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Farouk not representative of Nigeria - Obasanjo



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PHCN promises enhanced power supply



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CJN's swearing-in confused me, VP says

By AbdulFattah Olajide

VICE President Goodluck Jonathan spoke for the first time yesterday on the confusion that preceded the swearing-in of Justice Aloysius Ityorgyer Katsina-Alu as the new Chief Justice of Nigeria, saying he considered extending the tenure of the former Chief Justice of Nigeria Justice Idris Legbo Kutigi before a legal solution to the

quagmire was discovered.

Justice Kutigi had on Wednesday last week [December 30, 2009] sworn in Justice Katsina-Alu as the 11th Chief Justice of Nigeria, owing to the absence from the country of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, who would have sworn-in the CJN, as is the tradition. Kutigi had justified his action by citing the Oath Act of 2004, which empowers either the President or the outgoing

Chief Justice to swear-in an in-coming Chief Justice.

Speaking at a thanksgiving service at the Redeemed Christian Church Central Parish in Abuja yesterday, Vice President Jonathan said when Justice Kutigi's tenure was about to end, he was apprehensive that the Judiciary would be left without a leadership since he, as vice

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No fewer than 151 textile companies have closed shop since 1990 with over 480,000 out of job **25**



Dan Kasa's New Year message

PHOTO: SANI MAIKATANGA



SANI alias 'Dan Kasa' with his New Year message on his tricycle in Kano yesterday.

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Kidnapper nabbed as he collects ransom

From Ibraheem Musa & Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

A high drama played out at a major roundabout in Kaduna metropolis on Saturday afternoon when a sus-

pected kidnapper, one Nureini, was apprehended by security agents as he arrived to collect ransom money from a kidnap operation. Following his arrest, his three-year old victim, Zainab

Murtala, was freed by security agents yesterday morning after 11 days in captivity.

The sting operation, which took place around 4.30pm, was carried out in front of the storey building

housing Nasco Carpets, which is opposite the Lagos Street by Junction Road roundabout. The entire operation, which Daily Trust reporters witnessed, took about

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Farouk not representative of Nigeria – Obasanjo

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

FORMER President Olusegun Obasanjo has urged local and international communities not to judge Nigerians and Nigeria by the recent act by 23 year-old Nigerian, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab who attempted to bomb

a US bound plane on December 25. The former president who spoke to newsmen after a special service at the Chapel of Christ the Glorious King inside the Olusegun Obasanjo Presidential Library, Abeokuta, in honour of the visiting Asantehene, Otumfuo Osei Tutu II and the

Ghanaian community in Ogun State described Abdulmutallab's action as an aberration in the country.

"He should not be used as a standard to judge Nigerians or to criminalize all Nigerians. I sympathize with his father and his family because I know the father

very well. His father is a good man. He is a man who would want the best for his children. But in any large family, you have deviant children. He just turned out to be one. It's a pity and also a good lesson for all parents and all children. If as a child, you do not listen to your parents, anything can

happen," he said.

He enjoined Nigerians to dedicate themselves to God. "Human beings will let you down, human beings will disappoint you, so where do we go? To God, as He said to Joshua, I will neither leave you nor desert you," he added.



PIC: NAN

FROM left: Vice President Goodluck Jonathan, his wife Dame Patience Jonathan and the mother of the Vice President, Madam Ayi Jonathan, during the first Sunday of the year 2010 service at the Redeemed Christian Church of God, Wuse 2, Abuja, yesterday.

Zazzau Emirate Council to send man who lost private part abroad for treatment

From Isa Liman, Zaria

THE Zazzau Emirate is making arrangements to send Malam Muhammad Sirajo Musa, the man who lost his private part in an auto accident, abroad for a possible penis transplant.

Speaking to *Daily Trust* yesterday at his Zaria city residence, Malam Musa said preparation for his overseas treatment is in top gear, saying he had already gotten some of his travel documents.

"As you might be aware, the people responsible for my predicament have a link with the Zazzau Emirate Council. Following the publication of my condition by your paper and some others, the Emir of Zazzau, Alhaji Shehu Idris offered to sponsor me abroad for treatment," he said.

He added that the council donated about N200,000 towards his treatment while he was at the Ahmadu Bello University Teach-

ing Hospital (ABUTH), but that the money was diverted.

"The driver of the car who is a resident of Adamawa State collected all the money meant for my hospital bills at the ABUTH pretending to be settling the bills, but it turned out that he diverted the money for his personal use. It was when the council discovered what happened that the emir offered to sponsor me abroad for treatment. I believe that he will fulfil his pledge. My prayer is for

Allah to make the transplant possible."

A son of the emir of Zazzau Alhaji Muhammad Bello Shehu Idris confirmed to our correspondent that the emir would sponsor the treatment.

"Contrary to the rumour, the young men who hit Muhammad Sirajo Musa are not the sons of the emir but the emir offered to help the young man because his condition is pathetic. Moreover he is one of his wards," he said.

Ondo community divided over Obat's installation as Olugbo

From Leye Adewumi, Akure •

BARELY two days after Ondo State Governor Olusegun Mimiko presented the staff of office to the new Olugbo of Ugbo Kingdom Prince Fredrick Obateru Akinruntan to put an end to the protracted Olugbo chieftaincy crisis, another parallel royal group in Ugbo Kingdom at the weekend faulted the installation.

Mimiko at the installation of Akinruntan popularly known as Obat last Thursday in Akure the state capital, said Obat was selected by Ugbo kingmakers and approved by the state executive council, adding that the installation followed proper interpretation of the Supreme Court verdict and that it was done in good fate. But controversy has continued to trail the installation of the Olugbo

as women groups and youths in the kingdom staged a protest at the weekend. Many notable indigenes of Ugbo town, political and opinion leaders in the area have also described the installation of Obateru Akinruntan as the new Olugbo as a violation of Ugbo custom and tradition.

The Chief Priest of Ugbo town Chief Jethro Ajaka and Secretary of Ugbo council of chiefs

described the installation of prince Obateru Akinruntan as the new Olugbo as a 'monumental blunder'.

Ajaka alleged that the presentation of staff of office to prince Akinruntan by the state government was a deliberate attempt to cause problems in the Kingdom as his "candidature never received the supports and endorsement of Ugbo council of chiefs and its people".

Edo traditional ruler murdered

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

A first class traditional ruler in Edo State, the Enogie of Ugolo in Ovia South-west Local Government Area Solomon Udolor was at the weekend murdered in Benin.

Solomon Udolor aged 55, was said to have been killed at 7.21pm Friday by unknown gunmen who stormed his Benin residence.

Although the cause of the murder has yet to be ascertained, sources say it may be connected to the Enogieship tussle between Ugolo town and Etete, a village close to Ugolo.

The widow of the dead traditional ruler Mrs Esther Udolor said her late husband was crowned the Enogie of Ugolo clan in 1980 after his father who was the then Enogie died. She said trouble began two years ago when another Enogie was crowned in Etete village, a development which did not go down well with the palace as those involved were sanctioned.

She alleged that her late husband was threatened several times, but that he did not report the matter to the police because the Oba of Benin was already handling the matter.

Meanwhile, police have arrested three persons in connection with the killing.

Confirming the arrest, the Divisional Police Officer in Ugbowo CSP Kunle Olusokan said the suspects would soon be transferred to the state police headquarters.



HOLIDAY makers returning at the Murtala Mohammed Airport, Lagos yesterday after the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Electricity: PHCN promises enhanced supply

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) has assured Nigerians that efforts are being made to overcome most of the challenges that ruined the 6000mw target set by the government last year.

PHCN Managing Director Engineer Hussaini Labo said Nigerians will certainly begin to feel the impact of the repair works of the electricity installations within the first quarter of this year.

Engr Labo told *Daily Trust* yesterday on phone that there has been considerable improvement in the supply of electricity in the country.

"Although I have not seen the report today, (yesterday) we were doing about 3,600mw and 3700mw yesterday".

He blamed lack of sufficient gas supply as the major obstacle of the power supply in the country. "Up till now, they could not provide enough gas for Geregu. It could only take one unit. Also I saw a text message asking us to come down in Sapele for unit or so due to gas shortage".

He said because of the vandalised pipelines at the Escravos, the gas could not reach most of their stations. "When they finish one part, they find that another part had more than one hole, about two or three".

He said the damage is huge such that when they finish with one, and they find another hole and they will go and repair it again.

On the Hydro power stations, Engr Labo said, usually around December, January, especially for Shiroro, which has a single source of water, there is bit of problem.

He said through Short Message Service (SMS) that the shortage in gas supply is essentially on account of significant damage that was done to the Escravos Lagos pipelines by vandals.

Retirement: Customs service, 32 comptrollers trade words

By Shehu Abubakar

THE Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) said the 32 comptrollers whose retirements were approved by the Federal Government have stagnated on their rank for over 10 years without promotion.

The officers, it was further alleged, stagnated because they were not promotable either due to poor performance as officers or for alleged low intellectual performance.

However, some of the affected officers who anonymously spoke to *Daily Trust* said they were only being used as scapegoats.

Though the retirement letters are yet to be despatched to the 32 Comptrollers, three different sources gave the names of the affected officers as: S. K. Yisa, Y. H. Kila, Y.

Usman, G. Tingir, M. Bello, I. M. Garuba, A. A. Ahmed, I. B. Alhassan, S. U. Bunza, H. K. Suleiman, S. O. Adeniyi and Fowoke Ogun.

Others are: Y. Hamman-Adama, S. James, U. Shehu, B. G. Abdullahi, E. O. Nwakocho, A. Wakili, A. H. Aliyu, I. K. Tairu, M. Mohammed, S. Musa, A. R. Adamu, M. B. Aliyu, M. Umar, R. O. Taiwo, C. A. Banye, T. V. Anpe, F. T. Degge, M. D. Hware, U. Z. Gomina and K. B. Yusuf.

The source said the Comptroller General is planning to post new officers to take over from the affected officers before they are served their retirement notice.

Daily Trust's findings revealed that all the 32 affected officers are University graduates with degrees in various disciplines and 22 of

them are from the north.

A source at the office of the Comptroller General in Abuja told *Daily Trust* that all 32 Comptrollers were retired by the Customs board on the recommendation of the Presidential committee.

All the confidential files of the affected officers that were collected from the secret registry of the service and taken to the Presidential committee and later to the Customs board are yet to be returned to the registry.

Some of the affected Comptrollers whose names appeared on the retirement list said they were not yet served with their alleged retirement letters or formally being informed of the retirement.

One of them said he had been a Comptroller for over 10 years. He however won-

dered if it was his responsibility to promote himself or that of the government that is now retiring him for alleged stagnation.

He blamed his stagnation on unpopular government policies, favouritism and corruption that marred the system.

He said the present Customs Comptroller General Abdullahi Dikko Inde has not been comfortable with them who are his seniors. He said Dikko also blamed his seniors for his woes.

Another Comptroller said he will challenge his retirement in court when he is formally served with his retirement notice. He said he has about ten more years to attain the age of retirement and will not condone any attempt by anybody to frustrate him out

of service.

Chairman of the Presidential committee on the reorganization of the Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) Dr Bello Halliru Mohammed told *Daily Trust* exclusively that no Comptroller of the service was retired prematurely.

Bello said rather than retire honourably some have changed their ages and changed documents in their files just to stay as Comptrollers. "If the present Comptroller General has been promoted from below them to their level and above them, won't they feel it is time for them to move out and do something else?"

He said due process was followed in the retirement of the officers and government is making arrangements to pay all those affected their full entitlements.

High Commissioner defends information on President Yar'adua's illness

From Ibrahim Chenuke, London

NIGERIA'S High Commissioner to the United Kingdom Dr Dalhatu Sarki Tafida has defended the official information Nigerians are being told about the illness and state of health of President Umaru Yar'adua.

Dr Tafida, who was the Chief Physician to former President Shehu Shagari in the Second Republic, argued that there was no need for Nigerians to be told the details of the president's illness or his level of recovery.

"The government has been telling Nigerians that the

President was undergoing treatment in Saudi Arabia. That's all people require (to know). They don't have to be told what illness he is suffering from".

He lamented that some people were playing politics on the president's illness, stressing: "what is needed is prayers, but not politicking with illness, whether it is the president that is affected or someone else".

He dismissed claims of secrecy about President Yar'adua's illness, contending that if you keep on giving more details, people will complain.

"Nigerians will always complain. If you give much detail, some people will say why are you talking so

much about the president's illness?"

He urged Nigerians to respect their leaders and criticize them "only when you have to".

"Nigerians talk well of leaders only when they are out of office. We should learn to cherish, admire and respect our leaders", he said.

On the president's present condition, the High Commissioner said: "The president is doing well. Only a few days ago, he assented to the supplementary budget bill and other documents".

"He will soon be back to Nigeria and to his office to continue his service to the people", he added.

SERAP worries over Yar'adua's absence

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

THE prolonged absence of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua from the seat of power has caused a deteriorating economic and social rights situation in the country, the Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP) has said.

President Yar'adua was flown to Saudi Arabia on November 23 2009 for medical treatment and no date has been fixed for his return.

SERAP said in a petition dated January 3, 2010, sent to the United Nations Human Rights Council (HRC), that Yar'adua, who is receiving medical attention

in Saudi Arabia, has failed to empower Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to act as president to sign and effectively implement the 2009 supplementary budget and the budget for 2010.

The petition, signed by SERAP's Executive Director, Adetokunbo Mumuni, urged the HRC to, "simultaneously hold a special session on the non-compliance by the Nigerian government with its obligations in relation to the realization of economic, social and cultural rights; and to consider this petition under the HRC new Complaint Procedure, established pursuant to resolution 5/1 of the HRC, and General

Assembly resolution 60/251 of March 15, 2006. This petition meets the requirements of the new Procedure, and raises issues of importance justifying the holding of a special session on Nigeria."

SERAP said Yar'adua's failure to empower the Vice President to act as president pursuant to section 145 of 1999 Constitution is obstructing the effective implementation of the 2009 supplementary budget and the 2010 budget.

Nigerians, SERAP noted have suffered and continue to suffer years of failed budgeting and implementation, a critical element of states' obligations to fulfil economic and social rights.

Police step-up counter terrorism efforts

By Misbahu Bashir

THE police said yesterday that they have adopted new tactics against terrorist acts.

The Police Force Public Relations Officer ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu told Daily Trust that sequel to the arrest of a Nigerian, Umar Farouk AbdulMutallab in the United States over an alleged attempt to blow up a US plane, the police force has to

adopt techniques in response to terrorist acts or threats attributed to terrorist groups.

"This is in view of the current development and commitment of the Nigeria Police Force to ensure safe and secure nation," he said.

He said the police will be watchful on groups or people that use terror as their tactics and will ensure that they did not succeed in inducing fears in the citizenry.

Meanwhile the Commissioner of Police, Anti Terrorist Squad (ATS) Ade Shinaba said more efforts are being made to counter terrorism including drafting policemen in places for monitoring and searches.

AbdulMutallab who is being charged with trying to blow up a US plane was said to have been trained on the act by a terrorist group in Yemen.

7th day prayers for late Maryam Babangida in Minna



FROM left: Emir of Minna, Alhaji Umar Faruk Bahago, General Ibrahim Babangida and Prime Minister of Niger Republic, Aliyu Mohammed at the 7th day prayers for late Mrs Maryam Babangida in Minna, Niger State, on Saturday.



PRIME Minister of Niger Republic, Aliyu Mohammed (left) being introduced to retired Air Vice Marshal Hamza Abdullahi by former Head of State, General Abdulsalami Abubakar (m).



FORMER Chief Justice Alafa Belgore (left) with former Governor of Niger State, Engr. Abdulkadir Kure at the prayers.



CROSS section of the crowd at the prayers.

The Annual Trust Dialogue



DAILY TRUST African of the Year Award

are here again!

Schedule:

The Annual Trust Dialogue

Date: Thursday, January 21st, 2010
Venue: Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja
Time: 10:00am prompt

2009 African of the Year Award

Date: Wednesday, January 20th, 2010
Venue: Congress Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja
Time: 7:00pm prompt

Watchout for details!

Kilimanjaro
The Pan-African Magazine for the Award to be launched same day



PHOTO: NAN

MEN of the Fire Service battling to put out fire on a car at Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos, at the weekend.

Police step-up counter terrorism efforts

By Misbahu Bashir

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Kidnapper nabbed as he collects ransom

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seven minutes as gun-totting plain-clothes officers bundled a young man into a grey coloured saloon car and drove away.

According to Alhaji Mohammed Musa Soba, a brother of the victim's mother, the suspect is known to the family and he sometimes takes the girl to the nearby Abumutali International Model School along Kabala Road, Tudun Wada. He said the alleged kidnapper had a minor disagreement with Zainab's father, Alhaji Murtala Adamu, and thereafter he kept away from the house.

A few days later, Soba said, Zainab went missing and Nurreini suddenly started coming to the house and was helping to trace her whereabouts. Two days after the incident, he said, the kidnappers called Murtala, demanding for a N5 million ransom. After negotiations, the kidnappers scaled down to N1 million, then to N500,000. Soba said the family mobilised N200,000 and handed it to the kidnappers without notifying the security agents, heeding the abductors' warning. However, he said the kidnappers kept demanding for the balance and they also arranged for a rendezvous where the money will change hands.

At this point, he said security men were told and plainclothes operatives flooded the entire Nasco Carpets vicinity. When Zainab's family brought the cash in a big envelope, Nuriemi came forward to collect it and security men swooped down on him and bundled him into a waiting car.

When *Daily Trust* visited the Kazir Close residence of the victim's parents, Alhaji Murtala was still at police headquarters, but Zainab's mother said her daughter had been released from Gwarmai in Bebeji Local Government of Kano State, where she was being held. Zainab was still with her father as at the time of this report.

Police Public Relations Officer, Kaduna State Command, ASP Aminu Lawal referred *Daily Trust* to the State Security Service.

A top source at the SSS who confirmed the story, said that both Nuriemi and his accomplice Musbau Raji have been apprehended.

Sultan condoles with IBB over Maryam

SULTAN of Sokoto Alhaji Muhammadu Sa'ad Abubakar has commiserated with former Military President General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida over the passing away of former First Lady Maryam Babangida.

In a condolence letter, the Sultan said "Mrs. (Dr.) Maryam Ibra-

him Badamasi Babangida was an accomplished leader who dedicated her life to promoting the welfare of women and the underprivileged; a pioneer and a committed champion of rural development in Nigeria; and a versatile educationist who established and sustained first-rate educational

institutions that provided quality tuition to a broad spectrum of students, both within and outside Nigeria.

He said the former first lady would be sorely missed not only by her immediate family, but by the nation as a whole and indeed by the large number of Nigerians

who had been touched by her kindness, generosity and innovative spirit. "May Allah (SWT) grand Your Excellency the fortitude to bear the irreparable loss and may He shower upon her, His mercy, blessings and forgiveness; and grant her Aljannatul Firdausi."

CJN's swearing-in confused me

Continued from page 1

president, had no statutory power to swear-in the new CJN.

He said, "We have lot of challenges. Look at what happened during the swearing-in of the Chief Justice of Nigeria. Before then, when we were confronted with that situation, few days to December 31st, the Thursday the Chief Justice of Nigeria was supposed to retire, we were worried. As a vice president, based on our laws I do not have any powers to swear-in the Chief Justice of Nigeria. It is a ceremonial responsibility and ceremonial functions are sometimes more serious than the real work we do. I do not have the powers to swear in the Chief Justice.

I was worried that if we get to that Thursday and the Chief Justice of Nigeria is not sworn-in, that means one arm of government has no leader and that would have been an invitation to chaos."

He added, "As at that time, even the lawyers around, because the tradition has been there for 51

years where Mr. President swears in the Chief Justice, no Nigerian or even senior lawyers cared to look at the other aspect of the law. In fact, I even had to approach the former Chief Justice, that look, I have the powers to extend your period of stay in the office, since I cannot swear-in a new Chief Justice. Can't I extend your stay in office so that there will be no vacuum? But he said it was not possible because the Constitution says at the age of 70 he must go."

Jonathan also said, "But he promised he was going to re-examine the laws. I got back to my office; I was terribly worried within that period. Few days to the time, the Attorney General came and showed me the Act that says either the President or the Chief Justice of the Federation can swear-in the new Chief Justice.

That law was there, but nobody saw it. So what I am saying is that as a nation, as individuals we might have challenges. Sometimes when we have major challenges it helps us to look more into our lives, look more into whatever

there is. Even as Christians there are times we think when things are going well, we think is because of your ability, your intelligence, your background, because of whatever.

You don't know it is the grace of God that those things are happening to you. Sometimes it is good to have challenges even as individuals. Even in sickness, I believe God wants to tell us that He is the only person who is keeping us alive, that whatever we are, it is by His grace."

The Vice President expressed optimism that Nigeria's challenges as a nation are not beyond God, saying God averted the confusion that the country might have found itself in when confronted with the challenge of the swearing-in of Justice Katsina-Alu.

The Vice President also said it was because Nigerians prayed that made God to turn the situation around. He thanked all Christians and Muslims for their support and prayers for President Yar'adua and the country in general. "So no matter the challenges

we have, with your prayers, surely this country will stabilize.

Whatever we are facing as a nation within this period is because God wants to tell us that he is in charge and that nobody, no human being is in charge. I want to sincerely thank you on behalf of the Government of Nigeria that you have been praying for Mr. President, the country and I pray that you continue to pray", he said.

In his sermon, Pastor Elijah Olukayode Daramola, whose message centred on grace, identified seven key roles which grace plays in the life of Christians. He urged Christians to shun unrighteousness in order to enjoy the sufficient grace which God has provided in the year 2010.

The vice president was accompanied to the service by his wife, Dame Patience Jonathan, his mother, Aviation Minister Babatunde Omotoba and his wife, former deputy speaker of the House of Representatives Chibudom Nwuche, and other government functionaries.

'Boarding primary schools will tackle low performance'

From Sharafa Dauda, Maiduguri

THE establishment of boarding primary schools by the Borno State Government across the three Senatorial zones in the state will boost the performance of candidates from the state who sit for national and regional exami-

nations, says the Special Adviser to the Borno State Governor on Information and Media Alhaji Shehu Mustapha Liberty.

Alhaji Liberty told our correspondent at the weekend that, "Government is building these schools so that we can have well-trained pupils with a very

good foundation. The schools will be built in remote areas like Magumeri, Abadam, Monguno, Kukawa, etc where people do not want to go to school.

You have to encourage them. So when you now take these schools to them, get these local governments to support these

boarding primary schools, at the end of the day, you will have a very good foundation.

You will have people who have been given the necessary training and upbringing.

Whatever you do, you will only be strengthening them. It is a long term investment so that oth-

ers can now come and continue. This is a capacity building thing. In fact if you look at it, this is perhaps the reason education today in Nigeria is in crisis at all levels and the primary level, which is the most important as the foundation is the responsibility of local governments."

PIC: NAN

Bayelsa to boost rice and fish farming

CHIEF Dikivie Ikiogha, the Bayelsa Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources has said that the state government will concentrate on fish farming and rice production.

Ikiogha told newsmen in Yenagoa at the weekend that those were the areas where the state had advantage over other states owing to its natural endowment.

The commissioner said the Peremabiri Rice Farm in Southern-Ijaw Local Government Area and the Abobiri Rice Farm had been revitalised.

He said that the Peremabiri Rice Farm, when in full operation, could sustain the West African sub-region, as it also planned to customise its rice for export. Ikiogha said that a team of Vietnamese officials were involved in a pilot scheme of cultivation of 20 hectares of rice at Igbogene.

He said that government also planned to go into massive fish farming, shrimp production, commercial poultry and piggery, as well as the establishment of a snailery.

"Plans are also underway to put the Epie Creek project stretching about 25 km into productive use, as well as other locations for the purpose of fish farming and tourist attraction," he said. He said that more than 40 burrow-pits had been acquired with 13 of them already stocked with fingerlings that would be due for harvesting by the end of the year.

Ikiogha said that government would also hand over the pits to local farmers to manage and pay a certain percentage of their profit to the state government. He said two out of the five fishing trawlers ordered by the state government for massive fish production had arrived.

Ikiogha said that a Green House of 90 hectares had been established in Ogbia for the production of fruits and vegetables to meet local demands as well as for export. (NAN)



FUN seekers enjoying themselves at the Lagos Bar Beach yesterday.

Primate Akinola tasks politicians on poverty alleviation

MOST Rev. Peter Akinola, Primate of the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion, on Saturday urged Nigeria's political leaders to work toward the reduction of poverty in the country. Akinola made the call in Ile-Ife during the interdenominational service held to commemorate the 80th birthday anniversary of the Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuwade, Olubuse II.

He noted that Nigeria had abundant resources that could be harnessed and used to enhance the citizens' living standards, adding that the bane of the country was crass mismanagement, corruption and other forms of malfeasance. "In the midst of abundance, Nigerians now use second-hand clothes, cars and other materials, as they cannot afford to purchase new products due to hardship," he said.

Akinola, however, warned those in authority to exhibit the fear of God in their daily interactions and repent from their evil ways to avoid God's wrath.

The primate extolled the virtues

of Sijuwade and urged him to move closer to God.

"You have accomplished your mission in life; if there is excess luggage, be it money, women, tradition or anything that can block your way to heaven, please let it go, shake it off, so that you can enjoy eternal life," Akinola said.

Dignitaries who attended the service include former President Olusegun Obasanjo, Minister of Youth Development Akinlabi Oluokunmi, Minister of State for Health A.I Hong and governors of Osun, Ondo, Oyo, Niger, Imo, Abia, Delta and Ekiti states.

The traditional rulers at the service include Otufuo Osei Tutu I, the Asantehene of Kumasi, Ghana, who chaired Saturday's event, and the Alake of Egba, Oba Adedotun Gbadebo.

The Soun of Ogbomoso, Oba Jimoh Ajagunbade III, the Deji of Akure, Oba Oluwadare Adepoju and the Osemawe of Ondo, Oba Victor Kiladejo, among other traditional rulers, also graced the occasion. Oba Sijuwade honoured 27 prominent Nigerians with the

chieftaincy titles. Gov. Mu'azu Aliyu of Niger was given the title of the "Agbayowa" of Ile-Ife, Gov. Ikedi Ohakim of Imo was installed as the "Temitope", while Sen. Jubril Aminu became the "Bobaselu" of Ile-Ife.

Gov. Theodor Orji of Abia was installed as the "Tobalase" of Ile-Ife, Sen. Iyabo Obasanjo-Bello was honoured with the title of "Yeyemekun", while a former military governor, Chief Theophilous Bamigboye, was installed as the "Jagunmolu" of Ile-Ife.

Speaking, Ohakim described Sijuwade as a true promoter of culture because he conferred chieftaincy titles on persons from different ethnic and cultural groups across the country.

The Imo governor said this at the Ooni's palace when he received the title of "Temitope", conferred on him by Sijuwade.

He said that Ooni was a keen follower of contemporary events in Nigeria, adding: "I say this because the meaning of my title is about thanking God for overcoming the enemies. (NAN)

'Rename FUT Minna after Maryam'

SEN. Isah Mohammed on Saturday urged the Federal Government to rename the Federal University of Technology, Minna, after the late Maryam Babangida in view of her contributions to the emancipation of rural women. Mohammed made the call in Minna while speaking with journalists after the seventh-day prayers held for the repose of the soul of Maryam. He noted that the former First Lady lived a life of exemplary service to the country, particularly the womenfolk. "Her pet programme, 'Better Life for Rural Women', was all encompassing. It was not only for rural women alone but for all women, men and children in Nigeria and also in Africa," he said.

Mohammed, who is the Waziri Nupe, said that the programme brought women issues into limelight, while sensitising the women to their roles in the society and their rights. "In order not to allow these condolence visits to become mundane, the Federal Government should immortalise Maryam Babangida by renaming FUT, Minna, after her," he said. (NAN)

Onaiyekan calls for free and fair elections in 2011

MOST Rev John Onaiyekan, President of Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) has urged the Federal Government to ensure free and fair elections in 2011.

Onaiyekan made the call in Abuja yesterday.

He said Nigerian leaders should understand the meaning of power and make elections free and fair, adding that politicians and Nigerians in general should

have a change in attitude and understand that power was meant for the service of the people and not for selfish interests.

"We need to change in the right direction, if we don't, we will continue to fumble around.

"We should also decide that honesty is the best policy which means we should stop the politics of lying and deceiving the poor people and telling lies," Onai-

yekan, who is the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, said.

"Rigging elections, giving victories to those who have lost elections, changing figures up and down and recording results where no elections took place, that is not going to carry us far.

"As far as we continue to deal with elections like that, we will continue to have difficulties in good governance because by their

fruit we shall know them," he said.

The archbishop expressed optimism that 2011 would be better than 2007, 2003 and 1993, noting that "if it were to be better, it means we are going to do things differently.

He said whoever is responsible for rigging should be identified and sent to jail, "if there is no room for it in the electoral law, they should make room for it in

the constitution," he said.

"These are the issues we should be addressing in 2010. It is not that I want people to be sent to jail, no, I want elections to be conducted in a free and fair manner.

"So that finally, Nigeria can start moving democratically and have her rightful place in the comity of nations and in the leadership of Africa," he said. (NAN)

Ex-PPA boss condoles with IBB

By Muideen Olaniyi

A former Governor of Cross River State and former National Chairman of Progressive Peoples Alliance (PPA), Clement Ebri yesterday condoled the ex-military President Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida over the death of his wife, Mrs Maryam Babangida.

Ebri, in a tribute message, expressed shock and a deep sense of national loss over the news of the unfortunate demise of the former First Lady at the age of 61.

He noted that Maryam's role as the founder and chairperson of the Better Life for Rural women programme became the benchmark for measuring the social relevance of the office of First Lady.

He said all subsequent First Ladies have had to find relevance through the identification of some good cause to champion and advocate, saying that they (other First Ladies) have merely added appendices and footnotes to the monumental legacy she left behind.

He said: "Mrs. Babangida goes down in our national history as one woman who saw the elevated position of First Lady as an opportunity to do something socially beneficial and transformative. For the first time in our history, the previously ceremonial position of First Lady was courageously converted into a weapon of social transformation.

"Mrs. Babangida did not allow her high social standing and political vantage position to blind her to the reality of poverty and neglect in the nation's vast rural areas. For her, the poverty and regrettable neglect of the Nigerian rural women was a national challenge requiring urgent redress," he further observed.

While joining other Nigerians in condoling the Babangida family on the sad loss, he prayed God to grant her gentle soul the rest.

He expressed hope that the massive turnout of sympathizers should lighten the burden and give the Babangida family the courage to bear the inevitable void that the death left on the life of the family.



AN articulated vehicle that had an accident and blocked the Apapa Oshodi Express way in Lagos yesterday

PIC: NAN

DG NACA promises adequate information on HIV/AIDS

PROF. John Idoko, Director-General, National Agency for the Control of AIDS (NACA), has said that the organisation's National Call Centre for information access will be ready by March.

Idoko, who made the disclosure in Abuja to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), said the centre would enable Nigerians to get adequate information on HIV and AIDS.

"The aim is to make it easier for Nigerians to access information on HIV and AIDS and the calls are going to be free.

"We have procured an E1 line that is capable of handling 30 simultaneous voice calls and two data lines.

"The centre has the potential for 30 counsellors to talk to 30 callers simultaneously," he said.

Idoko told NAN that NACA

would collaborate with the FRCN network to ensure the success of the project.

He explained that the partnership would enable Nigerians to have access to necessary information and added callers who would opt for privacy would not be connected to the network.

He said the agency was also collaborating with another network to ensure adequate publicity and success of the project,

and therefore, urged all other networks to join in the initiative.

"To receive counselling, referral services, know the nearest place for treatment, you can call on the numbers.

"Since we are looking forward to an integrated programme, issues on reproductive health, TB (tuberculosis) and malaria are the things we would expand the scopes of the project to cover," Idoko said. (NAN)

Bomb suspect may not have begun trip in Ghana

A Nigerian charged with trying to blow up a U.S. passenger jet on Christmas Day may not have begun his journey in Ghana, a Ghanaian airport official said on Saturday.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab had been thought to have started his journey on December 24, taking a Lagos-Amsterdam flight, but Nigeria said on Thursday he had first flown from Accra to Lagos.

Abdulmutallab, 23, has been

charged with trying to blow up Northwest Airlines flight 253 as it approached Detroit from Amsterdam with almost 300 people on board.

"The fact that he possibly boarded a Virgin Nigeria flight from Accra to Lagos does not mean he began his journey in Ghana as is being claimed by some officials in Nigeria," said Yaw Kwakwa, deputy managing director of Ghana Airports.

Nigerian Information Min-

ister Dora Akunyili said on Thursday the suspect took a Virgin Nigeria flight from Accra to Lagos before boarding a KLM flight from there to Amsterdam. He began his journey in Ghana and spent less than 30 minutes at Lagos airport, she said.

He changed planes at Amsterdam's Schiphol airport and flew to Detroit. Nigerian and Dutch officials have said he passed through the normal security screenings at Lagos and Schiphol airports.

"We realised (he) probably could have been in Ghana... so we heightened our security checks, but that does not mean he began his plans from Ghana," Kwakwa said.

Ghana tightened security checks at Accra's Kotoka International Airport the day after Abdulmutallab's arrest, Kwakwa said, but no decision had been taken on whether to use body scanners. Explosives were found strapped to his leg. Reuters

PIC: NAN



FROM left: Deputy Governor of Lagos State, Princess Sarah Adebisi Sosan, wife of General Overseer, Redeemed Christian Church of God, Mrs Folu Adebayo, the General Overseer, Pastor Enock Adebayo, Governor Babatunde Fashola of Lagos State, his wife, Abimbola and former Governor of the state, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, at the 2010 annual thanksgiving service for the state in Lagos yesterday.

'Quelea birds abound in Sokoto'

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

QUELEA birds are too many in Sokoto and more needs to be done to eradicate them, the Director of Produce in the state Ministry of Agriculture Alhaji Atiku Ladan Sayinna has said.

He said this after the aerial spray of Quelea birds in Wurno and Goronyo areas of the state. The exercise was carried out by officials of the Federal and state Ministries of Agriculture.

"The Federal Government has always assisted the state in the control of the birds, but I want to say that the situation is getting out of hand and we need more chemicals to ensure effective control because there are too many", he said.

The Zonal Field Control Officer of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture in charge of Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara States who led the team said, "The number of birds we saw there is unbelievable. The birds are too many, but we can assure you that this action taken by the government would reduce the population of Quela birds there".

Borno judiciary workers call-off strike

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

THE Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN), Borno State chapter has called-off the two month old strike embarked upon by judiciary workers across the country over the non implementation of the Consoli-

dated Judiciary Salary Structure (CONJUSS) by many state governors.

The chairman of the state chapter Isiaku Jaafar who spoke with our correspondent at the weekend said Governor Ali Modu Sheriff had approved the implementation of the salary

structures with effect from this month, urging all its members to resume work today.

"The governor has included the new salary structure in the budget presented to the state House of Assembly and is awaiting approval. So after due consultation, we decided to suspend the

two months old strike" he said.

It would be recalled that judiciary workers across the country in October last year embarked on an indefinite strike over the refusal of some states governors to implement the new salary structure approved by the Federal Government.

Funding of education appalling-NIPSS DG

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Director General of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru in Plateau State Professor Danfulani Ahmed has said that funding of education in the country is appalling.

Professor Danfulani who said this in Ilorin, Kwara State while speaking on a Radio Kwara per-

sonality interview programme. "Playing Host" said it would be a good idea if the Federal Government could set aside between N100 and N200 billion as a suspended account for education in the country.

He said the money could be used to pay lecturers' salaries, provide infrastructures and also take care of the needs of students.

Professor Danfulani who also

lamented that presently Nigerian degrees were like ordinary pieces of papers said the suspended account if well utilized would boost the quality of degrees awarded by the nation's institutions and improve the skills of graduates.

He said there was no nation in the world that would be better than Nigeria if the leaders and followers were committed

to its development. Speaking on the activities of NIPSS, Danfulani said at inception in 1979, it had only twelve participants, but today, it had produced 3340 including three past Heads of State and first class traditional rulers. Professor Danfulani commended the Federal Government for setting aside a substantial amount to run the institute in the 2010 budget.

Islamic group gives female students scholarships

From Yemi Bamidele, Ibadan

AN Islamic group, Muslim Ummah in South West Nigeria (MUSWEN) has awarded scholarship to six female undergraduates studying Medicine in tertiary institutions across the country with a view to reducing the

dearth of female Muslim medical personnel. While maintaining that the scholarship award shall be on a yearly basis, the Executive Secretary of MUSWEN Prof. Daud Noibi said the award was instituted by MUSWEN to encourage Muslim girls contribute their quota to

the advancement of the society.

He said the scholarship was facilitated by the Sultan of Sokoto Alhaji Abubakar Sa'ad in the bid to promote girl-child education and to reduce illiteracy and ignorance among the women folk.

Noibi noted that the Sultan

had at the launch of MUSWEN in 2007 urged Muslims groups and philanthropists to empower the girl-child through proper education.

He said the awardees were selected from a list of 100 applicants. He enjoined the beneficiaries to live up to expectation.

