

Sovereign fund to replace
 excess crude account



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Joy Emodi returns as
 Senate rejects Igbeke



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7 die in Kaduna jail break

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

SEVEN prisoners were killed during an attempted jail break in Kaduna yesterday, while the administrative offices and workshop as well as entire prison records were razed down by rampaging inmates.

No prisoner escaped in the foiled move, which was the second in four months.

Although journalists were barred from entering the prison for an on-the-spot assessment, billows of smoke were seen from outside and fire fighting vehicles kept bringing water till afternoon. Similarly, reporters were cordoned

off when ambulances were evacuating corpses brought from inside the prisons.

Several injured prisoners and one wounded prison guard were taken to a nearby infirmary, according to reports.

A source told *Daily Trust* that authorities got

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PHOTO: IBRAHEEM MUSA



SECURITY men mount watch at the Kaduna Prison following an attempted jail break yesterday.

Jos: 7 bus passengers dragged out, killed

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

YOUTHS in Riyom Local Government Area barricaded the Abuja-Jos highway yesterday and killed seven people travelling along the route, introducing a new dimension to the tit-for-tat violence in Plateau State where hundreds have been killed since January.

Those killed yesterday were passengers travelling through Jos from other parts of the country,

“Those killed were travelling through Jos from other parts of the country

according survivors of the attack at Tahoss village, 30 kilometres south of Jos.

Surviving passengers said Christian youths from the Berom tribe barricaded the road as early as 9:00am, stopping vehicles and interrogating passengers to ascertain their religious affiliations or ethnic origins, after which those who were from rival tribes and religion were dragged out of the vehicles and beaten.

Our correspondents

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6 die in Kano road accident

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

SIX persons were burnt to death early yesterday when a trailer collided with a tanker at Gwasama village in Rimin Gado Local Government Area of Kano State.

Daily Trust gathered that the tanker with registration number XJ 879 KMC had a head-on collision with the trailer when its driver swerved to avoid a motorcyclist.

Immediately after the collision, the two vehicles went up in flames, trapping the six passengers. It was gathered that three other occupants of the vehicles escaped unhurt.

Kano Sector Commander of the FRSC Ahmed Kagori Hassan said nine persons were travelling in the two vehicles when the accident occurred.

Ibori: Militants ambush Onovo's men

By Boco Edet, Misbahu Bashir, Abuja, & Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

AN attempt to arrest former Delta State Governor James Ibori failed yesterday as militants protecting him attacked police officers delegated by the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo on the outskirts of Delta State yesterday.

The delegation which included an Assistant Inspector General of Police, the State Commissioner of Police Yakubu Adamu Alkali, two Assistant Commissioners of Police and 10 operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) was led by Deputy Inspector General of Police Ekpodo Udom.

An EFCC official said the militants opened fire and during an exchange, damaged the DIG's vehicle. He said the delegation had to retreat when the attack became intense.

The Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo had earlier ordered Ibori's arrest after the EFCC declared him wanted over a N44 billion fraud and other charges.

The Police Force Public Relations Officer ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu said a court had ordered the police to arrest Ibori and the order was received by Onovo.

Meanwhile, the police yesterday withdrew officers and men from guarding Ibori. According to a statement from Ibori's Media

Assistant, Tony Eluemunor, the police withdrew Ibori's police guards early yesterday. He also said EFCC agents had been harassing people in Ibori's houses in Lagos, Abuja and Oghara in total disregard of the Federal High Court in Asaba ordering the EFCC to maintain the status quo in the case between him and the commission.

"Chief James Onanefe Ibori wishes the entire world to know that the Federal Government as is currently led by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan has disobeyed the ruling. Instead, the president has ordered the police and the EFCC to disobey the court and arrest him," he said.

However, Eluemunor in a separate

statement last night, alleged that "a large detachment of a Joint Force of Mobile Policemen, soldiers, plus plain clothes men, believed to belong to the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, stormed Chief James Onanefe Ibori's Oghara, Delta State home this evening. They came in seven Hilux Pick Up vans and two Peugeot Expert vans, that had all vehicle lights on. They were led by two motor-cycle out-riders. They harassed and manhandled people they met at Ibori's home before spreading the mayhem they brought with them into Oghara town, making people to run helter-skelter, as there was panic everywhere."

Goje loses younger brother

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

GOMBE State Governor Danjuma Goje's younger brother died Monday in Abuja after a protracted illness.

Forty-two-year-old Alhaji Babayo Goje died a few weeks after returning from a medical trip to Egypt. His remains were flown to Gombe from Abuja for burial after a funeral prayer was conducted by Sheik Abubakar

Lamido at the palace of the Emir of Gombe.

The late Babayo left behind two wives, many children and his older brother, Goje. He has been buried according to Islamic rites. Until his death, he was the chairman of Shamruff and Gas Oil. The funeral prayer was attended by the Emir of Fika, Alhaji Muhammad ibn Abali, Damaturu, Alhaji Hashim ibn El-Knemi, both from Yobe State and the Emir of Gombe Shehu Abubakar as well as Governor Goje.

Volcanic ash: Shekarau, Oshiomhole, Fashola, Oyinlola stranded abroad

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano, Vincent Egunyanga, Benin, & Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

KANO State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau, Edo State Governor Adams Oshiomhole, Lagos Governor Babatunde Fashola and Osun Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola are among passengers stranded abroad as a result of cancellation of flights following thick clouds of ash from a volcanic eruption which has disrupted air travel across Europe.

Oshiomhole had accompanied Acting President Good Luck Jonathan to the United States and was returning from America via London when all flights across the European airspace were cancelled.

The governor's absence from the country has led to the postponement of the "One

Man, One Vote" rally twice. Fashola and Oyinlola are among many Nigerians trapped in the United States.

The two governors were invited by the African caucus of the Harvard University in the John F Kennedy School of Government.

The Commissioner for Budget and Economic Planning, Ben Akabueze said, "The governor is being caught up by volcanic ash which is a matter of global concern."

Five days after his scheduled return, Shekarau is unable to return home from London.

Shekarau left Kano in company of about 10 top government officials for New Jersey, US on April 4 to deliver a keynote address at the Annual Convention of the Nigeria in Diaspora Organisation (NIDO).

He also delivered a lecture at Cardiff, UK.

ACF holds 10th anniversary

From Maryam Ahmadu-Suka, Kaduna

THE Arewa Consultative Forum (ACF) will celebrate its 10th anniversary on April 29, a day after its Annual General Meeting, retired Brigadier General M.A Umar, the anniversary's planning committee chairman said yesterday.

In a statement, he said the anniversary would highlight corruption and its ills as well as social conflicts. "Lectures will be delivered

on the general theme, Fighting Corruption and Social Conflicts for Development and discussions will follow," he added.

According to Gen Umar, the anniversary will also enable ACF to assess itself. On why the forum chose corruption as its theme for the lectures, the ACF said corruption deprived people of the necessities of life. "Corruption steals the empowerment of our youths, it steals their opportunities and robs them of their future," he added.

Meningitis kills 35 in Sokoto

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

CEREBRO spinal meningitis has so far claimed 35 lives in Sokoto State this year, the Director, Medical Services and Public Health in the state Ministry of Health Dr Haliru Alhassan has disclosed.

He said the outbreak was recorded in 19 local government areas of the state with about 300 people affected in the state this year. The director said yesterday while flagging-off the distribution of CSM vaccines in Gum-burawa district, Wamakko

Local Government Area that the disease had reached an alarming rate in four local government areas including Wamakko, Tambuwal Sabon Birni and Tureta.

Alhaji Haliru however assured that the Ministry of Health had commenced immunization in many communities in the state, adding that the ministry had also targeted the military, paramilitary and the NYSC for the conduct of the immunization exercise. The director advised people to avoid sleeping in congested rooms. He also urged them to ensure

personal and environmental hygiene as part of measures to check the situation.

Chairman of Wamakko Local Government Area Alhaji Isah Mohammed Dundaye stressed the need for people to always report promptly any outbreak of the disease in their communities for prompt action. According to him, the council was making efforts to curb the menace in the area. The chairman said the outbreak was recorded in three villages in the council including Tudun Kasuwa, Kasarawa and Gidan Kaduna.



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Management

Emodi returns as Senate rejects Igbeke

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

SENATOR Joy Emodi who was recently sacked by the Enugu Appeal Court yesterday staged a surprise return to the Senate as the declared winner of the Anambra North senatorial seat Alphonso Igbeke was denied swearing-in by leadership of the Senate.

Emodi (PDP) was seated in the chamber before most of her colleagues while Igbeke (ANPP) was also in the National Assembly armed with his certificate of return issued by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in

readiness to take oath of office and allegiance.

But shortly after Senate President David Mark took his seat, Senate went into a closed session which lasted for about two hours and later continued the business of the day without admitting oath on Igbeke.

Briefing newsmen on the matter, Chairman of Senate Committee on Information and Media Senator Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said Emodi will keep her seat because Senate is aware of a conflicting judgment by the Enugu Appeal court on the same issue.

"We have a procedure in the Senate; we will not deal with a matter in a way to preempt the outcome of a judicial process. The Appeal Court in Enugu issued two judgments, one returning Joy as duly elected the other by the same court in the same breath in favour of one Igbeke."

He said Emodi has returned to the court to seek interpretation to the two judgments "We will not do anything until we get a clear indication on which of the judgments they want to take precedence."

But briefing newsmen ear-

lier, Igbeke denied any conflicting judgments as claimed by the Senate saying "There is no such confliction. The court has never declared her winner of the election. They are just trying to ridicule the judiciary. The court has not issued any injunction restraining the Senate from administering oath of office on me. I will continue to come here every day until the right thing is done."

Daily Trust checks however revealed that the Appeal Court in Enugu, on February 19, 2009, ruled in a case filed by one Jes-

sie Balonwu of the Labour Party that the April 14, 2007 Anambra North senatorial election was properly conducted.

The same court also ruled on March 25, 2010 annulling the election of Emodi and declared Igbeke winner of the Anambra North senatorial election.

In a court motion on notice served the Senate by counsel to Emodi, Barrister Festus Okoye, the senator has returned to the same court seeking to overturn the decision of the court to annul her election to the Senate and to uphold the earlier judgment.

Ministers: Taraba, Ebonyi get nominees

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has sent two additional ministerial nominees to the Senate to represent Taraba and Ebonyi states in the Executive Council of the Federation (EXCOF).

The nominees are: Professor Christian Onyebuchi Chukwu from Ebonyi State and Dr. Obadiah Ando from Taraba State.

Political intrigues within the ruling PDP had hindered nomination of a minister from Ebonyi State during the last screening exercise by the Senate after which 38 ministers were confirmed.

But a source told *Daily Trust* that the rift over nomination of a minister to represent the state has been settled and the name of Professor Chukwu was sent to the Senate and it is expected that he is going to be the health minister.

Professor Chukwu is former Chief Medical Director of the Ebonyi State University Teaching Hospital.

Dr. Ando is replacement for Alhaji Umar Aliyu whose nomination was withdrawn after series of petitions from several stakeholders in Taraba State.

The two nominees are expected to face Senate for screening and confirmation within the week.



FROM right: Chief of Army Staff, Lt-Gen. Abdulrahman Dambazau, Minister of Defence Chief Adetokunbo Kayode and Minister of State for Defence Murtala Yar'adua, during the visit of the ministers to the Army Headquarters in Abuja, yesterday.

Plot to oust Bankole suffers set back

By Turaki A. Hassan

THE move to impeach Speaker of the House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole suffered yesterday as members of the Nigeria First Forum (NFF) who are canvassing for his removal failed to convince their colleagues to allow them present the motion at the plenary session yesterday.

At the commencement of yesterday's seating, a member of the group Rep. Dino Melaye (PDP, Kogi) indicated his intention to raise a point of order which will have paved way for the presentation of the motion but Deputy Speaker Usman Bayero Nafada, who presided the sitting, called for a closed

door session.

At the session, Nafada was said to have pleaded with his colleagues to shelve the impeachment plan saying that the speaker had ordered the payment of all their entitlements and benefits which was one of the reasons for the planned impeachment.

The plenary began with heightened tension as due to several meetings held by NFF members at different locations in Abuja recently on the modalities to be employed to oust Bankole and finding his possible replacement.

The members reportedly disagreed on the modus operandi to be adopted to ease out Bankole and that they also failed to agree on who will succeed him.

An NFF member from Lagos State said Bankole should not be treated in isolation arguing that the whole leadership should be removed which did not go down well with some of the NFF members.

However, there were indications that the NFF may not be able to get the simple majority needed to remove the speaker as those sympathetic to him are said to have intensified lobbying in a bid to get their colleagues drop the impeachment plot.

The move to oust Bankole is being spearheaded by the South-West caucus chairman Rep. Ayoade Adeseun (PDP, Oyo) who is also the chairman House Committee on Appropriations.

Sovereign fund to replace excess crude account

By Mohammed S. Shehu

THE National Economic Council (NEC) has approved a plan to replace the Excess Crude Account (ECA) with a National Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) to manage the nation's extra earnings from prices of crude oil.

The council also resolved to discard tax consultants in states and empower state boards of internal revenue to perform their duties while the federal government prop-

erly coordinates and implements national tax policies in a bid to tackle problems associated with double taxation.

The meeting attended by state governors, ministers, Inspector General of Police Ogbonnaya Onovo and Central Bank Sanusi Lamidi Sanusi was chaired by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan. Briefing newsmen shortly after the meeting, Finance Minister Segun Aganga and his National Planning counterpart Shamsudeen Usman said the SWF is meant to be a robust institutional

framework and strong fiscal policy for managing excess crude earnings.

They said it would irresponsible to spend all the crude oil earnings now. Aganga said the fund will be deployed to critical infrastructural needs like power and mass transportation. "The council also considered the idea of setting up of the National Sovereign Wealth Fund. This is a concept which is quite familiar to particularly oil producing countries; it is a very robust institutional framework for managing excess revenue which today we do

have in the excess crude account.

"The idea is that this is not only going to provide us stronger institutional framework which is a strong fiscal way of looking at policy. "The intention is that the fund will be funded by what we have in the excess crude oil account today. The only difference is that the money in the excess crude account today does that legal framework and is not managed as the one I explained. By the way we are the only OPEC country that does not have the SWF," Aganga said.

Jonathan bans National Anthem at Economic Council meeting

By Mohammed S. Shehu

A drama ensued yesterday at the opening ceremony of the monthly National Economic Council (NEC) meeting when Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, who presided over the event, ordered the meeting to commence without the ritual National Anthem.

The NEC, like most government functions, are usually ushered with the singing of the National Anthem but yesterday was an exception and the decision to ignore the ritual by Jonathan without prior notice, took all the governors and ministers in attendance by surprise.

Even attempt by the governors to remind Jonathan of the 'goof' yielded no result as he insisted that

it was not done in error.

He explained that his decision to rule out the National Anthem and pledge was predicated on an advice by his protocol officers who told him that the singing of the National Anthem was wrong.

"I was told by the protocol unit that singing the National Anthem during NEC meeting is wrong," he said.

The meeting was attended by 24 governors and eight deputy governors. Others at the meeting were the FCT Minister Bala Mohammed, National Planning Minister Shamsudeen Usman, Finance Minister Olusegun Aganga and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmed.

Impersonation: Army mulls change of uniform

By Misbahu Bashir

THE Nigerian Army will change its camouflage because the current one is being used by impersonators to commit crime, Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Abdurahman Dambazau has said.

Dambazau disclosed this yesterday when ministers of Defence Adetokumbo Kayode and Murtala Yar'adua visited the Defence Headquarters in Abuja.

"The uniform will be introduced after the Army Council has approved it," he said, adding that it will be difficult to obtain the new one without approval.

He said a new walking boot has also been introduced for the army and will be used when the council approves it.

Also speaking, Chief of Defence Staff Air Chief Marshal Poul Dike said military will give the constituted authorities the support to work and will abide

by their constitutional responsibilities.

He conducted the ministers round the Military Joint Operation Centre in which Nigerian troops anywhere in the world can be located on a computer screen and be communicated with. At the centre, military specialist can trace spots of civil unrest on the request of the police.

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Ishaya Ibrahim told the ministers that the maritime sector is vital to the economy and called on government to encourage the Navy to protect it.

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Oluseyi Petinrin said they will undertake a display of military air craft to showcase their air power.

Minister of Defence Adetokumbo Kayode said the government will improve the welfare of military and their operational capability.

Anti-Ogbulafor group meet tomorrow

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

PEOPLES Democratic Party's (PDP) Reform Forum will make a 'historic and momentous' decisions about the fate of the party tomorrow.

According a statement signed by Chief Aleogho Dokpesi, the meeting will be conducted in Abuja.

Daily Trust learnt that issues to be discussed include how to change the national leadership of the party especially as the national chairman Prince Vincent Ogbulafor is being accused of corruption.

PDP has been bedeviled by leadership crisis and has failed to hold its National Executive Committee meeting since Goodluck Jonathan became the acting president as result of prolonged ailment of the President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

Sanusi: Nigeria's oil sector not helping economy

By Hamisu Muhammad

CENTRAL Bank of Nigeria (CBN) governor Sanusi Lamido Sanusi said the Nigerian economy is not benefiting much from the wealth of the oil sector.

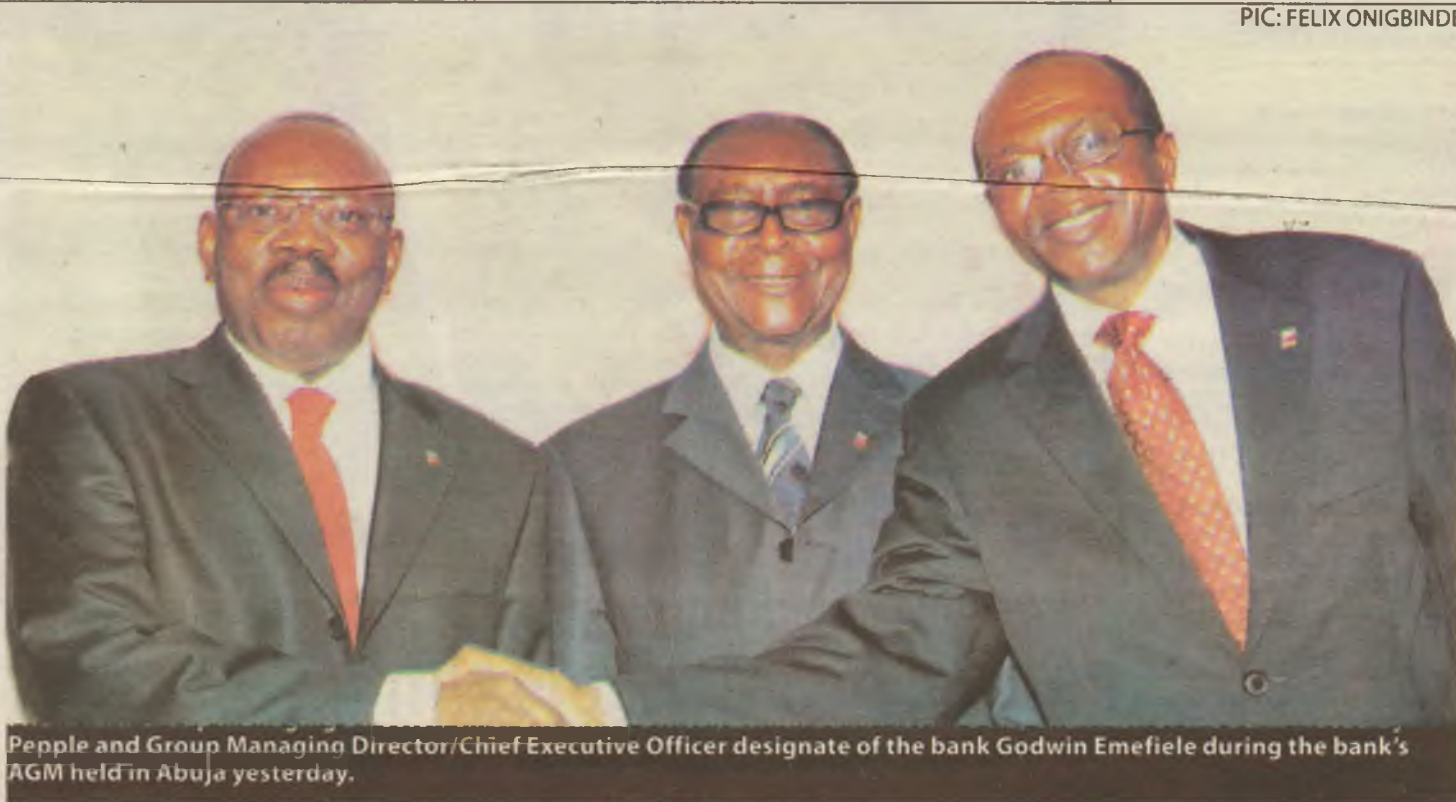
Speaking yesterday at the Nigeria Association of Energy Economics in Abuja, Sanusi said the data available shows a weak backward linkage of the oil sub-sector with the rest of the economy.

Sanusi, represented by Uwatt B. Uwatt, said "While oil receipts constitute over 80 percent of the total federally collected revenue, the sector contributes less than 40 percent to Gross Domestic Product (GDP), indicating a weak backward linkage of the oil sub-sector with the rest of the economy"

He said there is urgent need to enhance the linkage of the energy sector with other sectors of the economy to allow for maximization of the value chain

Also in his contribution, Managing Director of the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas Engr. Chima Ibeneche said oil money is misused in the country.

He said all money from the oil sector supposed to go to capital projects alone not for consumption purposes or importation of consumable goods.



Pepple and Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer designate of the bank Godwin Emezie during the bank's AGM held in Abuja yesterday.

Sokoto guber appeal: Wammakko ask S/Court to set aside ex-parte order

By Adelanwa Bamgboye

GOVERNOR of Sokoto State Aliyu Magatarkada Wammakko has asked the Supreme Court to set aside its ex-parte order dismissing the appeal filed in chamber by the DPP candidate in the 2007 general election Alhaji Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi.

Chief Wole Olanipekun (SAN), counsel to Wammakko, said this while moving a motion

yesterday before a panel of the apex court headed by Justice Mahmud Mohammed.

The ex-parte order was made in the chambers of the Supreme Court 10th March 2010, following a letter addressed to discontinue the appeal written to all the Justices of the Supreme Court and the other parties by Rickey Tarfa, counsel to the appellants - Democratic People Party (DPP) and its candidate - Alhaji Muhammadu

Maigari Dingyadi.

Olanipekun said the sitting in chambers of the court on March 10, 2010 and the ex-parte order made violated the governor's right to fair hearing and was also done without jurisdiction.

Olanipekun also prayed the apex court to strike out the notice of withdrawal of the appeal by the appellants dated January 22, 2010. The motions were supported by INEC and the PDP who were also named as co-respondents in the

suit.

Opposing the motions on behalf of the appellants, Rickey Tarfa said that the right to withdraw the appeal was derived from the constitutional right to appeal, adding that it was the appellants claim that conferred jurisdiction on the court.

He said the letter written to the justices of the apex court was not a private letter since other parties in the suit were also copied. Hearing in the case continues today.

Govs oppose plot to sack Ogbulafor

THE Governor's Forum, headed by Governor Bukola Saraki of Kwara State, met on Monday in Abuja where they discussed national issues.

Below is the text of the communiqué:

Governors noted the activities of an illegal group called PDP Reform Forum which

has sent out letters purportedly signed by one Rt. Hon. Aminu Bello Masari, former Speaker, House of Representatives and one High Chief Aleogho Dokpesi calling for a meeting.

The action of the group is not in line with the party's Constitution; we condemn the action very seriously. We urge the Party to take

disciplinary action against these members in line with the Party's Constitution.

The Governors call on all their party members and supporters across the country to disregard the proposed meeting and not to attend.

The Governors also noted recently how the press has been inundated with allegations of corruption against the National Chairman of

the party, Prince Vincent Ogbulafor, and that none of those allegations has been proved. Despite this, some are calling for his removal.

The Governors condemn any move to remove the Party Chairman or members of National Working Committee, other than as laid down or stipulated in the party's Constitution.

Balat Foundation immunises 3,000 against meningitis

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

OVER 3,000 people, mostly children in Madakiya and Kagoro village in Kaura Local Government of Kaduna State, have been immunized by the Isaiah Balat Foundation following an outbreak of Cerebrospinal Meningitis (CSM) in the villages. Speaking during the immunization, Senator Isaiah Balat said he provided the vaccines to people of the area to prevent the deaths of more children. He stressed the need for privileged individuals in the society to assist less privileged ones.

"With the dilapidated situation of health facilities in the country, it is important that privileged individuals in the society rise up and assist those always at the mercy of any epidemic. We are interested in helping the society, supporting people when there are outbreaks. We feel the help should be preventive instead of allowing it to happen first," he said.

In his remarks, the secretary of the district head of the village, Malam Dominic Maza, commended the Foundation for the immunization, saying it would go a long way in preventing the spread of the disease in the area.

In Kagoro, the paramount ruler, Oegwam Ufai Bonet, was the first to receive the vaccine, followed by some of his council members. The exercise witnessed a large turnout of parents and children. Beneficiaries who spoke to newsmen lauded the gesture.



A clogged drainage area of Lagos.

7 die in Kaduna jail break

Continued from page 1

a leak that inmates would strike at around 5am when some of them are usually taken outside the prison walls in search of water. Although the prisoners were not taken out at 5am yesterday, the authorities apparently did not take precautionary steps.

By 6.15am yesterday, the crisis started at the 'G' line where armed robbery suspects unlocked their cells and pounced on prisoners, a source said, adding that seven inmates were dead and several others were wounded in the process. However, Comptroller General of Prisons Olushola Ogundipe claimed that only two people died in the attempted jail break and no inmate escaped.

According to the source, the warders who were on night duty were overpowered by the inmates and they were only saved by reinforcements from the training school opposite the prison yard. The officials had to disguise as prisoners by wearing prison uniforms in order to escape the wrath of the rampaging inmates, he added.

There are conflicting reports as to what led to the attempted jail break. While an unofficial source said the inmates were protesting for improved welfare, Kaduna state police commissioner Tambari Yabo Muhammad blamed the incident on one condemned convict, Reverend King, who is an alleged serial rabble rouser transferred from Lagos. Reverend King has been further transferred to Katsina prison on Saturday, he said.

A source corroborated the commissioner's explanation when he told *Daily Trust* that one Aminu, who was the arrow head of the failed jail break, was King's 'boy'.

When asked, Ogundipe refused to disclose where King is because of the security implications but he confirmed that some inmates have indeed been transferred. He blamed the crisis on congestion at the robbery awaiting trial section of the prison. Ogundipe said the Kaduna prison has the capacity to hold 524 inmates but right now, there are 797 and out of this number 539 are awaiting trial. He said a strike action by judiciary workers may have contributed to the high number of awaiting trial inmates.

In an interview with journalists, Ogundipe said that "by 6.15 this morning, the doors were unlocked when the prisoners opened them and overpowered the guards, went straight into yard and went straight to the workshop and brought out dangerous weapons which they used in attacking everybody. In the process, buildings were burnt down by the inmates, the admin block and the workshop were completely razed down by the inmates."

He said the prisoners dug a hole around the prison wall where they attempted to escape from it. "Luckily students from the training school cordoned off the place and there was no single escape. No prisoner escaped. Not a single prisoner escaped. But we lost two inmates and 39 were injured with various degrees of injuries," he added.

The Comptroller General said even when their cells were opened by the rioting inmates, the condemned prisoners among the convicts did not attempt to run away.

Ogundipe also thanked the Kaduna police command for bringing the situation under control, and the state government and the state emergency management agency for taking care of the wounded.

7 bus passengers dragged out, killed

Continued from page 1

learnt that the attacks were a reprisal to avenge the killing of four people in the area by suspected Fulani marauders on Monday.

The youths mounted roadblocks since Monday night but were dispersed by the men of the special task force. They later regrouped yesterday morning.

Chairman of Riyom LGA Mr. Simon Markus confirmed to *BBC Hausa* yesterday that six people were killed in the incident. He said security officers had been drafted to the area, and that six corpses had been exhumed. He lamented that the people killed were mere passersby. "Those people killed have no idea of what was happening," Markus said.

A police officer in the area who refused to be named because he was not authorised to speak said seven people were confirmed dead and several others

were injured.

Security forces tried to send the youths off the road but they were initially overpowered because of their superior numerical strength. They later succeeded in opening the road and rescuing many passengers.

Our correspondent saw some of the victims brought to the state Criminal Investigation Department and later taken to Jos Central Mosque.

One of the victims with a deep cut in the head, Abdullahi Adamu, 23, said he was attacked while delivering a bus load of vegetables in a J5 bus with registration number SA 455 DAS.

"I was driving towards Akwanga (Nasarawa State) when I noticed a group of youths who were carrying machetes, cutlasses, catapults coming towards us. As soon as I noticed their unfriendly mood I started to reverse my bus, but it was too late, the engine of the bus died completely. But

before they arrived where we were, I jumped out of the bus and also told the remaining two passengers to run," he said.

"I ran until I got exhausted. That was how they pounced on me beating and throwing stones at me, until a mobile policeman came and rescued me. But because they were so many them, the policeman found it very difficult to protect me. Luckily for me a car was brought by some policemen and they took me away and brought me to the state CID office," he said.

On the two passengers in his bus, Adamu said, "I don't know whether they are alive or dead because we all ran in different directions."

Another survivor Alhaji Sani Shuabu said he was on his way from Abuja to Bauchi with three other people to deliver building materials when they were stopped by a group of protesting youths carrying knives, cudgels and sticks

at a junction.

He said the youths started raining insults on them and asked them to alight from the vehicle after which they descended on them, beating them. He said they ran but were pursued by the youths, hauling large stones at them. Shuabu, who had a deep cut on his wrist and in the back, said he was rescued by two mobile policemen he run into.

Police spokesman ASP Mohammed Lerama confirmed that there was "problem" in the Riyom area, but said he could not speak on the matter yet because state police commissioner had gone to the scene to ascertain the situation.

Assistant Army Public Relations Officer Lt-Colonel Galadima Shekari said troops were on their way to the scene of the incident at the time of filing this report.

State Commissioner of Information Gregory Yenlong said when he heard about the incident

he called the Riyom local government chairman to confirm, and was told there was problem. He said the chairman pledged to call him back and brief him over the incident, but was yet to do that as at the time our correspondent called.

AFP news agency reported that the military exhumed seven bodies from fresh, shallow graves in the area. The bodies were buried in remote forests of Tahoss.

Former minister of state for information and communication, Alhaji Dasuki Ibrahim Nakande, said from the reports he got from members of his community, no less than nine innocent passersby were killed by the Berom youths.

He said Governor Jonah Jang must be held responsible for the killing of innocent persons and must be prevailed upon by his colleague governors to own up and take responsibility for the killing since the youths were from his ethnic group.

NIMET cautions N/East farmers on early planting

From Sharafa Dauda and Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

FOLLOWING last week's rainfalls in Yola, some parts of Yobe State and drizzles on the outskirts of Maiduguri, Borno State, all in the North East, the zonal office of the Nigerian Meteorological Agency (NIMET) has cautioned farmers in the zone against early planting as the rainfalls were caused by fluctuation in the inter-tropical convergence zone oscillation (forward and backward) movement, resulting in moisture presence. The

Northeast Zonal Manager of the Agency Malam Zakariyau Darazo said this yesterday in Maiduguri.

According to Malam Darazo, the inter-tropical convergence zone is a line dividing the northeast trade zones and the southwest, which keeps fluctuating along wind directions. "If it is moving towards the north, it can move up and then come down. So, these rains have come at this time, when the oscillation movement has moved to the northeast.

So it came with some moisture. And that is what brought in that

rain. But now the oscillation movement has moved back south wards again. It keeps on fluctuating until it gets to the north and even outside the country.

"We told people earlier in the year that rainfall prediction for the 2010 would be begin from around June. So for us to start experiencing rainfall in April, the implication is that people may want to start farming activities. With the first rain, they would think it is the beginning of the rainy season. They can clear the farms, but not to go into planting because it is not yet the

rainy season. There is difference between rainfall and the onset of the rains. These rains that have just fallen in some parts of the Northeast of recent are not enough to embark on farming," the NIMET spokesperson warned.

Malam Darazo added that farmers should wait until the onset of the rains begin, especially in Maiduguri, so that they do not go into planting their crops when the temperatures get very high due to shortfall in rain, and lead to the destruction of their seedlings and waste their scarce resources.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



FROM left: Chairman, Africans for Utility Regulations (AFUR), Prof. Assi Benie, Administrator, National Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC), Imamuddeen Talba and Minister of State for Power Nuhu Somo Wya, during the 7th annual conference and General Assembly of AFUR in Abuja, yesterday.

Commission recovers N21bn from corporations

From Ismail Mudashir and Mar-yam Ahmadu-Suka

THE Fiscal Responsibility Commission (FRC) has recovered N21 billion as operating surplus of 18 federal corporations, the Head of Strategic Communication Dr. Adewumi Abitoye has said.

Speaking during a courtesy visit to Governor Mohammed Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State, he said the money was recovered from the corporations following efforts of the commission. He said the money which was recovered in 2009 had since been remitted to the Federation Account. "The corporations are supposed to be remitting 80 per cent of their profits to the Federation Account and use the remaining 20 per cent but they don't, due to our efforts, we were able to recover this amount", he said.

Earlier in his address, the

chairman of the commission, Alhaji Aliyu Jibril Yelwa, advocated for the diversification of the country's economy from oil, saying the over-reliance on oil posed a serious challenge to the country. While stressing the need for a strong and reliable development plan, he urged state governments to establish fiscal committees similar to that of the Federal Government to address development challenges.

