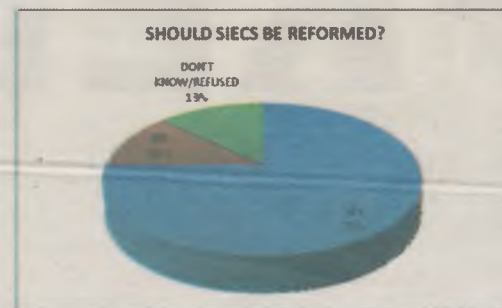


Figure 6. SIECS, Reform

Of the people who said SIECS should be reformed, about 6 in 10 respondents (63%) said SIECS should be integrated into the newly reformed INEC, while 36% said SIECS should be reformed such that it is independent of the governors.

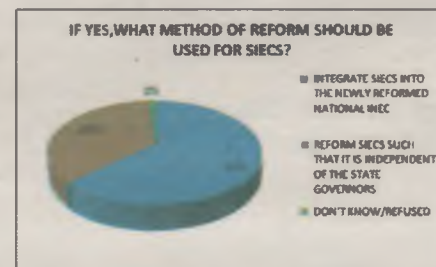


Figure 7. SIECS, Method of Reform

1.3 The Inspector General (IG) of Police

Respondents were asked for their preferred method of appointing the IG of police. Over 8 in 10 respondents (81%) said the IG should be appointed by the President based on the recommendations of the Police Service Commission (PSC) and the National Police Council (NPC). Slightly over one-tenth (13%) of the respondents, however, said the IG should be appointed by the President without recommendations from any organisation. An additional 2% said the IG should be appointed based on seniority (1%) in the police service and through public elections (1%).

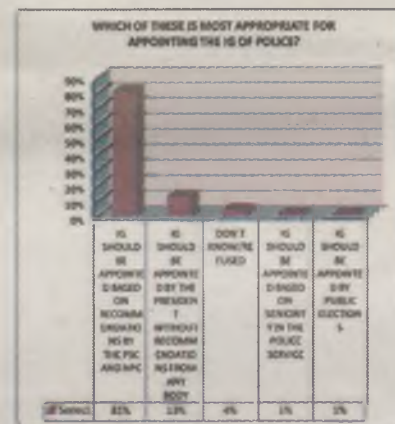


Figure 8. Method for Appointing IG

Regarding the method for removing the IG if found guilty of misconduct, nearly 8 in 10 respondents (79%) said the IG should be removed by a two-third vote of the Senate. 15% of the people polled said the IG should be removed by the President. In addition, 1% of the respondents said the IG should be removed by the PSC and another 1% said the IG should be removed by the NJC.

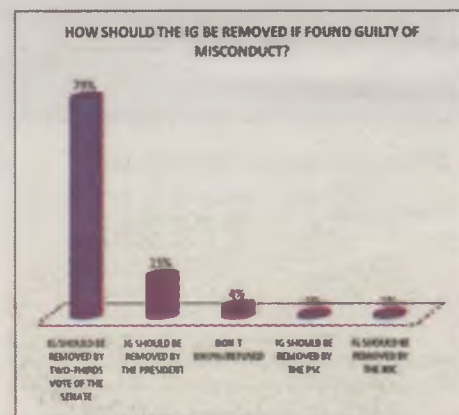


Figure 9. Method for Removing IG

Election Petitions and Onus of Proof

- 86% of the people polled said newly elected officials should only be sworn in after petitions have been concluded
- 13% said elected officials can be sworn in before petitions are concluded

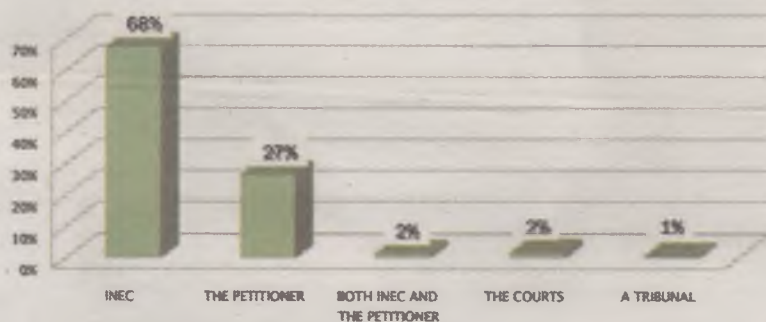
SHOULD ELECTION PETITIONS BE CONCLUDED BEFORE SWEARING IN NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS?



Election Petitions and Onus of Proof

- 27% of the respondents said the onus of proof should lie with the petitioner
- 68% said the onus of proof should lie with INEC

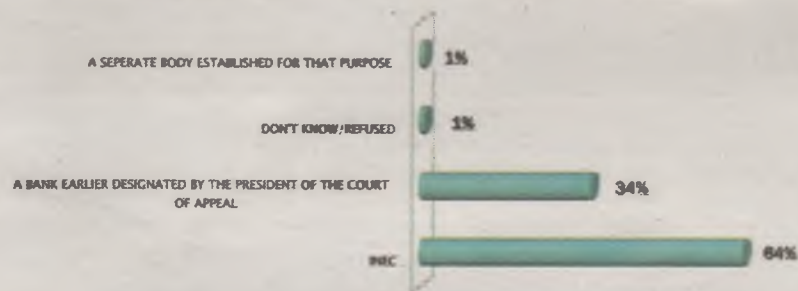
ON WHOM SHOULD THE ONUS OF PROOF LIE IN AN ELECTION?



Custody of Used Ballot Papers

- About one-third of the respondents said a bank should be designated in advance to have custody of used ballot papers
- 64% said INEC should have custody of used ballot papers

WHICH AGENCY SHOULD HAVE CUSTODY OF USED BALLOT PAPERS AFTER VOTES HAVE BEEN COUNTED AND RESULTS DECLARED?



Electoral Crimes Commission

- Nearly 9 in 10 respondents said Nigeria should establish an electoral crimes commission

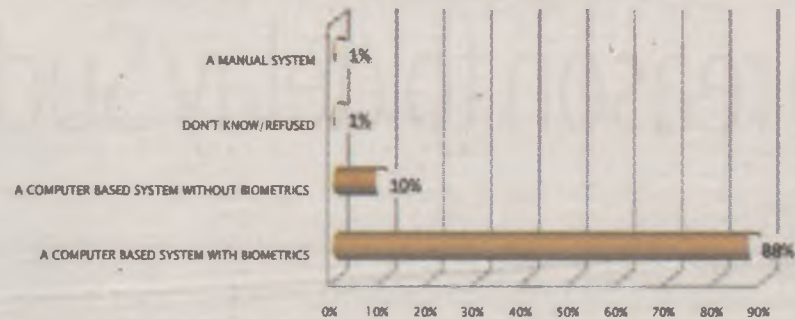
SHOULD NIGERIA ESTABLISH AN ELECTORAL CRIMES COMMISSION?



Voter Registration

- One-tenth of the respondents said they favour the adoption of a computer-based system without biometrics
- 88% preferred the adoption of a computer-based system with biometrics

WHAT VOTER REGISTRATION SYSTEM SHOULD NIGERIA ADOPT?



Voting Systems

- Roughly 4 in 5 respondents said Nigeria should adopt an electronic voter system

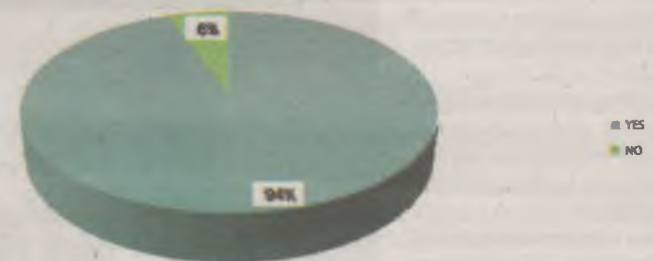
SHOULD NIGERIA ADOPT AN ELECTRONIC VOTER SYSTEM WITH THUMB PRINTING ON A COMPUTER RATHER THAN BALLOT PAPER?



Voting Systems

- Of those who said Nigeria should adopt an electronic voter system, 94% said the system should be tested before use.

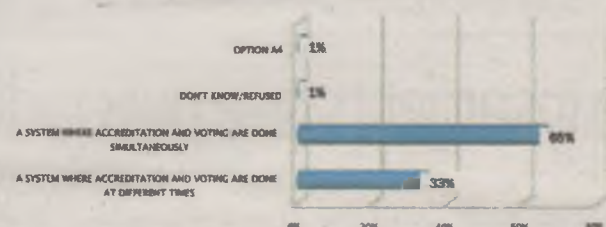
SHOULD THE ELECTRONIC SYSTEM BE TESTED BEFORE USE?



Voting Systems

- Roughly two-thirds of the respondents preferred the adoption of a system where accreditation and voting are done simultaneously
- One-third, preferred a system where they are done at different times

WHICH VOTING SYSTEM WOULD YOU RECOMMEND FOR ADOPTION IN THE 2011 ELECTIONS?



Conclusion

- The results indicate a strong preference by respondents for transparency, inclusiveness and adherence to due process in the appointment of public officers. They also indicate a desire for reforms in electoral bodies, especially, increased dependence in funding and control.
- Majority of respondents want electoral conflicts resolved prior to swearing in elected officials.
- A greater part of the people polled believe the responsibility to prove or disprove a disputed election should lie with INEC.
- To curtail electoral crimes, most respondents supported the establishment of a commission to pursue and prosecute electoral offenders.
- There was a clear preference for Nigeria to adopt a computer-based voter registration system and an electronic voting system.
- Most respondents expressed preference for a system where accreditation of voters and actual voting were done simultaneously.

INTERNATIONAL

No reason to delay Sudan elections - Minister

SUDAN has no reason to delay its elections next month which will go ahead as planned, a minister insisted on Thursday, after western observers called for a postponement.

"The date of the elections remains" April 11-13, Sudan's state minister for foreign affairs, Samani al-Wassila, told AFP here

ahead of a two-day Arab summit starting tomorrow in Sirte, the hometown of Libyan leader Moamer Kadhafi. "There have been no reasons to delay" the elections, Wassila said, adding much of the preparation work had been completed.

The Carter Center, which has been allowed to observe Sudan's

electoral process, last week urged the authorities to delay the elections because of what it said was the National Elections Commission's "limited capacity" to organise the polls. Opposition parties had already called for a delay.

Human Rights Watch said on Sunday that Sudanese government repression of its opponents

and the media was threatening the chances of next month's elections being "free, fair, and credible" Wassila said "these calls for the elections to be postponed would have been reasonable if they had been made a year ago."

Sudan's legislative, regional and presidential elections are a key provision of the 2005 peace

accord between the mainly Muslim north and mostly Christian or animist south that brought two decades of civil war to an end.

The vote is the first genuine electoral challenge faced by President Omar al-Bashir, who came to power in a military coup in 1989, three years after Sudan's last multi-party poll.

Zuma arrives in Kampala

SOUTH African President Jacob Zuma arrived in Kampala yesterday for a two-day state visit, heading a large delegation expected to explore investment opportunities in Uganda's new-found oil wealth.

"The visit is a big opportunity for Uganda and South Africa, now that our country has discovered oil, they can help because they have the expertise in that field," Uganda's junior foreign minister, Isaac Musumba, told AFP.

"Other than oil, we have a lot of potential in many areas which I am sure the South African delegation will be interested in," he added. Zuma, whose delegation includes several cabinet ministers and business leaders, received a 21-gun salute in Entebbe before going into a one-on-one meeting with Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni.

South Africa has a relatively small indigenous oil and gas industry but is exploring for more offshore and has several companies offering consulting services in refining and processing.

Uganda does not yet pro-



PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma (R) greeting residents of Madelakufa squatter camp east of Johannesburg.

duce oil but is believed to have a large potential and giants such as France's Total and China's CNOOC are vying for a share of the country's existing oil fields.

Zuma, whose country is the

world's leading producer of gold and platinum, was also expected to address members of Uganda's National Chamber of Minerals and Petroleum.

The South Africa leader was

later scheduled to address the east African nation's parliament and would unveil the cornerstone of the Oliver Tambo Leadership Institute today.

The school was named after

one of Nelson Mandela's late comrade to honour 14 ANC anti-apartheid heroes who are buried in Uganda and in recognition of Museveni's historical support for the ANC.

Somalia insurgents take over radio stations

SOMALIA'S al Shabaab rebels have taken over radio stations in the cities under their control and often detain the few independent journalists who have not fled the country, reporters and rights groups say. Journalists said al Shabaab -- which pledges allegiance to al Qaeda -- had closed a radio station in the southern city of Kismayu and seized one in Baydhaba in southwestern Somalia, the other main city under its control.

"They replaced the station in Kismayu with one that they use for their broadcasts. And they have taken over the one in Baydhaba," said Omar Faruk Osman, general secretary of the National Union of Somali Journalists. "This is a

crackdown on freedom of expression and media law."

Somalia has lacked an effective central government for 19 years and ranks among the world's deadliest for journalists, with six killed in relation to their work last year, according to New-York based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ).

The Western-backed administration of President Sheikh Sharif Ahmed is battling al Shabaab and other rebel groups and controls little more than a few blocks of the capital. Journalists, along with foreign aid workers, also risk being kidnapped for ransom.

"We are deeply worried about the growing harassment and

intimidation against Somali journalists," Osman said. Last week, a director and reporter for Shabelle Radio based in Mogadishu, Ahmed Omar Salihi was briefly detained by the al Shabaab administration in Bardhere, Gedo region, and freed after being told not to air any content about the government.

Osman added that al Shabaab had also arrested two other journalists in Gedo region, in southwestern Somalia.

Earlier this week, al Shabaab arrested three journalists in southern Somalia for among other things, reporting that elders had asked the Kenyan and Somali governments to address the insecurity at their common border.

Niger ex-parliamentary speaker returns from exile

THE former speaker of Niger's parliament, Mahamane Ousmane, has returned to Niamey after eight months of exile in Nigeria, a source close to him said yesterday. "He arrived discreetly Wednesday evening on a commercial flight from Abuja (the Nigerian capital)," Ali Souley told AFP. Ousmane was head of the parliament until it was dissolved last May by then president Mamadou Tandja because it opposed his desperate efforts to obtain an extension of his mandate, due to expire last December 22.

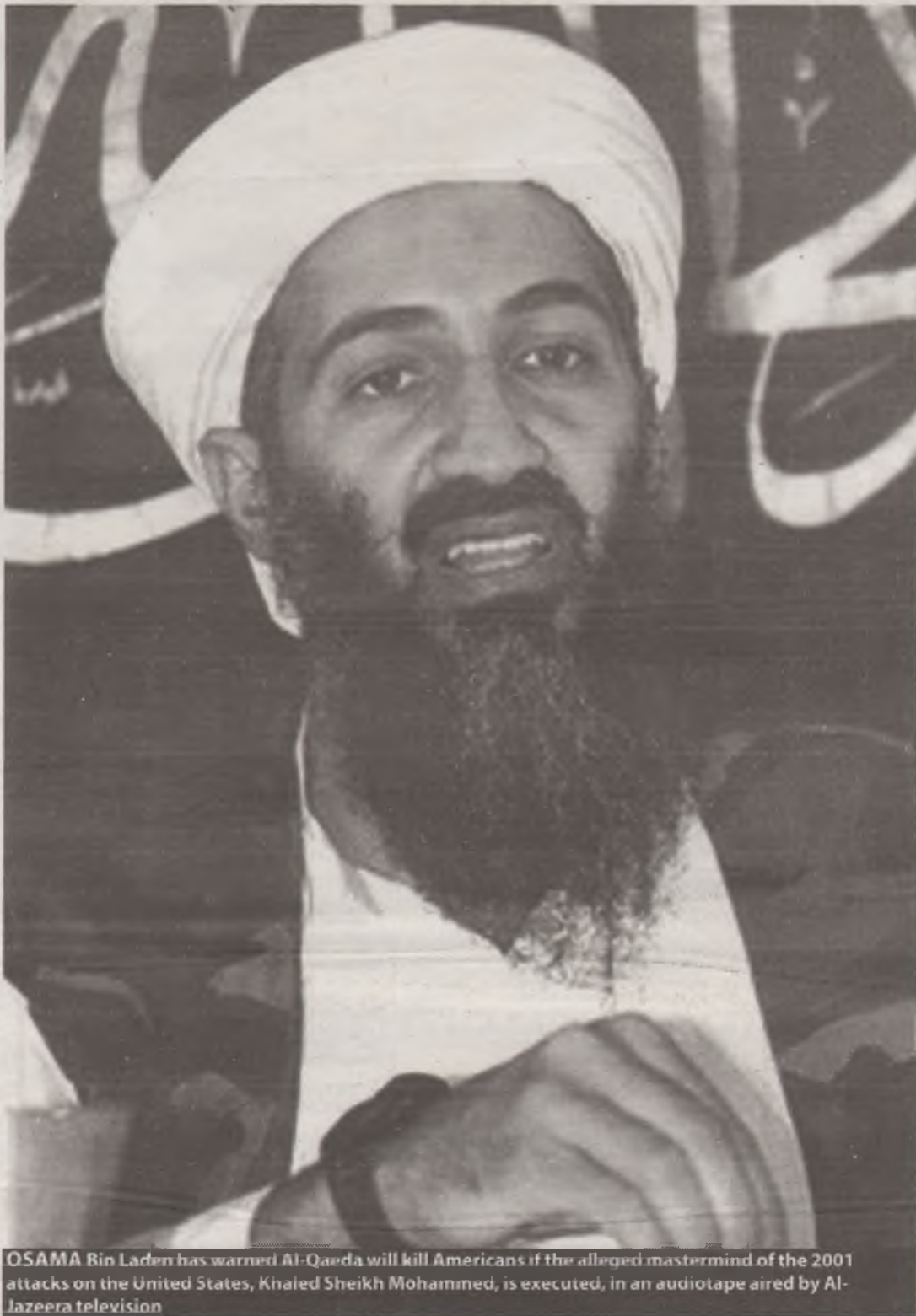
In 1993, Ousmane became the west African country's first democratically elected president, but he was overthrown by the army in 1996 after a chaotic political alignment with his then prime minister Hama Amadou. The staunch support of Ousmane's Democratic and Social Convention (CDS), helped Tandja to be elected in 1999 and 2004, but last year Tandja took a series of widely contested steps to remain in power.

He dissolved the independent national electoral commission as well as parliament, and then staged a constitutional referendum in August, which gave him three more years in power. But these steps led to his downfall in a military coup last February 18.

The junta, which has vowed to restore democracy in the deeply poor but uranium-rich country, has announced that all exiled opponents of the toppled regime can return home "without problems".

International

Bin Laden threatens US over alleged 9/11 plotter



OSAMA Bin Laden has warned Al-Qaeda will kill Americans if the alleged mastermind of the 2001 attacks on the United States, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, is executed, in an audiotape aired by Al-Jazeera television

OSAMA bin Laden threatened in a new message released yesterday to kill any Americans al-Qaida captures if the US executes the self-professed mastermind of the September 11 attacks or other al-Qaida suspects.

In the 74-second audiotape aired on Al-Jazeera television, the al-Qaida leader explicitly mentions Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who was captured in Pakistan in 2003.

He is the most senior al-Qaida operative in US custody and is currently detained at the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

In 2008, the US charged Mohammed with murder and war crimes in connection with the September 11, 2001 attacks on the US Pentagon officials have said they will seek the death penalty for him. Four of his fellow plotters are also in custody.

"The White House has expressed its desire to execute them. The day America makes that decision will be the day it has issued a death sentence for any one of you that is taken captive," Bin Laden said, addressing Americans.

A US counterterrorism official said it is absurd

for al-Qaida to suggest it is going to start treating captives badly.

"They may have forgotten Danny Pearl and all the others they've slaughtered, but we haven't," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in order to discuss classified information.

After his March 2003 capture in Pakistan, Mohammed described himself as the architect of numerous terrorism plots and even claimed that "with my blessed right hand," he had decapitated Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

Pearl was found beheaded in Pakistan in 2002. The US is still considering whether to put Mohammed and the four fellow plotters on military tribunal. The Obama administration is also looking into recommendations for civilian trials, and is expected to announce a decision soon.

Al-Qaida is not known to be holding any Americans captive now. But the Haqqani group — the Pakistan-based Taliban faction closest to al-Qaida — is holding American soldier Pfc. Bowe Bergdahl who was captured in eastern Afghanistan in June 2009. It released a video of him in December.

Hezbollah members questioned in Hariri case

INTERNATIONAL investigators have questioned members of the militant Hezbollah group in connection with the 2005 assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Lebanese security and judicial officials said yesterday.

They said a team from the Netherlands-based Special Tribunal for Lebanon has interviewed several Hezbollah members in Beirut, among dozens of other people. The judicial official said the investigators were speaking to a range of people who could have information about the assassination. Both officials spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case.

Many in Lebanon fear that if the Shiite, Iranian-backed Hezbollah is accused by the tribunal in connection with the assassination, it could lead to tension and possibly violence between Lebanon's Shiite and Sunni communities. Violence between members of the two sects left more than 100 people dead over the past five years. Hariri was a Sunni Muslim with close links to Saudi Arabia, one of the world's foremost Sunni powers.

It was not clear whether Hezbollah members have been questioned before, but it was the first time officials disclosed that interviews with group members have actually taken place. Hariri was Lebanon's most prominent politician since the 1975-1990 civil war ended.

He was killed in a massive truck bombing that set off a spiral of political turmoil in Lebanon, including the withdrawal of Syrian troops after almost 30 years of military presence and domination of the country.

Many Lebanese blame Syria for the killing, which Damascus denies. In May last year, German magazine Der Spiegel said the court had evidence that members of Hezbollah were behind the assassination.

Razor thin margin to separate Iraq election blocs

THE leading blocs in Iraq's March 7 parliamentary election are separated by a slim margin of one or two seats, the head of the country's election commission said yesterday, a day ahead of the scheduled release of the complete vote tallies.

Independent High Electoral Commission chief Faraj al-Haidari also told The Associated Press the vote tallying in the historic election was complete and that the commission was expected to sort through dozens of outstanding electoral complaints by the end of the day before announcing the full results Friday.

But political tensions were rising across Iraq on the eve of the announcement, prompting Interior Minister Jawad al-Bolani to demand a delay in the release of

the full results because of security concerns. Al-Bolani said there had been violations and fraud during the March 7 vote and that tensions between political blocs may spill over to their supporters on the streets.

He said a postponement would preserve security and ensure a peaceful transition of power. It was not immediately clear how much weight al-Bolani's demand carried.

A Shiite official who enjoys popularity among the police force he oversees, al-Bolani took part in the elections but his party got few votes. In the overall tally after 95 percent of the votes counted, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's coalition narrowly trails a bloc led by former prime minister Ayad Allawi.

Jordan: Israel playing with fire with settlements

JORDAN'S king warned Israel in a rare public rebuke that it is "playing with fire" with its settlement policy, and said in comments published yesterday the Jewish state must decide whether it wants peace or war.

The comments from King Abdullah II, whose country signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, underscore the Jordanian leader's frustration with recent Israeli announcements of new housing for Jews in disputed east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians claim as the capital of a future state.

The Israeli plans came just as

long-stalled indirect peace talks were to begin under US mediation. The housing announcement enraged Arabs, and triggered sharp condemnation from Washington and the international community. "We have warned repeatedly that Israel is playing with fire," Abdullah said in an interview published with local newspapers.

He said Israel "must decide if it wants conflict or peace," adding that if it is indeed peace, then Israel must take "tangible actions" toward ending settlements and returning to negotiations with Palestinians.

International

Berlusconi faces key test in regional elections

ITALIAN Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi faces regional elections this weekend with opinion polls suggesting his popularity has been eroded by scandals and by his coalition's bureaucratic bungling ahead of the vote.

Some 40 million voters will elect governors in 13 regions of which 11 are now controlled by the center-left opposition, which has been in disarray since it was defeated by Berlusconi in the 2008 national election.

Until a few weeks ago Berlusconi had looked set for another landslide victory, but a string of corruption probes and the exclusion of his party from the March 28-29 ballot in the key Rome province may now have hurt his chances.

Concerns over the euro zone's third largest economy, reeling from its worst post-war recession, are also likely to weigh on the vote -- the last test at the bal-

lot box for the 73-year-old conservative leader before his third term ends in 2013.

Pollsters say rising unemployment is the top concern for 79 percent of Italians now, compared with 47 percent in 2008. Polls issued before a two-week publication ban came into force pointed to the center right retaining control of Lombardy and Veneto regions in the north and winning over Calabria and possibly Campania in the south.

The center left is seen holding on to at least five regions, four of them in its traditional central heartland -- Emilia Romagna, Tuscany, Umbria, Marche -- and Basilicata in the south. Four regions -- including Piedmont and the key Lazio region which contains Rome -- are too close to call.

"These elections are very important to give a feel of the support Berlusconi has in the country, and the



ITALY'S Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi shows a picture of himself during a news conference at the Chigi Palace in Rome.

relative power of the different parties in his coalition," said James Walston, political science professor at the American University of

Rome.

"The results will be more confused (than usual) because at least here in Rome we don't have the

main government party running, so that will be a big excuse," he said.

Berlusconi's People of Freedom (PDL) party was

left off the ballot sheet in the Rome province -- which has some 3.4 million voters -- after it failed to register in time.

Abuse victims demand pope open files on pedophiles

VICTIMS of sexual abuse by priests demonstrated at the Vatican yesterday demanding that Pope Benedict open up files on pedophile Catholic clerics worldwide and immediately defrock all "predator priests."

The demonstration came as a leading cardinal denounced what he called a "conspiracy" to discredit the Catholic Church and said he could understand why some bishops hushed up cases of pedophilia so as not to harm the Church's good name.

Four leaders of the US-based Survivor Network of those Abused by Priests (SNAP), all of whom were sexually abused by priests, including being raped and sodomized, held up photos of themselves as children and signs reading "Stop the Secrecy Now."

"I would ask the pope if he would please open up the files from the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith and turn over all the information to the police," said Barbara Blaine, the president of SNAP.

She was referring to the Department once headed by the pope when he was a cardinal, which judges cases of sexual abuse.

"I would also ask him to make a public order to all bishops across the globe that all predator priests must be removed from ministry immediately," she said minutes before police took away the SNAP leaders' passports and led them away for questioning. A scandal of alleged cover-ups of sexual abuse of children by priests has been con-

vulsing the Roman Catholic Church in Europe with even more intensity than a similar one that hit the United States eight years ago.

But this time it has come perilously close to the pope himself as victims groups have said they want to know how he handled cases before his election in 2005. There have been allegations of a cover-up of sexual abuse in Munich when he was the city's archbishop from 1977 to 1981.

Victims groups have called for information on his decisions when he headed the Vatican doctrinal department from 1981 to 2005. "The pope has said he is sorry," said John Pilmaier, who was abused when he was in second grade more than 30 years ago. "But what the pope will not admit is what he knew and what the people inside the Vatican knew."

He owes it to every survivor and their families to be honest with us and explain what happened behind those walls, what was covered up, and to finally tell us the truth," he said. At a breakfast meeting with reporters, one of the pope's top aides, Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, denounced what he called "a conspiracy" against the Church.

"This is a pretext for attacking the Church," he said. "There is a well-organized plan with a very clear aim," he said, without spelling out who was behind it.



MINISTRY OF POLICE AFFAIRS

10th Floor, Federal Secretariat Phase III, (Ministry of Education Wing), Off Shehu Shagari Way, P.M.B. 041, Abuja, Nigeria

INVITATION FOR THE PRE-QUALIFICATION OF COMPANIES FOR THE EXECUTION OF THE MINISTRY'S PROJECTS

1. PREAMBLE:

In compliance with the requirements of the Public Procurement Act, 2007 and, the Ministry of Police Affairs wishes to pre-qualify suitable companies for the execution of the Ministry's projects in the Year 2010 appropriation in the various areas specified hereunder:

2. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

2.1 CATEGORY 1 - ICT:

Lot 1 Network design & installation

Lot 2 Computer Accessories & System

2.2 CATEGORY 2 - OFFICE EQUIPMENT AND FURNITURE:

Lot 1 Supply of Office furniture

Lot 2 Supply of Office Equipment

2.3 CATEGORY 3 - GENERATOR:

Lot 1 Supply and installation of Perkins or Caterpillar Generator

3. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

(i) Valid Certificate of registration of Incorporation issued by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)

(ii) Tax Clearance Certificate for the three years valid up to December 31, 2009.

(iii) Value Added Tax Registration Certificate.

(iv) Tax PIN number from Inland Revenue Service.

(v) Evidence of compliance with the Pension Reform Act 2004.

(vi) Letter of reference from companies bankers.

(vii) Duty Certified Statement of Accounts of the Company

(viii) Verifiable evidence of audited accounts for the past three (3) years.

(ix) Company Resume/Profile including details of key Officers, details of equipment/machineries owned or to be hired (where applicable).

(x) Verifiable evidence of execution of similar projects successfully completed with the Ministry of the Nigeria Police Force within the last five years, stating clearly the locations of the projects, the contract sums, including copies of letters of award and completion certificates.

(xi) Evidence of being a manufacturer or an accredited representative for categories i - iv.

(xii) Bidders should indicate the job category they intend to be pre-qualified

(xiii) Declaration that the company

a. is not receivership, the subject of any form of insolvency or bankruptcy proceeding or the subject of any winding up petition proceedings; and

b. is not having any Director who has been convicted in any country for any criminal offence relating to fraud or financial impropriety or criminal misrepresentation or falsification of facts relating to any matter of its company.

(xiv) Accompany the bid document with an affidavit disclosing whether or not any officer of the Procurement Department of the Ministry of Police Affairs/Nigeria Police Force or Bureau of Public Procurement is a former or present director, shareholder or has any pecuniary

interest in the bidder; and

(xvi) An affidavit that the information presented in the bid are correct in all particulars.

(xvii) Any additional information that may enhance the pre-qualification of the Company.

4. VERIFICATION OF CLAIMS IN PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS:

The Ministry reserves the right to verify the authenticity of claim made in the pre-qualification documents submitted.

5. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS:

Pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in wax-sealed envelopes marked "2010 Pre-qualification" specifying the area(s) of interest. The submissions should be dropped in the Tenders Box located at the Ministry of Police Affairs, 11 Floor, Federal Secretariat Phase III (Ministry of Education Wing), Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja. Submission of prequalification documents opens on Friday 26th March 2010 and closes on Tuesday 13th April, 2010.

6. OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS:

Pre-qualification documents shall be opened at 1300 hours of Tuesday, 13th April, 2010 in the Store Hall located at the 1st Floor, Federal Secretariat Phase III (Ministry of Health Wing), Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja. Bidders or their representatives are by this advertisement strongly advised to attend the bid opening.

7. SPECIAL NOTICE:

7.1 This publication is not an invitation to tender. Only successfully pre-qualified companies would be required to tender for the projects.

7.2 Nothing in this advertisement shall be construed to be a commitment on the part of the Ministry of Police Affairs to undertake the projects or entitle any bidder to make any claim(s) whatsoever in respect of any expense(s) incurred in preparing a pre-qualification response.

SIGNED
PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF POLICE AFFAIRS
ABUJA



FATIMA MOHAMMED
(OCTOBER 11, 1976 – JANUARY 21, 2010)

INNALLILAH WA INNAILAIHI RAJI'UN

With submission to the will of Almighty Allah we announce with deep regrets the passage of dear colleague and friend, Fatima Mohammed.

Until her death, she was a staff of the IT unit of the Commission and has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

She is survived by her mother and siblings.

The Executive Secretary and the entire staff of the Commission sympathises with the family.