6 Sokoto state pilgrims died during 2009 Hajj in Saudi Arabia

ALHAJI Abdullahi Maigwandu, the Special Adviser to Sokoto State Governor on Pilgrims Affairs has said that six of the 6,750 Muslim pilgrims from the state in the 2009 Hajj died in Saudi Arabia.

The official said in Sokoto yesterday that four died in Makkah and two in Medinah. He also said that those who died were men and that they were buried in the places they died according to the directives of Saudi Arabian authorities. The official said that out of 7,000 people, who paid their Hajj fares, 250 could not travel to Saudi Arabia due to the reduction of seats allotted to the state by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria.

"Those seats were reduced from the allocation of the state by the Commission following the directive by the Saudi Arabian authorities during the Hajj," Maigwandu said, and added that all the state's pilgrims had been transported home. He commended Gov. Aliyu Wamakko for his financial and moral support which ensured the success of the pilgrimage and also commended the Federal Government for its contributions to the success of the pilgrimage.

"If this is done, almost all the problems associated with the conduct of the annual Hajj will be solved," he noted. (NAN)

Fake DPR staff nabbed in Kaduna

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

A man who claimed to be a staff of the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), Rabiul Abdullahi, was at the weekend arrested in Kaduna State while trying to extort money from operators of the Kabee Filling station.

Abdullahi who claimed to be a 200-level student of the Kaduna State Polytechnic, Zaria was at the

same filling station some weeks ago and he was given N10,000 after he introduced himself as a DPR staff.

The station manager, Mansur Ibrahim, said when Abdullahi first came to their station, he introduced himself as a DPR official and that he needed money because his wife had a problem which required operation.

"When he came the second

time after some weeks, he told us the same thing and that if we assist him, we can be selling our fuel at any price and this is why I suspected that he was impersonating. So I drew the attention of the DPR office and the police," he said.

The cab driver who took the suspect to the petrol station told our correspondent that the impostor told him that he was going to Kaduna to see someone

and agreed to pay N1,200 for the trip.

"When we reached the station, he told me to park and he rushed inside the station. When I asked for my money, he told me to be patient that the person he came to see will bring the money," he said.

The suspect said he was simply asking for help, not impersonating DPR as claimed by the station

manager.

Head of Public Affairs of the Kaduna Zonal office of DPR Mohammed Saidu Bulama said they had been getting reports of impersonation from filling station owners since the fuel scarcity started.

He advised station managers to insist on seeing the Identity Cards of all DPR staff that come to them.

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE



WHEEL barrow pushers awaiting returnee passengers at Utako motor park, Abuja, yesterday.

Doma condoles IBB

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

NASARAWA State Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma has condoled former President Ibrahim Babangida over the death of his wife, Maryam.

In a condolence letter to the former president at the weekend, Governor Doma expressed shock over the death, describing Maryam as an icon who impacted positively on the lives of Nigerians, particularly the less privileged, women and children through her pet project, Better Life for Rural Women.

Doma added that the late Mrs. Babangida was an epitome of personal candor, charm and humility who brought dignity to the office of the First Lady.

The governor said the death was a monumental loss, not only to the Babangida family, but Nigeria as a nation. He urged the former president to take solace in the worthy life she lived and the indelible footprints she left behind and prayed Allah to comfort and give him the fortitude to bear the loss.



GOV Aliyu Akwe Doma of Nasarawa State

'Only first timers'll perform next hajj'

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

SEVENTY per cent of the pilgrims who will perform next year's hajj in Saudi Arabia are those who have never done it and that was probably why Saudi authorities insisted on the usage of e-passports by all pilgrims for the just-concluded hajj, Director General of the Kano State Pilgrims' Welfare Board Alhaji Sani Lawan Kofar Mata has said.

Kofar Mata told newsmen in Kano at the weekend that it was Saudi government's resolution that at least 70% of pilgrims for next year's hajj would be people who have never performed the exercise. He said Saudi authorities observed that more than half of the pilgrims who performed hajj every year had done it several times and it was only fair to give first timers a chance.

He said the e-passport did not

pose any problem contrary to the fears earlier expressed before the start of the hajj operations in Nigeria. He said the travel document was only used for entry into the holy land, saying the passport attachment introduced by the National Hajj Commission of Nigeria (NAHCON) was issued to pilgrims for local movements in Mecca and Medina.

On pilgrims' conduct in the holy land, Kofar Mata said pil-

grims' officials encountered a lot of problem while screening female pilgrims to identify the pregnant ones and ensure that they do not perform the exercise. But according to him, pregnant women deceived medical doctors assigned to screen them as they often submitted the wrong urine samples.

He maintained that the decision to ban all pregnant women from hajj was based on health grounds.

Kwara to retire 471 officers

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State Head of Service Alhaji Dabarako Mohammed yesterday said in line with the Federal Government's

civil service reforms, the state would this month retire 471 officers.

Dabarako said while fielding questions from newsmen that the affected officers include senior civil servants

among whom are permanent secretaries who have spent eight years on levels 14 to 17.

To fill the space that would be created, he said the state governor had approved the recruitment of 1,000 persons.

He maintained that those concerned would be given three months in lieu of notice. He added that the present administration would ensure that civil servants are trained in various relevant fields.

Terror attack: Lawyer wants fair trial for suspect

By Abbas Jimoh

THE United States has been urged to ensure fair trial for Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab who is being charged with trying to bomb a US passenger plane on Christmas day.

Making the call in Abuja, former spokesman of the Muslim Lawyers Association of Nigeria (MULAN), Abuja Branch, Barrister Luqman Jamiu Ahmad said the suspect

should also be allowed access to lawyers.

Barrister Ahmad, who is also the General Secretary of the Islamic Dawah Group (IDG), spoke during the Friday Khutbah (sermon) at the just concluded 13th Islamic Dawah Vacation Course (IDVC) themed "Rejuvenating the Golden Past" at Kubwa, Abuja.

While expressing reservations that Farouk could have been a mastermind of

the alleged bombing plot, Barrister Ahmad said, "There are questions that must be answered by his accusers, how can Farouk succeed in beating the security personnel and equipments without being detected; his father had reported he was missing for over a month before he was paraded as a suspected terrorist; this among others give room for suspicion, who knows if Americans wanted to invade Nigeria the way it

was done to Afghanistan and Iraq on flimsy and baseless excuses or they wanted to achieve another aim elsewhere and Farouk to be used as a scapegoat?"

He said, "What we heard is that he may be arraigned in a military tribunal after failing to arraign him in courts, it is also condemnable that he has been denied access to his lawyers against the US and international laws and provisions," he said.

PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU



FROM Left: Reverend Ademowo, the General Overseer, The Redeemed Evangelical Mission (TREM), Bishop Mike Okonkwo, Bishop Okoduva and the General Overseer of FourSquare Gospel Mission Reverend Wilson Badejo, at the 2010 annual thanksgiving service held in Lagos House, yesterday.

Nigerian students condemn foiled US terror act

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE National President of the National Association of Nigeria Students (NANS) Comrade Ini Ememobong has said the alleged attempt to blow up a US passenger plane by a Nigerian does not reflect the attitude of a true Nigerian student.

Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, is being charged with trying to bomb the US plane, which took off from Amsterdam on Christmas day.

Speaking with newsmen in Abuja, Ememobong said Nigerian students have always been good ambassadors

of Nigeria and appealed to the international community to avoid any action that will tarnish the image of Nigerians.

He said: "It is really sad and what concerns us as NANS is that the action should not be viewed that 'oh this is a representation of a Nigerian student. No! This is a distance case. This is a small case which cannot represent the whole."

"Over the years we've had Nigerian students studying abroad who have come back to become very great people. Some have stayed back in their host countries and have done greatly.

We have Nigerian students who are making the mark the world over.

"So we are advising and urging the world not to do a wide misrepresentation which will begin to affect others. We have begun to hear some suggestions that more restrictions should be made as to student visas," he stated.

The NANS President added: "The international community should note, like they know, that most of the higher learning classes of their institutions, most masters' class are dominated up to 60 per cent by Nigerians and that is helping the world in no small measure.

Kano parents decry deviant attitudes amongst youths

PARENTS in Kano have decried increasing deviant attitudes among the youth and many blame the situation on access to the Internet and satellite television.

Malam Salihu Ahmad, a resident of Gwangwazo quarters in Kano City, said youths had unrestrained access to foreign values through the Internet.

He noted that the government in collaboration with parents must

check the trend and prevent young people from becoming radicals.

Alhaji Umar Muhammad of Farawa area of the city said "I face a lot of problem controlling my five male children because of peer influence."

He said all his children were male and keeping them at home was a very difficult task, adding that they behaved in ways that conformed to the attitudes of their friends.

Another resident, Malam Habibu Isma'il, described the situation as "very disturbing", saying that youngsters, especially boys, preferred football and other naughty behaviour to study.

He however advised parents to join hands and watch over their children for effective results rather than allow them to be formed by outside influence. (NAN)

3 die during New Year celebration in Lagos

THE Lagos State police command on Sunday said that although the New Year holidays were crime and crisis free, three deaths were recorded.

Mr Frank Mba, the command Public Relations Officer (PPRO), disclosed this yesterday.

Mba said the deaths were recorded from accidents and fire outbreak.

According to Mba, there were three fire incidents and an 85-year-old woman was allegedly choked to death in her family house on January 2 by one of these.

He said that the woman's death was recorded at about 11.30 am at No. 14, Odugate Street, Aga, Ikorodu, adding that a lady who sustained injuries during this fire outbreak was taken to hospital.

Mba said that that the deceased was buried same

day according to Muslim's rite, stressing that the fire was suspected to have been caused by candle light.

The PPRO said that two other fire outbreaks were recorded in Victoria Island and Itire areas without loss of life.

Mba said that on New Year day, a yet to be identified driver ran over a two-year-old boy at Maryland area and the boy died on the spot.

He said that another person lost his life on the same day as he was hit by a car while on a commercial motorcycle with two other passengers.

Mba said that the deceased died in hospital while his co-passengers were responding to treatment.

Mba warned motorists against overloading and driving against traffic. (NAN)

Permsec advocates resource mapping for development

PERMANENT Secretary of the Federal Health Ministry Mr Linus Awute yesterday in Abuja stressed the need to embrace resource mapping in order to accelerate economic development.

Awute said that the initiative would help Nigerians appreciate the value of resources in the country.

He said: "We have not taken time as a nation to appreciate the value of the resources that we have."

"The only time to show appreciation to the resources that we have is when we go into deliberate resource mapping."

"The greatest resource and the one that constitutes instrument for economic development is the human resource."

Awute described resource mapping as a method of collating and plotting information on the

occurrence, distribution, access and use of resources within the economic and cultural domain of a specific community.

He urged Nigerians to always think of what they could do to add value to the nation's vision rather than focus only on what they could get out of it.

"Look at the vision of the nation and think about what to contribute that will add value to what government is doing to achieve this vision."

"Those of us who are in the public sector have the responsibility of giving the right integration for the economic vision of this nation," Awute said.

He stressed the need for Nigerians to have the right attitude and mindset for the development of the country. (NAN)

Aku Uka loses brother

By Shehu Abubakar

THE death has been announced of Mallam Shuaibu Shishi Angyu Masa-Ibi of Wukari in Taraba State.

Mr Abdulmumin Sangari of the International Institute of Journalism, Abuja said Mallam Shaibu died after a protracted illness in his hometown, Wukari. He is a holder of the National Civil War Medal and other military honours.

Born on March 15,

1945, Mallam Shuaibu was the District Head of Wukari. The deceased who was the younger brother to the traditional ruler of Wukari, the Aku Uka of Wukari, Mallam Shekarau Angyu Masa-Ibi Kinda-Kuyyo 11, is survived by 3 wives and 25 children.

The retired Army officer and one time Private Secretary to the Wukari traditional council, has since been buried in accordance with Islamic rights.

Prince will to head Rivers Traditional Rulers Council

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

RIVERS State Governor Chibuike Amaechi has approved the appointment of the Amanyanabo of Kalabari King Theophilus Princewill as the new chairman of the state council of traditional rulers.

This follows the expiration of a two term tenure of

Eze Chukumela Nnam Obi II, the Oba of Ogbaland.

Governor Amaechi who announced the appointment in Port Harcourt at the annual state banquet to usher in the New Year said the decision was in compliance with the law establishing the Traditional Rulers Council which stipulates a one year renewable tenure.

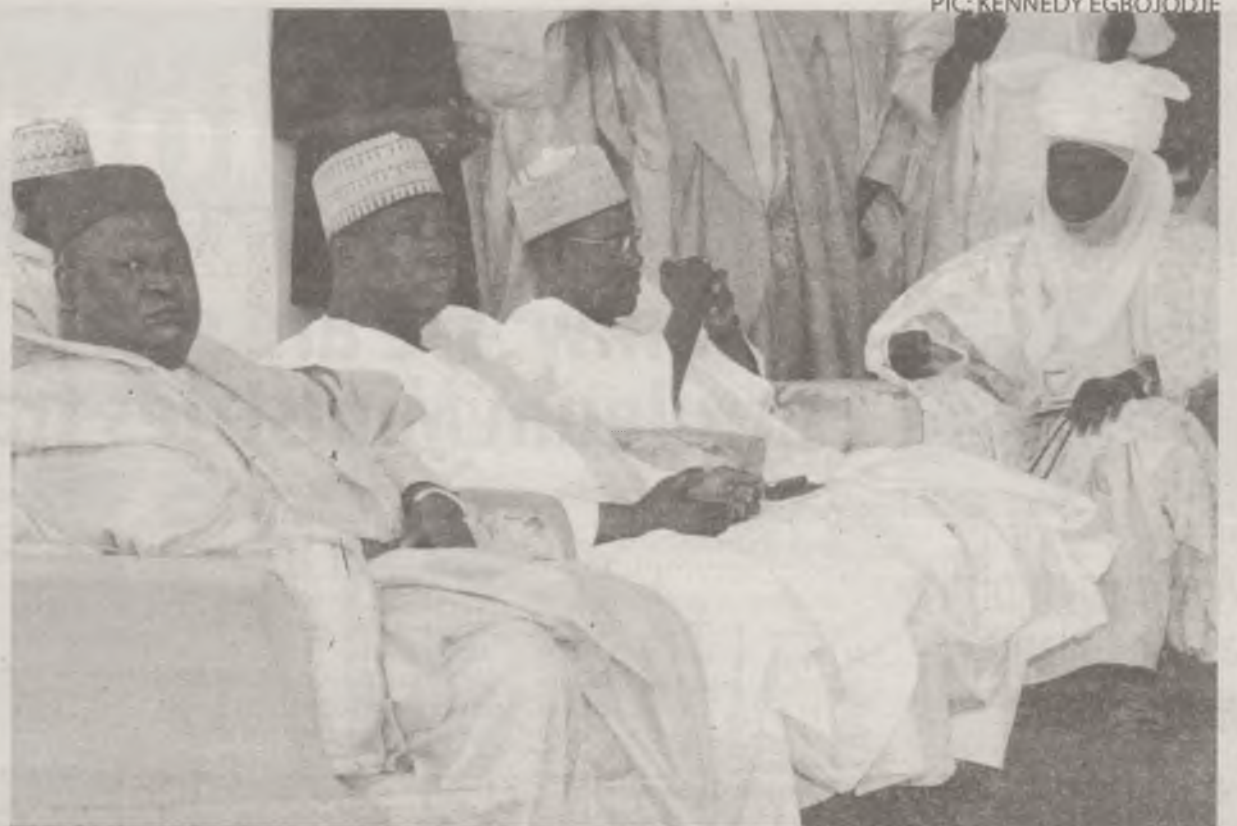
Emir of Kano to commission mosque in Auchi

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

EMIR of Kano Alhaji Ado Bayero is to commission the Arafat mosque in Auchi, Edo State, Friday. The ceremony is part of activities to mark this year's Auchi Day.

A statement signed by Alhaji Usman Abudah on behalf of the Oturu of Auchi Alhaji Aliru H. Momoh, Ikelebe 111 said this year's Auchi Day celebration which is the 13th edition was shifted from December to January to coincide with the commemoration of the national Qur'an recitation competition.

The occasion will include a lecture titled 'Basic Facts about the Glorious Qur'an' by the Chief Imam of Auchi and the Dean of the Faculty of Arts University of Ilorin Professor Zakariya Oseni. Edo State Governor Adams Oshiomhole is the Chief Host while the Speaker of the Edo State House of Assembly Zakawanu Garba is expected to be the host.



PIC: KENNEDY EGROJODJE

FROM left: Former House of Representatives Speaker Pius Anyim, Nasarawa State Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma, Niger State deputy governor Ahmed Musa Ibeto and Emir of Minna Alhaji Umar Faruk Bahago (right) at the 7th day prayers for late Mrs Maryam Babangida in Minna, Niger State on Saturday.

Displaced Nasarawa community residents return home

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

RESIDENTS of Udeni Gida community of Nasarawa Local Government Area of Nasarawa State who left the village following a clash between farmers and cattle rearers on December 18, 2009 have started returning home. This comes as the state government invests N23 million to provide relief for the people.

Over 70 persons including women and children were

said to have been killed in the clash before the Army and police were deployed to the area. Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma who led a team to the community last week called on the people to return and rebuild, saying government had made arrangements to provide relief and security.

"I commend the efforts of public spirited individuals and organizations who have heeded to the call to help the people in their moment of distress", he said.

Federal Poly Bauchi gets new Rector

From Muhammad Abubakar, Bauchi

THE Federal Government has approved the appointment of Dr. Shuaibu Muhammad Musa of the Agricultural Engineering Programme of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi as the new Rector of The Federal Polytechnic, Bauchi.

A 1981 graduate of Agricultural Technology from the University of Maiduguri, Dr. Shuaibu Musa obtained Masters and Doctorate degrees in Agricultural Soil and Water Engineering and Irrigation Engineering from the Cranfield Institute of Technology in the United Kingdom.

A statement signed by Abubakar El-Sadiq on behalf of the Registrar of the institution said Dr Shuaibu Musa is a fellow of the Nigerian Society of Engineers and Nigerian Institution of Agricultural Engineers. The new Rector

joined the University of Maiduguri as a Graduate Assistant in 1982 and rose to the position of senior lecturer before his appointment as Rector of the Bauchi State owned

Abubakar Tafari Ali Polytechnic, where he served between 1997 and 1998:

In 1998, Dr. Shuaibu Musa was appointed Commissioner for Education. He later returned to the Tafari Ali Polytechnic as Rector till 2005. Until his appointment Dr. Musa who is an Associate Professor was the Head of the Agricultural Engineering Programme of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi where he has been supervising Masters and Doctoral candidates since 2005.

The new Rector was born on January 5th, 1958 in Dogonjeji village of Jama'are Local Government Area of Bauchi State. His appointment which is for four years takes immediate effect.

KOBA concludes prayers for Yar'adua

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE prayer/fasting organized by the Keffi Old Boys Association (KOBA) led by the Emir of Keffi Alhaji Mohammed Chindo Yamusa for the quick recovery of President Yar'adua came to an end at the weekend with the emir expressing optimism that the two week supplications

would not be in vain.

President Yar'adua who is still receiving treatment in Saudi Arabia was a student of the school between 1965 and 1969. KOBA President retired Major General Emmanuel Abisoye was not at the prayer session, but the acting President General Alhaji Muhammadu Ari Gwaska and the Secretary General Shamsudeen Abubakar were present.

The emir called on Nigerians to continue to pray, saying nothing was impossible for Allah.

"The Almighty listens to prayers and I believe strongly that He will not let us down," he said.

Acting President General Gwaska said the programme was also organized to seek God's intervention for the country.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



SHUAIBU Amodu

Amodu optimistic as Eagles land in S/Africa

I have gone through the Shuaibu Amodu released 24-member Eagles team list to Angola. I observed that a prolific striker and the hope of Nigeria in the tournament as well as the World Cup which is to come is missing. I am wondering why Ikechukwu Uche who plays well alongside his brother Kalu Uche is not on that list. Is it that the skilful striker is injured or what is it that is wrong with him at the moment that necessitated his not being included in the team?

Comfort Lawal
c_eneke@yahoo.com

Mother of blind baby struggles to see gov's wife

This shows how our health care system has really decayed. Our leaders should do something urgent because going abroad for their treatment will not stop them from dying.

Faisal
imam484@yahoo.com

Nigerian doctor 'impregnated girls and sold the babies'

This Nigeria born doctor impregnating girls and selling their babies is the most wicked act I have ever heard of. He should face all the charges as enumerated.

Shaq Sani
shaqsani68@yahoo.com

SAN rationalises Kutigi's swearing-in of Katsina-Alu

No amount of rationalization can explain, solve, displace or replace the convention in the Nigerian legal system and the convention is that the president swears in a new Chief Justice of the Federation. Indeed majority of the associate judges of the Supreme Court stayed away from the swearing ceremony, because they know that in procedural law, legislations are of less importance as a guide, than the general conventions, which are norms & legal customs that guard our practice of constitutional law in Nigeria.

Nasiru Suwaid
nasirusuwaid@gmail.com

6,000mw: We are sorry, VP says - Power, Petroleum Ministries trade blames

We are tired of empty promises. **Goni**
igmyesmi2005@yahoo.com

At least a government in Nigeria is accepting blame for its failure. Apology accepted but we shall not accept another apology by 2011...and Mr Minister, just apologize. There's no need to trade blames.

Mustapha Garba
mustaphaabdullahi79@yahoo.com

It is still unbelievable that the Federal Government could not to meet up to its promises. What does it take meet the yearnings of the masses? I believe it is the selfish interest of very few individuals that is making this a pipe dream.

Umar Chawai
umarahm@mtnnigeria.net

Thank you, Mr Vice President for your show of maturity, your magnanimity and courage in apologizing on behalf of the government. God will help you achieve better results next time because it seems you have a sincere heart. Others would have been trading blame like the Power and Petroleum ministries. It is clear that they are the ones frustrating Nigerians and your efforts. There is hope that things will certainly change in Nigeria sooner than later. May God help us!!

Aji Isuwa Suleiman
suleimanaji@yahoo.com

We can accept the honest apology

tendered by our sick President but the trading of blames by the Power and Petroleum Ministries is unacceptable.

Generally, people who steal mandates may never be able to deliver good services to the people because they do not owe them any responsibilities. The people of Brazil are now worried because the tenure of their productive President is just one year left with one of them complaining that "if the tenure of the President ends by next year can the new leader maintain the level of development brought by the out-going President?". That is what true service in leadership means.

Engr. Baba Shehu
bashehu@yahoo.com

At least somebody has owned up. That is being responsive.

Chris
chadebola@yahoo.com

I am not perplexed by the inability of the Federal Government to meet the 6000 mega watts target. This is what I've expected from the start.

Nuhu M.K
babsnuhu@gmail.com

Well, that is Nigeria for you once again; a country where trading blames is a more favored option rather than proffering solutions. Nigerians deserve more than they are getting. Why can't we simply pinpoint the source of a problem then talk more of the solution to the problem? If both



VICE President Goodluck Jonathan

parties cannot resolve the faults, let them be reshuffled. Nigerians are tired of unwarranted excuses. It is time to put capable hands in charge of our affairs.

Feka Paschal
fekapaschal@yahoo.com

Apology certainly is good but in this case, it is not enough because Nigerians have been taken for granted for too long.

Prof. M. Garba
magakatagum@yahoo.com

You don't need to apologize, Mr

Vice President. Nigerians did not even believe the promise in the first instance.

JK Hamza
donsel10@yahoo.com

The Vice President, Goodluck Jonathan, has shown his true quality as a servant of the Nigerian people by tendering this apology. Their administration should be forgiven by Nigerians and we should look forward to the efforts being made in this respect.

Mohammed Alimu
m.alimu@yahoo.com

The tragedy of the Mutallabs

Great piece! ...Really enlightening.

I know Farouk believed he was doing the right thing and that everyone would not understand. It's a tragedy how he got to that state of mind. I'm sure the older more educated terrorists found it easy to manipulate someone searching for answers. Do they also believe they are on the right path? Is suicide in Islam?

Farouk has been given a second chance. I hope that moving forward on his experiences would

lead him back from the abyss he is presently in.

Aliyu Ndanusa
aliyundamusa2002@yahoo.com

I go with the last statement. By virtue of myself being a patient of Clinical Bipolar since 2000 till date. I can say with zero fear of contradiction that his action is a product of chronic depression (while in that stage you think of suicide). Hence, from my own point of view, the Taliban must have taken advantage of that. I am

with him in my prayers.

Mikail Daya
mikaildaya@yahoo.com

You cannot say he is not a criminal. He has gone and wasted the little good will left towards Nigerians. He was loved, cared for and pampered. He could have got the best of both worlds as he has never known what hunger is and as a result had the chance to pray to the almighty Allah. Now he doesn't even have the chance to do basic ibadah (pray five times

a day, talk less of getting the congregational prayers) I do hope that we will all learn a big lesson from this and I also have to commiserate with those of us who for one reason or the other have to go through the U.K or U.S airports as we will have to undergo serious security checks. This is a big tragedy for Nigerian Muslims, Nigerian Muslim leaders and our political leadership as a whole.

Babagana Mohammed
bgmodee@hotmail.com

Yar'adua: Criminal gang governs Nigeria illegally, says NDM



PRESIDENT Yar'adua

Which media outfit said Yar'adua never signed the budget? I saw it with my eyes on a Saudi Television (KSA2) news headline on Tuesday. It read: Nigeria president signs budget in Saudi hospital.

Umar Ali
umarali2@gmail.com

What does National Democratic Movement (NDM) want to tell us? Mr President is not in King Faisal Hospital and Research Centre in Jeddah? The 2009 Supplementary Appropriation Bill wasn't signed?

Moukhtar Khaliel G
unclek1@hotmail.com



By Peter Alexander Egom

Ibrahim Tahir: Mallam of Mallams (II)

Cont'd. from last Friday.

But have mercy on this 21 year old! The new world of imperial Cambridge was so overwhelmingly tempting that I did not even want to try to resist the worldly things that it had to offer me. And so, month by month, I soon found myself drifting and floating away from my erstwhile Roman Catholic ethical and religious moorings as I dug into the worldly freedom of Cambridge. I had been brought up to believe in the Blessed Trinity and to attend mass every Sunday and on every holy day of obligation. But, within twelve months, the powerful lure of the very irreligious and very secular air of Cambridge had turned me into a secular reed shaken by the wind and with no clear spiritual anchor to steady my life. I had simply been derailed by Cambridge into a spiritual mess. And it was only some thirty years after my going

“He was, indeed, a consummate actor and an impresario, to boot,

down from Cambridge that God gave me the grace to crawl out of that spiritual mess and to recover my faith in Christ.

But, this was not a problem that I could broach with Ibrahim ben Tahir then or later when I got to know him better. And, this was so for two reasons. One, he was of the Muslim faith. And, two, my close study of his religious comings and goings at that time told me that secular Britain was also making serious inroads into his Islamic religious piety. But, he seemed to have rebounded earlier than I did. For, by May 1974 when I was his guest, also at Kings where he was now doing a PhD in Social Anthropology on Islamic Sufism in Nigeria, Ibrahim ben Tahir was all *Allahu Akbar* every so often.

However, Ibrahim ben Tahir was immensely relevant to me in regard to the second matter that required me to declare my stand in October 1964. The issue here was whether I should choose to become a British cultural toady or to be a full-blooded Nigerian of Igbo ethnic and cultural origin; whether I should be an urban-and-British-centred and outward-looking Nigerian or to be a village-and-Nigeria-centred and inward-looking Nigerian. For, in my youthful colonial years, mainly at rural Nsukka in Eastern Nigeria, I had been brought up to look at Britain as the be-all and end-all of human civilization and of whatever one could desire to be in life. The implication of this was that I was made to look down on everything native, Nigerian and African and to look up to everything foreign and British. But, in the twelve months of my first year at Cambridge, I began to see, to my utter distress and embarrassment, that the colonial propaganda of see Britain and die was a colossal exercise in deception. And, so, if the Britain that colonial and post-colonial propaganda had led

me to believe should be at the centre of my social, economic, political and cultural life soon turned out, under my close gaze and experience, to be an old tired empire that was falling apart at all of its seams, what then was I supposed to do? Britain, I felt, had simply betrayed my trust. And I now found myself in a big spot of trouble with regard to my cultural anchor and bearings and what should be the social be-all and end-all of what I should desire to be in life. And, it was at this juncture of my despair over the fact that Britain did not have the type of cultural integrity I wanted at the centre of my life on this earth that Ibrahim ben Tahir came to become, without his ever knowing it, my cultural pathfinder at Cambridge and thereafter.

This Ibrahim ben Tahir, my Mallam of Mallams, was a man of many excellent parts. He charmed his way through high and low social circles at Cambridge with his urbanity and his sense for what every moment required in order to go like clockwork. He was, indeed, a consummate actor and an impresario, to boot, who kept minute check on how everything around him was panning out. But, Ibrahim ben Tahir was, by no means, a schemer.

On the contrary, he was too large-hearted and generous for that. He always wanted to please and to be liked and that is why his psychological antennae were always alive to pick up signals of budding dissent here and there and then to quickly go to work to turn them into agreeable signals of laughter and assent. That was the Ibrahim ben Tahir that I knew and liked.

And, what particularly endeared Ibrahim ben Tahir to me was that he was never fazed by any intellectual situation. The depth and breadth of his mind and learning always gave him the elbow-room to wriggle out of any tight intellectual position that any of his many adversaries often sought to throw at him. And, the more he vanquished the many shallow minds which sought to trap him with intellectual bagatelles, the more the fury his daunting personality evoked among those Africans in Cambridge who, in Ibrahim ben Tahir's candid opinion, came there, as quintessential British cultural toadies, to see but not to find, to accept handouts but not to select and choose the real Mac Coy of life at one's leisure and prompting. This is why Ibrahim ben Tahir was the real hemlock to many an African student, undergraduate and post-graduate alike, in our time at Cambridge. For, they knew that he thought they were British cultural toadies who had an uncritical attitude to the British way of life. And, it did not help matters that Ibrahim ben Tahir was where all these British cultural toadies wanted to be in the high societies of Cambridge, London and wherever in the British aristocracy. But, here was an Ibrahim ben Tahir who did not set much store on where he was in British society. The new Mallam at Kings was telling them to their faces that they were betraying African values and culture. And this is the essential Ibrahim ben Tahir that meant and means so much to me.

Concluded.

Egom, a consultant publisher, wrote from NIIA, Lagos.



Adamu Adamu

adamuadamu@dailytrust.com

Mrs. Maryam Babangida (1948 - 2009)

With the death of Mrs. Maryam Babangida last week, Nigeria lost an icon—a personable former First Lady, a believer in wholesome family values and a sane and sober advocate for women's rights. Maryam was he type that transformed—or dominated—their environment. She was a public-spirited doer and achiever, and very energetic in pursuit of causes she believed in. She will be much missed.

The nation first took notice of her when she became the president of the Nigerian Army Officers' Wives Association, NAOWA, and wasted no time in turning the office into an effective weapon for the mobilization and betterment of the wives of all soldiers. This was to be the beginning of her larger concern for the feminine condition in Nigeria. And when her husband became the president, she brought class and activism to the Office of the First Lady; and, with her **Better Life for Rural Women Programme, BLP**, she focused on the plight of women in general and on improving that of rural dwellers in particular, with the aim of bringing them out and up and giving them access to education, health and ways of earning a living.

The idea behind her **BLP** was probably home-grown, as opposed to much of the current Western gender drivel that may well end up as one of the new weapons of cultural invasion. This, however, has not spared the programme of its share of criticism. It had been called **Bet-**

“This was to be the beginning of her larger concern for the feminine condition in Nigeria

ter Life for Ruler Women Programme and Bitter Life for Rural Women; but most of these criticisms were more a reflection of the nation's critical attitude to the Babangida administration after the introduction of his structural adjustment programme than plausible censure for its *raison d'être*. It might well have been more conferencing for ruler women than practical poverty alleviation for rural women, but as an idea, it could be taken as a fitting precursor to today's poverty alleviation programmes.

She helped in no small measure in raising the political consciousness of the nation's womenfolk, by herself doing it for them to see, and by instilling in them the confidence to want to do it. Though there is not much to show by way of concrete **BLP** achievement, perhaps because of lack of continuation, its focus on women and women-related issues had set the agenda for the future occupants of that office.

She became powerful without appearing to be power hungry. As a general rule, Nigerian army officers have this penchant for wanting to dominate their environment; and their wives have an even more successful penchant for

dominating them. The more they dominated men the more they were dominated by women; but if she had dominated Babangida, the nation would be hard put to produce the evidence for this. Perhaps Maryam was too smooth an operator to leave any tell-tale signs of that influence on the nature and direction of public policy during her husband's tenure. Except perhaps in the creation of the National Women Centre which some say was inspired by her **BLP**, or in the creation of Delta State in which almost everyone said he saw her hand.

If the National Women Centre was her idea, and probably it was, she really deserved commendation; and that should be accepted as evidence of her personal belief in the necessity for fortifying the **home front**. In Maryam's well chosen terminology, if soldiers are men at the warfront, women are wives at the home front, each fighting a different, but necessary, kind of battle.

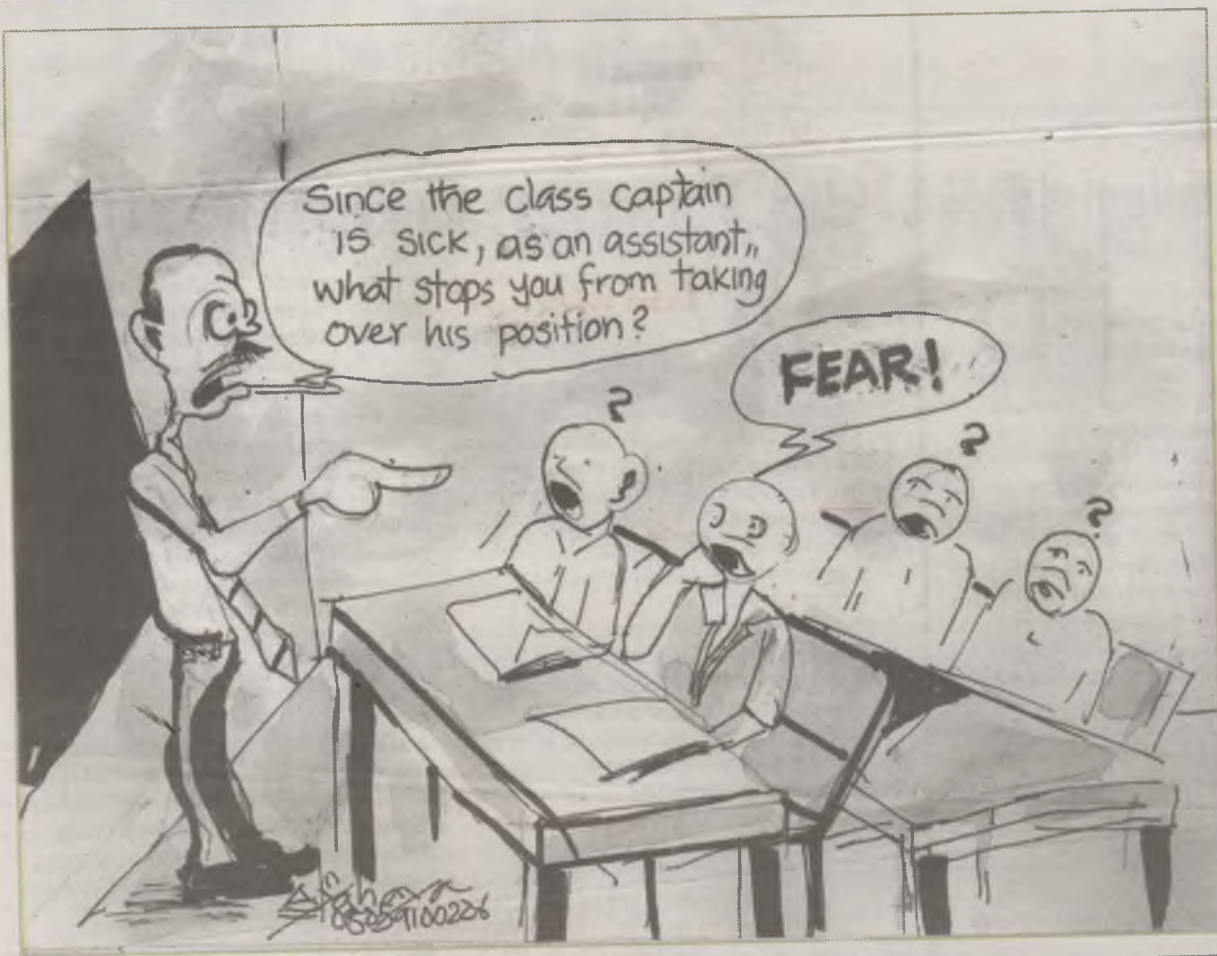
But even without the influence of Maryam, Babangida wouldn't have lacked reasons of his own for creating Delta State. There were at least two. He could have created it in the name of rectifying an anomaly. After the policy of 'No Victor, No Vanquished' at the end of Nigeria's civil war, and after General Yakubu Gowon's Three R's: **reconciliation, rehabilitation and reconstruction;** and especially after the pardon granted to N'Eze Ndigbo Gburu-gburu, Ikemba 1 Nnewi, Dim Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu, the continued collective punishment of Ndigbo by deprival of national power wherewithal was simply just not it. Two, he could have done as a way courting Ndigbo for his soon-to-come but ultimately abortive *tazarce*. But whatever the reason, Maryam basked in the glory of this trophy among her people.