Governor Sambo commended efforts of the commission and assured that the state government would soon establish a fiscal responsibility committee.

The governor who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government Mr. Waje Yayok said the government had realized the need to develop the agricultural potentials of the state in an effort to diversify the revenue sources of the state.

Bankole row not opposition affair – Ndume

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

MINORITY Leader in the House of Representatives Mohammed Ali Ndume says the purported moves being made to oust Speaker Oladimeji Bankole is a power tussle among PDP members and not a business of opposition members.

Ndume who spoke with our correspondent yesterday in a telephone chat said the PDP men were flexing muscles in search of power, noting that the party had never been serious and committed to good governance in Nigeria since 1999 when it came into power.

Ndume who represents Gwoza, Damboa and Chibok federal constituency of Borno under the ANPP, said the opposition would only take position on the purported impeachment if charges supported by facts were presented before the House which would show whether the Speaker is innocent of impeachable offences or guilty.

"If you recall, during the impeachment of the former

Speaker, the opposition parties were active because either group relied on us, we supported the impeachment on the strength of facts concerning charges brought against the leadership.

Now, I just returned to the country, I am hearing rumours that there are impeachment moves going on, well, from all I know, this is just a PDP affair, it is a fight for power between pro-Yar'adua and pro-Jonathan members of the PDP. The party is divided because since it came on board, the PDP has always personalised public offices.

When Yar'adua was in charge, the government was all about people close to him and now that Jonathan is in charge, the people around him also think they should have power.

That is how confused and unpatriotic the PDP has always been, there are PDP members who wish to hold offices even if they last one week in office, that shows the level of power tussle in the party rather than purposeful governance", he said.

Police rescue kidnapped NIFOR DG

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

BARELY twenty four hours after the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo warned the Edo State police command on the high rate of kidnapping in the state, the command has freed a kidnap victim from kidnapers in Benin.

The victim, Dr. Dere Okiy, an Executive Director of the National Institute for Oil Palm Research (NIFOR) was whisked by a gang at about 4.45pm on Monday but regained freedom at 11pm same day. He was on his way home from the office when the gun men attacked him. One of his security aides was shot in the process.

Dr. Okiy who narrated his ordeal before newsmen at a news conference organised by the Edo State Commissioner of Police, Kachi Udeoji, commended the police for the swift response to the distress call. "They dragged me out of my vehicle and put me inside the booth of their vehicle and drove off on high speed. They later stopped and dragged me into a bush. They removed my wedding ring, wrist watch and handsets. They also removed my tie and used it to tie my hands.

"They asked me to cooperate with them that everything would be fine as soon as they got in touch with my wife. They also warned me that they did not want the police to be involved in it or else they would kill me. Later, three of them went out to get food, leaving one behind to watch over me. After a very long time, the three did not return, the other made effort to call but there was no network.

Lamido questions rationale for Iwu's sack

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

ACTING President Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, state governors and other elected office holders should relinquish their respective seats if they allow the removal of chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Professor Maurice Iwu, Jigawa State Governor Sule Lamido said Monday in Dutse.

Governor Lamido said while receiving the Deputy Inspector General in-charge of 'A' Department, DIG Uba Bala Ringim, "If Professor Maurice Iwu is being regarded as evil by certain people within the government, they should not forget that it is the same person that conducted the elections that saw them into their various offices, hence they should also see their elections and governments as evil as well".

Lamido said he owed no one any apology for making such a statement, adding, "If Maurice Iwu should be removed as a result of pressures from certain groups or America, then the president of this country and all elected persons including myself that were elected under the supervision of the INEC chairman should honourably relinquish our respective offices as well".

Lamido suggested that Iwu should only vacate his position on the account that his tenure has expired.

States yet to provide over 70 million doses of malaria drug

By Ruby Leo

EFFORTS by the federal government to meet the deadline set by international bodies to eradicate malaria may suffer setback if states are unable to provide the remaining 70 million doses needed to adequately cover the population.

Minister of state for Health Alhaji Suleiman Bello said this at a press briefing to mark the 2010 World Malaria day in Abuja.

He said Nigeria would need about 153 million doses of malaria drugs for both the private and public sector.

Bello said so far the govern-

ment has provided 83 million doses, leaving a gap of about 70 million doses which are supposed to be filled by states and local government.

The minister said the federal government alone cannot adequately run the malaria race without effective collaboration from

state and local governments.

"I also appeal to states to help fill existing commodity gaps in addition to strengthening and empowering state malaria control programmes within the context of integrated disease control," he said.

Earlier the coordinator of the

National Malaria Control Programme Dr Folake Majekodunmi said Nigerians' behavioural change is one of the greatest challenges being faced by the programme.

She said a lot will be accomplished if Nigerians adhered to the preventive measures of eradicating malaria.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

Mining: Minister moves to attract foreign investors

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

MINISTER of Mines and Steel Development Arch. Musa Mohammed Sada has promised to collaborate with other ministries and relevant government agencies to move the sector forward and attracting investors.

Sada made the comment yesterday when Minister of state for Interior Mr. Humphrey Aba visited him in Abuja.

Sada said, "We can only move forward appropriately and properly by cooperating with others in areas we can help one another to achieve results."

He said to attract a lot of international expertise and investors with funds from "all walks of life", there is the need for a cordial relationship among stakeholders.

Minister of State for Interior Mr. Humphrey Aba said there is need for good working relationship between the two ministries as investors from across the world have to come through the ministry of interior for their relevant Immigration documents.

Riot control: Police want more teargas

By Misbahu Bashir

THE FCT Police Command said it wants more riot control facilities including teargas and other close range facilities.

Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations in the FCT Stephen Ekpei said this when Deputy Inspector General of Police (Operations) from the force headquarters John Hamza Amadu visited the command.

Ekpei said it is not ideal for policemen to face rioters with long range guns and other dangerous weapons. DIG Hamza Amadu said the crime rate in Abuja has gone down and the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo is compiling the needs of the policemen with a view to addressing them. Meanwhile, FCT Police Commissioner John Haruna told the DIG that officers of the command are not benefiting from the National Health Insurance Scheme project in spite of salary deduction.



FOUNDER, Albino Foundation, Mr. Jake Epelle (left) with the Director General, National Orientation Agency (NOA), Alhaji Idi Farouk, when officials of the foundation visited NOA headquarters in Abuja, yesterday.

Afribank chairman, 4 directors face trial today

By Boco Edet

CHAIRMAN Board of Directors of Afri bank and four other Directors are to be charged before the Federal High Court in Lagos today for allegedly misappropriating depositors funds totaling N67 billion.

They were arrested by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) on Tuesday and kept in custody pending their arraignment today.

EFCC's Spokesman Femi Babafemi said

the bank chiefs arrested include Osa Osunde (Chairman), Jibrin Isa, Isa Zailani and Chinedu Onye.

Already the anti-graft agency had arraigned the former chief executive of the bank Sebastian Adigwe and others said to be at large before the same court on a 36 count charge for allegedly granting credit facilities worth almost N150 billion between 2008 and 2009 without adequate security among others. The bank chief pled not guilty to all the charges.

EFCC is investigating some banks indicted

by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) for granting non-performing loans of over N1 trillion.

The affected banks were Afri bank, Bank PHB, Union Bank, Intercontinental Bank, Oceanic Bank, Fin bank, Spring Bank, Equitorial Trust bank and Wema Bank.

So far the EFCC has recovered over N171 billion from high profile debtors, including top operators of the stock market and the oil industry, government agencies, connected businessmen owing the banks.

FG will not tolerate corruption – Perm sec

By Aisha Umar Agaie

PERMANENT Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Martin Uhomoibhi said there would be zero tolerance for corruption and other conduct unbecoming of Foreign Service Officers.

He made the statement during a workshop for Foreign Service Officers at the Auditorium of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution in Abuja.

The permanent secretary said the workshop was a serious business, rather than a jamboree, instructing the director in charge to take a roll-call of officers, and report back to him, pointing out

that the list of attendance would help him make future decision.

Speaking at occasion, Director-General of Bureau of Public Procurement Engr. Emeka Ezech told the participants that the bureau hopes to take Nigeria to a level where the best practices in public procurement are implemented in the overall interest of national development.

He said if the public contracting system is governed by the principles of integrity, transparency, competence as well as competitiveness as national ethos, a good ground would have been provided for the social, cultural and technological advancement of the country.

Judge disqualifies self in suit against Keyamo

By Atika Balal

A Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court Judge has disqualified himself from further hearing a case filed by the Comptroller-General of the Nigeria Customs Service against Lagos based lawyer Festus Keyamo.

The Customs CG Abdullahi Inde Dikko, through his counsel Amobi Nzelu, had asked the court to commit Keyamo to prison for contempt of court but the court ordered that he appear before it at the next adjourned date.

But last week, Keyamo filed an application before the court asking the trial judge in the contempt proceedings filed against him to disqualify himself from hearing and determining the matter.

Justice Abubakar Talba said he disqualified himself in the interest of justice and referred the case to the Chief Judge of the FCT high court for re-assignment.

Dikko, who is being accused of forging his West African Examination Council (WAEC) certificate and that of the Nigerian Institute of Management, had last year sued Keyamo and the Scroll Magazine for defamation.

He had asked the court for an interim order restraining Keyamo and the magazine from publishing any libelous statement concerning him.

The court had in turn restrained Keyamo and his agents from publishing anything libelous against Dikko.

Kano shuts 44 private schools

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

THE Kano State government has closed down 44 private schools for operating without licences and failure to upgrade their facilities.

Announcing this yesterday at a news conference organised by the state Ministry of Information, the state Commissioner for Education Alhaji Musa Salihu said the ministry shut the schools in order to sanitise the activities of privately owned schools.

The commissioner said that out of the 44 sealed schools, 27 were registered but kept operating without upgrading their

facilities. He said the remaining 16 were found to be operating without licences. He said the ministry was finding it difficult to employ regulatory mechanisms or fully supervise the activities of the schools due to the growing number of the schools and their private status.

"Currently, there are 850 private schools operating in Kano. So it is imperative to have a regulatory body under the ministry that will be mandated to supervise their activities," he said.

On the mass failure in the NECO/WAEC examinations, the commissioner said only five per cent got five credits and above in Kano State.

"The situation in Kano is a relatively rosier. In other states,

you will see that only 1.5 per cent to 2 per cent got five credits and above," said the commissioner.

The commissioner also disclosed that the rate of illiteracy in the state had reduced from 41.8 per cent to 39.3 per cent. "From 2003 till date, a total of 114 adults have enrolled in the agency's basic literacy programme, out of which 95,100 were successful," Salihu said.

While enumerating the achievements of the ministry, Alhaji Salihu said under the State Education Sector Project (SESP), the ministry had expended N1,783,770 on purchasing core text books, teachers' guides and workbooks for primary and junior secondary schools.



FROM left: Minister of State for Health Alhaji Suleiman Bello, National Coordinator, National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) Dr. Folake Ademola-Majekodunmi and Chairman, World Malaria Day Organising Committee Sir Patrick Ikemefuna, during the ministerial press conference on World Malaria Day 2010 in Abuja yesterday.

Zamfara to sack absentee teachers

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

THE Zamfara State State Commissioner for Science and Technical Education Alhaji Ibrahim Sani Bakura has directed the state's Science Teachers Board to sack any teacher who abstains from work for one month without notice.

The commissioner who gave the order while on an inspection tour of one of the schools under his ministry expressed concern over the rate of absenteeism by teachers.

"Reports reaching me indicate that some of our teachers stay away from school for some days or months without any notice while some who claimed to be on study leave are not in the universities. We also gathered that some have secured other jobs in Abuja and other places, but they want continue

receiving our salaries," he said.

He warned that henceforth, any teacher who absconds from duty for one day would be queried. He added that the ministry would not hesitate to terminate the appointment of anyone who is found to be unserious.

He said government was committed to ensuring that all ongoing classrooms and hostel projects were completed before the end of this administration. Bakura also said government had approved the supply of laboratory equipment and instructional materials for both science and technical subjects.

The principal of the school, Alhaji Sani Aliyu Moriki, earlier complained of inadequate classrooms and hostels and urged speedy completion of the new buildings.

Hearing on Plateau m/cycle operators for May 17

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

A Federal High Court in Jos has fixed May 17, 2010 for hearing on the suit filed by commercial motorcyclists against the state government's ban on their operations in Jos and Bukuru metropolises.

It would be recalled that they had through their counsel, Barrister Muhammed Lawal Ishaq, filed a case in court on February 22 against the state government, the Plateau State Assembly as well as the state Attorney General challenging

the ban on their operation.

The motorcyclists want an order directing the respondents not to infringe on their rights by promulgating a law prohibiting the use of motorcycles for commercial purposes as doing so would deprive them of their means of livelihood, which is protected under section 34 of the Constitution.

The case was initially scheduled for March 9, but was later fixed for April 20 and later moved to May 17 because courts are not sitting at the moment.

Adamu receives community title

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

FORMER Nasarawa State Governor Abdullahi Adamu has been conferred with the highest traditional title in his ethnic group, the *Adawajin Afo*.

The title makes Adamu the traditional guide and protector of the Afo people and makes him eligible to sit with the paramount ruler of his community, Alhaji Abdulrahman Otto, to take vital decisions for the people.

The conferment was

made at Udege Development Area under the Nasarawa Local Government Area of the state before a large crowd of associates of the former governor, including a former deputy governor of the state, Halilu Bala Usman and the Emir of Lafia Mustapha Agwai.

Adamu told the crowd that the honour came to him as a surprise, but that he accepted it with a promise to make positive contributions to the development of Afo people.

Kano NBA elects new exco

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

THE Kano State chapter of the Nigerian Bar Association Monday elected new executives to run its affairs. The election was held at the Kano High Court complex.

The positions of the chairman, vice chairman and treasurer were contested for while other candidates were returned unopposed. Abdulrazaq Aikawa emerged Chairman while Ubi Ujum Eteng was elected the Vice Chairman, Abdul-lahi Lawan Musa, Secretary, Ibrahim Garba Waru, Assistant Secretary and Aminu Sani Gadanya, Social Director.

Others are, Idris Ibrahim Haruna, Financial Secretary, Abdulsalam A Misbau,

Treasurer, Salisu Mohammed Tahir, Publicity Secretary and Ibrahim Aliyu Nassarawa as National Delegate.

The election was conducted by a three-man electoral committee which had Dele Olaniyun as its Chairman, Dalhatu Ibrahim Daneji the Vice Chairman and Nurudeen Ishola as Secretary.

The new executives have been issued certificates of return by the electoral committee chairman, Barrister Olaniyun. They are to man the association for two years.

The electoral committee chairman, Barrister Olaniyun, charged the new leadership to live up to expectation, saying they should strive for the independence and integrity of the judiciary.

Bakolori irrigation workers sued over rent default

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

WORKERS on the Bakolori Dam irrigation project have been taken before the rent tribunal in Gusau, Zamfara State, over their alleged failure to pay backlogs of rents on their residential quarters.

The quarters which has several housing units was initially owned by the Sokoto Rima River Basin Development Authority (SRRBDA) which rented them out to staff of the authority, but was said to have been sold to the Abdu Gusau Polytechnic in Zamfara without notifying the tenants.

The polytechnic had filed an affidavit praying the tribunal to pay the rent arrears, adding that the area known

as 'Colony' had already been sold to the polytechnic by the River Basin Authority. The tenants are however saying that they are not owing any rent arrears, but had been paying rents through monthly deductions from their salaries.

The tribunal, presided over by Justice Aminu Jinaidu Kaura has adjourned the case to April 22, 2010.

"The tenants are however saying that they are not owing any rent arrears."

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Kuru victims sue PSC, IGP, Plateau govt

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

VICTIMS of the January crisis in Kuru Karama, Plateau State have filed a suit against the Police Service Commission (PSC) Inspector General of Police (IGP), the Plateau State government and four others, claiming N100 billion as damages. 150 people includ-

ing women and children were reportedly killed and stuffed inside a well during the crisis.

In a suit filed yesterday by counsel to the victims, Barrister Ahmed Garba, before the Federal High Court in Jos, the victims alleged that though there was a security breach in Jos on January 17, it was contained by security operatives, but that the

defendants' actions led to the escalation of the crises.

They added that the killings started after the former Plateau State Commissioner of Police Mr Gregory Anyanting made some 'careless statements'. Ahmed Garba said his clients lived in peace and harmony with one another for over 40 years before the incident.

Over 1,000 intending pilgrims in Katsina LG jostle for 211 seats

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

ABOUT 1,100 intending pilgrims are jostling for the 211 seats allotted the Katsina Local Government Area in Katsina State.

The seats were allocated to 11 wards in the local government based on numerical strength. Our correspondent gathered that

about 1000 indigenes of the local government have been forced to go to other local government areas with fewer intending pilgrims to secure seats while others are planning to go to other states.

THE person in charge of the distribution of hajj seats in the local government and the state's Attorney

General Muntari Ibrahim introduced a ballot system in all the wards for the seats.

A hajj official in the state, who spoke to our correspondent said the problem was caused by some pilgrims who insist on embarking on the exercise every year denying others the opportunity to participate.

Al-Mustapha: Court adjourns hearing to May 19

From Benjamin Auta, Lagos

A Lagos High Court in Victoria Island presided over by Justice Mufutau Olokoba has fixed May 19 for the defence counsel to cross examine the prosecution witness in the case involving the former Chief Security Officer (CSO) to the late Head of State General Sani Abacha, Major Hamza Al-Mustapha and three others.

Major Al-Mustapha, Commissioner of Police James Danbaba, Jibrin Bala Yakubu and Mohammed Rabo Lawal have been standing trial for over 10 years now on the allegation that they masterminded the death of late Kuburat Abiola and an attempt on the life of the proprietor of the Guardian Newspaper, Mr. Alex Ibru.

Earlier, prosecution witness, Mr. Felix Ugbaugwu, an Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG) identified three video tapes tendered by the prosecution led by Pedro Lawal from the Special Investigation Panel (SIP).

"The first tape contains the report of an alleged terrorist attack and plans to counter it by the third accused, Sgt Rogers and Katako," he said.

He added that the second tape showed Mr. Sunday Mai-chibi's trip to Abuja and back to Lagos to see the Inspector General of Police on the matter while the third tape contains a confrontation between the second defendant Mr. James Danbaba, Sgt Rogers and Katako on the matter.

The AIG added that the SIP report was sent to the Deputy Inspector General of Police in charge of the Criminal Investigation Department at the Force headquarters, Mrs A. Ojomo, for onward delivery to the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF). Mr. Ugbaugwu added that the matter was handed over to the Lagos State government on the recommendation of the Attorney General because the accused persons committed a state offence.

The defence counsel could not cross examine the witness because original copies of the tapes tendered by the prosecution had not been given to them as ordered by the court.

Justice Okoloba ordered the prosecution to provide the original copies of the tapes and adjourned the matter to May 19 and 20 as well as 25, 26 and 27.

Kidnapping in Edo highest in zone - DIG

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

INSPECTOR General of Police Ogbonna Onovo has said that the rate of kidnapping in Edo State is the highest in Zone 5 of the police command. The commands that make up Zone 5 include Edo, Delta and Bayelsa States.

The Inspector General, who was represented in Benin by the Deputy Inspector General of Police 'C' Department Udom Udo Ekpou-dom, said this while on an inspection tour of commands under zone 5 of

the police command.

He therefore called on the Edo State Police Command to check kidnapping in the state, saying the situation was unacceptable.

He also called on senior officers in the zone to check the activities of junior officers, especially those at the checkpoints.

Responding, the Assistant Inspector General of Police in charge of zone 5 AIG Mohammed Abubakar told the visiting DIG that there were some logistics problems facing the zone and appealed for help.



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By Tunde Asaju

The lamentations of Hamman

Since the politicians have settled down with Goodluck Jonathan, it appears as if with Jonathan, nothing can go wrong. And like a good bride, the acting President flew a sizeable bird to Washington DC and had a handshake with Barack, the man of the moment. I was told he took lessons in handling the fork and knife as he dined with the first family of the world.

Like a good student, Jonathan listened to all the tantrums that the Americans could throw, and like an old parent, he calmed them down. He even assured them that if Dame Pat did not cook well, he was ready to seek extra lessons from Dora, provided the Americans continue to call him a good boy. I like leaders who in the presence of Americans do not pretend that they rule sovereign nations capable of taking its own decisions.

Sovereignty as some of you know is relative and except American troops are in your country reducing unemployment at home, you cannot expect to be treated as well as Hamid Karzai. If you don't know what I mean, please

How can he raise such a false alarm that because government has been spending money, Nigeria would go for broke?

ask Madam Clinton who had to eat her words when Karzai reminded her that it takes only a few days of not shaving to grow a Taliban beard and disappear in the ubiquitous mountains of Tora Bora. I wish I could say so about the rock of Aso. And it ought to have been so, but for a man called Hamman Tukur.

The man who heads a powerfully powerless commission that is supposed to appraise and reprobate our finances has been crying wolf. That is, apart from using some of his commissioners as occasional punching bags, the man has added to his controversy-studded cap the title of prophet of doom. Tukur has been making predictions, and if his foresight is taken seriously, the boyish smile cringing the face of our Acting President could disappear for a frown. But I think, having returned from America, he ought to have learnt to ignore the screaming headlines of Nigerian newspapers. A politician once told me that if you live by what you read in the papers, you may be tempted to stay in your watering hole and die there.

So, most Nigerians have learnt to avoid stressful situations by not reading most of the things they see in newspapers. As for Tukur, methinks he has been sleeping for a long time since the last boxing

round at the Central Business District. Methinks too, that because of the proximity of his office to that of the CBN, he must have been hallucinating about how much is in the excess crude account. Otherwise, how did he know that the account is almost depleted? How can he raise such a false alarm that because government has been spending money, Nigeria would go for broke? I mean, what is Lamido Sanusi's business if not to tell the guys at the Mint to print more naira? After all, Soludo has stopped the wasteful venture of printing them abroad. And nobody should blame him if he also ingenuously ordered the mint to print more anytime it looks like there will be no more fresh cash to carry on the party at Wadata Plaza.

This is why I am very suspicious about this wolf crying by Hamman. Is the man suddenly getting close to retirement and realizing that there may not be enough money left in the excess crude account to pay his severance package? Or is he afraid that his allowances may be cut? Because, from what I hear from the other experts, the money is meant for the raining day, and if he asked Idang Alibi, you do not wait until the waters reach your knee before befriending the ferryman. So, what is wrong if government spends rainy day money buying umbrellas in harmattan?

Hamman is giving tongue wagers something to chew with his recent outburst. Because, I hear a little bird tell me that a country with 150 million population but generating less than 2000 megawatts of electricity and transmitting less than half that amount is truly broke. Then I heard a fish swimming past and saying that a country whose assemblymen did not pass five laws other than appropriation bills in three years is equally broke.

A country that is 50 years old but cannot organize simple elections is truly broke. And a nation where armed robbers operate by night and hand over to kidnappers by day is also broke. A country whose roads is messed up by accidents and cracked by overloaded trailers instead of working its rail lines is broke. A nation whose schools close down for longer than they remain open; and whose certificates are as worthy as toilet paper, is seriously and truly broke.

So, which broke is Hamman Tukur talking about? The poor have moved from 0-1-0 to 0-0-0 and their tear glands have dried. And somebody once told me that he who is down needs fear no fall. Maybe Hamman is afraid of losing his tea and travel allowance. Otherwise, we have known for long that Nigeria is truly - broke. The question is how do we fix it, who do we ask to fix it and for how long would we have to wait to fix it?

(tundeasaju@yahoo.co.uk)



By Muhammad Ajah

Would Iwu's departure or retention make any difference?

The Chairman of Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Maurice Iwu, has not only seen the fiery face of acute criticism in Nigerian politics, but may have felt the touches of divine warning from the Holy Scriptures if ever he could accept repentance.

Since after the successful but heavily flawed general elections in 2007, there have been several calls to overhaul the electoral system through what former President Olusegun Obasanjo coined as electoral reform. Yes, the elections were flawed to the extent that the first beneficiary, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua confessed it. Evidences are still rife till today. It is very sad that nearly three years after the conduct of the general so-called elections, some of the politicians declared as winners by the Iwu-led INEC are ousted out of office. Senator Emordi may yet not be the last.

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as the name sounds is supposed to be the beginning and basis for positive change in Nigeria. I read with amusement INEC's campaign posters scattered on the walls of Nigerian cities especially before elections. Inscriptions on such posters read: "Cast your vote - it's your right! Say no to rigging. Say no to violence. Election is no war!" Invariably, these words are created to convince the public that INEC was sincere and very ready to do the nation proud by doing the right thing. On the other hand, the inscriptions speak volumes of the failure of the whole system because results from such elections have hardly shown that the people's votes count.

Can the read among the masses keep their dignity and Nigerian nobility and say no to electoral frauds and violence?

Because of this apparent failure of the system - a collective corroboration between the government and the seemingly learned governed - holding credible elections have been a nightmare. So it has been that every boss of the national electoral body faced queries at different levels. Some were faced with calls for investigations over alleged corrupt practices. Some were faced with the calls for outright termination of appointment. And some were faced with death threats.

However, the controversy over Iwu's stay or sack must be handled with utmost caution. Those who support his sack, or oppose his reappointment after the expiration of his tenure next June, claim that it will be a big relief and good news to all Nigerians. They claim that he has lost confidence of all Nigerians as an unbiased umpire to preside over the nation's electoral body, adding that it would also be a good signal to the ongoing electoral reforms on course.

This category of people may yet be unaware that Iwu's appointment and sack are guided by constitutional provisions. The appointment is tenured and can only be terminated by a two-third majority of the Senate's vote. Except the President decides otherwise as the case may be in Nigeria, he exerts his unconstitutional powers, break into the Senate and gets his way.

It seems we must continue to remind ourselves that the system is a vicious circle. Iwu may not really be the cause, just as any minister in a Nigerian cabinet is incapacitated to make any meaningful change even if they tried to. If Nigerians - including the politicians, the judiciary, the security operatives and the masses say that we can get it right, we will get it right.

Can the Nigerian politician ever allow INEC to hold credible elections by not bribing their ways - bribing the unscrupulous INEC officials, the unpatriotic security personnel, the malleable press outfits to blow their trumpets loud, the hungry community, religious and traditional youth leaders?

Can the judiciary always remain the last resort of justice by constantly annulling the selection of the anointed and enforced candidate? Can the security operations sincerely allow the boxes not to be snatched or stuffed? Can the read among the masses keep their dignity and Nigerian nobility and say no to electoral frauds and violence? Can the press unite and fight more for full enthronement of democratic ethics and values? Nigeria will be okay.

That said, however, even if Iwu is removed, our electoral woes would increase rather than decrease because the political machineries will not allow things to work right for the masses. It is true that who pays the piper dictates the tune. With the situation on ground till today, the grip of the presidency on INEC is such that whoever heads it must dance to the tune of the piper. Our system has shown that corruption is the bane of development in every aspect we labour. Every new appointee has a difficult task to satisfy his or her financial needs, those of the immediate family members and the tribal men.

The next general elections are bare less than one year away. If it takes some Nigerian politicians the whole tenure of their appointment to solidify their personal gains, one will entertain little doubt that the appointment of a new INEC Chairman will be a wasteful venture. To get it clearly right, anyone who cares can imagine the level of lobby already going on to replace a yet not-vacant seat. What do we think the person who spends heavily or indulges in fetishism to get an appointment will offer the people? And at the end, the president is misled to appoint one who must be loyal to a fault, not for the people but for the pipers.

Iwu's case should not trouble us any longer. Just in less than fifty days, the nation will begin to decide whether or not the 2011 general elections will be free and fair, with or without Iwu in the INEC.

Ajah wrote from Abuja (mobahawah@yahoo.co.uk)



Your Letters

Send your letters to letters@dailytrust.com

And the petroleum ministry goes to... Bayelsa!

Nigerians waited for who would clinch which post as the Easter break fades preparatory to the swearing in of Dr. Goodluck Jonathan's fresh cabinet. There were speculations here and there as to the postings of the new Ministers. And trust Nigerians, some of the speculations turned out to be true; and this is especially true with regards to the Petroleum Ministry.

A lot of noise is however being made as to the rationale behind why the Acting President 'hijacked' the juiciest Ministerial portfolio to his home State. People suddenly forget that we had just in the recent past a President who also doubled as the Petroleum Minister, and made away with it.

The noise being peddled around Mrs. Diezani Allison-

Madueke's choice reminded me of what a certain Mrs. Adekunle wrote in *Daily Trust*, Tuesday, 10th July, 2007 who then was advocating for her kith and kin to be appointed the FCT Minister in then yet to be constituted President Yar'adua's first cabinet. It is also worthy of note that her kith and kin possesses such competence, professional, bureaucratic and otherwise required for the office of Minister, especially the FCT she was canvassing for. But so does every other part of this country; in fact I stand bold to say that if where I come from is to be used as yardstick, every local government area in this country can produce a competent Ministerial candidate.

What those making the noise are perhaps unaware that Mr. President (in whose stead Dr. Goodluck Jonathan is now acting) has the reserve to appoint whomsoever he feels is competent; and he (Mr. President) will be comfortable with. This is to say: the position of a Minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria is more of a

Political Leadership position. This means that anyone from any part of the country once considered competent by Mr. President can be appointed.

Mrs Adekunle's ethical frame of mind is one shared by many sentimentalized Nigerians when it comes to the issues of national progression. Attitudes like Mrs Adekunle's and those crying over why Allison-Madueke was deployed to the Petroleum Ministry can only do more harm than good in a nation that is simply in need of God-fearing and competent leaders at all levels in order to move it out of its present sorry state. Mrs. Allison-Madueke being the first female to have risen to the position of Executive Director needed to be celebrated and be given also the chance to contribute in resolving the seemingly unending challenges in the Nation's oil sector.

Philips Mbursa Ndahi, Block A, Sky Memorial Complex, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja (ndahiking@yahoo.com)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Re: Rep upbraids IBB over comment on youths

I say kudos to Dino Melaye. IBB got served and deserves more for insulting our sensibility... More crushing and weighty blows are coming straight at your face and any other ex-this and -that that wants to follow suit. IBB should be ashamed of himself to even think of contesting for presidency, despite the hardship his administration caused the good people of Nigeria.

A. T. Mohammed, Nuhu Bamalli Polytechnic, Zaria, Kaduna State, 08065665107.

Prison break!

THE cases of jail break arise as a result of congestion and slow judicial decision-making. Some spend more than five years in jail

without trial; the authorities concerned should try and reform the system to avoid recurrence.

HARUN A. Imam, Kaduna, 08038226335.

Re: Presidential system too expensive

IT is interesting that Hamman Tukur would make this claim. Our leaders and their cohorts are taking us for a ride! Imagine, this same Tukur, whose committee recommended jumbo pay for political office holders and permanent secretaries, leaving the minimum at a paltry N6,500 is now singing a different song altogether. In a serious country like China, one can imagine what his punishment would be for misleading the nation.

ABUBAKAR S. T., Kano,

08099663312.

FCT failed first test

THE first failure of the FCT Minister is his rush to order the removal of speed bumps. Please let the emergency wards in FCT hospitals prepare to buy more equipment to handle the expected surge in accident victims.

07068156281.

Leave the bumps alone!

JUST make them bigger and smoother, like those near SSS headquarters and no one will speed irresponsibly over them. Those shouting Remove! are reckless drivers who do not obey or understand traffic rule of slowing down at all junctions! They ruin their cars out of reckless regard for other road users.

08033056419.



By Abdul-Azeez Suleiman

2011: Yobe in safest pair of hands

If there is one lesson from the recent history of Yobe state, it is that Governor Ibrahim Gaidam has within a short time been able to stimulate in the people and government officials a feeling of interdependence by showing that they cannot always expect to take, but they must give as well. That way, the people have imbibed a spirit of commonality to face common tasks and jointly seek solutions.

This common resolve was strengthened by a chain of adequate programmes rolled out by the administration. Among them is a systematic programme for women empowerment, on which the governor has persistently said he would not relent, equivocate, or excuse, saying that Yobe has not only founding fathers, but founding mothers as well. The impact of the administration's commitment to this programme had breadth and depth, with huge improvements in girl's access to education around the state already, indicating that the literacy rates for women, which used to trail far behind those of men, will be within a single digit of men's by the end of May 2011. Already girls now fare nearly as well as boys in primary and secondary enrolments in Yobe state.

The administration then unfolded a comprehensive action plan for the improvement of the lot of children, the elderly, the sick and all those people who for any reason are worse off than others.

To this end, the government has so far achieved the construction of ultra-modern hospitals around the state and also renovated all the general hospitals in Gaidam, Gashua and Potiskum and re-equipped them to the tune of N 200 million. As a new health initiative, he also introduced a drug revolving scheme into which he invested well over N28 million. This structural improvement was complimented with the recruitment of expatriate medical doctors to help the indigenous medical officers man the upgraded health facilities.

The governor then went for a housing programme that aims to do away with discrimination once and for all and guarantee that in future there will no longer be prejudice against any family owning or renting a home. To actualize this dream, his government set out to construct 500 housing units across the 17 local government areas and in all the senatorial zones of the state including Damaturu, the state capital in addition to an imposing estate along the Maidiguri road made up of 220 low-cost housing units with a mosque, a clinic, a primary school, a police station, corner shops and a fire service station.

