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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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IBB: Why I am vying for presidency



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JAMB bans cell phones in exam halls



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Boko Haram:

Court awards N100 million to leader's in-laws

From Isa Umar Gusau, Yahaya Ibrahim (Maiduguri) & Misbahu Bashir (Abuja)

A Borno State High Court has found the police guilty of unlawfully executing Alhaji Baba Fugu Mohammed, the 72-year-old in-law of the late Boko Haram leader Mohammed Yusuf, and awarded N100 million

Justice Mohammed Mustapha said evidence showed the police detained and executed Baba Fugu

in damages to his family.

The court, sitting in Maiduguri yesterday, also ordered that the late Baba Fugu's body be exhumed from "wherever" it was buried by authorities and handed over to his family for proper burial.

Babakura Fugu, 40, a
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EFCC declares Ibori wanted



EX-GOVERNOR James Ibori

By Boco Edet

FORMER Delta state governor James Ibori, who was acquitted of large-scale corruption charges by a court in December, is now wanted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over fresh allegations of money laundering.

The EFCC said yesterday it was looking for Ibori in connection with a petition by the Delta Elders Forum that Ibori looted N44 billion from the Delta state government while he was governor.

"Following persistent public enquiries over the status of the case involving the former governor, we will like the public to know that Chief James Ibori is wanted by the commission for interrogation," spokesman for the EFCC Femi Babafemi said in a statement.

A top official of the commission told *Daily Trust* that EFCC had been on a manhunt for the former governor for over three weeks. The official alleged that Ibori was evading arrest and had gone into hiding.

"Letters of invitation have been sent to his known addresses in Lagos and Abuja while a court warrant has equally been obtained for his arrest," Babafemi added.

But spokesman for the former governor Tony Eluemunor yesterday said EFCC sent no invitation letters to Ibori, and described the

handling of the case as a "political harassment that demands for vigorous legal challenge so that Nigeria is not ruled like a fiefdom."

Ibori is wanted over a petition by 10 prominent people from Delta State last month, asking EFCC to investigate Ibori's alleged use of government shares as collateral to obtain a N44 billion private loan from a bank.

The petition was signed by former information minister Edwin Clark, Chief Patrick Ideh, Dr. Rich-

"The EFCC said yesterday it was looking for Ibori in connection with a petition by the Delta Elders Forum

ard Tosanwumi, retired Col. G.A. Eboma, Chief Hope Erute, Chief Williams Ekpebitere, Sir Eddy Akangbou, Dr. B.K Adasen, Prince A. Abugbo and Benson Lelekumo.

The petitioners alleged that Ibori used 528 million shares of Oceanic Bank belonging to the Delta state government as collateral to guarantee a loan of N44 billion given by Intercontinental Bank Plc to his personal company, Ascot Offshore Nigeria Limited.

But Ibori's spokesman said in a statement yesterday that "EFCC's
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22 die in Ondo road mishap



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22 die in Ondo road mishap

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

TWENTY two people were burnt to death in a road mishap along Amurin village near Emure on the Akure-Owo Express Road in Ondo State early yesterday.

The accident involved a Toyota Hiace bus marked KOGI XA 666-

KHS and an IZUZU Mini truck marked LAGOS CV 624 KTU. Police told Daily Trust that the truck carrying aluminium rods from Lagos collided with the bus coming from the Owo end of the road while trying to avoid a pothole.

The two vehicles which were

said to be on high speed caught fire and consumed the 22 persons and left three seriously injured.

The three victims were later rushed to the Federal Medical Centre, Owo where they are currently receiving medical attention.

The combined teams of the Federal Road Safety Corps and

the police from B-Division, Owo packed the burnt bodies.

The evacuation teams were led by the FRSC Unit Commander, Owo Segun Sanni and Garba Umaru, a Chief Superintendent of Police.

The Police Public relations Officer for the Ondo State Com-

mand, Aremu Adeniran, confirmed the incident which he said occurred around 1:30am yesterday. The FRSC Unit Commander said the casualty figure would have been less if not because the accident occurred late in the night, advising people to avoid night journeys.

LG buys N11m vehicle for district head

From Hisham Habib, Kano

TARAUNI Local Government Area in Kano State has bought an N11 million vehicle for the district head in the area while another N6 million vehicle was acquired for the council's chairman, Alhaji Amanallah Ahmed Muhammad.

The council chairman who disclosed this at a press briefing in Kano yesterday said he inherited N30, 000 when he assumed office in 2007 and that the council strives in hardship to pay salaries and wages despite the intervention of the state government and some local governments in the state with some financial assistance.

He, however, said they were able to renovate health centres in the wards and rehabilitate the secretariat as well as provide a wide range of scholarship to students in the local government.

He explained that Tarauni Local Government has the highest number of staff in the 44 local governments of the state, which makes the payment of salaries and wages a huge task, noting that it also have the highest number of health workers being paid with a new salary structure.

"We pay N47 million as salary out of which just over 25 million is set for that so you can see how the situation is", he said.

Fire guts petrol tanker in Kaduna

A truck conveying petrol from the Kaduna Refinery and Petrochemical Company (KRPC) burst into flames when it fell off an overhead bridge in Sabo Tasha, Kaduna yesterday, a witness said. While the truck driver and occupants of the vehicle

escaped unhurt, some other persons at the scene of the accident sustained injuries, the witness told newsmen. Four lorries at a nearby park were burnt.

Sympathisers thronged the scene and obstructed the movement of vehicles and other road

users going to Kaduna South from Kaduna North.

The Kaduna State Director of Fire Service Mr Mu'azu Dandani advised truck drivers not to ignore haulage and off-loading procedures while discharging petroleum products. (NAN)

ACF to correct impression about self

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

THE Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) yesterday said it would organize an interactive session with politicians, clerics and other stakeholders to correct the wrong impression and misconception about the forum.

Retired Colonel Mohammed Audu who led a delegation of members of the forum on a courtesy visit to Governor Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State said the forum was non-political but a platform meant to foster unity and development.

He said the interactive session would hold on April 29 and would be used to enumerate the successes made by the forum as well as its position on national issues.

"The activities of the ACF have

remained the promotion of general well being of people from the north and even development of areas that constitute the northern part of the country. We also play a vital role in ensuring national development and cohesion by advising public office holders on how best they can advance socio-economic activities in the northern part of the country", Colonel Abdu said.

Responding, Governor Ibrahim Gaidam who was represented by his deputy, Abubakar D. Aliyu, said the state government would always associate itself with the activities of the forum.

The deputy governor who received the letter of invitation to the proposed forum's interactive session said the North requires a lot in order to achieve social and economic development.

Labour leaders pay tribute to Udoji

LABOUR leaders yesterday eulogised the late Chief Jerome Udoji for his legacies and contribution to the welfare of Nigerian workers.

The late lawyer and administrator was head of the commission which recommended the review of salaries of civil servants in 1972.

The labour leaders told newsmen in Lagos that Udoji's recommendation helped in improving the lots of civil servants and their families.

Udoji, a Head of Service in the former Eastern Region, died Monday in his home town, Ozubulu, Anambra, at the age of 98.

Mr Adetunji Ades-

unkanmi, President, Senior Staff Association of Communications, Transport and Corporations (SSACTAC), said the late lawyer left a legacy worthy of praise. Also speaking, Chief John Kolawole, General Secretary, Trade Union Congress (TUC), said Udoji canvassed better condition of service for civil servants.

"The name Udoji means a lot to civil servants. Whenever you mention that name, you remember the increase in salary for workers," he said.

Kolawole said his death was a lesson to all that it was pertinent to leave a mark which peo-

ple would remember. The TUC scribe said Nigerians and the labour movement mourn Udoji's death and urged all workers to emulate his services.

Mr Martins Akinyanju, General Secretary of the Nigeria Union of Railway Workers, urged labour leaders to strive for better condition of service for workers.

"There is need for improvement of condition of service of workers in the public service so that at the end of the day they will smile home," he said.

Akinyanju said the late administrator would be missed for his sacrifices for fellow workers and Nigerians. (NAN)

Kano to immortalise Rimi

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Kano State government plans to immortalise the late first civilian governor of the state, Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi, the state's Acting Governor Engineer Abdullahi Tijjani Gwarzo said yesterday in Kano.

Speaking while receiving former Senate presidents Chief Adolphus Wabara, Mr Anyim Pius Anyim and immediate past Minister of Commerce and Industry Chief Achike Udenwa, who were in the state on a condolence visit to the late Rimi's family and the state government,

Engineer Gwarzo said once Governor Shekarau returns from his US/UK trip, they

would hold a special emergency council meeting to immortalise the late former governor of the state.

In his tribute to the late politician, Chief Udenwa said late Rimi was a dogged politician who died championing the cause of the masses. "I knew him since our days in PRP. He was a real PRP politician who left a big shoe for his family," he said.

Chief Anyim said in his tribute that Rimi's death was a great loss to the country, saying Nigeria had lost one of the finest and most eloquent politicians in the country. "Rimi's appearance in my remote village for my father's burial showed how compassionate he was," he said.



DAILY TRUST
Cartoon Contest

Are you a talented cartoonist who can always turn in a compelling sketch?

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30th of April 2010.
Management

IBB: Why I'm vying for presidency in 2011

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar, with agency report

FORMER military president Gen Ibrahim Babangida yesterday said he will vie for the presidency in 2011 general election. He however said he will not use his wealth to buy his way to power.

Babangida announced his intention to contest in the 2011 election at the weekend in Delta State, the home state of his late wife.

Gen Babangida, 68, said he had the necessary experience to be president. The PDP says its presidential candidate will be from the northern part of the country.

Speaking to the BBC's Focus on Africa programme, Gen Babangida - known as "IBB" in Nigeria - dismissed any suggestion he might buy his way into office 17 years after leaving

the top job.

"You'll be glad to know, I'm the most investigated Nigerian living today," he said.

"Perhaps after 17 years it ought to have come out by now, unless somebody is not doing his job."

He spoke of his determination to run for president for a second time even if the PDP does not select him as their candidate.

"What I am sure of - I can always find one party out of 51 that I can pitch my tent on," he said.

Gen Babangida took power in 1985 in a bloodless coup and stepped aside in 1993 after he annulled elections he had organised in 1993 that were widely seen as having been won by a businessman, Moshood Abiola.

Babangida said defended his democratic credentials and

said he could offer "leadership and experience" to Nigeria. "I have conducted the freest and fairest - and this is attested by the international community - elections in the history of our country," he said.

"The fact that it was annulled is a different story altogether."

He pulled out of the 2007 presidential election when then-President Olusegun Obasanjo declared his support for current President Umaru Yar'Adua's candidacy.

Yar'Adua has not been seen in public since November 2009 because of his ill-health and is unlikely to seek re-election.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan is from the south and so would not be a candidate under the PDP policy of alternating power between north and south, with each region having two terms.



FROM right: Minister of Women Affairs Mrs. Josephine Anenih, Major General Alwali Kazir and Prof. Dantulani Ahmed, during the conference on political stability and democratic imperatives in a dynamic international environment, held in Abuja, yesterday.

Reps close to finalising key oil bill

THE House of Representatives could begin debate next month on Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) that would transform Africa's biggest energy sector, Chairman of House Committee on Petroleum Resources (Upstream) Bassey Otu told Reuters yesterday.

A joint committee in the House of Representatives is close to finalising the Petroleum Industry Bill that aims to rewrite Nigeria's decades-old relationship with Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon Mobil and other oil companies. The oil reform bill has been delayed repeatedly because of constitutional concerns and disputes between government and foreign oil firms over the fiscal terms for their operations.

"There was a wide gap between what the government wanted and what the operators in the industry wanted. We have fairly sorted that out," said Bassey Otu, chairman of the joint committee working on the bill. As soon as we resume, the joint committee will meet ... come up with a clean copy and submit at the plenary. I am looking at one month from now," he added.

The Senate is also finalising its own bill, which would need to be harmonized with the lower house's version before being sent to the president so it can be signed into law.

The legislation aims to break state oil firm NNPC, long hampered by funding shortfalls, into profit-driven units able to tap international markets. The move could prompt some of the biggest financing deals of their kind ever done in Africa.

The government would also be allowed to renegotiate old contracts, impose higher costs on oil companies and retake acreage that firms have yet to explore. But foreign oil companies operating in Nigeria have warned the plans contained in the bill could threaten billions of dollars of investment if they go ahead in their current form.

The main areas of dispute between government and oil firms include higher royalty payments, industry-wide taxes on profits and revenue sharing.

Ciroma warns on move to sack Ogbulafor

By Muideen Olaniyi

FORMER Minister of Finance and Chairman of the 2008 Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Convention Committee Mallam Adamu Ciroma yesterday warned against any plot to oust the Prince Vincent Ogbulafor-led National Working Committee (NWC) of the party.

Ciroma who gave the warning while speaking with journalists in Abuja however said Ogbulafor's continuity in office as PDP national chairman would be decided during the forthcoming mid-term convention.

He spoke against any attempt to use the crisis that rocked the Anambra State chapter of the party to dislodge Ogbulafor and his team, noting that Anambra palaver stemmed from lack of discipline among the stakeholders in the state.

While expressing confidence that Ogbulafor-led NWC can still conduct primary election for the party at all levels, he said any move to sack him must follow

due process if necessary.

Ciroma said: "The chairman and his team were elected at the last convention of the party. In fact I can talk about it because I conducted the election. The next time to talk about their tenure will be in the next convention. The next convention is in fact only intended to consider vote of confidence in the chairman of the party. If the party voted no confidence, it means that he will not last long in the party, but if the party members expressed confidence.

"But, I think it's a good thing to allow the leadership of the party to conduct the next election, because, I am a democrat, but, if the majority in the party feels that they want to change the leadership off course they can."

Meanwhile, one of the key figures of 'PDP Reform Forum' that is spearheading the move against Ogbulafor, Chief Sunny Iroche said the party may lose more states if nothing is done against the Ogbulafor led NWC of the PDP.

Iroche, who blamed the NWC for the loss of Anambra State to another party, said the forum whose membership include two former Senate Presidents Adolphus Wabara and Ken Nnamani as well as former Speakers of the House of Representatives, Ghali Na'Abba and Aminu Bello Masari will meet in Abuja to deliberate on the modalities to present its reform agenda to the National Executive Committee (NEC) of the PDP.

Other members of the forum according to Iroche are Prof. ABC Nwosu, Gbenga Elegbedeye of the House of Representatives and Dr. Onyema Ugochukwu among others.

Ogbulafor yesterday fingered people from his home state of Abia as being behind the plot to sack him.

Ogbulafor said this when a delegation from Abia state the embattled state PDP chairman and party local government chairmen paid a solidarity visit to him in his office in Abuja to express their support to his leadership.

FG to establish special courts, says Adoke

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

THE Federal Government would establish special courts to prosecute all those indicted for civil disturbances to stem the tide of gradual decent to anarchy. Attorney-General of the Federation (AGF) and Minister of Justice Mohammed Bello Adoke (SAN) said this yesterday while speaking at the Supreme Court complex Abuja during a valedictory session to mark the retirement of Justice George Adesola Oguntade

from the Supreme Court bench. Justice Oguntade is retiring having attained the mandatory retirement age of 70 years.

He said the recent Boko Haram and Jos crises are unfortunate examples that have evoked a lot of emotions and public condemnation both in Nigeria and the international community.

He said that the special courts would also try corruption cases especially those involving Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs).

Earlier, Mr. Oguntade said

the nation cannot advance unless Nigerians conform to the concept of rule of law and called for a complete overhaul of the law enforcement agencies to get them into action.

He also called for the suspension of all housing projects at the moment saying that what we needed immediately are more prison yards.

According to him, the nation needs a moral rebirth to enable us plan honestly, think honestly and execute policies honestly.

"We make policies to ban importation of certain goods and commodities yet these same goods are freely hawked on our streets. We talk about free elections in our country yet these elections are openly rigged. The provisions in our Electoral Law are not respected. It is a shame. It is my hope and prayer that Nigerians and all authorities will appreciate what harm we have done and are doing to our country by failure to adhere to rule of law," Oguntade said.

Chief Justice of Nigeria Aloysius Iyogyer Katsina-Alu in his speech described retired Justice Oguntade as hardworking and ever disposed to playing his part and had never been known to complain over any work that had been assigned to him.

In his contribution, President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) Oluwarotimi Akeredolu said the insecurity in the nation has reached a point when even those in government should feel sufficiently threatened.



PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

JUSTICE George Adesola Oguntade (left) with Justice Niki Tobi, during the valedictory session for Oguntade at the Supreme Court Abuja, yesterday.

65% of prison inmates awaiting trial

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

OUT of the 46,000 inmates in Nigerian prisons, 30,000 are still awaiting trial, Interior Minister Capt. Emmanuel Iheanacho has said.

Only 16,000 prisoners have been convicted.

The minister who visited Kuje Prison Abuja yesterday was told by an inmate that some of his colleagues have been awaiting for trial for over ten years.

The inmate blamed Nigeria's judicial system saying "the condition of bail is too much, it is unfair. The judicial system is not doing very well."

The minister promised therefore to liaise with the ministry of justice to find a lasting solution to the congestion in Nigeria prison.

"I want to say to you sorry guys. I will engage my colleague in the ministry of justice for dialogue to release them on bail," the minister told the inmates.

He said that before his 12-13 month tenure ends, the issue of overcrowding in the Nigerian prisons would be a history.

"The fundamental challenge is in the cell, if you take an analysis of people who are under encapsulation, the majority of them are not convicts. Having 30,000 people waiting for trial is unacceptable. We have to find quickest administrative way to solve this problem," he said.

The minister promised better condition for prisoners both while and after serving their term.

Senate not divided, says spokesman

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar & Turaki A. Hassan

SENATE yesterday said the upper legislative chamber is not divided as being speculated in the media, saying the Senate remains one indivisible entity.

Chairman of Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said recent reports suggesting division among the lawmakers are the handiwork of "Faceless and cowardly spin-doctors to cause disaffection in its rank by promoting a

phantom division among senators into groups loyal to the Acting President and those who are not."

Senator Eze said the doctrine of necessity which empowered Goodluck Jonathan as acting president was the creation of the entire Senate and not that of few individuals.

"It is therefore curious that the media persistently created the impression that this was the handiwork of a handful of individuals. No single individual or handful of individuals can appropriate the work of the Senate," he said

'98% of Nigerians' food causes diabetes'

By Sunday Williams

MOST Nigerians consume carbohydrates and starchy food which raises sugar content in the body and causes diabetes, Director of Programs, Diabetic Eradication Initiatives, Dr James Oe, has said.

Speaking on a sensitisation workshop on control and management of diabetes, hypertension, Hepatitis B and the formal commis-

sioning of the sick bay of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Dr Oe said average Nigerians eat carbohydrates food all through without knowing the dangers until they are diagnosed with the disease.

He said: "If the information is not timely, before you know it, they are fully blown with the disease. In the same vein, the people in the villages eat most of carbohydrates food but are majorly

natural which is okay but most of the ones we eat in the cities are refined packaged food and drinks."

He urged the participants and the general public to know their sugar level in order to control it, adding that those who are free of the disease should ensure that they keep checking it after two months.

In his own presentation on Hepatitis B, Elder Ejo-dame Emmanuel of Adonai

Laboratories said one in every five Nigerians is a carrier of the disease which also accounts for one percent of all adult deaths in the country.

Speaking, the Permanent Secretary of the ministry, Dr. Abdullahi Mohammed who was represented by the Director of Administration, Mr. Wuese Ai said the commissioning of the sick bay and the workshop is part of the ministry's commitments towards the staff well being.

N2.5bn fraud: Bayelsa officials for trial May 19

By Atika Balal

AN Abuja Federal High Court has fixed May 19 to begin trial in a suit filed against four officials of the Bayelsa State government by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) for fraud

and money laundering.

The accused persons are said to have converted several sums of money belonging to the Bayelsa State government and also conspired to defraud the state of the sum of N2 billion under the pretence of augmenting salaries of

the state government.

Last month, EFCC arraigned Francis Okokuro, Abbot T. Clinton and Ikobho Anthony Howells on a 6-count charge of fraud and money laundering amounting to about N2.5 billion. They all pleaded not guilty.

Yesterday, however, the fourth accused person, Dr. Charles Sylva Osuala (who was at large during the first arraignment) was arraigned; he entered a plea of not guilty.

Justice D. U Okorowo granted him bail in the sum of N100 mil-

lion with two sureties. One of the sureties must be a director with the Federal Civil Service in Abuja and have landed property within the jurisdiction of the court.

Meanwhile Osuala is to be remanded in Kuje prison until the bail conditions are met.

EFCC declares Ibori wanted

Continued from page 1

action is just political and not criminal."

Eluemunor added: "Ibori asks his supporters not to panic because up till today Tuesday, 13th April 2010, no letter inviting him for questioning from either the EFCC or any other security agency has been received in any of his houses both in Abuja or Lagos. EFCC knows this to be the truth that is why it did not mention the dates of those alleged invitations – because no such letters of invitation were ever sent to him."

Eluemunor said the EFCC announcement was an indication that the arm-twisting that defaced the final years of the last administration had been allowed back as elections approach.

"It is neither fair nor decent to criminalise our client on the pages of the newspapers without any formal invitation to clear his name, which the courts have already done for him.

"Take notice therefore that if there is any attempt to interfere with our client's liberty merely because you control the coercive forces, we shall have no option

but to have recourse to judicial redress before the courts which is the last hope for the defenceless man such as our client," he added.

The former governor, through his lawyers J. B Dauda & Co., has petitioned the Attorney General of the Federation over the investigation and said he had been cleared of the allegations among several others by a court.

His lawyers said reinvestigating the matter amounted to an infringement of his client's human right and infraction of the constitution.

Ibori, a very influential member of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP), was governor from 1999 to 2007. He is among several former state governors to have been charged by the EFCC since 2007, and several of his associates are facing money laundering charges in the United Kingdom.

A Federal High Court in Asaba, Delta State, in December dismissed all the 170 charges of looting against Ibori on the ground that there was no clear evidence against him. The EFCC has said it would appeal the ruling.

Court awards N100 million to leader's in-laws

Continued from page 1

school teacher and eldest son of the deceased, sued President Umaru Yar'adua, Governor Ali Sheriff and the Inspector General of Police for his father's alleged execution while he was in police custody on July 31 last year in the wake of the Boko Haram crises.

Justice Mohammed Mustapha said in his judgment that he was satisfied by evidence that the police detained and executed Baba Fugu after he reported himself to the police headquarters in Maiduguri when he learnt from family members that he was wanted by the police.

The judge said Baba Fugu's killing was not only in total disregard of his rights to life as provided by the Constitution but also in disregard of decency, the African Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He therefore ordered the respondents to pay N100 million as damages to Baba Fugu's family.

Justice Mustapha also granted the prayer that Baba Fugu's corpse be exhumed from "wherever it is" and given to his family for proper burial, and that the respondents should publicly apologise to the family.

The family had told the court that Baba Fugu was buried along with other corpses in a mass burial despite their appeal for its release.

The court also granted an order restraining the respondents from harassing or intimidating the Baba Fugu family.

One of the respondents, state attorney general and commissioner of justice Zanna Malam Gana, who arrived at the court premises shortly after the judgment was delivered, told our correspondent that he would not comment until he studied the judgment.

The police suspected that Baba Fugu was in support of Mohammed Yusuf's sect because he allegedly gave them a building which served as headquarters of the sect before it was bombed by soldiers during the crises.

His family, however, told the court that their late father, who had 27 children, gave out the hand of one of his daughters in marriage to Yusuf 10 years ago because Yusuf's father was his childhood friend, and that he also gave him a house long before Yusuf developed the Boko Haram ideology.

When contacted for comments, the police in Abuja yesterday said they were yet to receive the court judgment.

Force Public Relations Officer ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu told *Daily Trust* by telephone that the police did not receive the court order but will abide by it when they receive it. "We will examine the judgment and make our minds up on what to do," he added.



US President Barack Obama (centre) with other leaders during the Nuclear Security Summit at the Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC, yesterday.

Osoimehin in Geneva after security clearance

By Ruby Leo

FORMER Health Minister Professor Babatunde Osoimehin who was stopped from leaving the country by security operatives at the weekend has since been cleared to travel by Nigeria's leading anti-graft agency.

The special assistant to the minister, Mr Niyi Ojuolape, said in a statement that Professor Osoimehin is in Geneva, Switzerland, attending an international meeting. He said the former health

minister is not under any investigation because he has long been cleared by the EFCC who in turn issued him security clearance to travel.

Ojuolape said Professor Osoimehin who was to have travelled out of the country aboard a British Airways flight from Abuja on Sunday was 'politely informed' by security officials of a requirement for all ex-ministers to obtain security clearance before embarking on any trip abroad, which he was not aware of before then.

According to the statement, "the minister left the airport and obtained the necessary clearance the same day, whereupon he travelled out via Lagos airport by British Airways same day, Sunday, 11th April and is presently in Geneva attending the meeting."

The statement said if Osoimehin was under any investigation, he would not have been cleared to travel adding that the minister does not have any case against him nor the government any issue against him.

Senate pays tribute to late senators today

By Turaki A. Hassan

SENATORS will today go into a valedictory session to honour their late colleagues Senators Tawar Umbi Wada (Gombe South) and Kawu Peto Dukku (Gombe North) who died recently.

Clerk of the Senate Mr. Ben Efeturi said in a statement that the upper legislative chamber will convene for the valedictory session today.

The statement reads in part, "The Senate session on Wednesday will be a special valedictory session in honour of late Senators Wada and Dukku who passed on Wednesday, March 31 and Friday, April 2 respectively."

Late Senator Dukku has since been buried in Gombe while the remains of late Senator Wada is expected to be laid to rest weekend in his home state.

Dukku died Kaduna while Wada died at the National Hospital, Abuja after a brief illness.

Transport union protests in Lagos

From Benjamin Auta & Femi Akinola, Lagos

THE National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) yesterday protested over alleged extortion by members of the Lagos State Traffic Management Agency (LASTMA).

It took the intervention of the police and other security agents in the state to calm the situation.

Reacting, the Lagos State government in a statement signed by

the Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation, Comrade Kayode Opeifa said it was not responsible for the protest.

"Investigation by LASTMA and the office of the Special Adviser showed that a group of unidentified persons sponsored the public disorder along Oworonsoki and Orile-Mile 2 axis of the state," he said.

While warning individuals to desist from disrupting the good work of the governor, he said

LASTMA would not stop performing its statutory functions of monitoring, controlling and enforcing traffic rules and regulations irrespective of any sponsored campaign of calumny.

He added that motorists had the option of not paying any fine if they obeyed traffic rules and regulations.

He also advised members of the public to go about their lawful duties as security operatives had been directed to ensure law

and order in the state.

The Police Public Relations Officer in Lagos State Mr. Frank Mba, a Superintendent of Police confirmed that there was a clash between transporters and LASTMA, but maintained that the problem was between the two bodies. "There was a problem between transporters and LASTMA and the transporters demonstrated in the early hours of this morning but normalcy has been restored," he said.

...As taxi drivers protest seizures by VIO

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

SOME members of the Lagos State Taxi Cab Operators operating under the National Road Transport Workers Union (NURTW) yesterday protested against the harassment and seizures of their vehicles by the State Vehicle Inspection Officers.

The taxi drivers stormed the Government House at noon, carrying various placards bearing inscriptions to convey their grievances.

The Chairman of the taxi drivers, Alhaji Olatunji Odujobi, said members of his association were working under duress because of the activities of LASTMA and VIO.

He pointed out that in 2005, the state recognized only two transport unions, the NURTW and the Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria (RTEAN) while the taxi drivers were asked to merge.

"We merged with the NURTW then and we have been paying dues to the union. But now, the VIO is saying our association is not recognized. Many of our cabs have been seized and they are demanding N25, 000 for each. Because of that, we have been on strike for the past three weeks," he said.

Odujobi added that they were at the governor's office to submit a letter, but regretted that the governor was not around to receive them.

The Special Adviser to Fashola on Transportation, Kayode Opeifa, asked the chairman, who asked them to take their protest to the governor's office and asked the protesting taxi drivers to meet him in his office if they had anything to say and walked off.

Meanwhile, the state government has alerted the public of the existence of fake LASTMA operatives, who extort motorists of huge sums of money, saying people should be vigilant.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence Dr. Ezekiel Oyemomi, National President, Association of Royal Traditional Rulers of Nigeria Dr. Theophilus Obiefule and Chairman, Nigeria Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons Air Commodore Danjuma John Otaru, during the national public dialogue on the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in Nigeria in Abuja, yesterday.

Gombe approves new salaries for judiciary

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

THE Gombe State Governor Alhaji Danjuma Goje has approved a new salary structure for the state judiciary in fulfilment of the agreement reached by the state government and the Judicial Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN).

This was contained in a state-

ment signed by the state's Head of Service Alhaji Ibrahim kuna Biri yesterday in Gombe.

The statement added that the inducement and medical allowances of the judicial workers were increased by 50 and 48 percents respectively. It

maintained that the increment would take effect on May 1, 2010.

The union was also commended for exhibiting a high sense of maturity while awaiting the approval by the governor. It would be recalled that the state branch of JUSUN did not join the nationwide strike embarked upon by the union last year following an understanding between the state government and state branch of JUSUN.

C'ttee wants improved salary for tax collectors

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

THE Joint Tax Board Monitoring and Enforcement Committee yesterday urged state governments to introduce an improved salary structure for tax collectors to guarantee their commitment to better revenue generation in the states.

The national chairman of the committee Ahmed Jibril, who made the call during a visit to Adamawa State Board of Internal Revenue in Yola, said tax collec-

tors offer special services to government and as such require special salary scale.

He said Adamawa State in particular presents a good example of how commitment of tax collectors result in improved revenue generation for the state government and improvement for its economy.

He said the state revenue board which three years ago was generating N9 million monthly is now generating N300 million monthly.

If the board continues to move at this pace, he said, it will soon

hit an internal revenue target of N1 billion per month.

Jibril who is also the chairman of Kaduna State Board of Internal Revenue said that all the state revenue boards need to operate in line with the rules established by the Joint Tax Board to ensure uniformity.

His Adamawa State counterpart, Alhaji Abubakar Abdullahi, said the state has a legislative framework that gives autonomy to the revenue board, as is obtainable in Lagos State.

He said the board has eliminated the problem of double taxation in Adamawa State and is working with the local government councils in the state to harmonise taxation.

Abdullahi said the good assessment given to him by the committee would encourage him to improve on his performance, pointing out that the board is already targeting N500 million monthly revenue from the current revenue of N300 million a month.

Wanted prophet petitions Lagos CJ from hiding

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

A Lagos clergy, Prophet Israel Ola-Ogundipe, declared wanted by an Ikeja High Court on Monday has petitioned the new Lagos State Chief Judge from hiding. The television evangelist claimed in his petition that was made available to our correspondent that he ought to have been arraigned in Ogun State, the area where he allegedly committed the crime. He also alleged in the petition that he would not get fair hearing at the Lagos court.

Until the recent redeployment of judges by the state judiciary, the case was handled by Justice Mojisola Dada.

Justice Dada had severally issued bench warrants against Ola-Ogundipe for failing to appear before the court.

The prophet was in December 2009, arraigned by the Lagos State Ministry of Justice for allegedly duping a woman, Olaide Williams-Oni, of N10 million under false pretext. He was arraigned on a three-count-charge of stealing, obtaining by false pretence and forgery, contrary to the Criminal Code Law of Lagos State.

The clergy in the petition also asked for an order to stay further proceedings in the case pending the determination of the appeal he filed.

The counsel to the clergy, Mr Olusegun Raji, said the prophet could only be arraigned in respect of the alleged crime only within the jurisdiction of the Ogun State High Court.

He insisted that since the alleged offences were said to have been committed at Alakuko in Ifo Local Government Area of Ogun State, it was wrong to arraign him at a Lagos High Court.

The prophet has also filed a notice of appeal to request for an order of the court to stay the execution of the court's order of warrant of arrest issued against him.

Maduekwe, Egwu, Muhtar still ministers on govt websites

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE names and pictures of some ministers dropped from the Federal Executive Council remain posted on the official websites of the federal government, checks by *Daily Trust* revealed yesterday.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan had on Tuesday, April 6 sworn-in 38 new ministers following

the dissolution of the former cabinet in March. But week later, the ministries have not updated their websites to reflect the new reality.

Ojo Maduekwe, former minister of foreign affairs, along with former state ministers I and II, Alhaji Jibril Maigari and Ambassador Bagudu M. Hirse, still on the website of the Foreign Affairs Ministry as at yesterday.

Other former ministers still on the websites of their former ministries are: Mansur Muhtar (instead of Olusegun Aganga) as finance minister; Sam Egwu (instead of Prof. Ruqayya Rufai) and Aisha Dukku (pending) as education minister and state minister of education respectively; Achike Udenwa and Humphrey Abah (instead of Senator Jibril

Martins Kuye and Josephine Tapgun) as minister and state minister for commerce and industry respectively.

Others are: Alhassan Bako Zaku (instead of Prof. Muhammed K. Abubakar) as minister of science and technology; Ibrahim Bio's name and picture remained on the transport ministry's website despite his

redeployment to the sports ministry in the new cabinet.

However, at the Information and Communications Ministry (where Dora Akunyili returned as minister, with Labaran Maku as state minister) and Federal Capital Territory Ministry where Senator Bala Muhammad holds sway, have since updated their websites to reflect the recent changes.

800 federal workers begin mandatory training

By Francis Okeke

EIGHT hundred civil servants from 41 ministries, departments and agencies of the Federal Government on Monday commenced a two-week mandatory training at the Public Service Institute of Nigeria in Abuja.

The training which is for officers on grade levels 08 to 16 is the fourth and last batch under the 2009 Project of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) sponsored Public Service Capacity Building Programme.

From November 2009 to March 2010, about 4,600 Federal Civil Servants have attended the training programme while 100 administrative and 10 professional staff from each of the 36 states of the Federation and the FCT also benefitting from the project.

Head of Civil Service of the Federation Stephen Oronsaye told participants at the opening of the programme that more capacity building initiatives have been approved for civil servants this year, which is in line with government's desire to transform the civil service and rebuild her administrative and technical skills capabilities.

He charged participants at the training programme to ensure that they return to their duties as officers who are ready to be part of the efforts to build a new and functional public service in Nigeria.



SUSPECTED killers of a taxi driver being paraded by the police at Bompai, Kano, yesterday.

JAMB bans cell phones in exam halls

By Maureen Onochie

THE Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) has banned the use of cell phones in examination hall by candidates.

Registrar and Chief Executive of the Board Professor Dibu Ojerinde said this during a press briefing on the preparation for the first Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) slated for Saturday, April 17.

Ojerinde said over the years, candidates have always smuggled in GSM phones loaded with answers into the examination hall and

warned that the full weight of the examination malpractice law would be brought to bear on whoever is caught with such incriminating materials.

Ojerinde said Nigeria will have 321 examination centers across the country and six (6) centers will be made available in Ghana, Cameroon, Benin Republic, United Kingdom, Saudi Arabia and South Africa.

He said 85 prison inmates from Kaduna and 36 inmates from Ikoyi, Lagos prisons also registered for the UTME.