**May her gentle soul rest
in perfect peace.**



NIGERIAN EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL



In collaboration with

**NIGERIA-MALI CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRIES, MINES,
AGRICULTURE & TOURISM**

ONE DAY SENSITIZATION SEMINAR

THEME:

“ECOWAS MARKET: THE MALIAN EXPERIENCE”

The Management of NEPC invites all Stakeholders in the non oil export sector of the economy to the Seminar/Mini exhibition as follows:-

Date:- Tuesday March 30, 2010
Venue:- Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja
Time:- 9am

Participation is free

NEPC- To grow at home, we sell abroad

RSVP:- **FALEKE** 08033981821
AWUNOR 08025499749

**SIGNED:
MANAGEMENT**



30% now. 70% later. 0% interest...

It must be love



It's your chance to own your dream Honda Accord with ease. Pay just 30% down and zoom off to a life of cool comfort and fun as only Honda Accord can offer. Then pay the balance up to 12 months at 0% interest. Because love is endlessly giving, we are throwing in 3 free services, free accident and medical insurance, 50% discount on comprehensive insurance free AA subscription for 1 year plus 3-year warranty.

True Love Valentine Offer.

Offer open till March 31st, 2010.

Terms and conditions apply.

GLOBE MOTORS HOTLINES: 0700 GLOBE HONDA ; Gilbert: 0805 6069 828; Emma: 0803 401 6298; Daniela: 0803 3120 722; Chiazor: 0803 3145 415; Amos: 0803 3151 391; Boniface: 0803 315 0 312.

GLOBE MOTORS HOLDINGS (NIG.) LIMITED



HEAD OFFICE/SHOWROOM:
Plot 637, Alin Adesola Street,
P.O. Box 74113,
Victoria Island, Lagos.
Tel: 0700-GLOBE MOTORS
28222778-9, 2623403-4, 2626207-9,
Fax: 4619366
E-mail: info@globemts.com

HONDA SHOWROOM
18C Lugard Avenue/Kingsway Road,
Ikoyi, Lagos
Tel: 0700 GLOBE HONDA;
01-4739261, 4447333
Fax: 01 2613501
Email: globemts@linkserve.com.ng

PORT-HARCOURT:
Areta Farm Estate,
228, Aba Expressway
P.O Box 13696,
Port-Harcourt River State
Tel: 0700-GLOBE PH,
084-230606, 232340, 462810

ABUJA OFFICE:
Plot 616, Eket Close,
Opposite Garki General Hospital,
Area 8, Garki, Abuja.
Tel: 0700-GLOBE ABUJA,
09-8706238, 09-8706431

WORKSHOP:
43/45, Razaq Balogun Street,
Off Adeniran Ogunsanya Street,
Surulere, Lagos.
Tel: 0700-GLOBE SERVICE,
5850990-1, 833123, 832668
Fax: 5850991

Trust Islamic Forum

In the name of Allah the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful. All praise is due to Allah, the Lord of the worlds. We testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and that Muhammed (peace be upon him) is His prophet and messenger. May the benediction and blessings of Allah be on Prophet Muhammed who is the noblest of mankind, his household, his companions and those who follow their foot steps till the day of resurrection.

Ruling on missing prayers

WITH regard to missing prayers, one of the following two scenarios must apply:

1 - When you miss a prayer unintentionally, for a legitimate shar'i excuse, such as forgetting or sleeping, although you are basically very keen to perform the prayer on time. In this case you are excused but you have to make it up as soon as you remember it. The evidence for that is the hadeeth narrated in Saheeh Muslim (681) which tells how the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) and his companions slept and missed Fajr prayer, and the Sahaabah began to ask one another, "What is the expiation (kafaarah) for what we have done by neglecting the prayer?" The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said, "Sleeping does not mean that you are neglecting the prayer. Rather neglecting the prayer means not praying one prayer until the time for the next prayer comes. Whoever does that let him pray when he remembers it."

This does not mean that a person should sleep deliberately when a prayer is due, until he misses it, then use sleep as an excuse, or neglect a means that would help him to do the prayer, and then take that as an excuse. Rather he must make use of all the means he can, as the Messenger (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) did in this case, when he appointed one person to stay awake and wake them up to pray, but that person was overcome by drowsiness, so he did not wake them up. This is the case in which a person may be excused.

2 - When you miss a prayer deliberately. This is a major sin, and it is so serious that some of the scholars stated that the one who does this is a kaafir. Majmoo' Fataawa wa Maqaalaat Samaahat al-Shaykh Ibn Baaz, 10/374. The one who does this has to repent sincerely, according to scholarly consensus.

With regard to making up the prayer, there is a difference of opinion among the scholars as to whether or not it would be accepted from him if he makes it up afterwards. Most of the scholars said that he should make it up and that his prayer is valid, although he is a sinner (i.e., if he does not repent - and Allah knows best). Al-Sharh al-Mumtī, 2/89.

The view favoured by Shaykh al-Islam Ibn Taymiyah (may Allah have mercy on him) is that it is not valid, and that it is not prescribed for him to make it up. He said in al-Ikhtiyaaraat (34): "It is not prescribed for the one who misses a prayer deliberately to make it up, and the prayer, if he makes it up, is not valid; rather he should do a lot of voluntary (naafil) prayers. This is the view of a group among the Salaf." One of the contemporary scholars who regarded this view as more correct is Shaykh Ibn 'Uthaymeen (may Allah have mercy on him); he quoted as evidence for that the words of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), "Whoever does an action that is not in accordance with this matter of ours (i.e., Islam), will have it rejected." (Agreed upon).

So you must beware of this and strive to perform all the prayers on time, as Allah says (interpretation of the meaning):

"Verily, As Salaah (the prayer) is enjoined on the believers at fixed hours" [al-Nisa' 4:103]

What to do when one misses a prayer?

The answer to this question may be found in the following ahaadeeth:

Anas ibn Maalik said: "The Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: 'If one of you sleeps and misses a prayer, or forgets it, then let him pray it as soon as he remembers, because Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): ... and perform al-salaah for My remembrance.' [Ta-Ha 20:14]" (Reported by Muslim, 1104).

Abu Hurayrah reported that the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever forgets the prayer, let him pray as soon as he remembers, because Allah says (interpretation of the meaning): ... and perform al-salaah for My remembrance.' [Ta-Ha 20:14]" (Reported by Muslim, 1097).

Anas ibn Maalik reported that the Messenger of Allaah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) said: "Whoever forgets a prayer, let him pray it as soon as he remembers, for there is no expiation for it except this." (Reported by Muslim, 1102). And Allaah knows best. Sheikh Muhammed Salih Al-Munajjid

Should one say the present prayer or make up the missed one first?

The Muslim should maintain the habit of praying regularly on time, for Allah praises the believers who, as He says (interpretation of the meaning):

"And those who guard their Salaah (prayers) well" [al-Ma'aarij 70:34]

If a person has an excuse and he missed a prayer, then he has to make it up, because the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) said: "Whoever forgets a prayer or sleeps and misses it, the expiation for this sin is to pray it when he remembers it." (Narrated by Muslim, al-Masaajid wa Mawaadi' al-Salaah, 1103)

If you miss a prayer, then you have to pray that prayer first, then pray the current prayer; it is not permissible to delay (making up the missed prayer). It is commonly thought among the people that if a man misses a fard prayer, he should make it up with the corresponding fard prayer of the next day, so that if, for example, he missed Fajr on one day he can only pray it with Fajr on the second day. This is wrong, and it goes against the teaching of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him), in both his words and deeds.

It was narrated that he said: "Whoever forgets a prayer or sleeps and misses it, then let him pray it when he remembers it." He did not say, let him pray it on the following day when the time for that prayer comes, rather he said, "let him pray it when he remembers it."

With regard to his actions, when he missed a prayer on one of the days of the campaign of al-Khandaq, he prayed it before the current prayer, which indicates that one has to pray the missed prayer and then pray the current prayer. But if he forgets and prays the current prayer before the missed prayer, or he was ignorant and did not know (of the ruling), then he prayer is valid because he has an excuse. (See Fataawa al-Shaykh Ibn 'Uthaymeen, vol. 12, p. 222)

The hadeeth about the prayer on the day of al-Khandaq was narrated by al-Nasaa'i from 'Abd al-Rahmaan ibn Abi Sa'eed from his father, who said: "The mushrikeen kept us busy on the day of al-Khandaq and distracted us from praying Zuhr until the sun set. Then the Messenger of Allah (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) commanded Bilaal to call the iqamah for



Zuhr prayer, and he prayed it, then he called the iqamah for Asr and he prayed it, then he called the adhaan for Maghrib then he prayed it as he usually prayed it, on time." (al-Adhaan, 655; classed as saheeh by al-Albaani in Saheeh al-Nasaa'i, no. 638)

The action of the Prophet (peace and blessings of Allah be upon him) indicates that it is obligatory to pray the missed prayers in the right order. But if there is only enough time left to pray the current prayer, then he should pray the current prayer, then pray the ones that came before it. (Sheikh Muhammed Salih Al-Munajjid).

But the obligation to do them in order is waived in the case of one who forgets or was ignorant, or if there is the fear that the time for the current prayer will end soon, or if one fears missing out on a prayer in congregation - according to the more correct view.

If a person owes two prayers, Zuhr and 'Asr for example, and starts with 'Asr by mistake or because he is unaware that the missed prayers should be offered in order, his prayer is valid.

If he fears that if he starts with the prayers he missed the time for 'Asr prayer will end, then he should pray 'Asr first, then pray whatever prayers he owes.

Similarly if he enters the mosque, should he offer the current prayer with the congregation or make up what he has missed first? Ahmad, according to one report which was also favoured by Shaykh al-Islam, was of the view that he does not have to offer the prayers in sequence if he fears that he will miss out on praying with the congregation.

But in this case he should join the congregation with the intention of offering the missed prayer. So if a person has missed Zuhr and he comes to the mosque and they are praying 'Asr, he can pray with the congregation with the intention of praying Zuhr, and it does not matter if his intention is different from that of the imam. Then he can pray 'Asr after that. See al-Sharh al-Mumtī, 2/138-144.

OTM holds annual seminar

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Abuja branch of the Organization of Tadamunul Muslimeen (OTM) will hold its annual seminar between Friday, April 2 and Sunday April 4, 2010.

The seminar, with the theme: 'A World Without Understanding', will be held at the Berger Central Mosque, Utako District, Abuja.

A statement by the Seminar's Organizing Committee Chairman, Shafee' Badmos, said the seminar would appraise the level of participation of Muslims

in both Islamic and Western education.

In related development, a separate statement issued by the Sisters' Wing of OTM said a one-day seminar on "Women: Agents of Societal Transformation" will be held Monday April 5 at the same venue.



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

**CALLING ON MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS
AND AGENCIES (MDAs)**

The Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) hereby announces the 2010 stakeholders' sectoral capacity building workshop on Public Procurement Act, 2007. The objective of the workshop is to review the provisions of the Public Procurement Act as it affects the preparation of tender documents and prequalification of bidders for Goods, Works and Services and to discuss the implementation challenges of contractor **PRE-QUALIFICATION**. At the workshop, critical issues relating to pre-qualification of contractors, consultants, procurement efficiency and corruption prevention in respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) will be discussed. The workshop schedule is as follows:

- **March 25th:** Federal Ministry of Housing and Urban Development-Departments and Agencies
- **March 29th:** Ministry of Power-Departments and Agencies
- **March 30th:** Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources-Departments and Agencies
- **April 6th :** Federal Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs-Departments and Agencies
- **April 8th :** Federal Ministry of Aviation-Departments and Agencies
- **April 12th :** The Presidency-State House Departments, Commissions, and Agencies
- **April 13th:** Federal Capital Territory (FCT)- Departments and Agencies
- **April 15th :** Ministry of Petroleum Resources- Departments and Agencies
- **April 19th :** Federal Ministry of Health-Departments and Agencies
- **April 20th :** Federal Ministry of Education-Departments and Agencies
- **April 22nd :** Federal Ministry of Environment-Departments and Agencies
- **April 26th:** Federal Ministry of Police Affairs-Departments and Agencies. Ministry of Internal Affairs-Departments and Agencies.

Venue of all workshops is at: **NEW STATE HOUSE AUDITORIUM, IBRAHIM TAIWO STREET, STATE HOUSE, ABUJA.** Time is: 9.00AM daily.

All enquiries to: info@bpp.gov.ng, or send a text to: 08138377013

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



FEDERAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

(Established Under CAP 136 Laws of Nigeria 1990)
26, Julius Nyerere Crescent, Asokoro, P.M.B. 101, Garki, Abuja

PAYMENT FOR HOUSES IN LUGBE EXTENSION ESTATE, LUGBE, ABUJA

The Federal Housing Authority has noticed with dismay that many of the offerees of houses in its Lugbe Extension Estate, Lugbe, Abuja have not completed payment five months after the offers were made.

This is clearly in violation of the terms of the offer which required that full payment be made for the houses within 60 days.

Defaulting offerees are by this notice given 28 days from the date of this publication to make full payment, failing which the offers would be revoked without further notice.

This publication serves as final notice to the offerees and the Authority shall not enter into any further communication on lapsed offers.

TUNDE IPINMISHO
Head, Corporate
Communications
For: **MANAGEMENT**



To Our
Esteemed Readers,
Advertisers and
Contributors

POLICY ON PUBLICATION OF ADVERTORIALS, PETITIONS AND RELATED MATERIALS

Media Trust Limited, publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers take very seriously its responsibility to the public to publish all points of view, including those we do not share. We think this is the function of an independent, liberal newspaper dedicated to the pursuit of the common good. We are also conscious of the fact that it is a shortsighted business policy for a newspaper to shut out a particular point of view for its own reason or due to pressure from powerful institutions and advertisers.



But we are also aware that professional agitators can use the pages on newspapers to malign governments, companies and individuals on spurious grounds.

Caught between our desire to give voice to the concerns of the voiceless and to protect public officers and institutions from unfair and demoralizing attacks, we have been forced to develop a more stringent policy for the placement of advertorials, petitions and other related materials in the pages of our newspapers.

The new policy is depicted hereunder

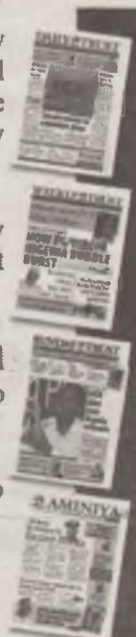
1. The writer(s) of such advertorials must not be anonymous but people who can stand by what they say, with their full names and address.
2. If there is any accusation against any person or organization, such writer(s) must substantiate the claims with evidence which can stand before a Court of Law. For example, if they claim that a contract was inflated, they must show Media Trust, relevant documents to back this up.
3. The placement must be fully paid for, before it is carried.
4. The author(s) should be prepared to accept corrections or alterations made by us but the corrected version would be shown to the author(s), before publishing.
5. The publishers have the right to reject any piece considered to be libelous, containing assertions without supporting facts and figures to prove the authenticity of such claims.
6. In the alternative, we are prepared to enter into an indemnity agreement with those who place such advertorial which will put the onus of proof squarely on them.
7. Media Trust employees that collect such materials have been instructed to contact the Advert Manager, who will also consult further with the relevant superior officers to analyze the piece before placement is made.
8. If the publishers of Daily Trust, Weekly Trust, Sunday Trust and Aminiya newspapers reject any material regarded as unprintable based on the above consideration, they will not enter into any correspondence with the author(s).

Finally, we wish to assure our readers that we will not shy away from publishing fair and balanced criticisms of any government or individuals, which is in the nature of free exchange of ideas.

This, we will continue to do in our free opinion columns and with advertorials where some readers feel strongly enough to pay for them.

We thank you for your support and assure you that we will do our best to keep your trust.

Signed:
MANAGEMENT





Office of the Accountant -General of the Federation Abuja

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



A sachet water hawker

Airlines yet to pay FAAN N10bn debt

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Board of Directors of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) has directed the Authority's Management to explore all legitimate means to recover the over N10 billion owed FAAN by airlines and other concessionaires which may involve eviction, termination or withdrawal of services.

According to the General Manager Public Affairs of the authority Mr. Akin Olukunle, the directive was part of the resolutions passed at the recent meeting of the Board chaired by its Chairman Chief Ebitimi Banigo.

Olukunle stated that the meeting also directed FAAN's management to identify fraudulent concessionaires whose activities lead to revenue losses to the organisation, in order to minimize, if not eliminate such ugly situation. He disclosed that the Authority was advised to implement the increase in Passenger Service Charge (PSC) from N350 to N1,000.00, fuel surcharge and advertisement concessions as approved by the Board in order to improve revenue generation.

Solid mineral states to start collecting derivation fund in May -NEITI

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

SOLID mineral producing states in the country would start collecting derivation fund from the Federal government in May this year, the Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) has said.

Executive Secretary of the organisation Malam Haruna Yunus Sa'eed at a roundtable meeting with energy editors in Lagos yesterday, said NEITI is disturbed by the existing preferential treatment

given oil producing states. He said a situation whereby the solid mineral producing states are not given derivation fund from the resources in their land does not portray equity and fairness in the allocation of resources by the government. He explained that the development caused NEITI to initiate move to make government see reason on the need to extend the gesture to the solid mineral states.

According to the NEITI boss, the organisation is currently putting finishing touches

to the collection of data from the mineral and oil and gas sector of the country.

Sa'eed who gave pass mark to the activities of NEITI in the oil and gas sector, however said that the organisation is faces some challenges. Some of these challenges, he stated, include the inability of the agency to enforce accountability in the distribution of oil wealth, citing the misappropriation of 13 percent derivation funds by some states in the Niger Delta.

Mutallab's firm, INCAR opts out of stock market

By Idris Ahmed

CHAIRMAN of INCAR Nigeria Plc Alhaji Umar Mutallab has said that his company has decided to quite trading on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

INCAR Nigeria Plc is a construction company.

Alhaji Umar Mutallab is the immediate past Chairman of First Bank Nigeria Plc.

Mutallab said at an

Extraordinary General Meeting of the company yesterday in Abuja that the decision to voluntarily delist from the NSE was because of its low performance.

INCAR sustained a loss of N40 million in September 2009 and another loss of N60 million (unaudited) at the end of December same year. The company has been finding it difficult to pay its annual listing and quotation fees to the Nigerian Stock Exchange.

Staff salaries and other operational expenses are in arrears and "there is no sign of relief at sight", Mutallab said.

He said efforts by the Board of the company to reduce cost of operations and put the company on a sound footing has failed. He said to address the problems of the company, the board and management ventured into fishing business, computer education and chemical importation, which did not help much. According

to him, the company had laid off some staff, closed down some of its branches and departments that were not contributing to the financial profitable of the company.

Appealing to shareholders to consider the delisting yesterday, the chairman said arrangements have been made to buy shares of minority shareholders of the company "at a price to be determined by the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)."

Stock Market Index

Date: Thursday, March 25, 2010

Index: 25,126.20

Deals: 8,460

Volume: 631,022,266

Value: N4,095,464,334.21

Cap.: N6,076,287,543,772.66

Trust Index

Inflation → 12.3%

GDP → 6.90%

Budget → N3.1tr

External Reserves Acct → \$41bn

Excess Crude Acct → \$3.2bn

Poverty Ratio → 54.4%

Monetary Policy Rate → 6%

Banks → 24

Oil Price → \$81 a barrel

Power Supply → 2,500MW

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)		
CFA	0.2805	0.2905	0.3005	BUYING	
DANISH KRONER	26.4286	26.5184	26.6081	DOLLAR.....	N150
EURO	196.7633	197.4312	198.0991	EURO.....	N205
POUNDS STERLING	220.022	220.7689	221.5157	POUNDS.....	N230
RIYAL	39.28	39.4134	39.5467	SELLING	
SDR	223.0564	223.8136	224.5707	DOLLAR.....	N152
SWISS FRANC	137.7666	138.2342	138.7018	EURO.....	N207
US DOLLAR	147.3	147.8	148.3	POUNDS.....	N233
WAUA	222.5201	223.2755	224.0308	Source: S&J Bureau de Change, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja.	
YEN	1.5973	1.6027	1.6081		

Business/Maritime



NIGERIA'S Maritime operators say the government should appoint an experienced maritime person as the minister of transport.

Shipping institute acquires 25km of land for university

Stories from Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

THE Certified Institute of Shipping (CIS) has acquired a 25kilometres square of parcel of land at Saki in Oyo State to build a maritime university.

Its President, Professor Olanrewaju Fapounda, who dropped the hint explained that that

the CIS charter bill had passed through its first, second reading and public hearing.

He noted the bill was awaiting passage into law at the National Assembly.

Fapounda stressed: "The Federal Ministry of Education through the National board for Technical Education has approved the Vocational Enterprise insti-

tutions (VEIs) and Innovation Enterprises Institutions (IEIs) education Reform Initiatives for the provision of Technical Education and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) in the country which is principally for private institutions offering technical and skilled based training for fresh school leavers and working adults with vocational skill and knowl-

edge for employability to meet the ever increasing demand for technical man power."

He added that the institute would continue to pursue this objective through its Shipper's Technical Scheme (STS) programme at par with other National Diploma certificate offered by polytechnics and monotechnics.

NIMASA appoints 4 banks for Cabotage

THE Management of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) has selected Four (4) Banks to serve as intermediary in the Administration and Management of the Cabotage Vessel Finance Fund (CVFF).

The selected Primary Lending Institutions (PLI's) are Fidelity Bank, Skye Bank, Diamond Bank, and Equitorial Trust Bank, ETB. The Four selected PLI's were from a list of 21 Primary Lending Institutions who applied for consideration in the Administration of the CVFF.

The Chairman, Revenue Committee of the Board of NIMASA, Ichie Mike Ejezie commended the Banks for their appointment and advised them to adhere strictly to the rules guiding their appointment as Primary Lending Institutions to the Agency.

Ichie Ejezie described the process of selection as tasking, transparent and demanding. "Their selection was after a rigorous exercise which involved the visit and Evaluation of the Depth of the Maritime Desk of each bank that applied, the Risk Analysis Model, Corporate Governance System and Post Central Bank Audit Report.

These were some of the criteria considered in the selection process".

The Banks are expected to guarantee the CVFF fund as well as provide a 35% Contribution to the loan system. They are also expected to disburse the Funds to indigenous shipping companies to facilitate acquisition and Ownership of Vessels.

The Agency will continue in its efforts to empower the Nigerian ship owners for the overall benefit of the nation's economy.

APMT is largest container terminal in Africa

THE Apapa Container Terminal currently under concession to global terminal operator, APM Terminals Apapa Limited, has been developed to become the largest container terminal in Africa, says Managing Director of APM Terminals Apapa Limited Mr. Martin Dirks.

Dirks who stated this at an interactive lunch meeting with journalists in Lagos said the Apapa Container Terminal now has the capacity to handle 1.2 million TEU of containers which no other port on the continent has the capacity to handle.

While fielding questions on the activities of his company in the last four years, Dirks said that the Apapa Container Terminal has been fully developed

to compete with any container terminal facility in the world.

While answering questions on challenges facing his company's operations in Nigeria, Dirks pointed out that poor electricity supply and the continuous occupation of the concessioned area by three different companies in the last four years.

"We spend about 5 million dollars a year on diesel to generate electricity. This is not only a big problem for us but for everyone in the country.

"Territories occupied by others in our concessioned area are still occupied. This is a serious issue that is still pending and we are losing money. Old NPA equipment are also still taking up considerable space in the terminal", he said.

Maritime operators seek merit in appointment of new minister

WITH the maritime industry still in the throes of wholesale reforms, operators are seeking the appointment of a knowledgeable technocrat to head the ministry of transport.

The reform in terminal operations, liberalisation of ownership of ports and issues relating to streamlining of the cargo delivery, they said, make it imperative that somebody acquainted with the dynamics in the maritime industry be appointed the next minister of transport.

"The industry needs an eligible man that by training and qualification knows the terrain and appreciates the enormity of challenges confronting the shipping industry," Abdulwaheed Kareem, chairman of the Port Consultative Council (PCC), said.

He added that: "The industry is vast and requires a man who will not have to learn the rope but understands the rope climbing tactics already," he said.

Noting that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan is in race against time with barely 14 months to May 2011, Kareem said that for the economy and the maritime industry to grow, "a man who knows the dynamics, contending issues and challenges of maritime and help the acting president complete the race should head the transport ministry."

Substitute THC with CTN, Amiwero charges FG

THE National Council of Managing Directors of Licensed Customs Agents (NCMDLCA) has called on the Federal Government (FG) to drop the Terminal Handling Charges (THC).

Mr. Lucky Eyis Amiwero, the National President NCMDLCA stated this in a letter to the Secretary to the Federal Government (SFG), dated 20, March 2010, entitled Global perspective on Cargo Tracking Note (CTN) and its effect to security and safety of the nation's economy.

The call is coming as members of the Sea Terminal Owners Association of Nigeria (STOAN) are about to review upwards their THC and other Ports charges.

The STOAN claimed that their contract agreement as concessionaires permit them to review upwards the THC and other Port charges.

Business

Japan grants \$97,000 for cassava processing in Oyo

By Sunday Williams

THE Government of Japan yesterday approved a grant of US\$ 97,023 for cassava processing project to Ifeledun Cassava Processing Cooperative Investments and Credit Society in Oyo town, Oyo State.

The component to be provided

through the grant include: Cassava processing equipment, three graters, one flash drier, one hammer mill and one borehole with a water tank.

Presenting the grant to the beneficiaries in Abuja, Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of Japan in Nigeria, Mr Shigeru Hamano, said

the grant which is under the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) is to improve cassava processing in Oyo state.

He said the project is also to support the United National Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) in Nigeria, add-

ing that it hoped the project will contribute to community development.

Since independence, the Japanese assistance to Nigeria has amounted to about US4.2 billion (about 600 billion naira).

Under the GGP, 107 projects with a total amount of

US\$5,838,045 have been implemented throughout Nigeria since 1998.

Speaking on behalf of the beneficiaries, Mrs Grace A Alade thanked the donors and promised to work seriously to make sure that the real objective of the grant is achieved.

'Construction industry to grow by 110 per cent'

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE Federation of Construction Industry (FOCI) President Ogunbusola Solomon has predicted a boom for the nation's industry this year, saying that that construction in Nigerian market would be more than double in size, growing by an estimated 110 per cent, representing 17.2 per cent of GDP by 2020.

Solomon, who was speaking in Lagos on the forthcoming FOCI 54th annual general meeting scheduled for June in Abuja with the theme, Health and safety management in the construction industry quoting the latest 10-year forecast from Global Construction Perspectives and Oxford Economics said construction growth in Nigeria would be the fastest of all markets.

"The new study says China will overtake the US as the world's biggest construction market by 2018, but that the fastest growth will happen in Nigeria"

The report, which named Nigeria global hotpot from 2020 said the nation's construction growth is even faster than India's,

reflecting increased wealth and urbanization resulting from the country's oil production

"Its population of approximately 154 million is urbanizing at one of the fastest rates in the world, but construction is now only 3.2 per cent of GDP. We predict that in just 10 years time, construction in the market will more than double in size", the report said.

Solomon said with the report and increasing activities in the industry, FOCI would be looking into all areas of health and safety management in the industry.

"With a bill in the national Assembly about to be passed into law, there is need to look into all areas affecting the construction industry," he said.

With a combined asset base of over \$4 billion including equipment and machinery, Solomon said presently the federation have a total of \$8 billion worth of construction work that is ongoing from both the public and private sectors emphasizing that members of FOCI were short-listed and awarded contracts by both the federal and state governments of Nigeria valued \$6

billion for infrastructural development.

He however appealed to the federal government to come to the aid of the indigenous construction companies by providing machinery and financial support.

"There is nowhere in the world where construction industry grows without the support of the government-Even Julius Berger. The heavy equipment you are seeing today was through support of their home countries. But right now Nigerian construction companies are operating independently with no support from anywhere", he said

He said if the trend does not change, the prediction by Global Construction Perspectives and Oxford Economics may not be achieved

Parts of the activities slated for this year's annual general meeting include awards ceremony where deserving individuals and corporate organization would be recognized for their unique contribution to the growth of the industry over the decades and this will be followed by AGM dinner.

Dubai bails out troubled firm

THE Dubai government has announced it will provide \$9.5bn (£6.4bn) in funding to help its Dubai World investment vehicle to restructure its debt, the BBC reports.

The troubled company has presented a plan to restructure \$23.5bn of debt to its creditors, including converting \$8.9bn of government debt into equity. Creditors will now decide on whether to accept the plan. Dubai World stunned global markets in November last year when it asked for a six-month delay on debt repayments.

The restructuring plan also involves a cash injection of \$1.5bn from the Dubai Financial

Support Fund (DFSF), as well as issuing two tranches of new debt to be repaid over five- and eight-year periods. The initial reaction to the proposals among brokers and analysts is very positive, and the Dubai stock market is up over 4%. The hope is that the repayments to contractors, some of whom have been waiting for their money for a long time, will spread throughout the economy. However, some concerns have been raised.

For example, there is no government guarantee on the debt, while it is not entirely clear what level of interest the new debt issues will pay. Equally, the trade creditors of Nakheel have been

offered 40% of what they are owed in cash, with 60% in "publicly traded securities", yet no details of what these securities are have been given.

"For example, there is no government guarantee on the debt, while it is not entirely clear what level of interest the new debt issues will pay

NAIJA
fare

FLY FOR
N3,000
*Terms and conditions apply

SALES ARE ON TILL 13TH OF APRIL
FOR FLIGHTS FROM 20TH APRIL
TILL 30TH JUNE



The reliable way to fly

Only when you
book ahead
pay online

flyaero.com



Building a greater nation

Travelogue

Sights and sounds of 'Zimbabwe'

There is a part of Nasarawa State popularly known as 'Zimbabwe'. In the evenings people go there to unwind as eloquent musicians sing, the trained monkey dances, and crippled boys beg.



TRADITIONAL drummers entertaining the audience at 'Zimbabwe'.

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

As you approach the place nothing seems to betray what lies ahead. The deafening sound of music coupled with the hustle and bustle of business activities, gives one the impression of a carnival. Less than twenty five steps away from the main entrance you come face to face with the sights and sounds of 'Zimbabwe', even as the cool breeze from the neighbouring stream greets you. But the breeze carries along with it the stench of cigarette, combined with the

aroma of roasted fish and chicken.

Welcome to Zimbabwe, a sprawling settlement at Uke village on the outskirts of Abuja near Keffi, where fun seekers within and around the federal capital city, go on social pilgrimage every weekend to relax and catch their fun.

As this reporter, who was visiting Zimbabwe for the first time, settled at a table to help himself to a plate of roast chicken, a group of dishevelled looking teenagers rushed towards him. At first I thought they were alms

seekers who had come to beg. I was wrong. Ibrahim [11], Joseph [12] and Samuel [14] were actually interested in what would become of the crumbs that would fall from my table.

As I busied myself with the roasted chicken over a bottle of soft drink, the three boys who were soon joined by two others, stood at a vantage position and watched me hungrily, like Vultures patiently waiting to feast.

Were they aware that I am a Reporter visiting 'Zimbabwe' for the first time? As I later found

out, these teenage boys actually belong to a group of disadvantaged children from the neighbouring villages that go to Zimbabwe, especially at weekends, in search of a means of survival.

But theirs is an unusual way of survival. While fun seekers enjoy themselves with roasted meat and fish at Zimbabwe, they move from one table to another waiting, for them to finish eating so they could collect the crumbs and leftover bones.

But what do they need the bones for? Ibrahim who summoned up courage to tell me their story said: "I am a primary school pupil who lives with my poor parents in Keffi. I go to school on week days and come to this place [Zimbabwe] at weekends to gather bones, which I sell to dog owners, in order to raise money for my school and upkeep."

Joseph and Samuel, both pupils of the Junior Pilot Science Primary School Uke near Keffi, are desirous of forging ahead with studies up to University level. But it is hard to imagine how their individual dreams could be realised through the collection and sale of bones at Zimbabwe.

Like Ibrahim, they narrated how they survive through the sale of bones picked up from the tables of fun seekers who come to enjoy themselves at "Zimbabwe". "I gather the bones in bags and make between N300 to N500 from the sale of these bones to dog owners every weekend", said Joseph, adding that he uses the proceeds to buy books and uniforms for his school.