Boosting the educational sector, Gaidam approved the implementation of the 27.5 percent teachers' salary scale, TSS. To further equip the teachers to put in their best, many of them were sent on courses in core science subjects like mathematics, chemistry, physics and biology at the National Mathematical Centre, Abuja. Others were sent to the University of Ghana, University of Abuja and the National Educational Development Centre in Ondo state. He then established the high standard Yobe Turkish International College at Mahmudu near Potiskum which has since become a centre of academic excellence.

This remarkable breakthrough in such a short period comes as a result of Gaidam's commitment to the pursuit of a principle of "collective care, collective strength." This principle essentially means that leadership, spiced with care and compassion for all and by all, is the only practical action that is needed to help people lift themselves to their full potential. It also means that for a leader to be able to get and to give the standard care that his people require, he has to do it together with the people by stimulating and co-coordinating an environment that encourages everyone to contribute and every one to benefit; an environment in which everyone has responsibilities as much as everyone enjoys rights.

It is a principle, which Gaidam subscribes to, that when collective progress is collectively pursued, the weak becomes strong, the needy are lifted, the talent is given a chance to flourish, and the unemployed is turned into the employed contributor.

But he is also consciously aware that, noble as this idea of "all being contributors, and all being beneficiaries" may be, it can not be secured by most of the people most of the time if they're just left to themselves, stranded, and isolated from government with their whole life chances dependent upon luck.

These are the building blocks that form the secret of Gaidam's success in just a little over one year which guarantee that he will be re-elected as governor of Yobe in 2011.

Suleiman wrote from Wuse 11, Abuja (weekend.news@yahoo.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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Sudan elections

The Sudanese multiparty elections which took place for eight days from April 11 and ended early this week, were remarkable in that they were the first to be held in nearly a quarter of a century. The last democratic elections took place in 1986. The elections were proposed under a 2005 peace accord that ended more than two decades of north-south war, and promised southerners a referendum in January 2011 on whether they should declare independence. Although the overwhelming majority of southerners are thought to favour separation, many had warned there was a risk of conflict in the build-up to the polls. More than 16 million registered voters cast their ballots in over 10,700 polling stations for the presidential candidates as well as regional governors and legislative and local representatives.

The elections had international dimensions, with intense geopolitical interests among world powers. Expectedly, reviews of the outcome of the elections in foreign capital have been mixed. The US released a statement yesterday deploring what it said were electoral irregularities and blamed the government and the National Electoral Commission (NEC) for not anticipating them and taking steps to mitigate their effects.

Sudan's Arab neighbours hailed the conduct of the polls, while Russia said they were "free and fair by African standards".

Perhaps the fairest assessment of the polling was made by the Carter Centre: "While it is too early to offer a final overall assessment, it is apparent that the elections will fall sort of meeting international standards and Sudan's obligations for genuine elections in many respects," said a statement from the Centre, one of several groups observing the balloting. Opposition presidential candidates withdrew from the election. Their withdrawal was moot because they did so after the deadline allowed by law, a decision that dismayed many of their backers and supporters because the election process was part of a wider agreement that could determine the political future of Southern Sudan, which includes the Darfur region. Their withdrawal gave Sudan's incumbent President Omar Hassan al-Bashir easy win. However, southern Sudanese still voted for the leader of the semi-autonomous government of South Sudan. The leader of the former Southern rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Movement (SPLM) contested against the former foreign Minister, Lam Akol for the leadership of the south.

Al-Bashir was the only presidential candidate in the election under the National Congress Party (NCP). He has pledged to invite opposition groups to join his government if he won the election in a bid to rekindle the faltering peace deal with the south. Bashir's NCP and other northern parties had vowed to campaign against separation, although analysts have suggested that the north would be loath to lose control of the oil-rich south.

The Sudanese elections, like any in a country under intense international scrutiny, have had their drawbacks, it must be admitted that they represent a step forward in country's quest for a lasting peace. It is unfortunate that southern candidates withdrew before polling began, because it was an opportunity to demonstrate that they really desired peace, and an end to one of the continent's longest conflicts. But it's not too late; we advise them that for the sake of their people, they should team with the victorious party to work out a formula for participation in the administration in the run-up to next year's referendum. President al-Bashir has already sent out invitations to the opposition groups to participate in his government. We hope that he would follow through, and take new steps to end the conflict in Darfur. The negotiations between Khartoum and Darfur rebel groups, currently stalled, should be revived. He should also resolve a dispute over the position of the country's north-south border which is the remaining sticking point in the 2005 accord.

Sudanese people should regard the election as the first step in a long way to stability and development in their country. We expect that future elections would improve on the shortcomings of the last one. No electoral process is perfect; but each subsequent one should build on the success of the preceding one with one. The recent election in Sudan should therefore be regarded as the foundation for greater democratic development. The international community can help the process by encouraging accommodation, not stoking embers of division.

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Jonathan's next good luck

Timawus Mathias

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For 4 days this week, we as a nation watched and followed the Nigerian Acting President Goodluck Jonathan taking the world stage in the United States of America. On invitation from President Barack Obama, Goodluck Jonathan attended the Global Nuclear Security Summit. America is concerned that nuclear material could become accessible to extremist groups who would use it without qualms and engage in mass murder of especially Americans, hence the sponsorship of the conference on ways to check the looming catastrophe.

We watched Jonathan's pose with President Obama and I believe many Nigerians asked themselves questions as the two leaders looked each other eyeball to eyeball. Did Jonathan fit the role? Was he Presidential? Did he command respect commensurate with Nigeria's global importance and significance? Was he able to assert Nigeria's view of the subject of the conference and did he secure beneficial commitments from the superpower?

We are aware that Acting President Jonathan was barely stabilizing in his headship of the country Nigeria. His taking of Presidential responsibility has remained controversial with every decision taken receiving critical appraisal, including the decision to have Secretary to the Government Yayale Ahmed take charge while the Acting President was in the United States.

My candid impression is that the Acting President performed creditably and surprisingly so because he was hardly engaged in any international undertaking while serving as Vice President. He was calmly poised as he sat beside President Obama, as if taking cues for looks and gesticulation. I felt he inspired Obama's respect as he shared America's fears and concerns over nuclear weapons falling into the hands of extremists and terrorists. To cap it, he also highlighted Africa's worry over the ease with which small arms fall into the hands of militants and violent dissidents on the continent. It can not be lost on Obama that the Yar'adua administration successfully negotiated an amnesty for the militants of oil rich Niger Delta, securing peace that has boosted the production of crude oil.

Goodluck Jonathan demonstrated deep insight of the relationship between small arms manufacture and proliferation from the developed countries, and the incessant political instability and wars in Africa. After all, his Niger Delta has seen and suffered the acquisition of small and medium firearms by restive militants. Nigerian patriotism was sufficiently inspired.

I thought it was good that Acting President Jonathan gave audience to Alhaji Umaru Mutallab whose son is standing trial in

Nuhu Ribadu, Maurice Iwu the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission and the conduct of credible elections in the future, in which votes "will count".

With his evasive economy with words and his opening up only where he had advantages, I wonder if I should believe that pressures for Jonathan taking full reins of power now or contest to retain power come 2011 are not a result of the Acting President's body language to the clamouring sycophants and political patronage speculators.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan returned home to Nigeria where there is still apprehension about whether the Nation can be moved forward at full ahead, given the possibility of a fully recovered President Umaru Musa Yar'adua. Jonathan needs to maintain his focus to

Jonathan reminded America that it was the failure of the western systems that the would-be bomber became indoctrinated by Al Qaeda in England and not in Nigeria

The ultimate cynosure of the trip was the appearance on the Christiane Amanpour interview. (I did not watch the BBC one). Acting President Goodluck Jonathan displayed innocent candour as he tackled the questions, but was forthright and even successfully left his answers with pregnant meaning, particularly the question of whether he would defy the PDP zoning of the Presidency to the North and run for the office. He was circumspect, drawing attention to the many options he had, but asserting that the issue was not on his priorities now. With his no qualms about former President Ibrahim Babangida seeking to return to power Jonathan left us wondering why it was of concern to the Americans if former Nigerian Military President Ibrahim Babangida should seek to return to power.

It was obvious from his confidence that Goodluck Jonathan would assert himself and be his own man for a tenure that is accountable. He was frank on President Yar'adua's illness but would not be drawn into discussion on using the constitutional provisions for him to shunt into the Presidency fully. His priorities are to render efficient Electric Power Supply and to offer credible elections in which votes count. Normally in interviews, CNN Anchor Christiane Amanpour intimidates guests with intelligent reasoning and a deep knowledge of the subject. Not with Jonathan, who at points in the interview, became a teacher and "lectured" on say the Plateau crisis, the war on corruption and the status of

ensure that identified problems are tackled to conclusion within time frames. He should identify modular programmes within the budget and achieve them within 12 months. The promised 6 thousand megawatts should be delivered with minimum delay. Of course there has been a lot of looting in the power sector. But in Jonathan's interest, he should look ahead and aim at delivery on promise. To engage in probes now will slow the development process and waste time and effort.

The North's political agenda for 2011 seems to have been set, by what many Northerners believe to be former President Obasanjo's game plan for power not to come to the North after the Jonathan/Yar'adua first tenure. Former President Babangida's run of fury against an ever determined General Buhari are said to be aimed at thwarting Obasanjo's believed objectives. Both Northern Generals have a long feud and will, it is believed, therefore fight to the finish. General Aliyu Gusau presently National Security Adviser to Acting President Jonathan, is unlikely to defer to any of his senior colleagues his ambition to be president, arguing that they have been there before and should therefore give the turn to him. This being so, General Gusau might, and will most likely watch the fight, and if he is not favoured to win the outcome, choose to work for a retained Goodluck Jonathan President in 2011. Thus 3 "dogs" fight for a bone, and a fourth weak and too small to fight "dog" picks it up. And this just might be Jonathan's next good luck!

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Star Feature

Kano's unusual GRA

The famous GRA in Kano is slowly and painfully turning into one big slum, with bad roads and rubbish heaps dotting what should have been a splendid setting.

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

USUALLY, the acronym GRA, meaning Government Reserved Area, (common in Nigeria) can be interpreted to be a euphemism for affluence and a better standard of living. These exclusive residential areas were originally created to quarter white colonial administrators. However, after independence, Nigerians began to occupy administrative senior posts that hitherto used to be the exclusive preserve of the white overlords, including their highbrow and secluded GRA residence.

From colonial days to the independence era, these enclaves have continued to maintain an elitist identity; separate from the larger society; complete with basic infrastructures, such as road networks, pipe-borne water, schools, shops and the rest. The presence of these amenities, coupled with the serene and egalitarian way of living in these government cum elites quarters, made land acquisition in the area to be highly competitive and expensive. So it is with their super-high rents.

In Kano State, the larger part of its GRA is situated in Nassarawa Local Government, and the large chunk of these preferential residences, fall within the area called Bompai. This part of Kano is synonymous with modernity, because in this place you can find some of the earliest footprint of civilization. Apart from a police headquarters and the National Television Authority's station that are located meters apart, you can also find a cluster of some of the early and famous hotels, and a conur-

bation of industrial complexes.

With years gone by, the Bompai GRA is now turning into a complete shadow of its former self, shelving its exclusivity and prestige on a daily basis. However, the residents of the noble quarters blame neglect on the part of government, for what has become of their hitherto highly-revered abode.

Just last week, officials from the Nassarawa Local Government Revenue Technical Committee circulated notice of payment for house numbering fees to the entire households in the area. The letter requested every household to pay the sum of N2,000, in the space of one week, for numbering of their homes and naming of streets.

Contained in the notice, was a reminder of the constitutionality of the levy, as provided by Section 7 of the 1999 Constitution and Decree 21 of 1998.

The objective of the proposed numbering of the houses was for "easy identification" by "government agencies like (NEPA) PHCN, Nigeria Population Commission (Census), Water Board, NIPOST, EPI Immunization etc" which is the style in vogue in "other big cities like Abuja, Kaduna, Lagos, Onitsha, Port Harcourt etc," the committee posited.

However, instead of the proposed exercise to enjoy support among the GRA dwellers, it drew fierce



ROADSIDE refuse dumps are a common sight in the area.

criticisms. The sharpest, coming from a youth body Bompai Development Association, which was formed five years ago with the objective, among others, of salvaging the community from pervasive infrastructural decay and lobbying governments and their agencies.

It secretary general, Junaidu Sa'idu Gwarzo, described it as a way of fleecing people, who have lost touch with government for over two decades. "Numbering of homes is not our priority now. Although it is not a bad idea entirely, but there are more pressing issues requiring urgent government intervention than pinning numbers on our homes. I can tell you, none of our elected leaders has come here to repair

our dilapidated roads or rotten drainages, since the return of democracy in 1999. I have lost count of the number of letters we have written to Nassarawa Local Government, ministries and government agencies, pleading with them to provide one service or the other to the community, but all our entreaties fell on deaf ears," the secretary general averred.

He said they were honoured only on one occasion with a reply from a ministry, directing them to liaise with another ministry for road repairs in the area, but he said the project has not been executed since 2006. "Why is Nassarawa Local Government asking us to part with our money, when it has turned a blind eye on us all this while?" he queried, suggesting instead that, the council "can channel the grants it has been receiving all these years to number our homes. They have the courage to cite constitutional provision to back their quest of getting us part with our money, forgetting also that our welfare is a constitutional right they must provide."

Inside the GRA, the decay and apparent government absence, speak for themselves. The last major road repair in 20 years, investigation has revealed, was the one done two years ago on Durbin Katsina Road by the state government. Many roads are in a complete state of disrepair, including the economically important ones that lead into Bompai industrial area. At certain points, roads that were named after prominent personalities like Isa Dutse Road, Sule Gaya Road, Ali Akilu Road have their tarred surfaces completely off, in addition to giant potholes that dot what remains of them, thus rendering them cumbersome for plying.

In a food company situated on Isa Dutse Road for instance, *Daily Trust* gathered that there is a standing order banning drivers from using the road, which half is completely washed away. To escape the penalty therefore, the drivers will, for example, detour through St Louis Avenue, drive up Umaru Babura Road, which is like making a complete circle, before delivering products to customers, located at the other extreme end of the same Isa Dutse Road.



NTA roundabout, believed to be the oldest in the state now in a decrepit state.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

For 3rd time in a month: Jonathan stalls PDP NEC meeting

HOW can he allow such meeting to hold at this time? The Acting President wants to also maneuver his way to have an easy ride for the ticket in 2011 and he knows that it will be difficult for him to get the mandate if people like Ogbulafor are still in control. The only time to allow for such meeting to hold is when the current chairman has vacated his seat which he will soon do because of the 100 million naira corruption charges levied against him by the ICPC.

Lamara Garba Azare
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

He is very sure that he cannot achieve his desired goal(s) in the meeting until his homework is completed.

Ismail Hussain
ismailhussain79@yahoo.com

Rep confirms moves to oust Bankole

WHY won't our representatives use their remaining time to focus on what will impact the electorate instead of changing the leadership which will not benefit the masses? Are they aware that very soon they will go back to their electorates?

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
damura@yahoo.com

Mr Speaker, it is Allah that gives and takes away power. Some people think that you are not supposed to be on that seat but Allah's will is beyond man's imagination. We shall continue to pray for your successful tenure in office because it seems the two anti-corruption bodies are being used to clear any stumbling block against 2011.

Idriss Keletuma
idriss.kelly@yahoo.com

FRSC, minister disagree on Abuja speed breakers

THIS is a welcome development. The Road Safety boss knows that the speed bumps do not conform with international safety standards so why put them in the first place and make Nigerians look like a bunch of people who do not know what is proper? I can imagine the number of expatriates that must have had a good laugh over the speed bumps wondering what age we live in. The bumps should be removed because they have caused more harm than good by destroying a lot of cars. Road safety officials should be stationed at strategic points to control traffic and check people breaking the law.

Samira
sdegoshie@yahoo.com

Nyako, Aminu: We don't want Atiku in PDP

I don't know why Gov. Murtala Nyako, Prof. Jibril Aminu and others don't want Atiku's return to PDP. Is it wrong for a boy to return to his home after a misunderstanding? I think PDP is a party for all. A person like Atiku is an asset to any party because of his influence and popularity. I am calling on PDP leaders in Adamawa to accept Atiku with good faith so as to move their state forward.

Mas
mas4reals@yahoo.com

I swear to God if I were Atiku, I'd prefer resigning from politics than to take this humiliation. These are people that were under his control and they are the same ones now rejecting him. What did he expect from them? Atiku should better think twice and resign with some dignity. He should not allow his quest for power to lead him to the greatest humiliation of his life. The ball is still in his court.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

Senator Aminu has failed to realize the fact that Adamawa Politics is not all about him. He sees Turaki as a threat to his political carrier. PDP isn't his personal belonging. It is a political party which emerged on a platform of the likes of Atiku. Aside from that, in a democratic arena political parties are open to any individual who is willing to join.

Oche Baba
ocheodangla@yahoo.com

I wonder whether Nyako and



ADAMAWA State Gov Murtala Nyako

Aminu are politicians at all or maybe we can call them political party members. Is it not ridiculous for any political party that is worth its name to shut its door against any person more so someone like Atiku? Any person who does that certainly is not a politician even if he is holding a political office. I am in AC and I really don't support Atiku's idea of going back to PDP and to say I am happy he has left our party is certainly a lie. Every political party will welcome Atiku in to its fold but PDP.

Sunusi Musa
iyando22@yahoo.com

I don't know why chieftains of PDP in Adamawa State are afraid of Atiku coming back to party. Are they afraid of dominance? Or maybe it is the famous saying that they are robbing Peter to pay Paul. For me though what is happening in PDP is the nemesis of what they are doing to this country. It is the clash of the titans that would happen in 2011.



PROFESSOR Jibril Aminu

Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

For God sake, Nyako and Aminu why should you say that Atiku should not be accepted in PDP? Don't forget that he is the one that brought all of You especially Jibril Aminu to PDP. You are biting the fingers that fed you.

Adamu
aamujeli@yahoo.com

I have watched over time the unkindness of Jibril Aminu towards Atiku. Neither of them is my relation but I think a political party is not the exclusive preserve of a select few. Let us learn to be accommodating please.

Emeka
dinnaya1@yahoo.com

I see the party to be at war with itself. Some party members see themselves as indispensable. How time flies: the Atiku that was the

bride of these politicians has now become a 'leper' that must not even be touched with a very long pole. The party leaders from Adamawa should note that all that goes around will come around one day. It will definitely come to their turn. To Atiku, I ask: must he serve this country in that capacity? He had been a Vice President for eight years, what else does he want. I think this is good for him.

Ola Esuruoso
supabes@yahoo.com

For once, the PDP is becoming more democratic & listening, but still people like Aminu and Nyako who play God in the state party should be called to order before it is too late.

Tina Oko
okotina@yahoo.com

I am very happy about the PDP chairman comments to Nyako, Aminu and the rest: PDP is for all Nigerians.

Khalid Gora
gorahaladu@yahoo.co.uk

Adamawa state has been moving forward without Atiku. This is the same PDP that Atiku called all sorts of unprintable words two years back. He is begging to return now because he has realized recently that his chances are diminishing. Being popular and having electoral value are two different things in politics. Atiku is popular but his political value for now is zero.

Chris
c.akase@yahoo.com

Atiku: How Balarabe Musa and co frustrated Mega Party



FORMER Vice President Atiku Abubakar

IS it because Alh. Balarabe Musa stayed away from the initiative of the Mega party that made you to dump your party (AC) and your followers?

Mamdom, D. S
dmamdom@yahoo.com

Atiku's political career is fading very fast. His boys are going against him. A good population

of the masses only developed some interest in him when he pretended to be fighting the PDP. Now it seems everybody is tired of him.

But for Balarabe Musa, I consider him a leader, a hero and a life achiever and zero percent corrupt.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com

Alleged theft of N104m: ICPC files charges against Ogbulafor, others

NIGERIA! A wonder country. The grand design is now manifesting. Where were they when this man was cleared by the security and found credible enough to lead the largest party in Africa? Had he not committed the offence then? Or was it that he was covered in order to scale through? Why the delay to expose him for an offence said to have been committed about 9 years ago? I want to believe that his travail may not be un-connected with the grand design to intimidate the man so that he can succumb to their wishes. In any case, whether it is politically moti-

vated or not, since the matter has gone to court, I will advice Ogbulafor to honorably resign from his chairmanship of the PDP in order to clear himself. Also, the police should arrest him to effect investigation. If he is innocent he can prove that as the case progresses in the court but with this development, the man is no longer credible to lead the party. He should vacate.

Lamara Garba Azare
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

I need clarification on whether Chief Vincent Ogbulafor is pro-

Jonathan or anti-Jonathan because in our country Nigeria, if you are with the President you would not be prosecuted or indicted for whatever you embezzled. So why is this case instituted against Ogbulafor? Is he still the Yar'adua die-hard? Let me advice Chief Vincent that Nigeria as he knows is not like America. Being among the ruling class means you are totally surrendered to the will of the C-in-C. If not, you would undergo the experiences of the Ribadu's and el-Rufa'i's.

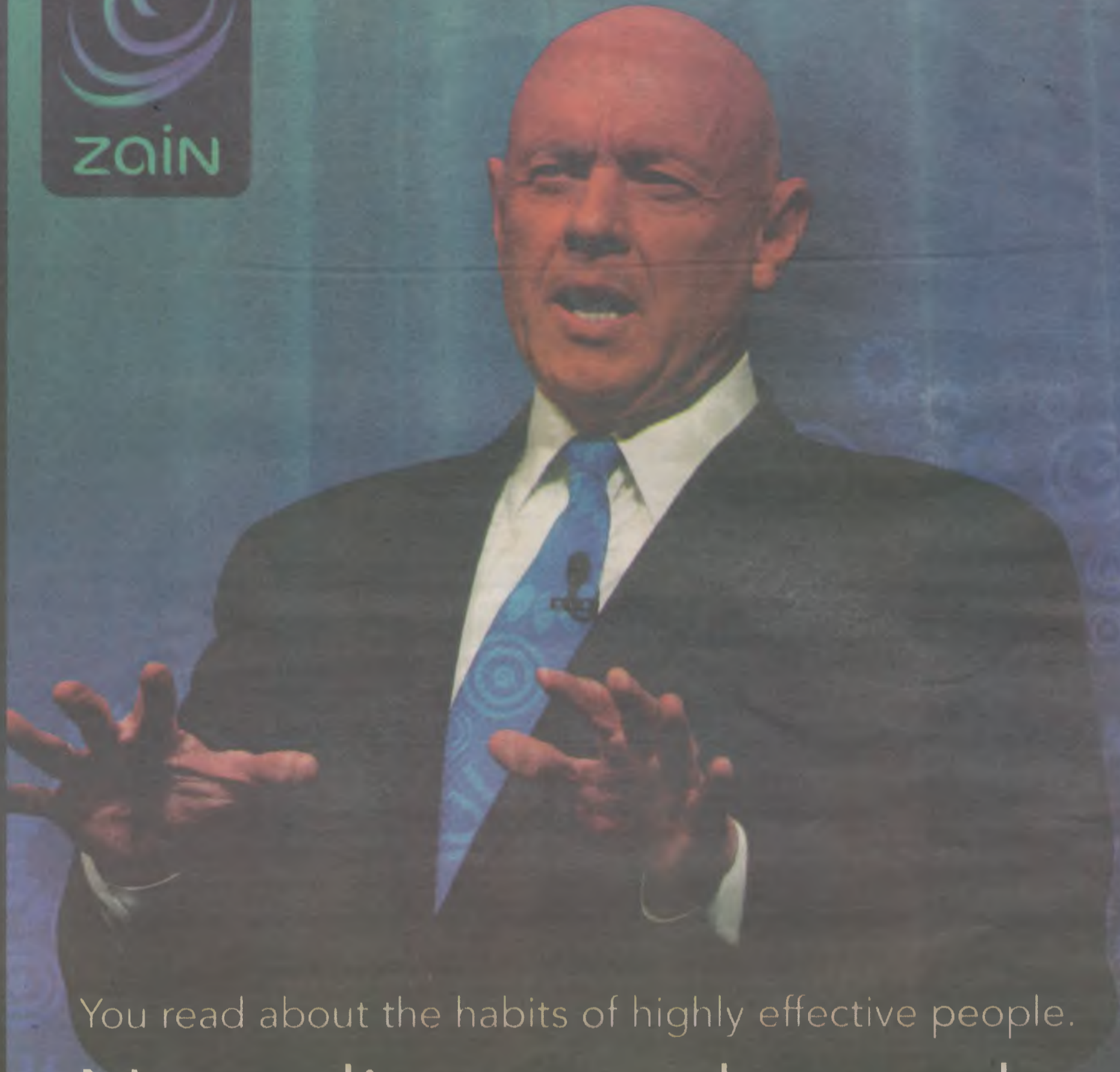
Zanna Baruwa Gashua
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

I don't want to believe that the allegation only came up when the PDP chairman opened up on the so-called zoning the presidential ticket to the north.

Sagir Bununu
mgwaska@yahoo.com

Is this just because he is against Goodluck's presidential ambition? It is so bad that anti corruption agencies are totally dependent upon the presidency.

Usman Ahmed Danbaba
danbaba1986@yahoo.com



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NDUKWE IN GLORIOUS EXIT FROM NCC

Zik Prize in Leadership

By Public Policy Research and Analysis Centre (PPRAC)



■ HE Dr. Aliyu Babangida, Niger State Governor (Middle) handing over the award to Engr. Ndukwe, while Senator Ayo Arise watches



■ 2nd From left HE Alhaji Danjuma Goje, Gombe State Governor. Wife of Senate President, Mrs. Helen Mark, congratulating Engr Ndukwe (right) while Senator Jubril Aminu (2nd right) watches



■ Recipients of the awards for 2009 from left Governors Godswill Akpabio of Akwa Ibom State, Alhaji Dajuma Goje of Gombe State, Alhaji Isa Yuguda of Bauchi State, Alhaji Babangida Aliyu of Niger State (who chaired the occasion), Helen Mark who represented Senate President, David Mark, Senator Jubril Aminu, Engr. Ernest Ndukwe, and Executive Secretary of PPRAC, Prince Emeka Obasi



■ From left, Prince Obasi, Gov. Yuguda, Chairman of NCC Board, Alhaji Ahmed Joda, Gov. Danjuma Goje and Engr. Ndukwe.

ICT Development Icon of the Decade

By National Daily Newspaper



■ Engr. Ndukwe receiving the National Daily's ICT Development Icon of the Decade, from veteran broadcaster, Ambassador Segun Oluosola



■ Engr. Ndukwe exchanging pleasantries with the Delta State Governor, Emmanuel Uduaghan



■ From Left, Engr Ndukwe, his wife, Ndali Ndukwe, Mrs. Ekeh, and her husband, Chief Leo Stan Ekeh, Chairman of Zinox Group



■ Engr. Ndukwe (left) with Mrs. Ndali Ndukwe exchanging pleasantries with Nollywood Actor; Kanayo O. Kanayo (standing) while the Director General of the NYSC, Brig Gen. Maharazu Ismaila Tsiga, watches

Father of Modern Nigeria Telecom

By CommunicationsWeek



■ Engr. Ndukwe presenting a lifetime award to former Minister of Communications, Air Vice Marshal Canice Umenwaliri (rtd) while Chairman of Communications Week, Engr. Bob Okonyia watches.



■ Engr. Ndukwe with wife, Ndali (left) displaying the award of Father of Modern Nigerian Telecom



■ From left Engr. Okonyia, Mrs Ndali Ndukwe, Engr. Ndukwe with award shortly after presentation by wife of Communications Week Publisher, Mrs. Nwogbo

The end of the 10 years tenure of Engr. Ernest Ndukwe as the EVC /CEO of NCC was heralded with a week long activities featuring many awards and climaxed with a memorable farewell cocktail by an appreciative Board, Management and Staff of the Commission on Thursday, April 1, 2010 when he handed over to Acting EVC, Engr. Stephen Bello at NCC Headquarters in Abuja.

Farewell Cocktail at NCC Headquarters, Abuja.



■ Engr. Ndukwe (right) in handover shake with Engr. Stephen Bello (left) while from Left NCC Commissioners, Mr. Bayo Atoyebi and Engr. Kentebe, applaud



■ Mrs. Maryam Bayi, Head, Human Capital at NCC counts down as NCC Commissioners from left Mr. Bayo Atoyebi, Engr. Bello, Engr. Ndukwe, Engr. Muktari Zimit, Dr. Michael Onyia and President of DBI, Professor Raymond Akwule cut the farewell cake.



■ Officials of DBI from left, Dr. Okey Ugwueje, Professor Raymond Akwule, Engr. Ndukwe, Engr. Bello, Dr. Popoola and Viola Usoro.



■ Engr Ndukwe with some of the staff of the Commission



■ From left: Dr. Joseph Atoyebi, Dr. Sylvanus Ehikioya, Director, News Media and Cyber Security, Engr. Ndukwe, Mr. Clement Ihembe, Mr. Tony Ojobo (Director, Human Capital and Infrastructure Group) Mr Dave Imoko, Director, Public Affairs.



■ Board Members with EVC from left; Mr. Felix Adeoye, Commission Secretary, Engr. Bello, Dr. Bashir Gwandu, Chief Patrick Kentebe, Engr. Ndukwe, Engr. Muktari Zimit, Mr. Bayo Atoyebi (esq) and Dr. Michael Onyia

The Most Revolutionary Technocrats of the Decade
By Dasoul Media Democrat Award Series



■ Engr. Ndukwe (4 from right) and Professor Nicholas Damachi Perm Sec. Ministry of Information and Communications(4 left) with officials of DA Soul Media during the presentation of the award for Most Revolutionary Technocrats of the Decade.



■ Engr. Ndukwe (left) receiving the plaque for the award from President/CEO of Da Soul Media, Mr. Klatsaint Akor (right) while Professor Nicholas Damachi, Perm Sec, MOIC watches.

Distinguished Continental Leadership Merit Award
By African Youth Society, AYS.



■ From Left, African Youth Society, Monsiuer Issa Iliyasu, handing over the award to Engr. Ndukwe, while Executive Secretary, AYS, Dr. Olusegun Adeleye watches.



■ From left Miss Beauty Obiazi, Dr. Olusegun Adeleye, Monsiuer Issa Iliyasu, Engr. Ndukwe and Chief Kassim Anabere, Patron AYS, Mr. Dave Imoko and Hon. Olusola Dada

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INTERNATIONAL



SUDANESE President Omar al-Bashir casts his ballot at a polling station in Khartoum last week.

Sudan ruling party rejects US polls charge

PRESIDENT Omar al-Bashir's ruling party yesterday rejected US accusations that last week's landmark polls in Sudan were not free and fair, but it welcomed an offer for cooperation.

"One of the most important criteria to meet the international standards is 'free and fair,' and we have met this criteria," Ibrahim Ghandoor, a senior official of the National Congress Party (NCP), told AFP.

Between April 11-15, Sudanese went to the polls to choose their president, legislative and local representatives in the country's first multi-party elections in more than two decades.

On Monday, though, the US State Department said the elections were not free and fair, after international observers said the polls had failed to reach international standards.

"This was not a free and fair election. It did not, broadly speaking, meet international standards," State Department spokesman Philip Crowley said in Washington. "That said, I think we recognise that the election is a very important step in terms of implementation of the CPA," the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that ended a decades-long civil war between north and south Sudan, Crowley said.

Washington "will continue to work with the government in the north, the government in the south, as we move forward with full implementation of the CPA and the vitally important referendum (on southern independence) that'll happen in January of next year."

The NCP welcomed the offer. "We welcome the cooperation with the US government for the implementation of the CPA and for the sake of bilateral relations," Ghandoor said.

Two key Bashir challengers -- the Umma Party's Sadiq al-Mahdi and Yasser Arman of the former rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) -- withdrew ahead of the election. That paved the way for a near-certain Bashir victory. The election was also marred by logistical problems and delays including polling stations opening late or not at all, names misspelled or missing from registration lists and ballot boxes being delivered to the wrong polling stations.

International observers also cited instances of intimidation and harassment, while the opposition accused Bashir's NCP of fraud. EU foreign affairs chief Catherine Ashton voiced concern over "deficiencies" in the process, saying they should be addressed.

"Although these elections have been particularly complex, I note with concern the deficiencies as identified already by the EU EOM (Election Observation Mission) and other observers," she said in a statement on Monday. "It is important that the noted shortcomings are urgently addressed," particularly in view of a planned referendum in January 2011 on self-determination in South Sudan, Ashton added. Meanwhile, Sudan's close ally China hailed the process for being peaceful.

Eight killed in central Somalia battles

HARDLINE Shebab militia fought yesterday with a pro-government movement in central Somalia in battles that claimed the lives of at least eight fighters and wounded 14 others, the groups said.

The Shebab raided a town controlled by moderate Islamist Ahlu Sunna group, sparking heavy fire exchanges. "The holy fighters of Shebab launched a huge offensive on the supporters of the apostate government around Masagaway. They lost in the battle and we killed many of them," Shebab spokesman Sheik Ali Mohamoud Rage said. But Ahlu Sunna denied being defeated. "Our forces are still having the upper hand... We will continue to fight until we liberate the oppressed in Somalia regions," said Sheik Abdurahman Abu Yusuf, the Ahlu Sunna spokesman. The Ahlu Sunna group has fought alongside the Somali government troops against the Shebab in the central and southern Somali regions. The Al Qaeda-inspired Shebab, who follow the very conservative Wahhabi interpretation and despise the Sufi Ahlu Sunna as "grave-worshippers," recently destroyed Sufi clerics' tombs and have banned their celebrations in the regions they control.