The registrar compared the number of candidates who registered last year for Uni-

versities Matriculation Examination (UME) and Monotechnics, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education Matriculation Examination (MPCEME) at over 1.5 million and the total candidates registered for this year's UTME examination at over 1.3 million, saying there was a decrease of 149,696 applicants.

Prof Ojerinde also informed that candidates would be allowed to change their choice of institutions and courses relevant to their UTME subjects after the examination, saying such changes has to be effected within two weeks after the results are released.

U.S. to host summit on entrepreneurship

By Aisha Umar Agaie

UNITED States will host Presidential Summit on Entrepreneurship between April 26 and 27 in Washington to encourage entrepreneurship globally as part of President Barack Obama's foreign economic and development policy.

Nigeria will be represented at the summit by Fatima Aliko Mohammed, Editor-in-Chief of Draftbill magazine; Omowale Ogunrinde, Executive Director of the Foundation for Skills

Development (FSD), a vocational center for unemployed and the physically challenged; and Dr. Ikuemonisan Barnabas Ayobami, President of the Glimmer of Hope Foundation, which focuses on youth empowerment and adolescent health and development.

The summit will convene at the Ronald Reagan Building & International Trade Center in Washington, DC with more than 200 invited delegates from over 50 countries on five continents and between 50 and 75 American business leaders.

Minister wants more women police officers

By Misbahu Bashir

MINISTER of Police Affairs Adamu Maina Waziri yesterday asked the Inspector General of Police Ogbanna Onovo to motivate more women police to attain higher ranks.

The minister said at a meeting with senior police officer in Abuja that in spite of the prolonged existence of the police force, there is one woman Assistant Inspector

General of Police.

He said the police management should start motivating women by assigning them strategic assignments. "The women can do better in some aspects of policing," he said.

He said the deterioration of the image of the police formed bulk of their problems and can only be solved through diligent service. Both the public and the police must work together in

addressing anti-social behaviours.

Ononvo said more pastors and Imams were enlisted into the police force to uplift the spiritual orientation of officers with a view to improving their images in public.

He said organised crimes such as kidnap will come to an end when telecommunication companies begin SIM registration on May 1, 2010.

Imo workers to begin warning strike today

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

WORKERS in Imo State are expected to begin a 4 day warning strike today to demand improved welfare from the state government.

The workers had earlier carried out a peaceful demonstration at the premises of the state secretariat along the Owerri Port Harcourt road, carrying placards which read, Pensions and gratuity are workers rights, Pay our retired public servants and Imo workers decry insecurity.

Addressing the workers, the state Chairman of the Joint Public Services Negotiating Council (JPSNC) Comrade Obinna Aharanwa, said if government fails to do something about the matter after the 4day warning strike, the workers would embark on an indefinite strike.

He said the warning strike involved all workers at the state secretariat, the 27 local government councils and all parastatals in the state.

He cited the inability of govern-

ment to implement an agreement signed two years ago between the union and the state government as the reason for the strike. He maintained that the agreement was endorsed by the Secretary to the State Government, Head of Service, Commissioner for Finance and the Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on Labour.

The workers also want government to address the 15 percent salary increment, which according to them was discovered to have 'institutional errors'.

The union chairman said certain indices were not put into consideration in the salary increment. All efforts to get the state's Commissioner for Information and Strategy Mr. Amanze Obi to comment proved abortive as he did not pick phone calls made to him.

The Senior Special Assistance to the Governor on Labour Chief D.D. Iwuoha could not be reached for comments either as his phone was switched off at the time of filing this report.

Leave us alone, street beggars tell Kogi Assembly

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

STREET beggars in Kogi State want the House of Assembly to discontinue deliberations on the bill to prohibit street begging in the state. Some of the beggars, who spoke to our correspondent yesterday said it would be wicked for the House to prohibit street begging, saying begging was ordained by God. They said sacking them from the street would amount to discriminating against the physically challenged, an act they claimed would be a violation of their human rights.

"Beggars exist everywhere in the world. Why should Kogi State be an exemption? We are also human beings. The only difference is that we are physically challenged, which is not our fault. It would be callous for the House of Assembly to send us away from the street. After all, we are not disturbing anyone," said Nurudeen Alabi, a blind beggar.

Reacting to the House claim that most of them were from neighbouring states, one of the beggars said, "It doesn't matter where we come from. They should leave us alone and allow us to help ourselves".

A resident of Lokoja, Bashir Mohammed, described street beggars as, "Postmasters through whom people seek God's mercy. God commands us to give alms to the needy. If the House bans street begging in the state, how will people fulfil this spiritual obligation?"

Vatsa's brother threatens to mobilise against IBB

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

LATE General Manman Vatsa's younger brother, Mr Jonathan Vatsa, has threatened to lead a group to protest against former military President Ibrahim Babangida's ambition to contest the 2011 presidential election.

Mr Vatsa, who said this yesterday in Minna at a news conference added that it would be a 'disaster' to allow the former president to lead the nation again. He said a group, the National Democratic Forum (NDF) to be led by him to protest against General Babangida's ambition would start campaigns next Monday in Minna. According to Vatsa, the Forum would visit the families of Major Gideon Okar in Benue State, Squadron leader Ben Ekele in Kogi, Dele Giwa and Gani Fawehemi in Lagos, adding that the group will do everything within its powers to ensure that General Babangida does not contest the 2011 elections.

"If he is allowed to go back to Aso rock, it will be a disaster for the country as his antecedents are there to speak for him", he said.

He criticised some youth groups for calling on Babangida to run for the Presidency.

"One major pain I have in my heart at this period of our history as a country is the number of youths rallying for IBB. They should be thinking of people of their own generation to rule", he said.

However the Spokesperson for General Babangida, Alhaji Nma Kolo, has dismissed the threat as a joke, adding that Nigerians were not foolish to be swayed by sentiments. He maintained that the former president did not order any extra judicial killing during his eight year rule. He also pointed out that in politics, one should not expect 100 percent support from people.

Alhaji Nma said no campaign targeted at discrediting him would see the light of the day, saying the retired General was only answering a national call.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

ACCOUNTANT General of the Federation Alhaji Ibrahim Hassan Dankwambo (left) with the Director of Finance and Administration Alhaji Saidu Umar, during the award ceremony for the Gombe State governor by the National Association on Environmental Studies in Abuja.

2011: Jang extends olive branch to opponents

From Mahmud Lalo & Ahmed Mohamed, Jos

GOVERNOR Jonah Jang of Plateau State has extended an olive branch to political opponents in the state so that they can work together for the development of the state, Special Adviser to the Governor on Media and Public Affairs, Mr Dan Manjang said yesterday in Jos.

Manjang, who said this while fielding questions from newsmen said, "I assure you that reconciliation is going on. The governor has

reconciled with the immediate past governor of the state. If there is anything we need, especially at this time, is to come together and do whatever is humanly possible to find a solution to our problems."

He added that the governor had been holding meetings with traditional rulers, community leaders and all stakeholders, saying the people of Plateau were now more united than before. "You cannot remove politics from Jos crises and other things happening in the state. If people like General Gowon,

Chief Solomon Lar, all the senators and technocrats in the state come together and speak with one voice, Plateau will be a better place. We are looking at Plateau State first before any individual," he added.

On the 2011 election, he said government was not silent on the matter saying, "You don't have to place posters before you know that there are political activities going on. There is a saying that you can win election without posters and I can tell you that we can win election without posters. There is a

quotation in the bible, where Jesus said, my sheep know me and I know them, I can tell you that the people of Plateau state know us and we know them."

Manjang said with the current efforts by the Jang administration, he was optimistic that Governor Jang would win the election in 2011. "Right now, there are alignments and realignments going on and you will see posters. But we don't believe in making noise, we believe in action and I assure you that a lot is happening," he added.

Fulani herdsmen flee Nigeria over inadequate grazing reserves

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

INADEQUATE grazing reserves in Nigeria has caused some Fulani herdsmen to leave for neighbouring countries, Chairman of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeder Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) Abuja chapter, Alhaji Mohammed Dodo Oroji has said.

Speaking with our correspondent in Sokoto State, Alhaji Oroji said many of the Fulani cattle

rears were relocating to Cameroon, Ghana, Chad, Lome, and Cotonou.

"100 percent of the Fulani herdsmen in Ghana are from Nigeria, 70 percent of Fulanis in Cameroon are from Nigeria and 50 percent of the Fulanis in Cotonou are also from Nigeria", he said.

Alhaji Oroji who noted that the Fulanis provide meat, milk, butter and leather for the country,

called on the government to provide enough grazing reserves for the cattle rearsers so that those who had left the country would return and help to boost the nation's economy.

He also stressed the need to ensure the demarcation of the grazing routes.

Oroji, who is aspiring for the National president of MACBAN said if voted in, he would ensure that clashes between farmers and

Fulani herdsmen become a thing of the past.

He also pledged to ensure that all Fulani children are given nomadic education in the country.

On the Jos crises, Oroji said it was not a religious matter and harped on the need to find a lasting solution to it. He appealed to the 19 Northern states governors, the Sultan of Sokoto, emirs in northern Nigeria and leaders in Plateau State to intervene.

Court dismisses case against Borno new emirates law

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

A Borno State High Court yesterday dismissed a suit jointly filed by two princes seeking the court to declare as null and void, a law passed by the state House of Assembly which granted Governor Ali Modu Sheriff powers to create new emirates.

The princes, Alhaji Abba Ashiekh from Dikwa emirate who holds the title of Abbane of Dikwa (head

of princes in the emirate) along with Alhaji Shettima Mohammed Ngileruma, a prince from the Borno emirate who holds the title of Shettima Kaka (religious adviser to the Shehu of Borno) and son to a late Waziri of Borno, had jointly challenged the law. Alhaji Abba Ashiekh told Daily Trust after the judgment was delivered by Justice Mohammed Mustapha of the High Court 3 that they would appeal against the judgment.

The princes had argued in their motions that the Assembly created the law without public hearing and as such deprived them of airing their views as citizens of the emirates on matters directly affecting them, adding that they were deprived of their cultural rights. They also argued the law was created without regard to the cultural, traditional or customary beliefs of the people of Borno State, maintaining that the two emirates emerged as traditional insti-

tutions through customary practices and usage long before the advent of colonialism and that the emirates were subject to the traditional, cultural and customary practices of their people with the emirs being the custodians of tradition.

They also argued that the creation of additional emirates would deprive some emirates and their subjects the rights and privileges of economic activities now taking place around the Lake Chad areas as well as

the oil and gas and other minerals exploration/exploitation, tourism and fishing activities.

Justice Mustapha however ruled that the princes didn't prove to the court that their rights were deprived by the law. He also held that the state Assembly had constitutional powers to create laws deemed good for the state, noting the applicants did not also prove how the new law would lead to destruction of the culture of the people or deny them economic bene-

fits in the Lake Chad as they argued.

Governor Sheriff had recently created a new Dikwa emirate out of the old Dikwa, moving three out of four local government areas: Dikwa, Ngala and Kala-Balge to the new emirate, leaving the new Bama emirate with the remaining Bama Local Government Area. The governor also appointed a first class emir, Alhaji Abba Tor, who has since been turbaned and assumed duties in the new Dikwa emirate.

Police smash Imo robbery gang

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

THE Police in Imo State have smashed a four-man armed robbery gang which was terrorizing the people of Nguru in Abo Mbaise and Agbaja in Nwangele councils of the state.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Usman A. Gwary disclosed this to newsmen yesterday at the command's headquarters in Owerri. He said two of the robbers, 22 year old Uzoma Ibemere of Umuokpo in Nwangele council area, 29 year old George Izu from

Umuochoko in Ahiazu Mbaise council had been involved in several robbery incidents in the area.

The others include 32 year old Pascal Ugwulebo from Umuoparas obodo Ujuishi in Ahiazu Mbaise council and Chukwuka, a native of Ngwa in Abia State who died on the way to hospital after sustaining gun shot injuries during an operation. The DCP said before they were nabbed on 11th April 2010 at Amuzi in Ahiazu Mbaise they snatched a Mercedes Benz Jeep from Rev. Father

Franklyn Odoegbulam of the Master Ecclesiae Seminary Nguru in Aboh Mbaise council of Imo State.

He said the same gang also trailed one Kennedy Chimezie of Agbaja in Nwangele council from Amaraku in Isiala Mbano to Umudike where they blocked his Land Rover Free Lander jeep and ordered him out of the vehicle and robbed him of all his valuables including N58,000. The DCP disclosed that the victim was blindfolded and abducted him to an unknown destination. He

said the joint patrol team made up of the Army and police following a tip off intercepted two members of the gang operating in the jeep earlier snatched from the priest.

He said when interrogated they confessed and led the detectives to their hideout where Kennedy Chimezie who was held hostage was rescued. Items recovered from them include one FMC rifle, one AK 47 rifle, 125 rounds of live ammunition in different calibres and two vehicles belonging to the victims.

NHIS assures on maternal, child care

THE National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) has assured that its partnership with the Millennium Development Goals and Maternal and Child Health would help improve maternal and child care indices in the country.

A statement from NHIS's Head, Media & Public Relations Ayo Osinlu said the Scheme's South west Coordinator, Taiye Adeleye in his paper at a training workshop for providers of primary health care in selected local government areas in Ondo State yesterday decried the poor state of maternal and child health indices.

According to him,

Nigeria accounts for 10 percent of global maternal mortality figure and 59,000 women die annually from pregnancy and child birth related cases. This situation he said, was unacceptable, stressing that the NHIS/MDG-MCH are committed to addressing the ugly trend in the country's health system.

The training workshop which was held in Akure South Local Government area as well as Ile-Oluji/Okeigbo Local Government area and Owo Local Government areas is aimed at ensuring that providers are abreast with the operations and guidelines of the Scheme.

He urged participants of the workshop to adhere strictly to the NHIS guidelines while carrying out their respective assignments.

A representative of the state governor, Dr. Taiwo Akintan, hinted that the state government had put facilities in place to ensure safe delivery by pregnant women in the state. Dr. Akintan also commended the management of the Scheme for its efforts with the MDG to reduce Maternal and Child Health indices in the country, stressing that the Ondo State government would do everything possible for its indigenes to be part of the programme.

2 defraud American of \$10,000

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

THE police in Lagos Monday paraded two men, Chukwuedo Chukwue-meka and Ishola Idokpayi, for defrauding a United States citizen, Howard Caulkins, of \$10,000.

According to the Police Public Relations Officer (PRO) Mr. Frank Mba Chukwuedo Chukwue-meka, a.k.a Chuks Edo, who hails from Delta State, forged documents belonging to Oceanic Bank claiming he was the Accounting

Officer of the bank and would help facilitate his investments in the bank.

He said Chukwuedo, who is a web designer, forged the official documents belonging to Oceanic Bank and sent it to his victim who sent him the \$10,000 without suspecting foul play.

He added that Chukwuedo used a fake name, John Goodman, and when he went to Fidelity Bank to collect the \$10,000, he discovered that it had already been withdrawn by his

friend, Idokpayi Ishola.

The police said Ishola, who is also known as Barry, got to know about the deal when Chukwuedo used his laptop in transacting the said business with Mr. Caulkin without properly closing his email account in the laptop.

He said he forged the documents of the transaction between Mr. Caulkin and Chukwuedo and went to the Benin branch of Fidelity Bank to collect the money when he was arrested by the police.

FINANCE VACANCIES

1. Account Officers : /Lagos/Abuja/Benin
ND / diploma accountancy

2. Accountants : 6 Staff / Lagos/PH/Abuja
BSC/HND Accountancy

3. Finance Managers - 4 staff /Lagos, Abuja
BSC/HND with MBA or ACA

Knowledge Sage Peachtree, Tally ERP 9, Sage Pastel an advantage

Applicants should include email address and phone numbers of at least 2 referees.

CV should be sent to vacancyfinance@yahoo.com indicate post please.



BORNO STATE GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT & CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS

RE: TENDERS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF NEW MERCEDES BENZ S-CLASS SEDAN (350SL/300SL)

The public is hereby informed that opening of bidding documents for the advert below is 20th April, 2010 by 2:00pm prompt at the office of the Permanent Secretary and NOT 13th April, 2010 as mistakenly published in the Daily Trust and Leadership Newspapers of yesterday.

Addendum:

The Borno State Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs hereby invites tenders from suitably qualified contractors/Suppliers for submission of qualification documents for the procurement of MERCEDES BENZ S-CLASS SEDAN (350SL/300SL).

TENDER DOCUMENTS

The tender documents will be available for collection by all interested Contractors/Suppliers upon the payment of non-refundable fee of N25, 000.00 per set with effect from Tuesday 13th April, 2010 in the office of the Permanent Secretary Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs. All completed tender documents should be accompanied with the following requirements:-

- Evidence of Registration and Incorporation by the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) or Borno State Ministry of Commerce.
- Evidence of Registration with Borno State Government as a contractor or supplier.
- Evidence of Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years.
- Evidence of Financial Capability.
- Company Profile.
- Experience.

TENDER CLOSING DATE

The closing date for the submission of all tender documents has been fixed for Tuesday 20th April, 2010 at 10:00am prompt.

TENDER OPENING:

All Contractors/Suppliers that have submitted their bidding documents should come for the opening at the office of the Permanent Secretary on 20th April, 2010 by 2:00pm prompt.

Signed:

Hajiya Yabawa Lawan Wabi

Permanent Secretary

Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs,
Maiduguri, Borno State.



UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA TEACHING HOSPITAL, GWAGWALADA.
P. M.B 228, ABUJA.

VACANCIES

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the following vacant posts at the University of Abuja Teaching Hospital.

1. Director of Administration.
2. Deputy Director Pharmacy
3. Assistant Director of works and services
4. Chief Public relations officer

Requirements

Post 1

Director of Administration

Must be a highly qualified and resourceful professional with good honors degree in Health service Administration, social science or Arts. Associate membership of the Institute of Health service Administrators of Nigeria or other suitable equivalent professional qualification will be an advantage. Candidates must have had wide experience of at least 15 years post qualification, preferably in a Teaching Hospital or similar Institution, four of which must be at the level of assistant Director or Deputy Director,

Salary: contiss 15

Post 2

Deputy Director Pharmacy

Candidates must possess a good degree in pharmacy and must have current registration with the pharmacy council of Nigeria. An additional qualification in relevant/related areas is an added advantage. In addition candidates must have had wide experience in drug procurements, administration and management of standard Hospital pharmacy, leadership skills and capacity to train subordinates and coordinate the general activity in the pharmacy. A minimum of 15 years post qualification experience in a federal tertiary Hospital is an added advantage.

Salary: comtiss 14

Post 3

Assistant Director of Works

Candidates must possess a good honors degree in Engineering from a recognized University and registered with the Council of Registered Engineers of Nigeria (COREN). A minimum of 12 years post qualification cognate experience, five of which must be in the senior management position is required. Previous experience in a Hospital setting is an added advantage.

Salary: contiss 13

Post 4

Chief Public Relations officer

Candidate must possess a degree in Arts, Journalism, social sciences or English language from a recognized university plus at least 12 years post qualification cognate experience as a protocol, public relations or information officer.

Salary: contiss 12

Method of Application

Candidates should submit 20 sets of applications together with photocopies of relevant credentials and detailed curriculum vitae. Three referee reports under confidential cover are required.

Interested candidates in the public service must route their application through their establishment.

All applications should be forwarded not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this publication to:

The Chief Medical Director,
University of Abuja Teaching Hospital, Gwagwalada
P M B 228, Abuja.

Only shortlisted candidates will be invited for aptitude test and interview

SIGNED
(Chief Medical Director)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

NATIONAL ASSEMBLY,
THE THREE- ARMS ZONE,
P.M.B. 141, GARKI-ABUJA, NIGERIA

CALL FOR MEMORANDA AND INVITATION TO A PUBLIC HEARING

The general public is hereby invited to submit 20 hard copies and a soft copy of memoranda in respect of the following Bills to the Committee:

- (1) "A Bill for an Act to amend the National Sugar Development Council Act, Cap. N78, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria, 2004 by giving additional powers to the council to enable it discharge its functions more efficiently; and for related matters;" and
- (2) "A Bill for an Act to establish the National Products Development Commission for the Identification, Promotion and Funding of the Development of Dominant Products in each State of the Federation in order to achieve an accelerated Economic Development of the Federation and other matters connected therewith, 2008, (HB.141)".

The Public Hearing is as scheduled:

Date: Thursday 22nd April 2010

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Conference Hall 0.28, Ground Floor, New Building, House of Reps, NASS, Abuja.

All Memoranda should be submitted to the Committee's Secretariat in **Room 13, White House, 1st Floor, House of Representatives, NASS Complex**, on or before **Monday, 19th April, 2010**.

For further enquiries please call:
08036462655 and 08069464159

Hon. Solomon U. Agidani
Chairman
Announcer

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



KANO State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau

I am not against Buhari –Shekarau

WHEN leaders always talk from both sides of their mouth, then our country will continue to drift further. Shekarau said he has nothing against Buhari, but the last paragraph of the report conveys contrary to what was claimed. And what does Shekarau means by GNU? Have we ever had a Government of National Disunity (GND)?

Sunusi Musa
iyando22@yahoo.com

Whether there was an agreement with PDP or not, I am sure General Buhari is not in any way joining issues with Shekarau. The General is busy mobilizing Nigerians to vote for a credible candidate come 2011 and we are behind him. We will continue to salvage this country together to a great future. At this point, I want to advise Shekarau to desist from any utterances that will display personal prejudice or political acrimony and also to remind him that Buhari is a father to Nigerians and will no longer accept anything that will tarnish his statesmanship and stewardship.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

Haba shekarau, now you allowing your aide to call Buhari a frustrated man and yet you will come out tomorrow to say you don't have anything against him. How can you imagine that the only Nigerian to have held the exalted positions of Governor, Petroleum Minister, GOC, Head of State and PTF Chairman will be frustrated by not being part of 'chop make I chop'.

Tijani Kafinsoli
tjkafinsoli@yahoo.co.uk

I just want to advice Gen. Buhari that he is a man of great integrity so he should just go back home and rest and leave Nigerian politics for his talented younger ones.

Bashir S. Ajasco
bsajasco@gmail.com

I like and admire Shekarau, but any day or time, Buhari is always the champion. We are solidly behind him.

Yakubu Adamu Jalingo
tolcomputers@hotmail.com

What we want in this country is a honest and reliable person who will handle the affairs of this country without fear or favor. You are still benefiting from what Buhari did for this country.

Larai Malam
hafsaleh@yahoo.com

Halliburton: No one would be spared –AGF

THE AGF should please spare us the pain and go about his normal business. We all know that nothing

good will come out of the Halliburton issue. It will go in the way of Siemens,

Dele Giwa, electoral reform..... It will be killed and buried under the archives. God bless Nigeria:

Good people, great nation.
Clement Sadjere
ejelemente@yahoo.com

Jonathan: Iwu's INEC is credible

DEAR Jonathan, I hope that this publication is NOT a reflection of what you said in the US. It will be very unfortunate if you decide under pressure from the elites in Nigeria to keep Iwu as the Head of the INEC. It will be a tragedy that you will decide to ride against the wishes of the majority of Nigerians. As the true events in Nigeria begin to unfold, it will be necessary to warn and advise you ahead of the upheaval that we Nigerians will not allow Iwu to be there. Your advisors should use the events in Thailand as a barometer to gauge what could happen in Nigeria if you decide that the nation will again be allowed to fall into the hands of crooks from whichever ethnic groups and whatever the secret service of whatever country backs them. I hope that you will have enough good luck with you as the die is cast.

Merem Emeribe
emeokoro@yahoo.com

What do you expect Jonathan to say? Was it not the incredibility of INEC that brought them to power? Many people including the president know that there was a problem with the 2007 election. The government should try and implement Uwais' panel report. This will go a long way to help us strengthen our democracy. Please, Iwu and all the commissioners should be allowed



INEC Chairman Maurice Iwu

to go when their tenures end. Nigeria has many qualified people that can occupy the positions.

Abdullahi Ibrahim
giriabdul@yahoo.com

Haba, Mr. Acting President... how many elections were nullified since 2007 yet you still say that to the world? In fact I believe replacing Iwu is 70% of the electoral reforms Nigerians are agitating for come 2011.

Yakubu Jikamshi
jikamshi@yahoo.com

No Mr. Acting President! Every elections result must be announced at the polling unit, there and then, and that is fair. The only problem with our electoral systems is the incumbent office holders who

always want Iwu to consistently protect their chance of returning to office, including the office of the President. Allow the appointment of INEC' boss to be by the Judiciary if you are sincere about credible elections.

Isa Mariri, BUK
isamariri@yahoo.com

Please Acting President, Nigerians can't afford another experiment, the result of which is known. The country can boast of men and women of better credentials than Iwu, except if there is a hidden agenda to deny us the chance of choosing people we can hold accountable for the stewardship because they were elected rather those who came through the back door.

Usman Neji Mohammed
usneji2000@yahoo.com

Yes I quite agree with the statement made by the Acting President that we don't have problems with our INEC officials. Most of the problems we face during elections are at the voting centre where some individuals orchestrate violence before the end of the voting most especially when they notice that their candidate may lose at the end. Some even proceed to break the ballot boxes and run away. I am sure if we tackle this problem, our

elections will be free and fair.
Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

I think the Acting President must have been misquoted because the council polls in FCT last week show beyond doubt that Iwu's INEC is not credible. With missing names of eligible voters on the voters' list, the late arrival of electoral officers and materials; certainly the faith of Nigerians cannot be left in the hands of this INEC. It's just a few months to the general elections and the voters' register that is central to the conduct of the election has not been reviewed. This is a deliberate ploy to disenfranchise eligible voters.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi
elkutigi@gmail.com

Politicians accuse Iwu of all the faults identified in the 2007 elections. I believe that the problem begins right from the polling units. The politicians disorganize the units by mobilizing youths to snatch election materials and boxes and even 'kidnap' the election officials to sign the results they (politicians) prepare. Sorry for Nigerians. They know the truth but place the blame on he who announces only what he is given.

Yusuf Ubale Ajingi
yusufaubale@yahoo.com



US President Barack Obama

Obama: Nigeria critical to Africa's survival

NIGERIA is far away from credible reforms because even the implementation of Uwais' committee report was truncated somewhere due to the shambolic manner of policy implementation in Nigeria. We are very good at making laws and policies in Nigeria but flunked in policy implementation, so being critical to the continent does not mean contributing positively to the continent.

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

Explosion in Jos injures 3

THE whole show is getting interesting. Nigerians should just sit down and watch.

Segun
segzee20002001@yahoo.com

So many things could explode to make a strange noise and it is possible that the shells or remains of explosive substances, if any, would have been detected by the security operatives had there been any explosives in the place. In a state of fear and recurring violence it's indispensable to be security conscious, but each case should be taken on its merit. Let a book not be judged by its cover! We need peace; we need ourselves, and no one gives us these but ourselves.

Isa Mariri
isamariri@yahoo.com

I am a resident of Akawu. As the ward head explained, we heard the sound around 8am and when we came out those boys were already out of the



PLATEAU State Governor Jonah Jang

room with their various wounds and were taken to the hospital by the security personnel detached to the area.

The incident could have gone unnoticed (may be just another juvenile adventure) if not for the circumstances we are in.

A similar thing had happened

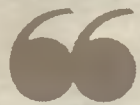
about 2 years back. Some boys found an unexploded tear gas from a scene of students unrest and took it to a refuse dump. While attempting to open it, it exploded on them, injuring three of them seriously and they were too taken to the plateau hospital. That time nobody noticed.

While waiting for the result of the police investigation, let us avoid rumors that could heighten the tension in the city. Please note that the room in which this happened is intact, showing that the explosion is not big and if it has detonated fully, then the device is likewise not big.

Jaafar Othman
jaf.othman@yahoo.com

When are we going to have some peace in this country of ours? Unrest here and there, why? Nigerians please let peace reign in this country.

Yahaya Ibn Idris
ibnidrees@gmail.com



By Emmanuel Yawe

Abdulmutallab and the Cuban Five

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab gained global fame on Christmas day last year. It was not his father's fabled wealth that brought him instant fame, but a drift towards suicidal terrorism.

The 23-year-old son of Alhaji Umar Mutallab, 70, one of the richest men in Africa put a bomb to his underwear and attempted to blow up a Detroit bound passenger aircraft, it was alleged. The failed mission to take his own life and that of many others led to his immediate arrest. He is in detention somewhere in the US, awaiting trial.

Abdulmutallab's motive can be gleaned from the statement by Al-Qaeda immediately after his arrest. The terrorist organization immediately identified with him, saying they had sent the young man on the deadly mission. It was a good thing they did that because suicide bombing is not a fashionable thing in Africa, least of all Nigeria where people cling to life despite all odds; the hope is always that mother luck or God or something may just happen one day to open the gates of prosperity.

For Abdulmutallab, the gates of prosperity have always been wide open since birth. His father is a former chairman

The Cuban Five were on an anti-terrorism espionage mission to gather information for their home government

of First Bank and Nigeria's ex-Federal Commissioner for Economic Development. This is certainly not the profile of a young man driven to aggression by the frustrations of penury and or poverty. It is also significant that he did not direct his anger at Nigeria, his home country, but at the United States of America.

The other helpful information we have about him is his devotion and commitment to his religion, Islam. From the testimonies we have from those who knew him in Kaduna, Nigeria, Lome, Togo where he attended secondary school and London where he did his University, a picture emerges of a young lad committed to the highest ideals of his faith. This commitment could be fanatical and even fatal as he once rationalized the 911 attack on the grounds that it was an act of war since the US also has troops in Saudi Arabia.

Ten years before Abdulmutallab's fiasco, another group popularly known as the Cuban Five were held by security forces in the US. After decades of acts of hostility, sabotage, terrorism and even chemical warfare from anti-Castro/Cuban groups based mainly in Miami Florida, a group of Cuban patriots volunteered to travel to the US to gather accurate information and neutralize these terrorist groups. Five of these men - Gerardo Hernandez, Antonio Guerrero, Ramon Labanino, Fernando Gonzalez and Rene Gonzalez - were caught in 1998 by the FBI and put in detention.

Held in isolation for over 17 months, the men were later put on trial on a chain of nebulous and spurious charges of conspiracy, use of false names and even murder. The trial consumed over six months of court time, becoming the longest trial in the United States at that time. Over 119 volumes of testimony and more than 20,000 pages of exhibits were compiled, including the testimony of three retired generals of the army, a retired admiral, and the former advisor to President Clinton on Cuban affairs (all called by the defence) as well as high ranking Cuban officials. At the conclusion of the trial, and just as the case was about to be submitted to the jury for its consideration, the government filed an extraordinary appeal to a higher court seeking its intervention since it had failed to prove the major conspiracy charges, claiming it faced an "insurmountable obstacle" to winning the case. After that appeal was rejected, the jury, nonetheless, convicted *The Five* on all charges.

Following their conviction The Cuban Five were sentenced to unprecedented long terms of imprisonment in five widely separated maximum security prisons. Gerardo Hernandez was sentenced to two life terms, Antonio Guerrero and Ramon Labanino a life sentences each, Fernando Gonzalez nineteen years and Rene Gonzalez fifteen years. The three with life sentences became the first in the history of the United States to receive life terms in cases without secret documents.

In the meantime, On May 27, 2005 the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, after studying the arguments presented by both the families of the 5 and the United States government, determined that their detention was arbitrary and urged the United States government to take measures required to rectify that arbitrariness.

The Working Group stated that, based on the facts and circumstances under which the trial was held, the nature of the charges and the severity of the sentences, the deprivation of liberty of the 5 violated articles 14 of the international convention on civil and political liberties, of which the United States is a signatory.

The Cuban Five and Abdulmutallab were caught in different circumstances. While the young Nigerian wanted to blast life out of air passengers - his own inclusive - *The Cuban Five* were on an anti-terrorism espionage mission to gather information for their home government. What unites them is their common perception of the US as a 'terrorist country'. *The Cuban Five* saw terrorism against their country emanating from Miami while the Nigerian saw US troops in Saudi Arabia as a terrorist act against the home of Islam, his religion.

For the US to win its war on terrorism, the question of this perception must first be tackled squarely. This can only be done with a comprehensive review of the domestic and foreign policies of the US government. There seems to be no much progress in this direction even after the exaggerated hope of Obama's presidency.

Yawe, for editor of *Crystal Magazine*, wrote from Abuja (royawe@yahoo.com)



By Tunde Asaju

Wanted: A ticket to see Turai

We must be very grateful to those who invented the Presidential Villa and more especially to the penultimate occupant who single-handedly picked his successor. Believe me, it has been the norm since a botanical garden was switched for a residential office.

Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida entered the fortress several years ago opening the chapter of the dramatic and the ludicrous for successive occupants. Babangida himself is a maverick who changes the goal post in the heat of the march and enjoys a gap-toothed laugh at the resultant commotion.

He did not kiss the villa goodbye; he simply told Nigerians that he was 'stepping aside.' Those who doubted the literary meaning of that simple grammar are now told to wait till 2011.

When he left, he did not follow the exit protocol. He was neither pulled out of the army, nor was he at the end of any legal term of office. He simply called a bemused Ernest Shonekan made him a tour of the Villa and handed over its keys to him. For a while, Shonekan believed Nigeria was UAC until Sani Abacha declared him an illegal occupant and provided a helicopter to take him back to the comfort of Lagos where Shonekan had a retirement home he preferred to Abeokuta where he was born.

If Babangida was a maradona who was beaten at his own game,

For a while, Shonekan believed Nigeria was UAC until Sani Abacha declared him an illegal occupant

Abacha was the game himself. As sick as a clinic, he covered his sickness with dark goggles and refused help even from the most benign of countries. He became the first head of state to die in office of something between natural apple and the game the devil played with Eve in the Garden of Eden. Then they picked a clueless Abdulsalami Abubakar to take the keys.

All through his stay, Abubakar could not stop asking - you mean I've ended up here? But his young daughter, a replica of Joseph the dreamer kept telling the father, get away while you can. And so, one morning, Abubakar got fed up with the entire shindig, sent a plane to Yola to fish out Olusegun Obasanjo from the prison his mouth had sent him and before you could say jack, he dropped the keys in his laps.

This is why I think it uncharitable that some people blame Obasanjo for single-handedly unleashing his chapter of absurdity on the hunted house called the Presidential Villa. Once reporters asked Babangida why he jailed the late Gani Fawehinmi, and he responded that everybody else before him had done it. It's a military thing not to be outfoxed. It is therefore not surprising that Obasanjo believed that picking successors is the natural order of things. He was working on the doctrine of precedence. Whatever you believe, never accept that the man from Ota left of his own volition.

So, it should not be surprising that President Yar'adua loves his new throne so much that he unplugged the drips and gadgets meant to keep him alive and fly down to Abuja to be tossed and turned by the winds of every political camp. I have come to a painful but empiric conclusion that there is something about the Presidential Villa that destroys; mummify or transmogrify all those who have lived in it. Things would have been better truly, if Nasir el-Rufai had succeeded in totally restoring the lost master plan. For then, he would have uprooted the Villa and send it to its rightful place and allow the botanical garden that it was initially designed for. It would have become the eighth wonder of the universe.