Samuel's own account was quite touching. "I watch people eat the flesh of their roasted chicken and fish at Zimbabwe, with hunger in my stomach. Sometimes I am tempted to beg them to leave some flesh on the bones, so I can also help myself with the remnant of flesh, before selling the bones to dog owners", he said adding, however, that people hardly leave any significant flesh on the bones.

As I listened to the stories of how these teenage boys survive through the sale of leftover bones at Zimbabwe particularly that of Samuel, I was left wondering at life's irony. Here were a group of poverty stricken mortals who watch others enjoy the flesh of meat, while they go for the bones in order to survive.

Soon after leaving my seat, a man in his late twenties appeared with a monkey. He had been moving from one table to another entertaining people with his animal, and getting tips in return. As he approached me the man, who identified himself as Kabiru Hassan, spoke with the monkey in Hausa saying: "Kayi gaisuwa", meaning salute. The little monkey which he dressed in a sport jerseys with a face cap, stood in an upward position, and raised its right foreleg above the face cap, in a military-like fashion.

Again Kabiru instructed the beast in Hausa: "Kayi rawa", meaning dance, to which the monkey which he nick named "Dan Gaye", responded by indulging in a dancing frenzy. This attracted the attention of many people; some of whom brought out currency notes and sprayed the dancing monkey. Curiously, the dancing monkey picked up the Naira notes and handed them over to its master, who smiled and shoved

em inside his jumper pocket.

How did he get involved in the monkey business at Zimbabwe? Kabiru, a hunter who hails from Katsina, told this reporter that he came to Zimbabwe about five years ago with the animal, which he caught alive during a hunting expedition.

"I used to move from place to place to entertain people in Katsina communities with a Hyena, which was given to me by my late father. But one day the animal went on rampage and attacked people in my village. The Police then arrested the Hyena and shot it dead. I later caught this Monkey during a hunting competition and decided to move here to this place", Kabiru narrated.

Since he came to Abuja, Kabiru, who resides in Keffi, has been entertaining people that come to relax at Zimbabwe with his Monkey, in order to make ends meet. According to him he makes between N5,000 to N10,000 from the activity on a monthly basis.

As if this category of 'Zimbabweans' were taking turns to tell stories of their survival through this reporter, another set of teenagers emerged, crawling towards me. Hassan [10] and Danjuma [12] both crippled at birth, also come from Keffi every weekend to beg for alms at Zimbabwe. They crawl from one table to another picking up pieces of food and meat. Those who sympathise with them give them money, with which they survive.

Hassan and Danjuma were brought together to Zimbabwe by similar fate and circumstance. Both of them who were as neighbours said they lost their parents and were liv-

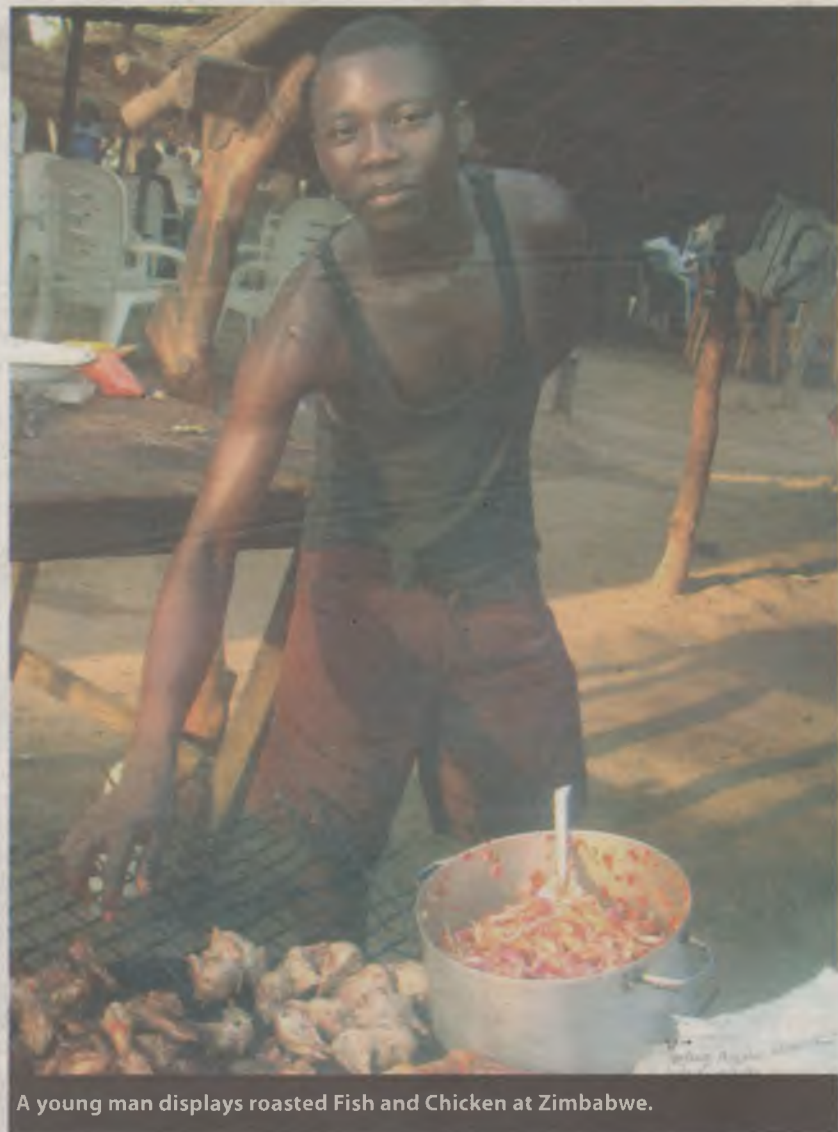
ing with dependants, who barely earn enough to feed their families. "When we heard of this place called Zimbabwe, we decided to patronize it at weekends, by coming to seek for alms from sympathizers in order to survive", said Danjuma.

When Hassan and Danjuma crawled away, I decided to take a walk round Zimbabwe to observe things for myself. Of course, there was much for a first time reporter to see and write about at this social settlement, which is probably a microcosm of struggles for survival in the former British colony, that is under the rule of Robert Mugabe.

As I walked round I observed that issues of national interest are discussed at Zimbabwe. A group of traditional Hausa drummers exemplified this, as they moved from place to place entertaining people for a fee. While the drummers used the curved rough end of their sticks to invoke a deafening rub-a-dub from the drums, the soloist sang a satirical rhyme in Hausa: Yar'adua ya dawo ama ba agan shi ba...

Shugaban kasa ya dawo ama ba agan shi ba... meaning: Yar'adua is back but no one has seen him... The President is back but no one has seen him...

Elsewhere beer guzzlers sitting at their tables in pairs and groups giggled at the song, as they sipped from their bottles. For the two hours I



A young man displays roasted Fish and Chicken at Zimbabwe.

spent at Zimbabwe, there was no such thing as silence. Something was always happening that made some sound, even as the number of visitors were increasing as night drew closer.

Before leaving Zimbabwe I sought to know how the place came by the name. Prince Chindo Danjuma, the Mai Ungwar of Zimbabwe, told me that the name was given by his cousin, Waziri-a retired army officer- who spent several years on peace keeping missions to several countries, including Zimbabwe.

"Waziri retired at a time when Zimbabwe was at the peak of its political crisis, and when he came here we started this settlement which he suggested should be named Zimbabwe", Chindo said. He said with the passage of time, Zimbabwe began to grow and attract business men and women who started selling such items as drinks, bush meat and chicken.

Mama Yan Biu, a middle aged lady who has been doing business at Zimbabwe from its inception told this reporter that she started by erecting a hut where she sold palm wine. "Sometimes I would come to my hut in the morning only to see it filled with snakes. Then I would run to the roadside and invite passing drivers to come and help in killing the reptiles", she said.

"The name Zimbabwe was given to this place at a time when fighting broke out in Zimbabwe", Mama Yan Biu said, pointing out, however, that "In this Zimbabwe we don't fight, because we crave peaceful coexistence. As you can see our own Zimbabwe accommodates every ethnic group in Nigeria such as the Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo, Tiv, Igala and even foreign nationals, who are carrying out their businesses in peace."

"The name Zimbabwe was given to this place at a time when fighting broke out in Zimbabwe", Mama Yan Biu said, pointing out, however, that "In this Zimbabwe we don't fight, because we crave peaceful coexistence."



AN Gaye in action.

Business

Lagos floats another N50bn bond

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LAGOS State government on Tuesday sought financial improvement for the state as it held another investors' forum in respect of N50 billion fixed rate bond targeted at raising money for the financing of

infrastructural and developmental projects across the state.

Governor Babatunde Fashola who addressed investors, Money Market operators, members of Financial Community and Banks representatives at the forum held at the Event Centre, Victoria

Island, Lagos said that the first tranche of N50 billion was over-subscribed.

According to him, the first phase experience has demonstrated that the state can run a real economy where investors, citizens and the state can benefit.

Aero partners UBA Ghana on payment options

By Sunday Williams

AERO has gone into partnership with United Bank of Africa (UBA) Ghana to introduce an entirely new, fast and convenient payment platform called PAY-ON-HOLD for air travellers in Ghana.

Through this new online booking and payment system, customers can check availability of flights and make their bookings online, in the comfort of

their homes and offices through the airline's website.

The bookings can be placed on hold while they visit any UBA location in Ghana for payment before the confirmation of their air tickets, a statement said.

It said although the airline in Ghana still maintains the e-Tranzact payment platform which allows customers to book and pay online with the debit card, the newly launched option appears to be more flexible. This

is because any person can book on line and pay at any of the UBA branches nearest to him without having to go to the airport or own a debit card.

Since Aero began flight operations in Accra, Ghana in 2004, the airline has significantly improved its service delivery, on-time departure and efficiency, attracting more customers with amazing offers within and outside Ghana, the statement added.

Reps set to amend free trade zones law

By Nasir Imam

THE House of Representatives is set to amend relevant sections of the existing laws on free trade zones in the country to stop illicit trades like gun running, terrorism financing and mass production of illicit drugs.

Addressing newsmen in Abuja, on his arrival from the United States of America, where members of the Nigeria Parliament attended the International conference on Anti-terrorism financing and money laundering, the deputy chairman House of Representatives committee on Drugs, Narcotics, and Financial Crimes, Hon Bassey Etim, said the bill for the amendment of the Act establishing free trade zones will be read the second time.

Free trade zones across the globe are said to be transit camps for gun running, terrorism financing, illicit drugs production and money laundering, contrary to the provisions of the law establishing the zones with the hope to generating revenue for its home country.

The leader of the Nigerian del-

egation at the conference and the sponsor of the bill on free trade zones, Hon Etim lamented the poor state of infrastructure in the Nigeria free trade zones which he described as hide out for drug peddlers and other illicit affairs.

"Many other countries have commenced the amendment of the laws on free trade zones to reposition and beef up security to check the illegal activities of operators of the free trade zones, as provided by existing laws".

"Recently, the House of Representatives had passed a resolution that the laws establishing free trade zones in the country be amended to curb the obnoxious trade being carried out by unpatriotic Nigerians at the zones".

Hon Etim had in the past led a delegation of members of Nigeria parliament to visit free trade zones of other countries like Malaysia, Singapore others, he had since then been holding seminars and consultations with the office of the presidency, the oil and gas sector and other relevant agencies to come up with robust laws for Nigeria free trade zones.





Catch the *i*

Introducing the New Hyundai *i10*

HYUNDAI MOTORS NIGERIA LTD

NO 1. SELLING KOREAN AUTOMOBILE IN THE WORLD AND IN NIGERIA

SALES HOTLINE: 8520006, 8520009, 8529777, 8520774/5, 8520407, 8520012, 07028472742, 8520406, 07029660731, 07029660730

FINANCE HOTLINE: 08055550422, 91-8520002, 91-8520012, 01-8741005

VICTORIA ISLAND: 270-AJOSE ADEOGUN STREET: 07029660730, 08023332237, 07030244980, 08034024967, 07035920806.
1114, ADEOLA ODEKU: 8520012, 08033198007, 08055450509, 07028472742, 07029660731

LAGOS-IKEJA: MOBOLAJI BANK ANTHONY: 8520003, 8741005, 08033574418.

LAGOS-KOFO: 180 KOFO ABAYOMI, V.I.: 07028472793, 01-8528183.

LAGOS-GBAGADA: 1-A, GBAGADA INDUSTRIAL ESTATE APAPA-OSHODI EXPRESSWAY: 07028022921, 8741033, 8741046.
08054299999, 08035335726, 07028026812, 07028026809, 08023174440.

CALABAR: 08059765000, 08033617050. **KANO:** 07029165929, 08054399999, 07028344952.

ABUJA: 08034099999, 08037243314, 08053333231, 08036008742. **IBADAN:** 01-8520403, 08039765001, 08055550477

SALES ■ FINANCE ■ SERVICE ■ SPARES ■ BODY SHOP E-mail: hyundai.sales@hyundainigeria.com | hyundaiservice@hyundainigeria.com



HYUNDAI FINANCE

3 Years or 100,000km Warranty
3 Service FREE

Big on style, safety and security, the Hyundai *i10* delivers excellent luxury plus an intelligent engine technology.



Business/Unusual

How I survive selling second hand 'bras'



How it began: "My name is Monday [he wouldn't want his surname revealed] and I come from a village in Bida, Niger State. I lost both parents at a tender age and was entrusted in the care of an uncle. After primary school, I started attending Secondary School but had to drop out because my uncle could no longer afford the school fees.

I was introduced to this business of selling second hand braziers which I started with an initial capital of N5,000. Until recently I used to travel to the popular 'Katako Market' in Jos to buy my 'goods' which I sell to young ladies, mostly high school girls, who can not afford to buy expensive 'bras' from the big shops. My customers are mostly found in satellite markets around Abuja and sometimes I travel to schools to supply braziers to female students."

How is the business? For Monday the business of selling second hand 'bras' has been good so far. My bras are affordable; the cost ranges from N200 to N500. At least it is better than begging or going to steal, he says, adding that he makes an average

THE struggle for survival, especially in the nation's capital, has prompted many into engaging in some menial jobs and odd businesses. Fidelis Mac-Leva, caught up with a young man who sells second hand braziers to survive. As Daily Trust found out, the customers include female University students.

MONDAY [surnames withheld] is a regular sight at the Monday Market located at Dufsen Alhaji along Kubwa road in Abuja. If you were meeting him for the first time, you would probably mistake him for a comedian who has taken the business of entertainment too far. With different shapes and sizes of braziers stocked in his bag and some wrapped around his shoulders, the young man of about twenty years old moves from one end of the Market to another seeking for customers.

With a touch of comedy, he sometimes wears a bra around his chest, personifying a female. Monday then indulges in a dancing frenzy. According to him, he does so as a marketing strategy to attract the attention of potential customers, mostly females, who create a circle around him to catch a glimpse of his 'goods.'

Monday told this reporter that he is a secondary school dropout who hails from Bida Local Government area of Niger State. If his story is set to music, the lyrics would certainly not be gladdening to the ears. But the young man who has since lost both parents is not ashamed to tell the story of how he sells second hand braziers to survive.

When this reporter caught up with Monday at the Monday market at Dutse recently he engaged him in a discussion about his unusual business of selling braziers.

of N10, 000 per week. Monday hopes to get back to school soonest to continue with his studies up to the University level. Asked whether he feels ashamed of doing such an odd business, Monday responds: "I don't necessarily like the business but as they say, a beggar has no choice..."

This reporter spoke with a female student of the Nasarawa State University who patronizes Monday's second hand braziers. Dorcas John [not real names] who travelled from school to do her 'window shopping at the Dutse Market said: "Due to the economic meltdown most of us [female students] now patronize second hand wears, including 'bras'. As you can see I came to Abuja for weekend and decided to come here [Dutse Market] to get this 'stuff'. I am also buying for some of my school mates who have given me money and their measurement to buy the second hand braziers for them."



Business

Sheriff sets up committee on N/East's trade fair

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

BORNO governor, Ali Modu Sheriff, has constituted a high-powered committee to be chaired by his deputy; Adamu Shettima Dibal for the organization of 15th northeast's joint domestic trade fair which his state is expected to host at a time to be decided by the committee.

Sheriff's special adviser on Information and Media, Shehu Mustapha Liberty, said in a statement he issued Wednesday that the governor has appointed the state deputy governor as Director-General and Chairman of the central working committee while he (the deputy governor) is expected to inaugurate 12 other members on Tuesday 30th March, 2010.

The members include: The state's commissioners of Commerce- Mohammed Imam; Environment- Abdul-Kadir Abubakar; Water Resources-Abubakar Kyari; that of local government and chieftaincy affairs- Abdul-Rahaman Terab; Presidents of chambers of commerce in the six states of Borno, Yobe, Gombe, Bauchi and Taraba; commissioner of police, Director SSS, commander NSCD in Borno as well as Sheriff's special adviser on Information and Media, Shehu Mustapha Liberty amongst others. Alhaji Abba Lawan of the state's ministry of commerce is to serve as secretary, the statement noted.

ABCON seeks extension of deadline

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

ASSOCIATION of Bureaux De Change Operators of Nigeria (ABCON) has requested for an extension of the deadline for application of bureaux de change (BDCs) licence.

It would be recalled that the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) recently called for application for license for class "A" and "B" BDCs and gave two weeks for interested investors to meet the plethora of requirements.

Investigation however revealed that the ABCON, which is the umbrella body of BDCs in the country, has written to the apex bank asking it to extend the deadline. Close CBN sources who confirmed this disclosed that the ABCON asked the apex bank for extension to four weeks for investors to submit their applications. The request it was gathered, was based on the fact that it is would be practically difficult for interested investors to meet the various requirement within the two weeks deadline.

The Association, it was also gathered also called for a water tight licensing procedure to check influx of unprofessional operators which can abuse the system.



FROM Left: Assistant Comptroller General of Customs Sunny Okphure in-charge of Zone 'B' Kaduna assisted by Comptroller of Customs Usman Kankara Bello in-charge of FCT Abuja Area Command (Right) decorating newly promoted Comptroller of Customs Bawa Mohammed Suleman (Center) with the new rank at Kaduna zonal office.

Customs: FCT Command vows to fight smuggling

By Sunday Williams

THE FCT Area Command of the Nigeria Customs Service has vowed to fight smuggling activities and boost the revenue base of the country. THE command had generated total revenue of N296, 993,587.00 in January. This figure comprises of Import duty and other charges.

It exceeded that of the same period in January 2009 which was N13, 291,639.40 with a wide margin of above the collection of January, 2009.

Comptroller Usman Kankara Bello, Customs Area Controller, FCT Command Abuja who made this vow at the decoration of newly promoted customs officers said the two major statutory functions of the Customs Service have to do with sighting smuggling and raising revenue for the government.

The Customs Headquarters in Abuja has elevated 46 Deputy Comptrollers to the rank of Comptrollers of Customs.

Two of the 46 who were promoted and serving at the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Area Command Abuja are: Deputy Comptrollers Bawa Suleiman and Saliu Alade. The duo were before the promotion heading the Administrative unit and Cargo Section of the Command respectively.

Bello used the occasion to commend the Comptroller General of Customs, Diko Abdullahi Inde for the numerous achievements he recorded, since his appointment as the Comptroller General of Customs. According to Bello, the promotion he just released is part of the achievements he recorded; adding promotions no doubt serves as a morale booster to the promoted officers.

A statement signed by FCT Area Command's Public Relation Officer Mr. Eke Chukwuma said the zonal Co-ordinator of Zone B, Kaduna, Assistant Comptroller General, Sunny Okphure who decorated the officers charged them to be loyal and dedicated, while discharging their duties, pointing out that to whom much is given, much is expected.

According to him, promotions in the Customs are strictly based on merit and performance, during promotion examination and interview and subject to availability of vacancies.

Speaking on behalf of the promoted officers, Comptroller Bawa Suleiman, expressed appreciation to the Comptroller General of Customs for approving and releasing the promotions on schedule, after their examinations and subsequent interview.

Comptroller Bawa said: "We are aware of the higher responsibilities assigned to us, following our new ranks and therefore assured the management of the Service that we are equal to the task."

Applicants accuse DPR of deception

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

SOME job seekers hoping to apply for a place at the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) have accused the organisation of favouritism and deception after they failed to access the website needed for the online application.

The unemployed youths accused some management staff of DPR of cornering the available slots for their kinsmen and used the web application method as a camouflage to cover up their alleged plans to deceive Nigerians.

Efforts to get Mrs Osibodu, the

head of the Public Affairs Unit of DPR to respond proved abortive as she was not in the office when Daily Trust called three times.

Ismaila Bello, who is seeking to apply in the Professional cadre category, told *Daily Trust* Kaduna that since the time the online application was opened to the public, no one has been able to access it.

"We were directed to a website www.eraproserve.com to fill our application for either Graduate Trainee category or Professional Cadre. The application was due to start last Monday (March 22, 2010), but until today, no one has been able

to assess the site. And the closing date is Tuesday next week, but we cannot apply. The site opens but there is nothing in reference to DPR employment on it", he alleged.

According to him, "The information we are getting is that some top people at the DPR have connived with the consultant handling the employment process to deceive applicants into going to the said website, but that the actual jobs have been reserved for the relatives of those people at the DPR."

Another applicant, Misbahu Musa said he nearly attempted getting across to the site last Monday, but failed after

about 30 minutes. "Yes the site opened for a while, but before I could fill in my credentials, it disappeared. Even then, the space for date of birth stops at 1983 for both the graduate trainee cadre and the professionals, yet in the advert, they said professionals should have minimum of 32 years, which should have been 1978", he pointed out.

"The whole thing is frustrating. I think they are doing this to stop some people from the North especially from getting employment in the organisation. The Federal Character Commission and other relevant agencies should please investigate this issue," he alleged.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Thursday, March 25, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	11	0.52	250,781,012	130,403,926.24
SECTOR Totals	11		250,781,012	130,403,926.24
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	16	0.95	591,222	546,550.90
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	21	0.70	828,845	596,045.45
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC	2	6.21	6,600	38,940.00
PRESCO PLC	25	5.84	900,999	5,261,514.16
SECTOR Totals	64		2,327,666	6,443,050.51
AIR SERVICES				
AIR/SERV. & LOGISTICS PLC				
NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC	95	10.49	1,983,170	20,779,627.40
SECTOR Totals	102		2,381,670	21,917,459.68
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC				
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	71	2.72	3,841,121	10,514,362.54
DIAMOND BANK PLC	74	9.50	4,050,556	38,463,604.47
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	42	6.90	578,921	4,053,051.08
FIRST CITY MON. BANK PLC	66	9.22	4,962,648	45,349,635.16
FIDELITY BANK PLC	223	3.29	15,157,256	49,377,797.52
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	772	15.85	24,081,670	380,143,591.11
FINBANK PLC	82	0.75	5,365,476	3,950,417.63
GTBANK PLC	571	19.00	20,741,547	400,648,329.06
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	102	10.65	5,137,7165	3,708,444.40
INTERC. BANK PLC.	109	2.13	4,131,873	9,139,729.86
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	193	2.05	21,106,085	43,255,289.64
BANK PHB PLC	74	1.90	2,393,001	4,513,799.37
SKYE BANK PLC.	136	8.10	4,753,236	38,738,571.53
SPRING BANK PLC	8	1.03	76,250	78,604.44
STERLING BANK PLC	148	2.35	15,883,710	36,680,936.94
UNT. BANK FOR AFRICA PLC.	268	14.84	25,313,741	374,334,500.39
UN/BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	194	5.85	11,298,361	67,089,663.67
UNITY BANK PLC	18	1.06	480,600	508,219.40
WEMA BANK PLC	68	1.08	7,811,769	8,242,373.56
ZENITH BANK PLC	271	17.89	21,104,142	376,003,772.02
SECTOR Totals	3,635		207,637,597	2,035,695,609.12
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	69	17.70	912,892	16,355,181.73
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	88	65.49	2,638,693	166,899,339.55
CEM. CO. OF N/NIGERIA PLC	30	18.50	1,027,716	18,994,595.29
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	44	34.00	1,390,740	47,393,161.20
SECTOR Totals	231		5,970,041	249,642,277.77
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	3	5.15	100,000	515,000.00
CHEM. & ALLIED PROD. PLC	2	29.67	3,092	92,760.00
DN MEYER PLC	1	3.40	328	1,115.20
SECTOR Totals	6		103,420	608,875.20
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC				
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	58	31.43	808,711	24,967,505.69
SCOA NIGERIA PLC	1	8.71	500	4,140.00
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	36	0.53	4,403,945	2,333,065.15
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	61	48.00	4,442,082	213,191,108.80
SECTOR Totals	240		10,655,238	272,302,820.44
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	16	5.30	119,870	654,765.56
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	71	30.90	1,472,742	44,134,625.44
MULTIV. RESOURCES PLC	4	0.50	153,000	76,500.00
SECTOR Totals	91		1,745,612	44,865,891.00
FOOD/BEVERAGES & TOB.				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	10	30.60	47,802	1,535,878.26
BIG TREAT PLC	23	0.84	543,000	456,563.00
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC				
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	270	17.36	4,422,669	76,866,871.02
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	82	18.30	2,265,751	40,910,955.70
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	86	55.63	1,303,2577	1,678,768.42
HON/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	41	9.00	1,313,153	11,545,616.11
NAT. SALT COY NIGERIA PLC	79	7.78	2,967,858	22,833,865.88
NIG. BOTTLING COY PLC	21	29.65	173,031	5,117,389.15
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	38	270.00	95,509	25,971,414.64
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	9	27.94	78,300	2,187,702.00
TANTALIZERS PLC	45	1.11	3,497,953	3,883,998.05
UTC NIGERIA PLC				
SECTOR Totals	766		17,311,470	273,766,356.94
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	10	1.12	406,509	452,114.86
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	41	3.25	2,558,694	8,304,445.50
GLAXOS. CONS. NIG. PLC	13	30.97	137,411	4,339,511.55
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC.				
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	14	1.54	398,390	611,657.60
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	17	0.64	1,393,209	878,465.85
SECTOR Totals	109		5,043,613	15,406,309.36
HOTEL & TOURISM				
CAPITAL HOTEL PLC	5	2.92	172,008	502,263.36
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	5	1.89	152,820	288,829.80
SECTOR Totals	10		324,828	791,093.16
IND./DOMESTIC PROD.				
ALUMACO PLC	1	11.05	50,001	552,511.05

B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	15	9.37	211,100	2,055,344.00
FIRST ALUM. NIGERIA PLC	3	0.52	56,633	28,716.50
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	21	5.50	381,906	2,076,982.38
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	5	0.60	14,210	8,099.70
SECTOR Totals	45		713,850	4,721,653.63
INF. & COMM. TECHN.				
CHAMS PLC	20	0.64	3,297,360	2,160,210.40
IHS NIGERIA PLC	1	4.23	950	3,819.00
MASTEI. INNOV. NIG. PLC				
STARCOMMS PLC	30	2.23	1,512,971	3,354,225.94
SECTOR Totals	52		4,813,281	5,519,255.34
INSURANCE				
AFR. ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	5,000	2,500.00
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	169	1.09	4,115,342	4,494,698.62
CONT. REINSURANCE PLC	12	0.95	1,771,000	1,643,850.00
CORNERSTONE INS. CO. PLC.	36	0.57	3,332,047	1,873,381.03
CUST. AND ALLIED INS. PLC	55	3.96	3,802,466	14,513,277.16
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	19	0.67	3,162,512	2,118,883.04
GUAR. TRUST ASSUR. PLC	81	3.20	12,862,000	40,878,500.00
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	1	0.50	200	100.00
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	3	0.50	651,520	325,760.00
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	53	0.53	6,389,900	3,469,631.00
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	35	0.50	4,236,309	2,142,658.50
LAW UNION & ROCK INS. PLC.	30	0.51	10,649,500	5,530,893.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	5	0.50	37,100	18,550.00
MUTUAL BEN. ASSUR. PLC	13	0.58	2,100,200	1,218,116.00
N.E.M. INS. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	53	0.53	11,149,085	5,993,939.05
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	16	0.69	4,029,014	2,658,920.64
OASIS INSURANCE PLC				
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	15	3.26	248,460	803,479.60
SOV. TRUST INSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	14,000	7,000.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	7	0.52	155,429	80,823.08
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC				
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	11	0.76	175,500	136,860.00
UNITY KAPITAL ASSUR. PLC	1	0.58	9,500	5,320.00
UNIV. INSURANCE COY PLC	2	0.50	44,475	22,237.50
INT. WAPIC INSURANCE PLC	19	0.92	1,004,726	924,287.92
SECTOR Totals	659		70,355,910	89,072,618.64
LEASING				
C&I LEASING PLC	27	3.19	3,662,829	11,673,745.13
SECTOR Totals	27		3,662,829	11,673,745.13
MARITIME				
JAP/OIL & MARIT. SERV. PLC	111	1.41	6,260,518	8,807,037.89
SECTOR Totals	111		6,260,518	8,807,037.89
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNIC. PLC	18	0.96	353,736	339,586.56
SECTOR Totals	18		353,736	339,586.56
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ASO SAVINGS & LOAND PLC	13	0.66	1,568,500	1,035,175.00
RES. SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	4	0.50	135,200	67,600.00
UN/HOMES SAV & LOANS PLC	37	0.95	2,292,292	2,193,550.76
SECTOR Totals	54		3,995,992	3,296,325.76
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	30	1.05	4,506,427	4,713,484.08
RYCAP MAN. & TRUST PLC	1	2.02	500	1,010.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	16	0.55	2,763,570	1,748,506.30
SECTOR Totals	47		7,470,497	6,463,000.38
PACKAGING				
AVON CR/CAPS & CONT. PLC.	1	7.65	385	2,798.95
NIG. BAG MANUF. COY PLC				
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	15	15.00	301,745	4,565,829.00
SECTOR Totals	1,575		6,731,949	25,083,976.14
PETROLEUM(MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	28	43.13	61,265	2,510,639.70
BECO PETROL. PROD. PLC	24	1.90	869,500	1,697,941.00
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC				
CONOIL PLC	25	42.00	236,908	9,739,877.70
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	24	7.45	299,377	2,195,957.10
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	4	107.64	3,000	307,520.00
OANDO PLC	106	79.04	9,037,000	171,475,402.55
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	7	149.62	12,555	1,958,432.44
SECTOR Totals	224		10,527,083	736,414,561.82
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	16	8.22	32,680	260,305.80
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC				
SECTOR Totals	31		304,670	1,906,906.81
REAL ESTATE				
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	30	22.06	962,010	21,120,076.40
SECTOR Totals	30		962,010	21,120,076.40
REAL EST. INVEST. TRUST				
SKYE SHELTER FUND	1	100.00	200	20,000.00
SECTOR Totals	1		200	20,000.00
ROAD TRANSPORTATION				
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	22	1.09	1,037,950	1,077,563.00
SECTOR Totals	22		1,037,950	1,077,563.00
THE FOREIGN LISTINGS				
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	31	18.48	972,743	18,040,508.28
SECTOR Totals	31		972,743	18,040,508.28
OVERALL Totals	8,460		631,022,266	4,095,464,334.21

What is income stock?
A security with a solid record of dividend payments and which offers a dividend yield higher than the average common stock.

Google.com

GAINERS

BCC	3.12
FLOURMILL	2.64
NNFM	1.33
NB	1.10

LOSERS

OANDO	1.16
BOCGAS	0.49
IBTC	0.44
UBA	0.23

THE HOME FRONT

In Today's Edition

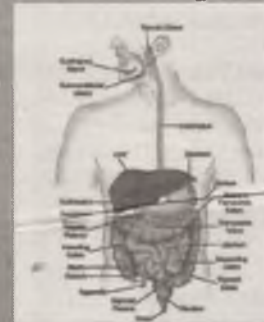
Fragments

Why women need a ministry!

Page 39

Health Interactive with Dr Aminu Magashi

Page 40



FEATURE

Who is an ideal parent?