Two Rwandan generals arrested for graft, misconduct

TWO senior Rwandan generals have been arrested over accusations of corruption and misconduct, the army announced yesterday.

Former airforce chief Lieutenant General Charles Muhire and Major General Emmanuel Karenzi Karake, an ex-deputy chief of the United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur, were suspended from the force.

"Muhire was suspended for the serious crime of corruption

and abuse of power, (Karake) for misconduct against the principles guiding the Rwandan defence forces discipline," army spokesman Major Jill Rutaremara told AFP. "The decision was taken to instil discipline."

The two generals were members of an exclusive circle of top military officers in the former Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF) rebel movement which brought an end to the 1994 genocide.

The RPF is currently Rwanda's ruling party headed by Presi-

dent Paul Kagame, who is widely expected to seek, and secure, re-election in presidential polls due in August.

Kagame last week reshuffled senior military officers and appointed the army chief as his defence minister.

Muhire, who had been head of the airforce, was appointed chief of the reserve force. Last month Rwanda accused two former senior army officers exiled in South Africa of instigating grenade attacks in the capital Kigali.

International

Lebanese PM says Scud accusations like Iraq's WMD

LEBANON'S Western-backed prime minister has denied Israeli allegations that Hezbollah obtained Scud missiles, comparing them to the false American charges that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction ahead of the 2003 US-led invasion.

Saad Hariri appeared to be trying to ease tensions raised by Israeli President Shimon Peres' accusations that Syria supplied the Lebanese militant group with Scuds, which can carry a warhead of up to 1 ton and would be far larger than the biggest rockets previously in Hezbollah's arsenal. Syria has denied the Israeli allegations and Hezbollah has neither confirmed nor denied them.

On Monday, the US State Department summoned Syria's deputy chief of mission in Washington, Zouheir Jabbour, and accused Damascus of "provocative behaviour" in supplying arms to the Iranian and Syrian-backed Hezbollah.

A State Department statement did not specifically mention the alleged Syrian arms deals but alluded to the transfer to Hezbollah of Scud ballistic missiles.

Hariri compared the charges with US allegations that Saddam Hussein was developing weapons of mass destruction, which were the main rationale behind the U.S.-led war in Iraq but turned out to be false.

"The media suddenly started reporting that there are Scud missiles in Lebanon. Do you know what a Scud missile means? I believe it is as big as this room," Hariri said yesterday in Italy. His comments were reported by Lebanese media.

Hamas burns recreational drugs, taxes cigarettes

GAZA'S Hamas rulers yesterday burned nearly 2 million pills of a painkiller many Gazans take recreationally because they say it relaxes them and provides temporary relief from the territory's hardships.

The disposal of the drugs comes days after the Islamic militant group confiscated cigarettes from Gaza shops to collect taxes on them.

Both moves are part of Hamas' efforts to strengthen its grip on Gaza and impose its strict interpretation of Islam on the impoverished seaside territory's 1.5 million Palestinian residents.

Hamas Health Minister Basim Naim said authorities burned some 1.7 million pills of a drug called Tramadol that had been seized from smugglers who sneak it through tunnels under the Egyptian border.

Tramadol is a powerful painkiller, related to mor-

phine and heroin, though most countries don't treat it as a controlled substance.

Experts have said that those who stop taking the drug after regular use often develop flu-like withdrawal symptoms, though long-term effects are rare. Gaza's Health Ministry recognizes the drug as a painkiller, Naim said, but allows its sale only by prescription.

The drug's popularity in Gaza has grown in recent years as the quality of life has plummeted. Hamas seized the territory from forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in 2007, and Israel and Egypt imposed a strict blockade in 2007, causing shortages of many basic goods.

In late 2008, Israel launched a 3-week offensive in Gaza to stop militant rocket fire on Israeli towns. The war killed about 1,400 Gazans and left vast swaths of the strip in ruins.



A visitor enters the site of the World Expo 2010 in Shanghai. Expo organisers gave members of the public a preview of the largest-ever world's fair as they tested facilities and public transportation before the official start.

China's Shanghai Expo offers trial run

By Charles Onunaiju, with Agency reports

ORGANISERS of Shanghai's World Expo gave members of the public a preview of the massive event yesterday as they tested facilities and public transportation 10 days before the official start.

"The Expo looks great. I want to see all the foreign pavilions today," said Wang Huiifen, a 50-year-old hotel employee waiting to enter the huge Expo site.

More than 200,000 people visited the Expo on the first of six preview days before the official May 1 opening after a limited number of preview tickets were issued, an Expo Bureau spokesman said.

For China, the World Expo is the latest showcase of its growing global clout, following the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and Shanghai has planned an Expo on an unparalleled scale to show it can rival the world's greatest cities.

The six-month event is set to be one the largest gatherings of humanity, with 192 countries participating and organisers saying they expect up to 100 million visitors.

Only 10 to 15 pavilions were ready for visitors yesterday, the spokesman said, as workers scramble to finish work in time for May 1. A 23-year-old surnamed Cao spread his arms wide, waving Chinese and Expo flags in both hands at a gate in front of the China Pavilion, a 60-metre tall inverted pyramid that towers over the Expo site.

"I am very happy to see Expo finally starting," said Cao, adding he had just

arrived in Shanghai from Beijing and planned to sell the flags over the next six months at five yuan (75 US cents) a pair. Fang Qian, 12, got the day off school after her mother's real estate

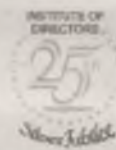
company offered them two of the pink preview tickets the day before.

"I want to see the French pavilion because its design is very special. There's an outdoor restaurant on the

top and I've never been to France," Fang said. "I also want to visit the China pavilion." Today marks the next trial day, and then four consecutive days beginning Friday.



**The Institute of Directors
Nigeria Abuja Branch**



Quarterly Members' Night/Dinner

The Institute of Directors Nigeria, Abuja Branch is holding its quarterly Members' Night on Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at Reiz Continental Hotel, Central Business District Abuja at 7pm.

The Dinner Speech will be given by the **Guest Speaker** Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria, Dr. Kingsley C. Moghalu.

Special Guest of Honour: Ms Josephine Tapgun Hon. Minister of State, Federal Ministry of Commerce & Industry

The Institute of Directors is a foremost professional body with wide membership around the world and promotes corporate governance, integrity and transparency in business

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IoD Nigeria Abuja.

International

Chavez says Colombian candidate would pose threat

PRESIDENT Hugo Chavez is hurling harsh words at the leading presidential candidate in neighbouring Colombia, saying he would pose a threat to Venezuela and its allies if he is elected.

Chavez complained about the leading candidate to succeed Colombian President Alvaro Uribe yesterday night while he denounced US meddling in Latin America.

Chavez was hosting a summit of allies ranging from Cuba's Raul Castro to Bolivia's

Evo Morales.

Chavez warned that Colombia would become a serious threat to its neighbours if former Defense Minister Juan Manuel Santos wins the presidential elections.

Voting will be held on May 30, and a second-round runoff is likely between the top two candidates.

"Now he wants to be president. This is a threat to all of us, especially for Ecuador, Venezuela and Nicaragua," Chavez said.



VENEZUELA'S President Hugo Chavez, left, with Cuba's President Raul Castro as they attend an event honouring Venezuela's independence hero Simon Bolivar during Venezuela's 200th independence anniversary celebrations in Caracas, yesterday.

Europe allows some flights but ash prompts new delays

EUROPE eased its aerial lockdown yesterday with around a half of its scheduled flights taking to the skies, but more ash from Iceland's billowing volcano prolonged the agony of most stranded passengers.

Although the eruption of ash which has blackened the skies around the Eyjafjoell volcano lost some of its fury, plumes which headed towards Britain meant the runways at the continent's busiest airport remained closed.

As some countries including France, Germany and Belgium allowed a gradual resumption of flights, passengers lucky enough to get a ticket home spoke of their utter joy.

"I've never been so happy in my life going back home," said Shahriar Ravari from San Diego, waiting at a Paris airport for a flight to Los Angeles with the end of his travel nightmare in sight. "I love France but to be going home is something else."

Millions of people have been stranded across the globe since Europe began shutting down airspace six days ago and the world association of airlines, IATA, says the crisis is costing the industry 200 million dollars a day.

Eurocontrol, the body coordinating air traffic control across the region, said around 14,000 flights scheduled in Europe for Tuesday should take place, representing around half of the normal volume.



chana@simbaonline.net



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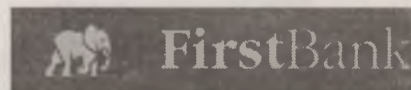
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ENTRANCE EXAMINATION RESULT FOR 2010/2011 ACADEMIC SESSION

The following candidates are successful in the Zaria Academy Entrance Examination conducted on 6th March, 2010. They are invited for oral interview on 24th April, 2010 at the following centers: -

- (i) Zaria: Zaria Academy Shika, Kilometre 10, Funtua Road (Candidates from Kano, Kaduna, Zaria, Sokoto, Katsina, Zamfara and Kebbi).
 (ii) Abuja: New Capital School, Kwame Nkrumah Road Asokoro, Abuja (Candidates from Abuja, Nasarawa, Niger, Kogi, Kwara and Lagos/Ota) and
 (iii) Bauchi: Sa'adu Zungur Primary School (Candidates from Bauchi, Yola, Jalingo, Gombe, Maiduguri and Jos). at 9:30am.

JSS 1 Boys		
S/N	Exam No	Name of Candidates
1	BA/21	Hussini Tahir Moh. Zahar
3	BA/12	Kabir Habib
4	BA/11	Boyinga Nuga
5	BA/04	Mamman Mustapha
6	BA/01	Abdulkarim Aminu
7	BA/09	Mamuda Haruna Mustapha
8	BA/03	Gidado Abubakar Ahmed
9	BA/10	Garba Abubakar
10	BA/08	Muhammad Garba Nurudeen
11	KT/02	Nuhu Aminu Isah
14	KN/01	Gidado Mukhtar Abdulhamid
15	KN/02	Goni Abdulaziz Ali
16	KN/07	Ibrahim Umar
17	KN/08	Dayyabu Suleiman
18	KN/10	Bilal Ado Inuwa
19	KN/12	Sada Abubakar Moh'd
20	KN/15	Nurudeen Abubakar Sadiq
21	KN/16	Baffa Bello Mohammed
22	KN/18	Habib Najib
23	KN/19	Musa Abdul Basit Isah
24	KN/20	Abdulrazaq Suleiman
25	KN/22	Aliyu Muhammed M.
26	KN/23	Zangina Salihi Mohammed
27	KN/24	Mohammed Najib
30	SO/23	Mainasara Ibrahim
31	SO/06	Ameh Gabriel
32	SO/11	Ahmad Muhammad Abdulrazak
33	SO/27	Abubakar Dalhatu Mub. Anwar
34	SO/24	Aminu Sadiq Sahabi
35	SO/26	Aliyu Aliyu Mukaddas
36	SO/04	Aminu Bello Azizah
37	SO/02	Muhammed Lamido Aminu
38	SO/10	Ahmad Abulaziz Ahmad
39	MA/01	Abubakar Zannah Ali Sadiq
40	OT/06	Nuhu Yusuf
41	OT/05	Hanafi Abdulmalik
42	OT/04	Aderibigbe Ayomide
43	OT/03	Jaito Abdul - Rauf
44	OT/02	Lawal Abdulmajid
50	AB/12	Mubarak Isa Umar
51	AB/01	Mohammed Nurudeen
52	AB/05	Abdullahi Aliyu
53	AB/02	Ya'u Abdullahi. B.
54	AB/03	Usman Karna
55	AB/08	Zubairu Salawu

56	AB/09	Abubakar Moh'd Al-Amin
57	AB/10	Gimba Said
58	AB/13	Yakubu Danfuloti B.
59	AB/14	Abdulrauf Hassan
60	AB/11	Dikko Muhammed
61	AB/15	Ismail Abubakar Tsiga
62	AB/16	Muhammed Yaseer
63	AB/18	Aliyu Hussaini A.
65	AB/17	Wali Mustapha Ahmed
66	AB/22	Tasiu Salim Gachi
67	AB/21	Ibrahim Yazidu
68	AB/32	Hammayo Fadi Aminu
69	ZA/49	Yakubu Mubarak
70	ZA/06	Hamsu Ahmed
71	ZA/09	Mohammed Mustapha A.
72	ZA/10	Jumare Sulaiman
73	ZA/04	Abubakar Abdulhakeem Sadiq
74	ZA/15	Ahmad Shuaibu Musa
75	ZA/48	Yakubu Mansur
76	ZA/13	Tanimu Farouk Abubakar
77	ZA/23	Minka Eloking
78	ZA/44	Baba - Ahmed Muharak
79	ZA/25	Mohammed Sadeeq Abubakar
80	ZA/26	Yerima Fuad Mohammed
81	ZA/27	Abdulmumini Tanko
82	ZA/29	Ndayako Umar
83	ZA/46	Baba Ahmed Imran
84	ZA/30	Isa Imrana Lawal
85	ZA/43	Okwori S. Obobu
86	ZA/50	Ibrahim Haruna
87	ZA/51	Garba Muhammad Sani
88	ZA/21	Thompson Dalhatu
89	ZA/22	Abdulmajid Isah
90	ZA/39	Alkali Akinlu
91	ZA/35	Tahir Abubakar Sadiq
92	ZA/53	Abdullahi Tasi'u

JSS 1 Girls		
S/N	Reg. No	Name
1	BA/13	Abdullahi M. Mariya
2	KT/03	Bagiwa Asma'u Lawal
3	KT/04	Mudassiru Hafsat
4	KN/01	Auwalu Rahama
5	KN/13	Hassan Nana Hauwa
6	KN/14	Tsiga Ismaila Amina
7	SO/03	Sulciman Sada Sadiya
8	SO/12	Nasir Amina Istiya

9	SO/13	Tukur Aisha Tukur
10	SO/20	Haruna Naja'atu
11	TR/02	Goje Khadijat
12	TR/04	Kabir Hauwa
13	TR/00	Sani Khadijat
14	TR/05	Anisa Abdulrazaq
15	OT/01	Sule - Umar Fatima
16	AB/07	Alkali Maryam Moh'd
17	AB/04	Rahama Aliyu
18	AB/24	Ibrahim Fulmata
19	AB/25	Abdullahi Rabiati
20	AB/26	Abbati Maryam
21	AB/23	Muhammed Asiya
22	AB/27	Modibbo Maryam
23	AB/28	Bello Ummul Khari
24	AB/30	Lawan Mohammed Farida
25	AB/29	Musa Mohammed Zainab
26	AB/33	Babangida Hafsat
27	AB/34	Yakubu Iliya Rebecca
28	AB/35	Mustapha Rabiati
29	AB/36	Sabo Babangida Rahamah
30	AB/39	Ibrahim B. Maryam
31	AB/38	Muhammad Mardiyah
32	AB/37	Dantani Aisha Muh'd
33	AB/41	Muhammed Nusaiba K.
34	AB/40	Buba Moh'd Salma
35	ZA/08	Adam Zubaida

SS 1 Boys		
S/N	Exam No	Name of Candidates
1	KN/09/S	Dayyab Yusuf
2	KN/05/S	Mahmoud Sani Kabir
3	SO/05/S	Ameh Joseph Enejo
4	SO/18/S	Muazu Mustapha Jodi
5	AB/01/S	Buba Salihijo Ibrahim
6	AB/03/S	Aiyelangbe Jimmy James
7	AB/04/S	Haruna Abubakar Sadiq
8	AB/09/S	Jalal Buhari
9	AB/12/S	Aliyu Abdullahi
10	ZA/10/S	Abdulsalam Hamza
11	ZA/11/S	Okwori Jenikeri
12	ZA/13/S	Baba Ahmad Adnan
13	ZA/06/S	Rafindadi Lawal Kabir
14	ZA/09/S	Abubakar Idris Umar
15	ZA/01/S	Sadiq Ahmad Isa
16	ZA/05/S	Olugbemi Olubopo A.

17	AB/05/S	Abdullahi Moh'd AbulFatahi
36	ZA/02	Sadiq Sabirah Orize
37	ZA/12	Aminu Bashir Hauwau
38	ZA/37	Bashir Maryam
39	ZA/20	Salisu Nafisa
40	ZA/05	Ben - Wiwuga Nadumletin
41	ZA/52	Nana Fidausi Sanusi
42	ZA/16	Shuaibu Hauwa'u Musā
43	ZA/14	Shuaibu Musa Asamau
44	ZA/31	Sumaila Ranlat
45	ZA/36	Khelid Hajara Lawal
46	ZA/38	Asiy Bashir Maigemu
47	ZA/34	Ma'aruf Fatima
48	ZA/28	Musa Ummi Salamatu
49	AB/06	Mubarak Yusuf
50	AB/031	Yahaya Hamza Zaynab

SS 1 Girls		
S/N	Reg. No	Name
1	BA/03/S	Ahmed Aisha Nabila
2	BA/01/S	Abdullahi Gwaram Aishatu
3	BA/02/S	Abdullahi Garba Halima
4	KT/04/S	Isah Mujitaba A'ishatu
5	SO/19/S	Rufai Aisha Ahmad
6	SO/16/S	Muazu Saratu Jodi
7	SO/25/S	Aminu Sahabi Aisha
8	AB/05/S	Ibrahim Idris Firdausi
9	AB/06/S	Zarewa Fatima Jibril
10	AB/07/S	Yusuf Maryam
11	AB/11/S	Ismaila Maryam Tsiga
12	AB/08/S	Karaye Aisha Mustapha
13	ZA/03/S	Hadiza Haruna Jumare
14	AB/10/S	Idris Nana Amina

FOR FURTHER
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FORUM FOR A UNITED PDP

C/O Modoji Road, GRA, Katsina, Tel: 08033851981
KATSINA STATE

Prince Vincent Ogbulafor
National Chairman,
Peoples Democratic Party,
Wadata Plaza, Wuse,
Abuja

Your Excellency,

No! To The Illegal Dissolution of Katsina State PDP Executive by His Excellency The Executive Governor of Katsina State, Barr. Ibrahim Shehu Shema

We the undersigned humbly write to appeal to your good sense of judgment to look into the recent political developments in Katsina state, our state, which led to the unilateral and thoroughly unwarranted dissolution of the executive committees of the PDP, our party, at all levels by his Excellency the Governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Shehu Shema.

2. At this point in time, dissolution of the party executive officers to be replaced by so-called care-taker committees (populated by supporters of the Governor) is not what the PDP in Katsina state is in need of: The party is in dire need of reconciliation arising from the 2006 Gubernatorial Primaries and also arising from the poor judgment of the Governor whose speciality is the systematic marginalization of party members especially foundation members, who are seen to be, in the words of his cronies, enemies to be sidelined and frustrated out of the party.
3. The current onslaught of the Governor who has no mandate whatsoever to dissolve the Executive Committees, a prerogative of only the National Secretariat is a step further in weakening the party in Katsina state and must therefore be resisted by all bona-fide members of the party.
4. By hijacking the National Secretariat's responsibility, we can see a clear case of arrogance and poor literary understanding of the constitution of the party and its history: this in our view is like stabbing us in the back by somebody whose only claim to political relevance is to be at the right place in the right time.
5. Your Excellency will do the PDP a lot of good service by denouncing the Governor's unilateral activities as regards party politics, in this our State. For a start it may be interesting for the National Chairman to look into how a serving Senator of the Federal Republic- as if they do not have anything to do in the Senate-would be the chairman of the state caretaker committee. Is that what happened in States where dissolution occurred? The motive is clear. To perpetuate himself in power at all costs by manipulating the party structure to his advantage; an action that can destroy the party's achievements in the last 12 years, including its history.
6. Would the Governor have been so daring to dissolve if Mutawallen Katsina was healthy and kicking? We are now beginning to see the aptness of the Hausa adage "Tsintattar Mage bata Mage". We shall rise to fight this.
7. Contrary to even his own resolutions as to the constitution of the so-called caretaker committees, all

we had all over the state, in the local governments where he has been able to recruit willing partners, is a coalition of the hopeless "hopefuls" of friends and associates, without any known party affiliation. Where is he taking us to?

8. Your Excellency may wish to recall that the issue of dissolutions is not new. Times without number, the Governor's boys had bombarded the National Secretariat with*pretentious petitions stating that the Katsina PDP executives have outlived their statutory tenure. This is not true and this cannot stand in the face of available facts in the National Secretariat and here on grounds.
9. As we approach 2011 general elections, some people are increasingly becoming desperate to either secure a fresh mandate or if that is not possible, to undermine the party for their selfish interest. Your Excellency has a responsibility to checkmate those treacherous elements within the party.
10. In light of the above therefore, we state unequivocally and in every strong terms that we are fully in support of those officials of the party who have gone to court to stop the mad rush to dissolve. We support them and stand by them. This is a question of principle which cannot be compromised.
11. Your Excellency may look at this matter urgently by investigating the issues here-in raised and take appropriate action to redeem the situation before it is too late: the politics of marginalization, sidelining and exclusion has never been in the best interest of the party.
12. Accept Sir, our warmest regards.

Signed.

1. Dr Mustapha Inuwa
2. Muntari Lawal Katsina
3. Zubairu Ali Gafai
4. Nasiru Umar Chakis
5. Haladu Ashiru
6. Sanusi Hayin gada Malumfashi
7. Isa Bala Funtua
8. Dantata Mashi

C.C

1. H.E Barr. Ibrahim Shehu Shema, Govt. House, Katsina
2. Deputy National Chairman, Wadata House, Abuja
3. Zonal Chairman North West Zone PDP, Kaduna
4. Alh. Kabir M. Daudawa, State Chairman, PDP Katsina state.

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Venue: Golden Gate Restaurant 25B Glover Road, Ikoyi Lagos

Time: 6:00 pm

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Assistant Comptroller-General of Customs/ Chairman
 Central Organising Committee, Calabar 2010

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Faculty: Prof. Sarah B.A. Oloko, Prof. Omalolu Soyombo, Prof. Bolaji Owasanoye and Mr. Thomas Ajibona

DATES:

May Diet: 4 May, 2010
 July Diet: 6th July 2010
 September Diet: 7th July 2010

VENUE:

HDI-Child Rights Education Centre,
 2 Iwaya Road, Onike-Yaba, Lagos.

COURSE FEE:

N10,000.00 per participant.
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- Handling Children with Behavioural & Learning Challenges
- Interviewing Skills for Social Workers
- Dealing With Mental Health and Substance Abuse in Social Work
- Legal Issues in Social Work
- Best Practices and Challenges of Social Work
- Case Studies & Practical Exercises in Child Social Work

Date: 18th and 19th May, 2010
 Venue: HDI-Child Rights Education Centre, 2 Iwaya Road, Onike-Yaba, Lagos.
 Course Fee: N30,000.00 per participant.

CHILD RIGHTS TRAINING FOR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Theme: Promoting & Protecting Children's Rights in Health Care Practice

This 2-day training aims at equipping health professionals with in-depth knowledge and skills with which to uphold and promote children's rights in their daily practice. It also aims at enhancing the capacity of parents to meet the developmental and health related needs of their children with

Topics

- Child Health and the Law
- Child Protection Policy and Child Abuse
- Girl-Child Health and Gender Equity in Development
- Enhancing Child Rights within the Health Care System
- Understanding Special Child Health Services Programmes: A Case Study of Selected States
- Key Issues in Child and Maternal Health

Date: 20th and 21st May, 2010
 Venue: HDI-Child Rights Education Centre, 2 Iwaya Road, Onike-Yaba, Lagos.
 Course Fee: N25,000.00 per participant.

CHILD RIGHTS TRAINING FOR SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATORS AND CARE GIVERS

Theme: Implementing Child Rights Legislations in Educational Institutions

This 2-day training aims at equipping professionals in the field of education with requisite knowledge and competencies with which to address and promote child rights issues in educational settings. It also aims at enhancing the capacity of parents and care givers to meet the developmental and education related needs of their children and wards.

Topics

- Child Education Under the CRA and UBEC
- Regulatory Framework for Establishment of Schools and Educational Institutions
- The Montessori Education and Child Participation
- Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood Education
- Effective Strategies for Coping With Challenging Behaviours in Early Childhood Environment
- Case Studies and Practical Exercises

Date: 25th and 26th May, 2010
 Venue: HDI-Child Rights Education Centre, 2 Iwaya Road, Onike-Yaba, Lagos.

Course Fee: N25,000.00 per participant.

5th COURSE IN CHILD RIGHTS EDUCATION

Theme: Implementing Child Rights Legislation in Nigeria

Training Focus:

- Implementing the Child Rights Act in Nigeria: Prospects and Challenges
- The Family Court System Under the Child Rights Act
- Child Education Under Child Rights Act and Universal Basic Education
- Child Health and the Law
- Child Participation and Cultural Standards in the Child Rights Act
- Child Justice Administration Under the Child Rights Act
- Wardship, Fostering and Adoption Under Child Rights Act
- Handling Children with Behavioural Challenges
- Programming for Orphans and Vulnerable Children

Date: 8th to 10th June, 2010

Venue: HDI-Child Rights Education Centre, 2 Iwaya Road, Onike-Yaba, Lagos.
 Course Fee: N40,000.00 per participant.

NB: Fee covers tuition, course materials, tea break and lunch

HDI-CREC Faculty: HDI-CREC Faculty members are child care experts and professionals drawn from the academic, judiciary, reformulation sector as well as child rights focused international and multi-field organizations. Past faculty members include: Professor Sarah B.A. Oloko, Professor Omalolu Soyombo, Hon. Justice Aminu A. Augie, Dr. Ademola Ado-Minak, Mr. Sali Salako, Dr. Joo Ikooki, Dr. Rotimi Coker, Dr. Funmi Bamgboye, Dr. Idogest Eshel and Professor Bolaji Owasanoye.

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Salaries: NITEL workers may resort to violence

By Yunus Abdulhamid

ALTHOUGH Nigerians are not known for the Palestinian style of protest, workers at the Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) and its mobile arm, Mtel under the aegis of Concerned NITEL/Mtel have threatened to make Nigeria ungovernable by resorting to suicide bombing if they are not paid their salaries.

The workers said they have not been paid for over 25 months and they are threatening to make the country ungovernable for the federal government except practical steps are taken to remedy their deplorable situation.

An estimated N15 billion is needed to pay the two years salaries of the 3,500 workers of the beleaguered companies.

When *Daily Trust* visited the MTEL interchange office in Wuse 2 Abuja Monday, dozens of staff were seen on duty attending to skeletal services. Despondency and frustration as well anger marked their responses to enquiries.

One of the staff on duty, Hassan Yusuf said if government does not come up promptly to pay them their salaries, they may be forced into suicide bombing and other forms of violence out of frustrations.

Okonkwo Martins lamented that they have staged protests at BPE, National Assembly, etc and also sent petition letters to ministers of communications, Justice and Finance who are member of the National Council on Privatisation (NCP), yet there had been no sign of action.

This reporter observed that the Mtel switches were on, while the generators were humming to power their services rendered to private network providers (PTOs).

Engr. Muhammad Yabo demonstrated to this reporter that the Mtel network was still working by using his Mtel line to call another one.

"Everything is in order here. Government only needs to be decisive and come out on the way forward for NITEL/Mtel to move on. We cannot call other network only because of their disconnecting us as there has been no stable management to

pay interconnection fee," he said.

Following the removal of Christopher Anyanwu as Director General, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan had set up a committee to review his stewardship with ministers of Justice, Communication and Finance as members.

The dissolution of the cabinet afterward caused a natural death to the effort. Weeks after a new cabinet was constituted by Jonathan, nothing has been heard.

Chukwuma Nwoko couldn't be reached for comment as he was said to have travelled out of town.

New Generation Telecoms, a consortium of three companies including China Unicom bided \$2.5 billion for NITEL on February 16. The transaction took a decisive turn two days after when China Unicom denied involvement in the bid. However, some days after, it confirmed its European office had pledged technical and managerial support to the group should it emerge victorious at the bid.

Zenith Bank appoints Emefiele as MD designate

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

SHAREHOLDERS of Zenith Bank Plc yesterday at the bank's Annual General Meeting (AGM) approved payment of a dividend payout of 45K per share amounting to N11.3 billion and a bonus of one for every four.

Besides, the outgoing managing director Jim Ovia also presented formally the designated managing director of the bank, Godwin Emefiele.

Ovia, who quits in August is a pioneer staff and CEO of the bank and steered the bank from its modest beginning 20 years ago to its present height. Many shareholders also paid glowing tribute to Jim.

Zenith announced a pre-tax profit of N35 billion. During the year under review, the Zenith group recorded gross revenue of N 277 billion up from N211 billion representing a 31 per cent revenue growth from previous year, indicating an increasing dominance of the Zenith brand in market and has followed it up with an equally remarkable first quarter result that showed a N55 billion gross earnings for the period ending March 2011.

STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Tuesday, April 20, 2010
Index	28,029.78
Volume:	967,545,543
Cap.:	N6,779,714,732,650.00

TRUST INDEX

Inflation	12.3%
GDP	6.68%
Budget	N4.6tr

Ext. Reserves Acct	\$41.5bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$3.9bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$82 a barrel
Power Supply	2,500MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N10,618,587.9m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,006,236.9m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.1700%
Treasury Bills	2.02%
Deposit Rate	10.98%
Prime Lending Rate	18.28%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2851	0.2951	0.3051
DANISH KRONER	21.8052	21.8891	21.9735
EURO	198.0453	198.7171	199.3888
EUR. NEWSEI DOLLAR	221.7113	225.5936	226.2679
RIYAL	39.3093	39.4427	39.576
SDR	221.1222	221.8821	225.6126
SWISS FRANC	137.9727	138.4407	138.9086
US DOLLAR	117.41	117.91	118.41
WAUA	223.8653	224.6247	225.384
YEN	1.603	1.6085	1.6139

Bureau de Change Rates

BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N204
Pound	N234
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N206
Pound	N236

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



We lined up with Man. Uni LIVE at OLD TRAFFORD



The winners pose with a Man United official at one of the entrances to the Old Trafford stadium.

MAIN PICTURE:

Lucky Glo winners line up with Manchester United football stars after a training session at the Old Trafford Training Facility. L-R: Abiodun Benedict Adeyemi, John O'Shea, Oluobode Bisi Fabian, Olorunjuwonlo Ogunyewo, Michael Owen, Danny Welbeck, Federico Macheda, Olushola Aina, Oluqbenga Tajudeen Lekuti. **BOTTOM:** Adekoya Adetokunbo, Adegble George Adenbofo.



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Business

Task force sacks Customs check points in North-East

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

A task force set up by the Comptroller General of the Nigerian Customs Service Abdullahi Dikko Inde has dismantled numerous check points across highways in parts of the North East, which were regarded as illegally preventing free mobility of lawful goods in the region.

Checks and enquiries from motorists and inter-state traders by our correspondent, show that check points hitherto existing in Auno along Maiduguri-Damaturu highway; T-junction along Banki in Bama local government area; Mubi junction and Numan bridge in Adamawa state; Kiyawa and Azare in Bauchi as well as other check points along Gombe-Bauchi and Maiduguri-Kano roads and other parts of the region have mostly disappeared in recent times.

The check points had been a source of worry for motorists and traders especially those transporting



ABDULLAHI Dikko Inde, Nigerian Customs Service boss

goods such as fabrics from Kano to Maiduguri with most of them

complaining that they were being extorted at check points mounted by some custom men whereas they were not carrying prohibited items. Sometimes, the check points led to protests along highways.

Daily Trust gathered that following public complaints, a 14-man task force set up by the Customs' boss moved to the northeast zone from the customs headquarters in Abuja immediately swung into action, trailing and arresting officers at check points for investigation and prosecution.

Traders at the Maiduguri Monday Market have since applauded the effort of the Comptroller-General, thanking him for clearing a major threat to their businesses.

Malam Gana Abubakar, who brings in wrappers from Kano to Maiduguri, said in recent months virtually all the check points have disappeared. He recalled that in the past, many traders had to offer bribes before they were allowed to freely

move their goods which were not in the prohibition list of the customs. "We are very grateful to this comptroller-general, I think the customs under him deserves accolade and it is necessary to say so because if they were doing wrong things we will also say it loud" Abubakar noted.

Some of the traders who ply Dikwa-Gamboru and other boarder areas in Borno State however noted that while they appreciated the sacking of check points, they were worried by the severe scrutiny of their vehicles, tricycles and any equipment by the task force who suspect that smuggled items were being concealed, describing the exercise as time wasting.

A custom official in the Borno command said though he was neither a member of the task force nor holding brief for them, he believed that the scrutiny was not to embarrass traders and motorists but to ensure that importations were done without prohibited items and with all levies remitted to government.

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01-8520776, 01-8525040,

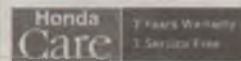
01-8520202, 01-8520222, 01-8520207,

01-8520203

Honda Finance:

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8525040, 8520004, 8520005.



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Business/Aviation



Air passengers are stranded around the world as a result of ash cloud across Europe.

Aero introduces new flight fares system

AEROCONTRACTOR has announced the adoption of an advanced pricing strategy and price optimization application called Aviator, with the capacity to make available 26 different types of fare on every flight.

Announcing this initiative, the airline's Head of Commercial, Robert Prophet said that this application is the first of its type by any Nigerian carrier and it is a decision support tool that can evaluate historical flight date, using it to make demand forecasts and allocating seats to the fare classes in order to maximize profitability.

He explained that Aviator is a new generation revenue management support designed for the most dynamic business environment, adding that the new system covers low cost logic, low cost carrier optimization and a host of decision support functionality to allow Aero to maintain market leader position.