Right now, it is very difficult to say how the trouble between Bros Umaru and Vice Goodluck would eventually play out. Having been cowed to keep off the jinxed seat for a whole week while things played itself out, it is now certain that Goodluck has regained his lost confidence to hand over to Yayale and jet out to shake Obama's hands. I hear some people questioning that decision. They have forgotten that with a thunderous throw of their gavel, both Ladi Bankole and Dave Mark have suspended whatever is left of the constitution for an unwritten code called the doctrine of necessity.

Years back as a student; we were marched to a Sunday service in a church which 419ed us with its new set of drum it had kept in its vestry and was charging a token for the curious to come and see.

Those who went simply came out bedazzled but said nothing, until of course it was the turn of us the students. After a long march, somebody was so pissed off he let out the cat from the bag. I foresee a similar event playing out with the new presidential sightings. The trouble is, who goes in next, Priests of *Okija* or Prophets of Wadata? I hope after them, it would be the turn of reporters, and that yours sincerely would be on the list. If and when that happens, I don't know what might happen. For now, all I ask is a ticket to see Hajiya Turai for an exclusive interview and that would suffice for me.

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

Emir of Fika: Towards hitch free coronation

The installation ceremony of the Emir of Fika at the Federal College of Education (Technical) comes up on 23 April, 2010 in Potiskum.

An emergency security meeting was reportedly held to discuss the matter; this is a good development. It is meant to avert what appears like the imminent breakdown of law and order on that day. The red alert by security forces came on the heels of reports that people from neighbouring villages were streaming into Potiskum, raising concerns in some circles.

The proposed coronation has been a source of friction. It is wor-

risome because of alleged report that the state government has taken sides with the new Emir of Fika in the bid to hold the event at the FCE (Technical) despite the protest from the Potiskum emirate, which is to hold the view that the choice of venue breached an alleged agreement between the Emir of Fika and the Mai Potiskum. Potiskum has the combustible prospect of having two emirs in the same metropolis.

This unfolding crisis is rooted in the event of the 2000, when the late Emir of Fika protested against the installation of the new Mai of Potiskum at the Potiskum stadium, citing security concerns. The Emir of Fika, in March 2000, elicited a response from the government of then-Governor Bukar Abba Ibrahim, stating that the two emirates would be held responsible for any breach of the peace during the installation of

Mai Potiskum. Same day, the state government decided to inform Alhaji Umaru Bubaram, the Mai of Potiskum, that his installation ceremony be held in Yarimaram, the proposed site of his new palace.

This is the reason for the plan to install the Emir of Fika at the FCE premises. And the people have been openly threatening to resist what is now considered an infringement on their territorial integrity.

But the recent revelation that the governor considered the coronation a state affair, which must be supported by all, is indication of official bias.

Concerned elite in the state have been trying to draw the attention of the Federal Government to this combustible situation.

Dan'asabe Kabir, Prison Road, Tsohuwar Kasuwa, Potiskum, Yobe State.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Missing the wood for the trees

SYSTEMS, more than people, are keys to change and development. Focusing on Iwu as the problem of elections in Nigeria rather than on changing our decadent national system is to miss our priority. Change the system and the likes of Iwu would be misfits.

ADEBAYO Alonge, Bauchi, 08130862270.

Another view

ALLOWING Iwu to continue will be construed by Nigerians as Jonathan doing the biddings of Obasanjo, leaving Iwu is synonymous to subscribing to fraudulent elections in 2011.

MAXWELL Sokoto, 08039648802.

Ribadu again? Perish the thought

THE media have recently been awash with the news that Nuhu

Ribadu would be back in the country with speculation that he has been considered for an appointment as special adviser to Goodluck Jonathan on corruption. Ribadu can continue to plant those stories in the media; but what we want him to understand is that he has done his bit, let him go and rest.

ASHIRU Muhammad Usman, Kaduna, 07041910929.

Diaspora policy

FOR now, leave those in the Diaspora alone. Those in the UK have become more British than Nigerian; so also those in the USA are more Americanised. Why adding salt to our political injury. Our democracy is not ripe enough for "Diaspora voting".

UBALE Bompai, Rano, Kano, 08033246464.

What's in it for us?

MR. Acting President should

realise that the Obama led-nuclear summit does not translate into any benefit to Nigeria. Or is he making an alliance with USA on her nuclear foreign policy on Iran and North Korea. Think wisely.

ABDULRASHEED Adamu, Bayero University, Kano, 08035682719.

Watch it, PDP

IF IBB manages to obtain the PDP presidential ticket, the downfall of the party would begin.

YUNANA Elijah, Maiduguri, 08025217771.

Ride on, IBB

WE must thank IBB for the bold step he takes. Since his critics cannot contest, why not let him alone? Who knows, IBB might just be The One.

BARUKOCHI, Minna, 08059488790.



By **Abdulkarim Adubi Abdulmalik**

In new justice minister, hope flickers

The Act of God will never cease to manifest in the life of man. Anywhere, any time and in various ramifications, it will forever come to play; always beating any human imagination. Philosophers aptly corroborated this when they say that "the greatest thing that ever happens in the life of man comes by an unexpected spark". The unexpected here is the Act of God which saw the emerging of Mallam Mohammed Bello Adoke (SAN) as Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation. This development came to his Kogi Central Senatorial District of Kogi State as a flicker in the dark tunnel of political disequilibrium and marginalization. It was like divine water that has come to quench his constituency's long years of thirst for political recognition.

With the inception of the present democratic dispensation in 1999 his Senatorial district, which was 90 percent PDP, gave Chief Olusegun Obasanjo the highest vote in the state at a time when the other two districts, the East was ANPP controlled with former Governor Abubakar Audu in charge while the West was split between the PDP and ANPP.

That was the position of things until 2003, when the West joined Central to eject Audu who had become an emperor at Lugard House and replaced him with Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, also from East. Idris is currently enjoying his second term.

Amazingly, throughout the eight-year rule of Obasanjo, Kogi Central was denied any atom of dividend of democracy. For the four or five times that ministers were appointed from the state, they were all from the West.

As the people in Central groaned, under this obvious neglect, the odd development inflicted a deep sense of frustration among the people with unprecedented intra-community strife that virtually became a serious national security threat.

However, a relief began to appear in the horizon under President Umar Musa Yar'adua, who demonstrated keen interest in reviving the huge national economic potentials of Kogi by giving due attention to the Ajaokuta Steel Complex and the Itakpe Iron Ore companies, which became



Amazingly, throughout the eight-year rule of Obasanjo, Kogi Central was denied any atom of dividend of democracy

moribund under Obasanjo. But the people's hope for a ministerial slot was again killed as the East had it in addition to that of governor.

It is a twist of fate therefore that Adoke, whose community had been under the throes of such marginalization, has been sworn-in by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to oversee the administration of Justice in Nigeria. To those who exploit ethnic numerical advantage to achieve undue political gain, it is thumbs-down and a warning that changes will come when it will. To the long-suffering people of Kogi Central Senatorial district, it is a prayer answered in an unambiguous manner; given the personality of the minister who I knew just too well (we were in the same class in the 1970's) at Government Secondary School, Omu-Aran, one of the triad GSS - Okene, Ilorin and Omu-Aran - in the old Kwara State.

Adoke faces the challenges of his job with equanimity hence seen by some of his colleagues as a terminal tackle, given his handling of sensitive legal cases.

When news spread that he had been nominated, the reaction was that God had answered the prayer of Kogi Central. This is against the backdrop of the fact that it has always been my prayer that whenever the Kogi Central people will come back to political limelight, God should select people who are flushed with vision, hard work and ethno-religious liberality. These qualities are found in the new Justice Minister.

Abdulmalik is Abuja-based Journalist and can be reached on (nowmalik@yahoo.co.uk)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Plague of market fires

In a period of less than one week, the country at the end of last month suffered enormous losses in lives, cash, goods estimated at several billions of naira and unquantifiable psychological trauma from a spate of fire outbreaks that ravaged five major markets.

The tragedy began with the Kanti Kwari textile market in Kano, which went up in flames. A trader who tried to retrieve his sales from the inferno, died in the attempt.

The Damboa market in Damboa Local Government Area of Borno State suffered similar fate. Some 1000 shops were reportedly destroyed in it. A few days later, fire engulfed Bolori market in Maiduguri, consuming 250 shops and their contents.

Kasuwar Kofa market in Bauchi was not spared, with another outbreak there destroying 350 shops.

A section of the Nsukka market in Anambara State was damaged by a fire in which goods worth several millions of naira were lost.

This rash of fire disasters is not new. What brought the recent incidents to the fore are the scale of loss and the serial nature of the occurrences.

Fire tragedies occur in our country due mainly to man-made errors, most notable of these being the lack of proper planning of the markets, with provision for water for fire fighting and free passageways for rescue efforts in times of crisis. Many of our markets are heavily congested by illegal structures, known as "attachments", and several of them have in the past been razed down because of lack of access to tackle fire outbreaks and other emergencies.

There is also the lack of safety consciousness among traders especially in sprawling markets. This should be rectified without further delay. While the type of loss we have seen in the recent fires affect individuals, the economy of the country is also suffers as a result.

The recent tragedies are a wake up call on both the government and the people to take appropriate measures to avoid recurrence.

Planning of the markets should ensure that water hydrants and other fire-fighting equipment and properly trained personnel to man them are available 24 hours to contain any outbreak and respond to distress calls. Particularly big markets such as the ones in Kano, Onitsha, Ibadan and Maiduguri should, in addition to the conventional fire-fighting equipment, be accessible to helicopters to help in a case of any serious emergency.

Fire drills must be a part of the traders' routine so that they know what to do in cases of fire outbreaks. Traders must be told that they have personal responsibility to adopt measures that will safeguard their lives and means of livelihood, and save the markets from calamities.

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Atiku's dilemma

All in politics, as in war, is fair. Otherwise, it would have been unthinkable that with all that former Nigerian Vice President Atiku felt and said about the Peoples Democratic Party and his compatriots that make it up, he would be struggling tooth and nail now to get back into the party. You can deduce the rational. Atiku wants the 2011 Presidential ticket willy-nilly and feels confident that his structures would still fit and perform in his "brainchild" which he sees the PDP as. Besides with former President Olusegun Obasanjo holding sway as the PDP's "capo di tutti capi", then Atiku, the artful and consummate politician feels certain he can swing things in his favour.

Many Northern elite are piqued by Atiku Abubakar's seeming blind ambition to be the President of Nigeria. They see a man who has laid claim to being a member of the Yar'adua family, but whose demonstration of human feeling for his ailing brother Umaru Musa Yar'adua has said very little of that. Aside from the fact that Atiku battled against the President's election to the logical legal conclusion, he, with many Northern politicians have been more occupied with drawing advantage from the President likely failure to recover and leaving open the slot for 2011. This is seen as heartless and a desecration of Northern norms and, indeed, the unspinning of the Northern Knot, Sir Ahmadu Bello's symbol of Northern oneness. But Atiku Abubakar has said that his struggles are 'not about him' but about National issues whose resolve alone can ensure sustainable democracy.

Adama State where he hails from is his first major headache since in the PDP; you join or rejoin from your ward, Local Government Area, and State. Those who control the party in Adamawa State do not feel comfortable about Atiku returning. One top notch of the PDP in Adamawa State confided to me that the party would accept Atiku's estranged protégée, erstwhile Governor Boni Haruna and they have told him so. But Atiku, according to the top gun, was told to go to !?*@, and if he did not know where that was, they suggested he asked the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Party, former President Olusegun Obasanjo. Atiku treats Obasanjo with the same caution as he would a serpent. After all, Obasanjo it was, who repaid Atiku with all the political evil that has been his lot literally from the day he invited the former President to the party in 1999.

From all indications, Atiku Abubakar is yet to get a toe hold on the Adamawa State PDP platform. An earlier claim that Governor of Adamawa State Murtala Nyako would head the former

Timawus Mathias

timmathias@yahoo.com

VP's return reception was discounted by a Nyako aide. It is inconceivable that Murtala Nyako, a retired Navy General would chaperon Atiku, against fellow military men, namely Obasanjo, Danjuma and Babangida. The kite being flown of the possibility of a gang up of governors and civilian politicians against retired generals is certain to crash. There is no hope on such a dichotomy; banking on the sentiment is therefore flawed.

Thus there is yet a hurdle to cross that requires all Atiku's political prowess. Those who know him even for a day would

view. It was a no-holds-barred encounter which left me awed at the man's grasp of politics of our nationhood and his understanding of the man Obasanjo, currently, the issue in Nigerian politics. He said to me that he was able to checkmate Obasanjo's resolve to dump him in 2003 by securing the support of the Governors who in the PDP system lead their delegates in any direction they desired at conventions.

With the convention already in progress in 2003 Obasanjo stood face to face with the reality of losing the 2nd term nomination and had to beg Atiku dramatically to forgive and forget. Atiku Abubakar imagines that it would be possible to have Governors follow him as they did then, like sheep would a shepherd, and I wonder. The Governors have

“Atiku wants the 2011 Presidential ticket willy-nilly and feels confident that his structures would still fit and perform in his “brainchild” which he sees the PDP as

tell you that political doors do not close to this man, a trait he must have acquired from his mentor Shehu Musa Yar'adua. And Atiku has no need to create a faction. One already exists led by Prince Medan Teneke, and Governor Murtala Nyako's Abubakar Kugama leading the other, making the scenario more interesting.

Nyako needs and has got former Governor Boni Haruna to return to the PDP and bring in support to counteract the rebellion of the first inner caucus (cabal). In Nyako's camp, no one is deputy to arrow head former Deputy Governor Bello Tukur now Chief of Staff. We see Boni Haruna holding and turning the umbrella where he was once king, with his erstwhile deputy Bello Tukur on the dais. Can this be?

On the other hand, Senator Jubril Aminu and Adamawa's "Abuja" elite have not warmed up their relationship with Governor Nyako, but are likely to. Even if they do not, the possibility of Atiku Abubakar and Jubril Aminu teaming up against Nyako is as unlikely as cat and mouse would against the dog.

But Atiku could still raise a band of fifth columnists among the many gubernatorial aspirants that were derailed for Nyako in 2007 and are nursing grudges. They have steered clear of the Nyako Administration and have so far maintained a silence, too ominous for comfort.

Shortly after their debacle over Obasanjo's crashed third term dream, I sat down with Atiku Abubakar and he opened up frankly in a lengthy inter-

already discovered that if they stood behind one of their kind, they could make the next President, like they were forced to make President Umaru Yar'adua by President Obasanjo in 2007. More so now that they are smarting from Acting President Goodluck Jonathan's flaunted independence over choice of his cabinet. Thus Atiku may have to contend with new qualified aspirants especially among the 2nd termers of the PDP. The likes of Danjuma Goje, Ahmed Mohammed Makarfi, Saraki and Isa Yuguda have with time, matured and qualified. Besides, there was little benefit derived from their subservience to Atiku in those 8 years. It is doubtful that the Governors will submit themselves to any more servitude of Atiku Abubakar. This to me is the new reality.

Atiku Abubakar's goal is to be President. With the new reality, I can not imagine him getting the nomination without contest as he would have desired. Methinks this is the bone of contention in the Mega Party whose dream to offer the PDP a viable opposition faded into the individual ambitions of the promoters. Atiku's best option would have been to go it alone with his faithful associates and to reconcile with Action Congress on whose platform he contested the previous election, since giving up his ambition is no option. Yet a cluster to the PDP weakens a viable opposition and jeopardises all efforts to achieve electoral reforms. Atiku Abubakar is in a dilemma.

INTERNATIONAL

Ethiopia's Meles pledges growth, fair elections

ETHIOPIAN Prime Minister Meles Zenawi defended his government's policies yesterday and pledged economic growth and fair elections in his final report to parliament ahead of next month's polls.

The African nation votes on May 23 and Meles'

ruling party has come under fire over its restriction of opposition and media freedoms as well as soaring inflation and unemployment figures.

"We will be seeing an economic growth rate of 10.1 percent this year, while inflation will fall to 3.9 per-

cent. This is the result of sound economic policy," he told lawmakers. Ethiopia's inflation rate reached an unprecedented 64 percent in July 2008, the second highest rate in Africa after Zimbabwe.

In heated exchanges over the rising cost of living

in one of the poorest countries in the world, opposition officials voiced doubt over his figures, but Meles defended his claims. "There can never be growth without side effects," he said. The prime minister also said a body had been established to deal with electoral

violations.

"We have agreed to set up councils that look into complaints. There is now a mechanism put in place that deals with any sort of violation during the elections," he said. "Anyone will face consequences if found guilty. That also goes

for our own members," he added, referring to his Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF) party.

Around 200 people died in post-election violence five years ago sparked by accusations that the EPRDF had rigged the ballot.



A woman from DR Congo cooks food for children at the Kala UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees) refugee camp, north of Lusaka.

UNHCR blasts Zambia refugee expulsion

THE UN refugees agency said yesterday that it has protested Zambia's move to deport dozens of refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo after they took part in a demonstration.

"A note verbale sent to the Zambian authorities today expressed alarm at the developments, which have affected some 36 individuals from the Meheba refugee settlement in the country's northwest," said Melissa Fleming, spokeswoman of the UNHCR. The first six people -- including a pregnant woman -- were forcibly returned to DR Congo in February. The remaining 30 were sent back over April 3 and 4, some of whom were separated from their spouses

and children in the process, said Fleming.

Zambian authorities had expelled the refugees after they demonstrated over the removal of a Zambian registration official who was found to be corrupt, said Fleming, adding that she had no further details.

"The refugees... were given no explanation regarding the reasons for their deportation or the possibility of challenging the decision under Zambian law," she said.

The UNHCR noted that even though refugees are required to abide by the law of their host countries, they should not be expelled if they failed to do so. Rather, they should be prosecuted under national laws, stressed Fleming.

Somalia Islamists force music off air

MOGADISHU-BASED radio stations stopped playing all music yesterday following an ultimatum by hardline Islamist militia, in a sign of the insurgents' tightening grip on the Somali capital.

The city's 14 radio stations turned off the Western, Arabic and modern Somali and other African music that fills up their 18-hour broadcast time after an ultimatum by the Hezb al-Islam group expired.

Hezb al-Islam, which controls patches of the war-racked Somali capital, had given the popular stations 10 days to shut down "evil" music broadcasts.

"Today we see an official crackdown on the independent media... The local radio stations stopped playing any kind of music or songs after the deadline given by the Islamists came to an end," said Mohamed Ibrahim, an official of the National Union of Somali Journalists.

"We denounce the move as a gross violation against the freedom of expression... because order after order means there will not be any independent media in this country," he told AFP.

The militants' threat affected all radio stations in both government and Islamist-controlled areas of Mogadishu and programme signature tunes were replaced with random animal or vehicle sounds, an AFP correspondent reported.

Hezb al-Islam and the Al Qaeda-linked Shebab militants control much of Mogadishu, the scene of near-daily clashes with the Western-backed Somali government forces.

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International

Israeli forces kill 2 Palestinians in Gaza

ISRAELI forces fired at Gaza militants from helicopters and tanks early yesterday, killing at least two Palestinian and wounding three, witnesses and medics said. The clash erupted yesterday near a border crossing in central Gaza.

The Israeli military said it struck a group of Palestinians planting explosives near the border fence.

The Islamic Jihad group said it clashed with Israeli forces who entered Gaza. The militants said they came under fire from a helicopter and Israeli tanks.

The body of a 23-year-old Islamic Jihad fighter was taken to a Gaza hospital immediately after the fighting.

Later, a second body was retrieved from

the area, said an Associated Press cameraman at the scene. Gaza's Hamas rulers have tried to maintain a cease-fire with Israel since the end of the Gaza war in January 2009.

However, smaller militant groups sporadically carry out attacks.

Earlier this month, the militant Islamic group indicated it was trying to keep attacks on Israel in check, following a string of Palestinian rocket assaults on southern Israel and retaliatory Israeli strikes.

Islamic Jihad said that on Sunday, Hamas police detained several of its fighters, along with those from another group, and forced them to sign pledges that they would not engage in attacks on Israel.



PALESTINIANS chant slogans as they carry the body of Islamic Jihad militant Wael Abu Jalala, during his funeral in Nusseirat refugee camp, central Gaza Strip, yesterday.

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Peres Syria of arming Hezbollah

ISRAELI President Shimon Peres yesterday accused Syria of supplying Scud missiles to the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah while publicly talking peace. "Syria claims it wants peace while at the same time it delivers Scuds to Hezbollah whose only goal is to threaten the state of Israel," Peres told public radio.

According to Arab media and specialised think-tanks, Syria has been sending some of its arsenal of Scud missiles to Lebanon, an allegation denied by Damascus.

"Syria believes it need do nothing more than let itself be courted by the world, while saying one thing and doing the opposite," Peres, whose post is largely ceremonial, said amid Israeli media reports of rising tensions.

He made the comments just hours before flying to Paris, where he is expected to discuss the issue with French President Nicolas Sarkozy. Israel's Deputy Defence Minister Matan Vilnai declined to go into details of the alleged Scud shipments but said that "Hezbollah's firing capacity has significantly improved."

Israel accuses both Syria and Iran of supplying arms to the Shiite Muslim Hezbollah, whose deadly attack on an army patrol just inside Israel triggered a devastating in the summer of 2006.

In February, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accused Lebanon of allowing Hezbollah to develop its stockpile of weapons.

It says the stockpile includes rockets with a range of more than 300 kilometres (116 miles), capable of reaching major Israeli population centres.

International

Pakistan hits back at nuclear concerns

PAKISTAN'S prime minister yesterday defended his country as a responsible nuclear power, shooting down concerns at a major security summit that extremists could seize loose weapons.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, who controls the Islamic world's only declared nuclear arsenal, rebuffed calls to halt production of fissile material and insisted that Pakistan needed a deterrent against historic rival India.

Instead, Gilani made a new pitch to the United States -- which relies on Pakistan in its campaign against Islamic extremists -- to support the blackout-plagued nation in developing civilian nuclear power.

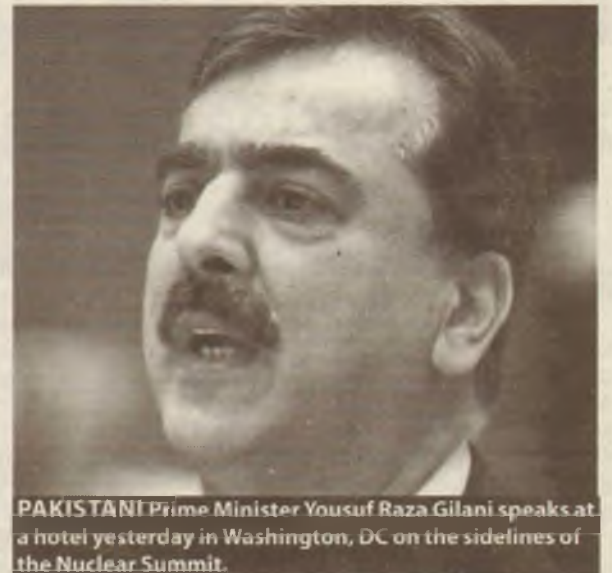
"I assure you that Pakistan, as a responsible nuclear state and an emerging democracy, stands with the international community in its effort to make this world a better place to live in," Gilani told a roundtable with reporters.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who accompanied Gilani, said Pakistan had explained to the United States the three-layer security system it has put in place for its nuclear arsenal. "We are confident that our system is second to none. It's world class," Qureshi said. "Fortunately there has been no incident."

Abdul Qadeer Khan, the father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb, publicly confessed in 2004 that he shared atomic secrets with Iran, Libya and North Korea, although he later retracted his remarks.

The United States is reported to have quietly set up an elite squad that could fly into Pakistan and attempt to secure its weapons if the government disintegrated.

Pakistan's arsenal is heavily guarded, but the report said that the Khan case, pervasive corruption and high-profile attacks against military bases showed the risks.



PAKISTANI Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani speaks at a hotel yesterday in Washington, DC on the sidelines of the Nuclear Summit.

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International

Obama urges leaders to avert nuclear 'catastrophe'

US President Barack Obama told world leaders yesterday to agree on locking down atomic bomb materials to prevent the "catastrophe" of nuclear terrorism.

"Today is an opportunity, not simply to talk, but to act," Obama said. "Not simply to make pledges, but to make real progress for the security of our people." Obama was addressing the leaders of 46 nations on the second day of the summit in Washington, the biggest summit hosted by a US president in more than six decades.

The US president wants the world's military and often loosely guarded civilian stockpiles of uranium and plutonium to be accounted for and secured within four years.

Saying that terrorists could kill thousands with radioactive material just "the size of an apple," Obama warned that talk was not enough. Nuclear materials that could be sold or stolen and fashioned into a nuclear weapon exist in dozens of nations," Obama said.

"Terrorist networks such as al-Qaeda have tried to acquire the material for a nuclear weapon, and if they ever succeed, they would surely use it," he said.

"It would be a catastrophe for the world -- causing extraordinary loss of life, and striking a major blow at global peace and stability."

Leaders at the summit were expected to

issue a joint communique pledging coordinated action on locking down the world's nuclear stockpiles.

On Monday, ex-Soviet Ukraine gave Obama's initiative a relatively small, but concrete boost by pledging to surrender all its weapons-grade uranium. Canada announced a similar plan, as had Chile earlier.

The two-day gathering also saw Obama meet Monday with Chinese President Hu Jintao for talks on Iran's nuclear program, which Washington says is masking a secret bomb-making drive.

The United States is pushing for new UN sanctions against Iran.

The support of China, a big economic partner of Iran and also a veto-wielding member of the UN Security Council, is crucial.

Iran says it is pursuing only civilian power capability and has refused international calls to halt its controversial uranium enrichment program, and place its nuclear program under international supervision.

Yesterday, China reaffirmed its long-held skepticism about the need for sanctions against Iran.

"China always believes that dialogue and negotiation are the best way out for the issue. Pressure and sanctions cannot fundamentally solve it," foreign ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu told reporters.

Nuclear Security Summit
Washington, 2010

US President Barack Obama (right) and Chinese President Hu Jintao attend the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington, DC.

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Poland mourns as president and wife lie in state

THOUSANDS of grieving mourners tossed flowers at a slow-moving hearse or joined an enormous viewing line at the presidential palace to pay their respects yesterday to Polish President Lech Kaczynski and his wife as their bodies lay in state.

Kaczynski and his Maria Kaczynska were among 96 people killed Saturday in a plane crash in western Russia.

Investigators are pointing to human error as the cause. Mourners knelt, prayed and cried before the first couple's closed coffins in the Columned Hall of the palace, where the president appointed and dismissed governments.

The line to get in swelled to over half a mile (1 kilometer) long but the mourners were not deterred. "We will wait as long as it takes," said Alicja Marszalek, a retired telephone operator waiting with a friend. "We want to pay homage to them because they were wonderful people. He was a modest man, very well educated, intelligent and kind."

Polish television broadcast live images of mourners walking by the coffins. Many were families with children, parents and grandparents.

Each coffin was flanked by a pair of soldiers, standing crisp and stonelike. Earlier yesterday, Kaczynska's body was greeted with tears and tulips after being flown home from Russia, and officials announced that the first couple will be buried Sunday in a state funeral at Krakow's Wawel Cathedral.

Stanislaw Kracik, Krakow province governor, said the presidential couple will receive a funeral at 2 p.m. (1200 GMT) Sunday in the 1,000-year-old cathedral — the main burial site of Polish monarchs since the 14th century.

The last Polish leader killed in office, Gen. Wladyslaw Sikorski, the exiled World War II leader who perished in a mysterious plane crash off Gibraltar in 1943, is also interred there. Leaders expected for the funeral include Russian President Dmitri Medvedev.

...As Russians' outpouring of emotion touches Poles

THE plane crash in Russia that killed the Polish president and a long list of notable Poles has brought a sudden rush of warm feelings between two nations whose relations have been fraught with historical hatreds.

In Russia, the normally stoic Vladimir Putin has set the tone with an outpouring of emotion, while Poland has been deeply moved by the gestures of sympathy from a country that had long tried to subjugate it.

In a significant step, a Russian state televi-

sion network on Sunday night aired "Katyn," a celebrated Polish film about a World War II-era Soviet massacre that looms large in Polish memory.

For decades the Soviet Union denied responsibility, and even today many Russians know little about the killings. Closer political ties still seem far off, but Poland's foreign minister, long suspicious of Russia's intentions, made clear the tragic plane crash also offers an opportunity.



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF
JOB COMPETENCE CATALOGUE FOR FEDERAL
MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.**

Introduction

In line with the Federal Government commitment to transform the Federal Civil Service and rebuild the administrative and technical skill base of the Service, a major capacity building drive has been launched with support from the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to Mr. President on Millennium Development Goals (OSSAP-MDGs). One of the activities include the development of a comprehensive competence catalogue / job competence profiling project to ensure that all staff can discharge their responsibilities successfully, efficiently and safely at all times and in all locations. Development of Job Competence Catalogue is based on the assumption that Civil Service Performance will result from having the right people in the right jobs with the right skills and abilities. Ultimately, the Competency Catalogue that will be evolved will contribute to the official list of competencies required by the Federal Civil Service in order to attain its objectives and to deliver service to the Nigerian people. This project is planned to take place across the Federal Civil Service in the financial year 2010. In this regard, interested companies with requisite expertise in establishing libraries of skills, knowledge and attitude required for performance within an organization are invited to submit Tender Documents for the execution of the Job Competence Catalogue.

Preparation of Proposals

Tendering firms are to collect tender documents from the Procurement Department, Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Block A, First Floor, Room 112, Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase II, Abuja or from the website of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation: www.ohcsf.gov.ng.

Each bid shall be completed in two (2) packages: Technical and Financial Proposals. However, only firms with Technical Proposals which are adjudged successful shall have their Financial Proposal opened and assessed. Success in the exercise shall be based on the aggregate scores recorded in the Technical and Financial Proposals.

Technical Proposal

The following pre-qualification documents shall be submitted by the prospective bidders;

- Evidence of Company Registration
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the past 3 years
- Evidence of accreditation by the Centre for Management Development (CMD)
- Company Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years
- Company Profile showing experience, track records and achievements
- Detailed proposal demonstrating expertise in Competence Profiling
- Evidence of having successfully carried out similar works in the last 5 years
- Evidence of availability of qualified faculty and resource persons
- E-copy of all submissions
- Any other relevant information/document

Financial Proposal

The Financial Proposal should state:

- i. The financial cost implication of the project in details
- ii. The bid price validity period for the project

Submission of Tender Documents

The Tender documents should be signed by the Company's Managing Director and/or any other authorized persons. Two (2) spirally bound volumes and one (1) Soft copy of the Technical Proposal shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Technical Proposal". Similarly, two (2) spiral bound volumes of the Financial Proposal shall be placed in a separate envelope clearly marked "Financial Proposal" and with a warning: **DO NOT OPEN WITH THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL** written on it.

The sealed envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposal shall be placed into an outer sealed envelope marked **PROPOSALS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF JOB COMPETENCE CATALOGUE** with the GSM number of the contact person clearly written at the top right hand corner and must be delivered by hand or registered mail on or 12.00 Noon, **Wednesday, April 28, 2010**, to the address below:

The Head of Procurement Department
Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation
Block 'A' 1st Floor, Room 112
Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase II Abuja.

The Tender documents will be opened on **Thursday, April 29, 2010 beginning from 2.00 pm at Atiku Hall, 1st Floor, Federal Secretariat, Phase II, Abuja.** This serves as invitation to representatives of companies who wish to be present at the opening.

Late submission shall not be accepted.

The OHCSF may reject any/all bids at any time without any liability whatsoever. This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of OHCSF by virtue of such bidders having responded to this advertisement.

Signed
Head, Procurement Department
For: Permanent Secretary (CSO)



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA
OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION

**INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
NATIONAL POLICY ON TRAINING FOR THE FEDERAL
CIVIL SERVICE**

Introduction

In line with the Federal Government commitment to transform the Federal Civil Service and rebuild the administrative and technical skill base of the Service, a major capacity building drive has been launched with support from the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to Mr. President on Millennium Development Goals (OSSAP-MDGs). Consequently, the Development of a National Policy on Training for Federal Civil Service has been approved to take place in the financial year 2010.

In this regards, interested companies with requisite competence and expertise in the process of gathering and interpreting data for the development of a training policy are invited to submit Tender Documents for the execution of the Development of the National Training Policy.

Preparation of Proposals

Tendering firms are to collect tender documents from the Procurement Department, Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Block A, First Floor, Room 112, Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase II, Abuja or from the website of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation: www.ohcsf.gov.ng.

Each bid shall be completed in two (2) packages: Technical and Financial Proposals. However, only firms with Technical Proposals which are adjudged successful shall have their Financial Proposal opened and assessed. Success in the exercise shall be based on the aggregate scores recorded in the Technical and Financial Proposals.

Technical Proposal

The following pre-qualification documents shall be submitted by the prospective bidders;

- Evidence of Company Registration
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the past 3 years
- Evidence of Accreditation by the Centre for Management Development (CMD)
- Company Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years
- Company Profile showing experience, track records and achievements
- Detailed proposal demonstrating expertise in Policy Development
- Evidence of having successfully carried out similar works in the last 5 years
- Evidence of availability of qualified faculty and resource persons
- E-copy of all submissions
- Any other relevant information/document

Financial Proposal

The Financial Proposal should state:

- i. The financial cost implication of the project in details
- ii. The bid price validity period for the project

Submission of Tender Documents

The Tender documents should be signed by the Company's Managing Director and/or any other authorized persons. Two (2) spirally bound volumes and one (1) Soft copy of the Technical Proposal shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Technical Proposal". Similarly, two (2) spiral bound volumes of the Financial Proposal shall be placed in a separate envelope clearly marked "Financial Proposal" and with a warning: **DO NOT OPEN WITH THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL** written on it.

The sealed envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposals shall be placed into an outer sealed envelope marked **DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL POLICY ON TRAINING** with the GSM number of the contact person clearly stated at the top right hand corner must be delivered by hand or registered mail on or before **12.00 Noon, Wednesday, April 28, 2010**, to the address below:

The Head of Procurement Department
Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation
Block 'A' 1st Floor, Room 112
Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase II Abuja.

The Tender documents will be opened on **Friday, April 30, 2010 beginning from 10.00 am at Atiku Hall, 1st Floor, Federal Secretariat, Phase II, Abuja.** This serves as invitation to representatives of companies who wish to be present at the opening.

Late submission shall not be accepted.

The OHCSF may reject any/all bids at any time without any liability whatsoever.

This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of OHCSF by virtue of such bidders having responded to this advertisement.

Signed
Head, Procurement Department
For: Permanent Secretary (CSO)



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE STAFF DATA BASE

Introduction

In line with the Federal Government commitment to transform the Federal Civil Service and rebuild the administrative and technical skill base of the Service, a major capacity building drive has been launched with support from the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to Mr. President on Millennium Goals (OSSAP-MDGs). This involves the development of a data base for the Federal Civil Service that serves as repository of all Federal Civil Service staff, thereby providing a Federal Civil Service Staff Management Information System. This project is planned to take place across the Federal Civil Service in the financial year 2010.

In this regards, interested companies with requisite expertise in development of data base of staff within an organization are invited to submit Tender Documents for the execution of the Federal Civil Service Staff Data Base Project.