She took real care of the home front, and must take credit for nurturing and fostering one of the most disciplined and, except for her ubiquitous presence, the most invisible and most unobtrusive First Family. Though a military regime is an arbitrary aberration and is run as a neo-patrimonial, prebendal concern, Maryam, despite her own visibility, was able to rein in members of her family, so that nobody then could say that Mohammed Babangida was into oil and gas, or that Aisha's nod was needed to secure the president's approval for some project or proposal. They minded their own business and allowed their father to mind his own.

She also minded hers. Going by the prominence given to education in all her concerns—from NAOWA, **BLP**, to her own struggles for knowledge for personal development, especially going back to school for computer literacy even as First Lady—it was obvious that it occupied a special place in her heart. Even though it might have constituted a proof of the failure of her husband's regime to devote sufficient resources to make public education qualitative, her establishing El-Amin International School was to set a new standard for private education—and in this, it is still the school to beat.

To be concluded tomorrow.

Adamu Adamu is a regular columnist.



Your Letters

Giwa LG Chairman should call his scholarship panel to order

The recent announcement of post-secondary scholarships given by Chairman of Giwa Local Government Council of Kaduna State, Alhaji Hamza Danmahawayi, to indigenes of the area leaves much to be desired.

We heard an announcement over the radio on Tuesday,

December, 29 that all indigenes of Giwa LGA that are in tertiary institutions were being invited to the secretariat the following day for scholarship allowances. It is scandalous and unfortunate that our LG Chairman did not give the assignment to God-fearing people; it was probably deliberate to create an avenue for them to get some unearned benefits. In my LGA because of politics, scholarship is given twice in the tenure of each LG Chairman: the first is immediately after the election to maintain their position; and the second is when election is approaching to seek another term.

This time around, many students came from Kano, Sokoto, Gusau and other far places in response to the announcement, but it was all a wild goose chase, because those entrusted with the responsibility, denied them. The committee was unjust and unprofessional in its assignment. There are less than 1,500 in the whole LG as potential beneficiaries, but all were denied. Shika ward is the hardest hit.

We as law abiding citizens of the area wish to call on the Chairman to call the committee to order and take a necessary action to rectify this wanton anomaly.

Yakubu Haruna, Jaf, Shika.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

We want more from Trust

PLEASE update your daily 'NSE SUMMARY' to include 'OIL & MARITIME SUB-SECTOR'.
KINGSLEY Njoku, Abuja.
07030526644.

What the Petroleum Minister can do

IF the problem of fuel crisis cannot be traced and tackled, and the Minister of Petroleum cannot explain the cause to Nigerians, he should please do the honourable thing: resign as a result of his weakness to discharge his duty perfectly.

HARUNA Imam, Malali, Kaduna, 08038226335.

Customs, before you confiscate

NIGERIA Customs Service should adequately educate the citizens on contraband imported items in order to avoid extortion of public items for personal usage. This degrades the nation's economy, especially in the North.

ABDULLAHI Isa Nababa, Gama, Kano, 08024879943.

Re: Yariman Bakura is not a qualified assessor

HABA! Abdullahi Garba, as a Muslim you have to do justice to Yariman Bakura. You assert that he spent eight years as a governor without any tangible development in Zamfara. Please can you answer these few questions: Who built 100 houses at Gusau, 500 in Damba? Who brought College of Education to Maru, School of Health, ZACAS, and School of Animal Health? Who completed JB Secretariat? Who gave students scholarship every month? Who constructed all road networks in Gusau and many others? Allah said, "say good or you keep silent". For your information, Yarima will never turn to PDP.

KABIR Ibrahim Gusau, 07033060737.

Full body scanners

FAAN'S plan to install these in all our International airports is a welcome development even if it infringes on privacy rights. CNN

said it cost about 243 million dollars. We don't know how much our own is going to cost us, but get us the best and not what you will get from it, but what will be useful to us and our country Nigeria.
08036864200.

Apology won't give us light...

WE are not after any apology by the Vice President for the government's failure to fulfil its pledge to generate 6000mw of electricity at the end of 2009. We want the Minister of Power to resign.

SANI Ahmed Tiga, Kano, 07035166925.

...Indeed

I don't think any Nigerian expected them to match their promise with result. See how the two ministries (power and petroleum) expected to actualise the promise are trading blames, rather than going back to the drawing table to find solution.

GALADIMA Nathan, Minna, 08035407041.

By Tunji Ajibade

The Abdul Mutallabs and a story

The first feeling after the news came was a sinking one. No, not again, most Nigerians would have said on December 28, 2009 when one of their compatriots was announced as the culprit in an attempt to blow up and airliner in the US. Nigerians home and abroad were worried that a renewed regime of shameful treatment would follow at entry ports across the world. And the attacks on the family of twenty three year old Umar Faruk Abdul Mutallab, who was arrested for the alleged attempt, had been in torrents.

A religious group, Association of Moslem *ulamas* in Kaduna State, through its Chairman, Major Umar Abubakar (rtd), lamented the trend at which the children of Northern elite are becoming desperate and dragging the nation's image into mud. Then in *The Guardian*, Tuesday 29, 2009 on Page 52, the family of Alhaji Umaru Abdul Mutallab, father of the alleged attacker in an advertorial wrote: "Prior to the incident, his father, having become concerned about his disappeared and stoppage of communication while schooling abroad, reported the matter to the Nigerian security agencies about two months ago, and to some foreign security agencies about a month and a half ago. We sought their assistance to find and return him home. We provided them with all the information required of us to enable them do this."

This revelation, coming a few days after the initial news of the attack was revealing and it immediately reminded this writer of the case of a son of a prominent Nigerian who was of northern origin like Abdul Mutallab Sr. This man in question learnt of his son's unenviable activities in a state university in the North-Eastern part of the country. He became worried. He did all he could to turn the young undergraduate who was his first son around but there was no change. Rather than look on and watch the boy bring the family name to disrepute, the father withdrew him, brought him home where he began to keep him under close watch. The father went on to give him responsibility in the family business. It's been twelve years since that incident and the boy has grown into a man, sitting responsibly over the family affairs in the place of his father who is now late.

Days back, African Independent Television (AIT) visited the primary school that young Umar Faruk Abdul Mutallab attended. It was the best money could get alright. Umar's teacher at the school remembered him to be a normal child, like any other child. The school authority had no reason to send for the parents for their child's misbehaviour, not once in all his stay in the school from 1995-2000. Umar Abdul Mutallab went on to elite secondary and there was still nothing to complain about. "From the age he left home to attend a University in Europe, anything could have happened" which the parents might not be aware of, Umar's former primary school teacher offered. This leads back to Umar's father call to security operatives to be on the look out for his son and help bring him home.

As things stand, this notification which the US government admitted was gave is already causing ripples among US security agencies. Questions are raised as to why the agencies learnt of young Umar and still allowed him to pass through entry ports into the US without double-checking him. The Nigerian government too has admitted that the boy's father notified the nation's security agencies. This is not a small decision for a father to make by African standard. Most parents would keep such matter close to their chest. But Alhaji Abdul Mutallab did not do that, he raised alarm, meaning he had strong reasons to suspect his son's activities and he was concerned as any well-meaning parents should. At that point, it is obvious that if the father had a means of getting hold of his son, he would have arrested him and brought him home under his watchful care like the father of the undergraduate mentioned above.

It is unfortunate the way things stand. Many Nigerians are concerned just as the boy's parents. In the present circumstance, it is clear that the matter at hand is beyond blaming the parents as important as the influence of parents on a child's behaviour is. In a sermon on New Year's Day, the Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, Dr John Onaiyekan pointed out that Nigerian is not immune to the influence of terrorism that currently sweeps the world. Outrage about the rich who pamper their children, such as the one made on Umar Abdul Mutallab's parents by the group in Kaduna, does not fully address the problem at hand.

Ajibade wrote from Abuja (tunjioa@yahoo.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

Alleged Nigerian terrorist

Nigerians hoping for a catharsis after months of intense uncertainty were severely jolted with the Christmas Day news that one of their compatriots attempted to blow up an US passenger airliner over the city of Detroit on that day.

Faruk Abdul Mutallab, the 23-year-old Nigerian was named as the alleged perpetrator of the act, reminiscent of the September 11, 2001, tragedy that struck the United States and precipitated the US global 'war on terror' that is still being waged to this day.

According to statements attributed to US officials, and amplified at the weekend by US President Barack Obama, the Nigerian was a protégé of an affiliate of its sworn enemy, Al-Qaeda, which, it was claimed, recruited him to embark on the apparent suicide mission. Accounts suggest that Faruk Mutallab boarded the Delta Airlines plane from Amsterdam in the Netherlands bound for the US. His flight apparently originated in Nigeria. The accounts also suggested that as the plane made its final approach to Detroit, Faruk tried to ignite a substance strapped to his body; passengers said they saw a flash, followed by smell of smoke, coming from the direction of Faruk's aircraft seat. Passengers rushed and overpowered him.

Officials later determined the substance to be pentaerythritol tetranitrate, or PETN, said to be highly explosive.

Since the incident, questions have been asked about the involvement of what led this, by all accounts, bright, educated and promising young man in the highly unusual mission for a Nigerian. It has since emerged that the young man's father, the highly regarded banker, Dr Umaru Mutallab, who retired recently as chairman of First Bank of Nigeria Plc, had sometime in November 2009 alerted some Nigerian security officials and US embassy staff in Nigeria about what he thought were the strange behaviours of his son, who was known to be a resident student at a university in London.

The Nigerian government's reaction to the event, in statements made by Information and Communication Minister, Professor Dora Akunyili, has been incoherent, wafting from denouncing the alleged terrorist act, to virtually disowning Faruk as a rootless Nigerian whose conduct has been influenced by Western education and culture. We wonder what Mrs Akunyili's reaction would have been if Faruk had not been suspected of attempted bombing, but the recipient of a global recognition for some scientific discovery.

When all is said and done, however, the fact is that Faruk is expected to appear in a US court on charges of terrorism and terrorism related offences. As long as this unfortunate episode lasts, Nigeria as a country and its citizens will once again be in the global spotlight for the worse of reasons, making a big mess of the government's poorly-focused national re-branding campaign.

Faruk's profile, as we can piece together from the different accounts of his school days, his social affiliations and worldview, reveals a young man detached from his Nigerian roots, and unable to fit in the 'other world' he found himself. What role parental supervision (or lack thereof) played in the young man's character and current travails is an issue that would be hotly debated in the weeks and months to come.

But for now, as this unfortunate episode continues to unfold, one of the principal lessons that we must take from it is the need for children to be guided through school at home to a certain level, preferably first Degree, before being sent to other cultures abroad for further studies. As we have seen in this case, the absence from home and from kindergarten age might have played a role in the parents not being able to observe Faruk veering off from the norm before it was too late.

Is Faruk Mutallab a terrorist? Faruk's day in court will come soon; until that happens, the evidence is not conclusive that we settle for that description.

KABIRU A. YUSUF: Chairman/Chief Executive Officer
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ABDULKADIR ALIYU: Head, Advert

e-mail: dailytrust@dailytrust.com

Faruk Mutallab:
Issues and non-issues

Issa Aremu mni

issaaremu@yahoo.com

Printed and spoken words from critical mass of Nigerians of varying persuasions in the wake of the aborted suicidal mission of Mousier Faruk Umaru Mutallab aboard the Trans Atlantic Delta Airline on Christmas day could fill some Ghana-must-go-bags. The legitimate reactions pointed to our sensitivity as members of global human community which is good and commendable. However much of the spontaneous outpour and reactions belie subsequent desperate personal, family, group and even official frantic attempts to deny ownership of Farouk, the near kid murderer and his terror-methodology. The local content of Faruk's upbringing education might be insignificant given that he is an acknowledged early hunter and gatherer of knowledge from Togo to United Kingdom, Dubai to Yemen. But that he is a Nigerian with notable Nigerian parentage, Nigerian names and Nigerian passport cannot be brushed aside in our desperate and clearly unhelpful move to offload evil deeds to "others". The issue therefore is not that he read abroad or at home. It is an intolerable diversion for a country with almost 100 per cent foreign content in policy ideas, petroleum products, dual-citizenship, marital ties, and automobiles assemblage, languages of instruction and wholesale importation of a "national" soccer team to attempt a denial of its imported terrorist on the ground that he got his education largely abroad. Nigerian officialdom actually privileges foreign education above local education which explains while tokunbo/returnee students are accorded preferential options of serving in Lagos or Abuja during their national youth service. What then the noise about where he studied? If Farouk had won a Nobel prize after his studies abroad, if he had turned out to be another Olajuwon, could we have been suck in diversionary stupor or self pity as we are today?

If we dare to own gleefully what is good, we must also be sober to accept what is dastardly and criminal which regrettably flows from us with a view of preventing future occurrence? The diplomatic star-words between Ghana and Nigeria over where Farouk commenced his ill fated journey-of-no-return are clearly also non-issues. Nigeria and Ghana might want to outdo each other to impress United States of America that they are up and alive to combat terrorism. But the officials of the two countries impress nobody, not even the Americans, when they indulge in self-denials, buck passing and could not even accept simple responsibility that there are security lapses that offer the likes of Farouk some routes to dangerously put many innocent lives at risk. Both Nigerian and Ghanaian officials must learn from President Obama who without hesitation

accepts as much the "catastrophic" lapses on the part of the Homeland Department officials and intelligence agencies. Whether Farouk boarded from Accra or Lagos or spent half an hour at whatever airport, is immaterial. The point is that West African sub-region is sadly turning into a fertile dangerous ground for the good, the bad and the murderous. Cooperation, not contestation between countries will help us to contain this new Trans Atlantic terrorism in which West African youths are proving to be vulnerable cheap cannon folders.

All said, Faruk Mutallab saga has brought to the fore some criti-

assumes that Farouk had "good education and background". In a country in which institutional name droppings: *Harvard, London, Malaysia etc* had become substitute for real knowledge, marking register in choice capitals of the world might be mistaken for pursuit of knowledge. Now we know better. It is absence of real knowledge for an educated person of any religious hue to offer self cheaply for suicide and mass deaths of others. It is sad that minus methodology, the difference is not clear between Yusuf of *Boko Haram* and Farouk of *boko bomb*. We must urgently promote mass awareness about the difference between religious labels and religious deeds. Our compassionate God looks at the deeds of people not their labels. Islam enjoins us to



It is an intolerable diversion for a country with almost 100 per cent foreign content in policy ideas, petroleum products, dual-citizenship, marital ties, and automobiles assemblage

cal issues of crises of parentage, faith, education and instructions as well as governance in Nigeria. I have read umpteenth time the statement issued by the Mutallab family. Yours sincerely felt the pains and anguish of parents with strayed steward. The best solidarity for the Mutallab family however is for all of us as parents to urgently come to terms with the challenges of parentage. If for God's sake we don't know where our kids are at any given time (whether they are in their teens or forties), what on earth do we then know; prices of stocks or weather forecasts? It does not matter if the child is reading at home or abroad, parents are obliged to account every second for their stewards. The first policeman of a child is the father and not local and international intelligence agencies. We certainly had failed parentage at hand in Farouk case. Stories abound of many parents who assume their children have graduated even in local universities and yet they mark time idling away on our campuses. Many parents do have them! In his celebrated book: *The Ideal Muslim*, Dr Muhammad Ali Hashimi, admonishes us: "The smart Muslim father keeps his eyes open as far as his children are concerned. He knows what they are reading and writing, the hobbies they have chosen or which he may have encouraged them to follow, without them realizing it, the friends with whom they spend most of their time, and places they go in their spare time". The Mutallabs are far from this ideal.

The second critical issue is the quality of academic and civic education our children are exposed to. Almost every commentator

have mercy on animals no less on humans. How then on earth would anybody who rightly condemn the Israelis bombing of innocent children in Gaza and yet be excited at the spectacular bombing of planes that carry the innocents? Our human feelings cannot be so clinically divisible.

The Quran says "if anyone slew a person unless it be for murder or spreading mischief in the land, it would be as if he slew the whole people and if anyone saved a life it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people" (5:32). Serial killings either by sticks or arrows or guns in the names of religions from Kaduna to Jos, Bauchi to Maiduguri must be seen for what they are: terrorism and murders. The media have a critical role to play in saving humanity from mutually destructive "religious" war of attrition. Political issues that task our political imagination are often falsely presented as "religious" issues. Take for instance the legitimate struggle of the Palestinian people for homeland from Israeli occupation. This struggle enjoins the support of all regardless of faith: from the Vatican City to the Cubans but media misinformation presents this struggle in binary divisive Crusade/Jihadist/Arabs/Jews fight. Apartheid was defeated in South Africa not by some silly messianic suicide bombers but by sustained all-inclusive efforts of progressive forces of the world with minimum damage and maximum results that threw up great leaders like Nelson Mandela. The ease with which we dignify murderers by accepting their self righteous "religious" labels is clearly unhelpful.



ZAMFARA STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihi Raj'iun

Condolence

On behalf of myself and the good people and government of Zamfara state, I wish to express my heartfelt condolence to Former Military President, **General Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida** over the death of his wife and Former First Lady, **Mrs. Maryam Ibrahim Babangida**, which occurred on Sunday, December 27th, 2009.

She will certainly be remember for the many strides she took in her life time which left her foot prints on the sands of time. We pray to Allah to forgive her and grant her Aljannah Firdausi.



Mrs. Maryam Ibrahim Babangida

S i g n e d

His Excellency

Alhaji Mamud Aliyu Shinkafi

Executive Governor, Zamfara State



GOVERNMENT OF IMO STATE

PUBLIC NOTICE ON RE-CERTIFICATION OF LAND TITLES

In order to meet public expectations on Land Use Administration and Management in the State, the Imo State Government has procured a fully computerized facility under IMO GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICE (IGIS) offering Electronic Processing and Storage of all State Land Records into a Digital Database and Electronic Lands and Deeds Registry.

Government has therefore come to the unavoidable decision to Issue New Title Documents with appropriate security features, which in some case would include BIOMETRICS, to all Government Property TITLE Holders, such as Certificates of Occupancy (C of Os) Deeds of Assignments and all other legal Land Titles registered in the Lands and Deeds Registry of the State beginning from 4th January, 2010.

This exercise shall run through and end on 30th June, 2010.

All land title holders are therefore required mandatorily to present their title documents for RE-CERTIFICATION at the IMO GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SERVICE, IGIS PLACE, No 1, Chief Emmanuel Iwuanyanwu Avenue (OCDA Complex), Off Port-Harcourt Road, New Owerri, Imo State.

Application Forms for RE-CERTIFICATION are obtainable at the Local Planning Authorities in all the 27 Local Government Areas in the State, Imo State Liaison Offices at Abuja and Lagos, and all branches of Bank PHB Plc nation-wide.

Completed Application Forms shall be returned with a non-refundable processing fee of N20,000.00 (Twenty Thousand Naira) only, payable into IGIS SPECIAL ACCOUNT with Bank PHB Plc No: 034106000039 nation-wide and all other Banks engaged in receiving IGR proceeds for the State. Application Forms are also available online at IGIS website: www.imogis.com/application_forms.htm.

ALL TITLE DOCUMENTS NOT RE-CERTIFIED BEFORE OR BY THE 30TH JUNE, 2010, SHALL CEASE TO BE VALID FOR LAND TRANSACTIONS IN THE STATE AND BY IMPLICATION SHALL BECOME OF NO VALUE AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR LAND TRANSACTIONS. SPECIAL WINDOWS SHALL BE CREATED FOR BANKS TO RE-CERTIFY LAND INSTRUMENTS IN THEIR POSSESSION AND PAY THE NECESSARY FEES. THE GENERAL PUBLIC IS THEREFORE ADVISED TO HEED TO THIS PUBLIC NOTICE AND BE GUIDED ACCORDINGLY.

THIS PUBLIC NOTICE is issued by

Hon. Levi Oguike, FNIQS, FRICS,

Commissioner for Lands, Survey and Urban Planning

in the exercise of the powers delegated to him by His Excellency Chief Ikedi Ohakim, Governor of Imo State.

ALL ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO THE PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF LANDS, SURVEY & URBAN PLANNING, OWERRI, IMO STATE

E-mail: ministryoflands@imostate.org.gov.ng

Dated 21st December, 2009.

INTERNATIONAL

S/Africa's president to take 3rd wife today



SOUTH African president Jacob Zuma, second right, with his three wives Sizakele Khumalo, right, Nompumelo Ntuli, left, and Thobeka Mabhija, second left.

THE South African president's office says he is set to marry a third wife today. In a statement released yesterday, the presidency said the traditional wedding of

President Jacob Zuma and Thobeka Mabhija will take place today in a private family ceremony.

The office requested that media "allow the family the

privacy that they are entitled to." According to Zuma's profile on the government's presidential Web site, the 67-year-old leader already has three wives

and 19 children. Zuma's embrace of Zulu tradition — including polygamy — has endeared him to many South Africans. Still, many younger people consider polyg-

amy old-fashioned and expensive, and question how it can endure in a modern country. He took office last May.

Ugandan rebel group's acting commander killed

A Ugandan army spokesman says that a notorious rebel commander has been killed in Central African Republic.

Brigadier Bok Abudema was an acting commander for the Lord's Resistance Army, a rebel group known for cutting the lips off its victims, abducting child soldiers and turning girls into sex slaves.

Northern Uganda army spokesman, Capt. Ronald Kukurungo, said at the weekend that Abudema had been killed by Ugandan forces on Friday.

Ugandan army spokesman, Lt. Col. Felix Kulaigye, called Abudema's killing a "New Year's gift to Uganda."

The Lord's Resistance Army has been waging an insurgency in northern Uganda for more than 20 years. In recent years, the group has tried to hide in other countries

Somali group hails attack on Danish cartoonist

SOMALIA'S radical Islamic Shebab group hailed at the weekend the attack by a Somali on a Danish cartoonist reviled by Muslims for his drawing of the prophet Mohammed.

"We appreciate the incident in which a Muslim Somali boy attacked the devil who abused our prophet Mohammed and we call upon all Muslims around the world to target the people like (him)," Shebab spokesman Sheikh Ali Muhamud Rage told AFP.

Denmark's PET intelligence agency said earlier, "The person arrested... has close links with the Somali terrorist organisation Al-Shebab as well as with the heads of Al-Qaeda in East Africa.

Related article: Assailant charged with attempted murders. "He is also suspected of being implicated in terrorist activities when he was in east Africa.

The individual arrested has also been a member of a terrorist network implanted in Denmark

that has been under surveillance by PET for a long time."

Rage said for his part, "There could be some people who might say that boy was related to Shebab or other Islamic organisations, but I tell you that this incident is not something that could be related only to Shebab or other Islamic organisations.

"It is a general obligation for all Muslims to defend their religion and the prophet. He really did what was to be done by any other Muslim."

The Al-Qaeda-inspired Shebab controls large swathes of south and central Somalia and has wrested control of much of the capital Mogadishu, where it has relentlessly attacked government and African Union forces.

Last week, the group said it would send fighters to Yemen to help an Al-Qaeda affiliate behind the failed Christmas Day US airliner bombing in its fight against government forces.

Niger border region clashes leave 10 dead

CLASHES in Niger's border region with Mali have left 10 people dead, security sources said at the weekend.

Heavily armed men attacked the village of Tlemsess in the Tahoua region, a few hundred kilometres (miles) northwest of Niamey, on Wednesday night, killing three soldiers and a civilian, a source in Niamey said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Another source in Tahoua said one of the attackers' vehicles broke down as they fled towards Mali, leading to another skirmish in which four soldiers and two attackers were killed. Soldiers found a European passport in the broken-down vehicle, the source added, without giving further details. One person has been arrested, though it is still unclear what the attackers' motives were.

Opposition nominates south Sudanese for president

THE opposition Popular Congress Party has nominated a southern Sudanese as its presidential candidate for the first multi-party elections in 24 years in April, a move it says will promote national unity.

"The candidate is Abdullah Deng Nhial from the south," the party's top defense and security official, Mohamed al-Amin Khalifa, told Reuters yesterday. "He is a relative of (late vice president) John Garang."

Garang was the charismatic

leader of the former southern rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) which fought a civil war lasting more than two decades with the north, ending in 2005.

His peace deal with President Omar Hassan al-Bashir's National Congress Party provided for north and south to share wealth and power, for national democratic elections in April 2010 and a southern referendum in 2011 on independence.

International

Dubai to open world's tallest tower

DUBAI is set to open the world's tallest building amid tight security today, celebrating the tower as a bold feat on the world stage despite the city state's shaky financial footing.

But the final height of the Burj Dubai — Arabic for Dubai Tower — remained a closely guarded secret on the eve of its opening. At more than 2,625 feet (800 meters), it long ago vanquished its nearest rival, the Taipei 101 in Taiwan. The Burj's record-seeking developers didn't stop there.

The building boasts the most stories and highest occupied floor of any building in the world, and ranks as the world's tallest structure, beating out a television mast in North Dakota. Its observation deck — on floor 124 — also sets a record.

"We weren't sure how high we could go," said Bill Baker, the building's structural engineer, who is in Dubai for the inauguration. "It was kind of an exploration. ... A learning experience."

Baker, of Chicago-based architecture and engineering

firm Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, said early designs for the Burj had it edging out the world's previous record-holder, the Taipei 101, by about 33 feet (10 meters). The Taiwan tower rises 1,667 feet (508 meters).

The Burj's developer, Emaar Properties, kept pushing the design higher even after construction began, eventually putting it about 984 feet (300 meters) taller than its nearest competitor, Baker said.

He is keeping quiet about the exact height. Dubai's ruler will open the tapering metal-and-glass spire with a fireworks display today evening.

Security is expected to be tight. Local newspapers quoted Maj. Gen. Mohammed Eid al-Mansouri, head of the protective security and emergency unit for Dubai Police, saying more than 1,000 security personnel, including plainclothes police and sharpshooters, will be deployed to secure the site for the opening.

Work on the Burj Dubai began in 2004 and continued rapidly.



BURJ Dubai, the world's tallest building in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, is over 800 metres (2,625 ft) tall and has more than 160 stories, the most of any building in the world.

US, UK close Yemen embassies over al-Qaida threats

THE US and Britain closed their embassies in Yemen yesterday in the face of al-Qaida threats, after both countries announced an increase in aid to the government to fight the terror group linked to the failed attempt to bomb a U.S. airliner on Christmas.

The confrontation with al-Qaida's offshoot in Yemen has gained new urgency since the 23-year-old Nigerian accused in the attack, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, told American investigators he received training and instructions from the group's operatives in Yemen. President Barack Obama said at the weekend that the al-Qaida offshoot was behind the attempt.

White House counterterrorism chief John Brennan said the American Embassy, which was attacked twice in 2008, was shut yesterday because of "indications

al-Qaida is planning to carry out an attack against a target inside of Sana, possibly our embassy."

"We're not going to take any chances" with the lives of embassy personnel, Brennan said. A statement on the embassy's Web site announcing the closure did not say how long it would remain closed. In London, Britain's Foreign Office said its embassy was closed for security reasons. It said officials would decide later whether to reopen it today.

The closure comes as Washington is dramatically stepping up aid to Yemen to fight al-Qaida, which has built up strongholds in remote parts of the impoverished, mountainous nation where government control outside the capital is weak.

Over the weekend, Gen. David Petraeus, the U.S. general who oversees the wars in Iraq

and Afghanistan, announced that Washington this year will more than double the \$67 million in counterterrorism aid that it provided Yemen in 2009. On Saturday, Petraeus met with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh to discuss coordination in the fight against al-Qaida.

Britain announced Sunday that Washington and London will fund a counterterrorism police unit in Yemen. Britain will also host a high-level international conference Jan. 28 to come up with an international strategy to counter radicalization in Yemen.

The U.S. also provided intelligence and other help to back two Yemeni air and ground assaults on al-Qaida hide-outs last month, reported to have killed more than 60 people. Yemeni authorities said more than 30 suspected militants were among the dead.

Iran warns West it will make its own nuclear fuel

IRAN set a one-month deadline at the weekend for the West to accept its counterproposal to a U.N.-drafted nuclear plan and warned that otherwise it will produce reactor fuel at a higher level of enrichment on its own.

The warning was a show of defiance and a hardening of Iran's stance over its nuclear program, which the West fears masks an effort to develop a nuclear weapons capability.

Tehran insists its program is only for peaceful purposes, such as electricity production, and says it has no intention of making a bomb.

"We have given them an ultimatum. There is one month left and that is by the end of January," Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said, speaking on state television.

Even if Tehran started working on the fuel production immediately, it would likely take years before it could master the technology to turn uranium enriched to the level of 20 percent into the fuel rods it needs for a medical research reactor.

Still, any threat to enrich uranium to a higher level is likely to rattle the world powers that have been trying to persuade Iran to forgo enrichment altogether.

Enrichment is at the center of the West's concerns because at high levels it can be used in making nuclear weapons.

Iran dismissed an end-of-2009 deadline imposed by the Obama administration and its international partners to accept a U.N.-drafted deal to swap most of its enriched uranium for nuclear fuel.

International

Tajikistan earthquake leaves 20,000 homeless

ABOUT 20,000 people were left homeless in the impoverished Central Asian nation of Tajikistan after an earthquake leveled their homes in a mountainous region, officials said yesterday.

No deaths were reported after

the magnitude 5.1 quake struck the Pamir Mountains at the weekend, the Emergency Situations and Civil Defense Committee said.

Hundreds of mud-brick houses in several villages in the

Gorno-Badakhshansky region were damaged.

The quake also cut electricity and communications and blocked the main road between the regional center of Vanch and nearby villages.

Those left homeless were placed in emergency shelters in schools and other public buildings or moved in with relatives, Azimjon Shamsiddinov, the deputy chief regional administrator, was quoted as saying by the Inter-

fax news agency.

Earthquakes are common in the mountains of Tajikistan, one of the poorest of the former Soviet states. The country of 7.3 million people lies north of Afghanistan and west of China.

Taliban deny abducting French reporters

THE Taliban militia yesterday denied kidnapping two French television journalists and three Afghan assistants who were snatched at gunpoint five days ago in Afghanistan.

"We are not involved," self-styled Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told AFP by telephone from an undisclosed location. "We ask our fighters to inform us if they do anything but we have no information coming from this area," he said.

There has been no claim of responsibility since gunmen snatched the group of five in the eastern province of Kapisa on Wednesday, but a French colleague of the journalists blamed the Taliban.

The five men disappeared while going to meet a contact 60 kilometres (40 miles) from the Afghan capital near French military bases. Criminal groups and Taliban insurgents have kidnapped several dozen foreigners, many of them journalists, since the 2001 US-led invasion ousted the Taliban regime in Kabul, sparking the current insurgency.

Most foreign hostages in Afghanistan have been released unharmed and relatively quickly, but the situation can be more complicated if the kidnapers take them into the remote mountains on the border with Pakistan.

A senior executive at public broadcaster France Television is travelling to Kabul today to lobby for the group's release. "I am going to Kabul to take stock of the situation," said director of news Paul Nahon. "I am going to meet with different Afghan authorities." A source involved in efforts to free the journalists said on Friday they were believed to be alive and in good health.

Far from being homogenous, the Afghan Taliban are a nebulous collection of largely autonomous local networks and remnants of the regime ousted from power by the 2001 US-led invasion. The French were abducted in a volatile area where the Taliban and wanted warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami network have a presence.



LOCAL residents carry bodies of victims of suicide car bombing for funeral prayer in Shah Hasan Khel village near Lakki Marwat, Pakistan yesterday.

Roadside bombs kill 6 in North West Pakistan

ROADSIDE bombs struck two vehicles in Pakistan's volatile northwest yesterday, killing a former irrigation minister and three others in one attack and two anti-Taliban tribal elders in the other.

Public officials and private citizens combatting the growing Taliban-led insurgency in Pakistan have been frequent targets in a wave of violence that has killed more than 600 people in the past two-and-a-half months.

A single attack two days ago killed nearly 100 people when a

suicide car bomber struck a sports event near a meeting of tribesmen who supervise an anti-Taliban militia near Pakistan's South Waziristan tribal area.

The Pakistani army invaded South Waziristan in mid-October in an attempt to neutralize the Pakistani Taliban's main stronghold in the country, but many militants fled the offensive and have been launching attacks elsewhere in the northwest.

A roadside bomb struck a vehicle in the Hangu district of North West Frontier Province

yesterday, killing former Irrigation Minister Ghaniur Rehman, his two guards and his driver, said district police chief Abdur Rasheed.

Two police officers accompanying the former minister were wounded in the attack, he said.

Rehman was affiliated with the Pakistan People's Party (Sherpao group) headed by former Interior Minister Aftab Khan Sherpao, who has survived two suicide bomb attacks.

Several hours earlier, another roadside bomb struck a vehicle

carrying anti-Taliban elders in the Bajur tribal area, killing two and critically wounding four others, said local official Naseeb Shah. The six men were working to set up an anti-Taliban militia in Bajur, a militant stronghold near the Afghan border, said Shah.

The men were on their way to meet local officials in the main town of Khar when the remote-controlled device detonated, Shah said.

The blast occurred near Kasai, about 17 miles (28 kilometers) northeast of Khar, he said.

Afghan parliament delivers blow to Karzai on cabinet

AFGHAN President Hamid Karzai suffered a new blow to his authority with the rejection by parliament of most of his cabinet nominees, further prolonging political crisis in the war-ravaged country.

Of the 24 people Karzai put forward for the cabinet, only seven won approval at the weekend in a secret ballot of more than 200 lawmakers.

The rejections leave Afghanistan without a fully functioning government, dragging out a political vacuum that has prevailed since an August presidential election, with ministries being run by junior bureaucrats who have little power and no coherent plan. "It is a political setback," said the UN's special representative, Kai Eide.

"It prolongs the situation without a functioning government,

which has lasted since summer," he told reporters.

"It's particularly worrying in a country in conflict, where you have so many challenges and need to focus attention on urgent reform programmes," he said.

Among those rejected were the only female nominee, undermining Karzai's pledge to bring more women into government, and a warlord whose naming as

water and energy minister was seen as a reward for support at the August 20 election.

His cabinet list had been seen as an effort to balance obligations to his Western backers, including the United States, and his domestic supporters. Haroun Mir, director of Afghanistan's Centre for Research and Policy Studies, said the rejections showed up the lack of cohesion in Afghan politics.

International

Underdog PM Brown ready for 2010 election fight



PRIME Minister Gordon Brown has admitted he was the underdog for this year's general election but said he would fight to the end to win it.

PRIME Minister Gordon Brown admitted yesterday he was the underdog for this year's general election but said he would fight to the end to win it.

The day after Conservative leader David Cameron drew out his battle themes for the election, Brown said the vote, due by June at the latest, would be the "decision of the decade" for Britain. Brown set out his case why voters should stick with him and his governing centre-left Labour Party to lead Britain out of recession and back into economic growth.

Cameron's centre-right Conservatives have consistently been ahead in opinion polls for more than a year.

"When you're behind in the polls you've got to regard yourselves as the fighter. Everything

I've ever won in my life, I've had to fight for," Brown told BBC television. He described himself as "someone who is ready to fight for every aspect of Britain's future and will not stop fighting." "We, the Labour Party, will fight every inch of the way," he vowed.

Brown explained: "My vision for the future of Britain is as the digital, low-carbon, biotechnology, education, creative industry leader of the world. We are the only party that can take people from recession to recovery and guarantee that we have growth in the future.

"This is a defining issue of the election. I believe in an age of aspiration, of opportunity and prosperity. I'm afraid the Conservatives have gone for an age of austerity and that means the

majority of hard-working families suffer as a result."

Cameron said "we cannot go on for another five years with Gordon Brown" on Saturday as he kicked off his campaign to become prime minister. Labour took power in 1997 under Tony Blair. Brown replaced him as premier in June 2007.

Asked why voters should plump for the 58-year-old Scot for another term, Brown said: "Because he knows how to deal with the British economy's problems and take us through them and he knows what sort of economy we can build for the future.

"He's got a passionate desire to improve our public services and his whole career has been built on wanting to see everybody realise their potential to the full."

Pope's aide visits woman who knocked him down

POPE Benedict XVI's personal aide visited the mentally disturbed young woman who jumped over a barrier and knocked the pontiff down in St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve, a Vatican spokesman said yesterday.

Benedict asked his secretary, Monsignor Georg Gaenswein, to pay a call on 25-year-old Susanna Maiolo "to show his interest and benevolence," the Rev. Federico Lombardi told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Lombardi declined to comment on an Italian newspaper report Sunday that the aide told the woman the pope had forgiven her and gave her a rosary during the Dec. 26 visit.

The visit to the psychiatric clinic in the town of Subiaco near Rome had been made discreetly, and the Vatican hadn't planned on publicly talking about it until the newspaper report appeared, Lombardi indicated.

The spokesman said he didn't want to comment on what might have been said between the papal aide and the Italian-Swiss woman. "Every Christian pardons," Lom-

bardi said.

He said the Vatican City's magistrates are conducting their own investigation of the December 24 incident. Still to be determined is if the woman, with a history of psychiatric problems, could be held legally responsible for what she did. Lombardi said it was unclear when the Vatican investigation would be completed.