He hinted that numerous European and North American airlines currently use the Aviator for their revenue management.

His words: "Aviator will put Aero ahead of its competitors. Since Aero adopted a new business model last year based on an efficient fare (pricing) and operational scheme, it has become the dominant carrier in Nigeria.

"This innovation is a key component of Aero's business model where pricing is a key lever in responding to market forces. The Airline Revenue Management Application helps to maximize revenue and profits."

Foreign flight operations begin at Lagos airport

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

CHEERS of joy rang out as flight operations commenced yesterday at the Murtala Muhammad International Airport (MMIA) Lagos after a devastated travel plans due volcanic ash cloud. The skeletal flight operations began following the re-opening of airspace in some European countries.

Daily Trust visit to the airport revealed that British Airways, Arik air, KLM, Virgin Atlantic, Lufthansa and Air France have indicated readiness to depart from the airport any moment.

Passengers were seen around the tickets counters of various airlines at the departure hall of the airport to confirm their check in time as some were already boarding their flights. Workers of the airlines regretted the huge sum of money their airlines had incurred as a result of the volcanic ash which shut down most

airspace in Europe.

According to a release by the British Airways media consultant in Nigeria, the Quadrant Company Limited, "latest departure information for Lagos to London new departure date is Tuesday 20 Apr 2010 (13:00 Local time). Passengers who were stranded may also proceed to the airport to check-in, as online check in is not available."

The statement continued: "British Airways aims to resume some flights into and out of London's airports from 7pm on Tuesday April 20 following the proposed reopening of UK, European airspaces by the aviation authorities. Please check your exact flight details on ba.com or call your travel agent before departing for the airport."

BA stated that the airline was working on detailed plans to help as many customers as possible who have been unable to

fly due to the unprecedented circumstances that have forced all airlines operating in northern Europe in the last one week.

An Arik air official who preferred anonymity said the airline flight may resume flight at about 3pm if the final confirmation comes from the airlines' management.

However, other airline staffs from Lufthansa, Air France and KLM could not ascertain their operations but only said that they expect their flights to arrive in Nigeria, while the arriving aircraft will convene intending passengers from Nigeria to their various destinations in Europe. Some of the passengers who spoke to Daily Trust expressed delight over the resumption of flight even as some of them were still afraid of the safety situation in European airspaces.

A British Airways passenger told this paper: "I am very happy that I will be travelling today but I am still concerned about the weather condition in the UK, you know anything can happen."

Rivers donates fire truck to FAAN

AS part of efforts to boost safety and security at the Port Harcourt International Airport, Rivers State Government has donated three brand new fire trucks to the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN).

According to the General Manager, Public Affairs of FAAN, Mr. Akin Olukunle, the donation of the fire trucks was sequel to an early appeal by FAAN's Management to the Rivers State Government in 2009 to partner with the Authority to prevent the airport being downgraded from Category 9 to Category 8.

He stated that the state government had earlier released two of the fire trucks to FAAN while the third one was delivered to the Authority last week.

Olukunle explained that the three fire trucks include two Mercedes Benz ACTROS 3358 Regular fire trucks and one Ford Rapid Intervention Vehicle (RIV).

With the donation of the three Fire Trucks, he said, the Port Harcourt International Airport has now fully attained Category 9 status.

Receiving the fire trucks on behalf of FAAN's Managing Director, Mr. Richard Aisuebeogun, the Regional Manager, (South-East) as well as Port Harcourt International Airport Manager, Engineer Henry Anyanwu, thanked Governor Rotimi Chibike Amacchi administration for the donation.

Volcanic ash: Foreign airlines count losses

FOLLOWING the eruption of volcanic ash which has crippled flight operations in and out of the European countries for over five days, foreign Airlines operating in Nigeria at the weekend continue to record huge operational losses with thousands of passengers stranded at Lagos and Abuja airports.

The cumulative estimated loss put together by the global airlines' body: International Air Transport Association (IATA) is pegged at over \$200m daily.

According to statistics released by the global airlines regulatory body: International Air Transport Association (IATA), British Airways is losing about \$30m daily, while Lufthansa Airlines is losing a daily average of \$34m, whereas the Middle East carrier: Emirates Airlines has far lost over about \$50m.

There are still no flights either from the Murtala Muhammad International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos as at Monday with all other aspect of business activities at the international wing of the airport saw the impact of the no flight operations. Major operators affected in Nigeria are: British Airways, Virgin Atlantic Airways, Lufthansa Airlines, Air France/KLM, and Arik Air.

The increasing losses by global airlines comes on the heels of agitation by European carriers for compensation for non flight operations since the European Union closed the European airspace as a fall out of the volcanic ash, which the airlines are arguing is unwise on the grounds of poor leadership and information mismanagement.

This comes just as airline officials affected by the volcanic ash are putting pressure on European Union to re-open the airspace.

A meeting was convene among the twenty countries on how to resolve the opening of the closed airspace, as some carriers including Lufthansa, KLM, BA took a test flight to the sky to ascertain safety of flight operations in the European skies.

Online reports indicated that some countries in Europe, including Poland, authorities re-opened the airport for a few hour after it was closed on account of the non seizure of the volcanic ash.

Britain sent Royal Navy warships to rescue those stranded across the Channel by the volcanic ash cloud while IATA criticizing European officials regarding their action of lack of "coordination and leadership" in the crisis that shut down most European airports for a fifth day.

According to IATA, "Eurocontrol, the air traffic agency in Brussels, said less than one-third of flights in Europe were taking off Monday - between 8,000 and 9,000 of the continent's 28,000 scheduled flights. Passengers in Asia who had slept on airport floors for days and were running out of money staged protests at airport counters.

All airports were open temporarily yesterday in Spain and the country volunteered to become the new hub of Europe to get stranded passengers moving again. Infrastructure minister Jose Blanco said Spain could take around 100,000 people under the new emergency plan, which focuses on aircraft trying to bring Britons home from Asia, Latin America and North America. Spain will also beef up train, bus and ferry services to get travelers to their destinations."

Business/International

Tanzanian Stock Exchange partners Nigeria's

THE Dar-es-Salaam Stock Exchange in Tanzania is to partner with the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE) in the creation of its second-tier securities market.

Mr. John Mwaitete, Enterprise Growth Market Coordinator of the Dar-es-Salaam Stock Exchange, said this when he led a team to the NSE on Monday.

He said his team was at the NSE to acquaint itself with the operations of a second-tier market, adding that the Dar-es-Salaam Stock Exchange was about to launch its own segment.

Mwaitete said that the new segment would be called Enterprise Growth Market.

"We were delegated to get abreast of what the launch will require, what it involves and the experiences the NSE went through before it launched its own," he said.

Mwaitete expressed satisfaction with the warm reception accorded the team by the NSE.

The Director General of the NSE, Prof. Ndi Okereke-Onyiah, commended the team for the bold move to seek information from a fellow African nation.

She said that the Dar-es-Salaam Exchange was modeled after the NSE, adding that the two markets had enjoyed long standing relationship which would be sustained.

Mr. Binos Yaroe, NSE General Manager, Operations and Information Technology, said a five-day programme had been prepared for the team members.

Yaroe said that the team would interact with stockbrokers, visit some issuing houses as well as at least two companies listed in the second-tier market.

He said his team would also visit the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Yaroe said that the Dar-es-Salaam Stock Exchange was established in 1996 and started operations in 1998.

He said that the Exchange, which currently has 11 listed companies and five government bonds, had a lot to learn from its Nigerian counterpart. (NAN).



PRESIDENT Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete of Tanzania

50,000 S/African workers to strike at port, rail

SOME 50,000 workers could go on strike at South Africa's port, rail and pipeline operations after wage talks with logistics group Transnet failed, a transport union said on Tuesday.

A strike at monopoly Transnet could cripple transport of coal and iron ore exports, distribution of fuel and shipping in Africa's biggest economy.

The South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (SATAWU) said Transnet had offered to raise wages by eight per cent, while the union was demanding an increase of 15 per cent.

The country's inflation

rate stands at 5.7 per cent.

The union said it will present Transnet's final offer to its members on April 22, when it will decide on whether to strike.

"Conciliation in a wage dispute between the two recognised unions and Transnet came to an end late last night, making way for the possibility of strike action across South Africa's port, rail and pipeline systems," SATAWU said in a statement.

Transnet's staff are represented by Satawu and the United Transport and Allied Trade Union. (Reuters/NAN).

Morocco's March inflation up 0.9%

MOROCCAN consumer prices rose 0.9 percent in March from a year ago on higher food prices, below the government forecast of around 1 percent, the state High Planning Commission (HCP) said yesterday.

Food prices, which account for more than 40 percent of the inflation gauge, grew 0.9 percent while non-food prices had increased by the same pace, it added.

On a monthly basis, inflation rose 1.4 percent in March versus the previous month on a 3.3 percent rise

in food prices, the Commission said.

Underlying inflation, a measure used by Morocco's central bank to fix monetary policy which excludes goods with volatile prices and state tariffs, was up 0.1 percent in March compared with the same month last year.

Last year's headline inflation showed a marked slowdown of 0.5 percent from a 2008 figure of 3.9 percent-- the highest level in a decade due to high food and energy prices. (Reuters)

Oil price rises as confidence returns

WORLD oil prices have risen after investor confidence returned and hopes for an end to flight disruptions due to Icelandic volcanic ash were boosted.

US light crude oil rose by \$1.22, or 1.5%, to \$82.67 a barrel. London Brent oil rose by \$1.03 to \$85.26 a barrel.

The oil price had fallen by about \$4 since fraud charges filed in the US against Goldman Sachs on Friday shook market sentiment. The price of oil hit an 18-month high earlier this month.

Goldman Sachs reported a net profit of \$3.5bn for the first three months of the year on Tuesday, nearly double the profit it posted a year earlier. Goldman has rejected allegations by the US financial watchdog that it defrauded investors. The oil price was also boosted by news that some European airports were reopening.

Demand for oil, and therefore its price, dipped sharply while planes were grounded across the world because of the Icelandic volcano eruption last Thursday. BBC.

Goldman Sachs profits top \$3bn

US bank Goldman Sachs has seen its profit for the first quarter of 2010 nearly double.

The bank reported net earnings of \$3.46bn (£2.25bn) for the three months to March, up from \$1.8bn a year ago.

Goldman also revealed that it paid its employees about \$5.5bn in compensation, equivalent to 43% of its revenue.

Earlier, the UK's Financial Services Authority (FSA) announced a formal enforcement investigation into the bank regarding recent fraud allegations.

The results were ahead of Wall Street expectations, with revenue coming in at \$12.8bn, up 36% on the year, and beating forecasts of \$11bn.

BBC business editor Robert Peston described the results as "another spectacular set of figures".

Shares in the bank rose more than 1% in pre-market trading.

Goldman's \$5.5bn pay pot is spread across the bank's 33,100 employees, implying an average of \$166,000 each.

However, the proportion of compensation to revenues was lower than it paid a year ago, when it set aside 50% of revenues for remuneration.

BBC.

Kenyan oil firm acquires new well

NATIONAL Oil Corporation of Kenya said on Tuesday it planned to acquire 2D seismic data at Block 14T on the Magadi Basin that will help market it for licensing as an exploration area.

Although Kenya, east Africa's largest economy, has no proven reserves, exploration interest in the country has increased on the back of discovery of oil in neighbouring Uganda and natural gas in Tanzania.

The government has leased out 24 blocks to explorers, with at least 11 blocks of those having been licensed in the period since September 2008.

"National Oil Corporation intends to acquire 2D seismic data for Block 14T ... at a regional grid over the Magadi Basin to establish whether there exists a petroleum trapping system ..." it said in an advertisement in the local Daily Nation newspaper.

"The data will be used in promoting the area as a petroleum exploration block worth licensing by the Government of Kenya," the advertisement, which sought expressions of interest from consultancy firms, added.

Firms with exploration licences in Kenya include Anarko Petroleum, China's CNOOC and Origin Energy. (Reuters/NAN).



PRESIDENT Mwai Kibaki of Kenya

Business/Finance



Nigerian Stock Exchange
(Source: APT Securities)
Tuesday, April 20, 2010

STOCK Name	Prev Day Close	Open	High	Low	Price	Change	Deals	Volume Traded	Value
ZUP	40.98	0.00	0.00	0.00	40.98	0.00	11	27,893	1,199,956.88
ABCTANS	1.10	1.05	1.05	1.05	1.05	-0.05	17	742,847	784,029.38
ACCESS	10.88	10.66	10.87	10.65	10.81	-0.07	269	13,490,768	145,536,912.00
AFRIBANK	3.00	2.86	3.00	2.85	3.00	0.00	120	8,666,724	25,132,332.00
AFROMEDIA	0.61	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.03	2	69,500	44,480.00
AGLEVENT	4.40	4.40	4.40	4.19	4.19	-0.21	22	334,030	1,436,850.00
AIICO	1.72	1.80	1.80	1.64	1.78	0.06	149	26,986,213	46,021,616.00
AIRSERVICE	4.06	4.26	4.26	4.26	4.26	0.20	37	1,280,682	5,455,205.50
ALEX	13.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	13.04	0.00	1	50	619.50
AP	45.10	43.40	43.42	43.40	43.42	-1.68	118	712,311	31,019,782.00
ASHAKACEM	23.79	23.70	23.70	22.61	22.61	-1.18	139	4,643,989	106,505,096.00
ASOSAVINGS	0.69	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.66	-0.03	22	1,878,277	1,239,662.88
BAGCO	3.55	3.55	3.72	3.50	3.53	-0.02	378	5,541,308	20,107,826.00
BCC	66.50	64.00	64.00	63.81	63.81	-2.69	61	656,014	41,956,976.00
BE COPETRO	1.61	1.69	1.69	1.53	1.67	0.06	22	1,083,300	1,729,287.00
BERGER	7.57	0.00	0.00	0.00	7.57	0.00	10	65,000	516,100.00
BETAGLAS	15.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	15.20	0.00	9	31,600	477,380.00
BOCGAS	10.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.22	0.00	2	1,600	17,168.00
CADBURY	21.68	22.76	22.76	22.50	22.76	1.08	144	5,960,951	135,544,656.00
CAP	29.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	29.67	0.00	4	1,993	62,081.95
CAPOIL	0.52	0.51	0.53	0.50	0.52	0.00	1	2,378,500	1,203,810.00
CILEASING	3.79	3.79	3.80	3.70	3.80	0.01	31	657,361	2,477,824.50
CONOIL	48.51	50.97	50.93	50.93	50.93	2.42	31	66,164	3,369,732.50
CONTINSURE	1.01	1.01	1.06	0.98	1.06	0.05	30	10,942,801	11,351,804.00
CORNERST	0.81	0.84	0.84	0.77	0.80	-0.01	74	7,956,778	6,223,658.00
COSTAIN	9.07	9.52	9.52	9.52	9.52	0.45	81	1,841,751	17,530,390.00
COURTVILLE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	3	123,000	61,500.00
CUSTODYINS	3.63	3.61	3.61	3.60	3.60	-0.03	11	321,600	1,157,462.00
CUTIX	3.59	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.59	0.00	5	24,582	92,428.32
DANGFLOUR	25.33	26.49	26.57	25.82	25.82	0.49	542	7,306,761	192,362,496.00
DANGSUGAR	20.00	20.10	20.20	19.60	19.60	-0.40	167	5,891,137	107,831,648.00
DEAPCAP	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	2.02	0.00	3	102,000	206,040.00
DIAMONDBNK	9.18	9.20	9.30	8.85	8.85	-0.33	183	23,947,626	217,559,280.00
DNMEYER	3.61	3.61	3.79	3.61	3.79	0.18	18	321,719	1,184,533.38
DUNLOP	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	11	1,544,000	772,000.00
ECOBANK	6.30	6.15	6.15	5.99	5.99	-0.31	87	2,250,036	13,580,244.00
ENAMELWA	47.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	47.70	0.00	1	5,000	226,600.00
EQUITYASUR	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	7	75,357	37,678.50
ETERNAOIL	8.70	8.50	8.61	8.50	8.55	-0.15	47	794,295	6,814,586.50
ETI	19.01	19.01	19.49	18.51	19.27	0.26	63	14,181,719	269,259,296.00
EVANSMED	1.92	2.01	2.01	1.92	1.92	0.00	43	1,757,394	3,489,972.25
FCMB	9.35	9.07	9.40	9.07	9.35	0.00	117	6,920,995	64,449,296.00
FIDELITYBK	3.36	3.35	3.35	3.20	3.24	-0.12	182	10,563,749	34,084,040.00
FIDSON	3.62	3.80	3.80	3.44	3.44	-0.18	62	3,217,003	11,883,800.00
FIRSTALUM	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	1	16,809	8,404.50
FIRSTBANK	17.00	16.80	16.80	16.15	16.15	-0.85	543	14,713,061	238,582,720.00
FIRSTINLND	0.70	0.68	0.69	0.67	0.67	-0.03	49	1,605,226	1,085,649.00
FLOURMILL	76.00	76.00	76.00	72.52	72.52	-3.48	117	2,531,353	188,670,224.00
FTNCOCOA	1.02	1.00	1.05	1.00	1.00	-0.02	33	1,361,851	1,370,217.00
GLAXOSMITH	27.60	27.00	27.00	27.00	27.00	-0.60	23	172,692	4,655,494.50
GOLDINSURE	0.79	0.79	0.82	0.79	0.82	0.03	51	4,386,913	3,491,652.50
GTASSURE	3.00	3.00	3.00	2.85	2.88	-0.12	63	4,875,724	14,016,077.00
GUARANTY	17.99	17.99	17.99	17.99	17.99	0.00	249	6,432,878	115,727,472.00
GUINEAINS	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	16	2,060,000	1,030,000.00
HMARKINS	0.50	0.52	0.52	0.50	0.50	0.00	30	6,556,795	3,300,557.50
INTENEGINS	0.69	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.03	31	2,607,157	1,877,153.00
INTERCONT	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.00	2.00	-0.10	71	2,271,478	4,619,496.50
JAPAUOIL	1.97	1.95	1.99	1.88	1.88	-0.09	268	15,632,500	29,709,496.00
IBERGER	56.14	58.94	58.94	58.94	58.94	2.80	44	1,787,628	105,362,792.00
LASACO	0.56	0.57	0.58	0.54	0.57	0.01	88	25,858,463	14,553,162.00
LAWUNION	0.63	0.66	0.66	0.60	0.64	0.01	44	12,153,100	7,419,725.00
LINKASSURE	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	16	3,140,000	1,570,000.00
MOBIL	159.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	159.01	0.00	38	65,833	10,594,453.00
NEIMETH	2.69	2.82	2.82	2.82	2.82	0.13	37	536,617	1,513,260.00
NIGERINS	1.16	1.21	1.21	1.21	1.21	0.05	4	2,905,000	3,515,050.00
OANDO	126.53	132.00	132.00	120.21	120.21	-6.32	295	4,918,752	615,307,392.00
OASISINS	0.81	0.77	0.77	0.77	0.77	-0.04	7	150,000	115,500.00
OCEANIC	1.93	1.95	2.00	1.93	2.00	0.07	113	3,777,053	7,367,710.50
OKOMUOIL	21.62	0.00	0.00	0.00	21.62	0.00	2	7,000	143,780.00
PLATINUM	1.67	1.60	1.66	1.59	1.59	-0.08	109	7,251,270	11,573,688.00
PZ	31.94	0.00	0.00	0.00	31.94	0.00	19	137,160	4,162,856.00
REGALINS	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	6	98,662	49,331.00
RTBRISCOE	6.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.16	0.00	27	225,479	1,324,043.50
SKYBANK	8.00	8.00	8.00	7.80	7.93	-0.07	186	6,525,658	51,867,444.00
SOVRENINS	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	14	1,460,000	730,000.00
SPRINGBANK	1.00	1.05	1.05	1.00	1.00	0.00	14	334,110	346,997.50
STDINSURE	0.61	0.63	0.63	0.60	0.62	0.01	39	2,583,110	1,588,750.25
STERLNBANK	2.49	2.61	2.61	2.37	2.60	0.11	155	14,103,135	36,329,312.00
TOTAL	185.87	0.00	0.00	0.00	185.87	0.00	18	21,630	4,221,311.00
TRANSCORP	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.51	0.51	-0.01	38	4,281,883	2,213,125.00
UBA	16.51	16.51	16.59	15.69	15.70	-0.81	307	27,121,498	435,345,888.00
UBN	6.07	6.07	6.10	6.00	6.02	-0.05	198	6,521,090	39,487,872.00
UNIC	0.94	0.90	0.97	0.90	0.93	-0.01	21	2,007,911	1,867,960.00
UNITYBNK	0.96	0.96	1.00	0.96	1.00	0.04	46	2,152,636	2,116,956.00
UNITYKAP	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.60	0.00	1	45,000	25,650.00
UNIVINSURE	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	2	32,000	16,000.00
UNTL	1.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.42	0.00	1	18,838	25,431.30
UPL	8.40	8.30	8.30	8.30	8.30	-0.10	16	303,602	2,481,928.75
UJC	1.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.01	0.00	11	162,394	172,137.64
VITAFAM	7.50	7.15	7.15	7.15	7.15	-0.35	11	231,094	1,663,532.12
VONO	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1	56,000	32,480.00
WAPCO	45.00	45.50	45.50	45.00	45.00	0.00	56	2,448,561	110,912,384.00
WAPIC	0.96	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	-0.03	30	1,754,035	1,685,220.50
WEMABANK	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.06	1.09	-0.02	52	2,198,133	2,365,083.00
ZENITHBANK	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	15.50	0.00	1	30,714,334	477,102,016.00



NATIONAL OPEN UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA

14/16, Ahmadu Bello Way, P. M. B. 80067, Victoria Island, Lagos.

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHANCELLOR

The post of the Vice-Chancellor of the National Open University of Nigeria will become vacant on 15 October, 2010. In accordance with the provisions of the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Decree No.11 of 1993 as amended by the Universities (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Act, 2003, the Governing Council of the University wishes to commence the process for the appointment of a new Vice-Chancellor for the University. Consequently, applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post. Interested candidates are requested to note the following information:

THE UNIVERSITY

The National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) was established by the Federal Government in May 2002 in line with the provisions of the National Open University Act 25 of 1983. The mission of the University, as a dedicated single mode open and distance learning institution, is to make education available to as many people as are sufficiently prepared, able and willing to benefit from the various levels of education provided through the open and distance learning mode.

The University, with its Headquarters located at 14/16 Ahmadu Bello Way, Victoria Island, Lagos, has a liaison office in Abuja, a campus in Kaduna and 39 Study Centres spread across the Country.

THE POSITION

The Vice-Chancellor, as the Chief Executive Officer of the university, is responsible to the Governing Council and the Honourable Minister of Education for day to day management of the university. He or she is required to provide strategic direction to management, staff and students and provide advice on academic, administrative and fiscal policies to Senate and Governing Council of the University. As standard bearer of the University, the Vice-Chancellor is required to procure funding, initiate high priority academic work, enhance public awareness, vigorously pursue advocacy for open and distance learning and promote the good image of the institution.

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CANDIDATE

The candidate for the post of Vice-Chancellor must possess a good earned PhD from a recognized university and proven managerial skills for human and material resources. The candidate is also expected to:

- (a) Be a distinguished scholar of the rank of Professor with ability to provide academic and administrative leadership to the university Community;
- (b) Possess clear vision for the development of the University and realisation of its mission;
- (c) Command the respect of the national and international academic communities by virtue of his/her track record;
- (d) Demonstrate interpersonal and team building skills and ability to strengthen the relationship between staff, students, and other members of the university community;
- (e) Enjoy excellent physical and mental health;
- (f) Exhibit the entrepreneurial drive and ability to attract funds and mobilise other resources for development of the University;
- (g) Have demonstrable ability to establish and maintain partnerships with local and international governmental and non-governmental agencies;
- (h) Possess a strong working knowledge of Nigeria's education system; working knowledge of open and distance learning would be an advantage.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE APPLICABLE TO THE POST

The Vice-Chancellor shall hold office for a single term of five (5) years only on such terms and conditions as may be specified in the letter of appointment. The remuneration and other conditions of service are as applicable to the post of Vice-Chancellor in all Federal Universities in Nigeria and as may be determined from time to time by the Government/Governing Council of the University.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

(i) Each application, including the candidate's detailed curriculum vitae (and one page summary) duly signed and dated as well as a statement of his/her vision for the University's future, should be made in 30 copies. The curriculum vitae must contain the candidate's name in full, age, marital status, educational attainment, nationality, and professional and academic achievements.

(ii) Each application should include the names and addresses of three referees. Each applicant should request each of his/her referees to forward, direct to the Registrar, a confidential report on the candidate's character, academic and managerial abilities in a properly sealed envelope marked **Post of Vice-Chancellor: Referee's Report** with name of candidate at the top left hand corner of the envelope.

(iii) All applications and referees' reports shall be submitted under confidential cover and addressed to:

**Registrar and Secretary to Council
National Open University of Nigeria
14/16 Ahmadu Bello Way,
P.M.B. 80067,
Victoria Island,
Lagos State.**

(iv) In the case of candidates identified by the Search Team, each application shall, in addition to the foregoing requirements, be accompanied by a letter of consent duly signed by the candidate.

(v) The sealed envelope(s) containing the applications or nominations should be marked **POST OF VICE-CHANCELLOR** at the top left hand corner and forwarded to reach the Registrar not later than 31 May 2010.

NB: The Governing Council reserves the right to extend the closing date if deemed necessary, and/or re-advertise the position should this particular process not yield the desired result.

Signed:

Josephine O. Akinyemi (Mrs.)
Registrar and Secretary to Council

DIGEST

Scientists discover secret behind health benefits of Mediterranean-style diet

THE secret of why a Mediterranean-style diet is so healthy has been explained by scientists.

Consuming large amounts of olive oil suppresses genes which cause inflammation and can lead to problems like heart disease, they found.

The diet has long been linked to good health.

It typically includes plenty of olive oil, fish and fruit and vegetables, as well as small amounts of red meat and dairy products.

Scientists have found that eating food cooked or soaked in olive oil represses several genes which trigger inflammation in the body.

Francisco Perez-Jimenez, from the University of Cordoba, in Spain, who led the study, said: "These findings strengthen the relationship between inflammation ... and diet and provide evidence at the most basic level of healthy effects derived from virgin olive oil consumption in humans."

He added: "Several of the repressed genes are known to be involved in pro-inflammatory processes, suggesting that the diet can switch the activity of immune system cells to a less (harmful) profile."

The research looked at the effects of a diet rich in olive oil on 20 patients.

Inflammation can trigger conditions such as atherosclerosis, or furring of the arteries.

As well as reducing heart problems, studies have also suggested that adhering to a Mediterranean-style diet can reduce the risk of developing Type 2 diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and even depression.

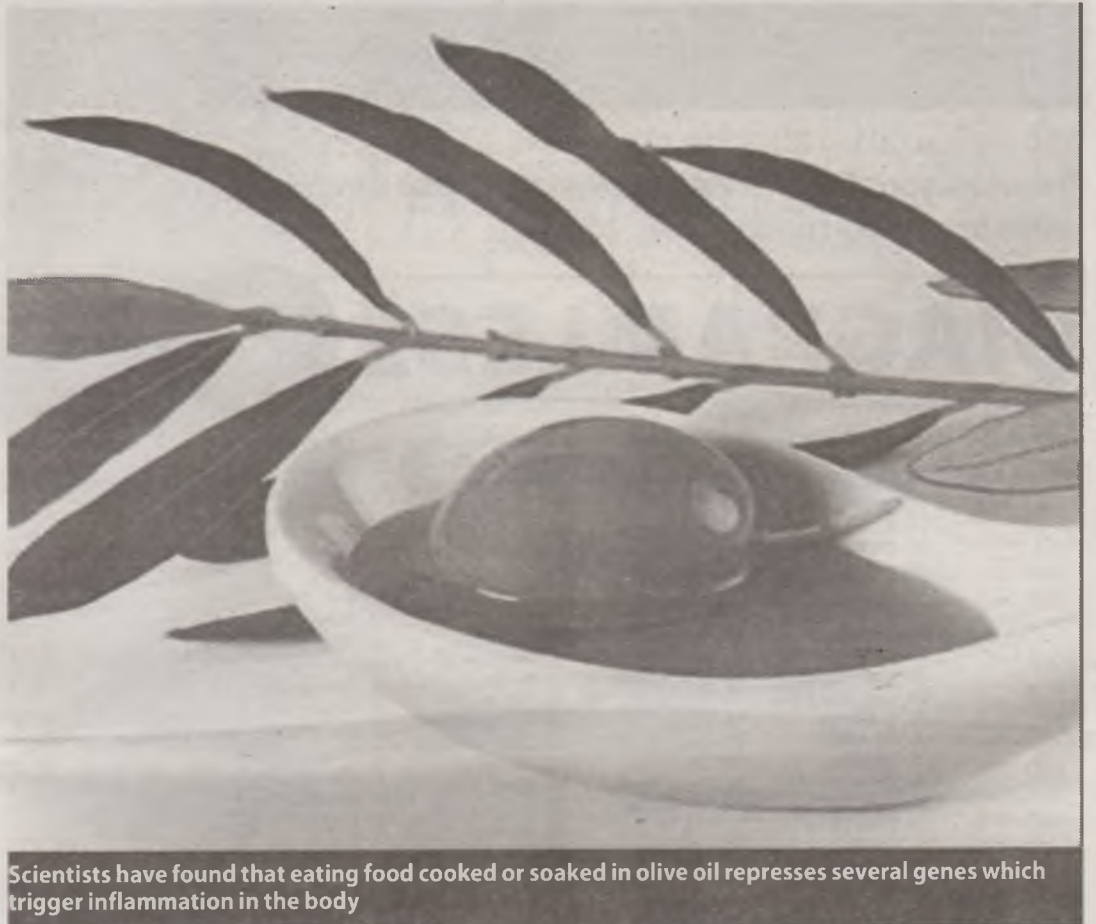
The findings are published in the journal BMC Genomics.

June Davison, cardiac nurse at the British Heart Foundation, said: "This research suggests an interesting reason why olive oil may be helpful in protecting the heart."

"This study found that phenols – a micronutrient of olive oil – 'dampened down' genes that can cause inflammation. That's important as inflammation is linked to the development of cardiovascular disease."

"It supports current advice that it's better to use unsaturated fats such as olive and rapeseed oil, over saturated fats such as butter, lard and ghee. However any oil you use should still be used sparingly as it is high in calories."

Culled from telegraph.co.uk



Scientists have found that eating food cooked or soaked in olive oil represses several genes which trigger inflammation in the body

High-fat diet in pregnancy 'increases granddaughters' risk of breast cancer'

A grandmother's diet can play a part in the chances of a grand-daughter suffering breast cancer, a study has found.

Pregnant women who eat a high-fat diet increase the risk that their granddaughters will develop breast cancer, it said.

They risk triggering changes in their offspring's breast tissue, which are then passed down through future generations, scientists believe.

Around 45,000 women in Britain develop breast cancer every year, and one in three of these go on to die from the disease.

Overall, a woman has a one in nine chance of developing the cancer over the course of her lifetime.

Now researchers have found a link between a high-fat diet during pregnancy and the risks that daughters will go on to develop the potentially deadly cancer.

The increased risk also extended to their granddaughters, the study found.

And it could even pass down through sons, on to their daughters, researchers said.

The team behind the study admit that they do not know the exact mechanism which makes future generations at increased risk of developing the disease.

However, they believe that genetic changes inside breast tissue could be to blame.

These changes could also be passed down through generations of the same family.

Sonia de Assis, from Georgetown University, in Wash-

ington said: "That is our theory, but we really don't know how it is happening – just yet."

However, she added: "The implications from this study are that pregnant mothers need to eat a well-balanced diet because they may be affecting the future health of their daughters and granddaughters."

Scientists increasingly believe that lifestyle choices being made today can affect future generations in years to come.

Previous studies have found that an unhealthy diet during pregnancy can increase the risk of a woman's grandchildren suffering from Type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease.

Earlier this week researchers also suggested that women who are obese or who smoke while pregnant could increase the risk that their sons will have a low sperm count, and could find it difficult to conceive.

The latest study, carried out in animals, found that if pregnant rats were fed a high-fat diet both their daughters and granddaughters had a higher risk of developing the disease.

Although it was high in fat, the diet contained the same overall number of calories as a control group given a healthy diet.

Researchers believe that this suggests that it was not the overall amount eaten but the fat content which was to blame for the negative effects.

As well as helping to protect future generations, scien-

tists also warn that a healthy lifestyle can reduce a woman's own chances of developing breast cancer.

The World Cancer Research Fund, the major health charity, estimates that around four in 10 cases of the disease could be prevented if women stayed slim, drank only moderate amounts of alcohol, exercised more often and breastfed their children.

The latest findings were presented to the American Association for Cancer Research 101st Annual Meeting, also in Washington

Culled from Telegraph.co.uk

“The implications from this study are that pregnant mothers need to eat a well-balanced diet because they may be affecting the future health of their daughters and granddaughters.”