Preparation of Proposals

Tendering firms are to collect tender documents from the Procurement Department, Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Block A, First Floor, Room 112, Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase II, Abuja or from the website of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation: www.ohcsf.gov.ng.

Each bid shall be completed in two (2) packages: Technical and Financial Proposals. However, only firms with Technical Proposals which are adjudged successful shall have their Financial Proposal opened and assessed. Success in the exercise shall be based on the aggregate scores recorded in the Technical and Financial Proposals.

Technical Proposal

The following pre-qualification documents shall be submitted by the prospective bidders;

- Evidence of Company Registration
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the past 3 years
- Evidence of accreditation by the Centre for Management Development (CMD)
- Company Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years
- Company Profile showing experience, track records and achievements
- Detailed proposal demonstrating expertise in Data Base
- Evidence of having successfully carried out similar works in the last 5 years
- Evidence of availability of qualified faculty and resource persons
- E-copy of all submissions
- Any other relevant information/document

Financial Proposal

The Financial Proposal should state:

- i. The financial cost implication of the project in details
- ii. The bid price validity period for the project

Submission of Tender Documents

The Tender documents should be signed by the Company's Managing Director and/or any other authorized persons. Two (2) spirally bound volumes and one (1) Soft copy of the Technical Proposal shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Technical Proposal". Similarly, two (2) spiral bound volumes of the Financial Proposal shall be placed in a separate envelope clearly marked "Financial Proposal" and with a warning: **DO NOT OPEN WITH THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL** written on it.

The sealed envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposals shall be placed into an outer sealed envelope marked **DEVELOPMENT OF STAFF DATA BASE** with the GSM number of the contact person clearly written at the top right hand corner must be delivered by hand or registered mail on or before **12.00 Noon, Wednesday, April 28, 2010**, to the address below:

The Head of Procurement Department
Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation
Block 'A' 1st Floor, Room 112
Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase II Abuja.

The Tender documents will be opened on **Friday, April 30, 2010 beginning from 10.00 am at Atiku Hall, 1st Floor, Federal Secretariat, Phase II, Abuja**. This serves as invitation to representatives of companies who wish to be present at the opening.

Late submission shall not be accepted.

The OHCSF may reject any/all bids at any time without any liability whatsoever.

This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of OHCSF by virtue of such bidders having responded to this advertisement.

Signed
Head, Procurement Department
For: Permanent Secretary (CSO)



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE CONDUCT OF TRAINING NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR FEDERAL MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

Introduction

In line with the Federal Government commitment to transform the Federal Civil Service and rebuild the administrative and technical skill base of the Service, a major capacity building drive has been launched with support from the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to Mr. President on Millennium Development Goals (OSSAP-MDGs). A comprehensive Training Needs Assessment (TNA) exercise has been approved to take place across the Federal Civil Service in the financial year 2010.

In this regards, interested companies with requisite competencies and expertise in the process of gathering and interpreting data for identifying areas of personal and organizational performance improvement are invited to submit Tender Documents for the execution of Training Needs Assessment Project.

Preparation of Proposals

Tendering firms are to collect tender documents from the Procurement Department, Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Block A, First Floor, Room 112, Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase II, Abuja or from the website of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation: www.ohcsf.gov.ng.

Each bid shall be completed in two (2) packages: Technical and Financial Proposals. However, only firms with Technical Proposals which are adjudged successful shall have their Financial Proposal opened and assessed. Success in the exercise shall be based on the aggregate scores recorded in the Technical and Financial Proposals.

Technical Proposal

The following pre-qualification documents shall be submitted by the prospective bidders;

- Evidence of Company Registration
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the past 3 years
- Evidence of accreditation by the Centre for Management Development (CMD)
- Detail proposal demonstrating expertise in conduct of TNA
- Company Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years
- Company Profile showing experience, track records and achievements
- Evidence of having successfully carried out similar works in the last 5 years
- Evidence of availability of qualified faculty and resource persons
- E-copy of all submissions
- Any other relevant information/document

Financial Proposal

The Financial Proposal should state:

- i. The financial cost implication of the project in details
- ii. The bid price validity period for the project

Submission of Tender Documents

The Tender documents should be signed by the Company's Managing Director and/or any other authorized persons. Two (2) spirally bound volumes and one (1) Soft copy of the Technical Proposal shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Technical Proposal". Similarly, two (2) spiral bound volumes of the Financial Proposal shall be placed in a separate envelope clearly marked "Financial Proposal" and with a warning: **DO NOT OPEN WITH THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL** written on it.

The sealed envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposals shall be placed into an outer sealed envelope marked **DELIVERY OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS** with the GSM number of the contact person clearly written at the top right hand corner must be delivered by hand or registered mail on or before **12.00 Noon, Wednesday, April 28, 2010**, to the address below:

The Head of Procurement Department
Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation
Block 'A' 1st Floor, Room 112
Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase II Abuja.

The Tender documents will be opened on **Thursday, April 29, 2010 beginning from 10.00 am at Atiku Hall, 1st Floor, Federal Secretariat, Phase II, Abuja**. This serves as invitation to representatives of companies who wish to be present at the opening.

Late submission shall not be accepted.

The OHCSF may reject any/all bids at any time without any liability whatsoever.

This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of OHCSF by virtue of such bidders having responded to this advertisement.

Signed
Head, Procurement Department
For: Permanent Secretary (CSO)



FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF CIVIL SERVICE OF THE FEDERATION

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE DELIVERY OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS FOR FEDERAL MINISTRIES, DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.

Introduction

In line with the Federal Government commitment to transform the Federal Civil Service and rebuild the administrative and technical skill base of the Service, a major capacity building drive has been launched with support from the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to Mr. President on Millennium Development Goals (OSSAP-MDGs). This involves diagnostic, design, develop, deliver and deployment of training interventions in critical areas of the Civil Service. We are now at the stage, where the Service is ready to commence delivery of training programmes in defined areas across the Federal Civil Service in the financial year 2010.

In this regards, interested companies with expertise and cognate experience in Training delivery are invited to submit Tender Documents for the execution of Training programmes outlined in the work scope.

Preparation of Proposals

Tendering firms are to collect tender documents from the Procurement Department, Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation, Block A, First Floor, Room 112, Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase II, Abuja or from the website of the Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation: www.ohcsf.gov.ng.

Each bid shall be completed in two (2) packages: Technical and Financial Proposals. However, only firms with Technical Proposals which are adjudged successful shall have their Financial Proposal opened and assessed. Success in the exercise shall be based on the aggregate scores recorded in the Technical and Financial Proposals.

Technical Proposal

The following pre-qualification documents shall be submitted by the prospective bidders;

- Evidence of Company Registration
- Tax Clearance Certificate for the past 3 years
- Evidence of accreditation by the Centre for Management Development (CMD)
- Company Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years
- Company Profile showing experience, track records and achievements
- Evidence of having successfully carried out similar works in the last 5 years
- Evidence of availability of qualified faculty and resource persons
- E-copy of all submissions
- Any other relevant information/document

Financial Proposal

The Financial Proposal should state:

- i. The financial cost implication of the project in details
- ii. The bid price validity period for the project

Submission of Tender Documents

The Tender documents should be signed by the Company's Managing Director and/or any other authorized persons. Two (2) spirally bound volumes and one (1) Soft copy of the Technical Proposal shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked "Technical Proposal". Similarly, two (2) spiral bound volumes of the Financial Proposal shall be placed in a separate envelope clearly marked "Financial Proposal" and with a warning: **DO NOT OPEN WITH THE TECHNICAL PROPOSAL** written on it.

The sealed envelopes containing the Technical and Financial Proposals shall be placed into an outer sealed envelope marked **DELIVERY OF TRAINING PROGRAMMES AND INTERVENTIONS** with the GSM number of the contact person clearly written at the top right hand corner must be delivered by hand or registered mail on or before **12.00 Noon, Wednesday, April 28, 2010**, to the address below:

The Head of Procurement Department
Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation
Block 'A' 1st Floor, Room 112
Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase II Abuja.

The Tender documents will be opened on **Wednesday, April 28, 2010 beginning from 2.00 pm at Atiku Hall, 1st Floor, Federal Secretariat, Phase II, Abuja.** This serves as invitation to representatives of companies who wish to be present at the opening.

Late submission shall not be accepted.

The OHCSF may reject any/all bids at any time without any liability whatsoever.

This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of OHCSF by virtue of such bidders having responded to this advertisement.

Signed

Head, Procurement Department
For: Permanent Secretary (CSO)



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

4th FLOOR, BLOCK C, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT, PHASE II, ABUJA

PRE-QUALIFICATION TENDER NOTICE

INTRODUCTION

The Federal Ministry of Youth Development intends to pre-qualify reputable contractors and other service providers who wish to tender for jobs as specified below and accordingly invites interested contractors/service providers who are competent, experienced and reputable to apply.

AREAS OF SERVICE REQUIRED

- a) Construction Projects
- b) Procurement of Office Equipment, Furniture and General Supplies
- c) Consultancy Services in Professional Fields as Architectural Services, Engineering Services, Quantity Surveying, Online Entrepreneurship Training Programme, E-Mentoring for Youth etc

PRE-QUALIFICATION CRITERIA:

2. Interested contractors are required to submit the following documents:
 - a) Certificate of registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission;
 - b) Comprehensive company profile;
 - c) Current Tax Clearance Certificate;
 - d) Certificate of Value Added Tax (VAT);
 - e) Verifiable Evidence of similar jobs executed in the last three years and completed with letters of commission/evidence of completion;
 - f) Evidence of Financial capability to handle the job;
 - g) Detailed Curriculum Vitae and Relevant Qualification in the field of interest (for Consultants)
 - h) Evidence of registration with the Federal Ministry of Works (for construction); and
 - i) Any other relevant information that will enhance the potential of the company.

SUBMISSION

- 3 The pre-qualification documents are to be submitted within two weeks of this advertisement to:

The Secretary,
Procurement Planning Committee
Federal Ministry of Youth Development,
1st Floor, Block C,
Room 1A¹.1.22
Federal Secretariat, Phase II,
Abuja.

4. In addition, such submission shall be enclosed in appropriate envelope and marked on top left hand corner

"CONFIDENTIAL: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR 2010 PRE-QUALIFICATION"

5. Submitted pre-qualification documents shall be opened at 2:00 p.m. on the day of the closure of submission (i.e 2 (two) weeks from the date of this advertisement) in the Conference Room of the Permanent Secretary, 4th Floor, Block C, Federal Secretariat, Phase II, Abuja.

Signed
Permanent Secretary.



April 14, 2010

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA MINISTRY OF MINES AND STEEL DEVELOPMENT (MMSD) SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES PROJECT (SMMRP)

CREDIT No. 4012-UNI PROCUREMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS IFB No. (SMMRP/NCB/G/04/2009)

1. This Invitation for Bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in Development Business, issue no. ID-843108 of 9TH December, 2004.

2. The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the **PROCUREMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MEASUREMENT EQUIPMENT AND MATERIALS**

3. The **Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project** now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of Environmental Measurement Equipment and Materials:

Item N°	Description of Goods	Quantity	Bid Security
Item 1	HP Laptop (portable computers)	6	2.5% of Bid Price
Item 2	Portable GPS for main stake holders	12	
Item 3	Portable sound measurement equipment	6	
Item 4	Field Air Quality Monitor(8-10 Parameters) and air sampler		
4.1	Portable Turbidity meter	3	
4.2	Dissolved oxygen meter.	3	
4.3	Multiparameter meter	3	
Item 5	VOC Monitor	3	
Item 6	SPM Monitor	6	
Item 7	Field Water Quality Monitor	6	
Item 8	Portable Mercury Analyzers		
8.1	Portable Mercury Analyzers	3	
8.2	Portable Mercury Vapor Analyzer	3	

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

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from **Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project at the address below** and inspect the Bidding Documents from **11:00am to 4:00pm Mondays to Fridays.**

6. Qualifications requirements include:
* Documentary evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar Equipment proposed for the last 5 years.
* Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and adequate working capital.

A margin of preference for eligible national contractors **shall not be applied.**

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in **English** may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee **N 10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira) only**. The method of payment will be by bank draft in favor of **Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources Project**. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or by courier services on request.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before **10:00am on Thursday May 13, 2010**. Electronic bidding **will not** be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives, who choose to attend in person at the address below at **10:30am on Thursday May 13, 2010**. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as indicated in the table in paragraph three above or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

9. The address referred to above is:

**Project Coordinator
Project Management Unit (PMU)
Sustainable Management of Mineral Resources
Project (SMMRP)
Ministry of Mines and Steel Development
No 6 Marte Close, Off Misau Crescent
Garki II - Abuja, Nigeria
TEL: +234- 8053000153, 8033140096
E-MAIL: uladie2001@yahoo.co.uk ,
uladie@mssmd.gov.ng**

Signed

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

World Bank's projects in Nigeria hit \$4.2bn

WORLD Bank President Robert Zoellick said on Tuesday in Washington that the portfolio of the bank in various projects in Nigeria had reached \$4.2 billion.

Zoellick made this known at a meeting of the bank's senior officials with Acting President Goodluck Jonathan at the World Bank's Building in Washington D.C.

Finance Minister Olusegun Aganga told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Washington D.C. that the meeting was at the instance of the bank to underscore its support for the government.

"The meeting was very fruitful. They were very impressed with all the decisions the Acting President has taken so far and with his style of leadership.

"We urged the bank to do more to help Nigeria to achieve its goals and objectives.

"They were very interested in understanding the priorities of the Acting President," Aganga said.

The minister said the meeting discussed crucial infrastructural and development needs of the country and how the bank could collaborate with the government.

"We talked about infrastructure; we talked about power, rail, the Petroleum Industry Bill and the Niger Delta," he said.

The minister stated that the projects under the portfolio of the bank in Nigeria "cut across finance, power, capacity building, infrastructure support in the Niger Delta, Lagos and urban water. "In all these areas, the bank pledged to help and support us fully. I, as the Minister of Finance, I have been asked to look at these various areas," he said.

Aganga said Nigeria would continue to attract a lot of goodwill in momentum because a lot of groups and international bodies were willing to associate with the present government. He explained that the goodwill notwithstanding, government would not lose its track of driving the economy.

The minister explained that the National Economic Team would soon be constituted as promised by the Acting President.

He assured that the members would include credible, sound minded and



World Bank President Robert Zoellick

result-oriented Nigerians who would fast track the economy for quick results.

NAN reports that the Managing Director of the bank, Mrs Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala,

its Vice President for Africa, Mrs Oby Ezekwesili and the Nigeria Country Director, Mr Onno Ruhl were present at the meeting.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Chanchangi Airlines
 Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 17.30
 Abj-Lagos: 08.00, 11.45, 13.40, 15.30, 17.00
 Lagos-Kad: 10.45, (on Fri), 17.00(Mon/Fri/sat/Sun)
 Kad-Lagos: 07.30(Mon/Fri), 08.00(Sat/Sun)
Nigerian Eagles Airlines (Virgin Nigeria)
 Abj-Kano: 18.40 (Mon-Fri)/sun
 Kano-Abj: 08.35 (Mon-Fri) /Sat
 Abj-Soko: 09:35, (Mon), 10:10 (Fri), 11:20 (Wed/Sun)
 Soko-Abj: 11.35(Mon), 12.00(Fri), 13:20 (Wed/sun)
 Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 11.40, 14.00, 16.30, 17.00, 17.20;
 18.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun), 8.00; 12.40; 13.10; 20:00 (Fri)
 Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.30, 11.15, 16.15;
 19.15, 19.25, 19:35 (Mon-Fri/Sat/sun);14:55; 15:15;
 20:45(Fri); 19:45(Sun); 11:25, 13:35, 16:25(Mon)
 Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00,
 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20,
 12.45, 15.30, 16.15, 17.15 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); Lagos-
 Owr: 12:15; (Tue-Fri/Sun; 12:40 (Mon/Sat)
 Owr-Lagos: 14:25 (Tue-Fri/Sun) 14:50 (Mon /Sat)
 Lagos-Cal: 08:00 (Fri), 09:10 (Wed-Thu), 12:40 (Tue/
 Sat/Sun), 13:10 (Mon)
 Cal-Lagos: 10.05 (Fri); 11.15(Wed/Thu); 14.55 (Tue/
 Sat-Sun), 15.15(Mon)
IRS Airlines
 Lagos-Abj: 09.45, 11.45, 12.45, (Mon-Fri) 09.30,
 12.45(Sat&Sun)
 Lagos-Kano: 06.15(Mon-Fri), 16.30(Sat/ Sun)
 Kano-Lagos: 07.30(Mon-Fri), 10.30(Sat/ Sun)
 Abuja-Kano: 10.30am (Mon-Fri/Sun)
 Kano-Abuja: 11.45, 5.00 Fri, 12.15 Sun

STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Tuesday, April 13, 2010
Index	27,929.86
Volume:	932,596,441
Cap:	N6,755,546,653,320.00

TRUST INDEX

Inflation	12.3%
GDP	6.90%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$40bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$3.2bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$85 a barrel
Power Supply	2,500MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
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

12/4/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2818	0.2918	0.3018
DANISH KRONER	26.8521	26.9433	27.0344
EURO	199.945	200.6237	201.3024
POUNDS STERLING	227.001	227.7746	228.5481
RIYAL	39.28	39.4134	39.5467
SDR	224.662	225.4246	226.1872
WAUA	222.3792	223.1341	223.8889
YEN	1.7747	1.7801	1.7854

Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N202
Pound	N232
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Pound	N234

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



Business/Analysis

Abuja electricity consumers to Jonathan: 'Now that you are in charge let there be light'

By Fidelis Mac-Leva

EVEN as the largest oil producer in Africa and the sixth largest oil exporter in the world, Nigeria still ranks abysmally low in terms of power generation, transmission and distribution. Across the length and breadth of the country, there is a huge outcry over the worsening situation of electricity for domestic and industrial consumption. The most affected are traders, particularly those who engage in small and medium scale businesses. The situation has forced many to resort to the use of standby generators even with their attendant consequences.

This, perhaps, explains why some Nigerians have welcomed the recent decision by acting President Goodluck Jonathan to take charge of the Power Ministry. Jonathan is also heading a Presidential Committee on Power with Minister of State [Power] Architect Nuhu Wya as vice Chairman. Other members of the Committee include; Finance Minister, Olusegun Aganga; Central Bank Governor, Sanusi Lamido Sanusi; the Director General of Public Procurement (BPP), Mr. Emeka Ezech as well as his counterpart from the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), Ms Bolanle Onagoruwa.

The Nigerian Senate and the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) separately welcomed the new development in the Power sector by describing the decision by Jonathan to take charge of the Power Ministry as a good omen for the country.

Vice President of MAN Walid Jibrin said: "We welcome the development with the hope that the acting President will bring about the desired reforms in the power sector."

According to Jibril, the power sector had gone through a lot of problems over the years but with Jonathan now in charge, MAN was hopeful that the challenges

would be addressed.

On its part, however, the National Union of Electricity Employees, NUÉE, says there is no big deal in the acting President Goodluck Jonathan heading the Power Ministry provided he has the commitment and time to deliver the desired results.

Comrade Joe Ajaero, General Secretary of the Union told Daily Trust on phone that the power sector had failed Nigerians over the years because people of conflicting interests were being appointed to manage the sector, stressing that If the acting President wants to revive the power sector and make a difference, he must lay a solid foundation for the sector's reforms.

"There is no big deal with the acting President handling the power sector. Our only concern is whether he would not be weighed down by state matters, or brings in people with conflicting interest", Ajaero said.

For most residents of the Federal Capital Territory said the time has come for the government to move away from rhetoric and start delivering on its failed promises of improved electricity generation so that her citizens could stop relying on standby generators which had become the only alternative to poor electricity generation.

Many operators of Small and medium scale industrial establishments have been forced to close down due to lack of power, resulting to the throwing of thousands of workers into the labour market.

Most traders spoken with are not happy with the declining power generation in the FCT which they say has forced them to rely heavily on standby generators. They are, however, hopeful that they would no longer rely heavily on their generators now that the acting President, Goodluck Jonathan, has taken charge of



MINISTER of State for Power Nuhu Somo Wya

the Power Ministry with a promise to improve the situation.

Some residents of Abuja who use standby generators for domestic purposes say they patronize standby generators as a way of beating the current power crisis, lamenting that the cost and maintenance of standby generators had impacted seriously on their incomes. A survey conducted at some markets within Abuja showed that the cost of standby generators range from N8, 000 to as much as N150, 000 depending on the size and brand.

Judith, a sales girl in an electronics shop at Sheriff Plaza is one of those hoping for improved power supply with the acting president taking charge of the power sector.

She said: "We spend nothing

less than 20 liters of petrol, amounting to N3, 000 a day anytime the PHCN takes light."

In the same vein, Andrew John who owns a shop at Sheriff Plaza wuse-2 laments: "Power outages from PHCN has adversely impacted on my business in terms of profit, budget and time and from the way things are going the problem of poor power generation will apparently persist except the acting President does something to change the situation."

Ndu Emeka, trader at Wuse market wants the acting President to address the issues affecting power supplies because of the hazards associated with standby generators.

"Can't you see that the noise can not even allow us to talk? All over this market, the noise

and the smoke coming out from those generators are unbearable", he laments.

Architect Nuhu Somo Wya, Minister of State (Power) who retained his former portfolio in the reconstituted federal cabinet described the overseeing of the ministry by the acting President as cheering news.

"Mr. acting President has a strong passion for Power and he will do everything possible to unravel the mystery surrounding the sector", Wya said.

The minister who ruled out any declaration of a state of emergency in the Power sector said: "We are not declaring a state of emergency in the Power sector but we are working in an emergency manner to achieve the goals of the power sector reforms."

Tailors want FG to ban second hand clothes

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

THE Lagos State Tailors and Garment Association (LASTGA) has urged the Federal Government to ban smuggling of second hand clothes into the country.

President of the association Adebisi Daramola said yesterday in Lagos that if well implemented, the ban would check the influx of second hand cloths into the country as well as strengthen its economy.

According to him, the sector was at the risk of collapse due to

influx of smuggled second hand cloths into the country.

"The association's over 50,000 members are now wallowing in abject poverty because of the influx of second hand cloths into the country.

"The influx has greatly reduced the activities of our members because 80 per cent of the cloths are ladies' wears.

"There is also the challenge of substandard cloths from Asian countries, which amounts to 10 per cent of cloths coming into the country," he said.

Securities settles N54.05bn stocks

THE Central Securities Clearing System (CSCS) cleared and settled N54.05 billion shares in February against the N46.72 billion shares recorded in January.

This was announced in a stock market monthly review made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos.

It said the figure represents a 15.7 per cent growth in the value of shares cleared and settled by the clearing house, a subsidiary of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE).

The report said the house specifically cleared and settled 7.85 billion certificates in the month under review.

It said the cleared certificates were 5.1 per cent lower than the 8.27 billion certificates cleared and settled

in January.

The report said the CSCS investors deposited 81,690 share certificates in February in contrast to the 77,182 certificates deposited in January, representing a growth of 5.8 per cent.

"In February, the volume of certificates deposited stood at 3.14 billion shares as against the 6.49 billion shares deposited in January, representing 51.6 per cent drop in the volume of shares deposited," it added.

The report said that during the month under review, 15,296 new accounts were created for shareholders in contrast to the 13,000 opened at the beginning of 2010.

The number of inter-member transfer stood at 5,718 as against the 4,583 recorded in the preceding

month.

It said the request for stock position stood at 6,179 in February compared with 6,214 transferred in January.

The CSCS said that while there was no certificate requested between January and February, the number of certificates used as collaterals by shareholders dipped to 34 as against 42 recorded in January.

NAN quotes the report as saying that FinBank Plc was the most active stock with 552.52 million shares exchanging hands in the period under review.

The bank was followed by the technology company, IHS Plc with 488.7 million shares, while Zenith placed third with 468.81 million shares. (NAN)

Business

Union Bank finances merchant vessel

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

UNION Bank of Nigeria Plc is single-handedly financing the acquisition of a state-of-the-art merchant vessel (MV) C-Racer by Rangk Limited, an indigenous company.

Speaking during the commissioning ceremony of the ship in Lagos, the Group Managing Director (GMD) of the Bank, Mrs. Funke Osibodu said the funding of the vessel was one of the many developmental projects sponsored by the Bank for national economic development.

The GMD who was represented at the occasion by the Executive Director, Corporate, International

and Investment Banking and Treasury Philip Ikeazor, said it was a partnership that works between the Bank and Rangk Limited; stressing that the Bank would continue to demonstrate its strong fundamentals in all sectors of the economy.

Also speaking at the commissioning, the Chairman of Rangk Limited, Rear Admiral Ndubuisi Kanu (rtd), said "we are glad that Union Bank of Nigeria single-handedly financed the construction of M/V C Racer."

He called on other banks and financial institutions to be committed in the financing of ship building for indigenous operators.

Ndubuisi also implored the Fed-

eral Government and the Central Bank of Nigeria to take urgent steps to restructure the lending interest regime so as to make it friendlier to the maritime industry.

The brand new merchant vessel is of Model CB-180 A; a squad screw diesel powered aluminium crew boat, suitable for ocean service and built by the Midship Marine Company, Louisiana United States of America.

The boat was built to the United State Coast Guard and ABS Class's regulations to carry 80 passengers and 8 crew members which may be deployed for various supply services to the oil and gas companies.

African countries want adoption of free zones

By Sunday Williams

DIFFERENT countries in Africa have called for the adoption of free zones as a major tool of economic development in the continent, Secretary General of Africa Free Zone Association (AFZA) Mr. Chris Ndibe has said.

He said countries in East Asia, Central America and the Caribbean basin have successfully used free trade zones as an instrument of economic development.

Speaking to newsmen in Abuja on AFZA forthcoming convention scheduled to take place in South Africa this

month, the Secretary General said attempts to adopt free zones in Africa, with the exception of Mauritius, have been significantly unsuccessful.

The African Free Zone Association (AFZA) was formed to look into ways of improving the operation of the Free Zones in the continent and making them successful.

He added: "The Free Trade Zones World over encourage foreign and local investors by removing certain disincentives that are associated in some aspects of businesses especially in manufacturing."

Oando grows profit by 21%

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

OANDO Plc has announced a N13.5 billion gross profit for the year ending 31 December 2009, representing a 26 per cent increase from N10.7 billion over the same period in 2008.

Profit After Tax also grew by 21% to N10.1 billion from N8.3

billion in 2008 while earnings per share also went up by 23 per cent.

Oando said its consistent growth was recorded amidst persistent challenges in the operating environment which validates the company's diversified business model.

In spite of the enormous difficulties faced by businesses during the year under review, the Group

was more profitable over the company's performance for the year ended 2008. This is a testimony to Oando's drive towards excellence and leadership in providing diverse energy solutions across the entire spectrum of the energy value chain, it said.

The year's turnover dipped by 1 per cent from N339.4 billion in

2008 compared with N336.9 billion achieved in 2009. The decline is attributable to the decision of the Supply and Trading division to suspend further importation of petroleum products as a result of government's delay in paying the Petroleum Subsidy Fund receivables (PSF).

Commenting, Mr. Wale Tinubu,

Group Chief Executive said: "We had notable achievements in the upstream business; successful production tests on Akepo 1 oil well, commencement of production from Obodeti/Obodugwa oilfields and the commencement of deployment of our rigs fleet with International Oil Companies contracts in the Niger Delta."



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Star Feature

Niger Bridge: Story of Lokoja's homeless

A number of homeless people dwell under the Niger bridge at Lokoja. Here they tell interesting stories of why they finally decided to set up home beneath the bridge

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

A traveller from Abuja would, on reaching the River Niger Bridge at Jimata, a sleepy village, about 20 kilometres from Lokoja, the Kogi State capital, unconsciously get so carried away by the splendour of the historical river, that he/she hardly imagines that some humans inhabit the area immediately beneath this bridge. While this may seem to be a fantasy to many, our correspondent who went beneath the bridge discovered

the unknown world of its dwellers.

Upon spotting this reporter, these dwellers, in the twinkling of an eye, developed cold feet. Some of them abruptly took to their heels. The reason was obvious. They mistook the reporter for a task force official. Thanks to one of them, Abubakar Yakubu, who summoned courage and curiously quizzed: "Oga what brought you here? I hope you are not here to arrest us. You can see people running away".

Convinced that the 'stranger'

in their midst was not on a 'mischievous' mission, these dwellers staggered back and simultaneously reacted thus: "You are welcome oga. What should we offer you? How about food? Will you take some fish? Just make a choice."

22-year-old Musa Ahmed is a comedian. He says he has been living under the River Niger Bridge since 2006. He ecstatically provides an insight into what attracted him and his co-dwellers to live under the bridge: "We were afraid when we saw you. We wouldn't want any-

body to spoil our fun here. This is another world entirely. Life is sweet here. You cannot understand what I mean, until you try to join us. We live and get our means of livelihood here.

"I have been living here for the past four years. I am a comedian, and this is where I entertain my audience every night. If you come here around 10pm, you would see how I make people laugh with my talent. It was here I discovered my talent in comic performances, and it has been a wonderful experience. I make at least N500 every night. One thing you would discover is that almost everybody living under this bridge is battling with homelessness. We are a people saddened by our inability to afford living in the expensive city of Lokoja. Here, no landlord is on our neck'.

Razaq Adekola, a basket weaver, says he has lived under the bridge for seven years. Living there, he contends, is accidental. "How could one just choose to live under this bridge?" he asks. He hints that the harsh socio-economic condition of the state pushed him and his co-inhabitants there, stressing that nearly all of them there are victims of the general problem of homelessness, staring millions of poverty-stricken Nigerians in the face.

"My brother, what can we do? Life must go on. Our situation is a typical example of the suffering unleashed on the common man in this country. Just like many of my co-inhabitants here, I left Lokoja metropolis in 2003 when my landlord ejected me from his house, because I could not afford to pay the rent. I was initially paying 25,000 as rent, before he increased it to N30,000. It was then an old friend of mine invited me. I did not even know that he was living here. I thought he had left Lokoja for another place. He was the one who consoled me that living here could bring succour.

"To be frank, I have no regret living here. It was here I learnt how to weave baskets. This has been serving as a source of living since I settled here. Now, I am able to send my daughter to a primary school around this area. Can you believe that living inside the town was very difficult for me? I just pray that government officials do not come to drive us away from here", he wished.

46-year-old Bello Musa describes the River Niger Bridge as a meeting point for the helpless and the weak, in Kogi State. It has, he posits, afforded them the opportunity, not only to share feelings, but also to fashion out ways of addressing their collective plights.

"One thing I am sure of is that



BASKET weavers are numerous.



SOME women settlers under the bridge.

One of us was happy coming here, in the first instance. We were constrained to live here. But on getting here, we realised it is a blessing. Apart from living here, many of us are also engaged in one or two things to keep body and soul together. Under this bridge, I peel cassava, and it is from the proceeds I make here that I fend for my family. As you can see, a lot of activities are taking place here. Most of our customers come from nearby villages. For me, I don't think I will go back to the city", he maintained.

32-year-old Habibab Labaran proclaims that she gave birth to her first and only daughter under this bridge. How did she get there? She explains: "Our house in Lokoja was destroyed by a storm during the last raining season, and our landlady, a very poor old woman, could not afford to

repair the house. Our co-tenants who could afford to rent houses in other locations within the city did so, while some of us who could not afford to do so, relocated here. It was here I gave birth to my daughter. Life here is not bad, except for the fact that malaria dey plenty".

However, Madam Azizat Hammed, one of the dwellers under the bridge, acknowledges that she lives there with palpable fear. Why? She knows the danger inherent in such living conditions. "Anything can happen to us. The bridge can collapse. Also, dangerous animals in the river can attack us, and when this happens, there would be nobody to come to our rescue. That is my fear. We all know it is a great risk we are taking.

But we just have to survive, since we cannot afford to live in the city", she said.

Rasheed Basheer, a civil engineer based in Lokoja, is worried that some people reside under this bridge, without minding the danger it portends. He wonders why they are ruling out the possibility that the bridge can collapse at any time. In his view, no socio-economic condition warrants taking such a 'risk'. He simply concludes that living under the River Niger Bridge is suicidal.

"It is very risky and suicidal! They have no excuse living under this bridge. Are they the only poor people in the country? Must they expose themselves to danger all in the name of having nowhere to live? Have they forgotten that this bridge was constructed by human beings?

Or are they ruling out the fact that this bridge can collapse one day? It was constructed many years ago. Many vehicles ply it every day, and there is a tendency that it gets overburdened, which further implies that it could weaken and ultimately collapse. When this happens, I doubt if those living under it would not fall victims. So, poverty or homelessness should not be an excuse for risking one's life", contended the engineer.

For a Lokoja-based psychologist, Mr Charles Onah, when one is frustrated, one tends to consciously compromise one's safety. According to him, "the indisputable fact is that these people living under the bridge are victims of the poor socio-economic conditions of the country. Nobody could willingly take to such a deplorable place as his/her abode.

Such a thing, we all know, is necessitated by one's poor living condition. I mean that these people are frustrated, and they are very likely to be ready to sacrifice safety for survival. So, to them, the question of safety does not arise. What matters to them is their survival. They don't care whether it is dangerous living under the bridge or not".

Also confirming that people live under the River Niger Bridge, owing to circumstances beyond their control, the Director-General of Kogi State Sanitation and Waste Management Board, Alhaji Yusuf Yahya, submits "the whole thing boils down to frustration. It is in our mandate in the Sanitation and Waste Management Board, to avert avoidable disasters, wherever they could occur. It is very unfortunate that out of frustration, some people have taken to such a place to live. This is very dangerous. Anything could happen to the bridge. It could collapse."

On what the authority is doing to avert the impending doom, Yahya explains that his board has been "counselling the people to vacate the place. Apart from those who claim to be residing there, owing to the critical problem of homelessness, there are others who go there to smoke, drink and engage in all sorts of criminal activities. Just last year, we collaborated with the police to eject these persons from that place, and we have also informed the police of other places across the state where miscreants live.

"Sometime ago, the police carried out some preventive operations there, but it seems the people there are stubborn. We learnt that they have gone back there. My staff members have also been involved in counselling them. They all claim that they are homeless, but we are not in a position to ascertain this. All I can assure you is that we will continue to drive them away from that uninhabitable place".



CHILDREN have found a home there.

“ We are a people saddened by our inability to afford living in the expensive city of Lokoja. Here, no landlord is on our neck”

Business

Bank PHB muscles fund for recapitalisation

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

IN line with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) order to recapitalise, BankPHB has commenced muscling of fund through the re-launching of You Go Win Promo Reloaded.

CBN had given the new bank chiefs till June this year within which they are to fully recapitalise their banks or risk being taken over by the apex bank.

Speaking in Lagos, the bank's Managing Director Cyril Chukwumah noted

Muslim Welfare Fund doles out N2.5m to 50 people

By Zakariyya Adaramola

THE Muslim Welfare Fund (MUWELF) says it has donated over N2.5 million to 50 Nigerians in the last one year.

MUWELF said yesterday that it disbursed the money to poor Nigerians in the last one year in order to help solve their financial challenges.