After scrambling over the barrier separating thousands of faithful from the pope's procession up the basilica's center aisle, Maiolo yanked Benedict's vestments, pulling him down as he walked up the center aisle to celebrate Mass.

The 82-year-old pope, although looking shaken, was physically unharmed and continued on to the central altar to celebrate Christmas Eve Mass at 10 p.m. on December 24. In the commotion, an elderly French cardinal also fell, breaking his hip. Exactly a year earlier, Maiolo, wearing the same red, hooded sweat shirt, also tried to reach the pope during the Christmas Eve service, but was quietly tackled by security.

2 trains collide in Turkey, 1 killed

A passenger train crashed head-on into another train in northwestern Turkey yesterday, killing one of the engine drivers and injuring 14 other people, an official said. The train went through a signal where it should have halted and slammed into another train that was stopped on the line.

There were conflicting reports as to what caused the accident. The governor of Bilecik, some 250 miles (400 kilometers) south of Istanbul initially said the accident was caused by an electrical fault that led to signal failure.

But Hasan Gedikli, head of the railway system for the region, said the signaling system seemed to be functioning and that authorities

were investigating why the train failed to stop. One driver was killed, it was unclear which one. The injured included two rail personnel, said Bilecik's governor, Musa Colak. The trains were traveling in opposite directions between Istanbul and the city of Eskisehir.

Television footage from the crash site showed paramedics performing heart massage on a man lying on a stretcher beside the tracks.

Turkey's government has been working to improve the country's rail system, which is beset by signaling malfunctions, ill-equipped trains, deteriorating tracks and a lack of barriers at road crossings.

Number of illegal migrants arriving in Spain falls

THE number of illegal immigrants risking their lives in rickety boats to reach Spain's Canary Islands from northwest Africa has descended to levels last seen a decade ago, officials said at the weekend.

In 2009, a total of 2,041 adults — and 201 children — arrived in the islands or were rescued as they sailed toward them, an Interior Ministry spokeswoman said.

Levels this low were last recorded a decade ago, when 2,165 people made landfall on the archipelago, made up of seven main islands — and two tiny ones — 1,380 kilometers

(858 miles) off Spain's southwestern tip.

The number of immigrants began to shoot up in 2002, when 9,929 arrived, and peaked in 2006 when 31,859 had to be housed, the spokeswoman said on condition of anonymity in keeping with government rules.

More than 96,116 people have sought shelter and a chance of a better, European-style life on the islands since 1994.

The recession, which has caused unemployment in Spain to ascend to nearly 18 percent, along with coastal patrols, have helped slow immigration.

International

US extremists plot to destabilize Ecuador

ECUADOREAN President Rafael Correa says right-wing extremists in the United States are conspiring against his government by attempting to destabilize the poor Andean nation.

The leftist president contends that U.S.-based groups — although not the U.S. government — are funnelling aid to parts of Ecuador's indigenous movement. He says plots to destabilize progressive governments no longer use direct confrontation.

Indian protests and roadblocks in recent months have forced Correa to reconsider proposals to allow mines on Indian lands without their consent and to put water under state control. Ecuador's president gave no examples of the aid he denounced, however. Correa spoke at the weekend on his weekly radio program.

Mexico announces capture of alleged drug lord

MEXICAN police have captured alleged drug lord Carlos Beltran Leyva, just two weeks after his even more powerful brother was killed in a shootout with troops — back-to-back victories in President Felipe Calderon's drug war.

The Public Safety Department said in a statement at the weekend night that Carlos Beltran Leyva was arrested in Culiacan, the capital of the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa, where he and several of his brothers were born and allegedly started their gang.

Two weeks ago, his brother Arturo, reputed chief of the Beltran Leyva cartel, was killed in a shootout with Mexican marines in the central city of Cuernavaca. He was the highest-ranking cartel suspect taken down since Calderon sent tens of thousands of soldiers and federal police across the country three years ago to fight brutal drug gangs. Mexican officials in the past have described Carlos Beltran Leyva, 40, as a key member of the gang, but it was unclear if he took over as chief of the cartel after his brother died.

A third brother, Alfredo, was arrested in January 2008. At least one other brother, Mario, remains at large and is listed as one of Mexico's 24 most-wanted drug lords, with a \$2 million reward offered for his capture. Carlos Beltran was not included on the list, although the Public Safety Department said there had been a warrant for his arrest since 2008. DEA intelligence Chief Anthony Placido said last month the U.S. was getting sporadic reports of plots to break Alfredo Beltran Leyva out of prison.

Peru court upholds ex-president's 25-yr sentence

PERU'S judicial system says the Supreme Court has ratified a 25-year prison sentence for ex-President Alberto Fujimori.

The sentence was imposed in

April for the death squad killing of 25 people and the kidnappings of a businessman and journalist during Fujimori's presidency from 1990 to 2000. The courts published the

decision on their Internet site yesterday. The 71-year-old Fujimori is also fighting shorter sentences in three other cases. Fujimori's future may depend on his daugh-

ter Keiko's presidential campaign. She has vowed to free him if she's elected in 2011. Many Peruvians admire Fujimori for crushing the violent Maoist Shining Path rebels.

Hopes fade in hunt for Brazil mudslide survivors

FIREFIGHTERS using heavy machinery, shovels and bare hands dug for survivors at the weekend but only found corpses under a mountain of red earth and crushed lodgings — the worst of a spate of mudslides and floods that killed at least 64 people in southeastern Brazil.

At least 26 people died in the New Year's Day slide that buried

an upscale resort on the island of Ilha Grande, including the 18-year-old daughter of the couple who built the waterfront lodge at the foot of a cliff side covered with rain forest.

Authorities said no foreigners were known to be among the dead and there were few details about those who died.

A torrent of mud tore a 1,000-

foot scar down the hill, pushing parts of the Pousada Sankay and three neighboring houses into the sea shortly after guests had retired to their rooms following New Year's Eve celebrations.

Minutes earlier on the mainland, a torrent of reddish mud cascaded into the Carioca slum in the nearby coastal city of Angra dos Reis, killing at least 13 people and

reducing rickety shacks to rubble.

The dual mudslides early on New Year's Day were triggered by 10 inches (27 centimeters) of rain that drenched the region since Wednesday.

"We came to celebrate the New Year and then all this sadness happened," Fernanda de Oliveira, a witness to the mudslide on Ilha Grande, told the O Globo newspaper.

Oliveira was staying in a house beside the Pousada Sankay when she heard a rumble in the middle of the night. "We couldn't see what was happening. It was raining hard and the water was leaking into our house," she told the newspaper. "Suddenly, we saw people in the sea and we went down to rescue them."

They were people staying in the pousada. The lodge owners' daughter, Yumi Faraci, was apparently staying with friends she had invited for the holiday. Her parents, who were in another part of the building, survived, the woman's uncle, Antonio Faraci, told the G1 news Web site.

Nearly 80 other mudslides have been reported throughout the region in recent days. Together with flooding, they have killed at least 64 people — 39 people on Ilha Grande and Angra dos Reis and another 22 people in other parts of Rio de Janeiro state. Among the dead are toddlers and teens, a pregnant woman and many older people, officials said.

Firefighters in Minas Gerais state said three elderly people died when a mudslide hit their home, the state-run Agencia Estado reported.

Another six people — all from the same family — were missing after a mudslide hit their house in the town of Cunha in Sao Paulo state, the Civil Defense there said.

Morgue authorities in Rio de Janeiro — where many bodies are being flown for identification — and Civil Defense authorities in Angra dos Reis have said all the identified victims are Brazilian. But they also say the death toll might double because many people remain missing.

In Angra dos Reis, 12 bodies from the two deadly mudslides were laid out in coffins in a school gymnasium for visitation by family and friends.

The rains halted Saturday, allowing searchers to intensify their efforts.

But the muddy conditions and the hopes that survivors may still be buried under the mud meant efforts had to be carried out mostly by hand.



RESCUE workers carry the body of a mudslide victim in Ilha Grande, an island off the city of Angra dos Reis near Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.



AMINU KANO TEACHING HOSPITAL

P.M.B. 3452, KANO, Kano State.
Tel: 064-947872, 894423

Vacancy

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the vacant position of **Director of Administration** in Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital.

The Post:

The Director of Administration is the Chief Administrative Officer of the Hospital. He/She is responsible for personnel matters as well as the orderly running of all sections of the Hospital. In addition, he/she is the custodian of the records of all transactions in the Hospital and also serves as the Secretary to the Board of Management of the Hospital.

Qualification:

Candidates must be highly qualified and resourceful professionals with good honours degree in Hospital/Health Services Administration, Social Sciences or Arts.

Associate Membership/Fellowship of the Institute of Health Services Administrators of Nigeria or other suitable equivalent professional qualification will be an advantage. Candidates must have had wide administrative experience of at least fifteen years post qualification, preferably in a Teaching Hospital or similar Institution, four of which must be at the level of Assistant Director (CONTISS 14) or Deputy Director (CONPSS 16) and above.

Salary: CONTISS 15 N2,232,199 N2,875,791.

Method of Application:

Candidates should submit applications together with photocopies of relevant credentials and detailed Curriculum Vitae. They should also advise their referees (three) to write under confidential cover to the Chief Medical Director.

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

The Chief Medical Director,
Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital,
P.M.B. 3452, Kano.

Only shortlisted candidates would be invited for aptitude test and

SIGNED

Dr. Abdulhamid Isa Dutse
Chief Medical Director

KOGI STATE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

P.M.B. 1033, ANKPA
(OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR)

RE-FEDERAL TEACHERS SCHEME (FTS): LIST OF FAKE FTS PARTICIPANTS

The authorities of Kogi State College of Education, Ankpa wish to use this medium to appreciate the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), for its recent efforts aimed at verifying the authenticity of some NCE results claimed to have been obtained from some Colleges of Education across the country. The authorities deeply appreciate the verification exercise carried out in the college which led to the discoveries of some forged statements of results as published in the "Compass" Newspapers of Monday 2nd November, 2009 and "Daily Trust" of Wednesday 4th November, 2009.

Similarly, the College appreciates the efforts of Kogi State Government, through the State House of Assembly and the Honourable Commissioner for Education, in fighting the national malaise of certificate racketeering and result forgery. The College will not leave any stone unturned in assisting government and concerned organizations to verify results/certificates and track down culprits of fake results and certificate racketeering.

However, the College is compelled to correct certain impressions in the publications for the sake of those who genuinely and honestly worked for their results but, unfortunately, had their names included in the said publications. This will not only ensure that justice is done to the innocent victims of the publications but that it is also seen to have been done.

From the foregoing, therefore, the College would like to state clearly that the following persons whose names appeared in the publications were issued with **AUTHENTIC** and **VALID** results:

S/NO	NAME	YEAR OF GRADUATION	COURSE
1	ITODO BLESSING AJUMI	2008	PHE
2	ONU ESTHER	2007	INT. SCIENCE
3	OGBE ENEMONA TITUS	2008	COMP./PHY
4	OSENI SOLOMON	2008	PES/POL
5	MOHAMMED RABI	2008	PES/SOS
6	ADEMU ALENYIKA	2006	PES/SOS
7	SULE ANDREW	2008	PHE
8	VICTORIA U. OMALA	2003	BUS.EDU.
9	ONU OJONOJIMA	2006	BUS.EDU
10	MAHA D. ANGNES	2006	ENG/SOS
11	YUNUSA AYISHETU	2005	TEC.EDU
12	DAN-USMAN S. BERIKISU	2004	BUS.EDU
13	USMAN YAHAYA	2004	TECH.EDU
14	USMAN V. CHRISTOPHER	2004	AGRIC.EDU.
15	ADAMU AMINA	2004	TECH.EDU
16	IGNATIUS OGOCHUKWU	2004	TECH.EDU
17	SHAIBU RUTH	2004	HOME.C.
18	MOHAMMED H. ZAINAB	2004	TECH.EDU
19	OKPE ELIZABETH	2004	TECH.EDU
20	AYEFU AYUBA	2006	BUS.EDU
21	OTTIH BENJAMIN	2006	BUS.EDU
22	ABBAH A. ADUOJO	2007	F.A.A.
23	ADAH T. SEIDU	2003	GEOG/ECONS
24	ALFA O. RUTH	2006	SOS/CRS
25	ADAJI B. ABIMAJE	2004	ENG/SOS
26	ADEMU ABDUL	2006	TECH.EDU
27	ALADI ALFA	2004	PES/CRS
28	AGADA B. OJOMA	2007	ENG/SOS
29	AMEDU JOSEPH	2005	ENG/SOS
30	AMEH FELICIA	2006	ISS/POL.SC
31	AMEH MARTHA	2006	ECONS/SOS
32	ANNA THOMAS	2002	SOS/CRS
33	ATTAH JULIET	2005	ENG/CRS
34	BABA C. GLORIA	2004	CRS/SOS
35	EBUTE A. JOY	2004	ENG/SOS
36	EDICHA ADEJOH	2006	PES/SOS
37	EMEJE MARY	2004	HAU/THEATE
38	PAULINA AMEDU	2001	ECONS/SOS
39	EMEJE OJOMA	2007	ENG/POL.SC
40	ENECH E. STELLA	2003	SOS/CRS
41	IBRAHIM A. FATIMA	2001	CRS/SOS
42	HANNAH OMALE	2001	ECONS/SOS
43	HARUNA MUSA	2001	BUS.EDU
44	HASSAN SULEIMAN	2006	AGRIC. EDU.
45	HUSSEINI HARUNA	2001	ECONS/SOS
46	IBRAHIM IDOKO	2004	SOS/CRS
47	IDABALA SAMUEL	2006	PES/PES
48	IDOGA ANGUSTINE	2007	AGRIC. EDU.
49	AUDU SUMAILA	2008	PES/POL.SC
50	ADEJOH JOSEPH	2005	ECONS/SOS
51	ALADI JOY AMEGO	2005	PES/CRS
52	USMAN ALFA FATIMA	2000	PES/ISS
53	HARUNA UNEKWUOJO ROSELINE	2006	IGA/SOS

The college would like to state, once again, that it is ever ready to track down criminals who peddle results it never issued.

Signed
Mr. John Sule
Principals Assistant Registrar
(Exams & Records)
For: Registrar



INFRASTRUCTURE CONCESSION REGULATORY COMMISSION (ICRC)
The Public Private Partnership (PPP) Project

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)
Rehabilitation of Lagos - Kano and Port Harcourt - Jos Rail Lines
Railway Extensions: Apapa - Tin Can Island and Port Harcourt - Onne

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) has applied for a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments for the services of a reputable and qualified consultant to carry out an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the Nigeria Railway Corporation (NRC). The Nigeria's railways network comprises 3,506 route km of narrow gauge (1067mm) track and 360 route km of standard gauge (1435mm) track. The network is divided into the Western Line from Lagos to Nguru in Yobe State, measuring 1,805 km of narrow gauge track and 348 km of secondary track (including passing loops and yard tracks). This line extends into the one of the primary port complexes in Nigeria, the Lagos Port Complex, and provides rail access to several bulk, break bulk and liquid bulk terminals, as well as the Apapa Container Terminal. The line however, stops short of the other major port terminal in Lagos, the Tin Can Island port complex. A parallel line in the eastern part of the country, the Eastern Line, runs from Port Harcourt to Maiduguri. The Eastern Line is also linked to the major sea port at Port Harcourt but stops short of the Onne port facility. The Eastern Line measures 1,700 km of narrow gauge track. A standard gauge line runs down the corner of the country from the Itakpe iron ore mine to the Ajaokuta steel plant and then to Warri. The line measures 360 km and is to include an extension to the Aladja jetty, when complete.

It is planned to extend rail connections to the ports of Onne and Tin Can Island and six Inland Container Depots (ICDs). The purpose of connecting the seaports to the railway is to assist in decongesting these facilities so that wait times for ships and storage time for containers can be reduced.

In seeking to implement the rehabilitation and extension and or concession of the above rail lines, ICRC intends to comply with all relevant national and international environmental requirements in order to meet legal obligations. The EIA study activities to be carried out by the Consultant are outlined in the tasks specified below:

- Conduct baseline studies that are required to characterize the existing environment;
- Assess the types of alternatives to be considered;
- Assess consultations with relevant stakeholders via Stakeholder mapping;
- Assess the significance of both positive and negative impacts by weighting them against local conditions and establish limits to acceptable change;
- Assess detailed project descriptions, including general layout & physical descriptions, ancillary systems & facilities, operational control systems, and project implementation descriptions;
- Detailed descriptions of the existing environmental and socio-economic situation that incorporates stakeholder consultations, literature reviews and field studies;
- Health & safety, environmental and socio-economic impact assessments that include qualitative and quantitative risk assessments among other tools and techniques;
- Proposed mitigating and ameliorating measures as applied to the rail lines' rehabilitation/ construction and operations impacts;
- Environmental Management Plans that appropriately incorporate monitoring, mitigation and management systems that are consistent with identified impacts and that provide a contingency for unforeseen impacts.

Task 1. Description of the proposed project.

The Consultant shall provide a detailed description of the proposed project components.

Task 2. Legislative and Regulatory Considerations.

The Consultant shall identify and briefly discuss the pertinent regulations and standards governing environmental quality, health and safety, protection of sensitive areas, protection of endangered species, CITES, etc., at international, national, regional and local levels.

Task 3. Description of the Baseline Environment.

The consultant shall assemble and evaluate baseline data on the environmental characteristics of the study area. Include information on any changes anticipated before the project commences.

Task 4. Determination of the Potential Impacts of the Proposed Project.

The Consultant shall assess the impacts from changes brought about by the project on the relevant baseline environmental conditions as described above under Task 3.

Task 5A. Analysis of Alternatives to the Proposed Project. The Consultant shall include an analysis of reasonable alternatives to meet the ultimate project objective.

Task 5B. Selection of the ROW for Apapa-Tin Can Island. Assess the optimal railway routing for the Apapa-Tin Can Island railway extension in order to minimize environmental impact and avoid involuntary resettlement.

Task 6. Development of an Environmental Management Plan (EMP). Estimate the impacts and costs of the mitigation measures and of the institutional and training requirements to implement them.

Task 7. Public Consultations process or Stakeholder involvement:

The consultant will conduct stakeholder mapping that will enable ICRC to gain an appreciation of who is interested and may be involved.

Task 8. Development of Environmental Management Plans (EMPs)

Environmental Management Plans (EMPs) will be developed and used as a tool in the construction and operation of the rail lines to minimize and mitigate significant negative impacts from the project.

Task 9. Identification of Institutional Needs to Implement Environmental Assessment Recommendations.

The consultant shall carry out a review of the authority and capability of institutions at local, regional, and national levels and recommend steps to strengthen or expand them.

Task 10. Development of a Monitoring Plan.

The Consultant shall prepare a detailed plan to monitor the implementation of mitigating measures and the impacts of the project during construction and operation phases.

Task 11. Assist in Inter-Agency Coordination and Public/NGO Participation.

The Consultant shall assist in coordinating the environmental assessment with other government agencies, in obtaining the views of local NGOs and interested and affected groups.

Submission of Expressions of Interest (EOIs)

Prospective consultant should submit an Expression of Interest detailing the following information as basis for pre-qualification:

- Profile of the firm including ownership
- Track records in Environmental Impact Assessment
- Relevant experience in the rail sector (including technical competence);
- Copies of unabridged financial reports for the last 3yrs
- Experience working in Nigeria or Sub-Saharan Africa

The Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank Borrowers, January 1997 (Revised September 1997, January 1999, May 2002, May 2004 and October 2006)

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in six (6) copies in a sealed envelope clearly marked "EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR TRANSACTION ADVISER FOR NRC CONCESSION". A CD-ROM version should also be included.

The expressions of interests should be addressed and delivered not later than 5.00pm on January 05, 2010 at the DG's office as addressed below:

Engr. Mansur Ahmed
Director General
Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission
No. 13, Suleiman Barau Crescent
Aso Villa, Asoke, Abuja
Tel: 234-803-3143403
E-mail: mansur.ahmed@yahoo.com.

Interested applicants may obtain further information at the address above from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm, Monday through Friday (except public holidays)

Only short-listed Consultants will be contacted.
Expression of interest through email or fax will not be entertained.



USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO
(Office of the Registrar & Secretary to Council)

REQUEST FOR TENDER FOR NETWORK SECURITY AND PROVISION OF BANDWIDTH

The Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto intends to employ the services of consultants for the procurement, deployment and training on the services described below:

The University has recently deployed fiber optic network and offers the following services to its staff and students: Internet access through a Proxy Server, Mail/DNS/Web/FTP Services and will offer the following services in the future: VoIP, Virtual Library, Online Student Registration System, Staff Information System, Learning Management System and Students Academic Record System among others.

The University therefore, requires a centralized Authentication, Authorization and Accounting (AAA) solution that will provide centralized and single sign on to network resources for its 20,000+ strong students and staff population. In addition, it requires that the network should be protected from both inside. It is the University's policy that all access to its network resources should be via Proxy Server. Thus the services below should be designed to integrate with our existing proxy server.

SCOPE OF WORK

LOT 1: AAA

The desired system(s) should:

1. Be a dedicated hardware appliance
2. Be compatible with our existing system (Cisco switches and Linux based Proxy) and network design.
3. Support Remote Access Dial-In User Service (RADIUS) and Terminal Access Controller Access Control System Plus (TACACS+) standards.
4. Provide central authentication to all university network resources available now and to be made available in the future.
5. Provide AAA services to clients trying to access the network resources by providing non-sharable and encrypted username and password.
6. Provide billing on pre- and post- paid basis. Billing options should include per second, per minute and unlimited options.
7. Allow users to change their passwords at will for unlimited access users.
8. Provide centralized administration of users and posture authentication.
9. Provide bandwidth management capabilities.
10. Training of our staff on configuration and management of the appliance.

LOT 2: FIREWALL

1. Must be a dedicated hardware appliance

2. Provide stateful packets inspection.
3. Provide segmentation of the network into inside, outside and DMZ.
4. Content and URL filtering
5. Advanced security services for multimedia applications and protocols including Voice over IP (VoIP), H.323, SIP, Skinny, Skype and Microsoft NetMeeting, etc.
6. Support for segmented networks
7. Training.

LOT 3: BANDWIDTH

The University plans to upgrade its bandwidth to 5meg (4/1meg downlink/uplink). The University has two campuses and intends to pool its bandwidth together to be shared by the two campuses. The University has existing and active 1.8m C-Band dish with LinkStak MODEM. Vendors are however free to quote for equipment compatible with their network. The requirements are as follows:

1. 5meg (4/1meg downlink/uplink) dedicated bandwidth.
2. 1:1 CIR bandwidth quality
3. The ISP must be at most tier-2 provider capable of routing our independent IPs (Evidence must be attached).
4. Indicate your bandwidth policy.
5. Indicate the standard service level guarantee.
6. Mode of payment.

BIDDING REQUIREMENT

Interested consultants must provide information including:

- Company Name,
- Year of incorporation,
- Locations of offices and other facilities,
- Contact information.
- General Information concerning Standard Products and/or Services
- Brief Description of Relevant Companies Projects.
- List of Major Clients.
- Evidence of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Company Tax Clearance for the last three years and VAT registration.
- In the case of Bandwidth, registration with Nigeria Communication Commission (NCC).
- Brief description of similar verifiable projects successfully executed by the company with locations, letters of award and completion certificates, in the last 5 years.
- List of managerial, technical and administrative staff of the Company.

COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested consultants may submit their quotes within four weeks from the date of this publication and clearly titled "Quote for network security" or "Quote for provision of bandwidth" as the case may be addressed to:

The Secretary to Council,
Usmanu Danfodiyo University, P.M.B. 2346, Sokoto

Signed
Mal. U. U. Bunza
Registrar & Secretary to Council

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

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151 textile firms close shop in Nigeria

• 15 in 2009, 480,000 out of job

By Jibrin Abubakar

NIGERIA is facing acute deindustrialisation as no fewer than 151 textile companies have closed shop since 1990s when the fate of the sector began to dwindle, National Trustee of the Nigerian Textile Manufacturers Association has said.

Senator Walid Jibrin who is also the Vice President of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) told Daily Trust on phone yesterday that the year 2009 was another bad year for the sector as 15 companies packed up again.

He said Nigeria, in the 1980s, used to be an African giant when it had 175 textile companies working at full capacity but that only 24 are currently producing.

He expressed optimism that with the rekindled government determination, the sector may as well be revived in the years ahead.

He said the cotton and textile sector used to employ more than 500,000 Nigerians but the 24 companies remaining could barely pay the salaries of about 20,000 staff they have now.

Senator Jibrin said the textile sector was the second largest employer of labour and that if "we put together its subsidiaries, the sector can employ up to two million people. So you can see that it is not a sector to play with."

He said: "I have met with the Chief Economic Adviser to the President, Tanimu Yakubu, the Minister of Finance Mansur Muhtar and the Minister of Commerce and Industry Achike Udenwa and they have been wonderful. They have visited our mill in Kaduna and they have seen things themselves. I think they are very serious." Recently, Commerce and Industry Minister told newsmen that government was disbursing N10 billion of N100 billion it pledged for the revival of cotton and textile sector in the country.

This is against the backdrop of the



A truck loaded with industrial cotton

N70 billion Textile Revival Funds promised the sector by President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The Umaru Musa Yar'adua government has changed the name of the scheme to Cotton, Textile and Garment Development scheme (CTG) and has jerked up the fund to N100bn.

The source said the fund will be disbursed at 6 per cent interest rate but that manufacturers have to apply and pass the screening process.

A source said government committee has started disbursing to manufacturers. He said some new companies in Lagos are being formed in a rush to benefit from the fund. He advised that old companies be given priority in the fund to be administered by the Bank of Industry. He said the bank's old customers are also struggling to benefit from the fund, warning that this may affect the smooth success of disbursement. Members of the presidential committee

who worked on the scheme include: The Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), Debt Management Office (DMO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Bank of Industry (BOI), Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Power, United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), Cottage and Textile Union among others.

When contacted, the Executive Chairman Adhama Textiles & Garment Industries Ltd Kanjo Sa'idu Dattijo Adhama said the manufacturers are happy with the way the government is handling the sector now, adding that his company in Kano has been visited and that soon he may be a beneficiary.

He also advised the government to set up what he called Textile Development Bank (TDB) to take charge of cotton and the textile sector.

Lack of power and smuggling of cheap Chinese products into Nigeria have been blamed for the collapse of the sector.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE



Arik Air

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

Aero Contractors

Lagos-Kad: 08.00am (Mon/Fri/Sat/Sun)
Kad-Lagos: 09.40am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Jos: 11.15am (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Jos-Lagos: 13.15pm (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Lagos-Abj: 06.50; 13.30; 16.30; 19.45 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 12.30 (Sun) 16.45 (Sat). Abj-Lagos: 07.30; 13.30; 19.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30, 14.30; 19.30 (Sun) 18.30 (Sat); Lagos-Ben: 07:45; 11:00; 15:30; (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun) 12:30; (Sun); 15:30 (Sat).
Ben-Lagos: 09.15; 12:30; 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 17.00 (Sat); 14.00 (Sun); Lagos-Cala: 13.15; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 08.30; 19.00 (Sun); Cala-Lagos: 14.45; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 10.30 (Sun); Lagos-Enu: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat); 15.00 (Sun); Enu-Lagos: 09.30; (Mon-Fri/Sat) 16.45 (Sun)

Chanchangi Airlines

Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 10.00, 13.10, 15.30, 17.30
Abj-Lagos: 08.00, 11.45, 13.40, 15.30, 17.00
Lagos-Kad: 10.45, (on Fri), 17.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun)
Kad-Lagos: 07.30 (Mon-Fri), 08.00 (Sat/Sun)
Nigerian Eagles Airlines (Virgin Nigeria)
Abj-Kano: 18.40 (Mon-Fri)/sun
Kano-Abj: 08.35 (Mon-Fri) /Sat
Abj-Soko: 09:35, (Mon), 10:10 (Fri), 11:20 (Wed/Sun)
Soko-Abj: 11.35 (Mon), 12.00 (Fri), 13.20 (Wed/Sun)
Lagos-Abj: 07.15, 11.40, 14.00, 16.30, 17.00, 17.20; 18.30 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun), 8.00; 12.40; 13.10; 20:00 (Fri)
Abj-Lagos: 07.00, 09.30, 10.30, 11.15, 16.15; 19.15, 19.25, 19:35 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); 14:55; 15:15; 20:45 (Fri); 19:45 (Sun); 11:25, 13:35, 16:25 (Mon)
Lagos-PHC: 07.40, 09.30, 10.00, 12.20, 13.30, 14.00, 16.00 (Mon-Fri/Sat/Sun); PHC-Lagos: 10.50, 11.20,

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.3041	0.3141	0.3241
DANISH KRONER	28.5326	28.6296	28.7266
EURO	212.4418	213.1639	213.886
POUNDS STERLING	235.4041	236.2043	237.0044
RIYAL	39.2267	39.36	39.4933
SDR	230.5645	231.3482	232.1319
SWISS FRANC	142.8433	143.3288	143.8143
US DOLLAR	147.1	147.6	148.1
WAUA	229.792	230.5731	231.3541
YEN	1.6033	1.6088	1.6142

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

BUYING	
DOLLAR.....	N155
EURO.....	N222
POUNDS.....	N254
SELLING	
DOLLAR.....	N157
EURO.....	N224
POUNDS.....	N257

Source: Daba Bureau De Change, Lagos

Stock Market Index

Date: Thursday, December 31, 2009
Index: 20,827.17
Deals: 5,179
Volume: 267,217,844
Value: N 1,197,016,271.07
Cap.: N 4,989,385,147,463.94

Business/Agric

'Government is destroying rice farming in Nigeria'

In this interview, president of the Nigerian Rice Farmers Association Alhaji Abubakar Wodi bares his mind on issues affecting rice farming in the country.

By Solomon Chung

WHAT is happening to rice farming in Nigeria?

I would say the sector is growing but there are constraints which are occasioned by some conditions; and I am sure Nigerians know them, even the government knows them. These conditions are: Inadequate facilities from the government whose main responsibility is to create the enabling environment. The point is that government has not been encouraging the farmers.

We learnt that the government has increased its funding in the agricultural sector, exceeding 6% recommended by The Compliance Africa Agriculture Development Programme. The Nigerian government has made it 10%. Do the Rice farmers feel the impact of such improved funding?

As far as rice farming is concerned, I personally don't like talking about government. The reason is simple: We have talked, and we have debated. There is nothing we have not done in this regard. I remember meetings we had with the former President Olusegun Obasanjo. Things still remain the same. I have strategized, organized my members to source for funds and developed capacity building initiatives from other indirect sources. For example, teaching the farmers modern farming techniques.

What is your take on the importation of rice into Nigeria?

I have always said this. And I still maintain anybody or group of people who would engage in

importing any food that Nigeria can produce are sabotaging the nation. It is a big conspiracy against Nigeria. Anyway, the government is to be blamed not the importers. Imagine it; they are importing rice from China, Thailand and India to the detriment of the national economy.

It baffles me, why we import rice when we have very fertile land to produce rice. Nigeria has about 5million hectares of land researched and confirmed to be very suitable for rice farming. We have all the ingredients, we have the capacity to produce 10million metric tons of rice with the quality that can match or even be better than that which they import. But the government has refused to mobilize the farmers towards that goal. And they know why, they can explain better. We are suppose to concentrate and look inwards. When we have the capacity, we have natural facilities. Let me make it clear, Artificial food surplus, by way of buying and reserving cannot give us the food security we need as a nation.

We have the natural ecology, the human resources, geographical facilities, even the economic facilities to produce anything in the sector. Do you know the staggering figures government use to import rice? You would not believe it not to talk of other agricultural commodities and facilities. Like fertilizer, tools etc. With all these, tell me how the micro and macro economy grow as required? We can only succeed in developing other economies by such importation.

Many Nigerians don't know



ALHAJI Abubakar Wodi

the amount government spends to import rice. If they do, they would not forgive the government. Because if we invest to produce these things, there would be massive employment, improved agricultural sector and a better economy in the end. It is not surprising that Nigeria is poor despite its rich resources and revenue generation capacity. We need to get back to

the basis, which is all about self sufficiency.

In what ways have you advised the government in respect of these issues?

They don't listen to me and my members. I have advised the former president on several occasions, especially as regards to rice importation in particular. They don't listen because we

don't belong to the political class so they don't see us as relevant stakeholders. They want politicians that would tell them what they want to hear. Imagine; with all the huge figures they claim they allocate to the sector we still go to other sources to borrow money. It is a give and take thing, the farmers have their skills, their land and ideas but they need funds and a platform to put it to work. The farmers need funds, so long as it is not going to exceed one digit interest rate.

Do you see the government achieving the vision 2020 in the area of agriculture?

Potentially yes, with our resources, human and material, every state and local government has a comparative advantage that can be put to use. But the government needs to facilitate, motivate and empower the real farmers. The government also needs to be sincere, planning is also necessary. There should be a deliberate effort to succeed.

Can you share with our readers some government policies on agriculture and tell us if your members are captured in such programmes?

Forget all the statistics they give people. 70% of real farmers are in the rural areas and most of them are not captured in government arrangements. It is only the big politicians turned farmers that benefit.

Recent statistics indicates that the non oil sector achieved a growth rate of 9.6% in 2007 compared to 9.4 in 2006. But interestingly; the performance was largely driven by agriculture. This, I assure you took extra effort from these neglected farmers. We call on the government to channel efforts towards infrastructural development, sound market system, Agricultural oriented ICT, Research, the list is endless.

“Forget all the statistics they give people. 70% of real farmers are in the rural areas and most of them are not captured in government arrangements. It is only the big politicians turned farmers that benefit.”

'Nigeria can produce 364,490MT of pineapple if...'

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

NIGERIA can produce 364,490 metric tons of pineapple per annum if its production challenges are properly addressed, Director-General of Raw Materials Research and Development Council Prof. A.P. Onwualu has said.

The Director-General who said this in Lagos at a stake-

holders forum organized by the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) added that pineapple is cultivated in about 19 states in the country, and that the fruit current production is about 17,000 metric tons per annum.

He however said that industrial potentials of cashew have not been fully realized in the country as the bulk of cashew is virtually exported without value addition.

He said: "The production of the nut increased from 30,000 metric tons in 1990 to about 176,000 metric tons in 2008. Apart from some cottage scale production of cashew nuts for domestic consumption, there are three industries which are involved in the production of cashew juice."

He further said Nigeria contributes about 3 percent of the world mango production and is ranked 8th largest producer.

According to him, survey shows that the small scale farmers are the major contributors to mango production in the country.

Earlier in his address, the Director-General of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria (MAN) Jide Mike emphasized the need to use local raw materials to produce fruit juice in the country.

He said: "The Manufacturers Association of Nigeria however,

observed that the issue of backward integration can be captured intensively by patronizing local farmers and is of the opinion those efforts

should be geared towards encouraging investors to go into local raw material production.

"We fully support the gradual phase out of some imported raw materials to give way to the locally available raw material in adequate quantity," he said.

Business / Industry

Ministry hands over IDCs to SMEDAN

By Sunday Williams

THE Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry has approved the official handing over of 22 Industrial Development Centres (IDCs) across the country to the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN).

The Industrial Development Centres are expected to provide techno-managerial services to

enterprises that are to be clustered in Enterprises Zones.

A statement from SMEDAN said the handing over of the IDCs is in line with the Act establishing the Agency, thereby paving way for implementation of the laid down strategies for the re-positioning of the IDCs.

Handing over the IDCs, the Minister of state for Commerce and Industry, Humphrey Abah, approved a ten-point recommendation of a Ministerial

Committee charged with the responsibility to fashion out the necessary modalities for the hand-over of the IDCs to SMEDAN.

The Committee recommended that the staff of the IDCs may as much as possible be absorbed by SMEDAN while the emoluments of the staff remain in the Ministry up to end of 2010 when it is hoped that appropriate provision would be made to enable SMEDAN take over the

responsibility.

The committee also recommended the start-up of the Industrial Cluster Strategy as approved by the Federal Executive Council using the four zonal IDCs of Bauchi, Owerri, Osogbo and Zaria as models for their comparative advantages.

They urged the Government to undertake the necessary development of the four Zonal Centre's as start-up for the Industrial Cluster Concept.

They also recommended for the upgrading of the IDCs to cluster parks, under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model in line with subsisting Federal Executive Council (FEC) directives.

Finally, the Committee recommended in line with FEC (2007) directive, the need to proceed with the disposal of all IDCs obsolete machines/equipment to forestall further depreciation in value.

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Star Feature

Never ready

The state of preparedness of the nation to manage critical emergencies has continued to generate worry amongst Nigerians, even as the government still grapples with sporadic crises.

By Tosin Omoniye

FOR many traders at the Lafia Town Main Market especially those at the northern fringes of the popular market, January 16, 2008 would probably remain a black Wednesday. Particularly for traders like Malama Halima Mailafiya, the day would possibly be classified as one of those days that would not be forgotten in a hurry.