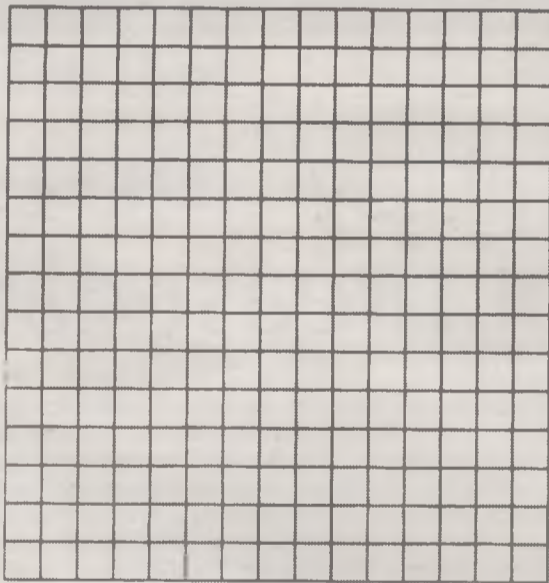
Sign Language



Who are you calling KNOCKHEAD?
Photo location: Summer Palace, Beijing, by Philip Bamfield
Culled from telegraph.co.uk

DIAGRAMLESS 2

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| ACROSS | 39. Watchful | 2. Frosts (a cake) | 30. Comfy room |
| 1. Tiny drink | 35. Paid out | 3. For each | 33. Lets in |
| 4. Pea abell | 37. Edible fish | 4. Edgar Allan — | 34. Native |
| 7. Speed contest | 39. Shindigs | 5. Bakery need | 34. American group |
| 8. Finished | 41. Hold up | 6. Evil spirit | 35. Performs in a |
| 10. Puts a lid on | (a bank) | 7. Lawn birds | choir |
| 12. Appeared to be | 44. Coat parts | 9. Live (at) | 36. Slight |
| 14. Judges' gowns | 46. Roaring cats | 10. Apple center | quantities |
| 15. Strike lightly | 47. Created | 11. Fur wrap | 37. Automobile |
| 17. Snouts | 48. Bridle straps | 12. Outer —, | 38. Mine deposits |
| 19. Rainless | 50. Ask for aims | astronaut's | 40. Foot digit |
| 20. Fizzy liquids | 51. Confronted | realm | 42. Lyric poems |
| 22. One plus eight | 52. Bronze likeness | 13. Say no to | 43. Garden plot |
| 23. It follows | 54. Grins | 14. Urban rodent | 45. Asp or adder |
| 22-Across | 56. Snow runners | 16. Tart beverage | 47. Rams and bulls |
| 24. Chooses | 57. Beers' kin | 18. Perceive | 49. Ado |
| 26. Salon supply | 58. Poet's "before" | 20. Quite a few | 51. Manicure need |
| 27. Figure out | 59. "Of course!" | 21. Zebra marks | 53. Employ |
| 29. Wear away | | 24. Snooze | 55. Spring month |
| 31. Small | DOWN | 25. Painful spots | |
| 32. Fury | 1. Rescued | 28. It hoots | |



SOLUTION TO DIAGRAMLESS

W	E	B	S		E	W	E		L	A	S	H
R	A	R	E		A	I	R		A	L	T	O
A	S	I	A		G	R	A	N	D	S	O	N
P	E	G		B	E	E		E	L	O	P	E
			H	O	U	R		M	A	E		
S	A	T	I	N		T	O	T		V	A	T
A	B	E	L		C	A	B		H	A	L	O
P	E	R		D	O	N		D	E	C	A	Y
			W	E	D		M	A	M	A		
S	P	O	O	L		B	E	D		T	H	E
H	O	R	R	I	B	L	E		D	I	A	L
I	R	E	S		Y	E	T		Y	O	R	K
N	E	S	T		E	D	S		E	N	D	S



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.

132

			6					
	2	1		9		3		5
			1			6		2
		5	7		9	4		1
					2			
9		2	8		1	7		
3		6			5			
5		8		4		1	9	
					7			

Solution to Sudoku 131

7	8	3	4	2	1	5	6	9
6	5	2	8	9	7	1	4	3
9	1	4	6	3	5	8	2	7
1	7	6	9	5	8	4	3	2
4	2	5	1	7	3	9	8	6
8	3	9	2	6	4	7	5	1
2	4	8	7	1	6	3	9	5
3	6	1	5	8	9	2	7	4
5	9	7	3	4	2	6	1	8

News Extra

No 10 Downing Street bugged by MI5, claims historian

Bugs placed in the cabinet room by Harold Macmillan in 1963 and not removed until 1977

MI5 secretly planted bugs in 10 Downing Street despite repeated official denials and they remained in place for more than 10 years during the tenure of five prime ministers.

The disclosure was to have been included in the official history of MI5 by the Cambridge historian, Christopher Andrew, published last year to mark the agency's 100th anniversary. It is believed to have been suppressed by senior Whitehall officials to protect the "public interest".

Bugs are understood to have been placed in the cabinet room, the waiting room, and the prime minister's study, at the request of Harold Macmillan in July 1963. They remained there until James Callaghan removed them in 1977.

An MI5 file referring to the operation was included in the draft of Andrew's book, *The Defence of the Realm*, according to the *Mail on Sunday*. Whitehall officials did not deny the claims.

It is believed this is what Andrew was referring to when he wrote in the preface to the book to "one significant excision", which, he said, he believed was "hard to justify".

Andrew said the issue should be taken up by the parliamentary intelligence and security committee. It is not known whether it did so before the Commons was dissolved for the general election. It is believed the short MI5 file on the operation, seen by Andrew, does not explain why the bugs were planted or whether all the prime ministers during the period were told. The file was reported to contain "no product", suggesting MI5 officers did not use any information emanating from the bugs.

The bugs were installed at Macmillan's request in July 1963, a month after John Profumo, secretary of state for war, resigned over the Christine Keeler affair. It is possible Macmillan wanted to make sure no other ministers or officials were involved. MI5 was in close contact with Macmillan during the scandal.

The bugs are understood to have been removed after Macmillan left office but were reinstalled by his successor, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, who was concerned about Soviet spies. They remained during the period in office of his successors, Harold Wilson and Edward Heath. It is unclear whether they knew about the bugs.



FORMER Labour prime minister Harold Wilson was convinced of an MI5 plot against him but it's unclear if he knew about the bugs planted at No 10.

Callaghan ordered them to be removed in 1977, the year he cleared MI5 of a plot against Wilson's Labour government. Callaghan said in a statement to MPs:

"The prime minister is satisfied that at no time has the security service or any other British intelligence or security agency, either of its own accord or at someone else's request, undertaken electronic surveillance in No 10 Downing Street".

Despite official denials, Wilson made clear he believed he was the target of MI5, sometimes

gesturing to pictures on the wall or to the ceiling.

Andrew suggests that ministers were more concerned about "subversive" colleagues or MPs than MI5 ever was.

In a foreword to Andrew's book, Jonathan Evans, head of MI5, writes: "Information has only been omitted if its disclosure would damage national security or, in a small number of cases, if its publication would be inappropriate for wider public interest reasons".

Culled from guardian.co.uk

“The bugs were installed at Macmillan's request in July 1963, a month after John Profumo, secretary of state for war, resigned over the Christine Keeler affair. It is possible Macmillan wanted to make sure no other ministers or officials were involved



HAROLD Macmillan

News Extra



BANGKOK worker passes lines of police in the business district of Silom. Three five star hotels in the nearby Rachaprasong area have closed, citing safety concerns



THOUSANDS of 'Red Shirt' anti-government protesters are threatening to topple the government on the streets of Bangkok

Thailand's Red Shirts ready to wage 'big war' against government

Thai protesters were threatening yesterday to fortify their sprawling encampment in Bangkok's upscale district before venturing out to 'wage a big war' to topple the government they decry as illegitimate.

Soldiers in full combat gear guarded other nearby sections of the capital in an increasingly

with bulletproof vests, set up new checkpoints in the areas they now occupy.

Red Shirts were seen sharpening hundreds of long bamboo rods and piling them into tall stacks, part of an arsenal of crude

Red Shirt security details are manning checkpoints fortified by barbed wire, controlling traffic into and out of the protest zone.

Security forces moved into nearby Silom Road Monday to deter any Red Shirt incursion

all remaining guest to check out. Both said they would reopen next Monday.

Other hotels across Bangkok reported dramatic drops in occupancy rates.

Nattawut had promised a large

Silom Road, the Red Shirts would stage a march down that road to boost morale of people working along the avenue.

Nattawut also indicated that the demonstrators were open to negotiations to end 40 days of confrontations and chaos in the city.

'Our group is always open to outsider suggestions. Whatever group wants to propose a solution to the crisis, we're happy to hear these solutions,' Nattawut said.

Abhisit - speaking on government-run television channels Monday night - said he would not set a date for protesters to be forced out of their encampment.

The Red Shirt protesters, formally known as the United Front for Democracy against Dictatorship, initially were camped in a historic district of Bangkok.

A failed attempt by security forces to flush protesters from that neighbourhood on April 10 erupted into the worst political violence Thailand has seen in 18 years, leaving 25 dead and more than 800 wounded.

The protesters consist mainly of poor rural supporters of former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra and pro-democracy activists who opposed the military coup that ousted him in 2006.

They believe Abhisit's government is illegitimate because it came to power through a parliamentary vote after disputed court rulings ousted two elected, pro-Thaksin administrations.

“The stand-off in Bangkok has cost merchants tens of millions of dollars

tense standoff that has shuttered five-star hotels and glitzy shopping malls and threatens to damage Thailand's image as a tourist paradise.

Key protest leader Nattawut Saikua canceled a rally that had been planned for yesterday.

He said that thousands of protesters were instead shoring up their defenses while guards, some



AN anti-government 'red shirt' protester stands behind a barricade built with bamboo poles and tyres at an intersection close to the Silom Road financial district in Bangkok

weaponry that also included broken up pavement stones.

The 'Red Shirt' protesters - who are demanding that Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva call early elections - have been occupying the Rajprasong district for more than a month and now are camping in nearby main roads covering several city blocks.

into the central business district, where several major banks and corporations have their headquarters. The standoff in Bangkok has cost merchants tens of millions of dollars.

One hotel inside the protest zone, the Holiday Inn, closed its doors yesterday while the neighbouring InterContinental told

rally yesterday at an unnamed location, but later said the protesters would first work to prevent soldiers from clearing them out of their camps.

'We will fortify our rally campground to ward off any invasion before we go out to wage a big war,' he said. Nattawut said that once troops moved out of the nearby

News Extra

Surgeon 'cuts off patient's testicle by mistake'

A patient lost a testicle during an operation after the surgeon accidentally cut it off, the medical watchdog was told yesterday.

Dr Sulieman Al Hourani was only supposed to cut out a cyst on the patient's right testis, but instead he 'mistakenly' removed the whole testicle, the General Medical Council (GMC) heard.

Dr Al Hourani, who worked as a locum surgeon at Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, Greater Manchester, is accused of misconduct over the error and faces further charges of injecting himself with a drug meant for a patient and stealing tablets.

The medic, who is now practising in Jordan, is not present or represented by lawyers at the Fitness to Practise Panel which is hearing his case at the GMC in Manchester.

The panel decided to proceed with the case in his absence as he had been notified of the hearing but chose not to 'engage' with the GMC or appoint lawyers to represent him.

Sarah Prichard, counsel for the GMC opening the hearing, said a man, known only as patient A, had gone into hospital for the cyst to be removed on September 5 2007.

He was the first patient of the day and his medical notes made it 'perfectly clear' the procedure was to be 'excision of right epididymal cyst'.

Ms Prichard added: 'The theatre staff will tell the panel that their impression of what happened was that Dr Al Hourani had mistakenly removed the testicle rather than the cyst and expressed him(self) rather quite surprised the testicle rather than that which the patient had consented for was removed.'

'Staff had no discussion or issue raised by Dr Al Hourani in the procedure as to why he was changing from excision of a cyst to removal of a testicle.'

Ms Prichard said the mistake was made as one nurse helping the surgeon turned her back to get a stitch and when she turned around the testicle had been removed.

'Literally as the nurse turned away to get a transfexion stitch the incident occurred and the testicle

Dr Sulieman Al Hourani was only supposed to cut out a cyst on the patient's right testis, but instead he 'mistakenly' removed the whole testicle, the General Medical Council (GMC) heard



CLAMPING the testicle

removed.

'Such was the level of concern they immediately realised it could be a serious medical incident and took steps to complete the relevant documentation.'

A month later it is alleged the doctor, who qualified after studying at Jordan University of Science and Technology, stole two boxes of dihydrocodeine from a treatment room on a ward at the same hospital. An investigation was launched and the doctor was dismissed by his employers, Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, who ran the hospital.

The panel was told of another incident involving Dr Al Hourani more than a year earlier, on Sunday August 27, 2006.

He had consulted a colleague and was advised to inject a patient with 10 milligrams (mg) of midazolam, a powerful sedative drug.

Instead Dr Al Hourani, who was the only surgeon at the hospital that day to treat patients, gave



DR Sulieman Al Hourani 'mistakenly' removed a whole testicle of a patient

the patient 8mg and injected himself with the other 2mg.

Hospital staff said the doctor appeared unsteady on his feet, bumped into boxes, held on to a wall and was 'weaving' down the corridor.

He was later found in the doctors' mess room, 'deeply asleep' and taken in a wheelchair to A&E.

An internal inquiry at the hospital was launched and during disciplinary hearings he confessed to self-injecting the drug, telling colleagues it was the 'worst thing he had done in his life' and he was ashamed of himself.

A year later while still at the hospital he removed patient A's testicle by mistake, the GMC was told. The hearing, scheduled to last three weeks, was adjourned to today.



THE surgery took place in Fairfield General Hospital in Bury, Greater Manchester

PROPERTY

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Niger revokes housing projects

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER state government has announced the revocation of the contract of housing projects at Bida and Kontagora areas of the state following failure of the contractors to meet specifications and deadline.

The commissioner of land and housing, Alhaji Hassan Abdullahi who spoke through the permanent secretary of the ministry Alhaji Yakubu Ibrahim at a press conference yesterday in Minna stated that the decision was necessary

to complete work in the place.

"The state government of Niger state has approved the revocation of mass housing project at Bida and Kontagora on the grounds of failure to meet contractual agreement earlier agreed upon," he said.

He explained that already the sum of N1.7 billion is required to complete the housing projects at the two locations, adding that parts of the work left is that of completion of basic infrastructures in the estates.

"The amount of money to complete the remaining work

at both sites is N1.7 billion which is expected to cover the infrastructural facilities like perimeter fencing, road walks and police post. The present arrangement is that when the required amount of money is made available, the remaining part of the job is expected to be completed in May according to specification," he said.

In a related event, the commissioner disclosed that owners of the land for the proposed three arms zone have been compensated with N34 million which he said is to be paid in piecemeal to land owners.

FCTA to develop tourism sites

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE Federal Capital Territory Administration, FCTA, through the Tourism Development Department has said it has identified several potential tourism sites within the territory, which when properly developed will attract both international and local tourists.

This was contained in a speech presented by Secretary Social Development Secretariat, Barrister Habiba Sani Kalgo at the interactive session workshop organised by the Tourism Development Department of Social Development Secretariat with tour operators, Airport taxi drivers and youths from Area Councils in the FCT held yesterday in Abuja.

Represented by Alhaji Garba Mohammed Dukku, she disclosed that the sites include Aso Caves, Katampe Hill, which according to her is the acclaimed geographical centre of Nigeria and a must site to visit, Jabi Dam, Arts & Craft Village among others.

"In addition, we are presently in the process of documenting the list of '1st to be established in the FCT', which is aimed at classifying for historical and tourism promotion purposes, all the premier monuments in the territory like, roads, hotels, buildings, filling stations, settlements etc, for proper identification for historical/ tourism significance."

She however described as unfortunate the lagging behind of most African Countries in tapping into the huge global tourism potentials.



A commercial building in Abuja central area

CNPP demands action on shoddy land deals in FCT

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) yesterday in Abuja called for concrete action on cases of reported corruption especially on land allocations in the FCT.

CNPP secretary general, Willy Ezugwu, who however hailed the Minister of FCT, Senator Bala Mohammed for admitting that there is massive fraud going on in the administration of the nation's capital, Abuja, urged the minister to ensure a thorough investigation of the fraud and irregularities which he said he discovered in land administration in the FCT.

He said that corruption and fraud in land administration could have been halted if President Umaru Yar'Adua had listened to calls for the removal of the then FCT Minister, Adamu Aliero given various allegations of corruption

against him arising from his misrule of Kebbi state.

"CNPP repeatedly called for Aliero's removal, but primordial sentiments kept him in office. Now, we are learning that the fears we expressed about him are real. Reports now abound of how Aliero used cronies from Kebbi state to allocate plots of land meant for other Nigerians to himself.

"We however want to warn that this time around, Nigerians will not accept any play to the gallery as we have had enough of that. We will not want to find out later that personal scores are being settled with the fraud or that a powerful godfather or cabal has waded in to save the neck of those involved. We do not want the kind of charade that characterized the now infamous power probe just as we do not want the farce that Aliyu Modibbo played

out Nasir El-Rufai-two former Ministers of the FCT. What we expect that the closing year of this present administration will be used to right some national wrongs," he said.

He urged that the new FCT Minister also direct his attention to contracts awarded since the same 2007 since it is now evident that a lot of undesirable things happened under the watch of Modibbo and Aliero as FCT Ministers.

He said, "We at this point urge other Ministers in Acting President Goodluck Jonathan's cabinet to go public with the irregularities they have discovered in their ministries for it is obvious that many public officials exploited President Yar'adua's illness and the resulting power vacuum to defraud the nation. Covering up such atrocities is as bad as committing them."

Doma promises more housing, infrastructure

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NASARAWA State governor, Aliyu Akwe Doma, yesterday commenced his tour of local governments and development areas of the state at Karu, adjoining Abuja, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) where he promised sustained development in the areas of housing, infrastructure and security to match the exploding population.

"Karu Local Government Area occupies a special position in our development strategy because of its proximity to the Federal Capital Territory, its teeming population and

the loyalty and commitment of the people to this administration", Doma told a large crowd at the council secretariat.

The governor, who led members of the State Executive Council (SEC) including the Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Timothy Anjide on the tour, said the nearness of Karu to the FCT makes the area one of Nigeria's fastest growing settlements with challenges for adequate development which he promised to sustain.

As part of the administration's commitment to meet the development aspiration of residents of the area, Doma named the on-going work on Gitata-Panda-Karu road to

further link the FCT with Nasarawa, the construction of a Multipurpose Comprehensive Primary Healthcare Clinics across the area, and what he called the "World Bank-Assisted Urban Renewal Project."

The governor also named the arrangement for the construction of a 6,000-unit Joint Housing Scheme in Karu in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development; the recent partnership agreement with the Federal Housing Authority and Sharp Little City Limited for the development of a 11,450 housing units.

Property



property@dailytrust.com
HOTLINE: 07041632079

EYE ON ABUJA

WITH Umar Shuaibu
umarshuaibu1@yahoo.com



Action deserving caution

IN his first press briefing the FCT minister has really commenced making good his vow to stamp on the incessant land racketeering by suspending all forms of transactions on plots allocated from 2007 to date, pending the outcome of investigations. For keen observers of the various FCT administrations over the years this is a familiar trend. It took el-Rufa'i almost one and a half year investigating irregularities in land administration of his predecessors prior to his commencement of allocations, almost a year by the Modibbo administration in which the Senate was involved in the investigation and about 6 month by the immediate past Senator Aliero's administration.

Battling the phenomenon of land misappropriation which proved to be the major cankerworm bedeviling urban management in Abuja requires the contribution of able hands, seasoned as well as honest stakeholders from those within the system; planning, land administration and management, and those outside; developers financiers and others. To our knowledge people with these qualities within the system are rare. It is necessary to differentiate those actions taken by the civil servants under directives from above, and those which they have personally initiated. We also urge the honourable minister to investigate the erring staff in line with the established civil service rules and regulations and not to spare any that is genuinely found wanting as a deterrent to others, for these sparring are what encourage others to also engage in more misdeeds in the future

We thus implore the new Minister to watch, listen, and act on what he has personally experienced while on the seat before apportioning blames or taking severe actions, and not to act based on tittle-tattle from sycophants who cannot substantiate any of their complains. This is because many at times, some would selfishly feel begrudged due to the fact that they are prevented from getting what is wrong

for them to acquire.

It is also important for the minister to understand that most of the sharp practices are perpetrated by the politicians and the cohorts that accompany them to the service, who have nothing at stake apart from conscience for those who value them, against the civil servants who are genuinely afraid of losing their jobs when discovered to have engaged in misdeeds. We would not like the minister to make similar mistakes as his predecessors of compulsorily retiring the honest and innocent that rather deserved commendation; for it shall strengthen the resolve of those erring left behind to continue their dishonourable act, while believing that after all honesty doesn't pay, the system is therefore going to be rendered more vulnerable and more undesirable than the minister would want it, his work will then be rendered more difficult. Then, posterity and the wrongly affected individuals shall never forgive him for taking those actions in disregard of the required caution.

At this juncture we wish to draw the Honourable Minister's attention to the recent legal victory of the victims of such injustice by a previous administration. The time the authority needed the services of those fine staff most, was the time a former minister compulsorily retired them from the service based on hearsay. The funny aspect of this matter was that, ironically, among those the former Mr. Minister sought for their forgiveness when his inevitable end of tenure approached were those he unjustly retired and maliciously gave bad names after hanging. Mistakes due to exegesis of duties they could forgive, but not any deliberate flippancy towards tarnishing innocent images for the purpose of earning undeserved credit. We wish to now draw the attention of our new Minister to guard against taking similar decisions, and hold dear those staff with proven

records and whom we are sure can honestly assist him towards achieving his desired goals of sanitization.

He does not need to go far to identify those that can be suitable to the task, because they are popularly known for good works with many proofs rather than evil. Or, for a start, let him identify those or who actually initiated the discovery of hundreds of fake allocations by a previous administration during the tenure of his immediate predecessor, who afterwards greedily reallocated all the recovered plots prior to the end of his tenure. Or, who is or are behind the initiation of the ongoing probe in AGIS where some officials are discovered to be financially defrauding the system prior to the beginning of his tenure? Many know the likes of Hajija Nana Buhari, the FCTA Director of Lands, with due respect, not because they are untouchables, but is known to all that they cannot be bought, and any attempt to victimize their type must have been masterminded by those at the top that saw them as stumbling blocks for the achievement of their selfish ends.

Submitting to the whims and caprices of anybody no matter how high shall not augur well for the high regard and expectations we have for the Honourable Minister, and shall certainly weaken our resolve of throwing our weights behind his laudable actions. We feel rather than diverting our attentions to pointing accusing fingers at the innocent and giving them bad names to be able to hang them, the system should on the contrary be better off by recognizing their contributions. On our part by making concerted efforts to assist our leaders to achieve better results that shall positively affect us, the likes of those the minister started. We are aware that he has a very trying position, and with his antecedents we have confidence he can surmount any undue pressure.

Delta govt sued over land dispute

By Abubakar Yakubu

THE Delta State Government has been dragged to court over the alleged demolition and confiscation of a parcel of land belonging to Ogbe-Owelle community in Okpanam, Oshimili North Local Government Area of the state.

Lewis Ifeadi, Mordi Chukwu, Stephen Okoye and Andrew Chuwuzo on behalf of the community, want a stay of action on further demolition of structures in the place as well as N200 million as compensation.

In a suit filed in Asaba High Court, counsels to the community, Onychi Ikpeazu (SAN) and Dennis Nwanokwai claimed that the land was legally de-acquired from the Delta State Government in 2005 and receipted for by the state's land, survey and urban development ministry.

The community stated that they stated having problems on the said land when the state government chose a site across the land for the construction of the Delta State Airport.

They alleged that top

government officials and political officers started pulling strings to convert the said land for their own use by forcefully taking it over from the legal owners.

It will be recalled that an oil support service firm in the same area had in January taken the Delta State Government to court to obtain a court injunction restraining the government from further demolishing their property as well as to stop building Late Maryam Babangida Women Development Centre, pending the determination of the case.



HOUSING development by the FHA in Gwarimpa Housing Estate, Abuja

NGO renovates classrooms in Ofante

AS part of efforts to meet the educational needs of the less privileged in the society and in fulfillment of its mandate, a Non-Government Organisation under the aegis of Help Line Foundation, Abuja, has completed the renovation of a block of classrooms in Ofante, Olamaboro Local Government Area of Kogi State.

At the handing-over ceremony of the classrooms to the school authorities, the President and founder of Help Line Foundation, Mrs. Jumai Ahmadu, said the renovation of the classrooms was a modest contribution of the group to the development of education in the country.

She revealed that the

school, built since 1978, has been neglected by the state government, stressing that students are learning under un-conducive environment which she noted has contributed to the poor performance of students in recent past.

In her words; "The renovation of the classrooms is our modest contribution to the development of education in the country in addition to the scholarship scheme aimed at bridging the gap between the have and the have not. To be candid, it is our belief that poor learning environment contribute to mass failure as we witnessed in the recent NECO/WAEC conducted throughout the country."

Mrs. Ahmadu also

called on the state and local government to focus on the educational needs of the less privileged in the society, pointing out that it is by so doing that government can reduce the crime rate in the country.

Speaking further on the project, the Programme Director, Mr. Jacob Shaibu noted that the organization took the initiative of renovating the school after consultation with stakeholders on the factors responsible for mass failure in recent time.

Some of the students who spoke to our correspondent shortly after the handing over ceremony expressed joy over the gesture and called on other stakeholders to emulate Help Line Foundation.

Property



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Kogi spends N2.6 bn on stadium

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State government has so far spent the sum of N2.6 billion on the on-going construction of the International Stadium in Lokoja, the state capital.

Engineer Xu Zilong, the Director of Tee Engineering Company (Nigeria) Limited, the Chinese company handling the project, yesterday disclosed this to our correspondent at the site of the project.

Zilong, who noted that the total budget as initially quoted on the bill of the project was N2.6 billion, said more money would

be needed to take care of other things like drainage, among others.

He assured that the stadium, which he said was of FIFA standard, would be completed by November this year, noting that the project had already reached 70 percent of completion.

"The progress of the job is 70 percent. Our plan is to finish the project by this November and it is still feasible. I am handling it based on what is on the bill. We request additional money to construct the drainage. All the structures, except the drainage

and the roofing, have been completed," he explained.

The Commissioner for Information Tom Ohikhere described the stadium as a monumental project of the current administration, claiming that it was one of the white- elephant projects abandoned by past administrations. "I think the Governor Idris-led administration deserves commendation from all and sundry for committing the limited resources of at its disposal to realize this gigantic project. The contractor has also been able to meet the deadline," he said



WORK in progress at the Kubwa expressway expansion project site

Bauchi park relocation: Court adjourns to May 24

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE High Court number nine sitting in Jos has adjourned till May 24 the suit between the members of the Nigerian Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) and the Plateau State Government over the government's intention to relocate Bauchi Road Motor Park from its present location.

Inhabitants in the Park through their association NURTW filed a suit in August last year before the

court seeking restraining order to stop Plateau State Government from relocating the park and wants the court to stop the committee set up by the Government to not submit their recommendations to the government pending the determination of the suit.

Both counsels to the plaintiffs and the defendants assembled yesterday to adopt their written addresses including hundreds of the inhabitants of the park left the court,

when court officials announced that the judge will not sit yesterday and advised the counsels to take another date for the adoption of their written addresses.

Governor David Jang of Plateau state set up a 12 man committee under the state's Commissioner of Housing and Urban Development, Mr Gaius Chidawa, to identify the various bottlenecks and hazards inhibiting the smooth secure and effective operation of the present Bauchi road motor park.

FG advocates transparent procurement process

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

A major impetus that will bring about the desired change in the process of contract award in the public sector usually characterized by financial indiscipline is being orchestrated by the office of the Special Adviser to the President on Relations with Civil Society.

The move, according to a statement yesterday aims at ensuring strict compliance of all provisions of the 2007 Public Procurement Act, a law adjudged as critical to bringing sanity in the public sector.

Speaking in Abuja at a one day workshop on mapping/baseline survey of the ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) of government and civil society organizations and networks, the Special Adviser to the President on Relations with Civil Society, Prince Chime Ume- Ezeoke, noted that Public Procurement takes a monumental chunk of national resources and as such abundant energy should be dissipated at making it transparent.

The workshop was a prelude to the execution of the programme on 'improving civil society involvement in the economic reform and governance project (ERGP)' being implemented by the office of the Special Adviser to the President on Relations with Civil Society, with the active support of the World Bank.

Ezeoke said that the programme was one of the ways which the Federal government has designed to mainstream the Civil Society in the Economic Reform Agenda.

In his goodwill message Onno Ruhl Country Director of the World Bank affirmed the Banks determination to support effort of the Nigerian government to entrench transparency, accountability and all inclusive governance system.

Ruhl represented at the workshop by Bayo Awosemubi, Lead Procurement Specialist, in the World Bank stated that the Bank has over the time shown commitment to the Nigerian Reform Programme and had supported Institutions in meeting identifiable challenges.



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Sani further disclosed that, because his Rwoff Road family residence is located along a slopy terrain, rain waters flow right through the gate into his fenced compound, adding that the problem is compounded by the fact that he could not break his wall to make way for the water, as that will mean draining it into his neighbours' houses. This forces them therefore, to spend days waiting for the water to be absorbed into the ground. "That is the problem we face here. It is a big discomfoting menace. Think of the mosquitoes, think of the inconvenience of wading through a contaminated pool which constituents you cannot tell, and think of our children," he stated.

In some parts of the GRA, investigations revealed that the drainages were deliberately blocked to pave way for erection of new homes. Similarly, blocking of drainage along Umaru Babura Road, it was observed, has resulted in rain water eating up and destroying either sides of the largest and one of the oldest roads in the area, in addition to flooding people's houses.

The GRA, Gwarzo pointed out, is on its way to becoming a slum. He explained that routine refuse evacuation by government agencies have since been suspended, leaving the residents to wallow in waste and garbage. The secretary general attributes heaps of garbage in the streets and in people's homes, to the



A section of Gumel Road, one of the bad roads in Bompai GRA. The drainage along this road is completely blocked.

absence of refuse collection points and regular clearance of waste. Last year, it could be recalled that people in the area criticized the closure of the only refuse collection centre in the community, situated near the residence of late Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi, by the state Refuse Management and Sanitation Board (REMASAB),

where they complained of being exposed to health hazards, as a result of refuse taking over their homes. Reacting however to the complaints, the managing director of the board, Engineer Hassan Musa said the decision was based on an earlier collective agreement with the residents.

"This place does not have the taste and status of a GRA

are treated unfairly here. If you go to the communities that are neighbouring ours, you will see new projects going on, but they justify neglecting us, by saying we do not turn in huge votes during elections," he stated candidly.

Corroborating Gwarzo, the assistant secretary general of Bompai Development Association, Ilyasu Yaro, said the discrimination on account of vote has been on for a long time. He said even where members of the community have been observing civic responsibilities, by participating fully in elections, the elected leaders have never reciprocated.

While most of the blame goes to the officials of Nassarawa Local Government, other residents argued that the deplorable state of Bompai GRA, cannot be attributed to lack of adequate funds on the part of the council, as the local government ranks among the first 3, out of 44 local government in the state, that have the largest revenue base and from which it is amassing huge fortunes in internally generated revenue. Likewise, Nassarawa is believed to be one of the local governments that receive fat grants from the federation account, on account of its high concentration of population.

Meanwhile, all attempts by our correspondent, who visited the local government secretariat on three different occasions, to get the response of the council over the complaints and allegations, were not successful, as the reporter was either told, by the local government information officer, Sagir Abdulahi, that the chairman was not in the office, or he was convening a security council meeting. Similarly, on some occasions, the information officer refused to pick the reporter's calls.

as also observed that roads like Kudad, Nababa Badamasi Road, Kazaure Muhammadu Maude Street, Yusuf Gumel Road and some section of La Mohammed Way near a popular store, are equally in decrepit shape.

Not even the historical NTA roundabout along Umaru Babura Road - which unconfirmed accounts claim first roundabout to be built in the state - spared of the negligence-induced rot. During raining season, residents say the monument is overgrown with weeds and bushes, such that strangers mistake it for a place where they can answer nature's call. That the rains are away, the edifice is the look of a building project that has been abandoned at foundation stage, decades ago. The flowers that once brightened the resplendent colour of a GRA landmark, are half-killed by the persistent drought, while its stone pavement has been distorted.

It would be possible, some of the residents argue, they would uproot their homes during raining season and proceed on holiday to other parts of the state, in order to escape the perennial flooding caused by the lack of drainages.

"Whenever it rains here, we have to swim through the water into our homes and our rooms," 35-year-old Ibrahim Sani Bala said. Because no major road project has been undertaken for a long time, the drainage system in the area, like the road network, has totally collapsed, it was learnt.



SECTION of St. Louis Avenue threatened by erosion due to lack of drainage.

any longer. It is a slum," a civil servant who wants to remain anonymous, said of the area. But in spite of the visible rot, Bompai GRA still serves as home to many of Kano's prominent personalities, comprising retired civil servants, senior military officers and politicians.

Gwarzo charges the local council officials of discriminating against residents of Bompai on the basis of their relatively small population. "We

Whenever it rains here, we have to swim through the water into our homes and our rooms."



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Rt. Hon. **GABRIEL TORWUA SUSWAN.**



ALHAJI UMARU A. MUTTALLAB (CON)

We wish to invite associates and well-wishers of our chairman, **Alhaji Umaru A. Muttallab (CON)** to the installation ceremony on his appointment as Chancellor.

Venue: Convocation Square, Benue State University, Makurdi

Date: Friday April 23rd 2010

Time: 9:00a.m.

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Signed:

ALHAJI UMARU KWAIRANGA, Fcs
(Sarkin Fulani Gombe)
Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer
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FCT land director sent on forced leave

By Nasir Imam

FCT Minister, Senator Bala Mohammed, has approved the immediate compulsory leave of the FCT Director of Lands, Hajia Nana Buhari and the Deeds Registrar, Dr. James Agbonhese.