The Fund, in its 2009 Annual Report jointly signed by its Chairman, Alhaji Abdulrazaq Oladejo, and Coordinator, Alhaji Jummat Ali Oluwafuyi, said the harsh economic condition and inadequate infrastructures in the country had made it difficult for many bread-winners to meet their financial obligations.

The Fund said the government failed in its task of providing the basic needs of most Nigerians, adding that the group saw the need to complement government's efforts in providing financial and moral assistance to the poor members of the public.

The report read in part: "we received a total of 24 applications, valued at N2.7 million out of which N780,000 was granted to the successful beneficiaries, representing 83% of the number of business applications received during the year."

According to the report, four Islamic organizations including the Association of Muslim Professionals (AMP), Movement for Islamic Culture and Awareness (MICA), the Companion and the Criterion contribute to the Fund.

It urged more wealthy Muslims in the country to channel their *Zakat* (mandatory alms) to them.

that the 'You Go Win' promotion was a way of returning to business after a thorough cleansing of its books and meeting all the regulatory requirements of financial provisions on its books.

Currently, Bank PHB

has put in place strategies to ensure it is recapitalized by the end of the year.

The bank is already working closely with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) appointed financial advisers in its recapitalization drive while strength-

ening internal control and balance sheet to ensure the bank maximizes its earnings from deployed assets, he said. Chukwumah said the Bank PHB's long term strategy is to be a provider of long term, low cost funds for the development of the

real sector of Nigeria's economy without compromising the bank's overall asset quality or earnings margins and connecting the Bank PHB branch once more to the community.

Prizes to be won include 0.765KVA generators, 15"

LG TV, Table Top refrigerators, Motorcycles + 2 Helmets each and brand new Hiace buses.

The promotion, which opened in all Bank PHB branches across the country since March 22nd, 2010 will run till July 31st 2010.

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Business

How realistic is 2010 budget?



OKONJO Nweala, World Bank MD and Nigeria's former Finance Minister



SANUSI Lamido Sanusi Central Bank Governor

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

SINCE the passage of the 2010 budget of N4.608trillion by the National Assembly, 13.3 per cent higher than the initial N4.07trillion estimate sent by President Umaru Yar'adua in November 2009, there have been fears not only over the implementation of the budget less than nine months to the end of the year but the practicability of workability of the budget.

Predicated on a \$67 per barrel of crude oil, up from the initial projection of \$57 per barrel by the Executive; with oil production projection put at 2.35 million barrels per day; and budget deficit estimated at N1.5 trillion, there have been divergent views over the success or likely failure of the budget.

The Central Bank Governor (CBN) Lamido Sanusi Lamido had last week said that the year 2010 budget recently passed by the National Assembly is likely to fail as a result of its predication on 2.88 million barrel per day and \$67 per barrel per day.

Lamido said the Niger Delta crisis coupled with the United States recent decision to eliminate some oil and gas industry preferences and tax loopholes may make it impossible to achieve the budget.

"Now that Obama has allowed the oil companies to drop in the source of the United States, you are not going to get increase in the oil price for a very long time. So we have already defined a budget that is likely not to succeed. The one way to protect yourself and guaranteed monthly monetary stability is to use edge. If you put \$57 per barrel, also use edge. Mexico has done it," Sanusi had said.

The World Bank Managing Director and a former minister of finance Okonjo Nweala has also expressed similar fear over the oil price assumption of \$67 per barrel and its workability.

"I am concerned about the realism of the 2010 budget assumptions of a reference oil price of \$67 per barrel and production of 2.35 million barrels per day. If oil revenue assump-

tions are not met, more draw down from the Excess Crude Account would be required on the back of the already substantial depletion in 2009."

On the Petroleum Resources, Professor Omowumi Ile-bare, an associate professor, Energy economics and Policy Research with Louisiana State University urged Mrs Diezani Allison-Madueke to address the perennial issue of transparency and accountability in the nation's petroleum sector adding that this is a necessary ingredient to propel the economy using oil and gas.

Recurrent expenditure in the harmonized budget was N2.077 trillion, capital expenditure was increased to N1.8tn, about N253bn higher than the Executive proposal.

But the President of the Money Market Association (MMA) Akinsowon Dawodu said there are concerns over the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) quota and Niger Delta crises. He said crude oil price is recovering and it has insulated Nigeria from any financial crisis.

He said there is fear in the implementation of the budget because Nigeria has bad history of budget implementation.

He noted that this year budget may not be achieve full implementation due to current political problem as well as preparation toward general election next year, adding that Nigeria with long history of poor budget implementation, the over \$500 million expected deficit in the budget may not be realistic.

He added that Nigeria may this year experience a repeat of what happened at the end of 2008 where over N300 billion was returned as unspent fund to federated account.

Nigeria's production rose 70,000 barrels to 2.01 million barrels a day last month, the largest increase in the group. Africa's biggest oil producer exceeded its target by 337,000 barrels a day, according to OPEC.

Dawodu believes that the trend in production can be sustained if the sincerity government has shown in the Niger Delta crisis is maintained.

On the \$500 million deficit which is to be financed

through international bond, the president said there is nothing wrong raising such bond but how sincere would the fund is utilized. He said countries like Ghana and Gabon have raised such bond to finance their infrastructure

"Budget deficit is high, about five per cent of the nation's GDP and would be funded by domestic and foreign borrowing. This should ultimately put pressure on interest rates. The Central might have to raise rates much later in the year if inflationary pressures persist. Unfortunately, federal government has poor record for capital budget implementation, so the size of the deficit might ultimately be over-stated", he said.

The Director General of Debt Management Office (DMO) Abraham Nwankwo had early this year said Nigeria will pursue its sovereign bond in the international capital market with \$500 million of 10-year tenor.

The bond will help in effectively and efficiently funding the component of the 2010 budget deficit. He said the federal government could not raise the \$500 billion deficit from the market last year due to worldwide economic crisis.

He said other less African countries like Ghana, Gabon, Togo have all gone to the market to raise fund to support their economies.

But the World Bank chief argued that higher fiscal deficits financed by selling domestic bonds could crowd out private investment and that "what the government does with the money is of utmost importance for a developing country like ours."

On the declining in the nation's reserves, Dawodu said the current level of \$40 billion is still healthy "The reserves are at about 67 per cent of its historic high levels of \$62 billion in September 2008. Current levels of about \$40 billion is quite healthy and provides cover for over 15 months of imports", he said.

The government also projects an inflation rate of 11.2 per cent on a Gross Domestic Product growth rate of 5.47 per cent.

Dawodu said "rates are expected to stay low in 2010 but with a possible pick up in the second half. To guarantee real returns, nominal yield should be higher than inflation rate. The current situation is an anomaly with investor earning a negative real return on their investment. A similar scenario existed post consolidation in early 2006", he said.

Opeyemi Agbaje, an economist said inflationary pressures will be strong in 2010. The January inflation rate of 12.3 per cent suggests that projection year-end rate of 15-16 per cent is possible. Businesses, he said must continue to seek cost optimization and reduction strategies.

The group noted that the present uncertainty and heightened political risk is not good for business, adding that policy and governance has taken a back seat, while contending groups jostle for pre-eminence.

He said though the proposed scheme by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to provide funding at a concessionary maximum rate of 7 per cent to commercially oriented power projects and refinancing loans to manufacturers if well-implemented will provide long term financing at relatively low cost to these critical sectors, the most critical challenge right now for the Nigerian economy is to resolve the uncertainty in the political environment so that critical challenges of power, financial sector disintermediation, infrastructure, corruption and macroeconomic management can be addressed.

Igbo leaders lobby Jonathan for Anyanwu's return to BPE

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE suspension of Dr Christopher Anyanwu as the Director General of the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE), by the federal government took an ethnic dimension last Wednesday when a delegation of South East leaders visited acting President Goodluck Jonathan to lobby for his comeback to BPE.

Anyanwu was given an indefinite suspension on March 5 for alleged defiance to due processes in privatisation transactions after being in the saddle for one year. He had taken over from Mrs Irene Chigbue in March 2008.

He is alleged to have among others, "unilaterally and fundamentally altered the conditions and guidelines approved by the NCP for the sale of NITEL/MTEL, even after these had been published in the print media, misrepresented the facts with

respect to the post-privatisation evaluation of enterprises such as Niger Dock, Delta Steel and Daily Times, and embarked on needless and hastily arranged foreign trips with hand-picked members of entourage at great cost to the public and these trips have taken a toll on the efficiency and productivity of the Secretariat and Technical Committee itself."

A statement issued by Mr Ozioma Ezeogu of Global Media Network International confirmed that former senate President Anyim Pius Anyim and Dr Kalu Idika Kalu were among prominent Igbo sons who visited Jonathan over Anyanwu's possible return. Others were Senator Uche Chukwumerije, Chief S. N. Okeke and Chief Chukwuemeka Ezeife.

Daily Trust could not confirm the meeting from the Presidency as at the time of filing this report and whether the acting President had decided to have Anyanwu back.

Among the reasons for the visit, Daily Trust gathered was to discuss the fate of the Igbos in the new political dispensation.

The south East leaders were said to have lamented the "systematic elimination of Igbos at the helm of affairs of some vital national institutions." They called on the acting President to ensure that they are not marginalised further in the new political dispensation.

The group particularly rued the exit of Prof Chukwuma Soludo from the CBN, after a five year term, Engr Ernest Ndukwe from the Nigerian Communications Commission after being in charge for 10 years of two tenures, five years each and lately the agitation for the sack of INEC chairman Maurice Iwu. They consider the developments as dwindling fortunes on the part of the Igbo people.

Business/Kano

Customs, other retirees prefer manual payment system

Muhammad Danbaba Adamu is the secretary of Customs Retired Officers Association, Kano State chapter and also the secretary Customs, Immigration, Prisons Pensioners Association (CIPPA), Kano State chapter. In this interview with *Daily Trust*, he discussed issues affecting his associations and their problem with the Customs, Immigration and Prisons Pension Office (CIPPO), the office mandated to handle their retirement benefits.

FROM Halima Musa, Kano

COULD you briefly tell us the activities of your association?

This association was formed in order to make a kind of fighting front. It is an avenue where we can go and fight for the benefits of our fellow retirees. More than 80 percent of us are old and cannot go as far as Abuja to make complaints because of old age and bad health. So that is why we have taken it upon ourselves to form this association to fight for our rights. Since 2002 when I retired I have been the secretary of the two associations.

What is your problem with CIPPO?

We have been having problems with our CIPPO office, especially when the salary payment was reverted to computer. Initially salaries were paid manually but in 2006 it reverted to computer. Since the adoption of the computer system there has been irregularities in the payment. There are some of our pensioners who have not been paid their

pension ranging from four months to five months. And there are some that have been short paid for no reasons.

Complaints have been made, we have been writing to the office but to no avail. As at now, we have more than 17 of us that have not been paid their monthly pension of 2006 and there are still some that are not properly placed, that is they are short paid and up till now they have not been paid the remaining amount. So that is our problem with CIPPO.

Sometimes we would go to Gwagwalada and spend the whole day without even seeing the director. We go there to lodge our complaints but sometimes we don't even see him.

Is CIPPO the only place that you can lodge complaints?

There are some other offices that we sometimes take our complaints. There was a time I wrote a letter to National Pension Commission at Maitama. But since CIPPO is directly with us, we lodge complaints there. Section 173 sub section 3 of the 1999 constitution says that every five years monthly pension must be reviewed or if there is increment to serving officers some percentage has to reflect in the monthly pension.

Since I joined the band wagon of the retirees in 2002, there has not been any five year increment for us. There was one increment in 2002 and one in 2003. The 6 percent that was increased have not paid to some retirees. We have the HAPSS - that is Harmonised Paramilitary Salary Structure - that was implemented to serving officers but up till now it has not reflected on the retirees' pension. And there is also the COMPASS - Compromised Paramilitary Salary Structure - this also has not reflected on our monthly pension.

I personally wrote a letter addressed to the Minister of Interior, copying the Secretary to the Federal Government, Head of Service and all the three Comptroller-Generals of Customs, Immigration and Prison and also copied the Accountant-General of the Federation. The response we got was that we

I personally wrote a letter addressed to the Minister of Interior, copying the Secretary to the Federal Government, Head of Service and all the three Comptroller-Generals of Customs, Immigration and Prison and also copied the Accountant-General of the Federation. The response we got was that we would be paid this money, and that was it.

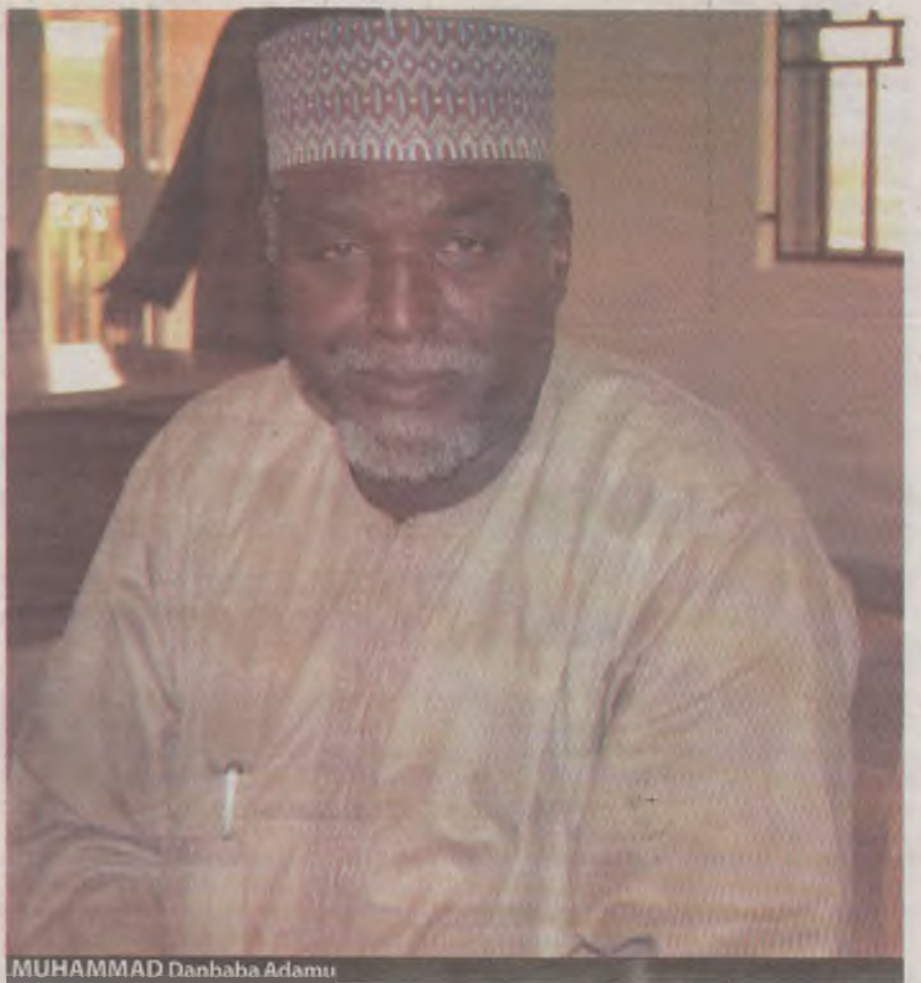
would be paid this money, and that was it. That is the HAPSS and COMPASS we have been waiting up till now. Something that has been approved since 2009 and the money has been given out but we have not been paid. N8.7 billion was approved for it.

I read an advertorial in the Daily Trust about some of these issues.

...Our problem with the publication is that it was defending CIPPO office and ironically this defence is made by NARPO. NARPO is the National Association of Retired Paramilitary Officers. We have a liaison officer in CIPPO who is to fight for our interest but ironically instead of defending the retirees, he is defending CIPPO.

He was saying in the advertorial that there was a vote of confidence passed on the acting director, to be candid there was nothing like that. There was no meeting that was held where a vote of confidence was passed on the acting director. He also said pensions are paid between 20th and 25th of every month.

This is untrue because I personally received my January pension on the 5th of February and up till now we have not received our March pension. He was also saying that the HAPSS and COMPASS arrears we are fighting for would be paid in April and May respectively, why not joining them all together and paid at the same time. So we are expressing doubt if there is any sincerity in that statement.



MUHAMMAD Danbaba Adamu

Kano boost transportation with 20 new buses

From Halima Musa, Kano

In a bid to boost transportation in Kano State, the state government has acquired 20 additional 14 seater-buses under the public private partnership with Bank PHB.

Disclosing this while commissioning the interstate transport service, the commissioner for Works, Housing and Transport, Engineer Sarki Labaran said the move was to enhance the Kano Line and make it more enterprising.

He said the vehicles were purchased through an agreement with the State Transport Authority, guaranteed by the state government to operate a profitable transport system in the state.

Earlier in his speech, the managing director of Kano line, Alhaji Aminu Abba Ibrahim said the vehicles were for interstate service which would cover the whole country and also provide charter service to individuals, schools and organisations.

According to him, the repayment schedule which was designed and tested would be liquidated within 48 months. "The repayment schedule designed and tested is to be liquidated within 48 months after which the vehicles become assets to Kano line", he said.

Each vehicle was purchased at the cost of N6.7million covering insurance, registration, computerised tracking system, spare parts for 6 months and training of the vehicle drivers.

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange
(Source: APT Securities)
Tuesday, April 13, 2010

STOCK Name	Prev Day Close	Open	High	Low	Price	Change	Deals	Volume Traded	Value
ZUP	37.18	39.03	39.03	39.03	39.03	1.85	16	325,150	12,690,000.00
ABCTRANS	1.18	1.23	1.23	1.23	1.23	0.05	25	2,151,590	2,644,515.75
ACCESS	10.80	10.52	10.80	10.41	10.70	-0.10	223	10,454,438	110,959,896.00
AFRIBANK	3.15	3.29	3.30	3.25	3.25	0.10	139	7,320,298	24,043,180.00
AFRINSURE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	1	2,000	1,250.00
AGLEVENT	4.86	5.10	5.10	5.10	5.10	0.24	16	181,287	924,563.69
AIICO	1.63	1.71	1.71	1.71	1.71	0.08	85	7,821,387	13,374,572.00
AIRSERVICE	3.20	3.36	3.36	3.36	3.36	0.16	45	3,507,549	11,785,365.00
AP	41.33	43.39	43.39	43.39	43.39	2.06	124	1,282,495	55,898,408.00
ASHAKACEM	26.11	27.00	27.00	24.90	24.90	-1.21	195	5,505,315	143,470,352.00
ASOSAVINGS	0.61	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.03	12	9,411,200	6,023,168.00
BCC	66.80	65.00	66.70	65.00	66.70	-0.10	78	623,363	40,893,872.00
BECOPETRO	1.65	1.57	1.65	1.57	1.65	0.08	25	45,4624	721,341.69
BERGER	6.87	7.21	7.21	7.21	7.21	0.34	35	594,440	4,282,861.50
BETAGLAS	16.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	16.41	0.00	11	58,550	881,614.50
BIGTREAT	1.28	1.34	1.34	1.22	1.22	-0.06	101	14,636,826	19,411,020.00
BOCGAS	10.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.20	0.00	8	77,300	816,796.00
CADBURY	19.40	20.20	20.20	19.45	19.45	0.05	127	5,190,144	103,501,136.00
CAP	29.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.67	0.00	7	33,871	985,833.19
CAPOIL	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.50	0.51	-0.01	21	6,344,747	3,194,848.50
CCNN	24.47	24.47	24.47	23.25	23.25	-1.22	187	5,533,507	127,545,008.00
CHAMS	0.97	1.01	1.01	1.01	1.01	0.04	54	8,954,161	9,043,703.00
HELLARAM	13.43	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.43	0.00	4	14,723	187,865.48
CHEVRON	69.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	69.79	0.00	9	10,682	782,670.12
CILEASING	4.20	4.38	4.38	4.05	4.18	-0.02	45	1,300,784	5,397,813.00
CONOIL	44.00	46.20	46.20	46.20	46.20	2.20	44	301,676	13,924,681.00
CONTINSURE	0.95	0.99	0.99	0.95	0.99	0.04	28	16,470,958	16,077,077.00
CORNERST	0.66	0.69	0.69	0.63	0.69	0.03	56	41,978,300	27,725,928.00
COSTAIN	8.25	8.66	8.66	8.25	8.25	0.00	114	4,868,895	42,082,132.00
COURTVILLE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	4	947,390	473,695.00
CRUSADER	0.97	1.01	1.01	0.94	0.94	-0.03	26	3,054,236	3,003,073.25
CUSTODYINS	3.75	3.75	3.93	3.61	3.61	-0.14	39	4,613,794	17,568,580.00
CUTIX	3.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.42	0.00	1	2,000	7,180.00
DAARCOMM	1.51	1.58	1.58	1.58	1.58	0.07	25	269,200	425,336.00
DANGFLOUR	23.68	24.86	24.86	23.00	23.86	-0.08	525	10,942,333	268,611,808.00
DANGSUGAR	19.85	20.00	20.10	19.60	19.90	0.05	163	3,224,485	64,330,872.00
DIAMONDBNK	9.97	9.71	9.75	9.60	9.70	-0.27	110	7,479,541	72,220,816.00
DNMEYER	3.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.21	0.00	7	36,133	121,408.21
DUNLOP	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.00	6	135,832	67,915.00
ECOBANK	6.83	6.72	6.72	6.50	6.50	-0.33	72	1,898,938	12,473,581.00
EQUITYASUR	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	3	98,000	49,000.00
ETERNAOIL	8.00	8.00	8.40	8.00	8.39	0.39	36	697,766	5,690,627.50
ETI	20.00	20.00	20.50	20.00	20.00	0.00	69	1,832,582	36,806,512.00
EVANSMED	1.57	1.58	1.64	1.58	1.64	0.07	27	1,185,265	1,926,852.25
FCMB	9.32	9.05	9.19	8.92	9.00	-0.32	76	21,932,430	197,959,056.00
FIDELITYBK	3.15	3.20	3.20	3.01	3.01	-0.14	206	10,991,347	33,720,628.00
FIDSON	3.69	3.63	3.87	3.60	3.60	-0.09	78	5,390,290	20,671,198.00
FIRSTALUM	0.52	0.50	0.54	0.50	0.54	0.02	8	246,205	127,023.30
FIRSTBANK	17.06	16.93	16.93	16.21	16.21	-0.85	979	31,245,666	511,119,232.00
GLAXOSMITH	28.01	26.63	26.63	26.63	26.63	-1.38	24	103,674	2,810,401.75
GOLDINSURE	1.00	0.97	0.99	0.95	0.95	-0.05	25	6,150,400	5,973,260.00
GTASSURE	3.20	3.12	3.12	3.04	3.04	-0.16	42	5,158,932	15,752,441.00
GUARANTY	22.90	23.10	23.10	22.02	22.05	-0.85	676	25,803,304	588,897,600.00
GUINEAINS	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	3	215,000	107,500.00
INTENEGINS	0.70	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.03	39	8,186,081	5,975,839.00
INTERCONT	2.16	2.10	2.10	2.06	2.06	-0.10	72	2,182,538	4,524,167.50
JAPAUOIL	1.99	2.08	2.08	2.08	2.08	0.09	110	4,900,130	10,192,270.00
JBERGER	46.17	48.47	48.47	46.20	46.20	0.03	72	1,502,146	72,593,248.00
LINKASSURE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	2	30,000	15,000.00
MAYBAKER	7.42	7.79	7.79	7.42	7.79	0.37	43	605,150	4,634,646.50
MBENEFIT	0.60	0.63	0.63	0.60	0.62	0.02	80	12,204,491	7,599,797.50
MOBIL	124.60	130.83	130.83	130.83	130.83	6.23	10	55,397	7,247,589.50
MTI	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	4	58,200	29,100.00
MULTIVERSE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	8	486,000	243,000.00
NEIMETH	2.23	2.34	2.34	2.34	2.34	0.11	41	1,059,692	2,479,679.25
NEM	0.74	0.77	0.77	0.71	0.75	0.01	139	26,315,232	19,901,872.00
NESTLE	297.78	300.10	300.10	300.10	300.10	2.32	44	409,520	124,214,392.00
NIG-GERMAN	14.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	14.29	0.00	1	100	1,358.00
NIGERINS	0.93	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.04	9	1,158,150	1,123,405.50
OANDO	105.00	110.25	110.25	110.25	110.25	5.25	134	5,843,789	644,277,760.00
OASISINS	0.93	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.93	0.00	1	6,573	5,849.97
PZ	32.90	32.91	32.91	31.26	31.26	-1.64	61	1,307,477	41,610,764.00
SKYBANK	8.04	8.04	8.04	7.89	7.89	-0.15	311	5,168,282	41,027,688.00
SOVRENINS	0.50	0.50	0.52	0.50	0.50	0.00	65	8,884,998	4,443,499.00
SPRINGBANK	1.08	1.10	1.10	1.03	1.03	-0.05	17	1,361,787	1,417,149.38
STDINSURE	0.58	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.02	35	3,761,560	2,256,936.00
STERLNBANK	2.63	2.52	2.53	2.50	2.50	-0.13	49	4,631,831	11,610,840.00
TOTAL	159.75	167.73	167.73	167.73	167.73	7.98	13	331,684	55,633,356.00
TRANSCORP	0.54	0.54	0.55	0.52	0.52	-0.02	46	13,572,715	7,219,631.00
UAC-PROP	25.01	25.50	25.88	25.00	25.00	-0.01	37	1,026,502	25,812,120.00
UACN	54.70	55.99	56.89	55.99	56.89	2.19	74	845,212	47,474,992.00
UBA	16.84	17.00	17.00	16.50	16.51	-0.33	300	18,584,249	309,291,776.00
UBN	6.52	6.50	6.50	6.20	6.20	-0.32	190	4,131,704	26,253,410.00
UNIC	0.95	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.04	19	2,983,616	2,953,779.75
UNITYBNK	1.14	1.18	1.18	1.09	1.15	0.01	44	2,147,903	2,446,839.00
UNITYKAP	0.58	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.02	13	4,963,500	2,978,066.00
UNINSURE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	1	10,000	5,000.00
UPL	7.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.99	0.00	17	290,095	2,258,953.50
UTC	0.89	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.04	3	100,382	93,355.26
VITAFOAM	6.76	7.00	7.09	7.00	7.09	0.33	20	368,900	2,608,041.00
VONO	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.58	0.00	4	85,100	47,656.00
WAPCO	43.98	46.09	46.17	45.79	46.17	2.19	108	3,648,265	168,178,304.00
WAPIC	0.87	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.90	0.03	13	224,034	200,370.94
WEMABANK	1.26	1.32	1.32	1.26	1.27	0.01	87	10,446,523	13,665,553.00
ZENITHBANK	18.88	18.99	19.46	18.50	18.55	-0.33	647	67,277,900	1,293,356,800.00

DIGEST

Handling cash 'better at killing pain than aspirin', study claims

HANDLING a wad of cash may be as good at killing pain than ibuprofen or aspirin, a new study suggests. Researchers at the University of Minnesota carried out a series of studies which revealed those who counted money before taking part in an experiment where they were subjected to low levels of pain felt less discomfort than those who did not.

It's thought that fondling notes and coins helps ward off pain by boosting feelings of self-worth and self-sufficiency.

Previous studies have shown those with a greater sense of self-worth may be more likely to withstand pain. Britain spends at least £500 million a year on over-the-counter painkilling pills and the figure is increasing every year. But scientists remain baffled by why some people appear to feel pain more easily than others. In the latest study, a group of students were asked to count out a wad of cash consisting of 80 one-hundred dollar bills, or just 80 slips of blank paper. They had been told researchers were simply testing their dexterity in handling the notes. Each volunteer was then asked to dip their hands into a bowl of very hot water, to see how painful they found it and how long they could last.

The results, published in a recent edition of the journal *Psychological Science*, showed those who had handled money reported less pain and lasted longer.

The results support other studies highlighting how the brain can be tuned to ward off pain without the use of pills. A University of Los Angeles team of scientists found just looking at a photograph of a loved one can also be a powerful form of pain relief. They recommended anyone visiting hospital for painful tests or examinations should bring a picture to help them cope.

And patients who have had major surgery, such as a knee or hip replacement, can halve the amount of painkilling medicine they need simply by stroking a pet, according to tests at Loyola University in Chicago.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk



HANDLING money could prevent or cure pain, scientists suggest

Croatian teenager wakes from coma speaking fluent German

A 13-year-old Croatian girl who fell into a coma woke up speaking fluent German.

The girl, from the southern town of Knin, had only just started studying German at school and had been reading German books and watching German TV to become better, but was by no means fluent, according to her

At the moment we are limited in what we can say because we have to respect the privacy of the patient

parents.

Since waking up from her 24-hour coma however, she has been unable to speak Croatian, but is able to communicate perfectly in German.

Doctors at Split's KB Hospital claim that the case is so unusual,

various experts have examined the girl as they try to find out what triggered the change.

Hospital director Dujomir Marasovic said: "You never know when recovering from such a trauma how the brain will react. Obviously we have some theories although at the moment we are limited in what we can say because we have to respect the privacy of the patient."

Psychiatric expert Dr Mijo Milas added: "In earlier times this would have been referred to as a miracle, we prefer to think that there must be a logical explanation – its just that we haven't found it yet. "There are references to cases where people who have been seriously ill and perhaps in a coma have woken up being able to speak other languages – sometimes even the Biblical languages such as that spoken in old Babylon or Egypt – at the moment though any speculation would remain just that – speculation – so it's better to continue tests until we actually know something."

Less than half an hour of exercise a day helps treat depression

JUST 25 minutes of vigorous daily exercise can help beat depression, claim doctors.

Researchers found that a workout reduces stress and anger and boosts the sense of physical wellbeing.

They claim physical exercise should be more widely prescribed as a treatment to tackle depressive or anxiety disorders.

Professor Jasper Smits, a psychologist, at the southern Methodist University in Dallas said that physical therapy could be prescribed instead of or as a supplement to medication.

"Exercise can fill the gap for people who can't receive traditional therapies because of cost or lack of access, or who don't want to because of the perceived social stigma associated with these treatments," he said. "Exercise also can supplement traditional treatments, helping patients become more focused and engaged."

"Individuals who exercise report fewer symptoms of anxiety and depression, and lower levels of stress and anger."

"Exercise appears to affect, like an antidepressant, particular neurotransmitter systems in the brain, and it helps patients with depression re-establish positive behaviours."

The team from the university's Anxiety Research and Treatment Programme analysed

past studies and found traditional treatments of cognitive behavioural therapy and drug treatments do not reach everyone who needs them.

However exercise could help relieve symptoms such as "fears of fear and related bodily sensations such as a racing heart and rapid breathing".

"The more therapists who are trained in exercise therapy, the better off patients will be," Prof Smits said.

Patients were subjected to either 150 minutes a week of moderate-intensity activity or 75 minutes a week of vigorous-intensity activity.

He said: "Rather than emphasise the long-term health benefits of an exercise program – which can be difficult to sustain – we urge providers to focus with their patients on the immediate benefits."

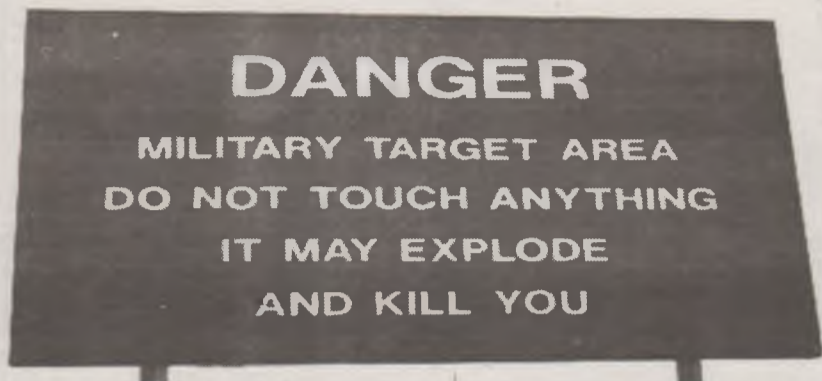
"After just 25 minutes, your mood improves, you are less stressed, you have more energy – and you'll be motivated to exercise again tomorrow. A bad mood is no longer a barrier to exercise – it is the very reason to exercise."

As well as an exercise regime, patients also benefit from a daily schedule and targets which may also help in combating the mental illness.

The findings were presented at the annual conference of the Anxiety Disorder Association of America in Baltimore.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language



Better than "No trespassing."
 Photo location: Christchurch, New Zealand, by Anne Belamowicz
 Culled from www.signspotting.com

KRISS KROSS

3

Fill the empty squares in the diagram with the given letters so that everyday words are formed reading across and down.

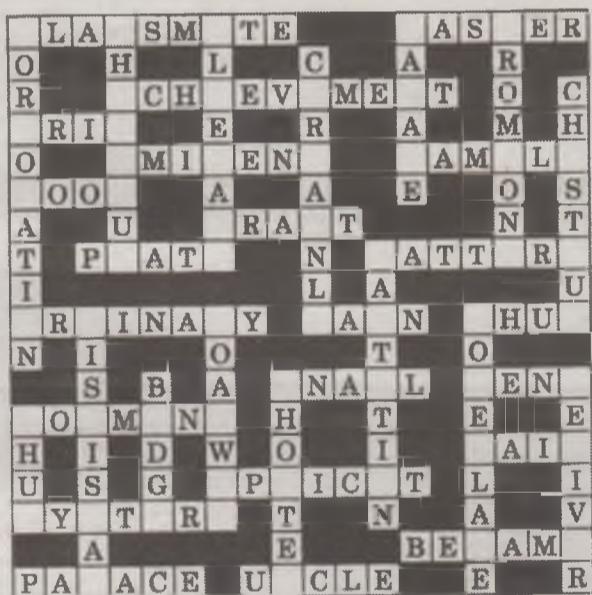
AAAA B CCC DDD

EEEEEE F G III

LLL MMMMM NNNN

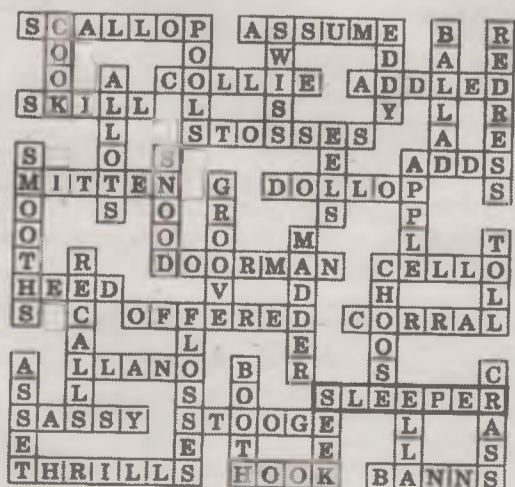
OO PPP RRRR

SSSS TTTT YY



SOLUTION TO KRISS KROSS

2



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.

127

	6		8			2			
			4		9			7	
	1				7	4		5	
	2	6							
3	7			5				6	2
						3	5		
7		3	6					9	
9			7		2				
	5			9				3	

Solution to Sudoku 126

9	5	2	8	6	1	7	4	3
7	6	3	4	5	9	8	2	1
1	4	8	7	2	3	6	5	9
5	8	1	3	7	2	9	6	4
2	3	6	1	9	4	5	8	7
4	7	9	5	8	6	3	1	2
6	9	7	2	1	8	4	3	5
3	2	5	6	4	7	1	9	8
8	1	4	9	3	5	2	7	6



REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL ON THE ACCOUNTS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF KEBBI STATE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2008.