Page 41



Facts about rheumatism

By Akor Ojoma

RHEUMATISM is the term used to describe any pain or inflammation in or around the bones, muscles or joints. Rheumatism includes arthritis, which specifically means inflammation of the joints.

There are three groups of rheumatic diseases namely: osteoarthritis, inflammatory arthritis and soft tissue rheumatism.

There is a wide range of causes for these conditions. Several genetic factors play a part, so if your parents or a sibling have arthritis you will be more likely to develop it yourself, however it is not inevitable.

Osteoarthritis

Osteoarthritis is a disease of the joints which mostly affects the knees, hips, feet and fingers. It seems to develop when people are in their 50s; most people with it are over 65 years old. Women are more likely than men to have osteoarthritis especially in their knees and hands. According to Dr. Thomas Niamey, a rheumatologist and Fellow of the American College of Rheumatology "Osteoarthritis is a condition in which the cartilage that protects and cushions joints breaks down over time. Eventually the bones formerly separated by the cartilage rub against each other, resulting in damage to the tissue and underlying bone and causing painful joint symptoms."

The disease can be prevented by;

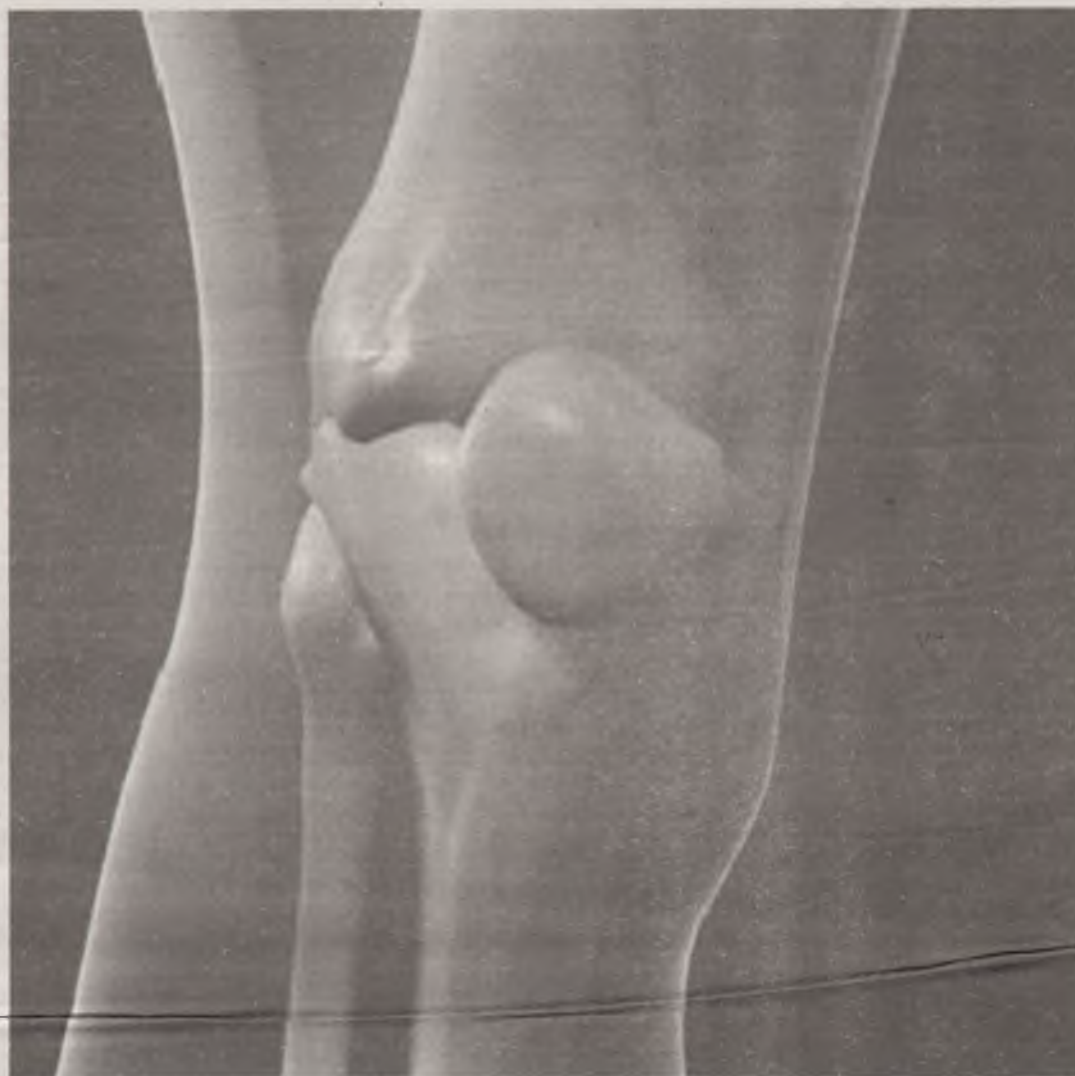
- keeping your weight in check by exercising regularly and carefully
- keeping the muscles around your joints strong
- The more overweight you are the higher your chance of getting osteoarthritis, especially in the knees. The most obese people are six times more likely to develop osteoarthritis than those at their ideal weight.

Having weak muscles makes osteoarthritis more likely. Our joints don't 'wear out' with normal use - it is lack of use that puts them at risk. To avoid osteoarthritis, do exercise that strengthens muscles so that the joints are well-supported and working well.

Exercise can be very helpful for people who have osteoarthritis - but it is important to get it right. Seek professional advice from a physiotherapist about the sort of exercise that will most suit you.

Inflammatory arthritis or Rheumatoid arthritis (RA)

Inflammatory arthritis or rheumatoid arthritis is caused by



swelling and tenderness inside the tough layer of tissue that forms a protective capsule around the joint. The synovial membrane usually helps to lubricate the joint, but when it becomes inflamed it can stop the joint from working well. This inflammation can also damage the cartilage and bone. It is important to treat the inflammation as quickly as possible to try and prevent long-term damage. Dr Niamey said worldwide, RA develops in roughly 1% of the population, affecting women 2 to 3 times more often than men. First signs of the disease usually appear between the ages of 25 and 50, but it can occur at any time.

Soft tissue rheumatism

Soft tissue rheumatism is a general term to describe pain that is caused by damage to the ligaments and tendons of a joint rather than the bone and cartilage. This can lead to pain in a specific place, such as tennis elbow or it can be a more general pain. 'Housemaid's knee', which is now more commonly known as 'carpetlayer's knee' is a particular type of soft tissue rheumatism, which is caused by something called bursitis.

Bursitis is an inflammation of the fibrous tissue that lubricates tendons where they pass over bones. It usually affects the knee, but can occur in any joint including the toes (bunions) and elbow. The best way to prevent bursitis is to avoid long-term pressure and rubbing on joints when possible. Make sure that your shoes fit properly, and use knee pads when doing gardening, housework or, of course, carpet laying.

Treating arthritis

Treatments for arthritis can include physiotherapy, surgery, medicines and complementary therapies like Osteopathy and acupuncture. There are three main types of medication for arthritis: Pain-relieving medicines (analgesics) like aspirin and ibuprofen or stronger analgesics like codeine or diamorphine or a combined painkiller, anti-inflammatory medicines and disease-modifying medicines.

Regular exercise will not cause further damage to your joints, in fact it is an important way of keeping the affected joints as healthy as possible.

In general people with arthritis should aim to exercise every

day, although there may be days when joints are particularly stiff and inflamed and it might be necessary to rest more than usual. Do wear soft-soled footwear that will act as a shock-absorber for your joints. Do stop exercising if you feel any pain and don't exercise if you feel unwell.

The Help the aged website says there are also ways you can help yourself at home like taking dietary supplements - There is good evidence for the benefits of fish oils like cod liver oil and a supplement called glucosamine sulphate. Research at the University of Cardiff has shown that taking can slow the destruction of joint cartilage in patients with osteoarthritis. The recommended dose is 5ml daily.

Hot and cold packs - Pain and stiffness can be relieved by warmth. There are creams that produce a localised heat, but a hot water bottle or heat pack is also a good idea.

Rest and relaxation - Being stressed or having tense muscles can make the pain from arthritis seem worse. It is useful to develop relaxation techniques to help control this.



Never get old: Twiggy now has a sociological phenomenon named after her.

Age is a thing of the past

By Rowan Pelling

WHEN I was a student I mourned the fact that by the time the new millennium dawned I would be far too ancient in my orthopaedic sandals to party into the 21st century. From where an 18-year-old stands, 32 looks like the distant peak of Mt Decrepitude. I did not anticipate the mass rebellion against ageing, the commuters reading Harry Potter and the businessmen with their Nintendo DSs.

Like Peter Pan, two entire generations have simply refused to grow up. Although a study this week showed that the average Brit believes you stop being young at 35 and start being old at 58, I don't know anyone aged 35 to 55 who gracefully accepts the tag "middle-aged", nor anyone between 50 and 70 who describes themselves as "old". When the patron saints of the baby boomers, the Rolling Stones, still cling to their leather, it's unsurprising that their fans are equally regressed. Linda Kelsey's article in The Daily Telegraph last week about how her 50-something husband took a gap year, then left home altogether, is a parable for the age.

My husband will be 58 next year. I tried to ask him if he felt ancient, but he couldn't hear my question as he was playing Florence and the Machine so loudly. In many ways my spouse is the most grown-up person I know, but still he has a buzz-cut, a rack of T-shirts, endless rock CDs, a soft spot for Torchwood, and is the father of two children under the age of six. At the same age his

father had retired to Scotland to play golf, shoot and fish in sturdy tweed (he'd have turned the gun on himself sooner than wear a T-shirt).

The contrast between my late mother and me is even greater. I have a little square Kodak family photo from 1978, when my mother turned 40. It shows a beaming, grey-haired woman in specs standing on a rainy promenade at Brighton with her four older children. She's wearing a gathered skirt and camel coat, knee socks and Clarks lace-ups. My mum did not age gracefully so much as wantonly, prematurely and utterly comfortably.

Here I am at 42, already raging against the dying of the light. My hair is expensively streaked gold and red, I wear skinny Jamie jeans from Top Shop with Converse. I dash from the school gate to London to go dancing with my girl friends till the small hours. Not women friends, you'll note, though none of us will see 40 again.

The saying "mutton dressed as lamb" is rapidly becoming obsolete. A leading sociologist this week cited "the Twiggy effect" – named after the Sixties model who stars in Marks & Spencer's advertising – for inspiring older women to throw away their carries and buy fashionable clothes. Professor Julia Twigg, who carried out the research, said, "Women over 75 are now shop-

ping for clothes more frequently than they did when they were young in the 1960s."

Jowly politicians heave themselves onto the youth bus, too. David Cameron listens to Lily Allen and loves The Wire, Gordon Brown prefers The X Factor to Strictly Come Dancing and, according to Dizzee Rascal, Barack Obama's victory was due to hip hop. And this week's hissy spat between Nadine Dorries MP and Esther Rantzen (PPC for Luton), neither of them a stranger to a touch of lamb glam, reminded me of two girls at a bus stop pulling one another's hair.

The worry is when our desperate clinging to youth becomes simple infantilisation: when everyone reads Heat and no one reads Hume. But I don't think we should be overly anxious about this retrogressive trend: there's much to be celebrated about the ever-growing band of middle youth. I think it's wonderful that a celebrated 60-something academic and author like my friend Robert Irwin is equally a whizz on Rollerblades.

I love the fact that Vivienne Westwood is still a punk, that the late John Mortimer was childishly enthusiastic about life until the day he died. Dylan Thomas was surely right: "Old age should burn and rave at close of day" – just so long as it's not also dropping Es and wearing a boob-tube.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

“ The saying “mutton dressed as lamb” is rapidly becoming obsolete

FRAGMENTS

By Safiya I. Dantiye
safiyaadantiye@yahoo.com

Why women need a ministry!

IN an article in Daily Trust last Tuesday, March 23, 2010, by one Toni Wakiki Akuneme, an aide to former Minister Julius Chuka Odom, on "Do we need 42 ministers?" He said, "Why would women, with all their claims to equality with men, allow themselves to be treated as if they are (were) physically or mentally challenged, by awarding them a separate ministry? They should be asking why there is no ministry for men, for that is the stuff true women's liberation should be made of. Women affairs can better still be part of culture, tourism and social development."

Women have always been marginalized, and may continue to be so till the end of time, but the fact is they are not going to sit down without making any effort to better their lot. It is because of this marginalization added to the government's nonchalant attitude to women's issues, and the mindset of several people who regard women as second class citizens that women need a ministry.

This ministry, rather than a frivolity, as some men assume, is to bring women related issues to public attention with a view to solving them. And if such a ministry makes women to be seen as "physically or mentally challenged", it is the system that has denigrated women that is to blame, not the women themselves.

Expressing dismay Wakiki Akuneme said "with all women's claims to equality with men, they allowed themselves to have a ministry, and that they should be asking themselves why there is no ministry for men."

This is patronizing and a mockery by implying that women are not brilliant enough to ask such a question. But do women get equality, apparently no, or else there wouldn't be any need for a ministry to advocate for girl-child education, women empowerment through skill acquisition, decision making, and advocate against maternal and infant mortality, domestic violence, sexual harassment, and so on. Therefore, I don't think they are claiming equality, because they don't have it, but rather, they are trying to get it in order to have a decent life."

In any event, pray, why would men need a ministry? Women don't ask themselves such a question because isn't the entire world a Ministry for Men Affairs? If a woman commits some acts she will be scorned and condemned, such as pregnancy out of wedlock and extra marital affairs. But if a man commits the same he would be hailed and patted on the back for proving his manhood. Can you beat that?

Also in the case of rape, the victims hardly report the case, because it will stigmatise her family and the offenders go scot free, while the victims suffer for the rest of their lives. Even where the offender is brought to book, his offence will soon be forgotten, dismissing his atrocity as "he is a man." As if being a man guarantees you to get away with anything, which it does, anyway.

The society is so biased that in many cultures, including Hausa culture, a husband is hardly at fault. He maltreats you and you rush home only for your parents to reprimand you without actually trying to find out the root of the problem and send you back with a stern warning of obeying your husband. I can go on and on.

By the way, the mere thought of a ministry for men is sheer mischief: what are they going to fight for or against, who maltreats them, who denies them their right just because they are men, who uses brute force to cow them, who intimidates them, who kicks them out of their houses and denies them access to their children.

They say it is a man's world, so what would they want with a morsel since the whole is their own, it is women that need to fight, advocate and agitate for such a morsel as Ministry for Women Affairs for their issues, and it is through such a ministry that they can realize liberation, not by pretending they don't have contentious issues and let the men disregard them as before.

The ministry is therefore important to women, and not to derogatorily be part of culture, tourism and social development, as suggested by Akuneme.

Are women part of culture and tourism, should women be packaged under tourist attraction and ancient cultures to be displayed? It is this kind of mindset that women want to change, women are human beings like men, better still, they are the mothers of men, as such they should not be disregarded and their issues made mundane. This is why women need a ministry.

Health interactive

Write in confidence to healthinteractive@hotmail.com; www.healthinteractive.wordpress.com or send a text message to 080-89972539 or P.O.Box 14807, Kano, Nigeria

Advice by Dr Aminu Magashi

What is Ascaris?

My doctor told me I was attacked by Ascaris. I am suffering from abdominal pain and not eating well. He placed me on medication. I will like to know the details concerning this problem.

Yusufa

Ascaris is a worm that lives in the small intestine. Infection with Ascaris is called ascariasis (ass-kuh-rye-uh-sis). Adult female worms can grow over 12 inches in length, adult males are smaller.

Ascariasis is the most common human worm infection. Infection occurs worldwide and is most common in tropical and subtropical areas where sanitation and hygiene are poor. Children are infected more often than adults.

Signs and symptoms

Most people have no symptoms that are noticeable, but infection may cause

1. Slower growth and slower weight gain.
2. Abdominal pain.

Sometimes,

3. While the immature worms migrate through the lungs, one may cough and have difficulty breathing.

4. Also with heavy worm infection, may cause intestinal obstruction

Ascaris eggs are found in human feces. After feces contaminate the soil, the eggs become infectious after a few weeks. Infection occurs when a person accidentally ingests (swallows) infectious Ascaris eggs. Once in the small intestines, immature worms hatch from the eggs.

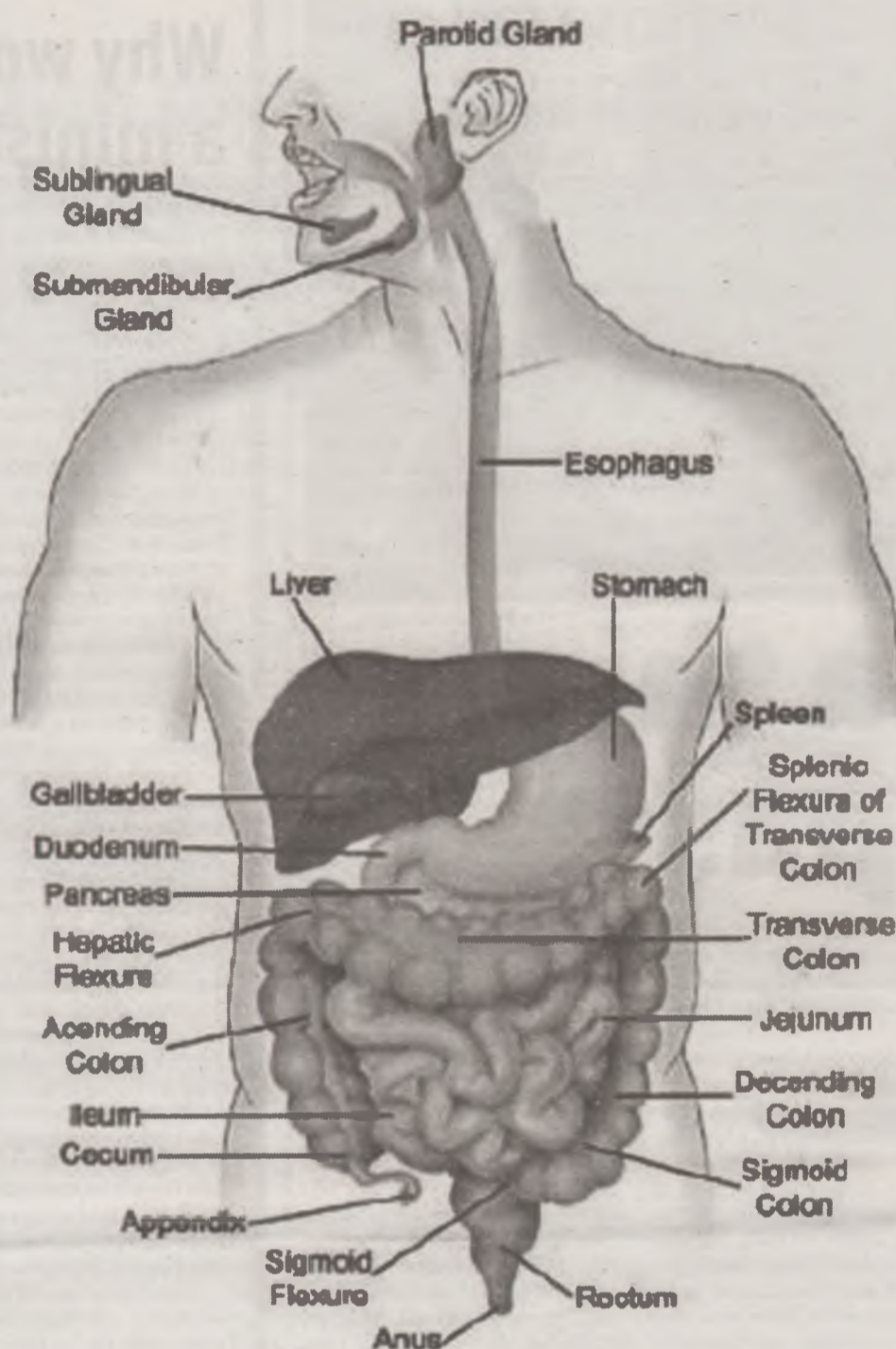
The larvae are carried through the lungs and then to the throat where they are swallowed. Once swallowed, they reach the intestines and develop into adult worms. Adult female worms lay eggs that are then passed in feces; this cycle will take between 2-3 months. Pigs can be infected with another species of Ascaris. Occasionally, a pig Ascaris infection can be spread to humans; this occurs when infective eggs, found in the soil and manure, are ingested. Infection is more likely if pig feces are used as fertilizer in the garden; crops then become contaminated with Ascaris eggs. You or your children can become infected after touching your mouth with hands that have become contaminated with eggs from soil or other contaminated surfaces or by ingesting contaminated food.

How is diagnosis of Ascaris made?

A stool sample for testing is taken.

What is the treatment for ascariasis?

Treatment is effective once



diagnosis is made. In the United States, Ascaris infections are generally treated for 1-3 days with medication prescribed by your health care provider. The drugs are effective and appear to have few side effects. Your health care provider may request additional stool exams 1 to 2 weeks after therapy.

Some preventive measures

1. Avoid contacting soil that may be contaminated with human feces.
2. Do not defecate outdoors.
3. Dispose of diapers properly.
4. Wash hands with soap and water before handling food.
5. When traveling to a place where sanitation and hygiene are poor, avoid food that may be contaminated with soil.
6. Wash, peel or cook all raw vegetables and fruits before eating.

What causes urinary tract infection among women?

I first of all, like to com-

mend you for your weekly health information sharing to teeming Nigerian populace. Your column has become second to none for its sustained dedication in the plight of people in a country where health information and services are compromised. I have been suffering from Urinary Tract Infection; it has been on and off despite being on medication. I need details, especially on problems that have to do with women.

Joy

The urinary tract is the body's filtering system for removal of liquid wastes. Women have a shorter urinary tract, so more susceptible to bacteria that may invade the urinary tract and multiply -- resulting in infection known as a urinary tract infection, or UTI.

Many women will have at least one UTI in their lifetime with some women having several infections throughout their lifetime. Fortunately, these infections are easily treated

with antibiotics. Some women are more prone to recurrent UTIs than others and for them it can be a frustrating battle.

What Causes Urinary Tract Infections?

1. The most common cause of UTIs are bacteria from the bowel that live on the skin near the rectum or in the vagina, which can spread and enter the urinary tract through the urethra. Once these bacteria enter the urethra, they travel upward, causing infection in the bladder and sometimes other parts of the urinary tract.

2. Sexual intercourse is a common cause of urinary tract infections because the female anatomy can make women more prone to urinary tract infections. During sexual activity, bacteria in the vaginal area are sometimes massaged into the urethra.

3. Women who change sexual partners or begin having sexual intercourse more frequently may experience bladder or urinary tract infections more often than women who

are celibate or in monogamous relationships. Although it is rare, some women get a urinary tract infection every time they have sex.

4. Another cause of bladder infections or UTI is waiting too long to urinate. The bladder is a muscle that stretches to hold urine and contracts when the urine is released.

Waiting too long past the time you first feel the need to urinate can cause the bladder to stretch beyond its capacity. Over time, this can weaken the bladder muscle. When the bladder is weakened, it may not empty completely and some urine is left in the bladder. This may increase the risk of urinary tract infections or bladder infections.

Other factors that also may increase a woman's risk of developing UTI include

1. Pregnancy
2. Having urinary tract infections or bladder infections as a child
3. Menopause
4. Diabetes.

Symptoms of Urinary Tract Infections

Symptoms of UTI or bladder infection are not easy to miss and include

A strong urge to urinate that cannot be delayed which is followed by a sharp pain or burning sensation in the urethra when the urine is released. Most often very little urine is released and the urine that is released may be tinged with blood. The urge to urinate recurs quickly and soreness may occur in the lower abdomen, back, or sides.

This cycle may repeat itself frequently during the day or night--most people urinate about six times a day, when the need to urinate occurs more often a bladder infection should be suspected.

When bacteria enters the ureters and spreads to the kidneys, symptoms such as the ones below may occur, as well as the previous symptoms of lower urinary tract infection.

1. Back pain
2. Chills
3. Fever
4. Nausea and vomiting

Proper diagnosis is vital since these symptoms also can be caused by other problems such as infections of the vagina or vulva.

How Is a Diagnosis Made?

The number of bacteria and white blood cells in a urine sample is the basis for diagnosing urinary tract infections. Urine is examined under a microscope and cultured in a substance that promotes the growth of bacteria. A pelvic exam may also be necessary.

Based on the infective agent found an appropriate antibiotic is given.

Who is an ideal parent?

Akor Ojoma and Bunmi Omolehin

NO one chooses his or her biological parents as we are all born to them by the choice of the Creator. The bond of love between us and our biological parents however does not blur from our mind's eye the character traits we prefer in a parent or that makes him or her an ideal one. Different teenagers described qualities which make parents ideal ones to The Home front.

15-year old Uche Joy, a senior secondary two student believes an ideal parent is one who listens to his or her children. "I don't like parents who believe that their children have no voice of their own or that they are incapable of making far reaching decisions that affect their lives as youths. In other countries of the world, kids are allowed to express themselves appropriately and this is not regarded as rudeness, but here in our own country, we are not allowed to make our own contribution because everyone looks down on us as being unable to make decisions. This is not good enough! An ideal parent to me whether a mother or father is one who allows me to make my own decisions."

She complained of having a running battle with her parents over the choice of vocation to opt for after her secondary education. "While I want to go for a course in Theatre Arts, my parents specifically my father wants me to study law. What baffles me is that my own personal opinion on it does not matter. He often says that since he found fulfillment after becoming a qualified lawyer, I would also make a very good lawyer and feel the same."

To make matters worse, my mum who should be defending me is equally encouraging me to take my father's advice since he is older and wiser and also because he will be the one paying for my education. Now from all indications I may eventually give in to their demands if I want to have peace of mind, she lamented.

Hadiza Ahmad, a 17 year old, said an ideal parent to her is one who spends quality time with the members of his nuclear family. She expressed displeasure over her inability to communicate with her father; a civil engineer who she says ever hardly has time for her. "He rarely spends a week at a stretch with me his only daughter. Whenever he is at home, he recedes into the confines of his room and only comes out to take his meals."

I know he is a very busy man especially as he is also a politician but I expect some sacrifices from him. Some of the money he is working for can be given up to spend time with us, we can manage with lesser luxury. He does not deny me the essentials of life though. But what I want is his attention not his money. Growing up for a young girl can be difficult as so many temptations abound. He keeps telling me that I would understand why he has to work so hard someday when I am grown up but I find this hard to believe. My mother has a busy schedule too so but she makes sacrifices. My opinion is that a mother or father who spends quality time, finds out about the welfare of each and every member of the family, tells them histories and stories of life, and proffers advice and solution to their problems is the ideal parent and not one that is completely alienated."

Stanley Osaro is also a seventeen year old and to him an ideal parent is



one who is able to stomach and even endure all for the sake of the children. He said his mother left his father's house when he was quite young due to irreconcilable differences. I know that my father caused her a lot of pain but she should have endured like some other women and stayed with me and my sister instead of going away and paving way for another woman who my father later married and has now made us complete strangers in our father's house. If she had endured we would have grown up to take care of her." He gave another example of a female classmate of his whose father abandoned with her five siblings on account of reports of infidelity on the side of their mother. To him such a father is not an ideal one "If he is, he would have forgiven the woman for the sake and love of his children and the family will remain one."

For 16 years old Hakeem Adele who resides with both parents in one of the suburbs of the Federal Capital territory, a parent who quarrels often and strongly monitors his or children is not an ideal one. "Parents who overtly assert their parental authority and give little freedom

to their children bore me. My parents still treat me as if I am a child and do not respect my feelings on some issues. If I want to go and visit friends, I have to give them convincing reasons where I am going and why. If I am seen with a girl, I will be subjected to interrogation and sermon on why a man and woman can't be friends and sickness that abound or my pocket money automatically ceases. If I raise my voice at my elder sister, I am in trouble. If I stay out later than usual then I am in for it. I have a specific list of rules I cannot flout. I know they love and mean the best for me and I love them very much too and I also know that this is peculiar to many parents as my friends make similar complaints but I somehow feel that parents should be more relaxed and trust the teenagers and youths the more, that way they will be ideal parents and not just loving and caring ones."

However, for Chris Akintude who is 18 years old it is a case of different strokes for different folks as he enumerated most of what is complained of above as they qualities of ideal parents. In addition he said an ideal parent is one

who does not only instill sound religious and moral values in his or her children but also lives an exemplary conduct for the children. "If you tell your children to be decent you too should avoid instances where they see that lacking in you by having mistresses or rivals to your spouse. If you say they should read and be hard working, not cheat or envy others they should see you exemplifying them. Parents who say do as I say and not do as I do are not ideal ones. An ideal parent also doesn't show partiality or favoritism to one child while neglecting the other."

Deborah Moses who is fourteen years old gave a vivid picture of who an ideal parent is. "An ideal parent is one who doesn't quarrel his children too much, and rarely punishes or beats them too. A parent who is often kind, cheerful, plays and buys gifts for the children and their mother when he comes back from work, journey, special and festive occasions or when they do well at school and gives other surprise gifts. An ideal parent is one who also pays their school fees, ensures they are well fed and clothed, meets their other needs, loves and cares for the other parent, and is good to people around him or her."

A mother of three, Mrs Ranti Adebisi said parents should continue to show endless love to their children and not relent even when it is not appreciated as some children misconstrue actions of love for hatred but will only realize it when they are much older. She said children especially the teenagers should be allowed to have a say on their upbringing adding that her experience in training her three kids, two of whom are presently happily married puts her in good stead to offer the advice. "Children especially teenagers have to be handled carefully. What they turn out to be eventually has a strong correlation with how they are brought up by parents. When parents are too strict in bringing them up or are nonchalant about their feelings, such kids grow up with a mentality which has a way of stunting their inter personal relationships with members of their immediate society. Such children lose confidence in their capabilities and for a few they get drawn quickly into anti social activities. The only remedy which has worked for me and has also worked for different families is to keep the communication channels between parents and children continually open. This would not only make them self reliant but it would also help them in maintaining other vital relationships in the future including that with their parents even when they are married." She advised

According to Cynthia Parker, BellaOnline's Single Parents Editor The "ideal parent" knows that there is no such thing as an Ideal Parent. But they do their very best anyway."

Janet Penley of MBTI TODAY summed up this issue by saying. "After more than a decade of research and study, I have come to understand how personality type can help parents understand their strengths and struggles in parenting. After hundreds of interviews and workshops, two truths have emerged: Good parents come in many styles. There is no one "right" way to be a good parent. Each of us brings strengths to parenting that feel as natural as breathing. Every parent is a mixed bag. No matter what, we'll never erase our humanness. Fortunately, children don't need perfect parents because, as human beings, they themselves will never be perfect either."

Accessorize with jewelries

Ogechi Ohalee

FOR every woman, jewelries are an important part of her life. Be it pearls, diamonds, silver, gold or costume, most women say jewelries are one thing they cannot do without. In the world of fashion today, women of class and poise accessorize with unique jewelries. From a pair of earrings to a necklace, bracelet or even a ring, it goes a long way to make a statement.

Jewelries play a major role in every woman's appearance. They give more color, radiance and glamour. Depending on the taste of the wearer, 'expensive or otherwise' the quality always matters. While selecting your jewelries, look out for the finesse marks.

From the simple jewelry to the chic and elegant, bold and sophisticated, all one needs to do is find the perfect jewelry that compliments her outfit. Any reputable or fashion conscious jeweler should be able to tell you whether or not your choice of jewelries are good and how durable they are.

It is said that diamonds are a girl's best friend and they do cost much; fortunately today the fashion world isn't just about outrageously expensive jewelries, there are those that do not cost a fortune yet they give you that elegant look. As always, the choice is yours to make.



DIGEST

Chocolate? Now that is a tasty new treatment

ONCE regarded as a health sin, chocolate is now being hailed as a superfood because of the high levels of health-boosting antioxidants it contains.