A statement by the Special Assistant (Media) to the minister, Nosike Ogbuenyi, quoted the minister as saying that the action

became necessary in order to allay widespread public anxiety over alleged land racketeering and other shady practices in land allocations in recent times, particularly after the dissolution of the immediate past Federal Executive Council (FEC).

"The need for the officers to embark on compulsory leave is to create an unfettered atmosphere for an unbiased investigation into

the allegations of shady land deals in the affected department and the charges arose from certain petitions from members of the public," he explained.

The statement pointed out that the General Manager of AGIS, Mr. Isa Jalo, who assumed duties a month ago, is not affected by the compulsory leave order.

According to the statement,

the FCT minister further directed that the officers proceeding on compulsory leave should hand over to their immediate subordinates in line with the practice in the service.

Our reporter learnt that a committee of experts has been set up to look into the allegations levelled against the affected officers and submit its findings to the minister within two weeks.

Civil defence official jailed for theft

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 26-year-old civil defence official was on Monday sentenced to one month imprisonment without fine option for stealing a car stereo from a vehicle belonging to one Esangbedo O.E.

Matthias Odeh was convicted for forcing the car's door open and stealing the stereo on April 8.

Police prosecutor, Ahmed Mohammed, had earlier told the court that on April 8, one Esangbedo O.E. of SCID, Jalingo, Taraba State, reported to the police that the accused stole his car stereo.

He said during police investigations, the stolen car stereo was recovered from the accused, adding that he committed an offence punishable under Section 288 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and asked for leniency.

Based on his confession, the prosecutor asked the court for summary trial under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code and Magistrate Aminu Mohammed sentenced him to one month imprisonment without fine option.

PIC: NASIR IMAM

ANPP against bye-election at Kwali

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

THE Kwali chapter of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) yesterday rejected calls by the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) should conduct bye-election in Ashara ward of the council.

Kwali ANPP Secretary, Musa Salami, while reacting to a petition by the chairman of PDP in Ashara ward, Mr. Hashimu Danfulani, said claims by the PDP that the election conducted in Pukafa, Tekpese, Konan-Mada and Riwaza of Ashara ward were marred by irregularities was untrue.

According to him, the result presented showed that ANPP scored 12 votes while PDP had 143 votes at Pukafa polling station.

At Konan-Mada polling unit, ANPP scored 15 votes and PDP had 41 votes, while at Tekpese and Riwaza polling stations, electoral materials were snatched by hired thugs and elections did not hold. The ANPP secretary denied

allegations in the petition that the party hired thugs to snatch ballot boxes and chased away PDP supporters from casting votes at Tekpese and Riwaza villages.

"There was no election at Riwaza as well as Tekpese polling stations due to the snatching of electoral materials and the total number of voters registration in both units are 584," he said.

He therefore wondered how PDP with all its resources and the security at their disposal can accused the opposition of rigging and hiring thugs.

He alleged that four suspected thugs arrested by the police on Election Day were PDP members as they wore the party's tag on their necks, adding that before all the results were collated and declared by INEC's returning officer, PDP's agent Barrister Enoch Etsu certified as well as apprehended his signature in the result that was announced.

Reacting, acting Kwali council Chairman, Mr. Danlami Saleh Yebu, denied that the suspected thugs were members of the PDP.



A disabled man, Sani Dan Nigeria, protesting along Kubwa expressway recently.

Suspected corps members' attackers granted bail

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A father, Samuel Ebenebe and his son, Ifesinachi Ebenebe, accused of causing grievous hurts to two corps members at Nyanya were yesterday granted bail by an Abuja magistrate court sitting at Karu.

The corps members, Rasaq Bello and Hakeem Bello are presently on admission at the National Hospital, Abuja.

At yesterday's hearing, the court's registrar told the court that when he went to the hospital, he saw one of the corps members on a wheel chair

but was not allowed to enter inside the ward. "The hospital authority asked me to get a letter from the court before I can be allowed to assess their conditions," he said.

Chief Magistrate Ahmed Shuaib granted them bail in the sums of N700,000 each and one surety each

in like sums. The magistrate also ordered that the sureties must be civil servants of not less than grade level 07 and must reside within the court's jurisdiction with verifiable addresses.

The case was adjourned to May 31 for further hearing.

FCTA establishes call centre

By Nasir Imam

FCT Minister, Sen. Bala Mohammed, yesterday announced that the FCT Administration has established a call centre for residents to send any information, suggestions and complaints.

According to the minister, residents of the FCT are expected to key into the call centres to set agenda for government with regards to issues that have direct bearing on residents of the territory.

He said the call centre has phone number 09-4603600-9 and website www.fct.org.gov and will provide a location directory as well as receive accident and traffic reports.

"General enquiries about the FCT, suggestions and ideas to make Abuja a better place will be highly welcomed," he added.

The minister assured that he would soon embark on town hall meetings, adding that the call centres shall also receive complaint on service delivery by agencies and officers of the FCTA.

Labourer jailed for burning neighbour's property

By Romoke W. Ahmad

AN Abuja Grade 1 Area Court sitting at Karu last Wednesday sentenced a 44-year-old labourer to three days imprisonment for setting

his neighbour's property ablaze.

Mathais Tari of Federal Housing Authority, Phase II Karu, Abuja, was convicted for mischief, an offence contrary to Section 336 of the Penal Code Law.

Prosecutor Umar Muhammed told the court that on April 14, one Suraju Ibrahim of FHA Phase II reported to the police that on the same date, the accused person entered his room, brought out his

property valued at N67,200 and set them ablaze.

He said the accused admitted committing the crime to the police because the complainant accused his son of stealing N10,000.

The accused pleaded guilty to the charge and blamed the devil for his action.

Judge Salisu Garba sentenced him to three days imprisonment or to pay N5,000 as fine.

Driver denies intimidating senator's wife

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 30-year-old driver yesterday in court denied intimidating a senator's wife.

Ekawhe Dennis of Masaka village, Nasarawa State, was accused of threatening the woman on April 12.

Prosecutor Isenyo Adoche told the court that on April 12, one Mrs. Maria Ngaji, wife of a senator, reported through one Paul Idu that the accused threatened her life.

"The accused threatened the complainant's life through tel-

ephone calls asking her to send money and threatening her, if she fails to send the money," the prosecutor said.

The prosecutor said the offence is punishable under Section 397 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charge was read to

the accused, he denied them and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

In her ruling, Magistrate Ann Akobi granted the accused bail in the sum of N100, 000 with two reasonable sureties in like sums, who must reside within

the court's jurisdiction.

She also ruled that one of the sureties must be a civil servant of not below grade level 07 and that the second must show evidence of means of livelihood.

The case was adjourned to May 11 for hearing.

Abuja to host youth leadership summit

By Abbas Jimoh

A two-day national youth leadership and economic summit for 700 participants is to be held in Abuja, organisers said yesterday during a media briefing.

The summit which is organised by the Guardians of the Nation International (GOTNI), Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG), Ministry of Youth Development and some other government and private institutions is tagged "Leadership for Transformation: Imagine the Possibilities".

GOTNI President Linus Okorie disclosed that the summit's objectives

includes, bringing the youths face-to-face with decision-makers in relevant fields, exposing the youths to relevant organisations that drive the economy in order to facilitate the development of their initiatives and ideas as well as to instil leadership values in them while at the same time bringing them together for networking.

Okorie explained that 700 participants chosen through nominations by their companies, organisations, mentors and states, would be required to submit an essay on why they deserve to participate at the summit, adding that the best among them would be chosen and invited as participants.

Residents want water bills addressed

By Usman A. Bello

RESIDENTS of Utako district have called on management of FCT Water Board to address the problems associated with water bills payment as well as undue disconnection.

They made the call during a forum organized for the board's customers by FCT Water Board in order to sensitize them on the recent increases in water rates as well as to know their problems and address them.

The residents commended the board for uninterrupted water supply but complained of low water pressure, non-reflection of paid bills, inherited debt

and undue disconnection by the board.

Reacting, the board's Director, Engr Jibril Ibrahim, assured residents of improved service delivery, saying the delay associated with bills payment was as a result of the board intention to change from manual bill payment to auto meter payment, adding that the problem will be solved as soon as the process is completed.

"On accumulated bills, the board is ready to collect 50 percent of the total bill owned by customers and you should install water meters in your houses in order to prevent over billing as well as make it easy for the board to constantly read for accurate

billing," Jibril said.

He called on estate developers to give detailed information on the capacity of their estates, so as to solve the problem of low water pressure associated with some areas.

According to him, the board has to adjust domestic water supply from N50 to N80 per cubic meter, while commercial is from N100 to N150, due to increase in the cost of production and to be able to serve customers better.

"We would take corrections from all the observations, comments made by consumers and strategize as well as improve on the services we render to the area," he said.



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MONDAY 3rd MAY 2010 - Opening Ceremony

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PAPER ONE: Financial Crisis in a Developing Economy: The Role of Chartered Accountants. - **By: Chief Dr. J. O. Omuya Bsc, Msc, FCA Director (Board) Central Bank of Nigeria, Abuja.**

TUESDAY 4th MAY 2010

PAPER TWO: Financial System Reforms in Nigeria Economy: Prospect and Challenges. - **By: Professor B.C. Nwankwo PHD. Dean Faculty of Management Science, Kogi State University Anyigba.**

WORKSHOP 1: The impact of Agriculture on Nigerian Economy as a Panacea to the Realisation of Vision 20:2020 - **By: Dr. Sam Ngedu**

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Mando Road, P.M.B. 2309, Kaduna, Nigeria



ADVERTISEMENT OF VACANCY (Internal and External)

The National Water Resources Institute, Kaduna, a parastatal of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, hereby invites applications from suitably qualified candidates to fill in vacant position of **Chief Accountant**. In line with the Federal Character Commission's guidelines, interested applicants from the following under represented states: Abia, Adamawa, Akwa-Ibom, Anambra, Bauchi, Bayelsa, Cross River, Delta, Ebonyi, Ekiti, Enugu, FCT, Jigawa, Kebbi, Lagos, Nassarawa, Ogun, Ondo, Osun, Rivers, Sokoto, Taraba, Zamfara, are to note and fulfill the following laid down criteria:

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT: CONTISS 13

Holder of a Masters Degree in Accounting or Finance from a recognized institution of higher learning with 12 years cognate experience OR holder of a good honours Degree or HND in Accountancy or Finance or equivalent Professional Accountancy, qualification(s) with at least 14 years post-qualification cognate experience. Working experience in education tertiary institutions, research institutes, training institutes or any such organization shall be added advantage. Considering the challenges of the office, applicant should be well-grounded in all facets of Accounts and Finance. Those not registered as chartered/certified Accountants with ICAN, ANAN or any such recognized professional accounting body need not apply.

METHOD OF APPLICATION:

Interested applicants should forward their applications along with 12 copies of their Curriculum Vitae to which 3 sets of photocopies of all cited certificates/documents should be attached. The CV should highlight the following, among others: Name (surname first), post applied for, current employment and salary, date and place of birth, State and Local Government of origin, marital status, postal address, telephone number, educational institutions attended, qualifications obtained with dates, membership of professional bodies, working experience with dates and schedules handled, names and addresses of 3 referees.

All submissions should be in sealed envelopes with clear indication of post applied for at the top left corner of the envelope and addressed to:

**The Secretary to the Institute,
National Water Resources Institute,
P.M.B. 2309,
Mando Road, Kaduna.**

Applicants should request their referees to send confidential reports on them directly to **The Secretary To The Institute**.

All applications must reach the address above within six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

Signed:
SECRETARY TO THE INSTITUTE



NIGERIAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION

NNPC Towers, Herbert Macaulay Way, Central Business District,
P.M.B. 190, Garki, Abuja - Nigeria.

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS FOR THE UPGRADING OF FIRE HYDRANTS' WATER PRESSURE IN NNPC TOWERS, ABUJA

The NIGERIAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION (NNPC) intends to upgrade the water pressure of the existing Fire Hydrants in NNPC Towers.

The existing Fire Hydrants System was designed to take its supply mainly from municipal water supply at a desired hydrant pressure range of 9 to 10bar. However, in recent times, the pressures have fallen to an undesirable level - below 1.5bar. This development has informed the need to modify and upgrade the existing Fire Hydrant Water Supply and Distribution System so that the desired minimum pressure of 10bar at each Hydrant Post can be achieved.

Accordingly, NNPC hereby invites reputable, competent, and experienced companies for pre-qualification for the works.

1. SCOPE OF WORKS

The scope of works of the contract shall cover Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) and shall include but not limited to the following:

- Study/Detailed Investigation of the existing fire facilities which shall include but not limited to
 - o Public water (mains) supply, Boreholes (current service status, yields and inter-linkages);
 - o Water Storage Tanks, [ground and roof tanks] and interconnections to meet with the new fire fighting minimum storage demand of 750m³.
 - o Fire Hydrants posts, Layout and re-engineering/sizing with the necessity to erect four (4 nos.) additional surface hydrant posts with mobile monitors.
- Carry out Detailed Engineering Services to determine the adequacy of all existing fire facilities or otherwise and where applicable establish shortfall and appropriate remediation
- Carry out all necessary modification/remediation works to achieve the desired functional Fire Hydrant Pressure with desired storage capacity.

2. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Interested firms should submit prequalification documents detailing the company's capabilities and financial status as follows:

- (i) A cover letter summarizing the contents of the prequalification document.
- (ii) Legal status (public liability company, corporation, etc) registered capital, paid up capital, date of establishment, Nationality and country from which control is exercised.
- (iii) Evidence of Company Incorporation in Nigeria, current registration with the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), registration with NNPC or any of its subsidiaries;
- (iv) Tax clearance certificate for the last three years;
- (v) Company HSE policy statements, procedures, organization structure, HSE Plan for the works and Company safety statistics for the past 3 years
- (vi) Detailed Company profile including organizational structure and available manpower including those dedicated or specializing in Fire Water System installation with a list of key professional staff and their resume.
- (vii) Details of foreign/local technical partners, including inception date, scope and copy of executed agreement;
- (viii) Evidence of availability of requisite and appropriate skills among key staff and persons to be engaged in the project;
- (ix) Evidence of works undertaken which are considered relevant in demonstrating your ability and capability to successfully undertake this project; and evidence of having successfully carried out such works in the past ten years;

This information shall include:

- (a) Title of Projects;
 - (b) Brief Description of Projects;
 - (c) Clients;
 - (d) Scope of Work performed;
 - (e) Date of award of Contracts.
 - (f) Contractual period for execution of projects;
 - (g) Actual period of execution;
 - (h) Reasons for discrepancies between (g) and (f) above if any;
 - (i) Nature of contracts (fixed lump sum, reimbursable etc);
 - (j) Name and address of a referee in client's company for each referenced project (provide telephone numbers and e-mail address for quick reference). Please provide NNPC with letter of authority to confirm previous relevant experience as claimed.
- (x) For a joint venture or partnership, the previous experience being claimed must include those executed by the joint venture or the partnership.
 - (xi) Company's audited accounts and financial reports for the past three years and bank reference from reputable class A bank;
 - (xii) Willingness to commence work based on a letter of Intent. (LOI)

3. NIGERIAN CONTENT STRATEGY PLAN

Provide the following to demonstrate compliance with Nigerian Content Development Policy of the Federal Government of Nigeria:

- (a) Description of your company's committed infrastructure in Nigeria including well-equipped offices and adequately equipped workshop;
- (b) List of Nigerian Engineers, and other specialists that would be engaged in the proposed works;
- (c) Description (list) of the equipment & materials of Nigerian origin to be procured and used in the execution of this contract. and the names and addresses of suppliers;
- (d) Names and addresses of indigenous services and local 3rd party businesses that would support the contract including specific areas where they will be utilized;
- (e) Details of company's targeted training and understudy programme for this contract to maximize the utilization of Nigerian personnel.
- (f) Description of your Contract Management Team. Please also submit an organizational chart to substantiate this information;
- (g) Description of your Procurement Centre location in Nigeria. Please also submit an organizational chart to substantiate this information.

4. SUBMISSION OF PREQUALIFICATION DOCUMENT

The requested information and any supporting documents in respect of this requirement should be submitted in one original plus two copies not later than four (4) weeks from date of this publication. The documents should be sealed and clearly marked "PREQUALIFICATION FOR NNPC TOWERS FIRE HYDRANTS' PRESSURE UPGRADE" and submitted to the office of:

THE GROUP GENERAL MANAGER
ENGINEERING AND TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
BLOCK 'B' 11TH FLOOR
NNPC TOWERS
HERBERT MACAULAY WAY
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
ABUJA

This publication and the ensuing qualification process neither creates any commitment by NNPC nor establishes any legal relationship with NNPC. All costs incurred as a result of a company's response to this invitation for prequalification and any subsequent request for information shall be on responding company's account.

NNPC reserves absolute discretion and right to either accept or reject any documents and it shall not be required to assign a reason for refusal to invite

any applicant to participate in the exercise or to enter into any correspondence concerning the selection of any company for the works.

Please note that this is not an invitation to tender. Full tendering procedure will be provided only to companies that have been successfully pre-qualified and found suitable to render the required services.

Signed: NNPC Management

RE-OPEN LETTER TO THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF THE PDP PRINCE (Dr) VINCENT OGBULAFOR

Perhaps one needed not bother writing a rejoinder to the above titled paid advert which appeared in several national dailies of Wednesday, April 14th, 2010 in the light of the fact that the writers who claimed to be "concerned" PDP members are non-existent in the Party's register.

In the said advert, the writers, one Alhaji Umar Hallilu Jega and Hajiya Mairo Inuwa Yauri, while acknowledging the fact that Kebbi State has enjoyed, and continues to enjoy religious, tribal and political peace, claimed that this situation may soon be reversed because of the "massive thug activities being perpetrated by armed political thugs operating with the consent and active connivance of people in government."

In their vain attempt to justify their fictitious assertion, the writers claimed that the State Governor, His Excellency, Alhaji Sa'idu Usman Nasamu Dakingari travelled to his home town of Dakingari on the day that a serving commissioner in his cabinet was giving out his daughter's hand in marriage. According to their ridiculous claim, on the Governor's entourage "were some two thousand heavily armed thugs who invaded the wedding venue where they attacked and wounded several invited guests of the Honourable Commissioner."

While not attempting to hold brief for any of the security agencies in the state, I would like to point out the falsehood in these allegations. First, the Governor travelled home a day earlier than the purported wedding day of the Hon. Commissioner's daughter because he too had a wedding ceremony to be held in his country home on that same day. As is usual with him, and as can be confirmed by all who are conversant with him especially members of my constituency, The Press, the Governor travelled home alone, with only a handful of his

personal aides. He was joined on the day of the event (the following day) by members of his cabinet including this writer, as well as the State Commissioner of Police, the Director of State Security Service, their officers and men, as well as men of the Civil Defence Corps. Each and every one of these officers can confirm my statement that in spite of the huge crowd of well-wishers who turned out for the occasion, not a single injury was recorded either at the venue, on the road to and fro, or even at the residence of the Hon. Commissioner where a parallel wedding ceremony took place.

Another childish, ludicrous and patent falsehood is the claim by the writers to the effect that the Governor stopped his convoy at Ujariyo village on his way to Gotomo for a wedding last Monday and ordered some political posters removed and people beaten, one even wounded. Not even me, a minnow in the entourage, can descend so low as to do that or even trade words with such opponents talk less of Alhaji Sa'idu Usman Nasamu Dakingari, whose negative view and absolute disdain on political thuggery is well known across the State.

It is a documented fact that Governor Sa'idu Usman Nasamu Dakingari had appealed to the people of Kebbi State, particularly the youths, at several fora to do away with money induced politics and more especially, political thuggery. He had appealed to the youths whose stock in trade had hitherto been drug-induced thuggery reminiscent of politics before his advent to check among themselves to see if they could identify a single child of any well-to-do politician or public office holder.

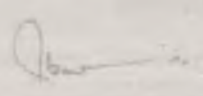
To divert their attention and redirect their energies to something more productive, Governor Dakingari Opened more schools, introduced a functional dry season farming scheme with heavily subsidized

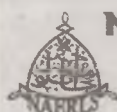
inputs as well as government support in the establishment of small scale ventures. As a matter of fact, no other administration has done more in the area of youth development in Kebbi State than the administration of Governor Sa'idu Dakingari.

While I do not intend to use this medium to dwell on the over flogged issue of the already settled case of Kebbi State PDP Chairmanship in the State, I wish to categorically state that the assertion that the State Governor is "entertaining the idea of abandoning the PDP for another party" is laughable. Perhaps, and I STRONGLY suspect this to be so, it is the sponsors of the writers who are entertaining that idea, having observed the political pulse of the people of Kebbi State.

I also wish to observe here that the assertion by the writers which ascribed and conferred the powers that I firmly believe belong only to Allah, to the effect that "nobody can succeed in becoming anything politically today in Kebbi State except through Aliero" is blasphemous and not worthy of a reply.

Having said all these, one therefore begins to wonder what is the writers' real motive behind this hurried, blind and un-thoughtful paid advert? Could it be aimed at diverting the attention of the security agencies from their diligent investigation of some other painful and irreparable act that recently took place in the state. Can that possibly be what the writers wish to cover? We keep our fingers crossed. Allah is all knowing.


IBRAHIM MUSA ARGUNGU
Senior Special Assistant to the Governor
(Media & Publicity)



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXTENSION AND RESEARCH LIAISON SERVICES FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES AHMADU BELLO UNIVERSITY P.M.B. 1067, ZARIA NIGERIA

Ref: NAERLS/RDPU/A-1

2nd April, 2010

INVITATION FOR TENDERS FOR PROJECTS BY SUITABLY QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS FOR 2010 APPROPRIATION

In compliance with Federal Government 2007 Public Procurement Act, The National Agricultural Extension and Research Liaison Services (NAERLS), Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria hereby invites reputable and experienced Contractors to tender in respect of its approved projects under the 2010 Appropriation.

The areas are:

- A SKILLACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER
 - SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENTS.
 - SUPPLY OF FURNITURES AND APPARATUS FOR FOOD TECH. LABORATORY.
- B LIBRARY INFORMATION, DOCUMENTATION AND CIRCULATION
 - ESTABLISHMENT OF INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER AT HQ AND 5 ZONAL OFFICES.
 - SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENTS FOR INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTERS AT HQ AND 5 ZONAL OFFICES.
- C MANAGEMENT OF ADOPTED VILLAGES
 - SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENTS, FURNITURES AND FIELD MATERIALS
 - SUPPLY OF FACILITIES FOR 5 ADOPTED VILLAGES IN NWZO ZARIA, NEZO MAIDUGURI, NCZO BADDEGI BIDDA, SEZO UMUDIKE AND SWZO, IBADAN.
- D PACKAGING AND DISSEMINATION
 - UPGRADING OF RADIO TV STUDIOS AT SWZO IBADAN AND SEZO UMUDIKE.

2. REQUIREMENTS

- Interested Companies are to collect Tender Documents from the Institute upon payment of N20,000.00 only in the Institute Cash Office. Submission of the Tender Documents should be made in a sealed envelope indicating on the top left hand corner of the envelope the code provided against each area of interest as listed above along with the following documents:
- Certificate of incorporation from the Corporate Affairs Commission.
 - Evidence of membership of relevant professional bodies (e. g. COREN, NIA, NIQS, CORBON etc) as the case may be.
 - Possession of tax clearance Certificate for the past three years.
 - Value Added Tax (VAT) Registration Certificate.
 - Bank reference letter indicating evidence of accessibility to credit facility.
 - Copy of audited account for the past three years.
 - Comprehensive company profile indicating the CV of key personnel.
 - Verifiable evidences of past job experiences in similar projects of interest in the past 5 years indicating the contract sum and evidence of satisfactory job performance.
 - Any other evidence/document that would confirm the skill/competence of the individual contractors.

3. SUBMISSION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Three copies of the Tenders Documents should be sealed in separate envelopes and labeled "Tenders Document: Lot" to be sent not later than 2:00 p.m, two (2) weeks from the date of advertisement addressed to:

Resident Due Process Unit, National Agricultural Extension and Research
Liaison Services, Ahmadu Bello University, P.M.B. 1067, Zaria.

4. ISSUES TO NOTE:

- a) Documents submitted after two (2) weeks from the date of this advert will automatically disqualify the applicant(s).
- b) The Institute is neither committed nor obliged to write any company to tender nor award any contract to partners, contractors, consultants or agents.
- c) The Institute is not bound to accept the lowest of any tender submitted.
- d) The Institute shall not be responsible for any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of documents.

MANAGEMENT



SUMAILA LOCAL GOVERNMENT KANO STATE

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR TENDER

The Sumaila Local government council is desirous of undertaking road project in 2010. In view of this, the local government is inviting competent and interested companies for pre-qualification to carry out the project.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Construction of 300m Asphalt Overlay road, in Sumaila Township.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Interested pre-Qualification bidder must submit the following:

- Evidence of incorporation
- Registration with the state government
- Company Audited Account for 3 years
- Evidence of Tax Clearance for 3 years
- Evidence of Financial Capability or banking support
- Technical Qualification/Experience of key staff
- Similar project executed and evidence of knowledge of industry
- Equipment and technological capacity
- Annual turnover
- Vat registration and evidence of past remittance

PRE-QUALIFICATION TENDER

The pre-qualification document shall be returned to the Secretary, Residence Due Process Team, Sumaila Local Government Council.

Signed
DIRECTOR PERSONAL MANAGEMENT
Sumaila Local Government Kano



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
(PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE ON BARRACKS
REHABILITATION)
AREA 11, GARKI - ABUJA**

IMPROVEMENT TO PRIMARY SCHOOLS AND PRIMARY
HEALTH INSTITUTIONS IN MILITARY BARRACKS.
UNDER YEAR 2010 MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
(MDG).

1. INTRODUCTION

The Presidential Committee on Barracks Rehabilitation intends to carry out rehabilitation works and provision of equipment, furniture and recreational facilities in primary schools and primary health care institutions in Military Barracks Nationwide under the year 2010 Millennium Development Goals Programme. Competent contractors are by this publication invited for prequalification for the jobs.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the programme is to upgrade the standards of infrastructures in the schools and the medical facilities in the barracks.

3. DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Rehabilitation of various primary school buildings and primary health care facilities in Military barracks nationwide along with provision of equipment, furniture and recreational facilities.

4. PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested companies are required to include in their submissions the following:

- a) Company Profile.
- b) Certificate of Incorporation in Nigeria or Overseas.
- c) Evidence of company registration with Ministry of Defence and/or Federal Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.
- d) List of similar projects (verifiable) completed in the past three years.
- e) Company tax clearance certificate for the last three years
- f) Evidence of VAT registration.
- g) Financial capability.
- h) Evidence of technical, operational and managerial capabilities.
- i) Other relevant additional information.

5. SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Pre-qualification documents, which should be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked '2010 MDG PRE-QUALIFICATION' at the top left hand corner, should be addressed and delivered to:

The Secretary,
Tenders Board,
Presidential Committee on Barracks Rehabilitation,
Ministry of Defence,
11, Mahathma Gandhi Street, Area 11,
Garki - Abuja.

not later than 2 weeks from the date of this publication.

6. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- a) Please note that this is not an invitation to tender.
- b) Tender information and instruction shall be given only to companies that have been screened and found suitable for the jobs.
- c) Only pre-qualified companies will be invited to participate in the anticipated competitive tendering.
- d) Late submission of pre-qualification documents will be rejected.
- e) The Ministry of Defence reserves the right to reject any application.

ARC. O. OLADOYINBO-OJOMO,
Signed.
Ag. Chairman, PCBR.
For: Honourable Minister.



**MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
(PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE ON BARRACKS
REHABILITATION)
AREA 11, GARKI - ABUJA**

1. INTRODUCTION

The Presidential Committee on Barracks Rehabilitation intends to carry out rehabilitation works in Military Barracks Nationwide under its year 2010 Programme. Suitably qualified and competent contractors are by this publication invited for prequalification.

2. OBJECTIVE

The objective of the programme is improvement of the well being and welfare of the military personnel by rehabilitating and upgrading the facilities and infrastructure in the barracks.

3. DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Rehabilitation of various buildings and facilities in Military barracks nationwide.

4. PREQUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Interested companies are required to include in their submissions the following:

- a) Company Profile.
- b) Certificate of Incorporation in Nigeria or Overseas.
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ARC. O. OLADOYINBO-OJOMO,
Signed.
Ag. Chairman, PCBR.
For: Honourable Minister.

Inside Politics

Jostle begins to replace dead Gombe senators

From Aliyu M. Hamagam, Gombe

AROUND 10 People's Democratic Party (PDP) chieftains in Gombe State are jostling to take the senatorial slots hitherto occupied by the late Senators Tawar Wada and Kawu Peto Dukku.

Wada and Dukku died three weeks ago. They represented Gombe South and Gombe North senatorial districts respectively.

The contenders for the Gombe South slot include state deputy governor John Yoriyo, agric commissioner David Albashi, former deputy governor Joshua Lidani, housing commissioner Arabs Rukuje and member of the House of Representatives Adamu Kalba.

In the northern district, the contenders include erstwhile minister of state for education Aishatu Jibril Dukku, commis-

sioner for local government Dahiru Buba Biri, state attorney-general Zubairu Umar, information commissioner Sa'idu Alkali and Dukku local government chairman Ahmed Walama.

Yoriyo is said to be favored for the southern district slot because of his incumbency advantage, and Albashi is expected to be his fiercest challenger.

Lidani is also running a strong

campaign, because he comes from Kaltungo, where people are clamouring that one of their own should have the seat, given that Wada who held the post for seven years was from Billiri while the serving deputy governor is from Balanga local government.

The chances of Hajiya Aishatu in Gombe North are slim, according to politicians in the zone, allegedly because she did not

'carry the people' along while she was minister.

For his part, the attorney-general is considered too 'tight-fisted' to make any impact, politicians say.

Alkali faces accusations of non-fulfillment of promises, while Walama will contend with allegations of unacceptability among the people in his local government area.



PROFESSOR Jerry Gana with former Head of State Muhammadu Buhari at the Leadership round table meeting in Abuja recently.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

Guber poll: Al-Makura writes Nasarawa PDP

From Hir Joseph (Lafia) & Abbas Jimoh (Abuja)

THE People's Democratic Party (PDP) in Nasarawa State has received the first letter of intent for the governorship race from a chieftain of the party Umaru Tanko Al-Makura, who said he has been under intense pressure to withdraw from Governor Aliyu Doma.

Al-Makura visited the party's secretariat in Lafia, and had a brief discussion with some party officials led by the state chairman Yunana Ilya. The meeting was held behind closed doors, but Al-Makura told newsmen later that he was there to remind the party of his letter of intent he submitted earlier on.

He also said pressure continued to mount on him from various quarters to withdraw from the race, but that he would carry on regardless.

"No matter the level of pressure, unless the pressure can undo your thinking or motivation which is not likely to be in my own case, so pressure or no pressure, Tanko Almakura is contesting for the office of the governor come 2011," he said.

In the letter of intent he submitted to party, Al-Makura said he was in the race to "enhance the physical development and general well-being of our people. I wish to state with every sense of responsibility and humility that we need a more vigorous approach to governance, if we have to attain and achieve dividends of democracy which our people yearn for through the manifestoes and programmes of our party."

A former member of the Constituent Assembly, Al-Makura was state secretary of the defunct National Republican Convention (NRC).

'Adamawa PDP has already received Atiku'

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

FACTIONAL chairman of the PDP in Adamawa state, Chief Medan Tenke, has reacted to the protest by some members of the party in Adamawa state over the return of former vice president Atiku Abubakar. He said the protest was belated as his faction has since received Atiku back into the party.

Tenke, who spoke with newsmen in Jos yesterday, said he was surprised to hear some people opposing Atiku's

return when plans were already on by the state chapter of the party to organise a reception for him.

"Atiku has passed through the due process and has been received at his ward and local government what we are trying to do at the state chapter is to organise a reception for the former VP to honor his return to the party. So any talk about not welcoming him back does not arise," he said.

The factional chairman commended the national chairman of the PDP Vincent Ogbulafor for asserting

that the PDP is for the people and is ready to welcome new members into it instead of driving them away.

He said Atiku, being a former vice president who single handedly floated a political party that won states like Lagos and Edo, is an asset for any party and Adamawa would not miss the opportunity of having him back.

Tenke said a special party card would be presented to the former vice president at the reception the state chapter of the party headed by him would be organising for Atiku soon.

Tribunal reserves judgment in Osun guber case

THE Justice Ali Garba-led election tribunal on Monday reserved judgment in the retrial of the suit filed by Action Congress (AC) governorship candidate in the 2007 election, Alhaji Rauf Aregbesola, against Governor Olagunsoye Oyinlola of the PDP.

Speaking after the adoption of written addresses by the parties in the case, Garba said the tribunal would notify parties of the date fixed for judgment.

"I commend all of you for your understanding and cooperation throughout the sittings of this panel," he said.

Earlier, Garba had given each party

five minutes for summary address and three minutes for adoption of address.

While adopting his written address, state Attorney-General Niyi Owolade, who represented the police, submitted that the inability of the petitioner to tender the police report had knocked out the basis for the retrial.

Lead counsel to the first, second and third respondents (Oyinlola, Olusola Obada and PDP), Malam Yusuf Ali, urged the court to discountenance the petition on the grounds that it lacked merit.

Counsel to INEC, Mr Dayo Famakin-Johnson, also adopted his written address

and prayed the tribunal to dismiss the petition due to lack of evidence.