0.0.1. INTRODUCTION

The Accounts of Kebbi State Government from 1st January 2008 - 31st December 2008 have been audited under my directions in accordance with section 125(2) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. I have certified the individual Accounts as correct subject to the observations in this report, while irregularities discovered have been conveyed in various letters to the Accounting officers for necessary action.

The annual accounts presented by the Kebbi State Accountant General in compliance with section 125(5) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria have been certified as required by the same Constitution.

0.0.2. SUBMISSION OF REPORT

In compliance with section 125(5) of the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I wish to submit my annual report on the Accounts of Kebbi State Government in respect of financial year ended 31st December 2008 to the

Honourable House of Assembly Kebbi State.

0.0.3. CONSTITUTIONALITY

In accordance with the same section of the constitution, the draft Annual Report and the Related Financial Statements of the Accountant General on the Government of Kebbi State for the year ended 31st December 2008 were received on 20/6/2009. However, due to some errors and omission considered material to the report, the statement were returned to them for necessary corrections and re-submitted on 26/7/2009.

0.0.4. TABLING OF PREVIOUS AUDIT REPORTS

Auditor General Reports for the financial years ended 31st December 1999 - 2007 (9 years) have been separately submitted to the state Honourable House of Assembly. Most of the reports have been discussed and finalized between the public accounts committee and the affected accounting officers.

KEBBI STATE OF NIGERIA STATEMENT NO. 3 CASH FLOW STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 2008			
Cash Flow from Operating Activities	Notes	Current Year Actual 2008	Previous Year Actual 2007
Opening Balance		1,551,603,632.12	2,987,762,954.55
RECEIPTS			
Internally Generated Revenue	3K	4,529,025,986.56	2,908,700,355.30
Statutory Allocation	3D	30,567,183,039.49	20,251,316,843.43
Re-imbursment	5(1)	1,682,170,999.38	589,442,018.57
Internal Loans	5(1)	323,425,821.10	432,485,400.00
Miscellaneous/Excess Crude Oil	5B	13,864,204,795.77	4,295,715,316.06
Value Added Tax	5C	4,243,353,523.65	3,288,218,362.80
External loans			0.00
Local Government Contributions 25%		7,834,623,500.80	3,362,203,345.46
TOTAL RECEIPTS		64,765,626,256.45	38,245,885,782.27
PAYMENTS			
Recurrent Expenditure (Personnel & Overhead)	4(J)	7,342,391,430.00	6,222,192,171.26
Grants & Subvention	4C	5,033,187,026.00	4,454,103,400.00
Consolidated Revenue Fund Charges	4D	5,211,204,585.00	2,759,183,486.97
Economic Sector	6A	20,472,083,294.00	12,250,784,907.81
Social Sector	6B	7,487,869,220.00	6,964,977,359.00
Environmental Sector	6C	6,286,357,104.00	1,680,480,134.27
Administrative Sector	6D	3,502,651,756.00	2,252,480,630.94
TOTAL PAYMENTS		55,315,735,415.00	36,684,262,676.15
NET CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		9,449,890,841.45	1,551,603,632.12
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES			
Purchase/Construction of Assets			0.00
Purchase of Financial Market Instruments			0.00
Proceeds from Sales of Assets			0.00
NET CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES			

KEBBI STATE OF NIGERIA - STATEMENT NO. 4. STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 2008			
	Notes	Current Year Actual, 2008	Previous Year Actual, 2007
ASSETS			
Liquid Assets			
Cash & Bank Balances	ST.3	1,551,603,632.12	1,163,940,011.63
Remittances	INCO	0.00	0.00
Cash in transit	INCO	11,432,465,402.66	1,514,155,704.81
Imprest	INCO	1,224,549,652.09	1,790,325,018.06
Liability Over Asset	INCO	26,198,612.80	0.00
INVESTMENTS			
Ministry of Finance Incorporated (INCO)	ST.8-1	2,134,789,042.57	2,712,989,569.00
Advances	INCO	307,716,659.50	253,398,513.00
Loan to Coy.	ST.8-11	7,988,733.33	7,988,733.33
Treasury Clearance Account		0.00	0.00
Total		16,745,321,735.07	7,442,797,818.83
LIABILITIES			
Public Funds	ST.7	1,170,432,343.94	1,965,426,432.35
Consolidated Revenue Fund	ST.5	9,028,807,424.83	0.00
Capital Development Fund	ST.6	719,999,798.50	0.00
Federation of Nigeria	INCO	0.00	0.00
Personnel Advance Funds	INCO	0.00	0.00
LOANS			
Internal Loans	ST.10	837,351,929.00	2,153,160,674.70
Foreign Loans	ST.9	4,988,730,238.80	3,304,180,503.76
TOTAL		16,745,321,735.07	7,442,797,818.83

KEBBI STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA STATEMENT NO. 6 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND CHARGES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 2008					
Actual Previous Year 2007	Descriptions	Notes	Budget Current Year 2008	Actual Current Year 2008	Variance %
1,293,452,172.48	Opening Balance			837,541,298.15	
	ADD CAPITAL RECEIPTS				
1,388,188,482.00	Value Added Tax	5B	4,847,000,000.00	4,213,353,523.65	86.41
3,000,000,000.00	Statutory Allocation	3D	5,623,844,626.00	9,263,776,873.00	164.81
432,485,400.00	Internal Loans	5(1)	3,048,000,000.00	326,438,824.10	10.70
	External Loans	5(1)	304,200,000.00		
589,442,018.57	Grants	5(1)	4,178,800,000.00	1,882,100,999.39	45.07
4,368,713,316.06	Excess Crude Oil		19,866,800,000.00	13,341,304,705.00	67.19
3,288,218,362.80	Local Gov't Contributions		6,540,000,000.00	7,834,623,500.80	119.79
24,196,384,386.37	TOTAL CAPITAL RECEIPTS		48,373,581,326.00	38,448,882,172.50	79.48
	LESS: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE				
11,259,784,907.81	Economic Sector	6A	24,737,081,324.00	20,472,083,294.00	82.76
6,964,977,359.00	Social Sector	6B	13,074,814,000.00	7,487,869,220.00	57.34
1,680,480,134.27	Environmental Sector	6C	7,000,000,000.00	6,286,357,104.00	89.80
2,252,480,630.94	Administrative Sector	6D	11,000,000,000.00	3,502,651,756.00	31.81
22,348,723,821.82	TOTAL		57,416,895,324.00	37,728,882,374.00	65.71
937,541,298.15				719,999,798.50	

AUDIT CERTIFICATE

In accordance with section 125(2) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, I have examined the Accounts and Financial Statement of the Kebbi State Government of Nigeria for the year ended 31st December 2008.

The Audit was conducted in accordance with the National Auditing Standard for Public Sector Accounts in Nigeria

As required by the Public Finance Control and Management Law of 1958, Ministries, Departments and Parastatals have rendered returns and I have obtained all necessary information and explanations in the discharge of my duty. Furthermore, in the discharge of my responsibility as required by section 125(5) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Financial Statement have been certified subject to observations contained in this report. In my opinion, the financial statements Nos 1-10 and related schedules give a true and fair view of the state of Affairs of the Kebbi State Government as at 31st December 2008.

Alh Yaro K. Kalgo, (FCNA)
Auditor General
Kebbi State.

News Extra

'Russia engineered air crash that killed President Kaczynski,' claims Polish MP



POLISH President Lech Kaczynski with his wife, Maria



THE coffin of Polish president Lech Kaczynski is laid out at the Presidential Palace chapel in Warsaw, Poland.

The Russian government prevented the Polish president's plane from landing four times to divert him from a ceremony to mark the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre, according to an MP.

Artur Gorski said the Russians 'came up with some dubious reasons' that the aircraft couldn't land because they feared President Lech Kaczynski's presence would overshadow a similar event hosted by the Russian prime minister a few days before.

And their alleged plan ended in disaster when the Polish pilots made one final and disastrous attempt to land, killing Mr Kaczynski, his wife, and 94 others on board the plane.

'One version of events says that the plane approached the airport four times, because every time the Russians refused it permission to land - they wanted to send the plane with the president to an airport in Moscow or Minsk,' Mr Gorski claimed in an interview published in the newspaper *Nasz Dziennik*.

They came up with some dubious reasons: that there was fog over the airport, and that the navigation system didn't work as it was under renovation, and that airport had a short landing strip.'

The claims were made as shocking new details emerged of the final minutes of the flight before it crashed into a Russian forest on Saturday morning.



WRECKAGE

One of the Russian air traffic controllers involved in the tragedy said he believes the Polish air force pilot Arkadiusz Protasiuk, 36, was under severe pressure 'to land at any cost' so that the president would not miss the commemoration of the death of 22,000 Poles slaughtered by Stalin.

But he claims there were also serious language problems between the control tower at the military airport near Smolensk and the crew as the aircraft began its descent, and final approach, 'without our permission.'

The crew failed to report to

the ground their altitude readings, said Colonel Anatoly Muraviev, a former pilot.

He believes the captain 'was desperate to land because of the high ranking passengers he was carrying. It killed both the crew and the passengers.'

It was known that Mr Kaczynski once fired a flight crew when they refused to land at Tbilisi - and flew to another airport, he said.

'Now try to imagine yourself in chief pilot's shoes. Fear, false shame, thinking that going to another airport is a disgrace - all this led to the fact that the crew



CAPTAIN Arkadiusz Protasiuk was flying the Polish presidential plane that crashed near Smolensk airport

died and killed all the others. I am a former pilot myself, I understand all this very well.'

The tapes of the conversations with the flight crew have not been released - so it is unclear if there is specific evidence of an order to the captain from either the president or the military top brass on board.

Polish investigators said they will probe whether there were 'any suggestions made to the pilots' from other people aboard the plane.

Colonel Muraviev claimed there were a number of specific causes of the crash - 'weather

conditions, maybe a mistake of the pilot who did not watch his altitude, and also the pilot's wish to land at any cost.'

He said the controllers and flight crew stumbled in Russian and broken English to understand each other in the final decisive seconds of the flight.

Col Muraviev claimed that the fog 'was worsening' as the Polish president's plane came into land. One flight had landed earlier but another had been redirected to Moscow.

Of Kaczynski's flight, he said: 'At first it was descending OK, according to the rules, no problems. Soon our air traffic controllers began to worry. The head of our group three times ordered the pilots to stop this attempt to land, and try one more time, while also preparing to fly to another airport because of bad visibility.'

'The crew did not listen to him. So the traffic control warned them about bad visibility and the necessity to fly to another airport.'

'The crew did not obey, so the controllers had only one thing to do - to carry on leading in the plane and see what happens. There was only one attempt to land and the plane crashed.'

Because it was a civilian flight, they did not have the authority to order them to another airport, he said.

He said 'mainly we spoke Russian to the crew, partly bad English. Understanding was hard.'

The Polish pilots 'began to land without our permission' and 'did not report to us with their altitude data', he added.

Another controller Pavel Plyusnin confirmed the understanding was '50-50' as the plane approached its tragic end.

'It was hard to guess here if the pilot understood us properly,' said Col Muraviev. 'The language barrier did not help of course. I think it could have affected the result of this flight along with other circumstances.'

The Polish air force Monday defended father-of-two Captain Protasiuk, saying he 'often flew with the president and other VIPs.'

A spokesman said it was 'ruled out' that the president could have forced the pilot to land at Smolensk.

The body of Poland's first lady Maria Kaczynska was identified Monday by her wedding ring - with her husband's name inscribed on the inside - and the colour of her finger nails. Many of the bodies are so badly mangled they will need DNA matching.

News Extra

Five-year absence of executioner is mixed blessing for 50 condemned men

Job vacancy: male applicants only. Skills required: dexterity, ability to tie a knot, hard heart. Anyone prone to hesitation or mercy need not apply.

Zimbabwe is searching for a hangman. Chikurubi prison, a maximum security facility outside Harare, has been trying to fill the post for five years, but in vain, the *Daily News* of Zimbabwe reported Monday.

The absence of an executioner is a mixed blessing for 50 condemned men. It is a reprieve, but it is also an agonising and indefinite wait on death row in a jail dubbed a "gulag" because of its inhumane conditions.

Zimbabwe's last hangman quit the post in 2005 after hanging two armed robbers who murdered a prison guard while escaping jail. The job has since remained unfilled, despite unemployment in the country hitting 94% last year.

The *Daily News* set out the requirements for any would-be Albert Pierrepoint: "Prison officials say the job of a hangman involves techniques and procedures that are very simple to learn. The candidate for the job need not possess any previous experience, neither does he have to be literate. The hangman's job is reserved only for men. The job demands strength and unwavering focus. It is not for the faint-hearted."

"If a hangman is found, jail officials would teach him how to tie the noose and train him to maintain the correct posture while executing, as this is vital."

It added: "But it appears the toughest part of the job is not about ropes and levers. It is about conscience."

"A hangman should never have second thoughts, if he does he should be retired," said a former principal prison officer, who spoke to the *Daily News* on condition of anonymity.

Lawyers and journalists based in Harare confirmed with the *Guardian* Tuesday that the prison has been struggling to find a hangman for years. "We've not had an execution for a long time," one said.

Some death row inmates have languished in solitary confinement for more than a decade. Their petitions for clemency have been rejected by Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe's president.

Last month, one death row inmate, Shepherd Mazango, challenged the impasse in an appeal to Zimbabwe's supreme court. He said: "Among us are George Man-yonga who has spent 13 years awaiting execution, James Dube and Bright Gwashinga who have spent 10 and five years respec-



IN 2004, British mercenary Simon Mann was held at Chikurubi prison, which has been looking for an executioner for five years.

Wanted: Hangman for Zimbabwe prison



PRESIDENT Robert Mugabe

tively, awaiting execution.

"This has caused severe trauma on the inmates that some of them are losing their mind ... Worse still, to think that I can spend 13 years before execution, like my colleague George Man-yonga, crushes me."

Chikurubi prison is notorious for its filthy, freezing and overcrowded cells infested by maggots and rats. Former inmates include Simon Mann,

Zimbabwe's last hangman quit the post in 2005 after hanging two armed robbers who murdered a prison guard while escaping jail

a British mercenary, whose lawyer claimed he was tortured, assaulted and endured lice, inedible food and general deprivation there in 2004.

About 70 people are believed to have been executed since Zimbabwe gained independence in 1980. The country is under pressure to abolish the death penalty from human rights groups, such as Amnesty International. Last week, an editorial in the state-

owned *Herald* newspaper suggested it is time to reconsider the issue.

In the meantime, there seems little hope of persuading the last executioner, believed to be of Malawian origin, out of retirement. The *Daily News's* prison source said that he was a reluctant hangman, always extremely remorseful about his job.

Culled from guardian.co.uk

“In the meantime, there seems little hope of persuading the last executioner, believed to be of Malawian origin, out of retirement

News Extra

The omnipotence of Oprah Winfrey

As the the queen of American media, Oprah Winfrey has been honest and open about her difficult childhood.

But when it comes to her biological father, the talk show host, 56, is unable to discuss him - because she doesn't know who he is.

In news that will be unpleasant for Winfrey to accept, the author of an unauthorised biography about her claims to have found out who the mystery man is before she has.

American biographer Kitty Kelley said Winfrey's cousin Katharine Carr Esters, who is known to the billionaire as 'Aunt Katharine' confided the name of her father.

But Esters, 81, refused to give permission for Kelley to publish his name in her book 'Oprah' - saying Winfrey needs to find out the truth from her mother Vernita Lee.

Despite her discretion over



OPRAH Winfrey does not know the identity of her biological father after being raised by stepfather Vernon Winfrey



OPRAH was raised during her teenage years by stepfather Vernon Winfrey

Winfrey's father being made public, Esters adds: 'you'll know when that happens because Oprah will probably have a show on Finding Your Real Father. As I said, the girl wastes nothing.'

The man Oprah does call 'dad' is former city councilman Vernon Winfrey, whose attempt to write his own book on his stepdaughter was blocked by the talk show queen three years ago.

After finding out he was planning to write about her, Oprah said: 'One of my assistants said, "The Daily News is calling. They say they heard your father is writing a book about you." I said, "That's impossible. I can assure them it's not true."

'But then my sister said, "I think you should call your father." I called him and it turned out he is writing a book. The worst part



THE book claims Oprah's mother Verita Lee doesn't have her daughter's direct phone number

of it was him saying, "I meant to tell you I've been working on it."

'I was upset. I won't say 'devastated,' but I was stunned. The last person in the world to be doing a book about me is Vernon Winfrey. The last person.'

In the book, Esters also accuses Oprah of embellishing her impoverished upbringing.

Oprah has spoken openly about her childhood, being raised by teenage parents, living with her grandmother for several years and being abused by a cousin, uncle and family friend when she was nine.

At 13, Oprah ran away from her mother's home and went to live with her stepfather after becoming pregnant at 14. Her son tragically died soon after birth.

Despite Oprah's recollections of wearing potato sacks as dresses and keeping cockroaches as pets, Esters disputes times were that hard.

Esters said: 'Where Oprah got that nonsense about growing up in filth and roaches I have no idea.

'I've confronted her and asked, "why do you tell such lies?" Oprah told me "that's what people want to hear. The truth is boring."

The book also claims Oprah has a strained relationship with her mother Verita, who doesn't have a direct line to her famous daughter

Vernon has also said he is disappointed with Oprah's description of her upbringing: 'She may be admired by the world, but I know the truth. So does god and so does Oprah. Two of us remain ashamed.'

The book also claims Oprah has a strained relationship with her mother Verita, who doesn't have a direct line to her famous daughter and communicates through her assistant.

Kelley told RadarOnline.com: 'The assistant tells Oprah what her mother wants and then the assistant calls Vernita back and tells her what Oprah said.'

'Vernita buys \$500 hats, and she has a very good life financially, but she can't reach Oprah. Oprah will not give her mother her telephone number.'

The book also addresses rumours about Oprah's sexuality and Kelley draws the conclusion the talk show host is 'asexual'.

Oprah lives with long-term partner Stedman Graham, but does not share a bedroom with him, according to Kelley.

While Oprah has discussed some of her previous boyfriends before, the book uncovers an old romance with singer and former Entertainment Tonight host John Tesh.

Tesh confirmed the pair lived together in Nashville in the Seventies, but declined to confirm whether the pressure of being in an interracial relationship led to their split.

He said: 'Oprah and I were cub reporters in Nashville nearly 40 years ago and we dated for a short time. We remain friends to this day.'

Yar'Adua

A FINE GENTLEMAN



Nigerians, a philosopher once said that 'he who condones betrayal will someday experience it' and as friends of Umaru Yar'adua we refuse to condone the betrayal of our friend and the negative political propaganda against his personage. He has become a prisoner of some cabals' opinions which they have in turn marketed in the media for a few months as though he had committed a crime against humanity by being ill. The reality is that he is recovering. Here are a few facts and testimonies about our friend, Umaru.

FACTS

In 1999; he was the first governor in the history of Nigeria to publicly declare his assets.

The first university graduate to be President of Nigeria with a BSc degree in Education and Chemistry and an MSc degree in Analytical Chemistry.

TESTIMONIES

"...He is a man of peace; in fact he is more of a leftist".

- Governor Babangida Aliyu, Governor of Niger State
- (The Nation, March 31 2010)

"His Excellency, Umaru Musa Yar'adua is and will always be a rare gentle breed, his nature kind his heart sincere in the realm of nature he remains ever a gentleman's gentleman and a testimony of a great name".

- Hon. Dr Josef Umunnakwe Onoh, Okaa-Omee Ngwo II
- (The Nation, April 7, 2010)

Umaru is a good man, an astute politician, a compassionate leader and a peace maker. We therefore agree with the apt and timely advice to Nigerians by Honourable Farouk Lawan who said; "Yar'adua is recovering and when he recovers, he will take over. Nobody has asked Jonathan to stop acting. President is on medical vacation and should be allowed to be in peace". (Vanguard, March 6, 2010)

FRIENDS OF UMARU YAR'ADUA



TEACHERS REGISTRATION COUNCIL OF NIGERIA

Headquarters, Plot 567, Aminu Kano, Crescent Wuse II, PMB 526, Garki GPO, Abuja
 www.trcn.gov.ng, email: dpo@trcn.gov.ng Tel: 0805 449 9674

Announces the commencement of

Online Registration of Teachers in Nigeria

Procedure for Online Registration of Teachers

1. Visit www.trcn.gov.ng or www.enigeria.com.ng
2. Click on "Teachers Registration"
3. Choose "New Application" or "Annual Renewal"

New Application	Annual Renewal
Follow directions on the screen to complete your online application.	Follow directions on the screen to access Annual Renewal System.
Confirm correctness of your application and print your confirmation.	Search and select record for editing. Complete and confirm form and print your confirmation.
Visit any Skye Bank branch with your form number to make payment or use your ATM card to pay online.	Visit any Skye Bank branch with your form number to make payment or use your ATM card to pay online.
Take original copies of all credentials and attestations supplied on the online form to the nearest TRCN Desk Officer or TRCN State Office (TRCN Desk Officers are in all Tertiary Institutions, UBEC offices and NTI offices).	Take original copies of all credentials and attestations supplied on the online form to the nearest TRCN Desk Officer or TRCN State Office (TRCN Desk Officers are in all Tertiary Institutions, UBEC offices and NTI offices).
Check your status weekly at www.trcn.gov.ng or www.enigeria.com.ng for updates and notices from TRCN.	Check your status weekly at www.trcn.gov.ng or www.enigeria.com.ng for updates and notices from TRCN.

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Already registered eAgents/eDealers should urgently forward their current phone numbers, contact and email addresses to grant.nwosu@enigeria.com.ng. Other interested individuals/companies with web enabled facilities to assist teachers' with online registration should apply as eAgents by visiting www.enigeria.com.ng. From the home page, click on e-Opportunity and then register.

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ta dawo!

garabasar 9ja taik 4 free



yi magana na minti daya, ka samu minti daya kyauta!

babu gasar mai rabo ka dauka

- Sayi layin etisalat daga shagunanmu na etisalat mafi kusa ko dillalanmu
- Saka kudi a layinka na etisalat ka kirawo layin etisalat
- Samu kyautar kashi dari bisa dari na mintinan da ka kira daga layin etisalat zuwa etisalat
- A takaice zamu mayar maka da minti daya kyauta! na duk minti daya (dakika 60) da ka kashe daga layinmu na etisalat zuwa etisalat
- Yi amfani da kyautar mintinanka ka kirawo ko wanene akan layin etisalat kyauta!

Saboda haka me kake jira? garzaya yanzu ka sayi layin etisalat ka fara magana don ka samu kyautar mintinan kira

*Wannan garabasar a bude take ga duk masu amfani da layin etisalat na easy starter ko easy cliq

Garabasar zata kai har talatin ga watan afrilu, 2010

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NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA
14/16, Ahmadu Bello Way, P. M. B. 80067, Victoria Island, Lagos.

INVITATION FOR FINANCIAL BIDDING

A INTRODUCTION

The National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Lagos plans to commence the implementation of 2010 Capital Projects. In view of this, the University hereby invites technically competent and qualified Contractors for Financial Bidding.

B SCOPE OF WORKS

Below is the list of areas covered by the scope of works to be undertaken:-

1. Renovation/Construction of Study Centres
2. Borehole Construction at Study Centres
3. Furnishing of Study Centres
4. Repair/Supply of Printing Machines
5. Project Monitoring Vehicles
6. Office Equipments
7. Drainage Works

C BIDDING REQUIREMENT

All intending Contractors are to pay a non-refundable fee of **N50,000.00** only per Bid in Bank Draft payable to NOUN.

Bid Documents are thereafter to be obtained from the Directorate of Procurement, NOUN Headquarter, 14/16 Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island, Lagos on presentation of photocopy of draft between 9.00am and 3.00pm daily and shall last for two (2) weeks from the date of this publication.

All Contractors presently handling NOUN Capital Projects need not apply.

D SUBMISSION/OPENING OF BIDS

1. The completed Bid Documents should be sealed and marked "Confidential" and stating the Lot no and title of the project at the left hand corner of Envelope. Contractors Bidding for furniture should attach the furniture catalogue describing the various items.
2. All completed Bid Documents are either to be sent to the Registrar as addressed below or dropped in our Bid Boxes located at the Conference Hall, Model Study Centre, NOUN Headquarter, Lagos latest two weeks from the date of this publication.
3. Opening of the Bid Documents shall take place 12noon of the last day of the two weeks. Please note that no late submission of Bids shall be entertained.
4. Please note that the submission of Bids is an offer and should not be considered as a commitment on the part of NOUN nor entitles Firms/Companies to make any claim(s) whatsoever and or seek any indemnity from NOUN. It is not a contract.
6. All Bidding Contractors are encouraged to attend the opening exercise.

Signed
Registrar,
National Open University of Nigeria,
14/16 Ahmadu Bello Way,
Victoria Island,
Lagos

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PHYSICIANS OF NIGERIA (APHPN)



COMMUNIQUE OF ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH PHYSICIANS OF NIGERIA (APHPN) ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 26TH ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE AND GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE NATIONAL SICKLE CELL CENTER, IDI-ARABA, LAGOS FROM 24TH TO 26TH MARCH, 2010

PREAMBLE:

The 26th Annual National Scientific Conference and General Meeting of the Association of Public Health Physicians of Nigeria (APHPN) held at the National Sickle Cell Center, Idi-Araba, Lagos between 24th and 26th March, 2010. The participants were made up of public health/community health physicians from the Federal & State Ministries of Health, Medical Officers of Health, the academia, corporate organizations, Non Governmental Organization and other stakeholders from international agencies and pharmaceutical companies.

The theme of the conference was: "50 years of Independence; State of Nigerian Health System". The sub-themes were: Health System Manpower Development, Health Services Management and Emergency Preparedness and Response. The conference was organised to review the health care service delivery in the country, identify strengths and weaknesses and recommend measures for improving health care delivery.

OBSERVATIONS

At the end of these deliberations, the following observations were made:

1. Despite efforts of the Government at all levels, International Partners and other stakeholders at advancing health care delivery in the country through various policies, programs and initiatives, inputs by various stakeholders are poorly harmonised and coordinated therefore quality and sustainability are not guaranteed.
2. The association also noted a gradual and consistent decline in the capacity of the health care system to provide quality health care services, inadequate and inequity in the distribution of health care resources, as well as lack of political will at all levels of government resulting in the worsening of health indices.
3. Although there is slight improvement in maternal and child health indices, the morbidity and mortality pattern and the overall health indices are still poor and have not shown any significant improvement in the last few decades and as such the country may not attain the health-related MDGs.
4. There is persistent weakness in health care management and infrastructure to cope with existing endemic diseases such as malaria, TB, diarrheal diseases and emerging health challenges such as HIV/AIDS, swine flu, non-communicable diseases and disasters.
5. The continuing preference of Nigerian elites especially our leaders for overseas treatment, which is an expression of lack of confidence in the country health care system.
6. Fundamental deficiency in operational and applied research to guide health care policies and program planning, implementation and evaluation; as well as failure to integrate research findings into programming, resulting in inefficiency in allocation and utilisation of scarce health resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

From the above observations, the following recommendations were made:

1. There should be an improved capacity for health care management and coordination at all levels – community, LGA, State and National, so as to improve resource mobilization and utilization, minimize wastage and promote efficient utilization of health resources.
2. Government at all levels should increase funding for health care services in order to improve quality of care and guarantee sustainability of health programs, an issue which the Association believes should be addressed in the proposed national health bill.
3. Evolve mechanisms for strengthening of operational and applied research activities at all levels by all stakeholders – researchers, managers and funders, through advocacy, resource mobilization and capacity building.
4. Centres and States like LUTH and Lagos State respectively where health reforms are visible and effective should be replicated across the nation.

Prof. Obehi Okojie
Chairman

Dr. A. R. Isara
Secretary General

PROPERTY

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FG to build 54,500 houses by 2011

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE minister for Land, Housing and Urban Development Mr. Nduse Essien on Monday promised that this administration will deliver 54,500 new houses with each senatorial district getting 500 units of houses throughout the country within the next 10 months.

He made this remark at the inaugural meeting of the

minister with directors and heads of departments of the ministry in Abuja.

He added that the task of making the target housing delivery a reality is by ensuring that only service providers with best practices standards are enlisted to work, saying no contract will be awarded without passing through the necessary crucibles of the law. The minister noted that the task of providing decent and affordable housing, planned

development of our cities and towns and the management of our land resource are never easy.

"Over 86 percent of Nigerians cannot afford a house valued at N1.5 million even if they invested 100 percent of their earnings over a period of ten years. Obviously, this is a very unlikely scenario as no one can save 100 percent of their earnings. However, the above picture offers a vivid view of the enormous task that lies ahead of us," he said.



COREN'S Registrar, Engr. Felix Atume (right) presenting a list of competent engineers and a white paper to the Minister of Special Duties, Retired Navy Captain Caleb Olubolade yesterday in Abuja.

Minister warns contractors on failed projects

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Minister of Special Duties, Retired Navy Captain Caleb Olubolade yesterday told contractors handling federal government projects that their activities will henceforth be monitored effectively to ensure quality jobs.

Olubolade, who stated this during an interactive session with members of the Council for the Regulation of Engineering in Nigeria (COREN) in Abuja, warned the contractors to buckle-up as government can no longer condone situations where money is collected and jobs left undone.

The minister also complained of shoddy building jobs that lead to collapse and called on COREN to play a new role in contracting in order to provide jobs for jobless youths with engineering certificates.

He said his ministry, which is also charged with monitoring and evaluation of federal government's projects will move to sites to inspect ongoing works in order to hear from contractors, so that their problems can be solved instantly for quality work to be achieved.

In his response, COREN's Registrar, Engr. Felix Atume, lamented that the federal government during Obasanjo's regime constituted a committee on how to address capacity building in engineering development and a white paper was submitted that has not been implemented.

Engineers want technocrat driven ministries

By Nasir Imam

THE Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE) has said that a mostly technocrat driven ministries will provide the opportunity to adjust and manage the policies of government to full implementation in their area of competence.

NSE President, Engr. Olumuyiwa Alade Ajibola, who stated this at a press briefing

in Abuja yesterday, however said NSE welcomes the dissolution of the Federal Executive Council by the Acting President, Goodluck Jonathan. He however said that to NSE's surprise, out of 38 ministers, there are about 4 lawyers, 2 pharmacists, 2 physicists and 4 architects but only one engineer.

Engr. Ajibola said the engineer, even though he possesses petroleum engineering

background, was posted to the ministry of works, the main ministry for engineering, as minister of state, while the minister for works is an architect, which he described as square peg in a round hole. He said this informed the recent calls on government to give professionals a chance to prove themselves in the service of their nation by putting round pegs in round holes to drive its goals.

Daggash to inspect Niger bridge Thursday

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Minister of Works, Senator Sanusi Mohammed Daggash, will commence his first inspection tour of projects in the Ministry with a visit to the existing Niger Bridge at Onitsha in Anambra State on Thursday

This was disclosed on Monday by the Anambra State Governor, Mr. Peter Obi after he paid a courtesy visit to the Minister of Works, Senator Sanusi Mohammed Daggash and the Minister of State, Engr. Chris Ogiemwonyi on how they were planning to realize the Second Niger bridge project.

Governor Obi stated that the proposed second Niger Bridge was a very strategic national infrastructure, which was of interest and concern to the entire nation. He said this underlined the resolve of the new Minister of Works, to visit the area on his first official inspection tour.

Truck drivers turn Lafia roundabout into garage

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

OPERATORS of articulated vehicles including oil tankers, trailers and other lorries have taken over the roundabout at Mararaba Akunza in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital, turning the beginning of Lafia-Makurdi Road into a garage.

State commissioner for Housing, Environment and Urban Development, Mohamed Yamusa told Daily Trust on phone, yesterday that government has taken note of the observation. "We will look into it", the commis-

sioner said.

But operators of the vehicles spoken to told Daily Trust that they have been compelled to use the road at the roundabout for parking because of lack of an alternative garage for them.

The drivers said government has not provided the garage for parking, nor has it frowned at the turning of the roundabout into a garage for the articulated vehicles which are always parked at both sides of the roads.

Our observation has shown that the turning of the roundabout into a garage for articulated

vehicles is a potential cause of serious accidents at that point as the development has left only a narrow portion of the road for use.

"Other road users are compelled to squeeze into the narrow space left on the road. This is dangerous" said a road user.

Daily Trust also observed other commercial vehicle operators including passenger vehicles have been allowed to turn any space available into motor parks, a development which has also created an eyesore and disorder for the state capital.

Property



property@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

EYE ON ABUJA

WITH Umar Shuaibu
umarshuaibu1@yahoo.com



Senator Bala Mohammed – Riding against the tide

FOR the second time consecutively, just like the ousted Senator Adamu Aliero, another Senator, Bala Mohammed was landed with the ministerial portfolio of the FCT. Depending on the credibility of a first experience people could seek for a recurrence and more.

The two individuals could be compared and contrasted with the possibility of generalizing their performances based on their common constituency, which is the senate. However linking their performances to their constituencies shall not be fair to the entire senate, because this is a matter that bothers on their individual attitudes and disposition to honesty, justice and fair play while discharging their responsibilities. Their perceptions to what should be prioritized also differ. While for Aliero among his first public comment as the minister was his pledge to respect the Abuja master plan. Whether he made true his pledge is left for us now to answer. For the new Honourable Minister Senator Bala Mohammed Duguri, is his pledge to descend heavily on land racketeers, his making good that pledge is not yet ours to answer, until the end of his tenure.

We have previously mentioned the actual requirements for occupying the position; it includes honesty, dedication, seasoned professionalism and track record. If his predecessor has a questionable background based on the type of record he left behind, or his political cross-carpeting at the dusk of his tenure as the Executive Governor of his Kebbi State, the incumbent Minister's record in his Bauchi State is that of a principled, tested, trusted and consistent politician, for his refusal to tow along with his Governor by abandoning the political base and those that supported him on his way to the top.

What we wait to see is whether this sound principle shall be maintained now that he has clinched the ministerial portfolio of the FCT against all odds. At

least we have seen in him a person with a sound record before being appointed as the minister, contrary to what we read from the controversial out-pours from the state of his predecessor at the time he was appointed. With that sort of track record, we were not in the least surprised at what transpired during his tenure.

The FCT portfolio is no doubt among the big posts all ministerial appointees desire. This is because the Minister has such powers of allocation similar to those exercised by state governors.

Just as the powers are enormous so also are the challenges in the spheres of development activities. But not withstanding his base as an opposition politician, the lobbying by the powerful members within the ruling party itself for their favourites to clinch the big portfolios and his precarious position as a Senator whose post is being made shaky by those making concerted efforts to pull him down due to his steadfast and consistency to remain with those downtrodden that supported and ensured his victory to occupy the senatorial seat, he was able to get this juicy portfolio against all odds.

Such example to us is a proof, that sound principle and consistency after all pays. But was a tougher challenge not faced by Governor Isa Yuguda while using the opposition ticket to clinch the governorship against his predecessor's candidate that is in the ruling party? It seems we have soon forgotten.