Other ingredients include theobromine, which is good for the nervous system.

A recent study at Imperial College London showed chocolate can suppress persistent coughing. Another compound, phenylethylamine, is thought to have a mood-boosting effect.

Meanwhile, antioxidants in chocolate are said to protect the skin against UV damage. They also boost cardiovascular health (these health-benefits all accrue from dark chocolate, as it is higher in cocoa solids).

In fact, so good is chocolate that it's no longer just a healthy indulgence - some doctors are now recommending it as a form of treatment.

Dr K.K. Atsina, formerly of the University of Ghana Medical School, has used cocoa powder 'as an adjunct to treatment of hypertension and diabetes in my clinic for a very long time.'

Another Ghanaian doctor, Professor F. Kwaku Addai, writing in the journal *Medical Hypotheses*, describes how he recommends two to five cups a day to help protect against malaria.

'I used to get malaria at least once a year,' he says. 'But since 2004, when my family started drinking unsweetened natural cocoa mixed with hot water, we have not had it.'

He says other doctors use it to help with everything from eyesight to asthma.

Closer to home, patients of Professor Dan Reinstein, a top laser eye surgeon at Harley Street's London Vision Clinic, are encouraged to eat 'as much as they can' 30 minutes before surgery.

'Patients who eat chocolate prior to

laser surgery are less jittery, more alert and more co-operative than those who receive sedatives,' he says.

'But the same procedure can occasionally take much longer if the patient is tense and worked-up.'

The natural high many experience after eating chocolate is not, it seems, just in our minds.

Professor Donatella Lippi, a medical historian at the University of Florence in Italy, has researched the history of cocoa.

She says: 'In the past few years, natural substances such as flavonoids - high concentrations of which are found in cocoa - have been considered as antidepressant treatments.' Chocolate can also be used to balance low concentrations of brain chemicals, such as serotonin and dopamine.

These important chemicals are both involved in mood regulation, food intake and compulsive behaviours.

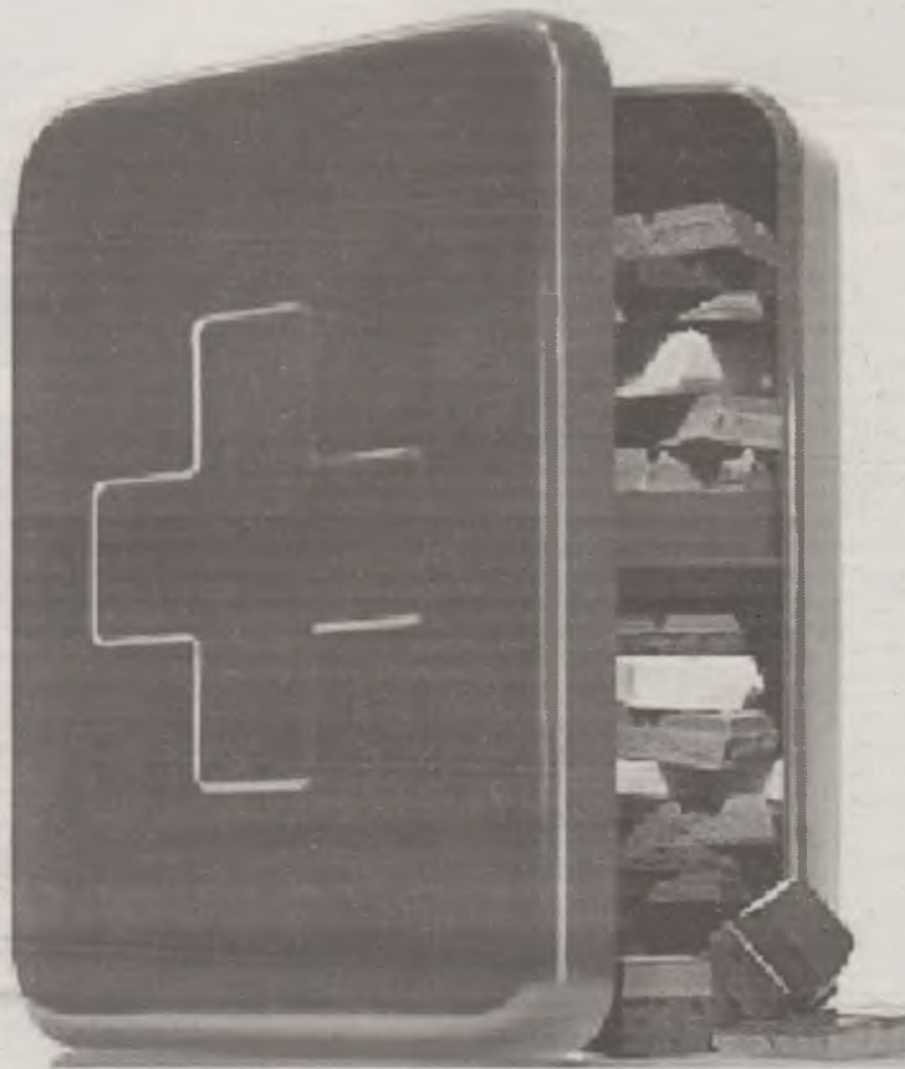
Eating a moderate intake of dark chocolate is also suggested by psychiatrists because of its antidepressant-like effect.

In fact, this therapeutic use of chocolate is ages old. Professor Lippi says: 'In Europe, the relationship between chocolate and medicine dates back to Columbus's voyages to the New World. For example, in 1577, Francisco Hernandez (court physician to the king of Spain) affirmed that chocolate was used to treat liver disease.'

In a treatise published in 1662, Henry Stubbe, the personal physician to Charles II, reported that English soldiers who were in Jamaica lived on a diet of cocoa paste mixed with sugar which was then dissolved in water.

Stubbe noted that chocolate could also be used as an expectorant (which can ease respiratory difficulties), a diuretic or an aphrodisiac. It was also suitable for treating hypochondriacal melancholy.

In other words, just eating some chocolate can make you happy.



Not such a sin: Chocolate is being hailed a superfood because of its antioxidants

Revealed: The secrets behind the nightmares that leave us in a sweat

LOSING a loved one, being chased by a monster or running hopelessly late for a vital appointment - it's all the stuff of nightmares. And for some of us, it's a show of horrors that unfolds most times we go to sleep.

Others claim never to be troubled by dreams of any sort.

Scientists are trying to unravel the meaning behind the disturbing dreams that leave us waking in a panic.

They believe that while the nightmare may not directly correspond to waking life, it can reflect the sleeper's emotions or concerns.

The five most common themes are falling, being chased, feeling paralysed, being late and the death of a loved one.

Hair or tooth loss and sitting exams are also common themes, even among those too young to go bald and too old to sit exams.

But there were clear differences in the topics that haunted the sleep of the sexes in the study conducted in Germany. Men are more likely to have nightmares about violence or being sacked while bereavement and sexual harassment crop up more in women's nightmares, says a report in the *European Archives of Psy-*

chiatry and Clinical Neuroscience journal.

In one of the largest studies of its kind, researchers asked more than 2,000 men and women about their bad dreams.

A calm and collected 48 per cent said they never had nightmares. But one in 10 said they had frightening dreams several times a year and almost one in 20 were bothered by them at least once a fortnight. Lacking self-confidence: Both men and women can have bad dreams about failing exams

Those who owned up to having a lot of nightmares were also asked

to describe their contents.

'Topics like falling, being chased or paralysed do not have direct correspondences to waking-life experiences,' said researcher Dr Michael Schredl from the International Association for the Study of Dreams.

'A monster chasing you in a dream might reflect a daytime fear of a particular task lying ahead that one wishes to avoid.'

Dreams about hair and tooth loss are more common in women - perhaps signifying anxieties about losing their looks. The findings came from a study in which researchers asked 2,000

men and women about their dreams. A calm and collected 48 per cent claimed they never had nightmares. One in ten said they had frightening dreams several times a year and almost one in 20 woke up in terror at least once a fortnight.

Davina Mackail, a Daily Mail columnist and dream expert, said: 'Nightmares are a response to something unresolved. They can be exacerbated by stress.'

'If you deal with what is showing up, they will go away.'

'You can lie to yourself when you are awake but not in your dreams.'

Sign Language



Who wants to buy a house with the owner?

Photo location: California, U.S.

Culled from www.spotting.com

EASY CROSSWORDS

19

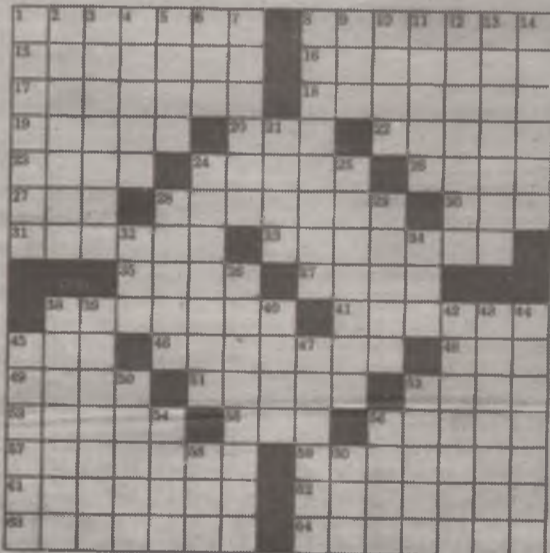
ACROSS

- 1. Bedroom item
- 8. Roofed passageways
- 15. Foodie, perhaps
- 16. Intense
- 17. Did a wartime job
- 18. Rival successfully
- 19. A Cara
- 20. Mongrel
- 22. California jock
- 23. Writer Grey
- 24. Iranian dialect
- 26. Reconcile
- 27. Aliens, in headlines
- 28. Do over, in a way
- 30. See
- 31. Called for
- 33. Plumlike fruits
- 35. Graduation attendees
- 37. Insignificant
- 38. Gym nickname
- 41. Kitchen piece
- 45. This: French
- 46. Battered dish
- 48. Smelly herb
- 49. Athena's title
- 51. Ms. Lane
- 52. Refrain hits
- 53. Ball cohort
- 55. Greek letter
- 56. Seed husks
- 57. Narrow-minded
- 59. Roman playwright
- 61. Fast and stirring, in music
- 62. Emma Peel, for example

- 63. Gives way
- 64. Most pathetic

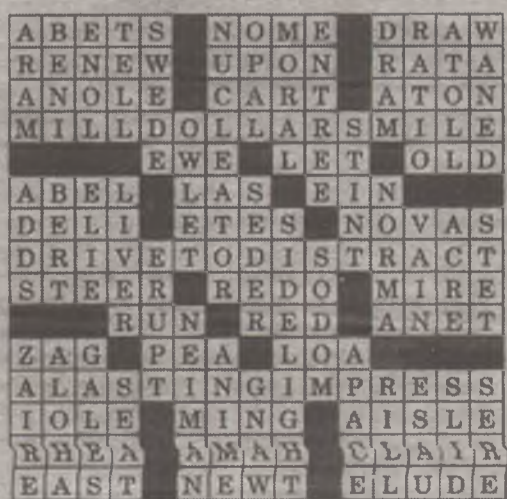
DOWN

- 1. Dress showily
- 2. Run
- 3. Teen's new acquisition
- 4. Cafe order
- 5. Arrogant disposition: slang
- 6. Bard's preposition
- 7. Depot denizen
- 8. Strong response
- 9. Periphery
- 10. Masterstroke
- 11. Chief deity to millions
- 12. Most stagnant
- 13. Hooks
- 14. Hard
- 21. Russian river
- 24. Hawked
- 25. Probe
- 28. Be affected
- 29. Oral Roberts University's home
- 32. Toothsome degree?: abbr.
- 34. The whole gang
- 36. Some local jocks
- 38. Medley
- 39. Spoon, e.g.
- 40. Chic getaways
- 42. Methodize
- 43. Shadings
- 44. Treat for a 15-Across
- 45. Cracker topper
- 47. Johnny of football
- 50. Severe
- 52. Vogue
- 54. Panache
- 56. Engendered
- 58. Old Spanish coin
- 60. Movedom's Mendes



Solution to Easy Crosswords

18



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.

115

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

Solution to Sudoku 114

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



UBA PENSIONS CUSTODIAN LIMITED -
SIGMA VAUGHN STERLING PENSIONS LIMITED RSA FUND



Muhtari
Dangana & Co
Chartered Accountants

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2009

ASSETS	2009 =N='000	2008 =N='000
Cash and bank balances	1,235,163	694,388
Interest income receivable	873,951	529,133
Dividend receivable	31,534	14,517
Investments	41,641,916	31,199,114
	43,782,564	32,437,151
LESS LIABILITIES		
Accrued charges	87,271	105,132
	43,695,293	32,332,020
NET ASSETS		
REPRESENTED BY		
CONTRIBUTORS' FUND:		
Members' contribution account	37,384,430	31,003,461
Accumulated surplus	6,310,863	1,328,558
	43,695,293	32,332,020

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

INCOME		
Interest income	5,513,026	1,929,610
Dividend	209,921	92,559
Net gain on disposal of investments	358,904	157,108
	6,081,850	2,179,277
LESS EXPENSES		
Management fees	880,743	600,024
Audit fee	3,000	877
	883,743	600,901
Surplus before exceptional charge	5,198,107	1,578,376
Write down of investment	(215,802)	(1,654,688)
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year after exceptional charge	4,982,305	(76,313)
Accumulated surplus at 1 January	1,328,558	1,404,871
ACCUMULATED SURPLUS AT 31 DECEMBER TRANSFERRED TO CONTRIBUTORS' FUND	6,310,863	1,328,558
MEMBERS' DETAIL:		
Number of RSA Account Holders	502,801	429,629
Unit accounting value (N)	1.4854	1.3073
Investment return for the year (%)	13.6	(6.4)

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors of the Administrator in its meeting of.....2010

.....Director
.....Director

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS TO THE MEMBERS OF UBA PENSIONS CUSTODIAN LIMITED - SIGMA VAUGHN STERLING PENSIONS LIMITED RSA FUND

We have audited the financial statements of UBA Pensions Custodian Ltd - Sigma Vaughn Sterling Pensions Ltd RSA Fund (the Fund), which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December, 2009, income and expenditure statement and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

Directors' Responsibilities for the Financial Statements

The Directors of the Fund Administrator are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements. This responsibility includes: designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Auditors' Responsibility

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

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

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

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Fund and the unit accounting value of N1.4854 as at 31 December 2009 and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of the Companies and Allied Matters Act CAP C20 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria.

Report on other legal and regulatory requirements

The Administrator has kept proper books of account and the financial statements are in agreement with the books. The Administrator complied with the provisions of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of Nigeria CAP C20 LFN 2004, the Pension Reform Act, 2004, the regulatory requirements of the National Pension Commission and the applicable statements of accounting standards issued by the Nigerian Accounting Standards Board.

Muhtari Dangana
MUHTARI DANGANA & CO
(Chartered Accountants)
March 15, 2010
ABUJA - NIGERIA

For a better understanding of the RSA Fund's financial position and the results of its operations for the year and the scope of our audit, the financial information should be read in conjunction with the full financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2009 from which they were derived and in respect of which the auditors' report was issued.



News Extra

North Korea's Kim Jong-il 'suffering from chronic kidney failure'



NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong-il, centre, inspects the Thrice Three-Revolution Red Flag Migok Cooperative Farm in Sariwon in North Hwanghae province in North Korea in an undated official photo. South Korean experts say he is having dialysis every two weeks

he attempts to shore up the family regime.

After six years out of the public spotlight, Kim Kyong-Hui, 64, was added to a diagram of the North's power structure released by the South's unification ministry.

The diagram showed her overseeing light industries under the ruling Workers' Party of Korea.

Kyong-Hui's husband Jang Song-Thaek has strengthened his image as the leader's right-hand man amid speculation he will play the role of regent as the leader grooms his youngest son, Jong-Un, to take over.

Kim Jong-il is relying on his family more and more to exercise power, intelligence officials believe.

Kim Jong-il has three sons from two marriages, according to analysts.

Jong-Un is the second son of his third wife, Ko Yong-Hee. Mystery surrounds the man believed to be destined to become the next

North Korean leader Kim Jong-il is suffering from chronic kidney failure, South Korea has claimed.

The Communist dictator's pale fingernails are proof of the disease, Nam Sung-Wook, director of the Institute for National Security Strategy, was reported as saying.

The 68-year-old is having dialysis every two weeks, it is claimed. He is also partially paralysed following a stroke in 2008.

Mr Nam, whose organisation has links to the South Korean intelligence services, spoke yesterday at a forum in Seoul.

'Chairman Kim Jong-il is suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure and we believe he is undergoing kidney dialysis every two weeks,' the Yonhap news agency quoted him as saying.

'[The pale colour of] his nails indicates he has chronic kidney failure.'

“ Kim's health is one of the most closely guarded secrets in the reclusive state. There has never been official confirmation of him falling ill



THE state of the North Korean leader's fingernails was hard to make out from the photographs

He said Kim has lost around two stone since his stroke in August, 2008, adding that in January the reclusive leader went on a slimming diet.

'However, it's not an easy task for him to restore his full health because of his age,' he said.

'At his most recent public appearance on the occasion of a public rally in [the northeastern city of] Hamhung on March 7, he was slamming down his right

palm on his unmoving left palm.'

Kim's health is one of the most closely guarded secrets in the reclusive state. There has never been official confirmation of him falling ill.

Last year, a South Korean television station said he was also suffering from life-threatening pancreatic cancer.

He has long been thought to suffer from diabetes.

Kim Jong-il took power in 1994 when his father died at the

age of 82. He assumed the title of general secretary of the ruling Workers' Party and chairman of the National Defence Commission, but has never taken the title of president.

His youngest son Kim Jong-un, born in late 1983 or early 1984 and educated in Switzerland, is regarded as the most capable of the North Korean leader's three known sons.

If Jong-un were to take over soon, he is likely to remain weak,

vulnerable and at the mercy of the North's old guard for years, experts have said.

North Korea places great emphasis on seniority and the ruling elite around Kim Jong-il, mostly men beyond 70, are not about to take orders from the son, one intelligence source has said.

Last month it was claimed that Kim's sister has also been brought back to the forefront of power as

leader of North Korea, however.

Born in 1983, he is believed to have attended an international school in Switzerland under a pseudonym.

There is no adult photograph of him publicly available.

Kenji Fujimoto, a former personal chef to Kim Jong-il, has described the son as 'a chip off the old block' who closely resembles his father physically and in terms of personality, the AFP has reported.

News Extra

French hacker arrested for breaking into President Obama's Twitter account

A French computer hacker was facing prison yesterday after breaking into the Twitter accounts of Barack Obama and Britney Spears by 'guessing' their passwords.

In the U.S. president's case the key word is said to have included the name of his beloved dog, Bo.

The arrested 25-year-old, a Frenchman who lived with his parents and used the pseudonym 'Hacker Croll', was tracked down in a trans-Atlantic police operation coordinated by the FBI.

Agents spent six months on his trail after he managed to gain access to Mr Obama's Twitter account - a micro-blogging site which the president frequently uses to communicate with voters.

The unemployed defendant - whose real name has not yet been released for legal reasons - was

held in a police station in central France city of Clermont-Ferrand before being released on bail.

He will appear in court on June 24 when he faces up to two years in prison for hacking into a computer database.

The investigation is being conducted by French prosecutor Jean-Yves Coquillat.

'He told us how he got into the accounts, but he's not a genius,' said a detective involved in the case. 'He'd managed to get hold of administrator codes, enabling him to create, modify and delete accounts as he wanted.'

'The only really clever thing he did was to guess people's passwords. He seemed to do this by studying their characters - watching them on TV, reading their blogs, and generally getting to know them. It was apparently a remarkably easy thing to do, especially in the case of international celebrities like Obama and Britney.

'Obama is fond of the word Bo, the name of his dog, and used it in a number of passwords.'

The detective said that passwords often amounted to nothing more than a mother's maiden name, or the name of a family pet.

In July Hacker Croll sent a file containing 310 confidential corporate and personal documents to an American technology site called TechCrunch. They included executive meeting notes, financial projections and even diaries.

Hacker Croll then started 'attacking' the Twitter accounts of several U.S. celebrities, posting false information aimed at embarrassing them.

He is not thought to have profited financially from the Twitter hacking, but he was known to French police for other minor technological scams that had netted around £14,000.



PRESIDENT Barack Obama

The FBI alerted the French authorities to what Hacker Croll was doing in July. Four FBI agents worked with French police for several months to track

him down.

Twitter users create some 50million messages per day, with many sent by high profile celebrities.

The Board, Management and Staff of
PEOPLES MEDIA LIMITED

Invite the general public

TO THE

Public Presentation of

PEOPLES DAILY

Putting the people first

PEOPLES

Under the Chairmanship of:

MALAM ISMAILA ISA, OFR, Mni

Chairman Bulet International

Special Guests of Honour:

ALL STATE GOVERNORS

VENUE:

Shehu Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja

DATE:

Monday, 29th March, 2010

TIME:

10:00am prompt

Event will be broadcast live on AIT

R . S . V . P

08051498449
08051000558

08033117458
08033202211

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

AEPB demolishes shanties at Mpape

By Usman A Bello & Romoke W Ahmad

THE Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB) yesterday demolished shanties and illegal structures used for business activities along Mpape road.

The board's Director, Dr Abubakar Yabo, said the demolition became necessary to ensure free flow of traffic and clean environment in the satellite town, adding that victims were given enough notices through the media.

The director assured that with the collaboration of various existing business association as well as relevant stakeholders, such practices will no longer be encouraged in order to allow for free traffic flow.

Meanwhile, one of the victims, Thaddeus Ugoh, said that the deadline given to people to remove their belongings was too short.

He said people are transacting businesses along the road due to poverty and called on government to fight poverty in the country.

Mr Usani Abdulahi, a suya seller, said he is not happy with the demolition as he has no where to do his business, while Kabir Mohammed, a commercial motorist, praised AEPB and said the illegal structures made it difficult for motorists to move along the place.

"Now that the road sides have been cleared, driving in the place now is like driving on an express way," he said.

Bizmen jailed for stealing in church

By Usman A. Bello & Nweze Jane frances

TWO businessmen, Ubuchi Ubuchi and Kareem Rasheed were yesterday sentenced to four weeks imprisonment each by an Abuja magistrate court for stealing in a church.

The accused persons, alongside Hamza Abdullahi, were arraigned on a two-count charge, punishable

under Sections 97 and 287 of the Penal Code Law.

Police prosecutor, Francis Tanko had earlier told the court that on March 20, one Kwaggh Luka reported to the police that Ubuchi and Kareem invaded the Evangelical Church of West African (ECWA) at Wuse 11 and stole a Nokia phone and N10,000 cash.

He said during police

investigations, the amount and phone set were recovered from them, adding that Hamza Abdullahi also invaded the church on the same day and made away with N50,000 cash.

When the charges were read to them, Ubuchi as well as Kareem pleaded guilty and begged for leniency, while Hamza denied the charges and requested for bail.

The prosecutor urged the court to try Ubuchi and Kareem summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CPC).

Magistrate Folashade Oyekan sentenced both Ubuchi and Kareem to two weeks imprisonment on each count or fine options of N1,000 each and adjourned Hamza's case to April 4 for hearing.

ANPP tasks INEC on transparent council poll

By Hussein Yahaya

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) flag bearer in the April 10 council poll in Bwari Area Council, Alhaji

Yahaya Isah has called on the leadership of the National Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) to see the council polls as an opportunity to redeem their lost con-

fidence among Nigerians.

Alhaji Yahaya Isah, who spoke to news men at Bwari, said the electoral body remains a veritable institution that can guarantee good

leadership in any democratic setting because it is the major source of political powers.

Although the flag bearer said he is so far satisfied with the conduct of the INEC, he noted that much needed to be done by the body.

He said if elected as a council chairman, his administration will focus more on the erratic power situation facing the council area, which he blamed on the council authority, failure to provide the area with transformers.

He decried the dilapidating state of the council roads, education and health facilities, adding that his administration will focus more on those areas if elected in the forthcoming election.

"We are also going to take the issue of security very seriously and as well empower the teeming unemployed youths and women in the council if elected," he added.

The ANPP aspirant said his campaign team went round most communities in the council and he saw that people want change.

He appealed to the electorate to come out and exercise their civic right on the election date.



ANPP Bwari council flagbearer Alhaji Yahaya isah, during his campaign at Dutsen-Alhaji recently.

FRSC to open data bank for traffic offenders

By Usman A. Bello

TRAFFIC violators in the Federal Capital Territory will soon have their names in a data bank that will be compiled by the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC).

FCT Sector Commander, Nseobong Akpabio said Wednesday that traffic offenders in the FCT

would be documented so that they can be identified when they violate traffic rules.

He said the data bank will aid the magistrate while passing judgment on second offenders.

"If somebody is arrested the second time, definitely, before they are tried, we need to tell the magistrate that Mr. A or B is not

a first offender and the penalty to be awarded may not be the same as that of the first offender," he said.

The FRSC also on Wednesday arraigned 44 motorists before a mobile court sitting at Julius Berger junction, for traffic violations.

The motorists were jailed

for two weeks or to pay fines of between N5,000 and N50,000, depending on the nature of their offences.

Our reporter learnt that the motorist were convicted for seat belt violations, not having fire extinguishers, dangerous driving, use of phone while driving, driving without license, no caution

signs and using worn out tyres, among others.

Magistrate Emmanuel Iyanna, while sentencing the motorists said the offenders did not consider other road users, who could have been affected by their actions in the event an accident, adding that their punishments will serve as deterrents to other road users.

NGO facilitates 55 inmates' release from prisons

By Abubakar Yakubu

AN Abuja based Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), Global Network for Peace and Anti-Corruption Initiative (GNPAI) yesterday facilitated the release of 20 inmates from Keffi prisons by paying their fines.

The NGO had earlier facilitated

the release of 35 inmates from Suleja prisons last Tuesday, while 25 inmates are billed to be released from Kuje prisons.

Among those released was a 46-year-old woman, Abigail Ajayi, who jumped for joy.

Speaking at a brief ceremony to mark the inmates' release at Keffi, Chief Executive of GNPAI, Vera

Johnson, advised the released inmates to live exemplary lives and partner with the NGO in order to learn skills of their choices so that they can be empowered to set-up their own trade after the period of apprenticeship.

Also speaking, the Assistant Comptroller-in-charge of the prisons, Mr Ibinuhi J. Raphael, com-

mended the NGO for assisting the convicts to pay their fines and get parole.

He appealed to government to connect the public pipe borne water system in Keffi to the prison yard so that water problem in the place can improve.

The assistant comptroller congratulated the freed inmates and

advised them to steer clear of vices that could take them back to prisons.

Our reporter learnt that the NGO apart from facilitating the freedom of inmates through the payment of fines will also train them on various skills such as carpentry, soap making, tailoring, and computer literacy, among others.

Buyers wary of barrow pushers at Wuse

By Ogechi Ohalee

JUST recently at Wuse Market in Abuja, a woman had her goods worth N40,000 taken from her. The thief was a barrow pusher who remains at large. This sad and apparently unsolvable incident raises some important questions about the use of these wheelbarrow boys at Wuse market.

As soon as a buyer walks inside the market, the next question will be, madam please do you want a wheelbarrow? The question is asked as if they meant to ask if someone wants to buy a wheelbarrow. But basically they want people to rent them in order to carry their loads for the period they spend in the market. These boys follow a buyer around; wait for as long as the buyer remains in the market.

With his wheelbarrow ready, 20-year-old Garba has a slim frame that will make you question if he would have the strength to carry the 250 kilogram payloads that he is getting ready to push. He doesn't have the luxury to attend school. For the past two years, he has worked pushing heavy loads in Wuse market for at least 12 hours each day, every day of the week.

Garba's day begins at 7 a.m. That is when he rents his wheelbarrow and begins work immediately, pushing goods within the market in order to make money to survive. Clients include shopkeepers who need vegetables, rice, yam, wheat, wines, provisions and other loads moved to and from shops and motor parks within the market.

Within his 12-hour work day, his only break is a quick few minute lunch that is, if he has chance to even eat. He said in order to save some money; he must make 1000 to 2000 naira each day. He said he came all the way from Kano to do this job. His friend introduced him to barrow pushing. He happily said he



BARROW pushers waiting for customers at Wuse recently.

prefers pushing wheelbarrow to stealing or begging for money. "I have never taken any of my customers' goods before. I am contented with the little money I get from barrow pushing and therefore do not need to steal from people to survive. Holy Quran does not support stealing".

Looking at Garba, one heave is all it takes to lift the bags of rice that were placed gingerly in his barrow. The shopkeeper, madam Ugo, is expecting him. Almost ritualistically however, Abdulahi smiled at her and stretched his right hand for a hundred naira note.

Speaking, one of the traders, Mallam Jamelu, said some of the barrow pushers are criminals. He

said a businessman recently was heartbroken when every item he bought for his newly delivered wife was stolen from him by a barrow boy. It was unfortunate because the man didn't locate the boy and the market authority couldn't help him either.

Mallam Jamelu insisted that these barrow boys have built a cartel and according to him, that is why nobody does anything to arrest any of them whenever they stole people's goods. "faceless individual who are criminals themselves have taken over the business, and they also recruit same criminals as them to steal from the sweats of others".

Another trader, Grace Asihma, agreed that she uses barrows a lot,

and said sometimes barrow pushers' mistakenly loose contact with the owners of the goods which cause confusion.

Reacting, Wuse market Manager, Ibrahim Sulaiman, said all barrow operators in Wuse market are registered to avoid infiltration of criminals inside the market. "Recognized barrows in the market are serially numbered and the management has consistently enlightened the general public that whoever comes inside the market should look for those numbered barrows," he disclosed.

He warned people who patronize unnumbered barrows that they are doing so at their own detriments, adding that the market management sanitizes members

of the public to make sure that the numbers on wheelbarrows they hire are authentic.

"If a barrow pusher runs away with your goods, make sure you report immediately to the security operatives and also make sure that you the buyer memorize the number written on the barrow," he added.

The manager assured that since the barrow pushers are registered with the market authorities and have guarantor's they can be fished out within 24 hours if a report is made to the market security.

"We paint the barrows for them and give them numbers, after which we then open records for them on monthly basis," he said.

Two jailed for iron rod theft

By Lucas Istifanus & Bunmi Omolehin

TWO persons out of three arraigned last Friday before an Abuja magistrate court were sentenced to jail for stealing iron rods.

Kunle Abifarin, Jibrin Siam and Adebayo Babatunde were arrested on March 18 over missing iron rods belonging to one Igbang Stanley of Castle and Tower Ltd.

Prosecutor Shetima Solo-

mon told the court that Kunle worked as a security guard with Castle and Tower, where he stole the iron rods and sold them to Jibrin Isah, who in turn sold them to Adebayo.

"The accused persons act were contrary to Sections 288, 317 and 319 of the Penal Code Law," he said.

When the charges were read, Jibrin told the court that he had knowledge that the rods were stolen, while Adebayo maintained that he

bought the rods and did not know they were stolen.

Magistrate Chuks Ubani remanded the Kunle and Jibrin to two months imprisonment without fine option, while Adebayo was granted bail in the sum of N70,000 with a surety in like sum, who must be live within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to April 12 for hearing.

Similarly, one Ubi O. Ubi was arraigned for alleged

criminal intimidation against Lara Rowland.

Prosecutor Marya Okoli stated in court that Lara Rowland informed the police that the accused called her a prostitute and threatened to beat her.

The accused denied the charges, and Magistrate Chuks Ubani granted him bail in the sum of N100,000 with a surety in like sum.

The case was adjourned to April 20 for hearing.

Security guard arraigned over negligence

By Nweze Janefrances

THE police yesterday arraigned a hotel security guard before an Abuja magistrate court for alleged negligence.

Pascal Chongo of Apo village, who works as a secu-

rity guard at Dilic Hotel was accused of not knowing when somebody entered a room in the hotel and stole money.