But lead counsel to AC, Chief Egun Sasegbon, said the Police Force frustrated the efforts of the petitioner to tender the police report. He said the police attempted to negate the petition before the panel by denying the report.

Sasegbon recalled the arrest and prosecution of two of the petitioner's counsel, adding that this was responsible for the inability of the petitioner to tender the report. He urged the tribunal to enter judgment in favour of the petitioner. (NAN)

Forget 2011, group tells Jonathan

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has been advised to respect his party's zoning arrangement which says it is the turn of the North to produce the next president in 2011 in the interest of the continued peaceful co-existence in the country.

Chairman of a Bauchi-based group, Vanguard of Northern Nigeria, Al-Ameen Sani Mohammed, who gave the advice in a statement in Bauchi yesterday, described calls by the 'Northern Friends of the South-South' that the acting president should go for the seat in 2011 as unfortunate.

"The suggestion by this group is sinister and capable of derailing the good intentions of the acting president

from attending to critical national issues that are threatening the corporate existence of the country itself. The call by this group should be discarded by the acting president," he said.

He said the group should have advised the acting president to concentrate of realising the set goals of the present administration within the remaining period such as dredging of the River Niger, power supply, organising free and fair elections and addressing the Niger-Delta issue.

The group also criticised what it described as persistent attacks of prominent Northern personalities such as Muhammadu Buhari, Yakubu Gowon, Ibrahim Babangida, Atiku Abubakar and President Umaru Yar'adua in some sections of the media.

TRUST CLASSIFIED

AL-AMRU BIL-MA'ARUF ISLAMIC GUIDANCE AND COUNSEL CENTRE

The general public is hereby notifying that the above named Organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Act 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Dr. Sheikh Othman Anagha - Chairman
2. Mallam Abubakar Igbe - Secretary
3. Hajjiya Saidah C. Okoro
4. Mallam Suhail Sheikh Othman

Aims and Objectives:

1. To propagate Islam with wisdom
2. To inculcate the spirit of unity and peace among Nigerian Citizens
3. To enlighten Nigerian Muslim the need for education
4. To protect and preserve the right and property of Muslim Orphans and widows

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:
Izharul-haq Chambers
Legal Practitioners

VORANPHANG YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION KADUNA

Notice is hereby given to the general public that above named Association is apply for Registration under Companies and Allied Matters Decree 1990 law of the Republic of Nigeria.

The Trustees are

1. John Kassah
2. Meshachi Danjma
3. Justin Ishaya
4. Wisdom Yakubu

Aims and Objectives

1. Unity peace and progress
2. To contribute to improving the living standards, socio-economic well-being, cultural and moral upliftment of the people of Nigeria, Africa and the world.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

EVER INCREASING WORD OF FAITH CHURCH

The general public is hereby notifying that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission Abuja for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matter Act No. 1 of 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Rev. David Oluwatoyin Oladoyin
2. Pastor (Mrs) Julian Mojisola Oladoyin

Aims and Objectives:

1. To propagate the gospel
2. To establish Churches wherever converts are made so that they can be taught word of God unto maturity
3. To establish Bible Colleges, school of Ministry for the training of gospel Ministers
4. To engage in social work community development and child welfare programmes, old people's homes and other similar activities
5. To propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ, redeeming souls for God's kingdom

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 420, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

BWALBWANG OLD FRIENDS ASSOCIATION (BOFA)

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Godfrey Gabriel Dewan
2. David Milaham
3. Rahis James Yerse
4. Cecilia Eyesia
5. Joel Sunday

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES:

1. To come together and foster unity.
2. To develop each socially economically and financially.
3. To help bring progress and development of our almamater.
4. To enhance and promote the educational advancement of all students of our almamater.
5. To strive in fostering peace, progress and development in our society.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Abuja, within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:
GODFREY GABRIEL DEWAN

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the loss of the following documents:

1. Offer of terms of Grant/Conveyance of approval and acceptance of offer of Grant right of occupancy with the federal capital territory, Abuja and No. MFCT/LA/1992/Bo1933.
2. Original offer of terms of Grant/Conveyance of Approval with ref. No. MFCT/LA/91/BN 1347 dated 15th November 1993 in respect of Plot No. 1325 of about 697sqm located within Katampe District bearing HAAGA KPADOO MARY. Belonging to Alhaji Fatihu Ishaq M.

All declared missing. All efforts made to trace the said documents proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of original documents bearing the following

- (1) Provisional Allocation of Plot Ref No. PIP C/P/PROJ/40/VOL.1/2 dated October 23, 1995 bearing Mrs. Mary Dang of No. 127, Rantya Gyel, P. O. Box 6083, Jos.
- (2) Original Certificate of Occupancy with Certificate Number PL.26586 bearing Mrs. Mary Joshua Dang.

All efforts made to recover the said land documents proved abortive. If found please return to the nearest Police Station.

RESURRECTION GLORY HOUSE 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 no. 1 of 1990

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. Pst. (Dr.) Dominic Azu Aniemeke
2. Pst. (Mrs.) Faith Aniemeke
3. Pst. Kingsley Ekoman
4. Deacon Fidelis Ehinze
5. Mr. Christopher Mburu
6. Deacon Donatus Uche Aniemeke
7. Vivian Ifeyinwa Beye
8. Mrs. Sonia Ekoman

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To preach full gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Nations.
2. To train, equip and send competent gospel ministers to affect Nations.
3. To establish institutions of learning from elementary to tertiary levels.
4. To establish aid institutions for the poor, physically challenged folks, ageing, widow and orphans.

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:
Barrister Festus Alika

EXCELLENT COVENANT MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL

The general public is hereby notified that the above named Church has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for Registration under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act, 1990.

The Trustees are:

1. Reverend Kenneth Okafor
2. Pastor Jim Balogun
3. Pastor Mrs. Blessing Okafor
4. Pastor Mrs. Damaris Okojie
5. Pastor James Imohiosen
6. Mr. Infanyachukwu Okafor

Aims and Objectives

- (a) To preach the Gospel in all parts of the World
- (b) To establish and maintain Churches and Missions in Nigeria and in foreign lands
- (c) To train, ordain and licence candidates for the work of the gospel Ministry

Any objection to the above 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 the publication.

SIGNED:
Chief L.D. NZADON, Legal Practitioner
Messrs L.D. NZADON & Co., Legal Practitioners
No. 12, Mubi Road, Yola Adamawa State

TO ALMIGHTY ALL BELONG SOCIETY OF NIGERIA

The general public is hereby informed that the above named society has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under PART 'C' of the companies and allied matters act 1990.

The trustees are:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 1. Mr. HAKEEM AFOLABI AKIYODE - | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. MR LEKAN SODE | SECRETARY |
| 3. ENGINEER FATAI OGUNSOLA - | MEMBER |
| 4. MR ERIC OTCHERE | MEMBER |
| 5. ALHAJI KOLAWOLE AWONBOWD - | MEMBER |
| 6. MR. RAMESH KRISHNA | MEMBER |
| 7. MR TUNJI BAKSHIGBAN - | MEMBER |
| 8. CHEF CHRIS AVIELELE - | MEMBER |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE ARE:

1. To provide social welfare, support and care for the sick, less privileged and orphans.
2. To provide high quality care for the old and aged
3. To enhance programs that protect the elderly from abuse, neglect and exploitation and to build an elderly people nursing home.
4. Giving hope to the sick patient in the society.
5. Putting smiles and hope on the faces that are hopeless.

Any objection to the above 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 the publication.

Signed:
HAKEEM AFOLABI AKIYODE
CHAIRMAN

NEHEMIA GLOBAL OUTREACH

The general public is hereby informed that the above named society has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission, Abuja for registration under PART 'C' of the companies and allied matters act 1990.

The trustees are:

- | | |
|--|-----------|
| 1. EVANG (DR.) ERIC OTCHERE - | CHAIRMAN |
| 2. PASTOR IFUKOR DANIEL OSAHEN - | SECRETARY |
| 3. APOSTLE (DR) JOHNSON MATALEH WILLIAMS - | MEMBER |
| 4. DEACONESS VICTORIA OTCHERE - | MEMBER |
| 5. REV. (MRS) GLADYS BENTIE - | MEMBER |
| 6. HAKEEM AFOLABI AKIYODE - | MEMBER |
| 7. APOSTLE JOSHUA MAKANJUOLA SIMEON - | MEMBER |

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE ARE:

1. To preach the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ all over the world.
2. To establish branches, fellowship centres and training centres to empower men and women to evangelise the word of God.
3. To worship the Lord in the beauty of His holiness and demonstrate His power by prophecy, healing and salvation.
4. To identify one another by regular discussion and visitation.

Any objection to the above 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 the publication.

Signed:
EVANG. (DR.) ERIC OTCHERE
CHAIRMAN

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly MISS ADEDULU AWELEWA DORIS, now wishes to be addressed as MRS. SAKA AWELEWA DORIS. All former documents remain valid. ZENITH BANK PLC and general public take note.

I, Formerly GAMBO SALEH, Now wish to be called as ABUBAKAR GAMBO SAMBO, All former documents remain valid COLLEGE OF LEGAL & ISLAMIC STUDIES MISAU, Public take note.

I, Formerly MR FARUK INUSA ABDULGHAFAR, Now wish to be called as MR GBADEBO OLALEKAN ABDULGHAFAR, All former documents remain valid public should take note

I, Formerly MISS ROSEMARY NKIRUKA, Now wish to be called as MRS ROSEARY ROBERT OSUJI. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I formerly known as OKORIBE EMUHOWHO JOHN OKPIRORO now wishes to be known as ABADA EMUHOWHO JOHN OKPIRORO, All former documents remain valid, NYSC RCCG and public note please.

I, formerly know as GEORGINA ALOYSIUS ODENIGBO, now wish to be known as GEORGINA ONYIGNBUO. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as IBRAHIM ISMAIL KANO, now wish to be known as IBRAHIM ISMAIL DOGARA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly FATIMA MU'AZU LADAN now wish to be addressed and known as MRS FATIMA HASSAN HASSAN. All former documents remain valid. The general public take note.

I, formerly MISS AJAYI ESTHER ODUNAYO wish to be known and address as MRS. ADEKANYE ESTHER ODUNAYO. Former documents remain valid. General public please take note

I, formerly known and address as MISS EDUKHURE OSAYEMWENRE now wish to be known and address as MRS. ANORUE OSAYEMWENRE SOPHIA. All formal documents remain valid. General public please take note.

I, formerly known as MISS YOMOLA ABIODUN FULANI, now MRS YOMOLA ABIODUN JONES. All former documents remain valid. Public to note.

I, formerly known as JATO NGOLKOLI, now wish to be known as JAMES ANIOKETA. All former documents remain valid. The general public to take note.

I, formerly known as IBRAHIM JUMMAI HAFSAT, now wishes to be called MRS IBRAHIM JUMMAI HAFSAT. All former documents remain valid. Public take note.

I, formerly called MISS JAMILA MUHAMMAD now to be called MRS JAMILA MUHAMMAD MURTALA. All former documents remain valid. General public please note.

I, formerly MISS ETHEL MANEJU OBETULE now MRS ETHEL MANEJU AUDU. Former documents valid. Caritas University Enugu, NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS SA'ADATU YAKUBU YUSUF now MRS SA'ADATU OMENEKE AMINU. Former documents valid. Unibuja and general public take note.

I, formerly EZEH UCHECHI HELEN now wish to be called NNAJI UCHECHI HELEN. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS WOSU CHIKARU GRACE now wish to be known as MRS OLORUNTOBI CHIKARU. All former documents remain valid. Diocese of Eyo Anglican Communion and general public take note.

I, formally known and called as GANA GRACE wish to be known as MRS. OGO-OLUWA OLUWATEMI GRACE. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as MISS HAPPY EVBOMA now wish to be called MRS HAPPINESS GILBERT EKALABA. Former documents remain valid NYSC and general public take note.

I, formerly ZAINAB TANKO UMAR now wish to be called MRS JENET ISAAC ADMA. All former documents remain valid. The general public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS BUKOLA C. OYINKOLADE wished to be known and addressed as MRS. BUKOLA C. OBATAYO. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS FRANCA NWACHIOMA CHIBUZO, now wish to be known as MRS. FRANCA NWACHIOMA MEZE. All former documents remain valid. Nigeria Immigration Service and general public take note please.

I, formerly MISS MARIAM ELE ATULUKU now wish to be MRS MARIAM ELE ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. Afribank and general public take note.

I, formerly GERALDINE UNOMA ANISHA now GERALDINE UNOMA HARUNA. All former documents remain valid. General public please note.

I, formerly EJIOFOR NWANNE MARY now AMALIRI NWANNE MARY (MRS) All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

PDP REFORM FORUM

CONFIRMATION OF THE MEETING OF THURSDAY 22ND APRIL, 2010

This is to confirm that the meeting of the **PDP REFORM FORUM** scheduled for **THURSDAY 22ND APRIL, 2010** shall hold as scheduled.

All invitees are expected to be seated by 11.00 a.m.

Venue: CONFERENCE HALL, (2ND GATE)
NICON LUXURY HOTEL,
(Formerly Le Meridien Hotel)
PLOT 903 TAFAWA BALEWA WAY,
AREA 11, GARKI, ABUJA

AGENDA

Reaffirmation of the founding ideals of our great Party.

Restating the ideological and moral framework for our existence.

Recommitting ourselves through the Party to public service and welfare of the people which inspired the formation of the Peoples Democratic Party.

ATTENDANCE IS STRICTLY BY INVITATION

Signed:
AMINU
for: The Forum

SPORT

Advantage
Inter Milan



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Lagerback's right to invite Kanu, others – Lumumba

By David Ngobua

FORMER NFA presidential aspirant, Hon. Lumumba Dah Adeh has said no matter what anybody feels about the 44-man list released by Super Eagles Technical Adviser, Lars Lagerback, he believes the Swede has presented a balanced list as he couldn't have come up with anything better than what he has presented.

Speaking to Trustsports yesterday, the former member of House

players.

In addition, he observed that had the coach gone for players who are in the twilight of their career in search of experience, critics would have still complained that the team lacks those who have the required strength to do the dirty work.

Lumumba therefore said that what Lagerback has done is in order because his list is made up of youthful players who need the experience of mature players like Kanu Nwankwo, Chidi Odiah, Joseph Yobo and John Utaka.

"I don't like speaking on technical matters but let me say that I do not see anything wrong with a combination of young and older players who will complement one another.

"Let me tell you something. Had it been the coach settled for old players, others would have raised eye brows on the ground that football is played now by youths who have a lot of energy. And if he had gone for only youthful players, others would have called for experience. In all I say there is nothing seriously wrong with the list", he stated.

Lumumba maintained that the Technical Adviser knows the calibre of players he wants to take to South Africa and those who have issues with his list should wait and see what he will offer in the end.

"Let's wait and see what the coach wants to do. South Africa 2010 is around the corner. When the Championship begins, we would be in a better position to either condemn or commend his work", he advised.



NWANKWO Kanu will have another shot at the World Cup finals, despite dwindling form.

Let me say
that I do not
see anything
wrong with
Lagerback's
list

of Representatives said in as much as he is not favourably disposed to speaking on technical matters, he must not fail to call on Nigerians who are vehemently opposed to the list to give the coach a chance.

He said the players on the list are among the best the coach can identify within this period, just as he added that even if the coach decided to go for only young players, the list would have been criticized for lacking experienced

Utaka: I never doubted my quality

PORTSMOUTH striker John Utaka has welcomed his recall to the Nigeria squad, while saying he has never doubted what he can produce on the pitch.

Utaka has suffered a slump in form as well as some niggling injuries to be frozen out at both Pompey and the Super Eagles.

But he told MTNFootball.com that even when it all seemed he had lost his way, his self belief remained

intact.

"I have never doubted what I can do on the pitch. This is a gift, a talent," said Utaka.

"We changed owners and managers at will, and everybody came with his own ideas and his own players. There was no stability at the club.

"Also, some people will not care to know that I suffered injuries - hamstring, groin.

"It's also a fact that even if you are not playing, it does not mean, you're not a good player.

It does not take away your quality."

He admitted the arrival of former Chelsea boss Avram Grant was the key to his new-found form at Fratton Park.

"His coming was a big boost for me. He told me to go out and enjoy myself. He gave me more confidence," said Utaka, who featured at the 2002 World Cup in Korea and Japan.

"He's a good manager because he has worked at some top clubs previously and he knows a good

player when he sees one."

Utaka last played for Nigeria in June as a late substitute against Tunisia in a 2010 World Cup qualifier at the Rades Stadium, near Tunis.

"I'm happy to be back with the squad and like always, I will give my best for Nigeria," he told MTNFootball.com on Monday.

"I'm also looking forward to the World Cup, where I believe we will do well.

"I have the confidence and determination and so I'm opti-

mistic I will be in South Africa."

However, the former Rennes striker has restated his preference to lead the Eagles attack rather than being played as a right winger or the second striker.

"I'm a centre-forward, a top 9. I only have to get a good run in that position and with the right support and delivery, I will be scoring consistently for both club and country," he disclosed.

Musa: Amokachi tips me for World Cup

LEAGUE hotshot Ahmed Musa has received a major boost in his quest to feature at the World Cup after former international Daniel Amokachi told him he is confident he could make the final cut for South Africa 2010.

Musa's goals and displays helped Amokachi to his first trophy as coach, and the former Nigeria World Cup star took time out to advise the Kano Pillars star that with hard work and the right attitude, he could make it all the way to the final 23-man squad to the World Cup in June.

"Yes, coach Amokachi called me aside and advised me to continue to work because he is very confident I will be finally picked for the World Cup," 15-goal Musa told *MTNFootball.com*.

The former JUTH FC of Jos star has already taken his first bold move to star in South Africa in June after he was picked by Nigeria coach, Lars Lagerback, among half a dozen players from the local league in a 44-man provisional squad for the showpiece event.

The other players from the Nigeria Premier League picked for the World Cup training squad are goalkeeper Bassey Akpan (Bayelsa United), Terna Suswan (Lobi Stars), Solomon Okpako (Kano Pillars), Bartholomew Ihenachor (Enyimba) and Gabriel Reuben (Enyimba).

Onuoha puts club before Eagles

MANCHESTER City defender Nedum Onuoha has put his international career on hold because he plans to use the summer to sort out his club future, officials have told *MTNFootball.com*.

"He has told us he cannot consider playing for Nigeria now because he wishes to use the summer to look for a club and not play at the World Cup," spokesman for the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), Ademola Olajire, said.

The 23-year-old Onuoha has struggled to establish himself at star-studded City, where Ivory Coast international Kolo Toure, Joleon Lescott, Pablo Zabaleta and Belgium star Vincent Kompany are ahead of him in the pecking order.

This season, he has made 13 appearances in all competitions and scored twice. He still has a year left on his Manchester City contract.

It was gathered that Nigeria coach, Lars Lagerback, spent several hours trying to convince the Warri-born central defender to star for the Super Eagles at the World Cup in June.

That could well explain why the former Sweden coach left him out of a 44-man provisional squad list for South Africa 2010.

Onuoha has featured for the England U21s, but following a new FIFA ruling, he can change allegiance to feature for the birthplace of his parents.

He was first called up by Nigeria three years ago.



SAMUEL Eto'o of Inter Milan and Lionel Messi of Barcelona during their UEFA Champions League semi final first leg match at the San Siro stadium, yesterday.

Bio: Mistrust cause for low sponsorship drive

CORPORATE bodies' reluctance to respond to sponsorship drives by Nigeria's sports federations is largely due to their mistrust on how the funds would be used.

SPORTS Minister, Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Bio, said this in Lagos yesterday during his maiden visit to the National Stadium.

Bio, who is also the Chairman of the National Sports Commission (NSC), said that steps would be taken to restore the confidence of the sports partners.

He said drastic steps would be taken to ensure public funds were properly handled by sports officials.

He disclosed that he would soon send the recommendation of the probe panel, which investigated the missing 236,000 dollars from

the coffers of the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF), to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan.

He said he would carry out whatever he was asked to do on the matter by the Acting President.

He announced plans to convene a summit to address the problems militating against sports development in the country, adding it would look into short, medium and long-term planning for sports in Nigeria.

He said the proposed summit would not be a talk shop but a gathering of all sports stakeholders, who would design a blueprint for the development of sports in the country.

He acknowledged that Nigeria was blessed with abundant human

resources in the field of sports but it had not been reflected in the country's performance in recent years in international competitions.

He noted that the country's ageing sportsmen and women were not being replaced as fast as they should.

The minister said more attention will be focused on medal-winning sports to regain Nigeria's lost glory in sports.

According to him, for Nigeria to regain its past glory in sports, there is a need to take more seriously, sports that will bring it glory in international competitions.

"It is common knowledge that sports in Nigeria in the past few years have been dwindling, and I think we need to strategise to regain

our glory.

"It's a pity that the last time Nigeria had the best show in sports was at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics where we won gold medal in football," Bio noted.

He, however, said that sports could still be revived, if concentration was placed on those areas that could secure more medals for the country.

He added that plans were under way to encourage Niger Delta youths to be involved in professional swimming.

The minister stressed the need to give priority attention to grass roots sports development, particularly through zonal competitions, school sports as well as the military and police games.

Coach says boxers lack basics

NIGERIA'S boxers lack the basics of the sport as their training has been built on a faulty foundation, resulting in their poor outing in international outings.

The newly appointed Technical Adviser of the Nigeria Boxing Federation (NBF), Idika Nsofor, said in Lagos yesterday.

Nsofor said the boxers lacked the fundamentals of the sport,

which should have been imparted to them in their various states before their invitations to the national level.

He said the pugilists had guts and packed powerful punches, but the absence of the basics was militating against their development.

"The boxers are supposed to be taught these basics by their state coaches because boxing is guided

by rules and regulations. It is not street brawls."

"Since I began working with them in the past two weeks, I discovered that the rhythm is not there. These are shortcomings, which I will concentrate on," said Nsofor.

He said the boxers did not require to be taught the basic rudiments of the sport when preparing

for tournaments if they had been imbibed such skills earlier.

He said the recent training tour of Ghana was a good exposure for the teenage fighters being trained for the Youth Olympic qualifiers in Baku, Azerbaijan.

He said he planned to organise a seminar for state coaches on the need to teach their boxers to fight with rhythm.

Photo Design: AA GEIDAM



Rested Ribery ready to face road-weary Lyon

BAYERN Munich's gentle treatment of Franck Ribery will see him fit for today's clash against a Lyon side which had to take to the road for their first appearance in a Champions League semi-final. Frenchman Ribery was taken off midway through the second half in their 7-0 thrashing of Hannover 96 on Saturday to conserve energy ahead of the Bavarians' first Champions League semi-final since winning the title in 2001.

"I believe he will be ready to play," Van Gaal told reporters. "I protected him a bit because he has had some stiff muscles."

Van Gaal, who has steered the Bundesliga leaders to the German Cup final and is on track for an unprecedented treble for a German team, can also count on striker Miroslav Klose after he overcame a stomach virus that kept him out of Saturday's Bundesliga match.

Experienced midfielder Mark van Bommel and defender Holger Badstuber will not be available for the first leg on Wednesday due to a suspension.

Lyon, playing their first ever Champions League semi, had to borrow 10 mini vans from their academy to travel to Munich as their flight plans were scuppered by the cloud of ash spewing out of

an Icelandic volcano and drifting across Europe.

They were on their way to Stuttgart on Monday, spending the night there and then driving on to Munich on Tuesday morning.

"Coach trips remind me of when I was young in Brazil," joked Brazil defender Cris, the Lyon captain. "It's difficult for everybody but we have to accept it," he told reporters.

"We're feeling good, we're about to play our first semi-final. What we need to do is forget about the trip to focus on our match. We'll be ready."

Cameroon midfielder Jean Makoun (groin) and defenders Jean-Alain Boumsong (calf) and Mathieu Bodmer (thigh) are sidelined with injuries.

While they have no suspended players, seven could be missing for the return leg if they pick up a yellow card on Wednesday, including Cris and playmaker Miralem Pjanic.

Lyon warmed up with a tense 2-2 draw at champions Girond-

ins Bordeaux on Saturday that left them in third place in Ligue 1, nine points behind leaders Olympique Marseille, with five matches left.

"It will be tough against Bayern," predicted Lyon coach Claude Puel.

"The Germans are always dangerous in big matches and Bayern just knocked out Manchester United. They have Arjen Robben and Franck Ribery hitting for them again. We know what to expect," he said.

Probable teams

Bayern Munich: 22-Hans-Joerg Butt; 21-Philipp Lahm, 6-Martin Demichelis, 5-Daniel Van Buyten, 23-Danijel Pranjić; 31-Bastian Schweinsteiger, 7-Franck Ribery, 10-Arjen Robben, 25-Thomas Mueller; 11-Ivica Olic, 33-Mario Gomez.

Lyon: 1-Hugo Lloris; 13-Anthony Reveillere, 3-Cris, 28-Jeremy Toulalan, 20-Aly Cissokho; 8-Miralem Pjanic or 10-Ederson, 6-Kim Kallstrom, 41-Maxime Gonalons; 7-Michel Bastos, 19-Cesar Delgado; 9-Lisandro Lopez.

"I believe he will be ready to play"



FRANCK Ribery... Bayern star midfielder

Bayern eyes final buoyed by big win

BAYERN Munich will have a distinct advantage going into its Champions League semi-final against Lyon—the German team was spared a long journey.

Lyon is taking a two-day trip in several minivans to Munich because of the air traffic disruptions caused by volcanic ash from Iceland.

With Bayern also in devastating form, the club chairman

is trying to keep the players as down to earth as possible.

"It's not good to be too euphoric," Karl-Heinz Rummenigge said.

After ousting Manchester United in the quarterfinals, Bayern is in the last four for the first time since it won the title in 2001.

While Lyon had to settle for a 2-2 draw with Bordeaux in the domestic league, Bayern romped

to a 7-0 rout of Hannover at home.

"This 7-0 result has no meaning for Wednesday's match," defender Philipp Lahm said.

Midfielder Bastian Schweinsteiger warned his teammates about being complacent.

"Lyon eliminated Real Madrid and Bordeaux, against whom we lost twice in the group stage," Schweinsteiger said.

Bayern is on course for a treble.

It is two points ahead of Schalke in the Bundesliga and it is also in the German Cup final.

But the buildup to today's match against Lyon has not been totally without distractions.

Coach Louis van Gaal went home to attend the funeral of his mother-in-law and missed some practice sessions.

Star playmaker Franck Ribery practiced on his own Monday

because of slight hamstring problems, although he is expected to be able to play.

Van Gaal will be without his captain Mark van Bommel, who is suspended.

"It's a loss," the coach said. Van Gaal is hoping that his team will not concede a goal at home.

"A 0-0 or 1-0 is better than 2-1. It sounds funny, but that's how it is," Van Gaal said.

THE WEDNESDAY COLUMN

Mohammed Haruna

ndajika@yahoo.com

Felix Adedapo Adenaike:
A musketeer at 70

The venerable Chief Obafemi Awolowo it was who once tagged them the "Three Musketeers" of Nigerian journalism on account of their journalistic derring-do and the fact that, like the original Musketeers, they were inseparable. They were Messrs Segun Osoba, Felix Adenaike and Peter Ajayi. Tomorrow Adenaike will be 70.

The three straddled Nigerian journalism in the seventies in a way few reporters, editors and media managers have. Late Alhaji Babatunde Jose, Nigeria's most accomplished journalist, regarded Osoba as his mirror image. In the wake of the July 1975 bloodless coup against General Yakubu Gowon, Jose had cause to catapult Osoba, who had no university degree, to the editorship of *Daily Times*, then the flagship of Nigerian journalism. The graduate editors in the stable, some of them Osoba's senior, didn't like it. They successfully enlisted the new regime of General Murtala Mohammed to move against Jose by portraying him as a potential threat to the regime because of the enormous editorial power that he undoubtedly packed.

Consequently Jose was forced to retire which in turn led to a premature end to Osoba's editorship of the *Daily Times*; Osoba was editor for barely four months by the time Jose left. It was, however, a pyrrhic victory for Jose's traducers; while he was allowed to gracefully retire, they were all sacked after the authorities discovered they had more or less lied against the great journalism icon.

Osoba quickly moved on to become the general manager of *Herald*, published by Kwara State. With Peter Ajayi as the editor, the two soon established the newspaper as one of the best in the country. However, their muckraking style eventually proved too much for its owners and the two left for *Sketch* owned by the Western Region and later jointly by its successor states of Oyo, Ondo and Ogun. First Osoba and then Ajayi served as its managing director, both with distinction.

Before them, however, was Felix Adenaike. His journey to the top of *Sketch* started in 1966 when he left his job as head teacher and joined the Western Region's Ministry of Information as Information Assistant. Five years later he left for the *Daily Times* as a features and editorial writer. He was to more than prove his mettle as an opinion writer.

There can be no better evidence of this than his endorsement for the job of the editor of *West Africa* magazine, the most authoritative regional newsmagazine to come out of English speaking Africa, by its longest serving editor, the late David Williams, and by no less than the great Jose himself. That Adenaike did not eventually become the editor - Williams was succeeded by Kenneth McKenzie who lasted only two years - was absolutely fortuitous.

The magazine was founded in London 1917. The *London Mirror* group which was the major owner of *Daily Times* later bought it. Williams became its editor in 1949 and edited it for 29 years. In between he raised the circulation from a negligible 700 to over 30,000.

By the time he retired in 1978 at the age of 65, there was hardly any post-colonial West African leader he was not on a first name basis with. By then, the magazine had become THE authority on West African affairs. Such was its influence that both apartheid South Africa and the then isolated Israel secretly bought into it, apparently to gain some influ-

ence in the region.

The radical Murtala/Obasanjo regime regarded this as unacceptable and General Olusegun Obasanjo, who had taken over following the February 1976 murder of General Mohammed in an attempted military coup, forced the two pariah states to sell their shares to *Daily Times*, then already part owners of the magazine.

Two years or so before Williams was to retire he met with Jose in Lagos and asked for someone he could groom as successor.

"I wanted Felix Adenaike," Williams told me in an interview for the defunct *Citizen* which I managed (*Citizen*, November 4, 1991). "I went to (Alhaji Babatunde Jose, then chairman of *Daily Times*) and said 'look Babs, I should be retiring in two or three year's time. Have you got a bright chap I could work into the job?' So Babs picked Felix who had never even been abroad at that time but proved to be excellent. He proved to be

oh so good in the thing that mattered most if you are to be an editor. Everybody would see him and talk to him, you see, and he was so good with his English. In fact he was so much better dressed than my British staff.

"Then the *Daily Times* decided suddenly that they wanted him as (their) correspondent in London.

"There were others, of course. There was Nii K Bentsi Enchel from Ghana, who was very very clever indeed, but it was impossible to make him an editor because he

quarrelled too much. He came from a French university and he was so valuable to me as a French speaker and he wrote well...But I knew his problems. It was out of question to make him an editor because there would be no staff left within a month - he couldn't stop quarrelling."

And so it was that Adenaike never became the editor of the then authoritative West Africa. Instead he remained in London as the European Correspondent of *Daily Times* for a year.

It was from there that he became the chief executive of *Sketch* in 1976 and stayed on till 1978. That year he went back to his journalistic Alma Mater as its District Manager for Oyo, Ondo, Ogun and Kwara States.

His last stop in a journalism career that must have been highly self-fulfilling was as Editor in Chief of the Nigerian *Tribune*. During his time the newspaper wrote some of the most well-informed and literate opinions in Nigerian Journalism that made it a must read for common folks and policy makers alike.

I do not now remember the year or the matter that led to a dispute between himself and the newspaper's publisher, Oluwole Awolowo, Awo's eldest surviving son. But it was as much a mark of Adenaike's professional standing before Awo as it was a mark of the great leader's regard for merit that he took sides with the editor in chief rather than with his son, much, I was told, to the chagrin of Oluwole's mother and the man's "jewel of inestimable value."

It is sad that as Adenaike celebrates his 70th birthday tomorrow it would be without one of the Three Musketeers of Nigeria's journalism, Peter Ajayi who died in September last year.

Still we cannot but wish him - and Osoba, the other Musketeer still alive - many more years of service to journalism and to the country as a whole.

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SPORTS
REPORT

MAICON and Inter Milan ran roughshod over Barca in the first leg of their Champions League bout. Is the defending champ doomed?

Advantage Inter Milan

Tireless Inter Milan produced a rip-roaring home performance to overpower Barcelona 3-1 and leave the holders in real trouble after an awe-inspiring Champions League semi-final, first leg yesterday.

First blood went to Barca, forced to make a 14-hour bus journey to get to Milan, when Pedro slotted in Maxwell's pull-back after 19 minutes but Inter

were soon level thanks to the unmarked Wesley Sneijder.

Inter right back Maicon, later stretched off, then put the hosts ahead after a quick breakaway early in the second period and Diego Milito headed in the third to send Inter fans into ecstasy after 61 minutes. Barca pushed hard for a way back late on but have it all to do in the second leg at the Nou Camp next Wednesday.

Ronaldinho considers
Man. City move

Ronaldinho is considering a Premier League switch to Manchester City, as Milan hesitate over a new deal, reports La Gazzetta dello Sport.

Despite a forced 25 per cent pay cut as part of Milan's extension offer, Ronaldinho reportedly agreed to stay on regardless of questions over Leonardo's future.

However, Milan have faltered over securing his services and he is becoming frustrated with the delays. As a result, the Brazilian is now reconsidering reported interest from Manchester City, who would guarantee him the wages he is currently earning at Milan.