It has also been proven that if it was necessary for Alhaji Adamu Aliero to decamp to the ruling party before he can successfully clinch a senatorial and subsequently a ministerial seat, so is it also possible for Alhaji Bala Mohammed to achieve same while in the opposition camp even with formidable forces riding against him.

It is just either people do not understand the enormity of the powers, or lack faith in the Supreme Being

that made it possible for them be in power. Thus, irrespective of the change in political base and the family attachment to those that matters, another surprise could be pulled out in Bauchi come 2011. Also irrespective of the enormous empowerment to his state indigenes for a stronger political base while occupying the FCT ministerial seat, it is also possible for Senator Aliero himself or anybody he presents to experience the surprise of their lives come 2011.

What we advise the new minister is to have a particular focus on what he wants to achieve, and work for all irrespective of his state of origin or political lineage. It is one thing to be a leader and another for the leader to respect the feelings of the led. Being humans the leadership might have not foreseen some consequences. Genuine and constructive criticisms must be respected by him as suggestions for corrections and guide for the way forward not as a challenge to his authority.

While el-Rufa'i got preoccupied with recertification, retrenchments and massive demolitions, the rightful and wrongful, Aliyu Modibbo's was the reinstatements of properties to victims of his predecessor's onslaughts, added with a stalled boulevard project and others. For Senator Aliero among what he would be obviously remembered with, is his unpopular and astronomical increase in land fees, such that rents have tremendously skyrocketed.

Since he has the sound principle of remaining with the downtrodden even in the face of formidable intimidation, what we advise Senator Mohammed to focus in is sanitising land allocations against what his predecessor left behind, giving rights to those unjustly severed with their properties and employments and finding solution to the high rent cost in Abuja where houses are available but not affordable. This shall go a long way to solving the problems of the common citizens.

'How Abuja car park project got stalled'

Arc Umaru Usman Karaye is the President of D&B Nig. Ltd., the construction firm handling the stalled four-storey multi-level car park in Area 10, Abuja. He spoke on the controversy surrounding the project and the way forward.

By Nasir Imam

History of the project

SOMETIME in 2004 there was an advert for interested parties to indicate their interest to participate in the PPP project for the

multi-level car parks in Abuja and we did and at the end of the day we were successful in two of the lots i.e. Area 10 and Area 11, for some reasons the client decided to suspend the Area 11 project which is situated



THE project site for the four-storey multi-level car park in Area 10, Abuja.

close to the FCT Minister's block.

For the Area 10 project, the cost of the four-floor project was about N420 million, the concept is Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT), the design was already made by the client but we had to fine tune it, develop it to a buildable, more viable one.

And according to the agreement we were to source the funds from commercial banks up to the tune of 70% and we were to contribute, 30% as equity, and before we even sent our proposal we approached Urban Development Bank of Nigeria (UDBN) who gave us approval that they were going to participate.

UDBN told us to deposit 10% of the cost and we did but somehow along the line the bank could not measure up so we were left with our own equity to continue with the work.

We had spent up till N180 million on the job, so when we discovered UDBN had gone moribund we turned to commercial banks unfortunately commercial banks were no longer interested in long term funds because we were talking of a 5-year loan facility, so we to look for other sources including foreign sources.

The way forward

So that is where we found ourselves after spending so much and at the end of the day we could not even take over the site until about a year after, and the client could not clear the site of encumbrances

and give us the title to the land about a year or so, so we agreed that we will extend the concession period from eleven years to fifteen years.

Actually BOT is a new concept and the banks who are supposed to be partners in such projects are not keen, so we are in affix because nobody wants to touch this kind of project.

So when FCTA realised this was not going to work, and they have other PPP projects that are having the same problems, we decided to sit down with them and see whether we can bring other parties or we can ask FCTA to also partner as well.

At the end of the day they agreed that we should value what we have spent and convert it into equity so that they can bring more funds and continue with the project, they also wanted to change the design to incorporate other facilities, we said fine and after we submitted our proposal and at the end of the day we agreed at N130 million is the amount we spent and we all signed the agreement.

So we are now waiting for them to come up with the new design, it is only after that we will know whether they are ready to obtain more loan or they want to use their own equity for us to move forward.

And if they want to get another contractor, fine, we remove our equipment and allow them to continue.



PEOPLES' DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Kebbi State Chapter
Birnin Kebbi

Open Letter To The National Chairman Of PDP, Prince (Dr) Vincent Ogbulafor

We as concerned card carrying members of the Peoples' Democratic Party (PDP) in Kebbi state and on behalf of teaming members and supporters of our great party in the state wish to draw the attention of our respected leaders of the party through our visionary and dynamic National Chairman, Prince (Dr) Vincent Ogbulafor to a very dangerous trend raising its ugly and very harmful head in our dear state, Kebbi that require the urgent attention of the national leadership of our party to address the issue immediately before it consume innocent people and our party men and women, and that is the issue of thug activities in the state.

It is on record that since the creation of Kebbi state, there has never been any notable crisis in the state be it religious, tribal or political. Kebbi has been a very peaceful state partially because we have regarded ourselves as one family despite the differences in religion, ethnicity and tribal differences that exist among the people of the state. Kebbi is also noted for the respect we accord to our traditional, religious and political leaders. That has also contributed to the peace we have been enjoying in the state.

Unfortunately however, the relative peace in the state is gradually and dangerously being phased out as a result of massive thug activities being perpetrated by armed political thugs operating with the consent and active connivance of people in government and in some cases by the use of vehicles with state government number plates. This attitude though may be daily occurrences in other parts of the country; they are alien to us and therefore unacceptable.

At this past weekend for example, a serving Commissioner with the state government invited dignitaries from all parts of the country to witness the wedding of his daughter that took place at his hometown, Dakin-Gari in the state. Incidentally, the Commissioner is from the same place with the state Governor. But because the Commissioner invited some important personalities that though are from the same PDP with the governor, but because he perceived them as people opposed to his second term bid as Governor of the state, thugs numbering over two thousand carrying dangerous arms stormed the venue of the event and started attacking people. The thugs that were in Kebbi state government own vehicles with the state government registration numbers arrived the town in the state Governor's convoy. Some of them were arrested by the Police and arms were recovered from them.

Similarly, those thugs from the Governor's camp goes around the state removing posters of other politicians in the state with the exception of those of the Governor. Again, those thugs use state government vehicles to carry out such intimidating and criminal operations. That action, led to some clashes among supporters of other camps and the thugs from the state government. The Police and SSS in the state intervened and directed that all posters including those of the Governor should be removed until INEC and the Federal Government gives go ahead for the commencement of campaigns. But rather than abide by the simple directives given by the security agencies in the interest of peace, the state Governor increased the number of thugs in his convoy that escorts him to all parts of the state removing posters of other candidates and replacing them with his.

Just last Monday when the Governor was travelling from Birnin-Kebbi the state capital to Gotomo he stopped with his convoy at Ujariyo where he directed the thugs in his convoy to remove all the posters of other PDP candidates pasted there and replace them with his. Two camps belonging to the villagers were destroyed in the process and three of the numerous people that tried to put some resistance were beaten and wounded in the process.

Kebbi which is fast becoming an all-PDP state, is witnessing an alien thug infested type of politics from a desperate government that is looking for relevance at all cost. The wild thug activity in the state started after the state Governor failed to impose an unpopular leadership of the party on the people of the state. We cried out, you investigated and immediately saved the party by appointing an acceptable caretaker committee for the party in the state. That action did not go down well with the Governor. Since then he has been threatening to abandon PDP and contest as an independent candidate. The introduction of thug activities in the state politics may be a calculated way of destroying our party in order to create a good platform for him elsewhere. We shall not allow that to happen.

The Governor again in a desperate move has been planning in vain to take the leadership of the state politics from His Excellency, the former Governor of the state, Senator Adamu Aliero. Aliero was the person that brought the Governor from the public service and introduced him to politics and made him what he is today. We make it bold to say that nobody can succeed in becoming anything politically today in Kebbi except through Aliero. This is a fact that no one can dispute.

We hereby urge the leadership of our great party to stop the Governor from militarising the system in the state. He should be made to abide by all decisions of the NWC of the party and the NEC so long as he remains a member of the party. The Police and SSS should be asked to prevent him from moving with thugs in his convoy. All those arrested for thug activities in the state should be prosecuted and their sponsors exposed.

Sir, it is necessary to take this action immediately in the interest of our party and the entire people of the state. It is not in the interest of our party for anybody to cause harm on the people in the name of the party. We trust our visionary leaders and believe you will soon take the appropriate action.

Thank you, sir.

For and on behalf of PDP members and supporters in Kebbi state,

Alhaji Umar Hallu Jega

Hajjiya Mairo Inuwa Yauri

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (re-advertisement)



The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Nigeria would like to invite registered Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) for Pre-qualification and possible inclusion in a database of NGOs specialized in the following areas:

Elections

Media

Conflict Management

Political Parties

Gender

Human Rights, Rule of Law and Access to Justice

Youth

Other Democratic Governance areas not specifically mentioned above

The United Nations Development Programme in Nigeria, through the Democratic Governance for Development (DGD) project is looking to complete a comprehensive roster of NGOs working in the area of democratic governance in Nigeria.

Interested NGOs must meet the eligibility requirements for consideration which can be downloaded at the following UNDP websites: www.ng.undp.org, www.undp.org. The application template can also be downloaded from the websites.

SUBMISSION DETAILS:

The EOI and supporting documents must be received not later than the 23 of APRIL 2010 by 3:00 PM (local time) and must be forwarded to the address below in a sealed envelope clearly labeled "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PRE QUALIFICATION OF NGOs in NIGERIA" PLEASE INCLUDE THE NAME OF THE NGO AND THE GEO-POLITICAL ZONE OF INTEREST.

OPERATIONS MANAGER

UNDP/DGD 4TH FLOOR

ELIZADE PLAZA, OPPOSITE BOLINGO HOTEL
CENTRAL AREA, GARKI (ABUJA)

The EOI submissions that are not in compliance with the requested information as outlined above will be not be considered eligible to be included in the next stage in this process.

This EOI does not amount to a commitment on the part of UNDP, either financial or otherwise. UNDP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOI without any obligation to inform the affected applicants of the grounds for acceptance or rejection.

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Youths group wants Abaji council polls cancelled

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

MEMBERS of the Abaji Concerned Youth Forum (ACYF) yesterday called for the cancellation of the council polls announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in Abaji on Saturday.

ACYF's Secretary, Abdullahi Suleiman, said the election was marred by irregularities, espe-

cially in some rural communities, where voters were deprived from voting by hired thugs.

According to him, the election conducted at Gurdi, Kutara, Gawu, Mamagi, Gulida and Agyana, were marred and did not reflect the wishes of the residents in such places," he added.

"About 60 percent of our members went round polling units in some rural areas to monitor the

election and were amazed at thugs chasing voters away," he disclosed.

The forum secretary blamed security agents for the irregularities at polling units, adding that they refused to act when such irregularities were perfected.

He said since the creation of Abaji, the council has never witnessed such magnitude of election irregularities, where about 70 percent of voters, especially those

from the opposition parties were denied voting rights in the presence of security agents.

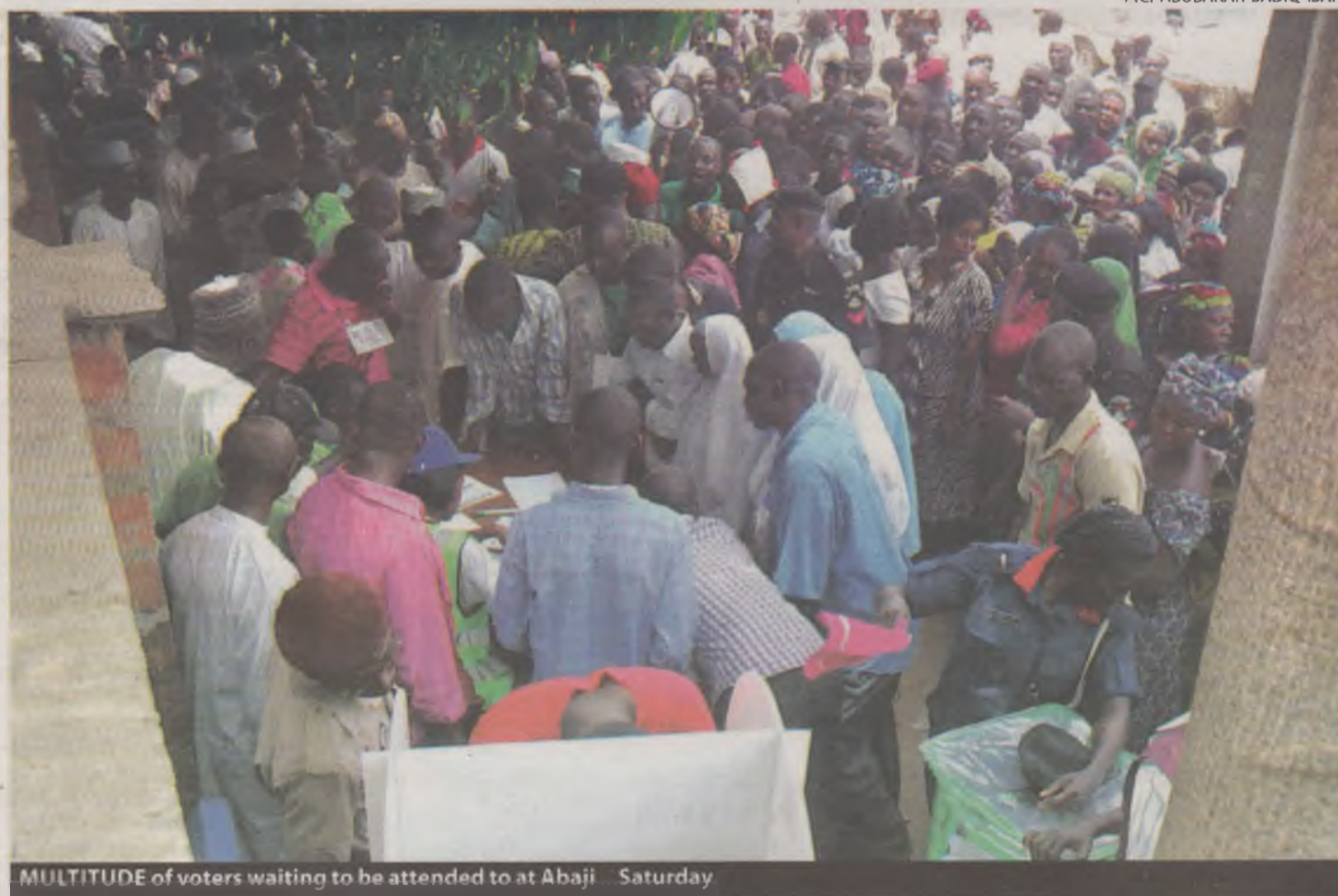
Meanwhile, the Action Congress (AC) in Abaji has decried the massive arrest and harassment of its members as well as supporters by the police.

Abaji AC Chairman, Alhaji Mohammed Angulu Bello, said 15 party members/supporters, including the AC women's leader

at Yaba ward, have been in police detention since Saturday.

He said some PDP members escorted the policemen with their vehicles to arrest the AC members, adding that the police authorities should intervene in the matter urgently.

When contacted, Abaji Divisional Police Officer, Mr. Adepegba K. Adetoye, denied arresting any AC members.



PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH

MULTITUDE of voters waiting to be attended to at Abaji Saturday

Man divorces wife over quarrelsome behaviour

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A middle-aged man penultimate Thursday told an Abuja Upper Area Court that he wants to be separated from his wife because of her allegedly quarrelsome and selfish attitudes.

Baimal Elemza Sandab told the court he got married to Hajara Shuaibu six years ago, adding that the union is without an issue.

He said he is tired of his wife because she fights him despite his condition as a physically challenged person.

"My wife beats, quarrels with me without considering my condition and she is also selfish," he told the court.

Baimal said he needs a lady who will take care of him and not somebody, who will send him to an early grave.

He further informed the court that he adopted a child from the Abuja Children's Home when his wife could not conceive after few years of their marriage, adding that he personally signed all documents before the concerned authority granted him custody of the baby," he said.

In her response, Hajara Shuaibu, said she still loves her husband and will not accede to the divorce.

She told the judge that if her husband decides to continue with the divorce case, the court should grant her custody of their adopted child.

Our reporter learnt that both couple resolved that the woman take care of the child before Judge Issa Alhaji Yahaya dissolved the marriage under the marriage act of Nigeria.

Bizman denies defrauding pastor of N3m

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 27-year-old business man Monday denied before an Abuja magistrate court that he defrauded one Pastor Bunmi Babs of N3 million.

Henry Nganwuchu of H & L Company Limited was accused of collecting money from the pastor.

Prosecutor Abu Okpanachi told the court that on May 16, 2007, Stephen Anokzeng of legal service unit, Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC), Abuja, reported to the police that the accused defrauded Pastor Bunmi Babs.

"The accused dishonestly presented the following documents to the pastor: acknowledgement letter for N1.25 million from NCC and a certified letter of sharing formula from NCC," the prosecutor said.

He said the accused presented the documents as genuine and collected about N3 million from the pastor under false pretence.

According to him, on May 18, 2007, the accused was arrested and latter granted bail after entering into criminal recognisance to pay N4.5 million.

He told the court that the accused refused to report to the

police or pay the said money and ran to an unknown destination.

"Even when the accused was arrested between November and December 2009, he criminally ran away from the police, while they were taking him home," the prosecutor said.

The prosecutor disclosed that the accused used part of the money to buy a Peugeot 406 car with registration number DQ490ABJ and rented an apartment at Gwarimpa Housing Estate, Abuja, adding that the offences are punishable under Sections 312, 322, 397 and 173 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he denied them and requested for bail.

Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo granted the accused bail in the sum of N1 million with two reasonable sureties in like sums, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

He also ruled that one of the sureties must be a civil servant of not below grade level 12 and that both sureties must swear to affidavits to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to May 4 for hearing.

Court cautions, discharges convicted women

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court yesterday cautioned and discharged three women after convicting of them.

Chidima Nwakibe, 19, a cashier with Assorted Foods Nigeria Limited, Wuse 2, Abuja, Christiana Ejule Ajodo, 25, and Doris Echarabor, 20, all of the same address, committed the offence in this month.

Prosecutor Ahmed Mohammed told the court that on April 9, one Olu Akure, an operational manager of Assorted Foods, reported to the police that the first accused person (Chidima Nwakibe) stole N16,160.

"During police investigations, it was discovered that the second accused persons dishonestly received the stolen money from the first accused person and kept

it for her," the prosecutor said.

According to the prosecutor, sometimes in March, the third accused person dishonestly received N10,000 from the first accused person, adding that both of them knew that the money was stolen.

"The money was recovered from the possession of the second and third accused persons and they

committed offences punishable under Sections 289 and 317 of the Penal Code Law," he said.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, all of them pleaded guilty and begged the court for leniency.

Magistrate Ann Akobi convicted as well as discharged each of the accused persons and warned them to desist from theft.

Court orders electronic execs to hand over

By Ogechi Ohalee

AN FCT High Court sitting at Zuba yesterday ordered the past executives of the Electronics Dealers Association, Abuja, to stop parading themselves as executives of the association.

Justice Kekemeke told Chuka Okoye, Eugene Akaeme, Omoba Okoye, Emma Odoemena, Ogali Onochie, Marcel Ezeagu, S.N. Oguocha, Joel Maduwesi, Ignatius Okpara and Emma Olisa to also render the association's account as well as handover immediately to the new executive led by Chief Uche Ukabam.

It will be recalled that the old executives tenure expired since March 28, 2008 but refused to vacate their seats and took away the association's official documents which made the new executives led by Chief Uche Ukabam seek justice in court.

Speaking to newsmen after the judgement, Chief Ukabam thanked God for keeping members of his exco alive to witness the historic judgement.

He praised his lawyer Barrister Nnaemeka Ejiofor and extended his hand of fellowship to members of the former exco.

Two jailed for attempted theft

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court yesterday sentenced two men to three months imprisonment for attempting to steal.

Kabiru Abbas, 31, and Lawal Mohammed, 21, both of Mabushi Quarters, Abuja, were jailed for attempting to steal from some Mabushi residence.

Prosecutor Christopher Roko had earlier told the court that Oji Adamu and Peter Musa, both members of a vigilante group arrested the two men and brought them to Utako Police Station.

"During police investigations, both of them confessed to attempted theft and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 95 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor stated.

When the charge was read to the accused persons, he pleaded guilty and begged the court for leniency.

Magistrate Bashir Attahiru Alkali sentenced each of them to three months imprisonment or to pay N2,000 as fine.



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- **Maiduguri:** 10 Busari Road, Opp. Maiduguri Flour Mills. [Tel: 0705 5275455, 0805 437 5770, 0807 369 2759]
- **Lagos:** 31 Ize-Iyamu St, Off Billigsway Rd, Oregun, Ikeja [Tel: 0702 7953797, 0805 5787871, 01-7624713, 01-7624714]



**GOMBE STATE GOVERNMENT
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
MALARIA CONTROL BOOSTER PROJECT
CREDIT No. 4250-UNI**

PROCUREMENT OF OFFICE VEHICLES

IFB.No. GM/MCBP/NCB/02/10 & IFB.No. GM/NCB/PIU/VEH/03/10

- The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of Malaria Control Booster Project, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Office Vehicles Nos: GM/MCBP/NCB/02/10 & GM/NCB/PIU/VEH/03/10
- The Gombe State Malaria Control Booster Project now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of the following:
A.: IFB.No. GM/MCBP/NCB/02/10 :

LOT NO.	Item No.	Description of item.	Units	Quantity	Bid Validity	Bid Security	Delivery period	Delivery Location
LOT. 1	1	18 - SEATER BUS	No	1	90 Days	At least 3% of the Bid Price	60 days	Gombe State Malaria Contr. of Booster Project, Along Ashaka Road, Opposite Federal Medical Centre Gombe
LOT. 2	1	PICK UP VAN	No	2	90 Days	At least 3% of the Bid Price	60 days	Gombe State Malaria Control Booster Project, Along Ashaka Road, Opposite Federal Medical Centre Gombe
LOT. 3	1	SUV	No	1	90 Days	At least 3% of the Bid Price	60 days	Gombe State Malaria Control Booster Project, Along Ashaka Road, Opposite Federal Medical Centre Gombe
LOT. 4	1	MOTOR-CYCLE	No	15	90 Days	At least 3% of the Bid Price	60 days	Gombe State Malaria Control Booster Project, Along Ashaka Road, Opposite Federal Medical Centre Gombe
	2	BICYCLE	No	55	90 Days	At least 3% of the Bid Price	60 days	Gombe State Malaria Control Booster Project, Along Ashaka Road, Opposite Federal Medical Centre Gombe

B.: IFB.No. GM/NCB/PIU/VEH/03/10 :

LOT.	Item No.	Description of item.	Units	Quantity	Bid Validity	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Delivery Location
5	1	MEDIA VAN	No	1	90 Days	At least 3% of the Bid Price	60 days	Gombe State Malaria Control Booster Project, Along Ashaka Road, Opposite Federal Medical Centre Gombe

Note: All items are under five (5) Lots. Bidders quoting for incomplete lot will have their bids declared non-responsive. Quotations should include cost of installation, testing and commissioning.

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

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Gombe State Malaria Control Booster Project, at the address below and inspect the Bidding Documents from 10:00am to 4:00pm Mondays to Thursdays and 10:am to 12noon on Fridays, except on public holidays.

6. Qualifications requirements include:
 • Evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar Equipments proposed for the last 5 years.
 • Evidence of registration with CAC.
 • Audited Financial Statements for the last 3 years to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and adequate working capital.

A margin of preference for eligible national contractors shall not apply. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

7. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira) only. The method of payment will be Cash or Bank Draft in Favor of Gombe State Malaria Control Booster Project. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or by courier services on request.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12:00noon on (12th May, 2010). Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at or before 12:00noon on (12th May, 2010). All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least 3% of bid price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

9. The address referred to above is:

Attn: Dr. Arnold Abel Y
 Project Manager,
 Gombe State Malaria Control Booster Project
 Along Ashaka Road, Opposite Federal Medical Centre Gombe,
 Gombe State
 Tel. No: 08023706184, 08028397230.
 E-mail: arnobet95@yahoo.com



**INVITATION TO A FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION ON
THE ASSESSMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE NEW 9-YEAR BASIC EDUCATION CURRICULUM
(BEC)**

The Extra-ordinary meeting of the National Council on Education (NCE) held in 2007 approved a New 9-Year Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) for the implementation of the 9-Year Basic Education Programme. The BEC is a functional skill-oriented curriculum specifically designed to facilitate acquisition of basic functional skills which include Science and Technology, Literacy and Numeracy, ICT, Civic responsibility and Vocational Skills. The Curriculum were printed, launched in the 6-geopolitical zones of the country, and distributed to public schools nationwide through the States and FCT Universal Basic Education Boards.

The Council also prepared Teachers Handbooks for the effective implementation of the curriculum in the classroom. The implementation of the new 9-Year Basic Education Curriculum (BEC) commenced in September 2008, with Primary 1 and JSS 1 classes respectively.

The actualization of ideals of the BEC is predicated upon effective delivery in schools. To this end, and in recognition of your role as a critical stakeholder and implementer of the curriculum, the Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council (NERDC) is inviting you to a Focus Group Discussion (FGD). The FGD will focus on the following issues:

1. Availability of the curriculum
2. Sensitization on the content and structure
3. Curriculum relevance
4. Preparedness of teachers

Participants:

- State Commissioners of Education,
- SUBEB Chairmen,
- Directors School Services in SUBEBs,
- Directors (Primary and Secondary) in State Ministries of Education,
- Zonal Directors, Federal Inspection Services (FIS),
- Heads of FIS in the States,
- UBEC Zonal Coordinators,
- LGEAs Secretaries,
- NUT, ANCOPPS, NAPTAN/SBMCs, National Association of Proprietors of Private Schools, CSOs, NGOs & FBOs

The FGD is scheduled as follows:

- ◆ **Arrival:** Wednesday 21st April, 2010
- ◆ **Meeting:** Thursday 22nd April, 2010
- ◆ **Departure:** Friday 23rd April, 2010
- ◆ **Venue:** South West Zone: Marina Resort Calabar, Cross River State.

For more information on the FGD, please you may call any of the following telephone numbers: 08034401150; 08063804971; 08069259978.

Signed:
Prof. Godswill Obioma
 Executive Secretary,
 Nigerian Educational Research and Development Council,
 Sheda Abuja

Inside Politics

Credible election is now or never, IBB says

By Muideen Olaniyi & Abbas Jimoh

FORMER military President Ibrahim Babangida yesterday said Nigeria must either have a credible election in 2011 or forget it.

General Babangida said this yesterday at the opening of an international conference themed 'Political Instability and Democratic Imperatives in a Dynamic International Environment' organised in Abuja by the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS). He

was represented as special guest by former Army chief retired Major General Alwali Kazir.

"Nigerians and indeed the international community have concluded that Nigeria should by now have learnt a lot about democratic practices such that the 2011 elections should serve as the transitional threshold between democratic naivety and the practice of rational, intelligent, nationalistic and people focused democratic governance, starting with the con-

duct and outcome of election itself. All stakeholders are keenly watching the development. All eyes are on Nigeria. Many feel that 'it's now or never,' he said.

Babangida, who is eyeing the presidency in 2011, said political stability can be guaranteed in a democracy only if those elected to serve ruled in accordance with the rule of law.

He said political stability required a commitment by everybody to fairness, rule of law, fair

and equitable representation in a plural society, adding that Nigeria must embrace fiscal federal and develop its economy so as to provide jobs.

"Nigeria is still a state in evolution. It needs commitment on the part of the political leadership to do the right thing for the people and to put national interest above self, sectarian and ethnic interest. Leadership is the most important element in need to build a nation," he said.

Babangida, who stressed the

need to move away from the incessant religious and ethnic confrontations which he said sometimes led to mutual and mass slaughter of our people; attributed the various crises to poverty.

"It is idle hands that are the devil's instrument. If people are fully engaged they would hardly have time for seeing other as enemies. Religion should be a personal affair. Each person would answer for his or her misdeeds before the Almighty," he said.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Mr. John Kalipa, Chairman House Committee on Anti-Corruption, Hon. Sabo Mohammed and Hon. Abubakar Shehu Bunu during their meeting at National Assembly Abuja.

Anambra PDP told to consult widely

By Muideen Olaniyi

LEADERS of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) from the Southeast have advised the newly constituted Anambra State Caretaker Committee led by Cosmas Oguea Agagbo to engage in wide consultation before setting up caretaker committees in each of the local government areas.

The committee, with Dom Obiekie, Sam Okechukwu, Emma Mbamalu, Somto Udenze, Benjamin Ezeagwu, Okechukwu Nwizugbe and Jessie Belonwu as members and Amanchukwu Ezeike as secretary, was directed by the PDP national secretariat to set up caretaker committees at the ward and LGA level in the state.

However, a letter dated April 12 by zonal leaders which was confirmed by PDP National Vice Chairman (South East) Olisha Metu said the consultation was necessary to guard against a recurrence of crisis that rocked the party.

The leaders advised the committee to consult with present and former National Assembly as well as state assembly members, ex-speaker of the state House of Assembly, state past and present party chairmen, national and zonal officers as well as past and present PDP ministers from the state.

They said the committee would only succeed if it embraces consultation and enthronement of fairness, equity and justice.

Ajibola advises Iwu to resign

By Muideen Olaniyi & Abbas Jimoh

FORMER Attorney General and Minister of Justice Prince Bola Ajibola has advised the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Maurice Iwu to resign from his position.

Ajibola, who delivered a keynote address yesterday at an international conference organised by the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) in Abuja, said Nigeria must usher in a credible electoral system based on the report of Justice Mohammed Uwais Electoral Reform Committee.

"In my view, if I were Prof Maurice Iwu, I would honourably resign my appointment as the Chairman of our Independent national Electoral Commission (INEC)," he said.

"As we have proclaimed to the world that we are embarking on electoral reforms, we should conclude that process honourably by fashioning out a more credible system from the recommendations of the Justice Mohammed Uwais Panel.

"Otherwise, the recommendations of that panel would have amounted to another waste, not only of resources but more impor-

tantly of time... We should avoid the mockery of another election," he added.

He said even though Nigeria's political class was among the highly renumarated in the world, they engaged in acquisition of wealth to the detriment of the populace.

On the Jos crisis, Ajibola, who headed a committee that investigated the 2008 killings there, said, "I have a firm belief that all the key figures involved in resolving the Jos crisis can, and should do better than they are doing now in search of a lasting, just and equitable solution."

He said the Niger Delta crisis would have been curtailed if the recommendations of the 1962 Willink Commission that modalities be put in place to give ethnic minorities a sense of belonging had been implemented.

Earlier, NIPSS Director General Prof. Danfulani Ahmed said the conference was organised as an intervention to various national challenges.

Women Affairs Minister Mrs. Josephine Anenih at the conference advocated for the mainstreaming of women and other excluded groups in the nation's political process.

Party welcomes IBB's ambition, Atiku's return to PDP

THE New Nigeria Peoples Party (NNPP) has welcomed the presidential bid of former military president Ibrahim Babangida.

The NNPP also said that former Vice President Atiku Abubakar's return to the PDP was in order.

Chairman of NNPP's board of trustees Boniface Aniebonam told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos yesterday that "it is the constitutional right of the former military leader to contest the poll. The criticisms by peo-

ple cannot stop their bids because it is their constitutional rights. There is no big deal about this. There is no constitutional 'baricade' that stops the duo from participating in politics or changing political platforms."

Atiku agreed with his political associates last week to return to the PDP.

Aniebonam, who described the controversy generated by the presidential bid and the defection as uncalled for, said their fate would be decided by the

Nigerian people and not their parties.

The NNPP boss said the pedigree and past records of the two political figures would be taken into account by the people in choosing them as their leaders.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

GLOBAL INITIATIVE ON DRUGS AND POVERTY (GIDP)

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. Hadiza Abdul Abubakar
2. Ivori Nnenna Aisha
3. Nura S. A.
4. W. M. Shehu

Aims and Objectives:

1. Create awareness on the negative/damaging effects of drug abuse.
 2. Sensitize victims on the correlation between drug abuse and poverty; among other objects
 3. Identify and rehabilitate persons impaired by the effects of drug abuse.
 4. Set up rehabilitated beneficiaries on a track of financial self reliance.
- Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 426, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Ivori Nnenna Aisha
Suit 45 Beefs Plaza, Utako District, Abuja
08098832035

GENDER, EQUALITY, PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Dr (Mrs) Ejio Otiye
2. Mrs Abiola Akiyode-Afolabi
3. Dr (Mrs) Lydia Umar
4. Professor Umar Pate
5. Professor (Mrs) Patricia Ori Donli

Objectives:

1. Promoting gender equality, women's rights, peace and sustainable development
2. Promoting initiatives that will lead to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) including adaptation to climate change
3. Promoting peace education.

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

Prof.(Mrs)Patricia Ori Donli

THE ECHOES OF HOPE MINISTRY

The general public is hereby notified that the named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990

The Trustees are:

1. AUSTENS-OMEIKE NELSON SUNDAY - PRESIDENT
2. UGBAJA CLETUS - SECRETARY
3. EHICHIOYADEBORAH UWA - MEMBER
4. AMIE ALLEN CHUKS - MEMBER
5. OKOH FELIX UKPERE - MEMBER

Aims and Objectives:

1. To propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ
2. To raise example of believers in the gospel of Christ
3. To conform without compromise with the teaching of the bible
4. To make disciples of all nations and ensuring souls harvest for Christ.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 240, Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama District, Abuja within 28 days from the date of this publication

Signed

CLETUS UGBAJA (Secretary)

THE BLESSED PEOPLE ASSEMBLY

7, Adeosun Street, Abule Egba.

This is to inform 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, of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Pastor Paul A. Tiamiyu
2. Lady Evangelist Precious Tiamiyu
3. Rev. Moses Atabi Idris
4. Mrs. Eunice Omowumi Omigbeyegbe
5. Deacon Oluwatoshin Ojerinde
6. Mr. Abidoye Tajudeen Adekunle

AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

1. To preach the gospel of our lord Jesus Christ.
2. Raising men of hope to dignify the world for heavenly purpose.
3. To conduct deliverance services to those under the bondage of satan.
4. To organize and join desiring couples in marriage.
5. To organize revivals, crusade that will destroy the work of the devil.

Any objection(s) to the registration of the church should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Str. Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: Lanre Omoniyi (08023317670)

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to notify the general public of the loss of certificate of occupancy in respect of plot NO.28 on BOTP/72 file NO BO5183 located at Pompamary Residential layout of about 6000 SQM in Maiduguri belonging to Suleiman Ahamed M of Jajeri Ward Maiduguri. All efforts made to trace the missing documents proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest Police station or Ministry of Land and Survey, Maiduguri.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original copy of Jigawa state approval for grant of right of occupang No JGLN/DN/RES/98/2. Date 9th June, 1998, belonging to Alhija Nasiru Hussaini and was letter soid to Musa L. Kore. All efforts made to Trace the document proved abortive. if found please contact the nearest police station or call 08024076751.