Prosecutor Francis Tanko told the court that on March 17 and 18, Mr Pascal Chongo was posted to the first floor of the hotel and did not know when unknown persons entered room 108 and stole N150,000 belonging to Mr Elisha Attai.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail.

The magistrate granted him bail in the sum of N100,000 and a surety in like sum.

The case was adjourned to April 28 for hearing.

...Another in court over dud cheque

By Bunmi Omolehin & Tosin Omoniye

A 30-year-old security guard with Eco Bank has appeared before an Abuja Upper Area Court for allegedly withdrawing money from a branch of the bank with a fake cheque.

The guard, Fidelis Paul was accused of committing the offence on February 18, 2010 at Eco Bank branch in Asokoro, Abuja.

Prosecutor Philip Okowu narrated in court that one Olatinu Akinola, a staff of Eco Bank reported to the police that the accused and two others (now at large) criminally trespassed into the bank and made a withdrawal of N800, 000 from an account belonging to one Chigbu Charles Emenike.

The prosecutor said the accused also came to the same bank the following day with another forged withdrawal slip with the intention to withdraw more money from the account, adding that he was caught when he ran out of the bank on the suspicion that he might be arrested.

"During police investigations the accused confessed to the crime and thereby committed offences contrary to Sections 364, 79 and 287 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor said.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charges and sought for bail, which was opposed by the prosecutor.

Judge Umar Kagarko ordered that the accused be remanded in prisons custody till April 9, when the case will come up for hearing.



You deserve a

Double Harvest

A farmer thinks in terms of yield per acre, and will do everything within his power to increase this. That is why time & time again he calls on Tak Agro for unique solution no matter the soil.

Tak AGRO

Now available with our distributors nationwide!

TAK AGRO

...The Farmers' Choice

SUBSIDY SPEND

2006-2009

N2.5 trillion

2010 Projection

N600 billion

ILLEGALITY LACKING POPULARITY

Subsidy payment has no legal backing.

It is not budgeted for.

It is not appropriated.

It is illegal and unconstitutional.

This must stop.

It is time to deregulate.



**MOVEMENT
FOR
ECONOMIC
EMANCIPATION**

جَمَاعَةُ نَصْرِ الْإِسْلَامِ

JAMA'ATU NASRIL ISLAM
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



REMARKS BY HIS EMINENCE, ALHAJI MUHAMMAD SA'AD ABUBAKAR, CFR, mni SULTAN OF SOKOTO & PRESIDENT GENERAL, JAMA'ATU NASRIL ISLAM, AT THE CENTRAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE JAMA'ATU NASRIL ISLAM HELD IN KADUNA ON SUNDAY, 21ST MARCH, 2010

It is with utmost gratitude to Allah (SWT) that I welcome you all to this occasion; the meeting of the Central Council of the Jama'atu Nasril Islam, taking place here in Kaduna. We must thank Allah (SWT) for affording us the opportunity to witness, once again, this august gathering and to contribute our humble quota to the development of Islam and to the advancement of our society. May Allah (SWT) shower His mercy and blessings on everyone present here today, and may He amply reward our numerous members who set aside pressing engagement and travelled long distances to attend this importance meeting. Allah (SWT) is definitely not unmindful of those who sacrifice in His noble cause.

Distinguish members, our invited guests, as you are all aware, we have, over a year ago, put into motion the re-organisation of the Jama'atu Nasril Islam. By the grace of Allah (SWT) a lot has been achieved in this direction and these efforts will soon be crowned by the appointment of new Secretary General who shall oversee the day to day affairs of the organisation. We must express our appreciation to His Highness, the Emir of Dikwa, and other Council Members who saw us through this difficult period. May Allah (SWT) reward you all abundantly. We must state that what is worth doing is worth doing well. We must all persevere to do what is fit and appropriate to see to the emergence of a robust, dynamic and effective Jama'atu Nasril Islam. (JNI) which shall be responsive to the yearnings of the Muslim Ummah and able and willing to meet the numerous and daunting challenges of the trying period we live in. It is in this vein that we wish to re-assure the Muslim Ummah that with the active co-operation of all, we will, bi-iznillah, succeed in this noble endeavour.

Your Excellency, Your Royal Highnesses, Distinguished members, it is pertinent for me to state that the first quarter of this year has not been a particularly easy period for our country. Firstly, we saw the recurrence of the Plateau crisis, barely a year after a previous mayhem, which led to a massive loss of human life and property and severely fractured community relations that took decades to establish and



His Eminence,
ALHAJI MUHAMMAD SA'AD ABUBAKAR, CFR, mni
Sultan of Sokoto & President General,
Jama'atu Nasril Islam

nurture. The recurrence of the Plateau crisis is most unfortunate as we have undertaken, collectively and individually, all conceivable efforts to ensure the return of permanent peace to the Plateau. We visited Jos several times, we attended functions, we held the meeting of the Nigeria Inter-Religious Council (NIREC) in the state and we went out of our way to establish what we thought were meaningful relationships. It is therefore disheartening to witness, once again the re-emergence of this crisis.

Secondly, we also witnessed misguided efforts by some mischievous elements and vested interest grounds, to take advantage of the Plateau crisis and sow discord between Muslims and Christians in the country. These individuals and groups, using different communication platforms, continued to spread false information about impending attacks against Christians in different parts of the country and other similar claims. The sole purpose of these detractors was to provoke a systemic religious crisis in the nation that

would lead to the breakdown of Law and Order. Fortunately, it was some leaders of the Christian community who brought to our notice the spread of these rumours. It is indeed a testimony to the strength of the inter-religious co-operation in Nigeria that we have been able to work collectively and across the religious divide to frustrate these nefarious plans. All these events were happening at a time when the nation was under serious threat, with claims and counter claims, mutual accusations and recriminations, following the hospitalization of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, please permit me to declare that there is no alternative to peace in our collective existence. Even when wars are fought, they are prosecuted essentially to re-established peace. It is therefore important for us all to regain our sanity and recommit ourselves to building durable peace and to promoting mutual co-existence amongst our people. We must realize that impunity and lawlessness can only breed societal instability and undermine the bases of ethnic and religious harmony among our diverse people. We must equally come to the realization that all citizens of Nigeria, regardless of creed and ethnic origin, have a fundamental and unfettered right to settle where they wish, in peace and security, and to engage in the legitimate pursuit of their livelihood without let or hindrance. This is an unabridged right guaranteed by the Constitution of our land, to which all those in authority are sworn to uphold and protect.

Distinguished members, I must also remind you that leadership is the greatest responsibility which Allah (SWT) can place on any of His servants. It is equally a trust that should be discharged honourably and equitably. It is not conceivable for any leader, Muslim or Christian, to predicate his salvation on the extent to which he has made life miserable to his fellow human beings, regardless of their creed or ethnic origin. Leaders must be fair to all and should in no way display any discriminatory tendencies which alienate any segment of the society. As our Shaykh, Usman Ibn Fodio pointed out over two hundred years ago, "one of the swiftest ways of destroying a state is to give preference to one particular

Cont'd on page 53

جماعة نصير الإسلام

JAMA'ATU NASRIL ISLAM
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS



tribe over another, or to show favour to one group of people rather than another, and draw near those who should be kept away and keep away those who should be drawn near". A ruler was asked after he lost his throne, "What brought your rule to an end?". He replied, "Being intransigent in my views and neglecting to seek advice". "Other practices (destructive to sovereignty) are arrogance and conceit which take away virtues".

As to the State of the Nation, we may



We must equally come to the realization that all citizens of Nigeria, regardless of creed and ethnic origin, have a fundamental and unfettered right to settle where they wish, in peace and security, and to engage in the legitimate pursuit of their livelihood without let or hindrance.

venture to add a word or two. We must, at all times, exercise self-restraint and should never allow our vested interests and our personal ambition to becloud our judgment on what is right and appropriate for our great country and its people. We must also be able, as a nation, to make a clear distinction between short-term political interests and long-term strategic goals, and make a collective resolve to promote these strategic concerns with a view to propelling our nation forward and safeguarding its integrity and its future. It is important for us all to shun those who seek leadership through fanning the embers of hatred and division and ensure that the policies we pursue take all sections of the country into confidence such that our strategic development as a nation shall be built on consensus and mutual understanding. We must, above all, ensure the integrity of our democratic process, including the issue of electoral reform, such that the governance of our nation shall be predicated on a solid foundation which makes it difficult for anyone to undermine at will.

Your Excellency, Your Highnesses, Distinguished members, it is also vital that we refrain from dragging our military institution and other security agencies into partisan politics or religious factionalism. The statement credited to individuals and groups, especially the Northern Christian Elders Forum calling for the removal of the Chief of

Army Staff is not only unfortunate but capable of polarizing the nation. Religious leaders and, especially, elders must exhibit a high sense of maturity and restrain in their comments, and should not allow themselves to be dragged into matters by interest groups, the import and ultimate goals of which they have little understanding. External commentators on the Nigerian situation should also be told, in no uncertain terms, that Nigeria, despite its difficulties, has come a long way and that it should not be taken for granted, or viewed as a simplistic conglomeration of ethnic and religious groups. The bonds that keep us together are much stronger than those that divide us. Importantly, the majority of Nigerians are convinced that we are capable of resolving these difficulties, for the interest of our nation, and the sake of succeeding generations of Nigerians yet unborn.

To the Muslim Ummah, a word of advice. We must take seriously the admonition of the Holy Qur'an to hold fast to the "Rope of Allah" not to be divided. Our greatest strength lies in this unity and we must not do anything which could jeopardize it. We must realize that it is this unity that could afford us the sense of purpose to safeguard the integrity of the Ummah and to meet the challenges of the future. It is also important to point out that we must never despair of the mercy of our Lord. We must learn to cultivate patience and perseverance and work with the leadership of our respective communities to address whatever problems that may confront us.

Distinguished guests and members, I would like to crave your indulgence to raise yet another issue: the persistent phenomenon of the Almajirai especially in the Northern States of Nigeria. How did we allow the patrons of the nobles profession in the Muslim Community to remain in abject poverty and to earn their livelihood through begging? When did Islam excuse parents of taking full responsibility of their children and of catering to their welfare and educational needs? Why have our governments and our communities failed for so long to give significant support to the traditional Islamic education sector and promote its institutionalization?

My brother and sisters in Islam, we must all redouble our efforts to accord the students of the Holy Qur'an a pride of place within the Ummah. We must vie with one another in establishing proper institutions that would cater to the Islamic educational needs of our children with proper material endowments to ensure that no bonafide student of the Qur'an would need to beg for his daily sustenance during the course of his study. We must also endeavour to expose as many of these youth as possible to Basic Education so that they may be able to participate more effectively in the national life of our vast country.

We would also like to congratulate the

Federal Ministry of Education and the former Minister of State for Education, Hajiya Aisha Jibril Dukku, for establishing a Ministerial Committee to formulate a coherent Madrasah Policy for Nigeria. We fully support this laudable initiative and hope that the Committee would consult widely with all relevant stakeholders in the traditional Islamic Education Sector. It is also my fervent hope that when it came to implementation, the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC) would enter into effective partnership with State's Government, many of which are doing a good job in this area, and would deploy sufficient resources to register a significant impact on this sorely neglected sector of our educational system.

Finally, I wish to commiserate with us all over the passing away of one of the founding fathers of this veritable organisation, the Lamido of Adamawa, Alhaji (Dr.) Aliyu Mustafa. We will definitely miss the Lamido's commitment, sacrifice and liberality to the causes of the JNi. May Allah (SWT) accept his noble deeds and grant him Al-Jannatul Firdausi, amin. May I also avail



We must, at all times, exercise self-restraint and should never allow our vested interests and our personal ambition to becloud our judgment on what is right and appropriate for our great country and its people.

myself of this opportunity to congratulate Alhaji Muhammad Barkindo Aliyu Mustafa for his elevation as the new Lamido of Adamawa. We welcome His highness to the membership of this Council, and we are confident that with his vast experiences in the socio-economic and political life of this nation, the new Lamido will add immense value to the realization of the goals of the new JNi.

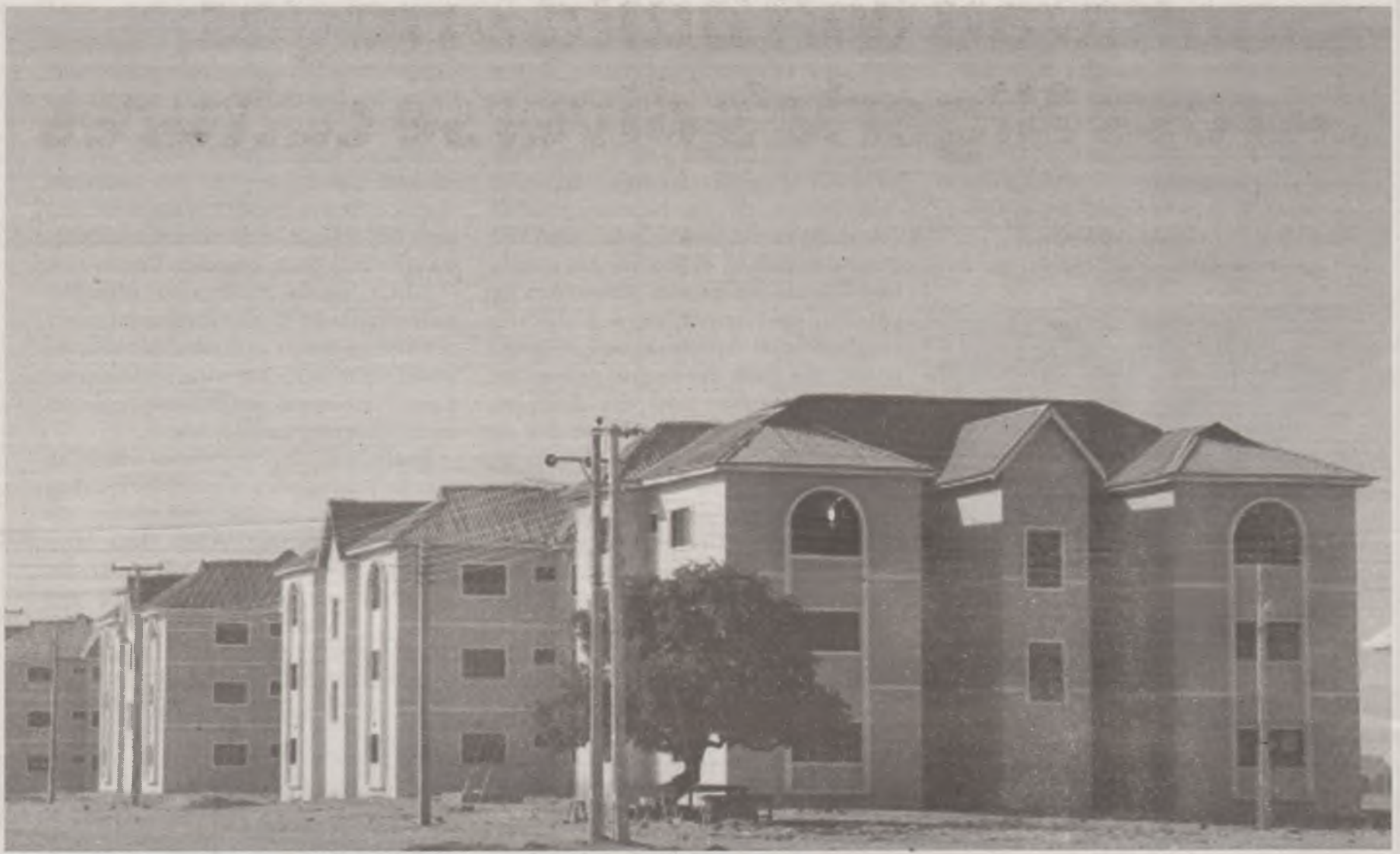
With these words, I pray to Allah (SWT) to reward you all abundantly.

Wassalamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi ta'ala wa barakatuhu.

PROPERTY

property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079



DUPLEXES at the three hundred housing estate along Maiduguri Road, Damaturu, Yobe State

FCT facility managers get new exco

By Nasir Imam

NEW executives of the International Facility Managers Association (IFMA), Abuja Chapter yesterday in Abuja took over the mantle of affairs from the former executive members.

At the occasion, former Presi-

dent of IFMA, Abuja chapter, Engr. Simon A. Opaluwah, said the association was formed four year ago when the President of IFMA in Nigeria visited Abuja for the inauguration of the Abuja chapter.

He said in order for Abuja not to become like Lagos in terms of decay, there is therefore the urgent

need for the work of facility managers to provide the necessary expertise and create avenues for synergy and the establishment of benchmarks.

Engr. Opaluwah listed the challenges facing IFMA to include lack of understanding by the public and the lack of facil-

ity management policy in most organisations, inadequate budgeting and inadequate knowledge of the practise of the profession, among others.

The new President of the IFMA Abuja Chapter, Collins Osayamwen, thanked the immediate past President for his

doggedness and firmness in stewarding the ship of IFMA.

Other members of the exco include 1st Vice President, Alh. Ahmed Abubakar, 2nd Vice President, Arch. Bello Amukwu, Ms. Sarah Ogeifah, Treasurer, while John Ochogwu will serve as Secretary.

Firm plans 8 cement plants in Nigeria

A foreign firm, BROWTECH, says it has concluded arrangements to establish eight cement plants in Kogi, Yobe, Sokoto, Benue, Akwa Ibom, Kebbi, Nasarawa and Ogun States.

The Area Manager of the company, Mr Mike Bjorn, said in Lokoja on Wednesday that N16.4 billion would be required to construct the plants which would be located in rural areas.

He said availability of limestone in commercial quantities was considered in selecting the benefiting states, adding that the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), also played a role in the process. Bjorn said the administrations in the benefiting states were expected to play a lead role in mobilising the N2.5 billion required to establish a plant as the initiative was to be based on Public Private Partnership. The manager, who said he was in Lokoja for further discussion with the state government, said each of the plants would have the capacity to produce 300 tonnes of cement daily.

He said the factories would be fitted with independent power plants to guarantee uninterrupted production, adding that the objective was to bring down the price of cement and create employment.

Bjorn, who said his company had been operating in Nigeria in the last 25 years, named SABOO Engineering Company of India as its technical partner in the project.

The manager, who said similar projects had been executed with success in Pakistan, India and Ethiopia, expressed optimism that it would also succeed in Nigeria.

Apart from facilitating the construction of the plants, Bjorn said his firm would also provide 10 per cent of the share capital for the companies which he put at N2.8 billion each. (NAN)

Commissioner harps on need for grazing reserves

VIOLENT clashes between herdsmen and farmers can be resolved permanently if governors of the northern states invest in the development of grazing reserves, an official has suggested.

The Commissioner for Livestock in Adamawa, Dr Lawan Hamidu, stated this in Yola on Wednesday while briefing the peer review team of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) on the state government's effort to improve livestock and agricultural production.

The team is in the state to inspect developmental projects and their impact on the people, an exercise which began in 2009 with the mandate of the 36 states governors.

Hamidu said that such a

measure, "will prevent a situation where the pastoralists will be compelled to travel southwards in search of greener pastures for their cattle and possibly run into a clash with crop farmers."

He noted regrettably that whenever there was a clash between farmers and pastoralists, lives and properties were lost.

"Adamawa State, which ranks as one of the nation's highest producers of livestock, has invested huge funds in the establishment and operation of three major grazing reserves," he observed.

He identified the reserves as Gangoshi Grazing Reserve, Nasarawa Jada Grazing Reserve and Jibiro Grazing Reserve.

Hamidu informed the team that the state government had also

been involved in tracing grazing routes across the state.

The commissioner said the government had also taken steps to make the grazing reserves attractive to the pastoralists by providing facilities such as boreholes, veterinary outposts and transport.

He also said that the state government was collaborating with the federal and local governments "to re-establish grazing routes totaling 880 kilometres, with clear cut security arrangement to avoid conflicts".

He said the government had created a revolving fund to assist the nomads to acquire and rear cattle with a view to boosting livestock production and the state's economy. (NAN)

Inside Politics

'Shekarau will build bridges across Nigeria's diverse cultures'

IN this interview, **Shehu Yusuf Kura**, a veteran journalist and current chairman, Board of Directors of Radio Kano, speaks on the presidential ambition of Kano State governor, Mallam Ibrahim Shekarau. Kura who was one time guber aspirant of the PDP also talks on other political issues in the country. Excerpts:

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

YOU have a group that has been calling on Governor Shekarau to contest the presidency in 2011 but your agitation appears to be fading, are you frustrated?

We are not frustrated. Actually, the agitation for Shekarau to run for presidency has not faded. In fact it has been winning support from people across the nation. I think the governor is only taking his time to decide. It is not a very simple thing to wake up and just decide to run for president. You have to plan and build structures nationwide. So far he has not come out to yes he is contesting or no he is not but we are still agitating that comes out and answers our call.

But we know he has been thinking about it and we will continue pushing until he accepts the challenge because we know he has something to bring to the table. Shekarau will definitely inject new blood and fresh ideas in Nigerian politics and governance at the national level. You can see how he succeeded in Kano State to a very large extent by bringing people together irrespective of party affiliation, religion or ethnic background. He has become a uniting force and that is what we want him to do as President. We are playing our part based on our conviction that he is the right man but at the end of the day it is his decision to make and we hope he will make the right decision.

What do have to present to Nigerians as Shekarau's achievements in Kano even when some critics say he hasn't done much in terms of development?

Take Yar'adua for example. He achieved a lot when he was Governor of Katsina State and perhaps that is why PDP selected him to

fly their ticket and he eventually won. But if you compare his record of achievement to that of Shekarau in Kano, you will see that Shekarau has surpassed him by far. Shekarau built more roads, schools and employed more people than any previous governor in Kano and even many state governors in the federation. His record is strong and we can run on it.

So if we want to detach ourselves from the past, we have to bring people like Shekarau who are youthful, energetic and focused; people who will say I'm who I'm based on my moral upbringing and I have something that I can offer to this country irrespective to my political affiliation. He is a man that can build bridges across the diverse enclaves of Nigeria. Shekarau has a very good understanding with all parties in the country. If he decides to run, he will do so under a kind of alliance of political parties so that at least at the end of the day, we would have somebody who is going to represent various political interests in this country.

You spoke about alliance, can you give more insights?

My thinking is that ANPP is a bit weaker than PDP and if you are going to run under ANPP, you have to go into alliance with other political parties. So if Malam decides to run on the platform of ANPP, we know very well that he has to expand and broaden the political base for him to be able to make significant impact. If he decides to contest, it is going to be under ANPP but we have to contact other political parties to see if they will come on board so that they can support a credible candidate of his stature and political experience. Only then shall we root out the PDP from power so that democracy can survive in this country.

Many people believe that with the exit of Buhari from ANPP, the party is in some deep mess?

Well, we aren't happy that Buhari, a former Head of State with proven record of integrity and honesty, has left ANPP. But there was ANPP before he joined politics. The party had 9 governors before he joined ANPP. After he had joined the party, its influence reduced to 5 governors who won election on their own merits and integrity. You see there is a misunderstanding that Buhari made ANPP but I think it's wrong because it is ANPP that made Buhari what he is today in politics. No other person benefited from the party more than he did.

I think Buhari has made a mistake by joining the newly registered CPC. If I were him, or if I were in a position to advise him, I would say stick to the ANPP; you don't have to be president, you have to put the interest of your people above personal interest. But Buhari is so much consumed in the desire to become president. He's been told that he is the only one who can correct the evils of this country and he believes that, which is wrong. He should have remained and make concerted effort to reform ANPP and make sure that credible candidates are put for election, and start a political revolution. But he rushed to the CPC, which is right now in crisis. He told us when we had a meeting with him in Kaduna that Bafarawa was making a mistake when he was leaving ANPP to the DPP which he founded. He said Bafarawa cannot leave an established party to a new one to contest election and make an impact. And true, we saw how Bafarawa ended. I'm not praying for him [Buhari] to go the way of Bafarawa but if what he said about Bafarawa turned out to be true, it may apply to him as well.



SHEHU Yusuf Kura

What are ANPP's chances of winning Kano again?

Politics is unpredictable. You don't know what will happen. You can make your analysis, bring in experts to analyze things but at the end of the day it is the people of Kano who will decide what they want. Mallam Shekarau has been accepted as a leader, not only in Kano but in Nigeria at large. He has proven be a fair, visionary and focused leader who brought ANPP from an opposition status in the state to a ruling party. But we cannot deceive ourselves that we are going to win election so easily. We have to know that we need somebody like Ibrahim Shekarau again.

Do you think that if Shekarau anoints his successor, ANPP will make it through?

It depends on who he anoints. You cannot anoint somebody who

cannot win election and expect to win. Look at what Ma'azu did in Bauchi in 2007 and his party lost the election. But Shekarau, the Sardauna Kano, hasn't come out to say this is the person I want as candidate.

The party had initially asked him to decide on who will succeed him but he said every aspirant should go out and contest so that at the end of the day, it is the members of ANPP who will decide their candidate.

BUT the governor is widely alleged to have hinted Sagir Takai to be his successor. Is that not correct?

That is politics. The governor hasn't come out to say this is my candidate. If you hear people saying that he anointed somebody, they must have realized that they are weak. So they are trying to preempt the outcome of the process.

Okoye says INEC's tentative election time tables in order

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

THE Independent Electoral Commission (INEC) has both the statutory prerogative and constitutional right to release an election time table and to make projections and anticipate events and put mechanisms in place to address them,

Barrister Festus Okoye, the Executive Director of Human Rights Monitor has said.

In a press release in Kaduna Wednesday, Okoye who was reacting to diverse opinions on the propriety or otherwise of the time tables released by INEC for the 2011 election, said that

going by section 85(2) of the Electoral Act 2006, it is better for the electoral body to start early preparations for the elections.

According to him, the section provides for the merger of political parties which should take place six months before a general election. "The vot-

ers register in most parts of the country has serious challenges and must be updated and prepared for the 2011 general elections. Party primaries and nominations must start on time if internal democracy must be enthroned in the parties. It is therefore better to start early and get the electoral

framework right than to start late and engage in fire brigade approach to a serious national issue," the lawyer who was a member of the Uwais electoral reform panel said.

Okoye therefore said that INEC was right in releasing two sets of time table, "one anticipating electoral and

constitutional reform and the second based on the existing constitutional and electoral framework."

The executive director called on Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to appoint additional national commissioners in order to bridge the existing gap in the composition of INEC.

Inside Politics

Albishir leads supporters to PDP

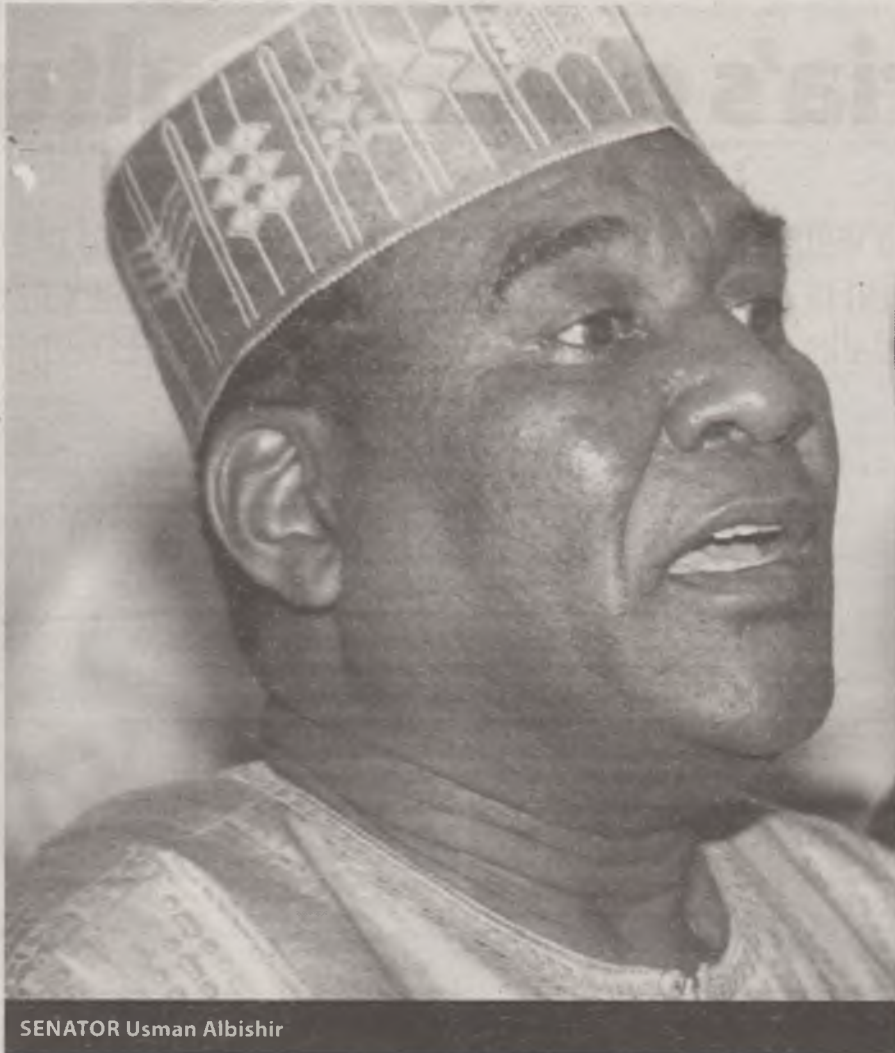
By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Yobe State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Senator Usman Albishir group of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) have held talks in Abuja where they agreed to merge and work together to ensure the success of the PDP in the 2011 elections.

A communiqué issued at the end of the merger talks held on Tuesday March 23 between the two groups said all members of the Albishir group in ANPP have become members of the PDP "unconditionally."

The communiqué jointly signed by Alhaji Abba Gana Tata, chairman of the Yobe State PDP, and Alhaji Lawan Mai Goroma, on behalf of the Albishir group, said Senator Usman Albishir will proceed to register as a PDP member, to be followed by his supporters at the ward and local government level.

Also according to the communiqué, a level playing field will be provided for members of the Albishir group wishing to contest elective posts under the PDP without any hindrance and that election of delegates shall be held to integrate both old and new members.



SENATOR Usman Albishir

"It would not be necessary or desirable to dissolve the state exco of the PDP because there is no com-

elling reason to do so," the communiqué said.

The two sides also agreed to enlarge the strat-

egy/planning committee of the Yobe State PDP to accommodate six members from the Albishir group.

AC tackles Senate on constitutional amendment

THE Action Congress (AC) has described as self-serving some of the constitutional amendments made by the Senate in recent days, urging lawmakers at the House of Representatives and the State Houses of Assembly to take a serious look at the Senate amendments when they consider them.

In a statement in Lagos on yesterday, the parties National Publicity Secretary, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, listed some of the areas of concern as the amendment raising academic qualification for contestants to tertiary level certificate; freedom for legislators to cross carpet; allowing those indicted for fraud and other offences to

run for office and retaining the power of the President to appoint the INEC Chairman.

"We have taken the pains to find out what influenced our Distinguished Senators to make these amendments, and we are miffed, to say the least, at the reasoning behind the amendments," it said.

AC said, for example, that the reason the Senate threw out the Uwais Panel's recommendation on the appointment of the INEC chair was because some ranking Senators felt since some of the judges appointed by the NJC in the past have been found wanting, hence they feel the council cannot be trusted to handle the appointment of

the INEC boss.

"This argument is simplistic and specious," AC said, adding that it is wrong to judge the NJC on the basis of the conduct of an insignificant number of judges appointed by the council.

On the amendment allowing indicted persons to contest, AC said it was "self-serving and based on narrow considerations," as it was meant to tackle state governors who, perhaps to prevent some interested Senators from succeeding them, get such individuals indicted on flimsy basis.

The party also criticised the amendment legalising cross carpeting by lawmakers, apparently - we are told - to also ensure they can

change parties at will like state governors (the 1999 Constitution is silent on what happens to defecting governors).