On the fateful day as early as 3 am in the morning, a fire whose origin has not been ascertained till date, razed the market leaving behind attendant tales of woes and grief for many of the merchants and artisans who inhabit the market. Malama Mailafiya, an indigene of Keana local government area of the state recalls vividly how her goods which include textile materials went up in flames. Perhaps, to add a sordid twist to her horrible experience, the remaining wares that could be salvaged were pilfered by hoodlums who were pretending to help the traders to rescue their property. The petty trader alleged that the hoodlums entered her shop and stole all that was remaining from the blaze. 'I thought they were helping me, not knowing they were thieves,' she lamented.

What particularly irked the trader was the slow pace with which the fire service responded to the crisis. According to her when the fire fighters wasted time in responding to the incident, the traders had to resort to self help remedy, which eventually proved ineffective and caused more havoc. By the time the fire service eventually arrived the worst had already happened, and the grief stricken merchants could only watch the last of their valuable go up in flames.

Even though, Alhaji Uba Maimako, chairman of the market traders association, commended the fire fighters for at least preventing the fire from engulfing the other parts of the market, Halima till date is still of the opinion that the ill preparedness of the government agency to manage crisis, is responsible for her losses. Till date, she is still struggling to recoup her monumental losses.

Adereji Tajudeen shares a similar experience. Few weeks back he was forced to shelve his pride at the monthly meeting of his members of the old students of his alma mater, the Obafemi Awolowo University Old Students Association when he requested for financial assistance to enable him get back on his feet in the heels of terrific losses

he incurred, when his apartment at the Lugbe area of the Federal Capital Territory was razed by fire, occasioned by an electrical malfunctioning. The visibly shaken middle aged civil servant narrated his experience to his colleagues confessing that he was unable to salvage any of his properties. He however feels pain that an hour after an alert was sent to the FCT Fire Service, they failed to show up. Curiously according to him, they arrived immediately the last flames of the deadly fire were put out by concerned neighbours. 'I watched helplessly as all my life's labour was destroyed in fire and one thought that continually came to my mind is do we really have a workable system here in Nigeria.' Tajudeen is a man who at present has lost all hope in the entity called Nigeria.

A national daily in its editorial dated 9th of July 2009 probably put the pitiable state of the fire service in proper perspective when it stated inter alia that, 'The situation with the Nigeria Fire service is so pathetic that Nigerians often have to rely on private companies to come to their rescue on outbreaks of fire. Fighting fire disaster in high-rise buildings is always a huge challenge in major cities. To worsen the matters, fire-fighting trucks only exist in government houses in most states of the federation, while at the local council level, none is provided. The implication of all these is enormous on the nation's economy and the well-being of the society.' It equally recalled an incident that happened earlier in the year in Ojuelegba barracks, in Lagos where officers of the state fire service were nearly beaten up after they had arrived late as usual after an apartment had been burned down. It took the spirited intervention of some corporate organizations who had provided their trucks and water without which the blaze would have done greater damage.

The Commandant General of the Federal Fire Service Olusegun Okebiora has consistently laid the blame of the ill preparedness of the agency to manage crisis on the door steps of the government who he says have failed to give the service the required financial strength with which it could carry out its duties. He once confessed that the nation loses an estimated N300bn annually to fire outbreaks even as he stated that the current N1.7bn allocated to the agency this year was grossly inadequate. According to the fire service boss, 'the age long government neglect of the fire service'



UNFORTUNATELY many houses still do not have alternative exits apart

has been the cause of the tottering steps of the agency and its inability to carry out its mandate.

Many also feel however that every Nigerian needs to imbibe the culture of readiness to respond to crisis and unexpected emergencies, if the losses incurred by the nation are to be mitigated considerably. To this class of people the way and manner in which shelters or houses are built in Nigeria, must as a necessity reflect this mindset. For instance most houses are built in such a way that only one entrance leads into such houses, with no alternative means of escape in times of acute danger. This sadly has led to many deaths as a result of stampede, whenever there is a fire outbreak or any other disaster. It has also made the job of political assassins easier as all they have to do is to

“ Even though, Alhaji Uba Maimako, chairman commended the fire fighters for at least preventing parts of the market, Halima till date is still of the opinion that the ill preparedness of the government agency to manage crisis, is responsible for her losses. Till date, she is still struggling to recoup her monumental losses.



from the main one.

wait at the sole entrance of a building in order to nail their victim!

Architect AS Alabi, an advocate of urban regeneration, encourages potential builders or architects to take the issue of safety and emergency control into consideration whenever they are providing the master plan for houses. This he agrees is absent in most buildings nowadays even government approved ones. He notes: 'The appropriate use of escape stairs, appropriate door swings, escape tunnels and smoke vents, are simple design basics that must not be ignored. In the event of fire, it could be the dividing line between life and death.' He adds further, 'The use of primary means of escape, secondary means of escape and possibly any alternative means of escape, should be the goal of good design. Considerations of width of the routes, restriction of distance

and traveling time to escape protected points. Smoke control along escape routes is a very crucial technicality in the design of buildings, and other aspects of the built environment.'

However many feel that the nation's inability to manage emergencies is not only limited to that of fire. According to Olusina Ayodele, a public affairs analyst, emergencies go beyond that of fire crisis and transcends to the preparedness of the government to move to offer instant succor to its citizenry in the aftermath of crisis whether natural or man made. 'How do you know a responsive government? It is a government that can adequately respond to emergencies that affects its citizens whether locally or on the foreign scene. Nigeria is not prepared to manage a crisis at whatever level you can think of. Look at the recent Boko Haram slaughter. It took the nation's security forces by storm and if not for the grace of God it would have turned out more deadly than anyone thought of. Look at the scourge of cholera in the north, Maiduguri and its environs. Many people had lost their lives before the authorities could wake up to their responsibilities. There are other disasters waiting to happen, and all we pray for is that they would not take too many lives before the government agencies tasked to respond, actually respond. On the foreign plane many Nigerian had been brutally killed in South Africa for no reason before our government could

make moves to secure our remaining citizens in that country. I can go on and on', Olusina states.

The Nigeria Police Force spokesperson ACP Emmanuel Ojukwu and his Army counterpart Brigadier Chris Olukolade, assure Nigerians of the preparedness of the country's security apparatuses to respond to critical emergencies that border on the security of lives and property in any part of the country. But they have equally agreed that the issue of security and the appropriate response to crisis situations still remain the duty of all and sundry. Nigeria's preparedness to handle natural and health crisis still remains unstable according to most stakeholders. Its foreign policy at also ensuring the well being and safety of its citizens abroad is equally not encouraging.

However, the government agency charged with the responsibility of articulating response strategies for the nation in times of emergencies, National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA has stated clearly to all and sundry that it is capable of carrying out its task, despite the tough conditions under which it operates.

On March 26, 2009 the agency in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Abuja, staged a mass casualty exercise involving a simulated aircraft crash at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja. The exercise was a culmination of three weeks of training on Incident Command System (ICS) conducted by a 2009 U.S. Science Fellow and United States Environmental Protection Agency on Scene Coordinator, Michael Solecki. The operation, which brought together emergency responders from 28 agencies and the private sector, involved over 500 victims, responders, and the deployment of a wide array of emergency equipment and logistical support.

According to Air Vice Marshall Audu-Bida, the Director General of NEMA, the exercise was essentially targeted at training its personnel and interested government agencies on the need to be ready to tackle national emergencies as they come. The staged accident involved a Boeing 727 aircraft with 125 passengers and crew onboard that caught fire upon making an emergency landing due to a bird-strike. The airport air traffic controller activated the airports' emergency response system, which led to the activation of the National Emergency Response System, NERS. Hundreds of responders from the fire department, the police, the Air Force, the Army, the Red Cross, the Federal Road Safety Commission, the Nigerian Security and Civil Defense Force and paramedics from various hospitals secured the area, put out the fire, and rescued and evacuated passengers to two area hospitals. The press was briefed on the "accident" and the emergency response underway by a designated press officer.

However many Nigerians are still skeptical of the state of preparedness of the relevant agencies to respond to real life unfortunate incidences which daily inundate its citizenry.

“ Nigeria is not prepared to manage a crisis at whatever level you can think of. Look at the recent Boko Haram slaughter. It took the nation's security forces by storm and if not for the grace of God it would have turned out more deadly than anyone thought of.

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Business

'Credit Bureau will correct distortion in the banking sector'

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

CREDIT Bureau will correct the distortions and anomalies that have brought the nation's banking sector to its knees as it will aid credit penetration in the country.

ACCORDING to the managing director of CRC Credit Bureau, one of the recently licensed bureaux, Tunde Popoola with the credit bureaux now in place, banks can easily assess credit history of borrowers and their ability to repay such loans through data and information available from the bureau.

"Credit bureau is an idea that has been delayed in berthing on the Nigerian financial shores. It delay has manifested in the negative indices in the growth of the Nigerian economy. The very bedrock of the economy development has been operating like a ship without rudders in primary

assignment as lenders have been operating without that key infrastructure so essential for their efficiency and effectiveness", he said.

He observed that credit penetration in Nigeria is still below 30 per cent while the average for Africa is 75 per cent emphasizing that vast chunk of the billion of naira loans disbursed in the country go to the large firms and highly rated individual customers

Popoola said as part of efforts to enlighten the public on the activities of Credit bureau in Nigeria, CRC Credit Bureau would on January 7 be formally launched by the governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Sanusi Lamido Sanusi.

With the theme reporting, regulation and risk management: Repositioning the Nigerian Financial System, Popoola said the current dispensation in the banking crisis occa-

sioned by poor asset quality and poor governance structures necessitate that searchlight should be beamed on the reporting, regulation and risk management as the means to ensuring sustainability in the Nigerian financial system in the future

He said the forum would have the opportunity to discuss credit bureau and its significance for the country, its ability and capability to transform and enhance access to credit especially for consumers and small businesses

Other speakers expected are Peter Sheerin, credit bureau and risk management advisor, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Ladi Balogun, group managing director, FCMB, Aigboje Aig-Imoukhuede, group managing director Access bank and Andre Blaauw, group risk officer, United Bank for Africa Plc.

Rivers targets N480m from fishing

THE Rivers Government says it hopes to realise N480 million revenue from fishing through its partnership with a local maritime expert.

Mr Briggs-Kuro Tamuno, Special Adviser to Gov. Chibuike Amaechi on Aquaculture and Deep-Sea Fishing, disclosed this in Port Harcourt at the weekend.

NAN reports that the state government had acquired five fishing trawlers and leased them to Vijons Nigeria Limited, a local maritime company, under a partnership.

Under the partnership, Vijons will use the trawlers for fishing and training of indigenous fishermen.

Tamuno said 63 indigenes of the state had been engaged by Vijons as crewmen to test-run some of the trawlers.

He said that the partnership was not only to provide job opportunities to indigenes but to enhance the government's revenue.

"In the face of challenging economic situation, Rivers State Government is compelled to explore all possible avenues to provide jobs to its people. Apart from given jobs to our people, government equally reasoned that investment in this sector would further enhance its revenue generation," he said.

Tamuno said the government hoped to realise N40 million monthly from the venture. He said that the 63 crew members would be provided adequate accident, injury and death insurance cover. He said that government might acquire more trawlers if the pioneer team showed commitment and transparency in the venture.

(NAN)

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Nothing to show for huge investment in agric – Makanjuola

A member of the House of Representatives, Mr Gbenga Makanjuola, has decried the slow pace of development of the nation's agricultural sector.

Makanjuola, who chairs the House Committee on Agriculture, expressed the view in Abuja at the weekend.

He said: "There is little or nothing to show for the more than N100 billion invested in the sector in the last three years as many Nigerians are still hungry."

The chairman said that due to the slow pace of development of the sector, the committee had wanted to suspend allocation of funds to the sector in the 2010 budget.

"But if we go that way, several sub-sectors within the agricultural sector will suffer some set back and this informed our decision against taking that decision," he said.

Makanjuola attributed the slow pace of development of the sector to lapses in the implementation of some agricultural programmes by the Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources.

"The minister of agriculture agreed that there are some lapses and sought for an in-house dialogue with the members of the committee.

"We hope by the time we put all this questions on the table he (minister) will be able to give a feed back to Nigerians on what is happening," Makanjuola said.

He said that members of his committee were informed by officials of the ministry that agriculture was a long term investment whose outcome would take some time to

manifest.

To harness the potential of the sector and attain food security, Makanjuola said his committee would take some action which includes structural transformation of the sector.

The chairman urged the Federal Government to put in place a strategic framework that would enhance quick implementation of agricultural projects that would benefit the people. NAN.



AGRIC Minister Dr. Sayyadi Abba Ruma

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Business/International

Egypt expects 520 new oil wells in 2010

EGYPT expects 520 exploratory and development wells for oil and 36 for natural gas to be drilled in 2010, Minister of Petroleum Sameh Fahmy said.

The oil wells will cost \$2 billion, while the gas wells, to be drilled in the Nile Delta and offshore in the Mediterranean, will cost more than \$1 billion, he added.

The remarks, reported by al-Ahram newspaper on Saturday, were confirmed by ministry spokesman Hamdi Abdel-Aziz. The drilling would be in concession areas awarded by state-owned Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation, Abdel-Aziz added.

Egypt's proven natural gas reserves rose 1.1 trillion cubic feet to about 77.2 trillion cubic feet in the year to June 30, while crude oil and condensates reserves rose 220 million barrels to 4.4 billion barrels, the oil ministry said in July.

Egypt is a significant natural gas exporter but has said it would not sign any new gas export contracts until 2010 in order to meet rising local demand.

... Offers 12 cement plant licences in 2010

EGYPT'S Trade Ministry will offer 12 licences to build cement factories in 2010 to meet growing local demand, Al-Alam al-Youm newspaper quoted Trade Minister Rachid Mohamed Rachid on Saturday as saying.

"The new factories would help meet an expected increase in local demand until 2020, when annual production capacity is expected to rise to 77 million tonnes from 58 million tonnes now," the newspaper wrote.

Egypt's construction industry has continued to grow in the wake of the global economic crisis, even as it stalled elsewhere in the region. Demand for cement was expected to grow by 25 to 30 percent in 2009, Rachid said in September.

The head of the Industrial Development Authority (IDA), which is attached to the Ministry of Trade, said a government body must still approve the energy supply needed to run the plants before the 12 licences can be offered.

"The request for the licences from our ministry is still before the Higher Council of Energy, which is headed by the prime minister," IDA chairman Amr Assal told Reuters on Saturday.

Egypt granted six new greenfield cement factory licences in October 2007 in a bid to boost production following in an increase in local prices. Reuters

Gambia boosts state wages, raps "lazy" workers

GAMBIAN President Yahya Jammeh said on Friday he would provide an immediate 20 percent salary boost to the West African nation's civil servants but criticised some for being lazy.

"Despite the various endeavours of my government to uplift the welfare of Gambians, there are still some civil servants who have improper work ethics. This has been a serious challenge," he said in a New Year address.

Gambia has few natural resources and most of its population relies on subsistence farming.

The country passed a 20 percent budget increase for 2010 on the back of higher tax revenues, grants and external budget support designed to boost tourism and improve infrastructure. Jammeh said rising crime rates and emigration were obstacles to Gambia's development.



UGANDA'S President Yoweri Museveni

Uganda's spending to rise to \$7.31bn by 2014

UGANDA'S public spending will nearly double to 13.9 trillion shillings by fiscal 2014/15 to tackle key infrastructural bottlenecks, its president said on Friday.

Yoweri Museveni said in his New Year address that the surge in government spending would increase per capita income to \$900 by 2014/2015 from \$506 and create about 2.7 million jobs.

Public spending amounted to 7.08 trillion shillings in 2009/10. The economy of the landlocked country grew by an estimated 6.6 percent in 2009 compared with 9.2 percent in the previous year, he added.

"Although this estimated growth rate in 2009 is lower than the growth in 2008 of 9.2 percent, it was among the fastest in the world during the period of global economic downturn," he said.

Exports had performed robustly, despite the tough global economic conditions, Museveni said. The country earned \$3.4 billion from exports for the year ended October 2009 compared to \$2.8 billion in the same period a year before, a rise of 21 percent, Museveni added.

He said the extra expenditure would be used to finance projects in the energy and transport sectors. Reuters.

Iceland petition against pay-out over Icesave collapse

ALMOST a quarter of voters in Iceland have signed a petition against plans to repay money lost by foreigners when an Icelandic online bank collapsed. The petition urges the president to veto the bill that allows the move, and calls for a referendum on the issue.

Iceland's parliament has approved the plans to reimburse 3.8bn euros (£3.4bn) lost by Dutch and British savers when the Icesave scheme failed in 2008.

Many taxpayers say they are being made to pay for the bank's mistakes. The compensation amounts to some 12,000 euros for each citizen on the island nation of 320,000.

A poll taken in August suggested that 70% of Icelanders were against the deal, which was approved by Parliament earlier this week.

More than 56,000 - about 23% of Iceland's voters - signed the petition urging President Olaf Ragnar Grimsson not to sign the bill. Magnus Arni Skulason, one of the organisers of the petition, compared the repayment to financing the country's health service.

"We were able to represent our arguments to the president, and also on the occasion we handed over a petition to ask the president to reject the current Icesave bill," he said.

"The interest rate on the Icesave agreement for Iceland is like running the National Health Service of Iceland for six months."

The Icelandic government had threatened to resign if the deal was rejected by MPs.

"Approving the bill is the better option and will avoid even more economic damage," Finance Minister Steingrimur Sigfusson said during the debate.

Icesave - the internet arm of Icelandic bank Landsbanki, which offered high interest rates - failed in October 2008.

An original agreement negotiated with the British and Dutch governments was approved in August. But subsequent amendments negotiated by the prime minister were rejected in both countries, forcing a fresh vote.

Under the new deal the money - which represents 40% of the country's GDP - will be repaid gradually, staggered until 2024. BBC.

Business/Maritime

Maritime 2009: Not too good, not too bad



A tank ship on the waterways

From Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

THE performance of maritime sector in the year 2009 was neither too bad nor too good. One can easily deduce that it was a mixed bag. There were some good news and there were also bad news. Against the year 2008, the Maritime sector in 2009 was not too bad.

The year was earlier devoid of any spectacular event. On July 7th, there was a change in the management of the apex maritime regulatory body—the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA). Dr. Ade Dosunmu was replaced with Temi Omatseye, also two executive directors were replaced. Despite that, Nigeria has returned to the Council of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) with even a wider margin from the past.

We are making greater push towards the actualization of the Cabotage because there has been nothing to write home about the implementation of the Cabotage.

Specifically, the Inland and Coastal Transportation (Cabotage) Act 2003 was to preserve the Coast wise trade to indigene and it stipulates that all Vessels that operate on our Coastal water must be owned, built and crewed by indigenes.

This year also, after 40 years of lip service, the lower dredging of River Niger took off. This project has a number of multiplier effect especially as it would allow for bigger vessels as well as assist the Nigerian Shippers Council (NSC) in making the dry ports/freight Stations project more efficient.

Since most important aspect of port operations were handed over to private operators otherwise known as concessionaires few years ago, activities at the Nigerian Ports Author-

ity (NPA) were at the lowest ebb. The parastatal now only plays the role of landlord to the private operators.

On the mixed bag, this has to do with the issue of security. The fact is that there has been almost no Maritime security in Nigeria.

Maritime security in 2009 has been zero. We have so many security agencies such as the Nigerian Navy (NN), the Marine Police, various task forces and others performing overlapping functions. The issue of multiple security agencies is one of the problems facing the industry.

It was in July 2009 that the militants found their way into the Atlas cove Jetty in Lagos. Atlas Cove Jetty lacks the basics and it has no perimeter fencing as well as access control.

While the Sea robbers use high speed boats and sophisticated weapons, the security agencies use rickety boats and out dated weapons.

Hence, the call for a new agency—the Maritime Security Agency to take care of these threats. Already the Federal Government in this regards has sent a Bill to the National Assembly.

Benin Republic experienced what they described as their first piracy incidence and they blamed Nigeria for it. In fact this year alone there were over 240 pirate attacks in Somalia on Merchant Vessels and the pirates succeeded in hijacking 47 vessels making millions of US Dollars.

It could be said that Nigeria's situation was not that bad but unless the security issues on the ground are addressed Nigeria may be coming closely behind Somalia.

The bank crisis has impacted negatively on ship ownership. This year, the Indigenous Ship Owners have not had it so bad. It was their worst year as some of them could not even pay staff salaries.

The bank crisis has also impacted negatively on the Nigeria Customs Service to the extent that the Service has fallen short of realizing its target of N650 billion.

In the outgoing year, the NSC has been able to deliver the Certificate of Occupancy to successful concessionaires who have already moved to site and started the construction of dry ports/freight stations across the country.

The traffic at Apapa has been chaotic throughout this year and the government has found it difficult to find a solution to the traffic problem. A couple of marine accidents were also recorded this year. Increasing boat accidents were recorded as well as a number of small high-speed boats capsizing.

Wreck removal has been abandoned; this may not be unconnected with the multiple government agencies handling the task.

Apart from NIMASA, NPA the NEMA is also involved in removal of wrecks. The National Inland Waterways Agency (NIWA) this year has been struggling to be on the average while the new management has been put in place.

'SMEs can tackle unemployment & achieve vision 2020'

By Onimisi Alao

SMALL and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) have scarcely ever done well in Nigeria but they seem to have gone from bad to worse over time for different reasons. Low funding, poor infrastructural development, unfavourable economic policies, poor implementation of even desirable policies, and insecurity of investments have been some of the reasons.

Taking a fresh look at the widely perceived low funding of SMEs in Nigeria in a recent event, a specialist in SME management, Felix Tunde Awonaiya, said Nigeria could reduce its high unemployment rate and be on course towards becoming one of the 20 most developed countries globally if the government will facilitate proper funding of SMEs in the country.

Mr Awonaiya spoke in Abuja in his capacity as the Nigerian General Manager of the multinational SME finance and development company, GroFin, during a conference that the company organised to acquaint the Abuja business community with its services.

"The greatest challenge to the success of SMEs in Nigeria is poor funding," Awonaiya said. He elaborated, "Nigerians are hard working people who take delight in nurturing their businesses but funding is a great problem here. Because funding is generally low, businesses can't grow and when businesses can't take off or can't expand because there is no sufficient capital, the entrepreneur suffers and young people who need jobs can't get jobs because entrepreneurs can only engage people if their businesses are flourishing."

He said the country as a whole suffers considerably. "As a society, we face a consequence of high unemployment rate, but

beyond that is a fact we all must also face, and it is that we can't hope to achieve our ambition to become one of the leading 20 best industrialised countries if we don't strengthen SMEs."

President Umaru Yar'adua admitted that Nigeria's economy needed to pick up when he declared early in his administration that he would put Nigeria on the path to reach the club of the world's 20 most developed countries by the year 2020.

"This will remain a dream," Awonaiya said, "unless government wakes up to the urgent need to provide the right atmosphere for SMEs to thrive, particularly with regards to funding."

Some stakeholders have blamed dismal performances of SMEs, in part, on the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) introduced in 1986. The programme devalued the Naira and caused the collapse of many SMEs because the SMEs suddenly no longer had the amount of Naira they required to buy foreign exchange for their raw materials.

In 2003, the Federal Government took what it considered a radical step to reposition SMEs by creating the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN), basically to promote the development of the SME subsector of the economy.

SMEDAN says it is determined to stimulate enterprises and help businesses overcome barriers to growth, and that it has been doing this diligently. The result of its diligence is hardly visible to the public. It could be that because Nigeria is a huge country, efforts to tackle problems appear often to yield no result. So, only entrepreneurs benefiting directly from the Agency may be able to corroborate its claims.

Apart from SMEDAN, there has been the older Small and

Medium Enterprises Equity Investment Scheme (SMEEIS), a private initiative mounted in 1999 by banks under the Bankers Committee to improve SME funding.

SMEEIS, as the Central Bank of Nigeria which supervises the initiative would describe it, "is a response to the Federal Government's concerns and policy measures for the promotion of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as vehicles for rapid industrialisation, sustainable economic development, poverty alleviation and employment generation."

The Scheme requires all banks in Nigeria to set aside 10% of their profit after tax for the promotion of small and medium enterprises. The 10% is set aside annually in the form of equity investment in eligible enterprises or as loans at single digit interest rate, to reduce the burden of interest under normal bank lending system.

But whatever the banks under this scheme may have done would appear to have been no more a drop in the ocean than the activities of the government-run SMEDAN.

GroFin's Felix Awonaiya believes that SMEs can do better in Nigeria with greater technical and managerial support in addition to financial facility. He said it is in line with this belief that his company stays with its clients all through the journey from the start of an enterprise to maturity.

He explained, "GroFin supports SMEs through all stages of business development, from start-up through growth to expansion, providing a complete one-stop customised solution which addresses all aspects of business."

GroFin is a multinational company which has presence in nine countries, namely: Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Nigeria, Oman, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, and Uganda.

Business/Aviation

Plane skids off runway, passengers unhurt

SOME 165 passengers and six crews escaped unhurt from a plane that skidded off the runway at Dortmund airport early on Sunday after the pilot aborted takeoff, a spokeswoman for airline Air Berlin said.

"A combination of the snowy weather and the speed the plane was travelling at forced the plane to skid off the runway," she said, but added that there had been no need for an emergency evacuation and no injuries. The Air Berlin Boeing 737 was heading to Las Palmas.

Dortmund airport, in northern Germany, has been closed until further notice and passengers sent to other airports. The pilot had decided to abort take off at the last moment due to a technical irregularity, the spokeswoman said. (Reuters/NAN).

Japan Airlines has state-funded aid doubled

THE Japanese government has agreed to double the offer of state-funded credit to Japan Airlines (JAL) to 200bn yen (\$2.2bn; £1.3bn). A state-run bank offered JAL aid of 100bn yen in November, and has already paid out more than half of that.

Shares in JAL, which made a loss in four of the past five years, fell to record lows last week as speculation mounted it would file for bankruptcy. Like many airlines, JAL has been hit hard in the global economic downturn. The extra funding was agreed by Deputy Prime Minister Naoto Kan, Transport Minister Seiji Maehara and other ministers at a meeting on Sunday.

"The government has decided to expand from 100bn yen to 200bn yen the line of credit from the Development Bank of Japan to Japan Airlines," an official statement said.

The announcement was made before trading resumes on the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Monday, after the New Year's holiday. BBC.



JAPAN Airline planes

Air travel improved in 2009-IATA

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has reported that the international scheduled traffic results for November 2009 was far better than the previous year.

According to the world airlines mouth piece, passenger demand was up by 2.1% compared to November 2008 while freight demand recorded a 9.5% improvement. Passenger load factors IATA said remain at pre-crisis levels of 75.4% while freight load factors stood at 56.6%.

The association said the improvement trends for both passenger and freight are being exaggerated by the sharp fall in demand experienced during the second half of 2008. The following alternative measurements IATA stated provide perspective: Passenger demand is 6.4% better than the low point reached in the first quarter of 2009, but still 6% below the peak levels seen in early 2008.

IATA explained further that comparing to October (and adjusting for seasonality), passenger demand in November actually fell by 0.7%, primarily due to continued weakness in North America and Europe.

Freight demand is 20% better than the low point in Decem-

ber 2008, but still 10% below the peak levels seen in early 2008. Comparing to October (and adjusting for seasonality), freight demand grew by 4.7%, largely on the strength of markets connected to Asia Pacific.

"Demand continues to improve, but we still have a lot of ground still to recover. We cannot anticipate any significant improvement in yields in the coming months. So, conserving cash, controlling costs and carefully matching capacity to demand remain at the keys to survival," said Giovanni Bisignani, IATA's Director General and CEO.

Giving the breakdown of International Passenger Demand, IATA disclosed that there were improvements in passenger demand contain significant variances by region. In November, demand growth was recorded by carriers from Asia-Pacific (+5.1%), Latin America (+8.2%) and the Middle East (+16.5%).

Asian traffic growth is driven most directly by economic recovery (with the exception of Japan).

Asian economic growth is fuelling strong demand for commodities in both Latin America and Africa. While Latin American carriers are benefiting with business growth, a 2.1% fall in African traffic which indicates a loss in market share.

Middle East growth of 16.5% can also be related to the strength of Asia and the ability of Middle East carriers to facilitate connection traffic to the region through Middle Eastern hubs. European and North American carriers both experienced a 3.0% fall in November traffic.

Unemployment concerns continue to negatively impact consumer confidence in both markets compared to last November. European carriers have said to have cut capacity by 3.9% and North American carriers by 6.7%. While this has boosted load factors, capacity adjustments may also be weighing on growth rates.

On the International Freight Demand, IATA said the bulk of the air freight markets connect Asia with the 14.5% growth in freight demand for Asia-Pacific's carriers which is linked to the success of stimulus packages in driving industrial output and broader economic recovery within the region.

Carriers in other regions also saw strong growth in freight as follows: Africa (+8.1%), Latin America (+17.5%), Middle East (+21.4%) and North America (+13.6%).

European carriers were the only group to post a drop in traffic, recording a 5.6% fall in demand; this reflects the lingering economic malaise in the region.

IATA urges global cooperation to make flying secure

FROM Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE International Air Transport Association (IATA) has urged the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to partner with industry to identify the most effective and efficient ways to address the evolving secu-

urity challenge in light of the foiled terrorist plot to down a Detroit-bound aircraft.

The association also reiterated that the security of passengers and employees is a top priority for the aviation industry. In a letter to Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano, IATA's Director General and CEO Giovanni Bisignani appreciated the swift reaction of DHS to maintain the confi-

dence of the flying public and airline employees.

Bisignani noted the need for short-term temporary and extra-ordinary security measures until the immediate threat has abated. He cautioned Secretary Napolitano that long-term solutions must include improved technology and effective risk assessment techniques.

Bisignani added, "The air

transport system cannot support 100% pat-down searches over the long term."

IATA is recommending a smaller percentage of intensive pat downs accompanied by technologies or proportionate screening procedures as a means to achieve near-term security requirements with reduced delays.

While security is government's responsibility, it is a

shared priority with industry.

Bisignani urged DHS to allow the current short-term measures to be urgently followed-up by a comprehensive DHS/industry review of security systems to address existing and evolving security threats.

He noted that the failed Detroit terror plot emphasized two key realities: the global nature of the threat and the need for effective cooper-

ation and information sharing among and within intelligence organizations.

"Effective security needs a system that is built on global harmonization, effective information exchange, industry/government cooperation, risk assessment and efficient technology. This is how we made flying the safest way to travel. We must take the same approach with security," said Bisignani.



JIGAWA STATE GOVERNMENT
COMMUNITY BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE STATE GOVERNMENT
 Project Name: Jigawa State Community Based Urban Development Project.
 Country: Nigeria.
 Project I.D.: Po69901.



CONTRACT AWARD BY INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

CONSTRUCTION OF ROAD NETWORK

Bid/Contract Reference No: JG/NCBUDP/ICB/02/08/Lot 01.
 Scope of Contract: Construction of 5.5 km Asphaltic Road networks.
 Duration of Contract: 12 Months.
 Contract Signature Date: 27th October, 2009.

Awarded Bidder

Name: H and M Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N428, 067,062.32
 Evaluated Bid Price: N410, 167,062.32
 Contract Price: N430, 167,062.32

Evaluated Bidder(s)

Name: Rhas Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Abuja.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 506,596,476.00
 Evaluated bid price: N 490,264,793.50.

Name: Consolidated Contractors Limited.
 Address: Ikeja, Lagos.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 539,422,443.00
 Evaluated bid price: N 505,503,998.32.

Name: Demski Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Abuja.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 517,824,337.80
 Evaluated bid price: N448, 024,575.43

Name: SKY Technical and Construction Company Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 510,353,907.53
 Evaluated bid price: N490, 353,907.53

Name: Bakabo Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 351,308,426.70
 Evaluated bid price: N331, 233,351.70

Rejected Bidder(s)

Name: Quemecs Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kaduna, Nigeria.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 498,394,296.25.
 Reason(s) for rejection: Fax copy of Bid security presented.

Name: Bakabo Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 351,308,426.70.
 Reason(s) for rejection: Annual turnover less than the specified amount.
 Unable to provide credit facility from their bankers

CONSTRUCTION OF CONFERENCE HALL, YOUTH CENTRE AND CHALETS

Bid/Contract Reference No: JG/NCBUDP/ICB/02/08/Lot 02.
 Scope of Contract: Construction of Conference hall, Youth centre and Chalets.
 Duration of Contract: 10 Months.
 Contract Signature Date: 27th October, 2009.

Awarded Bidder

Name: Business Gold Limited.
 Address: Abuja.
 Bid price at bid opening: N250, 384,542.50
 Evaluated Bid Price: N185, 861,121.16.
 Contract Price: N221, 861,103.16

Evaluated Bidder(s)

Name: Golden Construction Limited.
 Address: Maitama, Abuja.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 283,470,332.67.
 Evaluated bid price: N 239,702,392.43.

Name: Millennium Thrust Investment Limited.
 Address: Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 242,730,033.84
 Evaluated bid price: N 207,632,130.16.

Name: Adams Technical Services Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 243,484,559.85.
 Evaluated bid price: N 190,127,037.47.

Name: Consolidated Construction Company Limited.
 Address: Ikeja, Lagos.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 243,992,809.81.
 Evaluated bid price: N 206,020,991.50.

Name: Crew Construction Company Limited.
 Address: Kaduna, Kaduna State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N227, 013,665.92.
 Evaluated bid price: N210, 228,784.92.

Name: Musa o and Sons Limited.
 Address: Hadejia, Jigawa State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 299, 542,672.49.
 Evaluated bid price: N 253, 145,845.61.

Name: S.D. Ventures Limited.
 Address: Abuja.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 265, 801,181.50.
 Evaluated bid price: N 226, 769,251.05.

Name: Bakabo Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N291, 193,383.75
 Evaluated bid price: N274, 173,896.72.

Name: Ginau Properties Limited.
 Address: Kaduna, Kaduna State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N207, 994,204.57.
 Evaluated bid price: N165, 660,948.50.

Name: SKY Technical and Construction Company Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N432, 483,596.21.
 Evaluated bid price: N404, 121,515.08.

Name: Nasuha Investment Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N249, 576,569.86.
 Evaluated bid price: N219, 997,749.92.

CONSTRUCTION OF FISH MARKET STALLS

Rejected Bidder

Name: Ginau Properties Limited.
 Address: Kaduna, Kaduna State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N207, 994,204.57.
 Reason(s) for rejection: Registration less than 5 years and the annual turnover is less than the specified amount.

Bid/Contract Reference No: JG/NCBUDP/03/08/Lot 03.
 Scope of Contract: Construction of Fish Market Stalls.
 Duration of Contract: 10 Months.
 Contract Signature Date: 27th October, 2009.
 Evaluation Currency: Nigerian Naira. (NGN)

Awarded Bidder

Name: Adams Technical Services Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 77,652,581.00.
 Evaluated Bid Price: N 70,245,197.15.
 Contract Price: N 73,730,188.15.

Evaluated Bidder(s)

Name: Allied Development Consult and Properties Limited.
 Address: Katsina, Katsina State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 83,454,585.04
 Evaluated bid price: N 75,991,419.64.

Name: Bakabo Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 78,200, 922.45
 Evaluated bid price: N78, 823,659.55.

Name: Millennium Thrust Investment Limited.
 Address: Abakaliki, Ebonyi State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 116,562,703.32.
 Evaluated bid price: N 102,695,663.09.

Name: Ginau Properties Limited.
 Address: Kaduna, Kaduna State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 74,326,935.30.
 Evaluated bid price: N 60,517,692.93.

Name: Teleview International Limited.
 Address: Maitama, Abuja.
 Bid price at bid opening: N86, 697,194.34.
 Evaluated bid price: N87, 915,973.34.

Name: Yakasai Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N99, 033,782.40.
 Evaluated bid price: N91, 550,921.93.

Name: Business Gold Limited.
 Address: Abuja.
 Bid price at bid opening: N86, 049,061.00.
 Evaluated bid price: N81, 625,050.00.

Name: Musa o and Sons Limited.
 Address: Hadejia, Jigawa State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N42, 208,007.10.
 Evaluated bid price: N77, 194,436.10.

Name: Swaleys Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Abuja.
 Bid price at bid opening: N84, 861,872.60.
 Evaluated bid price: N73, 161,183.37.

Name: SKY Technical and Construction Company Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N143, 111,408.11.
 Evaluated bid price: N136, 135,756.68.

Rejected Bidder

Name: Ginau Properties Limited.
 Address: Kaduna, Kaduna State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N74, 326,935.30.

Reason(s) for rejection: Registration less than the required 5 years.

CONTRACTS AWARDED UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

TRANSFORMER UPGRADE AND POWER DISTRIBUTION

Bid/Contract Reference No: JG/NCBUDP/03/NCB/08/Lot 04
 Scope of Contract: Transformer Upgrade and power Distribution.
 Duration of Contract: 10 Months.
 Contract Signature Date: 27th October, 2009.

Awarded Bidder

Name: Land and Water Partnership Limited.
 Address: Kaduna, Kaduna State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N47, 068,712.78.
 Evaluated Bid Price: N42, 340,277.14.
 Contract Price: N 44,840,277.14.

Evaluated Bidder(s)

Name: Sosay Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Uyo, Akwa- Ibom State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N58, 747,815.00
 Evaluated bid price: N54, 571,050.85.

Name: Interlinked Technologies Limited.
 Address: Ikeja, Lagos.
 Bid price at bid opening: N 60,772,000.13.
 Evaluated bid price: N 58,272,000.13.