GWARAM YOUTH EMPOWERMENT FOUNDATION

The General Public is hereby notified that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part "C" of the companies and allied matters Act No. 1 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Justice Tijani Abubakar (OFR) rtd (Chairman)
2. Dr. M M Mu'azu
3. Aih. Ali Maitama Yusuf (Sarkin Shanun Dutse)
4. Aih. Musa Abubakar Tijani (Magajin Malam Dutse)
5. Aih. Umar Sule Gwaram
6. Aih. Bala Hassan
7. Aih. Bashir Adamu
8. Hajiya Bilkiu Musa Abubakar
9. Aih. Yahya Musa Maijama'a
10. Aih. Abdullahi Madaki (Secretary)

Aims and objectives

1. Community Development
2. Agricultural Initiative Development
3. Create awareness on HIV/AIDS and other diseases
4. Poverty reduction directive
5. To promote cordial relationship between indigenes of Gwaram.

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

LIFEGATE ACADEMY ABUJA

ADMISSION! ADMISSION!! ADMISSION!!!

Registration forms for admission into Lifegate Academy for 2010/2011 session is now on Sale. Interested parents are to register with the Admin. Officer Lifegate Academy Plot 125 Ngozi Okonjo Iweala Way behind Julius Berger Head Quarters, Utako, Abuja.

Classes available include: JSS 1 to 3, Primary Classes 1 to 6, Nursery, Reception Classes and Creche.

VACANCY

English and Fine Art Teacher needed for immediate employment. Interested candidates to contact the above School.

Qualification: B.ED or M.ED English.

Lifegate Academy- A platform for the fulfillment of destiny.

Details Contact: 08037221641

GOD'S ELECT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

This is to inform the general public that the above named Church has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja under the Part "C" of the companies and Allied matters act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Dr. Anthony Ukachukwu Ibesimole - President
2. Sis (Mrs.) Maurine Nneka Akpuru - Member
3. Pastor (Mrs.) Sylvia Ibesimole - Secretary

Aims & Objectives

1. To spread God's gospel of truth for the unity and peaceful co-existence of all people.
2. To show love and comfort the needy, demonstration the will of God on earth.
3. To create avenue for individual and nations welfare

Any objection to the registration of the above organization should be forwarded to the registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 565, Ndola Square, Wuse zone 5, PMB 198 Abuja, within 21 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Sylvia Ibesimole - Secretary.

LIVING SPRING C & S CHURCH

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:

1. Apostle Pro. Dr. Rev. Odekunle Richard Gbemileke - General Overseer
2. Snr./Pro. Mrs. Odekunle Victoria Oluwatoyin - Church Prophetess
3. Prophetess Mrs. Ajiboye Nike Agnes - Build. Comm. Chairperson
4. Prophetess Mrs. Dashiur Bridget - Secretary
5. Prophet Mr. Odojin Elijah Hakeem - Revival Coordinator
6. Dr. Mr. Ejege Alex - Soc. Sec/Protocol
7. Deaconess Benson Bimbo - Social/Wel. Officer
8. Mrs. Onikoyi Gloria - Church Treasurer
9. Mr. Fadorungbo Emmanuel - Log. & phy. Planning
10. Mr. Osiboye Hope Anob - Log. & phy. Planning

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To promote the Gospel of God.
2. To win soul for salvation
3. To be a preacher for christ follow.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja, Within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: BARRISTER OLIVER MBACHU.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as MISS ESTHER ADAMU now wish to be MRS ESTHER YUNANA ANDREW, all former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

Formerly MISS LAMI SAMAILA MAIDOKI now to be MRS LAMI LOT LANTOH. All former documents remains valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly MISS UNEKWU PETER AMEDU, now wish to be called MRS UNEKWU JUDITH CALEB. All former documents remain valid. UBE and general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS OBANIBU FUNMILAYO, now wish to be addressed as MRS BALOGUN FUNMILAYO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I FORMERLY KNOWN AS LAITU MAMMAN WAJAL, NOW WISH TO BE KNOWN AS MRS MARYAM BABAJI TALATA. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. MUSLIM PILGRIM WELFARE BOARD JOS AND GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I FORMERLY LAWL GANIYAT NOW WISH TO BE CALLED GANIYAT BASHIR AHMAD. ALL FORMER DOCUMENTS REMAIN VALID. GENERAL PUBLIC TO NOTE.

I, formerly called SANUSI MUHAMMED, now wish to be known as SANUSI MUHAMMED GARBA. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly DORCAS EZEKIEL NADUKU, now MRS DORCAS EZEKIEL MACHIA. All former documents remain valid. NYSC and general public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS OCHEJA OJONE MERCY, now wish to be known as MRS ONU OJONE MERCY. All former documents remain valid. Imo State University (IMSU) Owerri, NYSC, Nigeria Institute of Management Chattered (INM) and the general public to take note.

I, formerly known as ASABE MOHAMMED, now wish to be MRS ASABE EMMANUEL MANGAI. All former documents remain valid. The general public to take note.

Formerly MISS JAMILA YUSUF SHARIF now MRS. JAMILA ALIYU NASIDI. General public take note.

I formerly SALAMATU IBRAHIM now wish to be known and addressed as MRS. SALAMATU IBRAHIM. former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly known as AISHA ABUBAKAR MAIKIBO now wish to be addressed as AISHA S.ABUBAKAR. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly MISS. RASHIDAT BOLANLE BALOGUN, Now wish to be known as MRS. RASHIDAT BOLANLE SULEIMAN JIMOH. All formal documents remain valid. Department of Veterinary Medicine, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, ABU, Zaria, NYSC and general public note.

I, formerly known as OTTEY MARCELES OLOUMA, now wish to be known and addressed as OTTEY KELECHI HARRISON. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly DEBORAH SHETU AGIDI, now DEBORAH SHETU EDWARD. Former documents remain valid. NPS and general public to note.

Formerly MISS EUGINA AGBONYEMEN OKHIDE, now wish to be called MRS EUGINA AGBONYEMEN YERO. Maiduguri Innovative School and general public take note.

I, formerly known and addressed as MISS RAJI FATIMA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ABDULGANIU FATIMA OZIOHU. All former documents remain valid. FCTA/AEPA and general public please take note.

I, FOLARIN ATINUKE O.OYINDAMOLA, now wish to be known and addressed as MRS ADEWUMI ATINUKE O. All former documents remain valid. General public note.

I, formerly known as ZUBAINATU A. ALIYU, now wish to be addressed as MRS ZUBAINATU ALIYU. All former documents remain valid.

I, formerly known as IKWO/ANGELLA NYONG ISIKONG now wish to be addressed as MRS ANGELLA FRIDAY JIMMY. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS MERCY OLUWABAMIDELE APARA now wish to be known as MRS MERCY OLUWABAMIDELE GBODI. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly BOSA OBI OGON now wish to be called BOBO OBI OGON. All former documents remain valid. General public and EMBASSIES FOREIGN MISSIONS take note.

I, formerly known as MISS OKORO NGOZI CLEMENTINA now wish to be addressed as MRS UCHE NGOZI CLEMENTINA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

VIRTUOUS SISTERS ORGANISATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Organisation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

The trustees are:

1. Jitau Atkwurcha
2. Emeh Natasha Akpan
3. Ukpeme Akpan

Aims and objectives:

1. To incorporate friendships into an organizational level.
2. To introduce business opportunities to members and enlighten each other on various endeavours, disciplines and vocational activities.
3. To articulate ethical standards and attitudinize high merit and high caliber.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:

Ukpeme Akpan
08059216328

DIVINE SOLUTION REVIVAL HEALING MINISTRY

This is to inform the general public that the above named Ministry has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the companies and allied matters act no. 1 of 1990

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Egbujuo Chinonye Ugo
2. Ugwudike Anthony Friday
3. Evang. Anthony Okechukwu Anyanwu
4. Evang. Felicia Anulika Anyanwu
5. Ogbunigwe Ifeakor Vincent

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
2. To win souls for the kingdom of God.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

SIGNED:

Secretary

I, formerly **OBIOMA CHINEME CHRISTY**, now **MISS NDUBUISI CHINEME CHRISTY**. All former documents remain valid. NIS and public to note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

The general public is hereby notified that Honda academy car with REG NO **DX 610 ABJ** chassis and engine number not yet known **GOLDEN COLOUR** was stolen together with the under-listed documents (1) original vehicle particulars belonging to his father **MR SANUSI SHEHU DANGE** (2) original secondary school learning certificate with the result of **G.S.S GUMI L.G.A SOKOTO** (3) admission letter into **UNIABUJA** (4) acknowledgement of landed property from **AGIS** with the receipt. **AFRI BANK** (5) I.D card issued by immigration service (6) original offer of appointment with all promotion letter issued by Immigration office (7) letter of posting. All belonging to **MUBARAK SANUSI DANGE**. All efforts made to trace the missing documents proved abortive. If found, please return to nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the entire public that the original document for shop No. 10, Block B42 Wuse Market from Abuja Investment and Property Development Company Limited belonging to **HENRY IKECHUKWU ORUEZE** is missing. They are letter of offer official Receipts, Clearance Slip, Bid Form for the sale of shops at Wuse Market, Expression of Interest in entering into a 50 years lease agreement and other documents. Efforts made to find the missing document proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original Land Documents/Acknowledgement Receipts for land **MFCT/LA/200/OD 1761** (with a new file No. **F02 Bwari Plot 1968 od20804**) belonging to **Dr. Femi Adekanye** of 30 Adekanye Crescent, Akure, Ondo State. All efforts made to trace the documents have proved abortive. If found, please contact the nearest police station or **FCDA/AGIS ABUJA**.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly **MISS JUDITH EGUVERE** now wish to be called **MRS JUDITH AGHOGHO HOLLIDAY**. All former documents remain valid. General public and take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS GLADYS EMEGHOGHENA ILUEBBEY** now wish to be addressed as **MRS GLADYS SUNDAY ISHELU MOMOH**. All former documents remain valid. **NYSC, PAUL OSAJE & CO** and general public take note.

I, formerly known as **WANIKO ROSELINE** now wish to be known as **MRS ROSELINE EGBUNU**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **FELICIA OJOMA GABRIEL** now wish to be known as **FELICIA OJOMA PONZING**. All former documents remain valid. General public and take note.

I, formerly known as **NGENE IFESINACHI GRACE**, wish to be known as **MRS NKEMJIKA IFESINACHI GRACE**. Former documents remain valid. Public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS CHIOMA OBIAGELI UZOIGWE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS CHIOMA OBIAGELI OKOLI**. All former documents remain valid, general public note.

I, formerly known as **ISA MOHAMMED DAMATURU**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ABUBAKAR MUSA DAMATURU**. All former documents remain valid, Yobe State Board of Internal Revenue, general public note.

I, formerly known as **ORAKWUE ARINZCHUKWU BRAYAN CHUKWUDOZIE**, now wish to be known and addressed as **ORAKWUE ARINZCHUKWU OKECHUKWU BRAYAN CHUKWUDOZIE**. All former documents remain valid, Securities and Exchange Commission, general public note.

I, formerly known as **MISS OCHEZE CLIFFORD**, now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS OCHEZE CHIGOZIE EMELOGU**. All former documents remain valid, general public note.

I, formerly **ROSELINE RINYA KUMBUT** wish to be known as **MRS ROSELINE RINYA NANNIM**. Former documents remain valid. **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY**, general public note.



NATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE COUNCIL (FEDERAL MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY)

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFICATION

1.0 TECHNOLOGY COLLABORATION AND SUPPLY OF TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

The National Automotive Council invites expression of interest from qualified and reputable consultants and companies for the following projects:

- (a) **CAD Software:** Supply and training of Computer Aided Design software for automotive design: **CATIA**.
- (b) **CAE System:** Supply and training on the following computer aided engineering software: **HYPERMESH, NASTRAN** and **MOLDFLOW**; and appropriate computer system.
- (c) **CNC Machines:** Computer numerically controlled machine tools.

2.0 CONSULTANCY ON AUTOMOTIVE COMPONENTS TESTING LABORATORY BUILDINGS

The National Automotive Council invites expression of interest from qualified and reputable Architectural firms for the design of automotive testing laboratories.

3.0 PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested Companies /Consultants should submit the following pre-qualification documents:

- (i) Evidence of similar work done.
- (ii) Evidence of incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission
- (iii) 3years TAX clearance and VAT Certificate
- (iv) A comprehensive Company's profile with curriculum vitae of Principal Technical Officers
- (v) Detailed Work Plan

4.0 SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

All pre-qualification documents should be submitted in sealed envelope and marked pre-qualification for either "Technology equipment" or "Testing laboratories" on the left hand corner and addressed to:

Director-General,
National Automotive Council,
23, Parakou Street, Wuse II,
P.M.B. 320, Garki,
Abuja.

All submissions must reach the above address two weeks from the date of this publication. Pre-qualification documents received after the deadline shall be rejected and only successful company(s) shall be contacted.

Signed
Management



NBAIS NATIONAL WORKSHOP

The National Board for Arabic and Islamic Studies (NBAIS)
Institute of Education, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria



Cordially invites

ALL STAKE HOLDERS

to a

9 Day Syllabuses Review Workshop

scheduled as follows:

DATE 15th-23rd April, 2010

VENUE School For Arabic Studies (sas) Kano

TIME Opening Ceremony 10:00am

Other Days: 9:00am



CHIEF HOST

His Excellency

Executive Governor Kano State

Malam Ibrahim Shekarau

Sardaunan Kano

CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION

Prof. Abubakar Abdulrashid

DVC Admin B.U.K

SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR

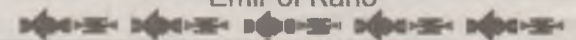
Hon. Minister of Education

Prof. Rukayya Ahmed Rufai

ROYAL FATHER OF THE DAY

HRH Alhaji (Dr) Ado Bayero CFR

Emir of Kano



SPORT

*I am ready
for Messi
- Kaita*

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NICOLAS Almagro of Spain plays a forehand shot in his match against Jo-Wilfried Tsonga of France during day two of the ATP Masters Series at the Monte Carlo Country Club in Monte Carlo, Monaco, yesterday.

Siasia applies for Zambia job

ZAMBIA have announced that Nigerian coach, Samson Siasia, has applied to coach the country's team following the departure of Frenchman Herve Renard.

Zambia Football Association (ZFA) secretary-general, George Kasengele, told the Zambia Daily Mail that the one-time Nigeria Olympic team coach was among a score of foreign candidates aiming to replace Renard, who has signed up with 2010 Nations Cup hosts Angola.

Other coaches who have applied include Eddie Hudanski, who is in charge of the Congo-Brazzaville national team; Marcos Gusmao of Brazil, who coached Papua New Guinea, and Mamoud Guindez, who captained the Algeria national team at the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

Former Ghana trainer Milan Zivadinovic, Sasa Nikolic from Croatia, Mario Marinic of United Kingdom, Milos Hristic, Predrag Juka (both from Croatia)

and Amir Alajic of Bosnia have pushed in their applications.

Other coaches who have sent their credentials are Thomas Borann of Germany and John Felix Kaputa of Malawi.

Kasengele named Gareth Lloyd of England, Zavia Milosavjevic, who has coached Rwanda Patriotic Army (APR) and the Lesotho national team previously, and Goran Kopunovic both of Serbia as the other coaches that have shown interest

in the job.

Kasengele said most of the coaches were sending their details through agents.

"We have not yet advertised for the job but coaches have already started sending their application forms. In fact we expect more to come," Kasengele said.

However, Siasia told MTN-Football.com that he is not aware of the Zambia job.

"I'm not aware of the Zambia job. I have an agent who has been

working on Liberia and Kenya jobs, but I'm not even aware that Zambia are shopping for a coach," Siasia said yesterday.

Siasia has been one of Nigeria's most successful coaches on the international scene in the last five years.

He guided the country's team to the final of the 2005 FIFA Under-20 World Cup in the Netherlands and three years ago, his team reached the final of the Olympic football event in Beijing, China.

Oruma, Onwuachi may get Eagles look-in

ALTHOUGH Super Eagles manager, Lars Lagerback is closely guarding his 45-man list for the team's first camp in May, it was gathered that either Wilson Oruma or Benjamin Onwuachi of FF Kavala of Greece will be picked by the ex-Sweden boss.

This was revealed by

Eagles assistant coach, Austin Eguavoen, who told brilafm.net that he was surprised to see that Lagerback mirrored many names on the list he wanted to submit.

"I had my list analyzing everybody and the head coach also had his own list. I know every player, and I am surprised that

he is also picking up very fast.

"He has his own list of names, even in Kavala, Greece. I know that player in Kavala and he says he knows him as well," Eguavoen confirmed.

But reports that Lagerback has earmarked certain roles for certain players for the World Cup, has been refuted by the

former Sweden boss.

Lagerback said that assigning roles to any player for the Mundial would start exactly six weeks to kick-off, and recalled that he followed the same pattern with Sweden.

"I've done everything like this in Sweden and that's why we will do it in the last six

weeks. I've followed the players closely and I'm still watching them.

"I know their fitness and everything I want to know about them. I know their quality and I can rate them as I want, but I won't talk about the players that I will chose," the Swedish tactician insisted.

Calabar may host NNPC/Mobil athletics

By Orkula Shaagee

THE Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) yesterday confirmed that Calabar is in the lead of candidates jostling to host the 21st edition of the NNPC/Mobil Track and Field Championship, which serves as trials for Commonwealth Games.

Last year, the celebrated 20th edition of the championship was held in Abuja and the Athletics Federation of Nigeria (AFN) then decided that its flagship championship will be taking round as many states of the federation as will be willing to host the event.

Disclosing this after a five hour meeting with host Mobil yesterday, AFN President Solomon Ogba said that Calabar is in the running for this year's event, adding that report from its delegation to the state was heart-warming.

"We sent a three man delegation led by board member Gloria Obajimi to Calabar and the report is encouraging," he said.

Media Consultant Paul Basse stated that Mrs. Obajimi who was also in Mobil house to brief the meeting on the outcome of the visit said the track was in perfect condition, the facilities also perfect. "What thrills me about Calabar is that the grass is natural, not artificial so we will not have any problem with field events" she said.

It was however revealed that the disadvantages for Calabar had to do with the availability of equipment, especially the electronic timing device that will guarantee the validation and international acceptance of times and distances returned; but Chief Ogba said they were working round solving those issues as they arise.

"When we heard that Cross River State had employed some foreign coaches in athletics and also had a consultant in place to revolutionise the sport, we said to ourselves that taking Mobil there could just be the tonic they need to kick start their grassroots programme as our overseas based athletes who will descend on Calabar will be veritable role models for the youths," she said.

Cross River Commissioner for Youth and Sports Development, Honourable Raymond Otaba Obeten described the AFN decision to host the Championship in Calabar as said in Calabar as very cheering.

"Let them come to paradise and they will not regret it. I have been told of the AFN interest and I want to assure them that there could be no better choice. We are a state reputed for hospitality and service delivery. Add to that our experience in the organization of big time events, even sports and you will be rest assured that we will deliver.

"The government of Governor Liyel Imoke is committed to the development of the youth and this event fits in perfectly," he concluded.



MANCHESTER United striker, Michael Owen, middle, with the winners of Globacom's "Recharge and go to Old Trafford promo" who watched the match between Manchester United and Bayern Munich at Old Trafford, during a recent visit to United's Carrington training ground.

Eagles keep 100% record

By Ismaila Lere, with Agency reports

SUPER Eagles Team B yesterday came from a goal down at half time to beat Senegal 2-1 and confirm their place as group winners going into the semifinals of the WAFU Cup tournament in Abeokuta.

With a semi-final place already assured, Daniel Amokachi made several changes to his regular starting eleven in his final group game, and the gamble seemed set to backfire when his second string team went behind in the first half.

Amokachi was forced to introduce Ikechukwu Ibenegbu and Gbolahan Salami in the second half. The Heartland man was quick to justify his inclusion, drawing the Eagles level, before the second substitute Salami secured victory.

The win keeps Nigeria's perfect record intact, and also keeps them on course for a meeting with Ghana in the final.

The Black Stars won the Under-20 event which preceded this tournament and are favourites, along with Nigeria, for the title.

Meanwhile, Eagles handler Daniel Amokachi believes that the players in his team can compete favourably with their colleagues from the European leagues.

Amokachi's wards failed to score over two legs against Niger, suffering elimination from next year's African Nations Championship, and casting doubt over their ability to break into the A squad.

"The win keeps Nigeria's perfect record intact"

But they have since managed to score eleven goals in three games at the WAFU Cup tournament, and the usually reclusive coach says the boys can do the business if given the opportunity.

"The football that we see them play at home is the same even when they go to Europe. But they have to start from somewhere first," Amokachi said.

"We have seen what the players have done over the last four games and believe me, they will give a scare to some of the regular players."

Those words are bound to ignite hope in the home-based players, but Amokachi insists that it is up to Super Eagles manager Lars Lagerback to decide if he wants to pick local players, and adds that they would have to seize the opportunity if given.

"I am not the chief coach, that is Lagerback. It is just for these players to be given a chance and for the player selected to do what the chief coach wants."

Kanu, Utaka face £84m poser

ANOTHER angle has cropped up in the money woes hitting Portsmouth, with new reports indicating that Nwankwo Kanu and John Chukwudi Utaka may have to forfeit any bonuses and allowances accruing them from the May 15 English FA Cup final against Chelsea.

Utaka and Kanu have played key roles in taking Pompey closer to unexpected glory, but may be compelled to dig in a bigger sacrifice a donate their benefits, as the club is 84 million pounds in debt and looking towards recouping some money from the ultimate clash at Wembley.

Kanu and Utaka's fans would be shocked to learn that both players will be approached by the Fratton Park top brass to forgo any entitlements from the game, as Portsmouth management hope some of their key players led a hand to lift the club financially from their FA Cup final appearance.

The report states further that Pompey plan to ask Kanu, Utaka and three other players to waive bonus payments that are due having won through.

Kanu and Utaka are expected to be approached alongside Richard Hughes, Papa Bouba Diop and Jamie Ashdown to take their club's situation into account.

Hull City silent on Olofinjana

SEYI George Olofinjana's future at Hull City is still in doubt, following a surprisingly ominous silence from the club about the dark-skinned midfielder on the choice of players for the chop in the summer.

With The Black Pearl missing out on selection with The Tigers for the umpteenth time last weekend, pundits reckoned Olofinjana would have been top of the list for The KC Stadium exit door, but no mention has been given the player.

Instead of Olofinjana getting told pointedly that his services may not be required into the coming season, the former Wolverhampton Wanderers and Stoke City star will remain in suspense, as reports indicate that Hull are expected to sell their top earners if they are relegated at the end of the season.

The report confirmed that, if they go down, Hull will lose a handful of players in the summer to slash their wage bill, with former Fulham star Jimmy Bullard and Stephen Hunt likely to be shunted out.

Tigers defender Steve Mouyokolo is another attracting major attention, but no mention is giving Olofinjana, who stated at the end of last week that he lost his place in the club because of his trip with the Super Eagles to the Nations Cup in Angola.

I am ready for Messi - Kaita

FC Alannia of Russia battling midfielder, Sani Kaita is bracing up for a spot in the Super Eagles squad to the World Cup and says his first mission in South Africa would be to mark out Argentine sensation, Lionel Messi, when Nigeria battles Argentina on June 12.

Although Kaita is yet to stamp his authority in the Eagles' mainframe, the former star of Sparta Rotterdam, AS Monaco and Lokomotiv Moscow is looking on the bright side of the game and expects to be the man to stop Messi in his strides, when both players come up toe-to-toe for the third time in history.

Kaita recalls losing out to Messi on the team level, following victories for Argentina against Nigeria in the finals of the Holland 2005 World Youth Championship and Beijing 2008 Olympics, but says he got the better of the FC Barcelona star during personal confrontations on both occasions.

"Twice, I have clashed with Messi and I want to say that on these two occasions, I was able to make him less effective for his Argentine team.

"At the Under-20 World Youth Championship in Holland, he could not do much except the two penalty kicks that he scored against us.

"In China, at the Beijing Olympics final, I kept him in check until Aguero scored the lone goal that won the match," Kaita stated.

The former Kano Pillars skipper, however, admitted that Messi is a



SUPER Eagles midfielder, Sani Kaita, left, battles Argentine star Lionel Messi for the ball during the Beijing Olympics soccer final. Kaita believes he is the man to stop Messi in his strides when both players come up toe-to-toe for the third time in history.

great player and agreed that it would be a handful for the Nigerian defence battling to keep him in check.

"He is good, very fast on the ball and full of tricks but he is not entirely invincible. I am sure he would be afraid

to face me again after what I did to him in the two previous occasions.

"I know how to mark

him and I would do just that when we meet again at the senior World Cup," Kaita insisted.

Amodu can't sue NFF - lawyer

WITH speculations rising that demoted Super Eagles handler, Shaibu Amodu will file a court case against Nigeria Football Federation, over breach of contract, the NFF's legal consultant, Barrister Abdulkarim Mustapha has countered the move.

Mustapha revealed that there is an arbitration clause in Amodu's contract that requires negotiation before a recourse to litigation.

"As far as I can recollect, Amodu has to allow for dialogue and reconciliation before making any recourse to court action.

"I was the one who drafted his contract, and I remember that we declared a clause for arbitration in his contract.

"He has to go through a process of discussions before heading to court. I am sure Amodu has stated his terms and the NFF will react to that.

NPL reschedules Week 29 matches

NIGERIA Premier League (NPL) yesterday in Abuja rescheduled Week 29 matches in the 2009/2010 Globacom Premier League competition.

The matches had earlier been scheduled for April 17 and April 18 across the country.

"The week 29 matches are rescheduled as a result of the state FA Cup final matches," Tunji Babalola, Head of NPL's Competition Department, said.

He added that since the state FA Cup competition, which qualifies the winners for the Federation's Cup competition, is organised by the NFF, the league matches had to give way.

Matches scheduled for April 24 include Niger Tornadoes FC vs Dolphin FC, Gombe United FC vs Wikki Tourists FC, Sharks FC vs Kaduna United FC and Kwara United FC vs Ocean Boys FC.

Moggi goes on offensive in Italian scandal

THE four-year-old Italian match-fixing scandal could flare up again because of maneuvers by former Juventus executive Luciano Moggi in his criminal trial.

Italian media widely reported yesterday that defense lawyers for Moggi requested that 75 additional phone-tap conversations be admitted as evidence in the trial, and prosecutors did not oppose the move.

The additional phone-tap conversations - printed in Italian media over the last week - allegedly link Inter Milan and other clubs to the scandal.

"And it's not over now," Moggi said, pulling out phone-tap transcripts from a folder as he addressed the media after the court session, the ANSA news agency reported. "In the next hearings we will bring out other new conversations that involve Inter and AC Milan."

Inter was awarded the 2006 Serie A title after Juventus was stripped of the honor and relegated to Serie B due to its involvement in the scandal.

Former AC Milan coach and current Chelsea manager Carlo Ancelotti is sched-

uled to take the stand in the next hearing on April 20.

Italian football federation officials are awaiting developments in the Naples case as they consider opening a new investigation into the scandal.

The overall theme of Moggi's defense is that all the teams were in contact with refereeing officials.

In the purported conversations - printed in the Gazzetta dello Sport, as well as other papers - Inter president Massimo Moratti is heard talking with referee selector Paolo Bergamo about the match offi-

cial for an Italian Cup game that Inter went on to win 3-1 over Bologna in January 2005.

Moratti has rejected the new allegations as "ridiculous and shameful," while Bergamo maintains that he "always spoke regularly with all the club presidents."

Moratti has also signaled he would be willing to take the stand in the Naples trial.

Another former Juventus executive, Antonio Giraudo, already has received a three-year sentence from the Naples court on charges of criminal association aimed at committing sports fraud.

Moggi and Giraudo were banned from football for five years by a sports court for influencing the outcome of matches. They deny wrongdoing.

Juventus was stripped of its 2005 and '06 Serie A titles and relegated to the second division with a nine-point penalty. It immediately won promotion back to Serie A.

The scandal was the biggest corruption case in the history of Italian football. Besides Juventus, three other big clubs - AC Milan, Lazio and Fiorentina - were penalized, as were Reggina and Arezzo.

RESULTS

Coppa Italia

Fiorentina 0, Inter 1

La Liga

Valladolid 2, Sevilla 1
Sp. Gijón 0, Tenerife 2

Dutch Eredivisie

AZ Alkmaar 1, Twente 0
Vitesse 1, NAC Breda 1

English Premier League
Chelsea 1, Bolton 0

THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Mohammed Haruna

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Between Jibrin Aminu and Tribune

The recent visits first by four Imams and subsequently by four clerics to the bed-ridden President Umaru Yar'adua seems to have raised the long and heated debate on the solution to the constitutional crisis his ill-health has ignited a notch higher. Last Thursday the *Nigerian Tribune* ran an unusual front page comment in which it called for the president's removal. "Impeach Yar'adua now," it said.

The, at best, shaky constitutional basis of Goodluck Jonathan as acting president, said the newspaper, has left him open to blackmail by what it described variously as a "vicious clique" and "nefarious group" that has surrounded Yar'adua. This "clique" could, it said, bring the sick president back to office "by whatever subterfuge" merely to destabilize Goodluck.

"To avert the confusion that will ensue from such a scenario," the newspaper said, "the National Assembly should remove the source of the clique's relevance. It should impeach Yar'adua now on the grounds that he failed to transfer power to his deputy when leaving the country for medical treatment abroad. He thus left the country in a state of uncertainty. This is a gross violation of the constitution he swore to uphold and defend." Really?

At the same time *Tribune* also said the new Federal Executive Council should invoke Section 144 of the Constitution which allows it to pronounce a medically certified sick president incapacitated and forward its resolution to the National Assembly so that he can be removed from office.

In its call for the president's removal the newspaper seems to reflect the country's most vocal, if not its popular, opinion. Most newspaper columnists, for example, share its opinion. So also does the Action Congress and the Nobel Literature Laureate, Wole Soyinka, led Save Nigeria Group.

In an interview in last Sunday's *National Life*, a prominent member of the SNG, Pastor Tunde Bakare, said in effect that the "doctrine of necessity"

which the National Assembly invoked to appoint Goodluck as acting president was not what the SNG wanted. "It is not proper," he said. "We are saying that it is not the prescribed constitutional method to choose an acting President and that is why some are challenging it in court."

Although the cleric was not as categorical as the *Tribune* in calling for the president's removal, it is safe to assume he and his group would want to see the president go either through impeachment using Section 145 of the Constitution or through the Federal Executive Council's invocation of Section 144.

Of course not everyone wants the president impeached or removed on grounds of ill-health. Prominent among the dissenters - for want of a more appropriate word - is Professor Jibrin Aminu, a ranking senator. In a press interview in Yola last Wednesday, he said those calling for the president's removal were being impossible, if not heartless.

"I think we have decency," he said. "We have people with interest in decency. So far as I know the government of acting President Goodluck Jonathan is a continuation of the Yar'adua government. It is the same ticket...With the doctrine of necessity giving the vice-president the role of acting president and commander-in-chief of the armed forces I cannot see any power the president has that he doesn't get...So I don't want what else they want."

The senator's last sentence was obviously rhetorical; surely the senator knows what those who want Yar'adua removed at all cost want - they want Jonathan as substantive president not just for the remainder of Yar'adua's 12 months. They want him as substantive president to strengthen his chances

of vying successfully for the presidency next year in spite of his party's zoning arrangement which leaves the presidency in the North until 2015.

As far as I am concerned Jonathan should be free to contest for the presidency next year. So also should anyone regardless of where they come from. Zoning, by common consent, is undemocratic. And if there is one silver lining in Yar'adua's ill-health it is the fact that it has served to expose the arrangement's short-sightedness and essentially divisive character.

However, while I believe Jonathan should be free to contest next year's presidential election it is wrong to hide behind the negative character of zoning to push for the removal of Yar'adua as president at all costs.

For me that is what impeaching or even invoking Section 144 of the Constitution against the man amounts to. I have said it several times on these pages that if Yar'adua meant well for this country he should have resigned long ago on the basis of Section 144. I said so because it is pretty obvious that impeachment on the basis of Section 145 of the Constitution is almost impossible in a country like ours where ethnicity and religion is thicker than principles.

For the same reason and because not only does it smack of betrayal for a minister to call for the sack of his benefactor but also because rare is the minister who would call for the head of his boss knowing that God's mysterious ways can restore the man's health, invoking Section 144 of the Constitution was hardly ever going to be as easy as most critics of the ministers apparently believed - never mind Professor Dora Akunyili, the information minister, who sneaked in a memo upon her colleagues asking them to declare the president incapacitated only when it looked pretty certain that even God with his mysterious ways was not about to restore the man's health.

Now that it looks pretty certain that cannot heretofore to his office, I agree with Professor Aminu that it is heartless to try and impeach the man or to remove him because of his ill-health.

Not only is it heartless. It is also wrong. Wrong because reports of the now controversial visits of imams and clerics to the man have dispelled any lingering doubt that he is no longer in a position to respond to any charges that could be made against him, something the doctrine of fair hearing demands.

Besides, as Aminu said, there is no power that the president has which Goodluck cannot exercise in his acting capacity. It may be unusual and unwieldy and of dubious constitutionality that he doubles as his own vice-president but it is not something that Nigerians cannot live with for the next 12 months.

So if I were Jonathan Goodluck I would not allow the rearward antics of the losers in the indirect power struggle between himself and his sick boss divert my attention from the job at hand. I would also not submit to the temptation to run in next year's presidential election even though it should be my right to do so. This is for the simple reason that contesting the election would most probably eliminate Goodluck's chances of breaking the jinx that has made it impossible to have a truly free and fair election since Independence nearly 50 years ago.

As General T.Y. Danjuma, the chairman of the Presidential Advisory Council, told him on March 4 when he inaugurated the council, if the only thing he does in the next 12 months is conduct a free and fair election next year he will go down in history as one of Nigeria's best leaders.



Last Thursday the *Nigerian Tribune* ran an unusual front page comment in which it called for the president's removal. "Impeach Yar'adua now," it said.

SPORTS REPORT



ANDREAS Iniesta

Barca suffer Iniesta injury blow

Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta will miss most of the rest of the season after the Spanish international damaged a thigh muscle in training yesterday, the champions said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.cat).

"It's an important loss but we have to lift his spirits and hope that he recovers as soon as possible," coach Pep Guardiola said at a news conference. Club medical staff said Iniesta, a key member of Vicente del Bosque's Spain squad, would be out for about a month.



JO-WILFRIED Tsonga

Buoyant Tsonga see off Almagro

A fired up Jo-Wilfried Tsonga did not let an animated verbal exchange with the umpire get in the way of a rousing 7-6 7-5 win over Nicolas Almagro in the second round of the Monte Carlo Masters yesterday.

With the May 23-June 6 French Open looming, the local favourite was his usual buoyant self for more than two hours as he overcame a misfiring first serve to knock out Almagro.

Tsonga, an Australian Open finalist in 2008, gave a thrilled crowd the thumbs up as he twirled around the court after shaking his opponent's hand.

"With all these Spaniards in my part of the draw, I knew it would be complicated from the start," Tsonga said.