"What the Senate has done is to prop up politicians who lack principle and integrity. Using a party to win election and then dumping the party short-changes the electorate, encourages political prostitution and portrays politicians as unprincipled and greedy lots," it said.

On the raising of educational qualification for contestants, AC said the reasoning that it would help raise the level of discourse, especially at the Senate and the House of Representatives, is based on too many assumptions.

Sokoto guber: NBA cautions NJC, lawyers

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has cautioned the National Judicial Council (NJC) and legal practitioners involved in the legal tussle between the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP) and Sokoto State Governor Aliyu Magatakadan Wamako to exercise restraint and stop interfering with the court processes.

NBA's president Oluwarotimi Akeredolu in a statement said the association noted "legal contrivances put on the path of the Court of Appeal and Tribunal not to deliver its judgment." The statement observed that if the independence of judiciary is to be sustained, the NJC should allow courts to do their works without interference.

The statement also noted that the role played by some legal practitioners

in propagation and publication of petitions in press, in order to protest the alleged misconduct of the high judicial officers amount to an unbridled interference in the judicial process purposely to achieve personal objectives stressing that the conduct is unethical.

"To embrace jurisdiction under very dubious and doubtful circumstances and stultify the constitutional duties of the other courts amounts to a judicial coup d'état and grievous assault on the constitution itself," the statement added.

He therefore said for a meaningful progress in the notation's democracy superior court should always restrict itself within the limits stipulated by constitution.

It could be recalled that NJC had recently instructed the Court of Appeal sitting in Sokoto, to postpone its judgment on the case.

Mixed reactions in U.S. over INEC's "Diaspora Voting" plan

MIXED reactions have trailed INEC's plan to conduct elections in four English-speaking countries, including the U.S.

The Chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission, Prof Maurice Iwu, had announced the plan which would enable Nigerians in the Diaspora to vote during the 2011 general elections. Reports from New York said that while some Nigerians living in the U.S. welcomed the move, others viewed it with skepticism.

On his part, Prof Mobolaji Aluko, President of Nigerian Democratic Movement (NDM), said the announcement was a welcome development.

He said, however, that "it was part of Iwu's campaign to do everything to remain in power."

Aluko was one of the three Nigerians living abroad who in 2008, who asked INEC and the Attorney General of Federation and Minister of Justice in a law court, to grant those residing outside Nigeria, equal right of voting in countries where they reside. The other plaintiffs were Hon. Hakeem Bello, and Mr Uzoma Onyemaechi.

The suit came out in their favour after a Federal High Court in Abuja ordered INEC to put in place, the relevant machinery to assist Nigerians in

the Diaspora to register and vote from abroad in any election. In his reaction, Dr Ezekiel Machom, President of Zumunta Association USA, said the arrangements were realisable and possible.

"Even if it is one location or at the consulate where Nigerians can go and vote, it is possible and it will be very easy to do it here through the electronic system.

"We have to start from somewhere, no matter how small and later we can modify on it as there is always room for improvement," he said. Similarly, Mr Ade-dayo Sanusi, Coordinator of Nigeria in Diaspora Organisation, New Jersey chapter, said he supported INEC's timetable to hold elections early next year. "I'm in support of early election announced by INEC to give enough time for legal issues," he said. Speaking in the same vein, Mr Adeola Odusanya, the immediate past President of Egbe Omo Yoruba, said Nigerians living abroad should rally to ensure that the planned voting was implemented.

However, a U.S.-based pro-democracy group, the Nigeria Democratic Liberty Forum (NDLF), described the reported plan as a ruse, pointing out that Nigerians in the Diaspora are not deceived by his reported plan to organise voting in the U.S., the UK etc. (NAN)

Political leaders told to maintain peace

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

POLITICAL leaders in Ohaji/Egbema local government area of Imo State have been admonished to play politics with understanding

and maturity.

A stalwart of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the area Mr. Chris Brown gave the advice yesterday at the official launching of New Face Organization at Ekwuater ward in Mgbirichi

pointed.

HE urged people to always regard politics as an avenue that brings development, warning those who play it with acrimony bitter rivalry and rancor to desist from it. BROWN who described

Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area as very supportive of NFO and Governor Ihedi Ohakim's administration, added that PDP and NFO are working to ensure that dividends of democracy get to the grass root.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

ATTAH SISTERS HELPING HAND FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named initiative has Applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied matters act NO. 1 of 1990.

- TRUSTEES ARE;**
 1. DR. ISIAO O. CROWN.
 2. DRALEX GORDON.
 3. DR. ROBINSON YUSUF.
 4. CAPTAIN NINGI (RTD).
 5. SHEHU A. J. ALIYU.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES;

1. Organised for the purpose of helping the orphans, widows, H.I.V. (AIDS) infected persons, vulnerable children as well as public Awareness campaign on all the above in addition to campaign for acceptability of parent on immunization.

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 28 days of this publication.

Signed
SECRETARY

NOBLE LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Chief Edet Okon Isong
- Mrs. Atim Edet Isong
- Chief Cyril Mbah
- Prince Kingsley Okon Isong
- Mr. Eteka Uko

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To facilitate natural interaction and awareness among youths with primary focus of rebirth
 2. To provide a united forum for progressive minds in Nigeria.
 3. To have a social platform for like minds in Nigeria

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama P.M.B 198 Garki-Abuja.

Signed:
Barr. (Mrs) Victoria Eteka Uko

FAMILY HEALTHCARE AND LOCAL EMPLOYMENT FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Hajija Nafisa Isa Yuguda
- Hajija Maryam Kabiru Badamasi
- Hajija Aisha Yar'adua
- Alhaji Sanusi Barkindo
- Alhaji Dahiru Barau Mangai
- Mrs. Oluwatoyin Oluwagbayi
- Alhaji Muktaqa Rabe Darna

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To provide family healthcare delivery in both rural and urban communities.
 2. To provide family healthcare services, education and campaign
 Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama P.M.B 198 Garki-Abuja.

Signed:
Yomi Sanya & CO.

HEALTH SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT CENTER

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under part C of the Company and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- OLUBUKOLAAYOOLA AINA
- ABDULA TEEF SALISU
- OLUMUYIWA AINA

Aims and Objectives:

1. Provide consultancy, program design and implementation to the grassroots through health programs, awareness campaign and Laboratory Infrastructure.
 2. Develop and Execute new solutions based on operational research and experimental learning.
 3. Optimize health outcomes globally by improving effectiveness and sustainability of health systems.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P. M.B. 198, Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Lona Aako-Adetoku
 Attorneys At Law
 Suite 38, Mangal Plaza Area 11
 Garki Abuja.

LOSS OF LAND DOCUMENT

Notice is hereby given to the general public that the ORIGINAL RECEIPT of Application for land allocation issued to PROFESSOR BETHRAND TABUGBO NWUFO in 1990 and Revalidated in 2004 by AGIS/FCDA, ABUJA is declared lost DURING THE NOVEMBER 2008 CRISIS IN JOS. if found, please return it to AGIS/FCDA or the owner on PHONE NO. 08037198277. AGIS/FCDA and general public, please take note

In the Light of Truth The Grail Message

"If you could but once see how the immutable Justice of God's All-Holy Will is always fulfilled in the self-acting Laws of this Creation for every single thought you harbor, you would strive with all your might to attain purity in your thinking!"

Abd-ru-shin

Grail Centre Madalla, Madalla Suleja Road 08054183304

Vacancy

A well established Five Star Holiday Resort located on Kaduna - Jos Road in Kaduna State, requires a **General Manager** for immediate employment

Responsibility

Ideal candidate:

- Will be the overall head of administration/operations of the Resort
- Should be ready to face challenges of building a New Organization Structure and human Resource
- Should be ready to work at odd hours.
- And above all be a team builder and goal getter with less supervision

Will be reporting to the Chairman/Consultants

Qualification:

- Bsc/HND in Hotel Management or Business Administration or Social Science
- At least Five (5) years experience in similar position
- Ability to speak Hausa will be an added advantage

Remuneration: Negotiable

The interested candidate should forward his/her CV to holidayresort2010@yahoo.com not more than One week from today.

HAUSA AND AREWA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION IN ONDO STATE

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under part C of the Company and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Babangida Alhaji Sadiq Kusada Katsina | 2. Babangida Pambegua |
| 3. Mallam Tijani Yusuf | 4. Mallam Yusuf Kabir |
| 5. Alhaji Umaru Abdullahi | 6. Garba Kade |

Aims and Objectives:

- To pursue the Unity, progress & peaceful co-existence of members
- To be the umbrella between members and government agencies within and outside the state.
- Provide religious, social and cultural leadership for members
- Pursue Universal Basic Education, free medical services and beggars' re-orientation/rehabilitation
- Protect members from infiltration by extremists and mischief makers from outside the state and the nation

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P. M.B. 198, Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Lona Aako-Adetoku
 Attorneys At Law
 Suite 38, Mangal Plaza Area 11
 Garki Abuja

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to notify the general public of the (1) Acknowledgement letter (R-of O) with new file Nos. EK 42467 in respect of plot Nos. 1069 dated 18/11/08 situated at Dawaki Ext. Relocation Layout, Bwari Area Council. (2) Acknowledgment letter (R-of-O) with new file Nos. EK 42468 in respect of plot Nos. 1070 dated 18/11/08 situated at Dawaki Ext. Relocation Layout, Bwari Area Council belonging to ADEGOKE ALAAFIALOJU of 13, Makurdi Street, Area 10, Garki, Abuja are missing. All efforts to trace the missing documents proved abortive, if found please return to the nearest police station or AGIS.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the Original receipt of Ad-Hoc Committee on sale of FGN Houses in Abuja in respect of BLK B4 flat 3 FCDA, Kontagora Estate GWAGWALADA bearing MISS BILKISU YUSUF KATSINA is missing. All effort made to trace the missing document proved abortive. If found please contact ABUBAKAR YAKUBU (08035969471).

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

The public is hereby informed that MR. LUCKY ALIYU MOMOH lost a wallet containing International Passport No A003623353 with Canadian and U.K visa. All effort to trace same has proved abortive. Canadian Embassy, U.K. Embassy and general public to take note. If found, please return to MR. LUCKY ALIYU MOMOH C/o of Plateau Private School Jos or nearest Police Station.

Signed:
L.A. Momoh
 08037030104

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as NWANKWO CHINYERE FELICIA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS EJIOFOR CHINYERE FELICIA. All former documents remain valid. Mutual Benefit Insurance Company and the general public should please take note.

I formerly ZAINAB SULAIMAN SAMBO now wish to be called MRS. ZAINAB YUSUF. All former documents remain valid. ATAP Poly, Bauchi., NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly known as RAMATU ABDULSALAM AHMED, now wish to be called MRS RAMATU ABDULSALAM IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS NA'OMI YUNUSA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS NA'OMI SOLOMON ILIYA. All former documents remain valid. AME/FCTA and general public take note.

Formally called RAKIYA IDI now wish to be called ADAMA IDI. All documents remained valid. Yobe State Primary Health Care and the general public to note.

Formally called MISS HADIZA MODU now wish to be called MRS HADIZA MODU JAWA. All documents remained valid. Ramat Polytechnic, NYSC and the general public to note.

I formerly known as MISS SULAIMAN OLUWATOYIN, now wish to be called MRS KESHIRO OLUWATOYIN MOTUNRAYO. All documents remain valid .N.Y.S.C and general public to note.

I formerly known as UMAR BELLO now wish to be called MUHAMMED BASHIR, former documents remain valid .Maiduguri metropolitan cancel general public take note.

I formerly MISS SULAIMAN FATIMA now MRS SALAMI FATIMA. All former documents remain valid. N.Y.S.C and general public take note.

Formerly SINA KOLAWOLE now ADESINA KOLAWOLE ADEOTI. All former documents remain valid. General public note.

I formerly MISS HADIZA DAWUD now MRS MUSA WAKAWA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as AGNES OGAKU OGAR, now wish to be called AGNES OGAKU ODEY. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as KHADIJAT B. BAKARE wish to be known as KHADIJAT BINT BAKARE. All documents bearing former name remain valid.

I, formerly HAUWAWU AHMED TIJJANI now wish to be HAUWAWU AHMED TIJJANI ABUBAAR. Former documents remain valid. UDUS, NYSC & public to note.

I, formerly known as ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD BIRNIN KEBBI now wish to be known as ABUBAKAR MUHAMMAD KINKWA. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly JOY CHIGOZIE OJIAKO now wish to be known as JOY CHIGOZIE OKERE. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

I, formerly known as MISS OLAGUNJU JANET OLUREMI now wish to be known as MRS OGBOGHO JANET OLUREMI. All former documents remain valid. Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria and General public take note.

I, formerly known as ALTINE KHETEDA INNOCENT now wish to be known as ALTINE ISHAYA NUHU. All former documents remain valid. Federal University of Technology, Yola and general public to take note.

I, formerly known as MISS IBRAHIM HAUWAWU LAPABA now wish to be known and addressed as TIJANI HAUWA LARABA (MRS). All former documents remain valid. FMWH & UD and general public please note.

I, formerly known as EBELECHUKWU CHINYERE OKOYE wish to be called MRS EBELECHUKWU CHINYERE OKONKWO. All former documents remain valid. Union Bank of Nigeria and general public take note.

I, formerly known as WILLIAMS UCHE LOVELYN, now wish to be known as MRS MAURER UCHE LOVELYN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS OMOBOLANLE OLAYINKA OGUNMUSIRE now wish to be MRS OMOBOLANLE OLAYINKA RABIU. Former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS ENE OBE -ACHEGBULU wish to be known as and addressed as MRS ENE GRACE MARTINS. All former documents remain valid. My employers and (NFRA) and general public to note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

CHERUBIM AND SERAPHIM CHURCH, IBUDO IRAPADA

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Church has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. PASTOR DAVID OWOLABI LAWAL- | General Overseer |
| 2. PROPHETESS COMFORT LAWAL- | Minister-In-Charge |
| 3. APOSTLE EMMANUEL OLADUNJOYE- | Financial Secretary |
| 4. MOTHER-IN-ISREAL BUKOLA ADEKANYE- | Treasurer |
| 5. EVANGELIST PETER LAWAL - | Assistant Financial Secretary |
| 6. SENIOR LADY LEADER JANET OWOLABI- | Auditor |

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide a place of worship for souls that have become regenerated through the sacrifice made by the Lord Jesus on the Cross of Calvary, and as such qualified to worship God in Spirit, and in truth.
- To alert Christians on trance and spiritual dangers which would undermine Scriptural Foundation of the Gospel testimony.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B. 198, Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

PASTOR DAVID OWOLABI LAWAL
(General Overseer)

INTER-FAITH OUTREACH INITIATIVES

This is to inform the general public that the above named initiatives 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:

- MR. ANTHONY ENAHORO OSAGIEDE
- MRS. CHRISTIANA OSAGIEDE

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To create awareness of the basic teachings and beliefs for the religions of the world without discrimination
- To promote friendly relationship across the religious divide
- To promote opportunities for the individuals seeking to have a deeper understanding of God.
- To establish a centre for inter-religious studies
- To facilitate and build human capacity through training and skills acquisition of physically challenged persons in regard to understanding of God's existence.

Any objectives to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Irons Street, P.M.B. 198, Maitama, Abuja within Twenty-Eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:

BARR. AMINATU EKEMMA IBE
08033137990 ABUJA

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as TEMILOLA CAROLINE HASSAN now wish to be known as MRS TEMILOLA C. MERE. Former documents remain valid. general public to note.

I, formerly known as HAPPINESS ONYEKA OKPARA now wish to be known as MRS HAPPINESS ONYEKA UGWU. General public take note.

I, formerly known as OJOCHOGWU BLESSING ADUKWU now wish to be called MRS BLESSING UCHOS SANI. All former documents remain valid. KOGI STATE GOVERNMENT, SKYE BANK and general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS SA'ADATU ISAH now wish to be called MRS SA'ADATU D YAKUBU. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS EHIDIAMHEN BIBIAN ODION now wish to be called MRS OKOKHERE-EDEGHOGHON BIBIAN ODION. All former documents remain valid. NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION and General public take note.

I, formerly known as OTUNBANJO PETER BABATUNDE now wish to be called ADELEYE PETER BABATUNDE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS ODOH IFEOMA BLESSING now wish to be called MRS EZEMA IFEOMA BLESSING. All former documents remain valid. NYSC, NAFDAC and General public take note.

I, formerly known as JIBRIN MAIRO ANVAV now wish to be known and addressed as MRS MOHAMMED MAIRO IBRAHIM. All former documents remain valid. FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES and General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS OGUMA MERIT HARRIET now wish to be known and addressed as MRS UBIDO MERIT OMOTEJOWHO. All former documents remain valid. UNIBEN, NYSC and General public take note.

I, formerly DEBO AKANDE now wish to be known and addressed as KAYOED DEBO AKANDE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the missing copies of the Right of occupancy of Plot no. 255 Aviation Village, Abuja, belonging to Fatima Abdulhamid of No. 12, Kumaba Street, Wuse Zone 2, Abuja. During Jos Crisis. All efforts made to trace the said document proved abortive. If found, please return to the nearest Police Station.

PROPHETIC MINISTRY OF JESUS THE KEY WORLDWIDE

The General Public is hereby notified that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

- Charles Iheanyi Chukwu Emeji
- Prophet Dominion Kenchukwu Uzochukwu
- Evangelist Precious Chinwe Uzochukwu
- Nnakenyi Solomon U
- Innocent Uzochukwu Izuwanne

Aims and Objectives:

- To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in Nigeria and other parts of the world.
 - To carry out evangelistic crusades, missionary outreaches and conferences.
 - To embark and promote charitable and welfare services to the poor, sick, widows, orphans, etc.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Maitama P.M.B 198, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

YUSUF ABOKI FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby informed that the above named foundation has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- PROF. ANGO ABDULLAHI (Mogajin Rafin Zazzau)
- ALHAJI MUHAMMADU SARKI DAHIRU (Garkuwan)
- ALHAJI ARMIYAU SULAIMAN (Banagan Zazzau)
- ALHAJI MUSTAFA IMAM
- ALHAJI Ibrahim Gobi
- ALHAJI ABUBAKAR SADAU ABOKI
- ALHAJI ABDULKARIM N. ABOKI (Sarkin Shika)
- ARC. NASIRU M. ABOKI
- LAWAL YUSUF ABOKI

Aims and Objectives:

- Education for all
- Promotion of a morally upright culture in the society
- Promotion of good neighbourliness, selflessness and civic responsibility in the citizenry.
- Researching, documenting, publishing and disseminating the life works and example of public servant and community leaders of integrity, humility and honor

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P. M.B. 198, Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

SECRETARY

OBA ELEGUSHI TRADERS INT'L MARKET ASSOCIATION

This is to inform the General Public that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Segun Rashid | 2. Alh. Adamu Atiku |
| 3. Chief Jude Agube | 4. Adamu Mohammed Bima |
| 5. Mr. Lukman Azeze | 6. Mrs. Yewande Oladotun |
| 7. Mr. Eberechukwu Williams | 8. Mrs. Glory Plus |
| 9. Mrs. Muyinotu Akinwande | 10. Alh. Rashid Sunkanmi Ahmad |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To present a united voice in matters affecting them.
 - To promote peace, unity and brotherhood among the members.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Irons Street, Maitama Abuja, Within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: CHAIRMAN

GREAT PIONEER FRIENDS CLUB OF NIGERIA

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 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Chigozie Osuji..... | President |
| 2. Edmond Chiegbosi..... | Protocol Officer |
| 3. Tonyking Nwaneri..... | secretary |
| 4. Abraham Ezech..... | Financial Secretary |
| 5. Demian Anyadike..... | Treasurer |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To maintain the welfare of members of the club.
- To establish and foster cordial relationship and common understanding among members and similar club in Nigeria.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Irons Street, Maitama Abuja, Within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED: PRESIDENT

FRENDZUNITE ASSOCIATION, KADUNA

This is to inform the general public that the above named Association 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. Faith Ezidiegwu (Mrs) | - President |
| 2. Ene Asiya Ahmed (Mrs) | - Vice President |
| 3. Aisha Makama (Mrs) | - Secretary |
| 4. Jamila Balogun (Mrs) | - Treasurer |
| 5. Rosemary Esekhaqbe (Mrs) | Public Relation Officer |
| 6. Amina Suleman (Mrs) | - Provost |
| 7. Phoebe Azighode Alao | |
| 8. Amina Baloni (Dr) | |
| 9. Jumoka Oye Lola (Mrs) | |
| 10. Bolaji Adams (Mrs) | |

Aims and objectives:

- To promote a sense of public duty by offering help, support and donations to charitable causes with particular focus on women and children in need.
- To help the less privilege in the society.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Irons Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Secretary

TRUE WORSHIPERS CHRISTIAN MISSION

This is to inform the General Public that the above named church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part "C" of the companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Pastor Mrs. Okedeji Atinuke Precious
- Pastor Okedeji Adewale Michael
- Mrs. Emuwa Angela Olufunmilayo
- Mr. Ogundele Oluremi Adesegun

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

- To preach the Gospel of the lord to the World.
- To teach and deliver the sick and the broken hearted and carry the message of salvation and of the kingdom of God to the whole World.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Irons Street, Maitama Abuja, Within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: PASTOR (MRS) OKEDEJI ATINUKE PRECIOUS

KALU ULU MEMORIAL 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. Anuma Kalu Ulu | 2. Kalu Kalu Ulu |
| 3. Emele Uma | 4. Stella Ulu-Nnanna |
| 5. Emenyu Kalu Ulu | 6. Daniel Kanu |
| 7. Patricia Chukwu | 8. Kalu Kalu Ogbonnaya |

Aims and objectives:

- To create, form, establish and promote charitable activities, through grants, funding and financial assistance to various individuals, institutions and organizations dedicated to the Aid and assistance of under privileged in Nigeria.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Irons Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Barr. K. K. Ogbonnaya

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of Loss of the Land Allocation/Acknowledgement paper with file no. 21470 belonging to MRS. JUSTINA NWAMAKA MOZIE. All efforts made to trace its proved abortive. If found return to the nearest police station. AGIS please note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that original Certificate of Occupancy (Customary) with FCT no. FCT/BZTP/LA/KN/2001/490 belonging to Alhaji Sheikh L. Abubakar of no. 218 Kalaba Quarters, Kano is missing, all efforts to trace the document proved abortive, if found please return to the nearest police station or AGIS.

GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR HUMAN EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The general public is hereby informed that the above named Organization has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under part C of the Company and Allied Matters Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

- ONYEDIANYA UDO
- SUNDAY NDUKWO ONUOHA
- PAUL CHIMEZIE IHEDIWANMA
- IROKWE UMAOKORIE
- NKECHI EME KALU

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide livelihood support for Urban and rural poor.
- To provide healthcare support for women, orphans and vulnerable children.
- To contribute to the reduction of HIV/AIDS through prevention, care and support programs.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, P.M.B. 198, Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

SECRETARY

SPORT

Guardiola to
Fabregas: You'll
play for Barca

Page 63



Vogts wants FIFA action against NFF

Over unpaid wages

FORMER Super Eagles coach Berti Vogts has returned to FIFA to ask the governing body to act on Nigeria Football Federation's refusal to pay monies owed him.

Despite the claim by the former Eagles coach, NFF boss Sani Lulu insists the issue was resolved two days ago.

FIFA ordered the NFF to pay the German an undisclosed amount four months ago as his unpaid wages during his stint as Nigeria coach.

With the 30-day deadline elapsing by over eight weeks the NFF has still not paid the amount due Vogts, his lawyer Stefan von Moers claimed.

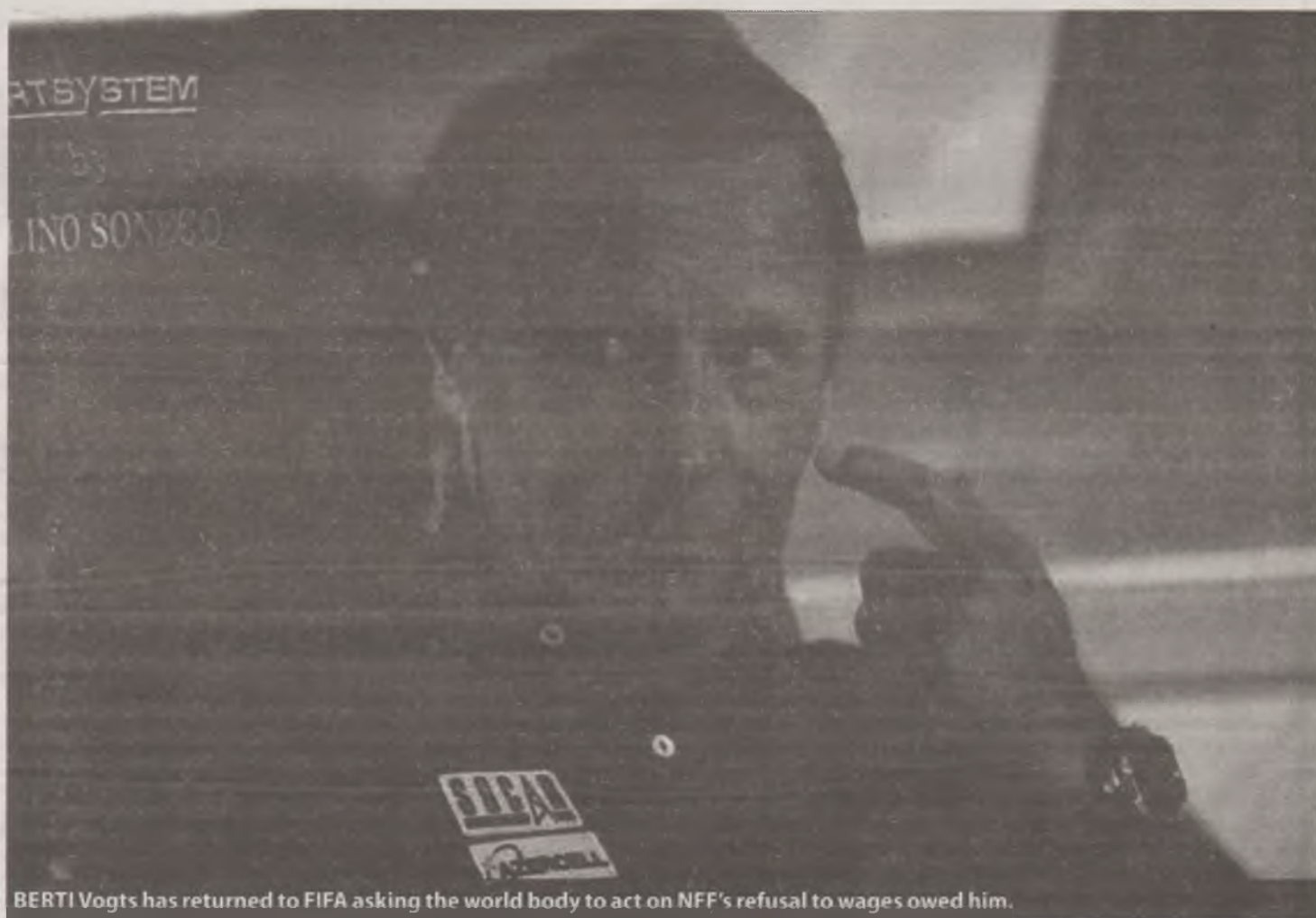
The dispute now looks set to rumble on with Vogts taking the Nigerians to FIFA's disciplinary committee to take action.

"We have no option but to return to Fifa to ask the disciplinary committee to act on the Nigerian FA's refusal to pay up," Moers told BBC Sport.

"FIFA ruled in our favour way back in December and its now eight weeks since that ruling and we have heard nothing from the Nigerians."

Even though Moers claims that the money has not been paid, Lulu is confident the NFF will not be trouble with FIFA's disciplinary committee.

He says the stand-off arose because they got the wrong account details of the German which led to the delay in payment. "I don't think we are in trouble with FIFA. The issue was solved two days ago so when the coach checks his account he will see the money," Lulu told BBC Sport.



BERTI Vogts has returned to FIFA asking the world body to act on NFF's refusal to wages owed him.

"The initial account number we had for Vogts was wrong and it took some time for the bankers to sort it out," Lulu said.

"We got the correct bank account two days ago and we have sent the money to his account so there should be no problems."

FIFA confirmed that they ruled in favour of Vogts after he reported the NFF for ending his contract early without paying him off.

The German was fired after the Super Eagles dismal showing at the 2008 Africa Cup of Nations with three months left on his contract.

"We can confirm that based on a claim from the German coach against the Nigeria Football Federation, the Single Judge of the FIFA Players' Status Committee passed a decision in the matter on 10 December 2009," a FIFA spokesman told BBC Sport.

"The findings of the decision were in favour of the player on 16 December 2009."

"An amount corresponding to certain unpaid wages was awarded to the coach."

Vogts, who is the current coach of Azerbaijan, led his native Germany to the European title in 1996.

Eagles/Colombia friendly off

NIGERIA'S preparations for the World Cup in June have suffered yet another snag after a proposed friendly against Colombia in London was called off at the instance of the South Americans.

Last week, the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) signed

their own part of the contract to tackle Colombia in London on May 26, but it was gathered that Colombia have disclosed they have already entered into an agreement to take on World Cup hosts South Africa on the same day.

The Super Eagles to South Africa 2010 first suffered a setback last

week when Ukraine disclosed that they are unaware of any arrangement to tackle Nigeria in another World Cup warm-up in London.

Officials informed MTN-Football.com that Colombia had requested they play against the Eagles on May 29 also in London, but unfortunately that would also

be the same day they are scheduled to clash with World Cup-bound North Korea.

Officials are now shopping to replace Colombia with either Finland or Cyprus.

The Eagles are drawn in a group alongside Greece, Argentina and South Korea in the first

round of the global tournament.

Earlier this month, shoddy arrangements forced a friendly against Paraguay in London to be called off, leaving Nigeria to hurriedly call up DR Congo to take on the country's B team, sprinkled with a handful of foreign pros, in Abuja.

2011 GENERAL ELECTIONS: A Case For Continuity

Being the text of an address delivered by the 21 MEMBERS OF THE COALITION OF NORTHERN CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS, at Board Room, Yar'Adua Centre, Abuja on Thursday, 25th March, 2010.

"Elections have been very controversial in Nigeria. Their conduct and the results that they produce have always been a source of conflict and acrimony.

Those who head the National Electoral body hardly ever escape public condemnation at the end of every national election. The chairmanship of the national electoral commission has ruined the career of eminent Nigerians in the past.

The latest that is being threatened is that of Maurice Iwu, Professor and current chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission.

Iwu, like his predecessors has been in the eyes of the storm since the April 2007 election. Most analysis on that election have tended to suggest that Iwu was responsible for all the lapses. Such a position, posited Newswatch, certainly cannot help proper understanding of the problem of free and fair elections in Nigeria. Iwu himself, in a lecture he delivered at the University of Ibadan expressed that it is necessary to sustain the spirit and culture of intellectual inquiry so that we can find practicable solutions to the myriads of problem involved in conducting elections in Nigeria.

The Coalition of Northern Civil Society Group cannot agree more with this position.

As it would be seen in this piece, it does appear that the electoral body, more than before, is ready and poised to break the jinx of flawed elections in Nigeria and we have good reasons to so believe. First, objective minded civil society organizations and religious groups, from and outside the shores of Nigeria, have described the conduct of the February 6 gubernatorial election in Anambra State as the best in the history of the State, despite its glaring flaws.

Apart from this, both Chief Dim Emeka Odumegwu Ojukwu and the Anambra State traditional Rulers Council, led by its chairman, His Royal Majesty, Igwe Alfred Achebe both described the last election as satisfactory, despite some isolated hitches in INEC's Voters' register. Nonetheless these distinguished Nigerians noted that, "the result of the election reflected the voting pattern and urged the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to do what it did in Anambra State in Nigeria in 2011.