Name: Jidec Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kaduna, Kaduna State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N68, 135,408.85.
 Evaluated bid price: N 61,785,103.85.

Rejected Bidder(s)

Name: A.B. Sanda Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Katsina, Katsina State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N49, 205,877.50.
 Reason(s) for rejection: Bid not completely filled.

Name: Digibits Controls Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N44, 910,618.50.
 Reason(s) for rejection: Fax copy of bid security presented.

CONSTRUCTION OF BOREHOLES, TANKS, GENERATOR AND PIPELINE NETWORKS

Bid/Contract Reference No: JG/NCBUDP/03/NCB/08/Lot 05.
 Scope of Contract: Construction of Boreholes, Tanks, Generator and Pipeline networks.
 Duration of Contract: 10 Months.
 Contract Signature Date: 27th October, 2009.

Awarded Bidder

Name: Integrated Engineering Resources Limited.
 Address: Awka, Anambra State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N47, 912,483.92.
 Evaluated Bid Price: N44, 078,464.72.
 Contract Price: N45, 758,464.74.

Evaluated Bidder(s)

Name: Famusa Resources Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N115, 631,472.00.
 Evaluated bid price: N118, 939,675.58.

Name: Fortia Water Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N87, 594,057.40.
 Evaluated bid price: N86, 065,185.40.

Name: A.Z. Engineering Services Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N53, 406,682.50.
 Evaluated bid price: N47, 112,011.00.

Name: C.G.C. Nigeria Limited.
 Address: Kaduna, Kaduna State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N116, 289,368.30.
 Evaluated bid price: N114, 609,366.30.

Name: Water and Services Engineering Limited.
 Address: Kano, Kano State.
 Bid price at bid opening: N82, 568,158.68.
 Evaluated bid price: N81, 246,159.28.

Rejected Bidder

Name: Ground Water Engineering Limited.
 Address: Wuse, Abuja.
 Bid price at bid opening: N49, 607,058.90.
 Reason(s) for rejection: Bid security not in Company's name and the Bid is not fully filled.

**Signed
 Management**

Inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilaihir Raji'un
THE FAMILY OF LATE A. AHMED USMAN BICHI

Message Of Appreciation

With gratitude and complete submission to the will of ALLAH (S.W.T) we wish to use this medium to express our profound appreciation to our numerous brothers, sisters, friends, sympathizers, and associates who stood family behind us during our moment of grief (through various means of condolences) as a result of the sudden death of our illustrious brother and father HAMZA AHMED BICHI exactly two month ago.

In particular we wish to express our sincere thanks, gratitude and appreciation to the followings:

His Excellency Engineer A.T Abdullahi Gwarzo - Deputy Governor Kano state.
 Alh. Abdulkarim Hassan - Secretary to the State Government
 Alh. Rabl'u Zakaria - Head of Civil Service Kano State
 Alh. Ahmed Ibrahim Yakasai
 Hon. Commissioner Min. of Commerce, Industry, Cooperative & Tourism Kano
 Alh. Musa Ilyasu Kwankwaso
 Hon. Commissioner Min. of Rural and Community Development Kano
 Alh. Bashir Shehu Galadanchi - Hon. Commissioner Min. of Science and Technology Kano
 Alh. Muhd Abubakar Rimi - First Civilian Governor Kano State
 Dr. Rabl'u Musa Kwankwaso - Former Civilian Governor Kano State
 Alh. Tijjani Hashim - Galadiman Kano
 Alh. Idris Bayaro - Barden Kano, Distric Head of Bichi
 Alh. Sama'ila Muhd - Sarkin Karshi (FCT)
 Alh. Abubakar Abdullahi - District Head of Kuraye (Katsina State)
 Alh. Lawal Shehu - Chairman Bichi Local Government
 Alh. Ado Umar Mohd - Special Adviser to H.E. Governor of Kano State
 Alh. Mahmud Baba Bichi - Former Member Representing Bichi in the National Assembly
 Alh. Suleiman Mohd (Late) - Magayakin Zazzau
 Alh. Mohd Dankwano - Wanban Jahun
 Alh. Bashir Othman Tofa - Chairman Elder's Forum ANPP Kano
 Alh. Ammanl Inuwa - Deputy Chairman Elder's Forum ANPP Kano

Alh. Bello Hayatu - Senator Representing Kano North National Assembly
 Alh. Sani Hashim Hoto - Chairman ANPP Kano
 Alh. Farouk Lawan - Member Representing Shanono and Bagwai National Assembly
 Alh. Farouk Iya - Chairman PDP Kano
 Major General Aminu Maitama Bichi - Commander Infantry Corp, Nigeria Army
 Colanel Ibrahim Adamu (rtd)
 Alh. Mudi Speaking - An Elder Statement and Prominent Politician
 Alh. Lili Cgabarl - Business man and prominent Politician Kano
 Alh. Abubakar Sani Kwangilla - Prominent Kano Businessman
 Alh. Lawan Bichi - Md/CEO ASASCO Nig. Ltd.
 Aliyu Aminu Ringin - Chairman/CEO Finsurance Abuja
 Alh. Bashir Ahmed - Retired Grand Khadi Kano State
 Alh. Datti Ahmed - Retired PS and Imam Galadanchi Mosque Kano City
 Alh. Sallhi Ahmed Bichi - Retired PS Kano
 Alh. Aliyu Mahmud Galadanchi - Retired PS Kano
 Alh. Mukhtar Ahmad - Retired Bank Executive Kano
 Alh. Aliyu Mahmud Galadanchi - Leading Businessman Kano
 Alh. Zubairu Mahmud Galadanchi - Retired PS Kano
 Professor Ibrahim Umar - BUK Kano
 Professor Muhd Yahaya Bichi - Provost Collage of Education Kano
 Professor Kabiru Ahmed Bichi - Deputy Vice Chancellor BUK
 Professor Abdu Yahaya Bichi - BUK
 Dr. Kabiru Abubakar - Chief Medical Director National Orthopedic Hospital Dala, Kano

The cream of Permanent Secretaries, Managing Director, Directors and other top Government Officials and functionaries Kano state, leading Ulama, Politicians, Civil Servants, Businessmen, Students etc to numerous to mentions individually.

Last, but not the least we wish to thank all those name could not be mentioned due to lack of space who in various ways expressed their condolences and prayer. May the ALMIGHTY ALLAH bless and reward you ALL abundantly Amin!

SIGNED:

DAHIRU AHMED BICHI, FOR THE FAMILY

PUBLIC NOTICE

Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), the Nigerian subset of the global Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) aims at following due process and achieving transparency in payments by extractive industry companies to governments and government-linked entities; and in the revenues received and reported by those governments and entities.

In accordance with EITI Principles, NEITI is being validated by IDL Group, independent approved EITI Validators, against the EITI Criteria and the grid that can be downloaded from www.neiti.org.ng.

The general public and Stakeholders are welcome to submit written submissions directly to IDL Group on eokeefe@synergyglobal.net or tagbo@chfs.co.za.

NEITI Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

40 Jimmy Carter Street, Asokoro - Abuja | www.neiti.org.ng



UNIVERSITY OF ABUJA, ABUJA INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN EDUCATION (PGDE) 2009/2010 SESSION

Applications are hereby invited for admission into February 2010 Batch of Post-graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) programme of the Institute of Education, University of Abuja.

The Programme is designed to, among other things; provide access to professional training for teachers with non-teaching qualification leading to the award of the PGDE on Part-time basis.

Duration:

The Programme is to run for 18 months.

Admission Requirements:

First degree and Higher National Diploma

Study Centers:

Model Primary School Asokoro
Gado Nasko Primary School Gwagwalada

Commencement of Lectures:

Last week of February 2010

Method of Application:

Application forms are obtainable directly from the United Bank for Africa (UBA) Plc Gwagwalada Branch at the cost of Five Thousand Naira (₦5,000.00) only

Closing Date:

Closing date for the sale of forms is 31st January 2010. All completed forms with photocopies of relevant documents should reach:

The Director,
Institute of Education,
University of Abuja,
PMB 117,
Abuja, Nigeria.

On or before 10th February 2010

Signed:
Mallam M.B. Modibbo
Registrars



Nigerian Communications Commission

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUBSCRIBER SIM CARD REGISTRATION

The Nigerian Communications Commission, NCC, in exercise of its regulatory functions as provided for by the Nigerian Communications Act (NCA) 2003, wishes to inform the general public and all the relevant stakeholders that arrangements have been concluded for the commencement of registration of all SIM Card Holders in Nigeria.

Registration Of New Sim Cards

With effect from **1st March 2010**, all new SIM Cards must be registered before activation. All telecom operating companies have been directed to put all necessary arrangements in place for the smooth take off of the exercise.

The general public is invited to note that valid identification documents will be required for those seeking registration of their SIM Cards. These will include:

- E- Passports
- Corporate/Company or Work Place Identity Cards that has Pension Identification /Tax Numbers etc.
- Student ID Cards from recognized institutions
- Drivers License issued by the Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC
- E-Tax Cards

The registration process will include the capture of the photograph and biometrics of the subscriber. Proxy registration shall be restricted to the direct families of persons seeking registration.

Existing Sim Card Holders

With regards to the existing SIM Card holders, necessary processes and procedures are currently being put in place to guarantee a smooth registration exercise. The general public and all relevant stakeholders will be notified in due course about the timing and how to proceed.

Signed:

Dave Imoko

Director of Public Affairs



Nigerian Communications Commission

Plot 423, Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja. Tel: 09 - 4617000 - 29.

Fax: 09 - 2344589, 4617502. E-mail: ncc@ncc.gov.ng [http: www.ncc.gov.ng](http://www.ncc.gov.ng)

DIGEST

Heart attack and stroke fears over fat-busting wonder pill

A fat-busting pill used by thousands in the UK is being investigated by medicines watchdogs over fears it could cause heart attacks and strokes.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA), which licenses the use of the drug Reductil, is looking at the results of a clinical trial which suggests that its active ingredient, sibutramine, could lead to an increased risk of developing heart problems.

Nearly 330,000 prescriptions for the drug, which tricks the brain into believing the stomach is full, were written out in 2008.

The safety data has come from an international trial of 10,000 patients carried out during the past six years.

Most of those recruited for the Sibutramine Cardiovascular Outcome Trial (SCOUT) were overweight or obese and already had cardiovascular problems.

A heart condition would normally exclude them from taking the drug because it can slightly raise blood pressure.

However, the EMA has said that, as a result of the 'seriousness' of the study's concerns, it is looking at the implications for all patients offered the prescription-only drug and will release its findings later this month.

Until then, it has advised doctors to use Reductil 'with caution' and to monitor patients' blood pressure and heart rate.

The UK's medicines watchdog, The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency, also confirmed it was reviewing the data.

The agency has recorded 2,094 suspected adverse reactions to Reductil since it was introduced in 2001, and 17 deaths have been linked to the drug. Six of the deaths were caused by heart problems and strokes.

Reductil works by blocking the nerve cells that release and reabsorb the hormone serotonin, a chemical neurotransmitter in the brain that affects moods and appetite.

As the level of serotonin in the body rises, people feel fuller, eat less and, as a result, lose weight.

The drug is recommended for patients who are clinically 'obese' – those with a Body Mass Index over 30 – or for anyone with a BMI higher than 27 who has another weight-related health problem.

A spokesman for Abbott Laboratories, which manufactures Reductil, said: 'Our ongoing evaluation of the SCOUT study data does not change our medical assessment of sibutramine's risk/benefit profile when used appropriately in the approved patient population. 'Sibutramine is an important treatment for patients who are obese.'



OVERWEIGHT people who have been using Reductil could be more at risk of heart attacks and strokes

The earlier to bed, the healthier the head



PHOTO: GETTY

THE authors of the study, published in the journal Sleep, said that the more sleep adolescents get the better it is for their mental health

TEENAGERS should go to bed before 10pm to stop them developing depression, new research claims.

Teens allowed to go to bed after midnight were almost a quarter –

24 per cent – more likely to suffer from depression and a fifth more likely to think about self harm than those who were set bedtimes of 10pm or earlier.

The authors of the study, published in the journal Sleep, said that the more sleep adolescents get the better it is for their mental health.

Adolescents who usually slept for five or fewer hours per night were 71 per cent more likely to suffer from depression and 48 per cent more likely to think about committing suicide than those who reported getting eight hours of nightly sleep, it was claimed.

Researchers studied more than 15,000 students and their parents at US schools from age 12 to 17.

The average sleep duration was seven hours and 53 minutes, against the nine or more hours of nightly sleep recommended for adolescents. Those with a bedtime of 10pm or earlier slept on average eight hours and ten minutes – 33 minutes longer than those who went to bed at 11pm, and 40 minutes more than those who went to bed past midnight.

Dr James Gangwisch, lead author and a professor at Columbia University College of Physi-

cians and Surgeons in New York, said: "Our results are consistent with the theory that inadequate sleep is a risk factor for depression."

"Adequate quality sleep could therefore be a preventative measure against depression and a treatment for depression."

Of the parents questioned, 54 per cent of parents said their child had to go to bed by 10pm or earlier on weeknights, 21 per cent reported setting a bedtime of 11pm, and 25 per cent reported setting a bedtime of midnight or later.

Culled from telegraph.co.uk

Sign Language

Honoric guest:

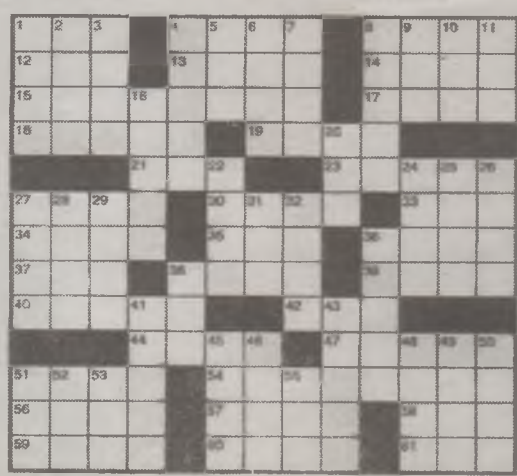
Howdy! Welcome you go into the Wu Mao Hotel, 509 Room of hotel especially establish the recreational house. Service item: hair dressing, hair care, shampoo, bathe the foot and health care. Warm and fragrant craze line: Inside track 1109 Outside line 13195918491 3695698 The enthusiasm, thoughtful service will bring you the unprecedented warm and fragrant and romantic Welcome to ask about or gracious presence!

Lost in translation. You need an interpreter
Photo location: China, by Adam Toffree
Culled from the telegraph.co.uk

EASY CROSSWORDS

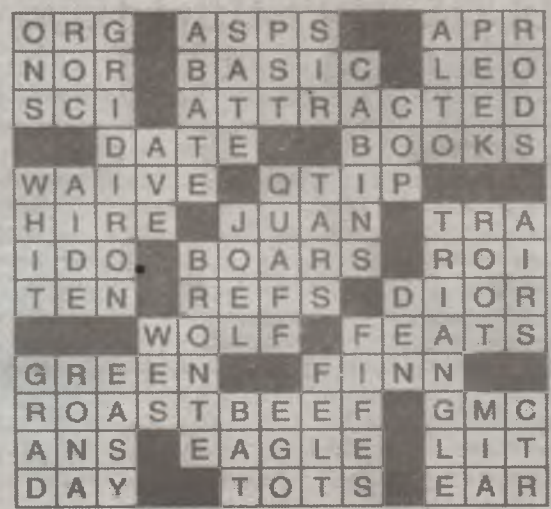
- ACROSS**
- Pounds (abbr.)
 - Cooking amounts (abbr.)
 - Hawkeye's portrayer
 - Promissory note
 - Kentucky's neighbor
 - Believe
 - Resoluteness
 - Scottish caps
 - Choose
 - Tops (2 wds.)
 - Businesses (abbr.)
 - Smell
 - In that event (2 wds.)
 - Pitch in
 - Average
 - Potter's material
 - Birthday number
 - Wooden patio
 - Actor Gazzara
 - OT book
 - Distinquished aimen
 - Creates
 - Scenery
 - SSW and ENE, e.g.
 - Looks secretly
 - Arizona Indian
 - Surround
 - Newsman Severeid
 - Phonograph
- DOWN**
- Long prison sentence
 - Cook cabbage
 - Certain
 - Scout's rider
 - That lady
 - Italian city
 - Average (myph.)
 - Following
 - Grassy meadow
 - Rep.'s opponent
 - record
 - "You'll ___ the day!"
 - Hospital talk for "quick"
 - Pampering places
 - Ref. in baseball
 - Capone and Capone
 - "Star Trek" doctor
 - Forty winks
 - Hoax
 - Oil cartel (abbr.)
 - Aromatic spice
 - Flat-bottomed boats
 - Missile initials
 - Tiny insect
 - Didn't float
 - Self-concept
 - More or ___
 - Library time stamp
 - "Do ___ say!" (2 wds.)
 - Proclamation
 - Sagas
 - Bordeaux exports
 - Cut off
 - Unbleached color
 - Heidi of "Project Runway"
 - Soak through
 - ___ a Rebel
 - Supper scrap
 - Actress Zadora
 - R.E. Lee's gp.

44



Solution to Easy Crosswords

43



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.

56

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

Solution to Sudoku 55

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

News Extra

Body scanner wouldn't have foiled syringe bomber

...Says MP who worked on new machines



THE £100,000 body scanners, seen here at work, would not have stopped the Christmas Day bomber, according to Tory MP Ben Wallace

Gordon Brown's plans to foil terrorist attacks by installing body scanners at UK airports are doomed to failure, according to

an MP who helped to design the machines.

Tory MP Ben Wallace, who worked on the scanners at defence research organisation QinetiQ before entering Parlia-

ment in 2005, said the £100,000 'millimetre wave' machines would not have stopped syringe bomber Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab from trying to mount his attack on Christmas Day.

The terrorist had sewn high explosives into his underpants, which he attempted to detonate as the plane flew over Detroit.

The Prime Minister vowed to use technology, and additional scans at airports, to fight the threat from Al Qaeda.

But Mr Wallace warned: 'I must advise the Prime Minister – and the British public – that the scanners are not a "silver bullet". You would be mistaken to think that they would counter the new threat.'

'The millimetre wave technology is harmless, quick and can be deployed overtly or covertly. But it cannot detect chemicals or light plastics.'

'They have their uses. They give a sharper image of objects – especially metallic – than the "metal arch" scanners now in use.'

'And as they scan the whole body, they would speed up secu-



BRITISH Prime Minister Gordon Brown

rity checks as there would be less need for the "pat-down" search.

'They are also able to scan crowds at a distance. But they cannot detect everything.' He said that the only type of scanner that might be able to pick up concealed explosives were X-ray machines – but they pose health risks and are too slow to operate.

Mr Wallace, the Shadow Scottish Minister, added: 'Scanners are only part of the solution. A method better than any scanner is profiling. Why is it at airports

hour of any journey, as well as giving airline staff the authority to target 'high risk' passengers.'

While this move would undoubtedly anger ethnic minority groups, one Muslim MP has caused controversy by saying he thinks Muslims should be singled out at airports for extra security checks.

Khalid Mahmood, the Labour MP for Birmingham Perry Barr, said: 'I think most people would rather be profiled than blown up. It wouldn't be victimisation of an entire community.'

'If people want to fly safely we have to take measures to stop things like the Christmas Day plot.'

'The fact is the majority of people who have carried out or planned these terror attacks have been Muslim.'

But Massoud Shadjareh, the chairman of the Islamic Human Rights Commission, contested: 'It's not true that all terrorists are Muslims.'

'Any such measure would not only alienate people, it would also be ineffective in terms of stopping terrorists.'

Meanwhile, it was announced at the weekend that Britain and the United States are to jointly fund a counter-terrorism unit in Yemen, in response to the latest airline bomb plot.

Abdul Mutallab is said to have told FBI agents that he was radicalised and trained in Yemen.



UMAR Farouk Abdul Mutallab had high explosives sewn into his underpants

I must advise the Prime Minister – and the British public – that the scanners are not a "silver bullet."

we all are put through security the same way?'

Transport Secretary Lord Adonis said he was considering following in the footsteps of the U.S. by banning airline passengers from leaving their seats for the last

News Extra



PRINCE William seen here at a polo match with Prince Charles, is loathe to undermine his father's role in the Royal family

Prince William has no interest in becoming a 'shadow king', and will concentrate on his military ambitions in the near future, a spokesman

for St James's Palace has said.

'Over the next few years, Prince William will be concentrating primarily on a military career while also slightly increasing his [charity] patronages and

Prince William: I don't want to be a 'shadow King'

the other interests that he pursues,' the spokesman told a Sunday newspaper.

'Prince William will not be a "shadow king" - the possibility is not even being considered,' he added. Royal aides said that the young prince does not want to be seen as trying to encroach on his father's role.

'The Prince of Wales is a hugely passionate man and Prince William wants the spotlight to fall on his father as much as possible. Prince William does not want to be put in a position before his time - before he is ready,' one source was quoted as saying.

The statement is in direct contradiction with government documents uncovered by the Mail on Sunday last month which revealed that William was being groomed to take over some of the Queen's public duties. At the weekend, William's representative played down the report saying it was 'out of date'.

He told the Sunday Telegraph that Prince William will largely be concentrating on military flying to become a search and rescue pilot in 2010, though he would be taking on more responsibilities with his charity patronages.

'The Prince is preparing for his first official foreign tour to represent the Queen, he is desperate not to undermine his father's role within the Royal family.

The 27-year-old prince is flying to New Zealand and Australia at the Queen's bequest in two weeks, fuelling speculation that he will have more of a role supporting his elderly grandmother.

The future king is also desperate to prove himself as a true RAF officer, particularly as he will become head of the Armed Forces when he takes the throne.

His intensive training over the next eight months will allow him to become a fully qualified search and rescue pilot, a job which he hopes to do for at least three years before trying to fulfil his ambition

to be posted to a war zone.

One royal official said: 'Part of Prince William's motivation is to be able to earn his rank and position. He wants to be able to look other members of the Armed Forces in eye and say: "I am a genuine full-time serving officer in the RAF. I want to be used like any other officer and not be favoured or mollycoddled."'

The prince's representatives told the Sunday Telegraph that he would be based at RAF Valley in Anglesey for most of 2010 as he trains to fly a Sea King helicopter.

He will, over the years, slowly develop his role within the Royal family and consolidate his charitable commitments according to royal sources.

According to Jamie Lowther-Pinkerton, a former SAS officer who now acts as Prince William's private secretary, the trip to New Zealand and Australia is 'an instance of Her Majesty seeing an opportunity for her grandson to learn the ropes'.

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PROPERTY

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Niger River dredging is a success – Minister

By Shehu Abubakar

DESPITE reservations expressed by some of the communities and people doing business at the Niger River over the slow performance of the companies dredging the river, Transport Minister, Alhaji Ibrahim Isa Bio has said that the dredging work is going on smoothly and according to specification. Bio told Daily Trust that he is personally visiting and inspecting the dredging work and is satisfied that the dredging work at the over 500 kilometers river length is going on fine. Bio urged the river communities not to exer-

cise any fear as the dredging work is on progress.

“We commenced the dredging on September 10 and it is supposed to be for six months. So, it may be ending around March or April. After the completion of the capital dredging, we would then embark on maintenance dredging. I have been in constant touch.

I go round and inspect and I believe they are making study progress. I am satisfied that they (the contractors) can deliver. The level of water in the river is not going to affect the completion period of the job. Even when the Niger River was high, it affected

negatively the performance of the contractor because most of the channels were collapsing because there was so much water to battle with.

But members of the Niger River communities living in Lokoja, Kogi state and Onitsha in Anambra state said the dredging of the river is going at a snail speed and expressed fear that the contractors may not be able to complete the dredging before the river dries up.

A major transport in Kogi state, Alhaji Isa Onoja told Daily Trust that the dredging exercise was yet to cover Lokoja axis about

four months after it was flagged off and wondered the type of progress the dredgers might have recorded elsewhere.

“The dredging was flagged off here in Lokoja by the President about four months ago. As at today, the dredging work is yet to cover the river length in Lokoja. We just hope it is not going the way of all other previous contracts like the Lokoja inland port contract.

As at May 2009 when the contract for the Lokoja inland port supposed to have been completed and commissioned, no single block was seen at the virgin land. Now, four months after the dred-

ing commenced here in Lokoja, the Lokoja axis of the river is still filled with sand,” he said.

A fisherman at the Onitsha bank of the river Niger, Odi Ogbonnaya said the dredging of the river was yet to reach Onitsha as at the New Year day. “We are only watching pictures of sand being pumped in the television that it was the dredging of the river Niger.

We have not seen anything here at the Niger head bridge. We don't know if there is any other river Niger they are dredging other than the one that passes under the Onitsha head bridge,” he said.

Rep threatens to drag contractors to EFCC

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

THE member representing Nnewi North, Nnewi South and Ekwusigo in the Federal House of Representatives, Mr. Cyprain Maduabum has threatened to arrest contractors handling some infrastructural projects in the state.

Speaking at an interactive session with his constituents during which he donated motorcycles, bags of rice and wrappers, at Ukpok, Nnewi South Local Government Area of Anambra State, Maduabum lamented that contractors handling the Nnewi Teaching Hospital projects are yet to justify the huge sum of money given to them for the projects warning that they will face the anti-graft drilling if they fail to perform.

He also said that the contracting firm CCC handling the federal government road is yet to give quality performance to justify the N3 billion allocated for the work.



FROM left: Minister of Works, Housing & Urban Development Hassan Lawal, and MD/CEO, FERMA Kabir Abdullahi at the commissioning of Borno State Road Management Agency equipment in Maiduguri, recently.

'Why Lagos introduced toll gate on Lekki-Epe expressway'

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

GOVERNOR of Lagos State, Babatunde Fashola has said the toll gate to be mounted on the Lekki-Epe expressway was the best option for the concessionaire who financed the project to earn his investment back.

According to him, the concessionaire is not a charity organization, thus, the introduction of the toll gate on the 50 kilometer road that was under construction. He said the concessionaire will run the toll system for a period long enough to make his money and a reasonable profit without profiteering, “then the road becomes the asset of Lagos State and Lagosians after.”

Governor Fashola described the concessioning of the Lekki-Epe expressway by the immediate past administration of Bola Tinubu as “a ground-breaking initiative made at a difficult time in the history of Lagos State”. He spoke to newsmen after the inspection of the Oluwole Urban Mall Project and the on-going Alexander (Lekki-Ikoyi) Link Bridge in Lagos saying, “It is recognized all over the world that in public expenditure, taxpayers' money will never be enough to enable government to deliver on all of the things that her citizens want”. He added that the road was concessioned by the immediate past administration for the purpose of expansion adding that his administration bought into the initiative and continued with it because of the vision and the opportunities it holds for Nigeria and particularly Lagosians.

Minister commends Borno road maintenance agency

THE Minister of Works, Housing and Urban Development, Dr Hassan Mohammed Lawal has described the multi billion road maintenance equipments procured by the Borno State government as only comparable to Julius Berger construction company in the country, adding that Governor Sheriff stand out on top in Nigeria in the areas of road maintenance and construction.

Dr. Hassan Mohammed who was speaking at the commissioning ceremony of 133 earth moving machines purchased at the cost of 3.8 billion naira for the Borno State Road Maintenance Agency said that, “Without flattery, I came, I saw and I am

overwhelmed by the efforts of the Borno State governor in the areas of road maintenance and construction.”

He said as Federal Minister of Work, he has gone round the country and had seen many construction companies but none can be compared with the equipments he saw, which the Borno State government has purchased for its road maintenance agency, which only Julius Berger Construction Company can boast of such sophisticated road maintenance and construction equipments.

According to the Minister, what Borno State government has done is in accordance with the current policies of the Federal

Government that all roads should be rehabilitated and maintained by states within which these roads are under their domain; he therefore, urged the state government to open a zonal workshop because the primary idea of this agency is to ensure road maintenance and construction within the state and local governments.

He said the Federal Ministry of Works is willing to form a consortium of engineers to collaborate with this agency and to offer professional and technical advice, and called on the Borno State government to establish a liaison office in Abuja so as to facilitate easy access to FERMA's team of engineers.

PROPERTY

UK house prices will rise in 2010

HOUSE prices are going up and first-time buyers will need generous relatives to gain a foothold on the property ladder this new year, it was revealed yesterday.

The forecast by the Royal

Institution of Chartered Surveyors suggested the value of a typical British home would end the 2010 "one or two per cent higher" than their current level. The number of sales is also likely to rise to

a monthly average of 70,000 up from the current level of between 55,000 and 60,000, it predicted.

It blamed a lack of homes being put on the market with buyers competing for the best

properties. The prediction comes despite banks maintaining strict lending criteria, offering the best mortgages to those with perfect credit ratings and a large deposit.

The increase this year

has surprised many housing market analysts who predicted large falls in property prices this year amid rising unemployment and repossessions.

Simon Rubinsohn, chief

economist at RICS, said: "The imbalance between supply and demand will continue into the early part of the new year, resulting in some further house price gains." —Daily Telegraph

Council completes Buguma water scheme

THE Asari-Toru Local Government Council of Rivers has completed work on the Buguma water scheme at the council's headquarters.

The Chairman of the council, Mr Ojukaye Amachree said in Port Harcourt at the weekend that with the completion of the project, Buguma residents now enjoyed safe drinking water.

He said the project had already been inaugurated and that residents were elated at the development.

Amachree said that the completion of Buguma water project was a fulfillment of his electoral promises to the people.

"On assumption of office, I noticed that my people lacked safe drinking water.

"After proper assessment of the situation, I embarked on the water scheme to ensure water supply. Today, I am glad my people now have portable water," he said.

The chairman said the council was also building the Ido and Abalama communities' water projects

which would be completed in February 2010.

Meanwhile, residents of Buguma have been reacting to the new water project inaugurated for them.

One of them, Mrs Alice George commended the chairman for fulfilling his electoral promises to the people.

"We thank the chairman for the water project. It is a big relief after years of traumatic experience. With this project, the chairman has brought joy to all us more so in this Christmas" she said.

Another resident, Mr Tamuno Bestman said it was dream come true for the people to be enjoying pipe borne water after years of hardship.

"While commending the council for a job well done, I plead with them to ensure that the scheme is maintained and supervised to avoid any break down" he said.

Bestman also urged the people to ensure that the project was well protected from vandals.

(NAN)

NIPSS to build N300m research centre

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Director General of the National Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS) Kuru near Jos, Professor Danfulani Ahmed, has said the institute would build a research centre where research work would be conducted.

Professor Danfulani, who disclosed this in Ilorin, Kwara State capital, while answering questions on a Radio Kwara personality interview programme "Playing Host" said the institute has set aside between two hundred and three hundred million naira to fund the

research centre.

He said that after completion, the centre would be known as President Umar Yar'adua Research Complex.

The Director General commended the Governors of Kwara, Lagos, Bauchi, Rivers, Delta and Kaduna States for their assistance to the institute.

Professor Danfulani particularly praised Governor Bukola Saraki for agreeing to build a presidential complex at NIPSS which foundation stone would soon be laid.

He said NIPSS is basically founded for producing high-level intellectuals for efficient governance in Nigeria.

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Property

Plateau approves over N13b for projects

From Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THE Plateau State Executive Council (SEC) has approved the resolution of the state tenders Board for the award of contracts to the tune of over N13b, a statement by the Director of Press and Public Affairs James Mannok said.

According to Mannok the approval was given at the SEC weekly meeting presided over by the state Governor Jonah David Jang at the government house Ray Field in Jos.

State Commissioner for Finance and Economic Planning, Mrs. Clara Gang Tukura, who briefed newsmen after the

SEC meeting, explained that the over N13b was meant for contractors who bid for various contracts through the tenders board according to the statement.

She added that the projects under this arrangement included urban and rural roads as well as other critical infrastructure in all the major sectors of the econ-

omy stressing that "some of the projects were rolled into the 2010 budget and would be completed within the year including the road projects".

Meanwhile, the state's Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Mr. Edward Pwajok, has emphasized that the Governor has directed all local gov-

ernment chairmen to show keen interest in the progress of projects where they are located.

He further stressed that EXCO members have resolved to work harder in the New Year, adding that though the election campaign would heat up, they would not allow such activities to hinder their performance.



SHAW University, USA, team led by its Vice President, Lee Monroe, second from left, received by its Nigerian Co-ordinator, Lawal M. T. Adamu, second right, with Prof. John Kester and Dr. Michael Umeadi, when the team visited Abuja, recently.

FCTA engages 20 contractors to clean Abuja

By Nasir Imam

AS part of his efforts to ensure that the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja remains clean and attractive, FCT Minister Adamu Aliero has engaged the services of 20 new contractors to take care of the cleaning of 20 districts in Abuja.

According to the Minister, the task of cleaning the city has been enormous for ten cleaning contractors who were hitherto engaged to perform the duty as they were confronted with lack of adequate equipment to cater for the 20 districts.

He explained that the FCT Administration under his leadership will not tolerate any type of waste left unattended to, either construction, human, vegetation or liquid waste reiterating that the recently constituted City Wide Cleaning Task Force would take care of removing all illegal structures, waste since the exercise was planned to be total restoration of the Abuja Master Plan.

Speaking through the Director of Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB), Engineer Abubakar Yabo, Senator Aliero noted that the newly imported compact trucks by the administration would be distributed

among the contractors in order to ease their task.

He told journalists in Abuja while inspecting the contractors at their respective districts that the FCT Executive Council approved the engagement of the new contractors adding that the new contractors would be given all the necessary support to succeed in the task.

"The ten contractors who were cleaning the city were struggling to clean the 20 districts without adequate equipment and personnel but the Minister has engaged 20 of them now to ensure that the city is kept clean all the time" he said.



FCT Minister Adamu Aliero

Works gets largest budget chunk in Nasarawa

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

THE works and transport sector in Nasarawa State has the highest proposal for budgetary allocation of N11.7billion in 2010, in what Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma said was designed to implement the policy thrust of the 2010 Fiscal Appropriation Bill.

Part of the policy thrust, according to the governor, who read the bill before the state House of Assembly in Lafia, last week, spells out the completion of all projects initiated by his administration, commencement of new projects that are necessary for the socio-economic development of the state, and completion of inherited

abandoned projects considered essential for socio-economic development of the state.

Specifically, the governor outlined a plan for both rural and urban infrastructure, saying "We shall continue to open up our rural areas for socio-economic activities and to stem rural/urban migration."

He named the construction of Ashige-Uggah-Fadaman Bauna-Arikya-Wamba road to be undertaken this year while 300 kilometres of feeder roads would be rehabilitated across the state within the fiscal year. He named the feeder roads as Garaku-Dari-Bassa, Doma-Alagye-Amaku, Panda-Kube, Agbashi-Udenin Magaji, Karshi-Takalafiya

and Nasarawa Eggon-Arikya roads. Others are, Ancho Junction-Ancho Ningha, Agwatashi-Jangwa-Ribi road, and Mararaban Gurku-Kabusu roads.

Governor Doma said further that "In 2010 fiscal year, efforts shall be intensified to develop our urban centres to transform them into modern cities in accordance with our urban renewal programme.

"To this end, urban infrastructures shall be upgraded and/or provided in Karu, Keffi, Nasarawa, Keana, Akwanga, Doma, Garaku, Awe, Toto, Obi, Nasarawa Eggon and Wamba. This development initiative shall be undertaken in partnership with the Local Government Councils", he added.

Oshiomhole vows to sustain pace of roads construction

EDO State Governor, Comrade Adams Oshiomhole has promised to sustain the pace of road construction work going on in the state.

The governor who made the promise after inspecting the on-going road construction in Benin City expressed satisfaction at the pace and quality of work which has commenced in earnest.

According to him, there is so

much to be done in the New Year.

"Now that we have paid the contractors, we expect that all of them will start work in the new year and we are going to expand the scope of work, not only in Benin City, but across the eighteen local government areas", he noted.

The governor further disclosed that government would build more markets, to enable those dis-

placed from other markets to be accommodated, while infrastructures would be provided to make the place conducive.

"We have to invest more on markets because a lot of people are trading by the road side. We need to create a market for them to have a place for them to do their business. It would have a positive impact because if we relocate them, traffic on the road would

be free", he added.

On the on-going lighting system in Benin City, the governor said all the roads adjoining the King square would be provided with street lights, so that the beauty of the King square would become manifest.

His words, "Now that we are seeing the positive impact, we are extending it down the adjoining roads. It would have positive

impact on security because crime thrives better under darkness. When you monitor the excitement on the faces of the people, I am encouraged that we have to do more".

He expressed the hope that when work is completed on the King square, it would be one of the best in the continent and he urged the people to keep faith with his government.

IT WORLD

Hotline:08050498518

Visafone slashes prices of handsets

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

VISAFONE has slashed the prices of Haier C2001 and ZTE 306 FM handsets, as part of measures to empower Nigerians with the tools to reach out to friends and loved ones at very affordable rates.

With the price slash, Huawei

C2001 FM phone, formerly sold at N2, 999 now goes for N2, 100, while ZTE 306 FM phone, which was previously sold for N2, 999, is now N2, 300.

Titled; Xmas Special Slash, the initiative rewards the subscribers who buy any of these phones, with N50 worth of free airtime for both

on-net and off-net calls, N20 free on-net SMS valid for 15 days and 1 caller ring back tone valid for 30 days.