Adams Oshiomhole, enfant terrible, former labour leader and executive Governor of Edo State congratulating Governor Peter Obi on his victory at the polls, said "Your election at the polls is a victory for one man, one vote. According to him" Despite the minor imperfections observed at the polls, the outcome of the election was a victory for the campaign of one man, one vote, and I congratulate the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) for making Nigerians proud".

Dr. Jonathan Goodluck, Acting President and Commander in Chief of the Armed forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, while acknowledging the role played by INEC, police and other security agencies towards the successful conduct of the polls ~~referred to the Anambra election as an indication that the electoral reform of the present will have effect on the nation's political culture.~~

From the totality of the expressions of all these distinguished Nigerians from all walks of life, some issues became clearer. One, the recent election in Anambra State despite the perceived flaws, was satisfactory and reflected the views of the voters in the State. Secondly, it was a testimony to the adaptive management style of the Independent national Electoral Commission (INEC) as it was a remarkable improvement on the previous elections. More than anything, the Anambra Election and, indeed, all the other numerous bye-elections conducted by INEC in recent past are clear indication of what to expect in 2011.

We must, however, realize that the Anambra election was successful because the people of Anambra State themselves wanted a successful election. And as Iwu himself puts it, "the need and resolve to have a free, fair and credible election in Nigeria is a joint responsibility of all Nigerians. The Independent National electoral Commission alone, cannot do it" according to the helmsman, there was nothing inherently wrong with our electoral system; it is the Nigerian themselves that have problems".

We at the coalition of Northern Civil Society Group (CONCSOG) believe, and very strongly too, that Nigeria will witness a free,

fair credible and transparent election if and only if, they are prepared and ready to have it. The point that is being made here is that whether or not we will witness more free, fair, credible and transparent election, like the one that was conducted in Anambra State is a question that can only be answered by Nigerians themselves.

Very comfortable on this assertion, the coalition has continued to watch, with utter disbelief, the unbridled penchant of a vocal minority whose stock in trade is to pull down the edifice called Nigeria. As such, the coalition, rising from an emergency meeting where recent political developments in the country was thoroughly discussed, now deems it fit to put the record straight so that the gullible and feeble minded would not be swayed by the sophistry of the prophets of doom who do not wish our country well.

It would be recalled that these harbingers of doom predicated that the Anambra election would be catastrophic, adding that it would lead to a civil war. Alas! They were disgraced and proved wrong as the election in Anambra State succeeded in uniting the people of the State. For the first time in the history of election in the country, the losers congratulated the winner, immediately INEC released the result of the election.

Not satisfied with the no mean feat recorded by INEC in Anambra State, the vocal minority claiming to have the monopoly of idea as to how to conduct election in Nigeria, went to work again and continued to attack the person of Maurice Iwu, simply because they were roundly put to shame by the smooth conduct and acceptable outcome of the election. **Unknown to them, the resounding success recorded was the product of the adaptive management style of Professor Maurice Iwu, a visionary leader and manager of men and resources.**

Iwu, to the chagrin of the unrepentant prophets of doom, conducted a free, fair and credible election in Anambra State because he has continuously researched into the problems bedeviling our electoral growth and, in the process, mastered them.

Unarguably, Professor Maurice Iwu is the best hand in the land today, and this is due to his experience, dexterity, ruggedness and electoral street wisdom. Happily for Nigerians, he has promised to re-enact and even to improve on what happened in Anambra State in all the States of the federation during the forthcoming 2011 elections.

We commend the Independent National Electoral Commission for putting the nation first. We, at the Coalition of Northern Civil Society Group (CONCSOG) believe that the professional critics should see beyond their nose and put the nation first. From their illogical and ill conceived reasoning, it is clear that they are only interested in throwing away the baby and the birth water.

For example, how can anyone in his right senses still believe in the theory of mono-causality as they want us to believe. Or how else can one explain the banal argument that the beginning of any electoral reform should be the removal of Iwu. This is ~~nothing but plain hatred and envy. Even if Iwu is the problem, and we do not agree,~~ small fraction of the entire problem and this is because he is a human being. As such, he can never be perfect in his judgment, whether discretionary or administrative.

Unknown to many, other factors are responsible for the problems that have always bedeviled Nigeria's effort at conducting free and fair elections.

Such problems have been amply described as being institutional, internal, external and to some extent cultural. It includes the political parties, the candidates, electoral violence, excessive use of money, lack of internal democracy in political parties, mind set, gender inequality and, lack of true Independence of INEC. These, and many more, are the issues that should engage the minds of the patriotic and discerning Nigerians. Our minds and attention should be focused on how to overcome all these outlined impediments rather than singling out one man and vilifying him. Denigrating Iwu, rather than doing hard-headed thinking with a view to strengthening our institutions is just a wild wind that blows no one any good.

In fact, Newswatch felt the rabidity of the unwarranted attack on the person of Iwu and wrote, "If foul words used in the superlative tense have the powers to kill, Professor Maurice Iwu, chairman of the Independent National Electoral

Commission (INEC), would not be with us today. But the man has not only survived the malicious and self serving criticisms, against him and INEC in some quarters, he has remained optimistic that some day, his role at the electoral body would attract kinder words, even from his most ardent critics. It seems that is already happening with the outcome of the Anambra election. Many have praised him and INEC for a job well done. The Anambra example, is a product of hard work and Iwu is determined to work even harder to achieve better results in the 2011 elections".

Clearly ahead of most Nigerians, including the armchair critics and the array of soldiers of sponsored opponents including hack writers and fifth columnists, Iwu is on top of the problems confronting us, electoral, so to speak.

Several workshops and seminars have been held in various parts of the country where election was the subject of discussion. His efforts have produced a reform agenda that INEC is currently pursuing. The said reforms are meant to make the commission more proactive, transparent and efficient in its handling of elections. That means the 2011, and even future elections would be free, fair and credible.

Iwu has, indeed, repositioned the Independent National Electoral Commission, such that the institution is able and ready to deliver to Nigerians, a free, fair, credible and transparent election.

At least, all these are visible to the blind, audible to the deaf and, perhaps, tangible to the paralytic.

Despite all his achievements and strivings, the professional critics and "never do gooders" would stop at nothing to get Iwu out of INEC.

It is on this note that we urge the National Assembly and the Acting President to let Iwu be. He has performed credibly well. He is a tested hand. We should not gamble.

While we do not say that Iwu is perfect, in fact no man can be. And this is why we are human. Perfection belongs to God alone.

Nevertheless, Iwu has performed and **NIGERIANS** have applauded his strivings and performance.

"Even is there is no other accomplishment in everything Iwu has done, even if everything about INEC deserves denigrating, on the editorial pages of newspaper, even if some foreign determiners of questionable unilaterally set standards insist on tutoring us on what they believe we had not done right, even if the sacrifices of the patriots who gave their all including their lives for the election are denied, even if the printing of 65 million ballot papers in four days is no big deal, since the said ballot papers did not carry serial numbers, even if the reversal of six odd governorship election results out of thirty six in the nation (based in the main, on technical grounds and internal party problems) translates into failure for the entire General Elections, even if all these were to be so, **the historic mark that the 2007 elections finally lifted Nigeria over a Forty Seven Year jinx of one elected government to another will always stand.**

No other INEC chairman achieved this.

INEC, under Professor Maurice Iwu, saved Nigeria.

Based on these and many more, we the, members of the coalition of northern society group, under the aegis of House of common do urge the National Assembly, the rational and well meaning Nigerians including the stakeholders and, indeed the Acting President, to let Iwu be. The 2011 general elections are to close for a novice to conduct. Experience has no substitute in the conduct of elections. It is here that Iwu comes in.

In the present circumstance, he is our best bet. He does, more than anyone, understands the terrain. He has demonstrated it. We urge the Acting President to extend his tenure. It is in the best interest of Nigeria to so do.

Signed.
All the 21 members of the Coalition of Northern Civil Society Group

Nigeria draws bye in AYC

By Orkula Shaagee

NIGERIA'S Flying Eagles have drawn bye as CAF yesterday released the draws of the Under 20 Championship to be held in Libya next year, just as a Nigerian referee, Ogunyamodi has earned his first international cap.

The preliminary round will see 48 teams in contention. However, due to the withdrawal of Ethiopia and Zimbabwe, Uganda and Namibia have qualified for the next round of the competition.

Nigeria and 17 other countries have drawn bye, including Ghana, Cameroun, Morocco, Zambia, Sudan, Egypt and Cote D'Ivoire.

Nigeria will make her debut in the competition in the week end of July 23, 24, 25 when she will host the winner of the match between Togo and Guinea.

If Nigeria scales that hurdle, she will come face to face with Zam-

Nigeria and 17 other countries have drawn bye, including Ghana, Cameroun.

bia, who are likely to triumph over either Mauritius or the Comoros.

Nigeria's Bolaji Ojo Oba will be the match commissioner when Togo host Guinea on April 17 2010.

Referee Ogunyamodi, 30, from Ondo state will lead compatriots, Baba Abel (Kogi) and Barau Auwala (Kaduna) to handle the match between Equatorial Guinea and Gabon on April 17.

When contacted about Ogunyamodi's debut, member CAF referee's committee Mr. Linus Mba said he was very delighted with the appointment as the referee from Ondo State was one of those promising and young ones that will definitely go places.

"He and Ango Abubakar are some of the young and promising referees that are the future of the profession in the country" he said.



ERNIE Els of South Africa watches a shot on the second tee during the first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational Tournament at the Bayhill Club and Lodge in Orlando, Florida, United States, yesterday.

Musa to set Kano alight with debut

KANO Pillars leading striker Ahmed Musa will be the star of the return leg of the Championship of African Nations, CHAN, qualifier between Nigeria and Niger in Kano on Sunday.

Musa, 17, who has scored 14 goals so far this season was only recently called to the Super Eagles Team B after the team's 2-0 loss to the Mena in Niamey.

Daniel Amokachi and his boys have an uphill task ahead of them to turn around the deficit and secure

a victory that should edge them closer to a first appearance at the CHAN tournament set up by CAF strictly for home-based players.

Musa has been scoring with ease this year and would be expected to use his debut international appearance to help turn around the fortunes of the underfire Nigerian team while appearing in front of his home crowd in Kano.

After the first leg mishap, Amokachi called up Musa and his Pillars' teammate Solomon

Okpako.

The team has been staying at the Tahir Guest Palace since landing in Kano on Tuesday. The Nigerian team, scheduled to arrive in Kano on Friday evening, will be staying at the Ni'ima Guest Palace also in the metropolis.

Sunday's match will kick off at 4pm, inside the Sani Abacha Stadium, one of the venues that hosted the FIFA U-17 World Cup finals October/November last year. A full house is expected at the Stadium.

Lulu, Lagerback ginger Mohammed

PRESIDENT of the Nigeria Football Federation, Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi and Super Eagles' Head Coach Lars Lagerback were together with recuperating defender Yusuf Mohammed in Johannesburg on Thursday.

The 25-year-old right back was injured during the semi final match of the African Cup of Nations finals in Angola, against the Black Stars of Ghana, and the NFF has kept faith with him all through the surgery on Achilles tendon and recuperation.

"He's a strong chap, and I particularly like his calmness and ambition. He's very keen to get okay for the World Cup", said Lagerback as the delegation met with Mohammed in his abode in Johannesburg.

NFF President Sani Lulu Abdullahi led Lagerback, Technical Committee chairman Taiwo Ogunjobi, NFF Deputy General Secretary (Technical), Dr. Emmanuel Ikpeke and Super Eagles' Team Secretary, Enebi Achor to empathise with the lion-hearted defender on their way from inspecting Nigeria's World Cup facilities in Durban.

Yusuf Mohammed is already walking without the aid of crutches and will resume light training in a week's time.

Lagerback meets the media

SUPER Eagles coach Lars Lagerback will today meet Nigeria's sporting media for the first time at a World Press Conference in the Federal Capital, Abuja. Lagerback was unveiled to the media in Abuja on March 3.

The 61-year-old Swede, who arrived back in the country on Monday with assistant Coach Roland Anderson, will be speaking only hours after returning from South Africa where he was part of the delegation that inspected Nigeria's World Cup facilities in Durban.

The Press Conference starts at 12 noon inside the Conference Room of the Secretariat of Nigeria Football Federation, Abuja.



LAGERBACK

NBBF to inaugurate Advisory Council

By David Ngobua

THE leadership of the Nigeria Basketball Federation, NBBF, will tomorrow in Bauchi State inaugurate a 12-man Advisory Council to help in giving direction to the affairs of the sport federation.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday, president of NBBF, Malam Tijani Umar said the council is made up of credible Nigerians who have vast knowledge of the sport and have contributed enormously to the development of basketball in Nigeria.

According to him, the advisory

council will be chaired by a former NBBF president, Senator U.K Umar, who handed over the leadership of the sport federation to the immediate past president, Chief Buba Gyang.

Other members of the council include, Kogi State Chief Judge, Justice Nasiru Ajana, Chairman Akwanga LGA, Architect Stanley Buba, General Usara Bala of Nigeria Defence College, Coach Oliver Johnson of ABU Zaria, Abu Hassan and former international Batti Aminu.

Others are veteran sports writer Muiyiwa Daniel, former interna-

tional Mrs. Zainab Baba (Marlele), and Danladi Yaro, an ardent basketball supporter based in Lagos.

Umar disclosed that the advisory council will be meeting in each quarter of the year to deliberate and guide the federation on its programmes and policies for the development of the game.

He said: "The idea is for the advisory council to meet in each quarter of the year to take a look at our policies and provide the necessary guide. They are expected to bring their wealth of experience to bear on our activities. We expect them to tell us when we are going

wrong and to tell us when we are on track."

The NBBF president said after inauguration, the council will have its maiden meeting.

Apart from the inauguration of the council, Umar revealed that he will be commissioning the renovated home ground of Bauchi State Basketball team, Yelwa Hawks.

He said later in the evening, a novelty match would be played to round up the activities of the day.

The Bauchi State Commissioner of sports will declare the meeting of the advisory council open.

Roddick eager to be king of Queen's again

ANDY Roddick will aim to win the Queen's Club title for a record fifth time after confirming his entry for this June's edition of the Wimbledon men's grasscourt warm-up event.

The American - champion in 2003, 2004, 2005 and 2007 - has joined fellow top-10 players Rafael Nadal and Juan Martin Del Potro in announcing he will play at Queen's.

Roddick had to withdraw from his semi-final against compatriot James Blake last year with an ankle injury.

However, he went on to equal his best result at nearby Wimbledon in south-west London - now the only one of tennis's four major tournaments played on grass - where he lost a high-quality five-set final to Roger Federer after beating Britain's Andy Murray, the reigning Queen's champion, in the last four.

"I love the whole month in London," Roddick said in a statement.

"Over the years I've had a lot of success at The Queen's Club and I still say it's the best grass court in

the world," the 27-year-old added.

"It plays perfectly and so the AEGON Championships is a great way to prepare for Wimbledon."

Last year's Wimbledon loss was the third time Roddick had beaten in the final by Federer.

But the big-serving Roddick believes he can still take the title.

"If you look at my grass court season (in 2009) as a whole, it went well," Roddick said.

"Wimbledon was a very good event for me. I would have loved to have changed the last five minutes of it but I look forward to another opportunity.

"The more you distance yourself from it, the more you start remembering the better things about it.

"I promise you, I wish more than anything that I would have won that tournament but I'm still going to move on and keep going with the plan that we've set in place, because I feel like it is working.

"I'll always want to win that tournament and I view last year as something to build on."



ANDY Roddick aims to win the Queen's Club title for a record fifth time.

Ivanovic finds new form in Miami

FORMER French Open champion Ana Ivanovic won for the first time since January, defeating France's Pauline Parmentier 6-4, 6-3 yesterday to reach the third round of the WTA and ATP Miami Masters.

The Serbian, who stood number one in the world after lifting the Roland Garros trophy in 2008, has suffered as her game hit the skids following that career high point.

The current world number 58 has gone through numerous coaching permutations in search of the form that took her to the summit.

Ivanovic, who benefitted from a first-round bye as the 25th seed, has managed to keep smiling as she spends her first week outside the top 50 in five years.

Her triumph over French qualifier Parmentier was her first in the Miami main draw since winning a second-round contest in 2008 and snapped a four-match losing streak, the longest for Ivanovic since turning professional.

Ivanovic overcame six nervous double-faults, losing serve twice but also breaking twice in the victory.



CEMENT COMPANY OF
NORTHERN NIGERIA PLC RC 3111

INNA LILLAHI WA INNA
ILAIHIN RAJI'UN

LATE ALHAJI ABDULLAHI BIDA

It is with sorrow and deep sense of loss that the Board of Directors, Management and entire Staff of Cement Company of Northern Nigeria Plc, announce the death of one of its Directors, Alhaji Abdullahi Bida, whose death occurred on Friday 5th March, 2010, as a result of car accident. He has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

We pray to Almighty Allah to grant his gentle soul eternal rest, grant him Aljannatul Firdaus and give the entire bereaved family the fortitude to bear this irreparable loss, amen.

Signed: MR. ALF KARLSEN (Managing Director/Chief Executive)

Guardiola to Fabregas: You will play for Barcelona

By John Leicester, AP Sports Columnist

HERE'S a mouthwatering prospect, one that newspapers in England and Spain have speculated about for years: FC Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi and Arsenal captain Cesc Fabregas playing together for the same team.

Rodolfo Borrell remembered those days well. He was their coach when the two players who will face off next week in what promises to be a Champions League classic actually did compete together, at the heart of an all-conquering Barcelona youth side.

Of the many great stories Borrell has to tell, the most intriguing is that of the shirt he got Pep Guardiola, then a foundation of Barcelona's midfield and now the club manager, to sign in 2001 for his young admirer Fabregas, to lift the teenager's spirits while his parents were divorcing.

On the front of the No. 4 shirt, the same number Fabregas wore for Barcelona's juniors and now proudly carries for Arsenal, Guardiola wrote "One day you will be the No. 4 of the first team of Football Club Barcelona," Borrell recalled.

The Arsenal midfielder's Barcelona ties add a tasty topping of personal history to the footballing spectacle expected from the Champions League matchup between Europe's most free-flowing and creative sides.

Should Arsenal lose the quarterfinal, and fall short yet again behind Manchester United or Chelsea in the Premier League, could that trigger a frustrated Fabregas to quit London for the

club that unearthed him and has long been said to want him back?

Fabregas wouldn't be the first to take that route. Arsenal record scorer Thierry Henry landed in Barcelona the year after losing to the Catalans in the 2006 Champions League final.

If Guardiola fields him at the Emirates Stadium next Wednesday, don't expect boisterous celebrations from Henry if he scores. Playing against the team he gave his best years to is the France international's nightmare.

Equally interesting will be the reaction of Fabregas, Arsenal's top scorer this season, should he strike the winner that sinks the European champions, the manager he idolized, and his former teammate Messi in the return leg at the Camp Nou. Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger can rely on Fabregas to give 110 percent in both matches, but one also suspects that the whole experience will be poignant, perhaps even a little painful, for his captain.

It was Wenger who lured Fabregas to England in 2003 with the prospect of top team football, rather than a potentially long wait in line at Barcelona. Fabregas became Arsenal's youngest ever player, at 16 years and 177 days, when Wenger gave him his debut against Rotherham in a Carling Cup game. Under the French manager, Fabregas has matured into arguably the Premier League's most decisive attacking midfielder.

But Fabregas was just nine months old when his grandfather first took him to the Camp Nou. As much as Fabregas' head and



ARSENAL captain, Cesc Fabregas will be playing for Barcelona soon, says Pep Guardiola.

loyalties lie with Arsenal, a chunk of his heart is Barcelona's.

Borrell, who spent 14 years at Barcelona and now coaches Liverpool's under-18s, rightly notes that losing Fabregas would be dangerous for Arsenal, because "he's the heart of the team," he told

The Associated Press in a phone interview.

"The reality and the truth is that I don't know," he says when asked whether Fabregas, as Guardiola predicted, might one day wear Barcelona's No. 4.

"Everybody, absolutely every-

body, I think sooner or later has the idea to return back home," he says. But at Arsenal, Fabregas has "a great city, a great country, a fantastic league like Premier League, a fantastic stadium like the Emirates, fans that absolutely love him."

Inter Milan approaching crucial weekend

INTER Milan is facing one of the key weekends of its campaign as it bids to land a fifth successive Serie A title.

Jose Mourinho's team plays AS Roma knowing a win would put it seven points clear of its nearest rival with seven matches remaining. A victory for Roma, though, would move Claudio Ranieri's side to within a point of Inter and give fresh hope to both the side from the capital and third-place AC Milan.

Inter beat Livorno 3-0 on Wednesday to move onto 63 points while Roma defeated Bologna 2-0 to remain four points behind the leader. Milan is behind Roma on goal difference after its 1-0 defeat at Parma.

"It has been very impressive what Roma has done," Inter defender Ivan Cordoba said. "Because of this, we have to keep moving forward and not give them any hope. It will all come down to what we do."

The victory over Livorno was only Inter's second in seven league matches but despite that lean run

of form, neither Roma nor Milan have been able to capitalize.

"We hope that the crisis is over," Cordoba said.

Roma has got its season back on track with back-to-back wins just when it seemed its campaign was about to fizzle out following three consecutive draws that allowed Milan to pull clear in second.

"Being in this position is a result of the sacrifice and work of the lads," Ranieri said. "Now we are on the home straight and playing the game of the season against the omnipotent Inter."

In the past, Roma has been overly reliant on its captain Francesco Totti but with the World Cup-winning forward having been sidelined by a knee injury, a number of players have stepped up to make important contributions. Striker Mirko Vucinic, for example, scored a hat-trick in the recent win over Udinese.

"I still don't know if Totti will play," Ranieri said. "He says he is always ready, but we will have to see."

Despite its loss to Parma, Milan is still in a position to make a challenge, but appears to be lacking the mental strength to overtake its city rival.

Milan had the chance to go top with a win at home to Napoli last weekend but failed to create many chances and drew 1-1.

"We are level with Roma and we can still catch Inter," Milan coach Leonardo said. "I can't complain about how we are playing—we are just not clinical enough. I want us to stay true to ourselves as we cannot change our style of play."

"We have had a lot of highs and lows this season and the team has always come back," he said. "With this in mind, I'm staying calm. I still believe. What will happen between Inter and Roma will happen; we just have to think about ourselves."

Also this weekend, it is; Palermo vs. Bologna; Chievo Verona vs. Parma; Fiorentina vs. Udinese; Juventus vs. Atalanta; Livorno vs. Bari; Napoli vs. Catania; Sampdoria vs. Cagliari and Siena vs. Genoa.



MOURINHO, Inter coach

Ivory Coast still searching for new coach

FRESH off a trip to Europe in search of a coach, Ivory Coast FA President Jacques Anoma yesterday told reporters in Abidjan that he would take his own time to get a new tactician for the national team.

He appeared unperturbed by the amount of days left until the World Cup, where one of Africa's best teams — the Elephants — will be flying their national colours.

"Stop bothering yourselves about a new coach and the little time left for the World Cup," Anoma said.

"I'm more in haste to get a new coach, but I'm being careful," he said.

The names of some of Europe's top coaches including Guus Hiddink and Philippe Troussier have floated across the media as possible candidates for the job but no contracts were ever signed and confirmed by the FA.

THE FRIDAY COLUMN

Adamu Adamu

adamuadamu@dailytrust.com

Gaddafi: A Gadfly's gift of the Gaffe (I)

When Libyan leader Mu'ammr Abu Mineyar al-Qadhafi [Gaddafi] last week proposed the balkanization of Nigeria into Christian and Muslim cantons as a solution to the incessant ethno-religious crises tearing the fabric of the nation apart, Chief David Mark called him a madman. And the Senate President was probably not off the mark, nor the first to call him so. In 1977 Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat, said as a child, Gaddafi was once galloping atop a camel when he fell down headlong and hit a rock; and since then, according to Sadat, his reasoning had been different from that of other people. Perhaps he got his gift of the gab after that incident—his gift of the gaffe, it would really appear! To speak first, and then think afterwards.

But he knew what he wanted from secondary school; but the moment he got it, he didn't know what to do with it. In 1969 Gaddafi overthrew King Idris and decimated the Sanusiyyah Islamic order on which the power of the monarchy was based. He expelled the British, the Americans and the Italians; and nationalized Libya's oil industry. He went to Gamal Abdel Nasser begging him to swallow his own revolution into his. Nasser died before he could do so.

When Gaddafi destroyed the Sanusiyyah order, he replaced it with what could aptly and more properly be called *Karambaniyyah*, the *madhhab* of those not entitled to evolve one. At one time he dabbled as the patron of the Qur'aniyyun, with Rashad Khalifa declaring himself a prophet on account of his discovery of the mystical 19. He turned right, left, east, west and south looking for the meaning that would give him his nation its identity. And he himself kept changing everyday.

There are three distinct phases to the Gaddafi phenomenon. The first, while he was still fresh from the Islam of the *ijtima*, he espoused it, declaring the Holy Qur'an the constitution of the Libyan republic, soon to be renamed the Great Socialist Libyan Arab People's Jamahiriya, not a republic but a state of the masses! His second was the Nasserite-Arabism phase, in which he sought a union with his neighbours, with the grand aim of ultimately uniting the entire Arab World. It was at this stage that he began his blatantly racist reinterpretation of Islam, with his most famous example being his exegesis of the *kuntum khair ummatin* verse to refer to Arabs alone. His third phase, after discarding Nasserism was to pursue Arabism with an internationalist flavor; and, at home, he became an exponent of African integration and probably saw himself as a future drum major of the African ensemble.

Based on his Green Book, a pseudo-intellectual amalgam of socialist, fascist, and anarchistic concepts, he began to preach direct, popular, participatory democratic rule of the masses. In 1972, he vacated and abolished the presidency; and by 1974, he had given up all administrative duties of a head of state. In 1979, he abolished all embassies, and then the Libyan army, the police and the security services in 1988, after which he handed over all power to popular congresses and people's committees.

All this might sound like madness, but there is method to it. This freed Gaddafi to rule Libya for life and avoid having to test his popularity and acceptability at the polls. You couldn't accuse him of being a life-president, since he is not the president, because he would tell you that he vacated it in 1972. He was not even head of state, because he gave that up in 1974. He repressed the opposition and by 1995, he was in open warfare with the Islamic opposition. With Libya under his thumb, he turned his attention to the world—a revolutionary adolescent and a gadfly.

When Saudi Arabia bought the airborne warning and control system, AWACS, aircraft in 1980, they were accompanied by 2,000 American technicians. Gaddafi was livid with rage and he sent an angry telegram to King Khalid on October 21, 1980 demanding that their immediate withdrawal. When this was not done, and the king replied with an angrier response, Sheikh Gaddafi used the occasion of his sermon at the Eid el-Kabir prayer at Zuwailah the following day to launch a blistering attack on Saudi Arabia.

He said that with the arrival of AWACS and the technicians, the Holy Places of Islam had become effectively under American occupation, that the religion of Islam had been

humiliated, that Hajj had been reduced to a mere physical exercise, and that Paradise could not possibly be achieved by praying at Arafat under the whizzing of American aircrafts. He also called on Iran and Iraq, then locked in battle, to stop fighting and march with all Arab and *Ajam*, under the flag of Islam, to liberate Islam's Holy Places—Mecca, Medina and Jerusalem.

The following day, the Muslim World League and the day after, the *Ha'iah Kibar al-Ulama* of Saudi Arabia declared Gaddafi an enemy of Islam. [Text of both declarations in the London-based *Sharq al-Awsat* 23-24/10/1980] A prior fatwa on the *kufri*, straying, blasphemy and apostasy of the views of Gaddafi by the Saudi-sponsored Islamic *Fiqh* Academy was publicized. [Full text in *al-Da'awah*, Riyadh 20 Dhul Qidah 1400].

But the Libyan opposition was not impressed and it blasted both Gaddafi and the Muslim World League. It accused the league of sleeping until the Saudi government is accused of some mismanagement before it found its voice. It condemned the league's silence with respect to Gaddafi's other more serious outrages; and it posed the following questions: Where was the league when Gaddafi attacked aspects of the *Sunnah*? Where was it when he changed the *Hijra* Islamic calendar? Where was it when he disputed the known forms of *Salat*? Where was it when he depicted the Holy Prophet [SAW] as a mere postman whose responsibility finished with the delivery of the message? Where was the league when Gaddafi described the great Caliph Umar bin al-Khattab as a tyrant and dictator? Where was the league when he declared that his *Green Book*, and not the Holy Qur'an, held 'the final and fundamental solutions to the problems of mankind'? With solution for everything, it was time for folly de grandeur.

When he launched his quest for nuclear armaments in the 1970's, Gaddafi confidently declared that henceforth, the atom would no longer hold any secrets from anyone, believing that he would pump enough petrodollars to split its nucleus and expose all atomic secrets for the world to see. But after defeating Saddam Hussein, the Americans deftly dropped the hint in circles that had Gaddafi's ears that Tripoli would be their next port of call. Thereafter, every bit of bravery and bravado departed the mercurial colonel. He must have remembered the bombs of Ronald Reagan back in 1986. And now, the sight of American troops landing in, and bombs falling on Iraq with Baghdad coming under fire without so much as a whimper from any Arab capital convinced the Libyan leader that the time for capitulation and unconditional surrender had come, even for a modern-day Omar al-Mukhtar. And with both hands raised, he faced the Americans, giving them all his so-called nuclear plans, and, in the process, compromising the security of some of his allies and individuals who had helped Libya in its hour of need.

It was not surprising that Gaddafi would say what he said about Nigeria. What was surprising was that people were surprised. And his citing of Pakistan was a particularly useless example. While the creation of Pakistan must have achieved some measure of emotional healing for its citizens, it has in no way solved the problem for which it was created. Today, 63 years after the partition of the Indo-Pakistani subcontinent, communal tension and occasional violence define Hindu-Muslim relations in India. Right now, for instance, in the twinkling of an eye, Shiv Sena or the Rashtriya Sevak Sang could have the hordes out in a moment in Mumbai or in Muradabad or Ahmadabad and blood would drench the streets.

At one time or the other during his 41 years at the helm of Libya's affairs, Gaddafi had proposed the merger of Libya; first, with Egypt, then with Syria, then with Algeria, then with Sudan; and, when all that fell through, then with Morocco, then with Tunisia and finally with Chad. He ought have known that Christians and Muslims could indeed peacefully co-exist; otherwise, how could he have pursued the dream of uniting his country with Egypt when he knew that there were Coptic Christians there; or, with Syria when he knew that country was the home of Nestorian Christianity; or, with Sudan, when he knew there were Christians, even if ever so few, in animist-majority Sudan's South. Gaddafi forgets so easily, or perhaps he never knew.

SPORTS REPORT



ALEX Rasmussen

Rasmussen wins scratch race

Denmark's Alex Rasmussen won the men's scratch race in the track cycling world championships, taking home his country's first gold medal in the tournament.

Rasmussen edged

ahead of Juan Esteban Arango Carvajal from Columbia, with Japan's Kazuhiro Mori coming third in Thursday's 60-lap race.

France's Morgan Kneisky, who won the event last year, finished in ninth place.



SERENA Williams

Serena named WTA's top player

World number one Serena Williams was named the 2009 WTA Player of the Year and shared Doubles Team of the Year with sister Venus at an awards ceremony Wednesday night.

Serena Williams won last year's Australian Open and Wimbledon singles titles while also reaching the US Open semi-finals and French Open quarter-finals.

Alongside Venus, Serena captured the 2009 US and Australian Open and Wimbledon women's doubles titles.

Belgium's Kim Clijsters took Comeback Player of the Year honors after her US Open title and won her seventh sportsmanship award from the WTA.

US teen Melanie Oudin, a 2009 US Open quarter-finalist, won Newcomer of the Year honors while Belgian Yanina Wickmayer took Most Improved Player honors and American Liezel Huber won her fourth career Player Service Award.

Russian Elena Dementieva won Fan Favorite Singles Player of the Year in an internet fan vote.