In addition, the subscriber gets to enjoy a range of Visafone's supplementary and value added services like Share Ur Visa, Voice SMS, Visa Chat etc.

Furthermore, the telecoms operator presents consumers with the lowest International call rates of N12/min to the USA, UK and Canada and a competitive rate of N17/min to India and China.

A statement from the company indicates that the price slash provides another opportunity for

Nigerians to enjoy the benefits of the stylish and sleek handsets, built with exciting features like FM and a range of exotic ring-tones.

Also, this creates another avenue for more people to join the fastest growing and most reliable telephone network in Nigeria.

Zinox bags industry's top award

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

ZINOX Technologies Limited has been honoured by the Nigeria Computer Society, NCS, the umbrella body for all computer associations in the country, with the Industry's highest award, the "IT Excellence Award".

Presenting the award, the former Minister of Petroleum and a renowned pioneer of the IT sector in Nigeria, Chief Don Etiebet said the award was for overall achievement and sustained growth in the ICT sector. The IT Excellence Award, the last award for the year 2009, was adjudged the highest award because the awardee was selected by a team of professionals based on relevant Industry intelligence.

Zinox Technologies presently rated the largest IT group in sub-Saharan African has won all possible local and international awards in the sector. Zinox pioneered the first internationally certified Nigerian computer brand with the first ever Naira keyboard. Presently, rated the second largest selling computer brand in Nigeria (IDC Rating), amongst international brands, Zinox is by far the largest selling Nigerian brand in the country. Zinox is the largest partner for both Intel and Microsoft in Sub Saharan Africa. Reacting to the award, Mr. Sunday Mukoro the COO of Zinox Technologies said it's recognition for creativity, pioneering, hard work and keeping faith with the digital development of Nigeria. He thanked the leadership and members of the Nigeria Computer Society, NCS, for honoring Zinox.

CNP extends computer ownership promo

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

THE management of the Computerize Nigeria Project (CNP) has announced that Phase 2 of the 750,000 Computer Ownership Promo will run to the end of March 31, 2010.

Speaking on the development, the Head of CNP, Mrs Loretta Agbakoba, said the promo, which was supposed to end on December 31, 2009, had been extended primarily to heed the call from well meaning academics that the promo be extended to the first quarter of 2010 to make up for the duration of the ASUU strike.

According to Mrs. Agbakoba, academics argued that the ASUU strike has added a couple of months to the academic year and it would be beneficial to parents, students and academic institutions for the promo to power the beginning of a new semester while corresponding with the take off of a new Federal budget. The extension would also serve the hunger of Nigerians who are desperate for knowledge tools. She said the Phase 2 of the 750,000 Computer Ownership Promo is embedded with the incredible benefit of a Zinox e learning suite worth N62, 000 free for one year and a free Zinox digi lamp to enhance reading in a country where blackouts have become a norm.

Ndukwe condoles IBB family

THE executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) Engr. Ernest Ndukwe has condoled with the former president Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida over the passing away of this wife and the former first lady Hajiya Mariyam Babangida last week.

Ndukwe said in a statement "We mourn, with sorrow, the passing away of HE Mrs. Mariam Babangida, the amiable former first lady of Nigeria and wife of a senior brother and friend, Gen. Ibrahim Badamosi Babangida". He said the former first lady will always be remembered for her charm, elegance and style and above all as a role model to many women. "The nation indeed lost a veritable crusader for better life for women and someone committed to the upliftment of the status of rural women in the country".



ETHERNET cable

Adenuga wins Silverbird's Man of the Year award

By Hamisu Muhammad

THE Chairman of Globacom Limited, Dr. Mike Adenuga, has won the 2009 Silverbird Man of the Year Award. He polled over 75% of the votes sent in by text messaging.

Dr. Adenuga was nominated for Globacom's successful completion of the sophisticated trans-Atlantic submarine optic fibre cable which connects Africa to Europe and America and the nationwide optical fibre cable that connects over 40 cities in Nigeria and is reputed to be Nigeria's largest OFC network.

Others nominated with

Adenuga are Godswill Akpabio, Governor of Akwa Ibom State; Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, Governor of Central Bank of Nigeria; Odein Ajumobia, Minister of State (Petroleum); and Alhaji Danjuma Goje, Governor of Kebbi State.

The Silverbird Man of the Year award was initiated in 2005 and was conceived to celebrate the Nigerian who, in the past year, positively touched the lives of other Nigerians the most.

Former winners are Prof Dora Akunyuli, Minister of Information and Communications; Malam Nasir el-Rufai, former Minister of the Federal Capital Territory

(FCT); Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, former Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC); and Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, Governor of Edo State.

Dr. Adenuga is believed to be Africa's leading business icon. The latest honour came on the heels of recent similar awards including the Telecoms Man of the Year 2009 he won at the prestigious Nigerian Information Technology and Telecommunications Awards (NITTA) and the Compass newspaper Man of the Year Award which was announced by the newspaper on Thursday.

IT World

New Internet piracy law comes into effect in France

THE first effects of France's new law against internet piracy will begin to be felt as the new year begins.

The law was passed after a long struggle in parliament, and in the teeth of bitter opposition from groups opposed to internet restrictions.

Illegal downloaders will be sent a warning e-mail, then a letter if they continue, and finally must appear before a judge if they offend again. The judge can impose a fine, or suspend their access to the internet.

BBC News reports that the Creation and Internet Bill set up a new state agency - the Higher Authority for the Distribution of Works and the Protection of Copyright on the

Internet (Hadopi).

The law was backed by President Nicolas Sarkozy and the entertainment industry.

Its supporters say it is a model for other countries around the world that want to protect their creative industries and make clear to ordinary web-users that not everything is for free.

What we think is after the first message... about two thirds of the people (will) stop their illegal usages of the internet

Michel Thiollie, a French senator and member of the Hadopi, says that if the law is explained properly, then people understand it. "The internet is a fabulous world, but it needs rules, if you want to get cinema, music or

video games in the future.

"What we think is that after the first message... about two-thirds of the people (will) stop their illegal usages of the internet.

"After the second message more than 95% will finish with that bad usage."

The law has many opponents, who say either that it is too draconian, or that it has already been overtaken by technology and that serious downloaders will simply sidestep it. But for supporters, it is a long-overdue necessity.

For them, it is a way of reminding law-abiding citizens who have been tempted by an abundance of apparently free material available on the web, that it does come at a price.

Nokia-Apple patent dispute deepens

NOKIA Corporation is broadening a legal dispute it already has with Apple over the iPhone, saying almost all of the company's other products also violate the Finnish phone maker's patents.

Nokia said it has filed a complaint against Apple with the US International Trade Commission, alleging Apple's iPhone, iPods and computers all violate Nokia's intellectual property rights.

At issue are key features found in Apple products, including aspects of user interface, cameras, antenna and power management technologies, Nokia said. The company claims that the technologies in question help cut manufacturing costs, reduce gadget size and prolong battery life. A household name in Asia and Europe, Nokia is a smaller player in the United States, where its smart phones face tough competition from Apple's

iPhone and Research in Motion Ltd's BlackBerry devices. Nokia, the world's largest mobile phone maker, has cautioned that its own market share volume, currently at some 38%, would be flat next year.

The company, which is based in Espoo, Finland, has already sued Apple in US District Court in Wilmington, Delaware, over the massively popular iPhone, claiming it infringes on 10 of its patents related to phone calls and Wi-Fi access.

Apple has denied the charges and this month countered with its own lawsuit in the Delaware court, saying Nokia has copied aspects of the iPhone in its devices. Apple claims Nokia is violating its patent rights on technology for connecting phones to computers, teleconferencing and touch-screen menus, among other things. *Press Association*

In search of bankable research proposals

By Hamisu Muhammad

IT is a common belief that Research and Development (R&D) have suffered neglect in most developing nations. As the developed countries and those nations that need to progress rapidly turn their efforts to be scientifically, technologically and economically sound, in Africa, a country like Nigeria with potentials both in human and natural resources is yet to develop its R&D sector. In realisation of that, some donor agencies now focus their attention towards selling the importance of written bankable research proposal by Nigerian researchers and scientists in order to attract available funds meant for that purpose.

Recently, an International workshop on writing bankable research proposals entitled: 'Attracting Research Funds and Managing Research Projects' held in Zaria, Kaduna State, with the objective to facilitate development and acquisition of requisite skills and capacities needed by researchers and scientists to enable them access available funds globally for research and development activities in the country.

The three-day workshop was organised by the National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP), and the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in collaboration with the National Research Institute for Chemical Technology (NARICT).

According to the organisers of the workshop the main objectives are: To effectively project the importance of writing bankable research proposals; develop requisite skills and capacities of researchers and scientists to access available national, regional and international funds for research and development; and to enhance the ability of Nigeria's tertiary institutions to effectively benefit from available research funds and further facilitate R&D activities at all levels.

Participants at the workshop realised the facts that most African States, unlike their



counterparts in Asia and other developed countries, budget very low proportions of their GDP for R&D activities in Science and Technology.

It was identified at the workshop that beside the several other cultural factors that inhibit research and innovative activities in the country, lack of conducive environment impedes research efforts by young researchers and scientists nationwide. That researchers in Nigeria do not know the limits or extent to which they should offer information on their activities to potential donor agencies to attract funding.

Professor Kubata Kilunga, is an international expert in the field of Science and Technology research and Coordinator AUNEPAD OST/African Research for Health Initiative (NARHI) was the resources person at the workshop. According to Kilunga most

students and beginning researchers do not fully understand what a research proposal means, nor do they understand its importance.

Professor Kilunga said the workshop focuses on proposal writing rather than on the development of research ideas.

He said a high quality proposal, on the other hand, not only promises success for the project, but also impresses your Thesis Committee about your potential as a researcher.

"To put it bluntly, one's research is only as good as one's proposal; An ill-conceived proposal dooms the project even if it somehow gets through the Thesis Supervisory Committee".

He explained that the quality of a research proposal depends not only on the quality of your proposed project, but also on the quality of proposal writing;

"A good research project may run the risk of rejection simply because the proposal is poorly written. Therefore, it pays if proposal writing is coherent, clear and compelling", he said.

He said in written a bankable proposal need to be considered The main purpose of a research proposal is to show that:

The problem proposed to be investigated is significant enough to warrant the investigation, the methodology planned to be used is suitable and feasible, and the expected results are likely to prove fruitful and will make an original contribution. In other word what you are answering is 'will it work?'

A research proposal is intended to convince others that you have a worthwhile research project and that you have the competence and the work-plan to complete it.

Generally, a research proposal should contain all the key elements involved in the research process and include sufficient information for the readers to evaluate the proposed study.

Regardless of your research area and the methodology you choose, all research proposals must address the following questions: What you plan to accomplish, why you want to do it and how you are going to do it.

The proposal should have sufficient information to convince your readers that you have an important research idea, that you have a good grasp of the relevant literature and the major issues, and that your methodology is sound.

The Director General of the NOTAP, Dr Umar Bindir emphasised the need for researchers to ensure that their research is patented, saying that researchers are advised to protect their R&D findings for economic benefits and intellectual recognition through patenting.

He therefore urged researchers to engage in demand driven researches that are commercializable in order to improve the nation's economy.



Demolition: Kagini residents protest defiance of court

PICS: ABUBAKAR YAKUB

By Abubakar Yakubu

WOMEN and children of Kagini Village yesterday protested against the disobedience of two court orders that restrained the FCT minister and his agents from demolishing structures in the community pending the hearing of a motion of notice filed by residents of the area.

A Chief District Court and an Abuja High Court had both granted an interim injunction restraining the FCT minister, the Federal Capital Development Authority, Abuja Metropolitan Management Control, the police and the attorney-general of the federation from carrying out any form of demolition at Kagini Village.

Both injunctions were signed by Judge Hafsat S. Sadiq and Justice Othman A. Musa respectively and our reporters saw signed evidences as well as stamps from the respective establishments on the court papers, to show that the motions were duly served on the defendants.

Most of the protesters accused the bulldozers' drivers of having no compassion. "Even when they see you trying to recover some of your property, the bulldozers move in at the same time and the owner of the property also has to contend with miscreant who threatening the owners with deadly weapons, before carrying the item away to sell," a lady cried.

Another lady lamented that women and children have been turned into destitute and now live under trees in the severe harmattan weather.

Our reporter, who went round the community, saw the belongings of stranded residents piled up in churches, while some men salvaged items of valuable from their marked apartments.

A resident said they were warned



PROTESTING women and children at Kagini Village yesterday.

by development control officials that five bulldozers will begin work today to hasten the demolition work in the area.

Fidelis Okocha, a resident, said he was in Lagos when his wife called him that people went around Kagini on December 18 last month to warn residents to pack away within two weeks as their homes have being marked for demolition.

"I rushed back to Abuja and shockingly before the two weeks ultimatum given the demolition began, sending many residents homeless at this hard times," he said.

Okocha disclosed that landlords bought the land from the local chief in accordance to the customary law of purchase, adding that during that time, they were told that the land was for agriculture as well as residential purposes.

He wondered why the FCT authorities argued that the landlords' building and land documents tendered during the demolition are not tenable.

"The same documents were shown by affected landlords of a Chinese railway project in Kagini and accepted, while the victims

were duly paid compensation after getting six months grace from the time their homes were marked," he revealed.

Okocha appealed to the FCT Administration to give more time as well as compensate the landlords in order to alleviate their sufferings.

He also called on charitable organisations to come into the community to assist displaced women and children as they have nowhere to go and money to feed.

Another resident, Mrs Eunice Ikhideore, said the camp people and pastors are rallying around to put things in order before the FCT Administration's agents began the demolition exercise in defiance of two separate courts' injunctions.

She said when the demolition began; she was in the office in town and had to rush back to the village to salvage her property.

"I saw people crying and helpless and I must say that when we were buying land from the chief, he told us the area is safe and now it is regrettable that miscreant attack people in their premises in order to steal their property and nothing happens," she lamented.

According to her, if really there is obedience to the rule of law; FCT Administration should respect the

court injunctions. A resident alleged that the FCT Administration officials lied in court that they have finished demolishing Kagini Village.

He called for a stop, adding that the demolition has not gotten his way.

The Etsu of Kagini was not his palace when our reporter called yesterday evening but an indigee in the place said their homes were not affected.

In another development the Abuja Muslim Forum has called the FCT Administration to obey the courts' orders.

Ustaz Yunus Salahudeen, assistant public relations officer of the forum, visited the community sympathise with victims whose homes were demolished.

The forum's spokesperson expressed his shock at seeing many women and children sleeping the open during the harmattan weather and advised government to do something about their plight as government is charged with the responsibility of protecting the country's citizens.

Ustaz Salahudeen called on Muslims and Christians in the area to put their problems into prayer, adding that God will solve it for them.



DISPLACED women and children at Kagini Village, in the FCT, yesterday

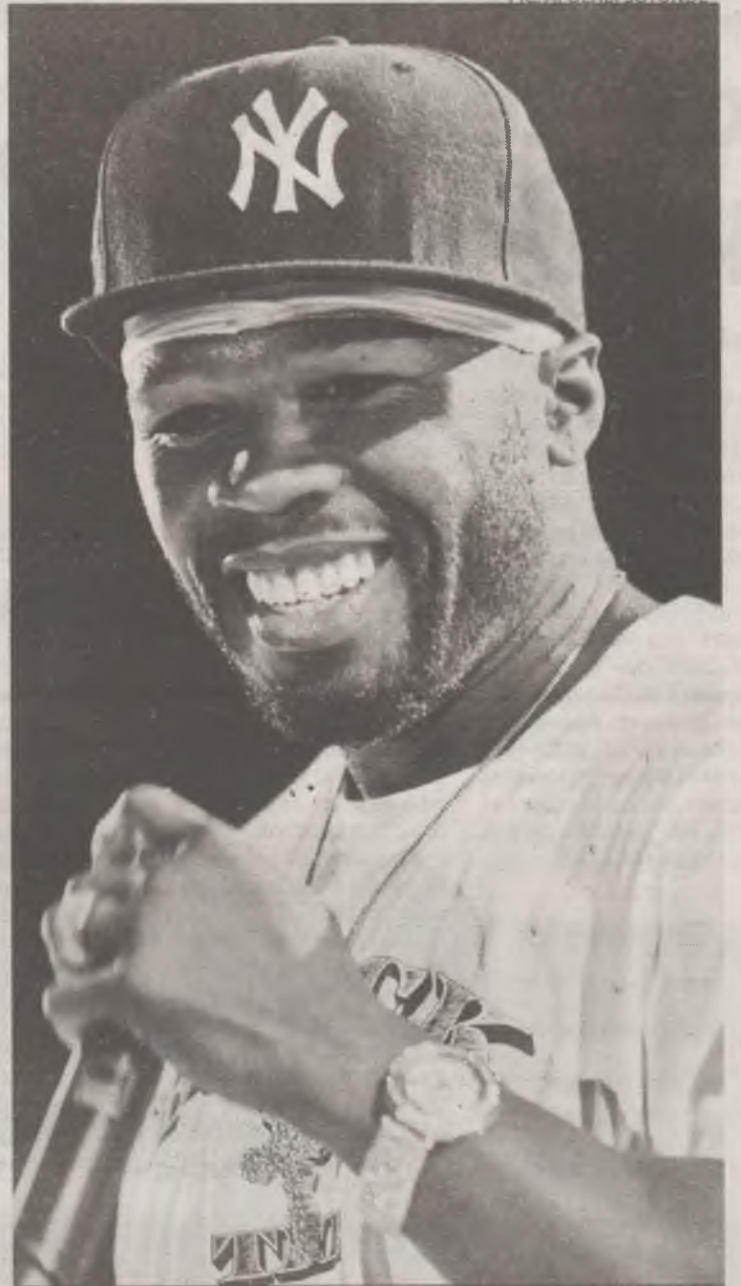
“Even when they see you trying to recover some of your property, the bulldozers move in at the same time and the owner of the property also has to contend with miscreant who threatening the owners with deadly weapons

PHOTO NEWS

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE



MEMBERS of the ISBON, Karu branch at an event to mark the new Islamic year in Abuja recently.



50 cents during his visit to Abuja



DIGNITARIES and recipients during DTCA's staff award ceremony in Abuja Thursday



METHODIST Church of Nigeria Kubwa members during the Church's celebration recently

USED WOOD WORKING FURNITURE FACTORY MACHINERIES FOR SALE

1. Guillotine veneer sewing machine
 2. Veneer cutting machine
 3. Hand cross cut machine
 4. 2 layers Electric Hot press machine
 5. Edge Banding Machine
 6. Moulding machine
 7. Double Panel cross cutting machine
 8. Dowell producing machine
 9. 6 units boring machine
 10. Clamping machine for cabinet Assemble
 11. Bandsaw sharpening machine
 12. Circular sharpening machine
 13. Bandsaw setting machine
 14. Plainer blade sharpening machine
 15. Chain mortising machine
 16. Drilling mortising machine
 17. Edge sandpaper machine
 18. Belt sander machine
 19. Curve wood sanding machine
 20. S35 Heavy duty planing thicknesser/surfacing machine
 21. Surfacing / thicknesser machine 16"
 22. Circular cutting machine
 23. Bandsaw machine
 24. Factory dust extractor machine
- All in good working conditions
CONTACT: 08138399009

Servant accused of stealing projector

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

A steward, Bissallah Tanko of Doet Garden, Area 1, Abuja, was on Thursday arraigned before an Abuja Area Court for allegedly stealing a camera projector belonging to his employer.

Prosecutor Sergeant Amby Ayuba informed the court that on December 26, 2009, one Onah Isaih reported to the police that the accused dishonestly conspired with one other person (at large) to steal the camera projector valued at N85, 000 from the garden on December 25.

He said the projector was recovered from the accused during police investigation, adding that the accused also admitted to the crimes, which are punishable under Sections 789 and 289 of Panel Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pledged not guilty and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Judge Umar Kagarko granted him bail in the sum of N100, 000 with a surety, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to April 14, 2010 for hearing.

In another case, Mr. Joel Badu was arraigned for alleged criminal trespass and theft.

Prosecutor Muhammad Garba told the court that on December 22, 2009, one Fasiku of NNPC reported to the police that on December 21, 2009, the

accused and others still at large criminally trespassed into his site in Kubwa Junction, where they scattered his property and stole some materials.

The prosecutor said the offences are punishable under Sections 342, 79 and 288 of Panel Code law, adding that the property stolen include iron rods, various type of electronic wires, tanker cover and various sizes of planks.

Other items removed were water tanks, N4,000 cash and other valuable materials whose values are yet to be estimated.

When the charges were read to the accused person, he pleaded not guilty while Judge Umar Kagarko granted him bail in the sum of N200, 000 with a surety, who must reside within court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to March 14, 2010 for hearing.

Cleric makes case for good governance

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

NIGERIA will experience great transformation if those in government put God first in running the affairs of the country, the General Overseer of Living End-Time Ministry, Pastor Isaac Richman Owoicholohi said yesterday.

The clergy in a sermon delivered at the Church headquarters in Abuja, said by the time the nation's leadership turns to God, the country's problems will be healed and positive developments will take place as God will turn everything

around. He said the country has experienced untold hardship as a result of the recklessness of those in government, adding that except, "our leaders turned to God and Nigerians embraced the virtues of the Almighty, the problems bedeviling the country will remain un-abated".

Owoicholohi urged Nigerians, especially clergies not to relent in praying for the quick recovery of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, who is presently receiving medical attention in Saudi Arabia, adding that the, "word of God enjoins

us to pray for our leaders".

He lamented that Nigerians are still suffering in the face of the abundant natural and human resources that the country is blessed with and stressed that except the Lord leads the country, the efforts of the leaders will yield nothing.

"The country needs divine favour which comes from God Almighty and of which human labour only cannot bring down the blessings, growth and transformation that divine favour can bring to the country and its citizenry," he stated.

Herbal seller urges Nigerians to embrace herbs

By Abubakar Yakubu

AN herbal medicine seller, Yusuff A. Kabir yesterday called on Nigerians to always use herbs as food supplements.

He said every human brain has 73 cells and if any one is not functioning there will be problem as the body will be unhealthy. Kabir disclosed that herbs like Tree-en-en, Formular four plus, Garlic, Aloe Vera Plus, Fibre tablets, Femine Herbal complex and others are helpful in making the body cells work properly.

He advised people to improve on their balance diet, adding that such neglect of the body system can lead to diseases such as cancer, ulcer, high blood pressure and diabetes.

"The prosecutor said the offences are punishable under Sections 342, 79 and 288 of Panel Code law



THE NIGERIA FRENCH LANGUAGE VILLAGE

(INTER-UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR FRENCH STUDIES)
P. M. B. 1011, AJARA, BADAGRY LAGOS STATE

RESUMPTION DATES FOR 2009/2010 ACADEMIC SESSION

This is to announce the resumption dates for the various academic programmes for the 2009/2010 academic session as follows:

S/N	COURSE	DATE OF RESUMPTION
1.	One year (2 semesters) Language Immersion Programme for 300 Level French Language Students from all Nigeria Universities and degree-awarding Colleges of Education.	5th January, 2010
2.	One year Diploma in French Course	11th January, 2010.
3.	Three-Month module Residential Certificate French Course (modules 1,2 & 3)	11th January, 2010.
4.	9 Months Post - Graduate Diploma in Bilingual Secretarial Administration.	11th January, 2010.
5.	9 Months Post -Graduate Diploma in Translation & Interpretation.	11th January, 2010.

N/B

- (i) The screening exercise for respective applicants for the one year Diploma in French and Module 1 Certificate Programmes comes up on Wednesday 6th January 2010 at 10.00am prompt. Candidates are to bring along original copies of their academic certificates and testimonials.
- (ii) Universities whose students are yet to complete the 2008/2009 sessions on account of the last ASUU /NASU strikes are to get in touch with the Academic Planning Office immediately to reschedule the programme time - table for their students.
- (iii) Late registration shall close 2 weeks after the resumption dates indicated above.

Signed: Remi FATUNWASE, Esq - Registrar/Secretary to Council


FEDERAL COLLEGE OF FRESHWATER FISHERIES TECHNOLOGY
P.M.B. 1500, NEW-BUSSA, NIGER STATE
www.fcftnigeria.org, info@fcftnigeria.org, fcftnewbussa@37.com
**INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT
ACADEMIC AND NON-ACADEMIC STAFF VACANCIES**

Application are invited from suitably qualified candidates for appointment as Academic and non-Academic staff in the following disciplines.

A. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- (i) Assistant Lecturer (Agric. Engineer)
- (ii) Assistant Lecturer (Animal Science)

B. DEPARTMENT OF AGRIC. EXTENSION AND MANAGEMENT

- (i) Assistant Lecturer (Agric Extension)

C. DEPARTMENT OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY

- (i) Assistant Lecturer (Food Engineer)
- (ii) Assistant Lecturer (Food Chemistry)
- (iii) Assistant Lecturer (Food Biochemistry)
- (iv) Assistant Lecturer (Food Microbiology)

D. DEPARTMENT OF HOTEL AND CATERING MANAGEMENT

- (i) Senior Lecturer (Hospitality Management)
- (ii) Higher Instructor (Tourism)
- (iii) Higher Instructor (Hospitality Management)

E. HOME AND RURAL ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

- (i) Senior Lecturer (Home Science/Nutrition/Economics)
- (ii) Lecturer III (Human Nutrition and Dietetics)
- (iii) Lecturer III (Community Health Assistant)

F. Medical

- (i) Nursing Sister/Midwifery

G. ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

- (i) Personal Assistant
- (ii) Administrative Officer II

H. FISHERIES DEPARTMENT

- (i) Assistant Lecturer
- (ii) Higher Fisheries Superintendent

I. BASIC SCIENCES DEPARTMENT

- (i) Assistant Lecturer (Biology)
- (ii) Assistant Lecturer (Mathematics)
- (iii) Assistant Lecturer (Chemistry)
- (iv) Assistant Lecturer (Computer Engineer)
- (v) Laboratory Technologist

J. GENERAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

- (i) Assistant Lecturer (English Language)

QUALIFICATION AND EXPERIENCE

1. **Senior Lecturer:** - Candidates should possess doctorate degree(s) in the relevant discipline(s) with at least six (6) years post qualification cognate experience. Furthermore, the candidate(s) must
 - (a) Demonstrate ability to initiate and supervise students approved research project/research exhibition of technology.
 - (b) Have not less than five (5) publications in reputable journals, plus as least eight (8) conference seminar proceedings.
 - (c) Have not less than two (2) meaningful chapters as contributions in standard text book(s).
2. **Lecturer III:** - Prospective candidates should possess Masters degree(s) in the relevant discipline(s) from a recognized University OR a good honours degree in the relevant discipline not less than 2nd class honours Upper Division plus at least three (3) years post qualification cognate experience.
3. **Assistant Lecturer:** - Would - be candidates should possess a good honours degree in the relevant discipline plus NYSC discharge certificate OR Exemption Certificate.
4. **Instructor/Fisheries Superintendent/Technologist:** - Candidates should possess at least Higher National Diploma (HND) in the relevant discipline (not less than Upper Credit grade) plus at least three (3) years post qualification cognate experience and NYSC discharge or exemption certificate.
5. **Administrative Officer II:** - Candidates should possess a good honours degree Arts/Social Sciences or Public Administration from recognized University and have at least three (3) years post qualification experience.
6. **Nurse/Midwife:** - Candidates should possess Registered Nurse/Midwife RN/M Certificate, registered with the Nursing/Midwifery Council of Nigeria with 3 (three) years post qualification cognate experience.
7. **Personal Assistant:** - Prospective candidates should possess either HND/BA Business Administration/Public Administration with at least 3 (three) years post qualification cognate experience in similar capacity in reputable organization.

Method of Application

Interested applicants are requested to submit 12 (Twelve) typewritten copies of applications, curriculum vitae and photocopies of credentials. Each applicant should submit names of 3 (Three) referees who should send their confidential report on the candidate direct to the College. Salary attached to each post is the Consolidated Tertiary Institution Salary Scale (CONTISS) as obtainable in Tertiary institutions.

All applications and referees report should be marked "Confidential" at the top left corner of the envelope and addressed to:
The Provost,
Federal College of Freshwater Fisheries Technology
P. M. B. 1500,
New Busa, Niger State.

to reach him not later than 6 (six) weeks from the date of this advertisement.

Dr. A. A. Eyo,
Provost
FCFFT, New Busa


THE FEDERAL POLYTECHNIC, MUBI
**INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION AND TENDER
FOR EXECUTION OF ETF NORMAL INTERVENTION
2008/2009**
A. PREAMBLE

The Federal Polytechnic, Mubi, Adamawa State, intends to utilize its allocation for intervention years 2008-2009 Education Trust Fund for the following projects:

1. Construction of lecture hall with offices (750 seating capacity)
2. Construction of lecture hall with offices (500 seating capacity)
3. Purchase, installation/commission of a 200KVA sound proof generating set (Perkins)
4. And construction of the Polytechnic main and subsidiary gates

B. PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

Prospective contractors are expected to be reputable and technically competent with verifiable track record of performance on similar projects.

All pre-qualification documents shall be subjected to strict technical evaluation.

Interested contractors are invited to submit the following pre-qualification documents:

- (i) Certificate of registration with Corporate Affairs Commission
- (ii) Registration with relevant Federal Ministry and Federal Polytechnic Mubi as a contractor
- (iii) Evidence of current tax clearance certificate for three years 2007, 2008 and 2009
- (iv) Audited accounts for three years 2007, 2008 and 2009 and VAT registration and evidence of past remittances is required
- (v) Evidence of financial capability and bank support (Bank Reference and recent Statement of Account).
- (vi) Experience/technical qualification and experience of key personnel (company profile, curriculum vitae and credentials)
- (vii) Similar projects executed and evidence of knowledge of the industry (award letters of projects executed, completion certificates and photographs must be attached as evidences)
- (viii) List of equipment and technical capacity (attach receipts, invoices and photographs)

C. COLLECTION OF TENDER DOCUMENTS

Interested bidders may collect financial (tender) bidding documents from the office of the Head of Physical Planning on the presentation of receipt of payment of a non-refundable fee of N30,000.00 to the bursary department of the Polytechnic.

D. SUBMISSION OF COMPLETED PRE-QUALIFICATION/TENDER DOCUMENTS
(i) Pre-qualification (technical bids)

The pre-qualification (technical bid) documents must be submitted in the sealed envelopes and clearly marked "pre-qualification to tender" for each projects of interest as itemized in the preamble with the name of the firm at the back of the envelope.

(ii) Tender (financial bid) documents

The financial bid documents are to be submitted along side with the technical bid documents in separate sealed envelopes marked "financial bid and technical bid" respectively of the intended projects and should be addressed and delivered to the Registrar Federal Polytechnic, P.M.B 35, Mubi, Adamawa State.

Not later than 12.00 noon two (2) weeks from the date of this publication.

E. OPENING OF BIDS

The documents would be opened 30 minutes later (i.e. 12:30 pm) on the closing date in the Council Hall of the Federal Polytechnic, Mubi.

Technical bids would be evaluated on the spot and only the financial bids of the companies who are successful in the technical bid shall be opened. Bidders or their representatives are advised to be present at the opening of the bids.

Suleiman S. Buba
Registrar

Inside Politics

'Even on wheel chair, Yar'adua can function as President'

In this interview, Senator John Nanzip Shagaya (PDP, Plateau South) addresses some national issues including President Umaru Yar'adua's health issue and electoral reforms. The retired General also delves into the crisis that unsettled the PDP in Plateau, saying those who are not comfortable with the steps taken by the NWC can as well leave the party. Excerpts:

By Turaki A. Hassan

SINCE President Umaru Musa Yar'adua left for medical treatment in Saudi Arabia, many politicians have called for his resignation. How do you look at the situation?

It is only God that grants life and it is only He that takes life. It is unfortunate because apart from those calling for his resignation, there are those who spread rumours that he was already dead. It must be remembered that every mortal that has blood flowing in him/her is a sick person. That illness may not have shown up but we are all moving corpses. So I would like to caution that we should leave the issue of life and dead to God who owns them.

Secondly, even if the President resigns for any reasons, the section of the constitution that deals with succession is very clear, especially to lawyers who have also contributed to the debate. They refer themselves to Sections 43, 44 and 45 which show that the vice president is an automatic successor. That is the position and we will have to uphold the constitution of the federal republic.

If the leadership of PDP will not change the zoning pattern, then one expects that if the president for whatever reason decides to resign, and the VP who is from the south-south automatically becomes the President, Nigerians should rally round the PDP to have the northwest produce the next VP. I say this because the North Central has the Senate President. The secretary to government is from the northeast and he is the engine room of government. We don't pray for that unfortunate incident (President's resignation) but if it happens, the North West should be the zone to

aspire for the VP slot. That will create balance on the political scene in the country.

But my prayer is that the president gets well and returns to the country so that he will continue until the day that God has ordained for him leave. For now, the responsibility is still his. If he thinks that his ill-health will not allow him, he will quit and I know that he has the moral responsibility to take that decision.

For purposes of emphasis, media houses have attempted to publish the history of President's that have been sick while in office and still functioned, even on wheel chair, as in the case of Franklin Delano Roosevelt of America. Also we have the President of Ethiopia who has functioned on a wheel chair for over eight years. I saw him early this year. I then believed that being on a wheel chair does not stop the function of the brain or the usage of the hand or the eyes. Again, the Senate passed a bill about a year ago encouraging all employers of labour to ensure that handicap people are looked after. So if the president falls ill and is on a wheel chair, I believe that he falls into this category and you cannot excise him. I consider such calls as unfortunate. The President is just out for about five weeks and the number two citizen is there in his place. If we look back some 22 years back in history of this country when Babangida was in power and feel sick, he left this country to a French Hospital for 12 weeks. But governance went on in the country. That was even a military regime. There was no agitation for the next officer to take over. And to say the least, this is a democratic setting where one is supposed to respect and uphold

its principles and norms.

Nigerians have expressed doubts about the acclaimed resolve of the National Assembly pass the electoral reform bills with a view to reviewing the 1999 constitution ahead of the 2011 elections. Will you say there is any hope of achieving the review in time for the next election?

This is one of the many issues that Nigerians are asking for in the constitution amendment exercise. The question of immunity is also there and that is one provision that is making people in executive position to behave as if they are no more Nigerians; as if they are from the moon. We also have the Land Use Act. It is through the electoral process that we produce leaders so it comes to reason that with good electoral system we can produce a good leadership. It is therefore so important that many responsible Nigerians are calling for the amendment of the electoral laws. They want to see that amendments are done to give more credibility to the system.

That is why they are asking that we have a second look at those who manage our electoral activities; the offences perpetrated by politicians; how security operatives help some politicians to perpetrate crimes as well as the recklessness of some state chief executives who have no respect or feelings for the people they govern. We should prefer a situation where the people at the grassroots elected their representatives rather than having a clique hand-picking leaders for the people.

I completely align to the yearning of Nigerians and as a member of the sixth Senate I stand completely by every decision that we



SENATOR John Shagaya

have taken that there is need for us to amended those areas that the electorate wants amended. I believe within the first quota of this year, by God's grace, the National Assembly will pass the bills.

YOUR state, Plateau, has been in the news for some time now because of some deep political crisis that is threatening the PDP. Even the governor appears to be in some kind of problem with the national leadership of the party. What do you think is the solution to the problem?

Yes, there seems to be a broken relationship within the PDP family in Plateau State. I wouldn't say anything more than supporting the decision of the National Working Committee of our great party, the PDP, and all the steps they have taken to remedy the situation. They have gone a step further to address the issue of leadership of the party in Plateau. You will recall that INEC itself admitted over a year ago that there was no congress by the PDP in Plateau. So the National Working Committee (NWC) in its

wisdom recommended that true PDP followers, both big and small should go back and start congress right from the ward, local government to the state level to produce an acceptable leadership. I believe no decision could have been better than this in the 21st Century. In fact I will borrow the Biblical words of "A Solomon coming to justice." As a loyal citizen of the party and a card carrying member, I stand by that decision of the NWC. Similarly, all the people of my Senatorial District stand by that decision and they are waiting for the congresses to be conducted.

But some groups don't appear to be conformable with the decision of the NWC and are said to be making every effort to frustrate the decision to hold any new congresses...

You got it right but I am sure you read the speech of the national chairman and the statement issued after the meeting of the NEC recently. I have nothing more to add since the NEC has condemned such attitude and strongly warned

that if such people don't turn over a new leaf, the present PDP may not have a space for them.

So are you asking them to leave party?

I am very incompetent to ask anybody to leave the PDP. The decision is left to those individuals who do not feel comfortable with the decision of the national secretariat. But I must also say that the ear can never be bigger than the head. My belief is that nobody was dragged into the party. All of us voluntarily surrendered ourselves to be members and be bound by the rules of the party. My Senatorial District (Plateau South) is worst hit by some of the abuses perpetrated in the party especially during the last local government elections. You will notice that the chairmanship positions in Langtang North, Langtang South, Mikan and Wase had all been contested in the court. I want to use this opportunity to wish all my constituents a happy Christmas and New Year, and peaceful celebrations. I also pray that we all be alive to see next year.

Inside Politics

2011: 1m march for Dakingari

By Isma'il Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

AHEAD of the 2011 governorship election, plans have commenced in Kebbi State to get one million youths from the 21 local government areas of the state to march for Governor Saidu Usman Nasamu Dakingari.

The aim is to campaign for his adoption as consensus candidate for the gover-

norship election to enable him continue the good work he has started beyond 2011.

The Chairman, National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN), Alhaji Chiso Nayaya Ambursa whose association in collaboration with the Nasamu Like Minds (NLM) planned the event said it became necessary because the youths play a deciding role in who gets elected as governor.

He said that the INEC's statistics on elections held in the state showed that youths constituted over 70% of voters who decided. "Therefore we have decided that since we play a major role in deciding who becomes governor in Kebbi State, youths will ensure that Dakingari is returned as governor in 2011," he said.

The NYCN Chairman continued that very soon the youths will invite governor

Dakingari to appear before them where he will be asked to formally declare his intention to continue in power because he has done well in the last three years.

Alhaji Ambursa noted that the youths in the state decided to give their support to the governor because his administration has given appreciable recognition to the youths more than any government that have ruled the state since its creation.

2010: CNPP urges N/Assembly to fast-track electoral reform

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

CONFERENCE of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) has called on the National Assembly to conclude the pending electoral reform in good time and in line with the recommendations of Justice Muhammad Uwais Electoral Reform Committee.

The coalition group also said that President Umaru Musa Yar'adua should avail himself of Section 145 to avoid further unintended consequences that may gravely undermine democracy. National Publicity Secretary of the organisation, Osita Okechukwu said this in a New Year message to Nigerians, observed that

the serial violation of Section 145 undermines democratic institutions which if applied will facilitate the speedy recovery of President Yar'adua, as his recuperation will not be distracted by state duties.

It said that the controversy generated over the swearing of Justice I.A. Katsina-Alu as the Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) by a sitting CJN, Justice I. L. Kuitgi could have been totally avoided.

Okechukwu observed that the year 2009 regrettably finished with unresolved issues. Delta crisis, power sector and the health of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

2010: AC warns against collapse of democracy, amnesty deal

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Action Congress (AC) yesterday warned against any activities that would lead to the collapse of Nigeria's democracy and the amnesty deal in the Niger Delta in 2010.

The party, through its National Publicity Secretary Alhaji Lai Mohammed, tasked Nigerians to take their destiny in their hands and push hard for electoral and constitutional reforms in 2010.

Mohammed, in a New Year message, said Nigerians needed to do this if the country is to have a free and fair election in 2011 and nurture the nascent democracy.

He said the only success achieved by the administration after much confusion - the amnesty programme which, he stated, has succeeded in restoring some tenuous peace to the Niger Delta - is in the process of unravelling.

Describing 2009 as one of the worst for Nigeria, the party cited the challenges posed by violence, armed

robbery and kidnappings in some parts of the country, the banking crisis, fuel and energy crisis, the closure of our public universities for several months as well as the collapse of infrastructure.

Mohammed, who however urged Nigerians to keep hope alive, noted that the issues surrounding the sickness of President Umaru Yar'adua have underscored the need for the urgent review of the 1999 Constitution, citing the imperfections and ambiguities in Sections 144 and 145.

AC said: "Whether under President Yar'adua or Goodluck Jonathan, nothing will happen in the few months remaining for this administration that will turn around the fortunes of our country for the better. Therefore, Nigerians must set their eyes far beyond this administration, far beyond 2010.

"But the foundation for better days must be laid today, and the first step is to fight for electoral reform, which will be key to the organization of successful polls in 2011.



FROM left: Former Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mr. Dubem Onyia and former Minister of Information Chief Dapo Sarumi at the meeting of the National Democratic Movement (NDM) in Abuja recently.

Youth Vanguard backs Gov Jang for second term

By Abbas Jimoh

PLATEAU State Youth Vanguard has endorsed Governor Jonah Jang of Plateau State for another term of four years, declaring that there is no vacancy in the government house in Rayfield.

The group, in a statement signed by its chairman, Bot Pamse, vowed to work for the re-election of Governor Jang in 2011.

Pamse said, "landmark projects have been executed by the present state government in agriculture, mineral development, water, housing, urban development, women and youth sector and many others. And the people now ask; where was this

money during the eight years administration of former Governor Dariye? Which money is Governor Jang using to develop the state now?

"Apart from the resounding commendation given to Governor Jang in all our sampling, many people in Plateau State still believe that if given enough time, he will be trusted to take the state to a higher level. And for the first time, the state is having a governor who is setting a precedent for local government chairmen and for future governors that will come after him," Pamse added.

He said that the state has had its unfair share of political upheavals which directly or indirectly climaxed in decaying infrastructure, massive

corruption and bad governance across all tiers of government.

"We still remember the opportunities we had, before and after 1999, up till 2007, and how our past leaders have disappointed us, including former Governor Dariye who brought shame and dishonour to us when he was arrested in far away United Kingdom," Pamse said.

He observed that barely two and half years after Jang assumed office, the state has over 50 different roads constructed across the state, including the dualization of the 25 kilometre Airport road and the first Fly-Over bridge built by any state government in the entire north at Gada-Biu-Rukuba junction, Jos.

SPORT

Leeds knock out
Man United in FA
Cup

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Amodu insists on keeping Martins, Obasi

By Orkula Shaagee

AFTER four days on intense training in Durban in readiness for the 2010 African Cup of Nations tournament in Angola, Coach Amodu Shaibu yesterday disclosed that either Martins or Obasi will be dropped from the final list of 23 of players that will represent the country at the biennial soccer event.

Both players are suffer-

Skipper Nwankwo Kanu and midfielder Oluwaseyi Olofinjana were the last to arrive in the camp

ing from injuries and there were fears that the former Orlando Pirates of South Africa and BCC Lions of Gboko sweat merchant would look elsewhere for replacements.

But Amodu, who is currently supervising the team's training camp in South Africa, informed that he has watched the fitness level of the two players in camp and was impressed with it.

Also yesterday, the Super Eagles camp in Durban, South Africa recorded full house, as the invited 24 players reported to camp ahead this month's African Nations Cup finals in Angola.

Skipper Nwankwo Kanu and midfielder Oluwaseyi Olofinjana were the last to arrive in the camp just before noon yesterday and joined the team for the evening knock around friendly with South African First Division side Thanda Royal Zulu at the ABSA Stadium.

The contingent that departed from Lagos arrived at the Riverside Hotel and Spa at 10:05am on Thursday and trained at the ABSA Stadium at 5pm of the same day.

The players in camp are goalkeepers Vincent Enyeama, Austin Ejide and Bamidele Aiyenugba, defenders Elderson Echiejile, Taye Taiwo, Onyekachi Apam, Obinna Nwanneri, Yusuf Mohammed, Danny Shittu, Joseph Yobo and Chidi Odiah, midfielders Nwankwo Kanu, Oluwaseyi Olofinjana, Dickson Etuhu, Yusuf Ayila, Kalu Uche, Mikel Obi and Sani Kaita and strikers Osaze Odemwingie, Yakubu Ayegbeni, Chinedu Obasi, Obinna Nsofor, Michael Eneramo and Obafemi Martins.

The Eagles will fly out of South Africa for Angola on January 8.



SUPER Eagles coach Shuaibu Amodu has disclosed that neither Obafemi Martins, left, or Chinedu Ogbuke Obasi, right, will be dropped from the final list of 23 players that will represent Nigeria at the Nations Cup in Angola.

Eagles will excel in Angola - Lulu

NFF President Alhaji Sani Lulu Abdullahi has expressed optimism over the ability of the Super Eagles to excel at the Africa Nations cup starting in Angola next weekend.

Speaking to sports writers in Idah at the weekend, Lulu said the Eagles are not lacking the motivation to do well in the championship.

"I am always hopeful and always believe that God loves this country, all we have to do is to put our acts together. The players are very committed and more determined than before, Nigerians are very supportive. They (the players) can see in their quest to qualifying to South Africa 2010 World Cup that Nigerians gave them all

the support they needed. And also the rousing reception that was extended to them last week, shows that all Nigerians are solidly behind them," he said.

Continuing, Lulu added that, "this is a symbol that Nigerians are very supportive of the team. The boys are not talking of monetary motivation, but physical motivation and I think Mr.

President has done so well and the boys are very appreciative and that is a better requirement for a successful team.

"We are going to the Nations Cup on a very clean slate, on a very good note, and with the expected spirit of participation to win. I want to believe that all that we require to get this trophy is in our favor, while

hoping that luck will be on our side".

Lulu, who is the Omachi Ata'Igala, sponsored the FOSLA soccer cup competition in the nine local government areas in Kogi East Senatorial zone. The competition was won by Idah LGA who defeated Igalamela/Ogbolu LGA 3-1 in the final.

Fulham confirm interest in Okaka

ANOTHER chapter has been opened in the fairy tale about Dickson Paul Etuhu returning to Fulham of England after the Nations Cup in Angola to find Nigerian-born striker, Stephano Chuka Okaka waiting for him.

This is sequel to an official statement from Etuhu's coach, Roy Hodgson, who has finally confirmed that he is considering a move for Okaka from the grip of AS Roma of Italy, but

the offer from Craven Cottage is for a loan at first instance.

Okaka's agent revealed earlier this week that the player could leave Roma on a temporary basis as the arrival of Italian striker, Luca Toni from Bayern Munich will push him further down the pecking order at Stadio Olimpico.

"Okaka is a possibility for us. We're looking into it and have shown an interest. How far we go down that

road will depend on other things like whether he wants to come on loan to England. The finances of the situation will also be important," said Hodgson.

Further reports reveal that Hodgson is keen to bolster his striking options in the winter and is an admirer of Okaka, who impressed against Fulham in this season's Europa League, thereby leaving the former Switzerland gaffer singing praises for the former AS Modena of

Italy star.

"Okaka has got quality and the fact it's a loan is also advantageous because he's a young player and largely untried. We're happy with our striking options, but we would like to have some cover and someone who can put pressure on the guys we have.

"Okaka seems to be that type of player, but a lot of water must pass under the bridge before he pulls on a Fulham shirt," Hodgson expatiated.



STEFANO Okaka

TRUST CLASSIFIED

MUMMY ANN FOUNDATION

The general public is hereby notified that the above named foundation has applied to Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under the Companies and Allied Matters Act No. 1 of 1990 Part C.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

1. CHAPLAIN ANN CHINONYELUM WEST
2. MRS. VICTORIA BOMA DANIEL
3. MRS. VIVIAN CHIKA CHARLES
4. DR. MRS OMA COBHAM NSA
5. MRS BLESSING CHIKANWAEGRERUE
6. HAJIYASA'ADATU OUOSI MUHAMMED
7. CHAPLAIN JOSEPH CHRISTOPHER NDUBUISI

AIMS AND OBJECTIVE

1. To Aid support the widows, orphans battered women and rehabilitation of repentant commercial sex workers.
2. To promote positive value and good moral lifestyle among youths and women.
3. To undertake skill acquisition programme/sensitization campaign on HIV/AIDS
4. To render guidance and counseling to the people concerned.

Any objection to this registration should be forward to the registrar general, Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama P.M.B 198 Garki, Abuja within 28 days of this publication

HEZIDOC FOUNDATION

This is to notify the general public that the above - named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under Part "C" of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

- Mrs. Bosede Adebimpe Awesu
- Barr. Olusegun Kayode Awesu
- Dr. (Mrs.) Sidikat Lenti Ajayi
- Miss. Bolu Awesu
- Miss Bomi Awesu

THE OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. To promote the social, economic and political interests of women, children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and other vulnerable groups.
2. To embark upon programmes, project and other activities to empower widows, vulnerable children and other under privileged groups either alone or in collaboration with development partners, government and its agencies or any other organizations in Nigeria and the world over.
3. To promote and conduct research.

Any objection to the application should be forwarded to the Registrar - General, Corporate Affairs Commission, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days after this publication.

Signed

Miss Bomi Awesu
Block 18, Mombassa Street,
Wuse Zone 5 - Abuja.

YOUTH-FRIENDLY HEALTH INITIATIVE

Address: NO 21 Durumi Road, Gesse Housing Estate Birnin-Kebbi.

The general public is hereby informed that the above named initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part C of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990.

The Trustees are:

- 1- Musa Muhammad Awwal
- 2- Karima Musa
- 3- Balkisu Danjuma
- 4- Muhammad Hayatudeen

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 1- Promoting the health & development of youth by providing information and counseling on reproductive health, nutrition, hygiene, sexuality, substance use and academic challenges.
- 2- Help the government in achieving Millennium Development Goals.
- 3- Research on improving health and development of youth.

Any objection to this registration should be forwarded to the Registrar General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420 Tigris Crescent, Maitama District Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed:

Musa Muhammad Awwal
Chairman

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public and most especially the Ministry of Land and Survey, Maiduguri Borno State that the original Certificate of Occupancy (C of O) in respect of plot No. 22, Mansa Musa Street (Now Lagos Street) belonging to WAHIR MSHELIA (Mrs) was burnt in a fire incidence.

ILIYA DANFULANI BALAMI

No. 20, Lagos Street, Old GRA
Maiduguri.

RECOVERED VEHICLE

The Zone 12 Command Headquarters, the Nigeria Police, Bauchi in August 2008 recovered a TOYOTA V8 land cruiser jeep with Registration NO.EA172ABC, Eng. NO.U2J1000004371, chasis NO. LUZ-FE 4663 black in colour. The owner to claim vehicle within 30 days of this publication failure will lead to sale through public auction.

CHANGE OF NAME

This is to inform the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) Abuja and the general public that: - The body which was previously registered as "GRACE AND TRUTH KINGDOM MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL" wishes to change its name to "HOLY NATION MINISTRY INTERNATIONAL" But the Trustees and other things remain the same

Signed:
The Trustees

VACANCIES

Wanted for immediate Employment in Abuja for home care service

1. Auxiliary Nurse
2. Occupational Therapist

Interested persons should please forward CV with contact details (Mobile Phone No. to creativingers@yahoo.com within 2 weeks.

Contact: 08035928828 or 08050837449

I, formerly known as SHEHU BELLO, now wish to be known as MUSA LADAN. All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

CHANGE OF NAME

I formerly known as MISS ALICE JOSHUA PUTAI, now MRS ALICE JOSHUA.J.VAWA. All former documents remain valid. RAMAT POLYTECHNIC MAIDUGURI, NYSC and the general public to take note.

I formerly known and addressed as MISS KEHINDE JUMMAL SAKI, now wish to be addressed as MRS KEHINDE ABDULLATEEF ADEWALE. All former documents remain valid. National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism (NIHOTOUR) and general public take note.

I formerly known as MISS OLUFUNKE OYEBOLA OKEJIMI now wish to be addressed as MRS OLUFUNKE OYEBOLA OYENIYI. All former documents remain valid. General public should please take note.

I formerly known as MISS LILIAN NKECHI CHUKWU, now MRS LILIAN NKECHI OKORO. All former documents remain valid. UNIABUJA, NYSC and general public to note.

I formerly SAGIRU SHITU, now wish to be called as SHEHU ABDULLAHI. All former documents remain valid. Govt Secondary School (Unity) Ringim, First Bank, Bank Road GRA Bauchi Branch and general public take note.

I formerly known as ADAMA NASIRU ABDULLAHI NEE ASINGAR, now wish to be known as ADAMA ASINGAR YUSUF All former documents remain valid. General public to take note.

Formerly MISS AISHA BULAMA, now MRS AISHA KUNDULI ABBA. All former documents remains valid, n.y.s.c. and general public take note.

I, formerly MISS ALABI WOSILAT now wish to be known as MRS SULE WOSILAT. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as MISS QUEENETH OROAKWU SAMPSON, now wish to be called MRS. QUEENETH CHIAMA OROAKWU OKEZIE. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as ADEKUNLE OLUFUNKE ADEBOLA, now MRS SOKEYE OLUFUNKE ADEBOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to notify the general public of the loss of Original Certificate of Occupancy in a fire that gutted my house at Nasarafu Area Bida. The Certificate includes:

1. Land at Nasarafu Area Bida with C of O No NGS 17269
2. Land at Gbazihi Area Bida with C of O No NGS 27157.

SIGNED:
SHEHU MOHAMMED

2010 AFRICAN CUP OF NATIONS

Will Angola maintain rich tradition of host countries reaching semis?

James Momanyi, Goal.com

SINCE the first African Cup of Nations tournament was held in Sudan in 1957, host countries have failed to reach at least the semi-finals on only four occasions. In 1976, hosts Ethiopia were eliminated were knocked out in the first of two group stages. Morocco were the eventual winners after humbling Guinea in the final game. Nigeria and Egypt were the other semi-finalists.

In 1984, 1992 and 1994 the host countries again failed to make the last four. In the 26 previous stagings, the hosts have won the tournament 11 times, whilst two further home sides have been beaten finalists.

This impressive performance by the host countries begs the question; how far will this year's hosts, Angola, go in the tournament which kicks off next Sunday? The Palancas Negras' (Black Antelopes) past history in international tournaments can partly answer the question. They have qualified once for the World Cup, in 2006, but didn't make it past the group stage. They have qualified four times for the continent's premier tournament, but have never advanced beyond the quarter-final spot they achieved in the last tournament in Ghana.

If their performance at the continental or world football stage is a consideration, then Angola has a mountain to climb before making any historical imprint by the end of the 2010 CAN competition. Apart from shutting Nigeria out in the 2006 World Cup qualifiers, the Black Antelopes have been too inconsistent to warrant a place as one of the continent's elite football teams alongside the likes of Egypt,



ANGOLA will rely on Benfica striker Pedro Mantorras for goals

Cameroon or Nigeria.

Nonetheless, Angola appears ready to spring a surprise in the 27th edition of the games. After being confirmed as the 2010 host, Angola, which had just emerged from a debilitating 27-year civil war, immediately hit the preparation road. Whilst other teams were sweating hard to qualify for the finals, Angola got an automatic qualification and started earlier preparations in earnest by playing in a number of friendlies. They took on both African teams and others from outside the continent, posting some reasonable results on the way.

They beat Togo 2-0 and drew with superior teams like Ghana, Senegal and Cameroon in a string of remarkable performances. On Wednesday, before the Sunday tournament kick-off against Mali, the team will play Estonia in a warm-up friendly on the Portuguese Algarve. With the expected massive home support, Palancas Negras couldn't have dreamt for a better time to stamp their authority on the continental stage than now.

Already their main Group A opponents Algeria have shown signs of nerves, with claims that the Black Antelopes will reach to the quarters

coming out of thrie came even before a ball has been kicked. Retired Algerian international midfielder Rabah Madjer has predicted that, as the host, Angola will start the tournament in the quarter-finals. "Angola are going to benefit from everyone's support. Their people and their leaders, even CAF officials, won't accept a precocious exit of the hosts. Everything will be done so that Angola will get through the group stage," the veteran reasoned.

The anticipated multi-faceted support notwithstanding, Angola have a squad that can get the job done. Benfica's Pedro Mantorras is one of the best strikers in the Portuguese league, former Manchester United forward Manucho, who now turns out for Real Valladolid in Spain, is as lethal as the Drogbas or Eto'os of African football. In the rear-guard, Dias Caires of Sagrada Esperanca, Jamuana of Petro Atletico and Rui Marques of Leeds United will be expected to hold tight in the defence while Petro Atletico's Davids, Al Ahli's Gilberto and Ze Kalanga of Dinamo Bucharest may not be household names, but can close the midfield for opponents whenever duty calls.

When the draw was announced last month, Angola's coach Manuel Jose told Al Jazeera Sport, "I am satisfied with the draw. It is a balanced group. It will not be easy. All our adversaries are known to be combative. Algeria are with us, and they are doing well currently. Mali will be a difficult competitor. We will try to get one of the first two places to qualify." Algeria, Mali and Angola are billed as the top contenders for the two places available for qualification to the last eight. The coach may

have failed to mention Malawi; but The Flames, who are the group lightweights, may well spring a surprise.

Angola's opening match against Mali will define their group standing. A win will give them great momentum when they face Malawi in the second match, when a second victory would then guarantee them qualification to the quarters. Achieving this feat doesn't look too difficult. The Black Antelopes will meet their Waterloo at the knock-out stage where, depending on the group standings, they will either meet Ivory Coast or Ghana (if they manage to elbow Togo and Burkina Faso, as anticipated). If they manage to jump this elephantine quarter-final obstacle, Angola will likely face Cameroon, Nigeria, Egypt or Tunisia in the semi-finals.

With the World Cup just around the corner, so much is at stake for five teams taking part in the Angola tournament, who will carry the African flag in South Africa together with the host. For players, it will be an opportunity to prove why they should be on a plane heading to South Africa in June. As for the other teams, it will be a chance to build their stature ahead of the global bonanza, and cultivate fear within their opponents.

The pride of being crowned 2010 African champions will bolster the continental elites Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt and Ivory Coast to ride roughshod over emerging sides like Mali, Gabon and hosts Angola. But these smaller footballing nations are dreaming of upsetting the apple-cart.

As for underdogs like Benin, Burkina Faso, Mozambique, Togo, Zambia and Malawi; the obituary books are already out of the closet.

Ghana coach faced with injuries

MILOVAN Rajevac, the Serbian coach of the Ghana's national football team, is faced with a serious injury crisis ahead of the Africa Cup of Nations (CAN) set to kick off in Angola on January 10.

The absence of experienced captain Stephen Appiah of Italian side Bologna, John Mensah of English Premier League side Sunderland, Fulham's John Paintsil and Laryea Kingston of Scotland's Hearts represent a serious blow to the Black Stars' chances of winning a fifth title.

But Rajevac is optimistic that Ghana can overcome these hurdles over the course of the three-week competition and thereby become the first foreign coach of the west African nation to win the trophy.

"I know that a foreigner is yet to win the competition and I want to become that first coach to deliver the title and it is possible," Rajevac told journalists last week before the team left Accra for Nelson Mandela Bay, South Africa, to begin their

pre-tournament training.

German trainer Otto Pfister came close to winning the trophy with Ghana in 1992 but lost out on penalties to Ivory Coast in Senegal and under Frenchman Claude LeRoy they finished third when hosting the last tournament in 2008.

Also on the injury list but expected to recover before the start of the tournament is Chelsea's midfield kingpin Michael Essien, who limped off clutching his hamstring in Chelsea's Champions League game against APOEL Nicosia in early December.

Rajevac has blended his squad with eight members of the FIFA Under-20 World Cup winning team in Egypt last year.

"You can see the coach has brought in talented youngsters who have shown great quality already, so while it's unfortunate that injuries have come, we have to concentrate on what we have," Eric Addo of Dutch club Roda JC was quoted as saying by the offi-

cial website of the Ghana Football Association.

The injuries will deny Ghana of some badly needed experience at the tournament but Ghana Football Association vice president Fred Pappoe says there is no point brooding over the losses.

"I am a perennial optimist. I don't pay attention to the dark side of life," he told a local television station by phone from the team's camp in South Africa.

"I am not looking at the injured players injured, I am looking at those who are here."

Ghana will also have to do without Inter Milan midfielder Sulley Muntari—usually a regular in the team—after Rajevac axed him from the squad for indiscipline.

Back on the streets of Accra, not everyone is sharing in the optimism of the coach and officials despite conceding to the technical capabilities of the coach.

"For me I do not think we can do well in Angola," football fan Johnson Armah told AFP.



RAJEVAC

"With the absence of these key players, I wonder if the young lads can stand the difficult and rather physical games you usually get at the Africa Cup of Nations. But perhaps luck will be on our side."

The Black Stars have been drawn in Group B of the CAN alongside Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Togo in an all-West African battle.

Ivorian coach worried over players' fatigue

IVORY Coast coach Vahid Halilhodzic said on Sunday he was concerned about the fitness of some of his players ahead of the Africa Cup of Nations but was optimistic of winning the title in Angola.

The Ivorians, who are in Tanzania to play two build-up matches against the hosts and Rwanda later this week, are one of the favourites to win the premier African competition which gets underway in Luanda on January 10.

But Halilhodzic said the players have been involved in too many matches and were at risk of being fatigued for the tournament.

"Imagine someone plays up to three matches in a week. Players are supposed to rest - but in my team many of the players have a lot of responsibilities for their clubs," said Halilhodzic at a news conference.

Leeds knock out Man United in FA Cup

FALLEN English power Leeds dumped Manchester United out of the FA Cup with a 1-0 victory Sunday, condemning the 11-time winners to a third-round defeat for the first time in 26 years.

Jermaine Beckford scored his 20th goal of the season after latching on to Johnny Howson's 50-meter pass in the 19th minute to give third-tier club Leeds its first victory at Old Trafford since 1981.

Since Alex Ferguson took charge in 1986, Man United had never lost in the FA Cup to lower-league opposition. And United hadn't been beaten in the third round since Ron Atkinson's FA Cup holders lost to third-tier club Bournemouth

Since Alex Ferguson took charge in 1986, Man United had never lost in the FA Cup to lower-league opposition.



WAYNE Rooney, left, and Manchester United suffered their worst FA Cup loss in 26 years with a 1-0 third-round defeat to Leeds United yesterday.

in 1984.

Ferguson feared an upset against Leeds and started with first-choice strikers Wayne Rooney and Dimitar Berbatov, but neither seriously troubled goalkeeper Casper Ankergren.

Even the appearance of substitute Michael Owen in the 69th minute couldn't provide a spark, the striker scuffing an immediate chance to save United.

Beckford skewed wide in the

78th, missing a chance to kill off the match and instead setting up a nervy finale for the 9,000 traveling Leeds fans.

"It's an unbelievable, tremendous result—it's been a long time coming," Leeds captain Richard Naylor said. "I'm really proud. We dug in when we had to."

Leeds tops League One by eight points but is 43 places below United, which is second

in the standings after winning the last three Premier League titles.

Leeds was a major power in the Premier League at the start of the century, reaching the Champions League semifinals in 2001, before the club gambled on qualifying for Europe's top competition every year by investing heavily through borrowing against future success.

The team failed to qualify for the Champions League the following season and the club's financial implosion began, leading to relegation from the top flight in 2004.

Leeds was relegated to the third tier for the first time in its history in 2007 after being docked 10 points for entering financial administration with debts of 35 million pounds.

I wish I had never left Man U - Beckham

DAVID Beckham wishes he had stayed with Manchester United for his entire career and not left in 2003 for Real Madrid, the former England captain said on Sunday.

Beckham will return to Old Trafford as a player for the first time when his club AC Milan play the second leg of the Champions League knockout-round tie against United on March 10.

"I would love to have stayed at Manchester United for my whole career and never gone anywhere else—but it was just not meant to be," Beckham said in an interview on BBC Sportsworld.

"I went to Real Madrid and in the last year we were successful so I enjoyed that time, but I would like to have stayed at Manchester United."

Beckham moved to Los Ange-

les Galaxy in 2007 and has now started his second loan spell at Milan in a bid to win a place in England's World Cup squad this year.

The midfielder said he felt envious of his former team mates Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Gary Neville, who came through the United youth ranks with Beckham and have stayed at the club.

"I am sure they will all try and kick me if they can because we were together for so many years and we were so successful together," Beckham said.

"Off the field we became best friends and that's why we became so successful at a club like Manchester United.

"But it's testament to themselves and the club and everything that surrounds them as individuals

that they wouldn't be at a club like Manchester United if they weren't special people and special players."

Beckham said going back to Old Trafford would be an emotional occasion.

"Manchester United is so special to me and I have never been back as a player—so to go back seven years after as an AC Milan player it doesn't get much more perfect than that and it is an experience I want to cherish. It is going to be a special and emotional night.

"But I'd like us to win, us being AC Milan. As a Manchester United fan I always want them to win in every game—but not this one."

Beckham, England's most capped outfield player with 116 appearances, said that "scary" Fabio Capello had instilled a "good

arrogance" in the England team since becoming coach.

"Players go onto the field confident, they believe they are going to win. He has brought a real seriousness, a professional side, which was needed—but he scares you—in a respect way."

He said there were similarities between Capello and Alex Ferguson, his manager at Manchester United.

"I was lucky enough to have played for the best football manager for many years," he said.

"Alex Ferguson brought me up, he was a father figure to me and I have got a huge amount of respect for Alex Ferguson and for Fabio Capello.

"They don't just manage teams they love football and that's why they are still in the game now."

Henry: Barca don't need to change anything

BARCELONA didn't get 2010 off to the best of starts with a draw against Villarreal, but Thierry Henry does not think there is any cause for concern.

Speaking to Radio Marca after the match at the Camp Nou, Henry said, "Villarreal played very well tonight."

"It was difficult for us to find spaces. The first half was great, but we found it difficult after their goal. "When you have won titles, you have to keep giving more. We tried today, but Villarreal played well.

"They like to keep the ball, and it is not easy to get it back."

Henry then dismissed suggestions that Barca were becoming predictable, continuing, "Barca does not need to do anything new." "We should never change.

"Sometimes our style works, and sometimes it doesn't, but it works more often."

Finally, Henry spoke about the hectic schedule of the coming month, stating, "It is always like this."

"It is a very difficult month. It's the toughest one of the year.

"We know that we have to play the Cup, the Champions League and the League. "We must accept it and put in the effort."

Pompey hopes to pay players' wages this week

PORTSMOUTH'S players should receive last month's wages when the Premier League club obtains a short-term loan this week, chief executive Peter Storie said on Saturday.

The cash-strapped club, in dispute with the government's Revenue and Customs Department over unpaid taxes, is banned from signing players because of their financial problems and have twice previously failed to pay players' and staff wages on time.

"It is obviously not the best (situation) in the world that you can't pay the players' wages," Storie told BBC Radio.

"They (the owners) were looking to bring a major bank loan in and that's what has slowed the process up. They are trying to do that now.

"My understanding from them is there is a short-term loan coming in to pay the wages and the players' wages should be paid on Monday or Tuesday."

Portsmouth, bottom of the league, were held 1-1 at home by Championship (second division) side Coventry City in the FA Cup third round on Saturday.

THE MONDAY COLUMN

Mahmud Jega

mmjega@dailytrust.com, 08054102925

The ten outsourcingings

A successful program of national development should begin with a number. This is the main lesson that we are learning from the Chinese.

In 1978, soon after he was rehabilitated from disgrace and banishment during the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution of 1966-76 and elevated to the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party, Deng Xiaoping relaunched the late Premier Zhou en-Lai's policy of The Four Modernisations. It was a program to modernise China's agriculture, industry, science and technology, and defence. It is a lasting tribute to Deng's vision that since he launched this program, China's economy has been growing in double-digits every year for 30 years, hundreds of millions of people have been lifted out of poverty, millions of others have been lifted into riches, the Chinese economy is already the world's third largest, is set to become the second largest very soon, and could become the world's largest in the next 25 years.

Trust us Nigerians to seek to copy the Chinese miracle. Unknown to many people, there is a Nigerian national vision of development that was drafted by an anonymous author, blindly adopted by the Nigerian elite as a vision of personal and family development, and swallowed whole by the Nigerian people as a path to alleged national salvation. You may not see it written in any official document. The Seven Point Agenda is only a decoy; the real program is secretly called The Ten Outsourcingings.

Item number 1 under this national program is the outsourcing of children's schooling. Even though the old Native Authority schools served this country very well early in the 20th Century, along the way, a secret plan was adopted to destroy them, first by shifting the children of the elite into private schools. School fees charged in these schools were

meant to keep out the children of the poor, but when more and more middle-class kids flocked into them, some private schools were set up in this country that charged fees in US dollars and Euros. When some middle-class elements still paid these fees through their noses, very rich folks shifted their kids abroad. Many went to Europe, some to the US, others to Dubai, Malaysia, Ghana and South Africa. The most powerful Nigerians sent their kids to Switzerland. The hefty financial bill is already in, but the real bill of cultural disorientation is only now beginning to arrive.

Item number 2, the Nigerian elite has outsourced all health care. Let me illustrate this program with a story. Sometime last year, a senator fell sick and many of his colleagues went to see him at the National Hospital. As soon as they entered, they asked him what arrangements had been made to fly him abroad. An hour later, a state governor arrived to see the senator and even before he sat down, he asked what arrangements had been made to fly him abroad. This complete outsourcing of healthcare to foreign hospitals makes no allowance for illnesses that may give no time to reach a foreign hospital, such as a massive heart attack, a nasty motor accident, or a shooting by an armed robber.

Item 3 is the outsourcing of all water supplies. Even though this country has 37 state and FCT Water Boards, the elite has forsaken all of them in favour of personal boreholes sunk in every house. To complement the boreholes is the massive consumption of bottled water, allegedly because water piped by the Water Boards is typhoid-infested, despite the chlorine treatment.

Item 4 is the outsourcing of electricity supply. Many factories, sensitive offices such as National ID Card and Galaxy Backbone as well as many houses in Nigeria are not connected to public power sources, but to huge private power generators. Many other Nigerians have followed

suit, with generators from all climes--- Perkins, Elemax, Honda, and Yamaha---installed in all compounds and all spaces, sometimes gassing whole families to death.

Item 5 is the outsourcing of security. This country has nothing less than 15 Federal and several state security agencies. Yet, all elite houses have private security guards; many are guarded by Mobile Policemen or soldiers. Back in the 1990s, a Kaduna State Police Commissioner announced that one-quarter of the more than 4,000 policemen in the state were on guard duty at banks and houses.

Item 6 is the outsourcing of entertainment. Cable television, with up to 100 foreign channels, some blue, some light blue, has weaned many Nigerians away from local channels, with accumulating cultural consequences.

Item 7 is the outsourcing of football passion. These days, no one talks passionately about Enugu Rangers, Mighty Jets, Bendel Insurance, IICC Shooting Stars, Stationery Stores, Abiola Babes, Iwuanyanwu Nationale, Port Harcourt Red Devils, Ranchers' Bees, Alyufsalam Rocks, Sahara Storms, Bauchi Wunti, Kano Pillars, BCC Lions or NEPA. All passionate talk and even some brawls revolve around Man U, Inter Milan, Real Madrid, Chelsea, Arsenal and even the awesome sounding name Deportivo de la Coruna.

Item 8 is the outsourcing of real passion, that of marriage. Nigeria has produced a flamboyant minister in charge of Information and Culture who serially married foreign women. The Big Madam currently in charge of Information and National Orientation also believes in outsourcing of in-laws, having acquired two within 4 years. In 1976, then military Head of State General Obasanjo banned army officers from marrying foreign wives, but 30 years later, he personally went to London and gave out his daughter to

a White man.

Item 9 is the outsourcing of national food. These days, the dominant items on the Nigerian dinner table include Thai parboiled rice, American wheat flour, Brazilian stockfish, Burkinabe beans, Italian pasta, French cubed sugar, Canadian tinned milk, American soda, British coffee, Sri Lankan tea, Danish butter, South African apples, Moroccan sardine, Japanese geisha and Arabian date palms.

Item 10 on Nigeria's national development agenda is--let us choose our words carefully here--the outsourcing of spiritual direction, to Mecca and to Jerusalem. Last week, the Israeli ambassador thanked Nigerian Christian pilgrims for pumping \$50m annually into Israel's primed-for-war economy. The Saudi Arabian Ambassador, whose country receives at least ten times that during the annual hajj and at least twice that during the lesser hajj, has not yet thanked us for contributing this chicken-feed into Saudi Arabia's oil-drenched coffers.

If not because this is religion, given the amount of time, energy and resources that have been pumped into pilgrimages over the years, it may be time to commission statisticians to determine whether there is a positive correlation between the number of Nigerians that have performed the pilgrimage to Mecca or Jerusalem with this country's spiritual and ethical quantity. The researchers should however be warned to exclude from their conclusions what Fela Anikulapo-Kuti once recommended, that this country has enough hills and valleys that could be used as mock holy sites.

The Ten Outsourcingings is a redoubtable program of national development that should deliver much greater dividends than the 7-Point Agenda which failed to deliver its very first promise, 6000 megawatts of power by December 2009.

Item 9 is the outsourcing of national food. These days, the dominant items on the Nigerian dinner table include Thai parboiled rice, American wheat flour, Brazilian stockfish

SPORTS REPORT



CHELSEA Players

Rampant Chelsea wallop Watford

Chelsea steam-rolled their way into the fourth round of the FA Cup after a convincing victory over a poor Watford side. Two goals from Daniel Sturridge, a John Eustace own goal, a deflection from Florent Malouda and a Frank Lampard screamer secured a resounding vic-

tory. Chelsea dominated from the kick-off looking very positive and exerted huge amounts of pressure on the Watford defense.

Chelsea could have and should have perhaps scored a sixth but the 5-0 victory ensures that the Blues march on to the fourth round of the FA Cup.



DELIGHTED... Simon Grayson

Leeds boss delighted with FA Cup shock

After masterminding Leeds United's first victory at Old Trafford since 1981 manager Simon Grayson was delighted with his players' effort.

"Full credit to the players as they've been outstanding," he told ITV Sport.

The 40-year-old was also full of praise for goalscorer Jermaine Beckford, adding: "It's a good ball from Johnny Howson, Jermaine's got in there and finished it off well."

With 9,000 Leeds fans still celebrating inside Old Trafford Grayson anticipated more celebrations back in the city, but was quick to state that his players will remain focused on their next game.

"I'm sure they'll be celebrating in Leeds tonight," he continued.

"We'll enjoy it tonight and then start to prepare for the Wycombe game at the weekend."

Grayson's captain Richard Naylor was delighted with picking up victory at Old Trafford to progress in the competition.

"It's unbelievable" he told ITV Sport.

