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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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Niger River dredging on course, says Jonathan



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Nigeria not immune to earthquake - Experts



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President + Ag President = Confusion

By AbdulFattah Olajide & Mohammed Shehu

ON the day following President Umaru Yar'adua's return to the country after a 93-day medical trip to Saudi Arabia, confusion reigned freely in the nation's corridors of power with two powerful men engaged in a silent but titanic struggle for presidential power. Although Yar'adua, who returned to the country at 1.47am yesterday, did not

appear in public throughout yesterday, a statement issued in his name asserted him as the president. However, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, in a statement issued last night by his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity Mr. Ima Niboro, referred to himself as Acting President. Two other top government officials also referred to Jonathan as Acting President, but Yar'adua referred to him as Vice President.

To add to the confusion, yesterday's scheduled meeting of the Federal Executive Council [FEC] failed to hold as neither Yar'adua nor Jonathan turned up to chair it. There were indications in the Council Chambers that a nasty physical confrontation involving the nation's two top public officers was in the offing when Yar'adua's military Aide de Camp [ADC] and his Chief Security Officer, Yusuf Tilde,

positioned themselves right behind the President's chair, ready to drag it out for their boss if he turned up for the meeting. Indications were that if Jonathan had turned up and tried to sit on the chair, as he had done since he became Acting President, the two security men would have prevented it. If on the other hand he agreed to sit in the Vice President's chair, then he would have signalled that his

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NIGERIA now has a substantive President (left), an Acting President (top right) and several dozen confused ministers (bottom right).

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Glenn Hoddle, one of those interviewed by NFF says World Cup semi-final target difficult **53**

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EFCC quizzes Abdullahi Adamu again



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Yar'adua's return

PIC: NAN



FROM left: Ministers of Health, Prof. Babatunde Osotimehin, Petroleum, Rilwanu Lukman, Agriculture, Dr. Sayyidi Abba Ruma, Justice, Prince Adetokunbo Kayode, Foreign Affairs, Ojo Maduekwe, and Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, on arrival at the Presidential Wing of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport from Saudi Arabia yesterday.

I can't speak until I see him-Akeredolu

From Kayode Ekundayo, Lagos

THE President of Nigerian Bar Association Rotimi Akeredolu said yesterday in Lagos that he would not react to President Umaru Yar'adua's return to the country until he sees him physically. He added that he was not yet convinced that the president was back hale and hearty.

On his part, the Vice Chairman of the PDP in Lagos State Elder David Ajiboso told Daily Trust that though the president's return was a welcome development, there was still uncertainty surrounding his health.

He said a healthy president would not arrive at night or would his arrival be shrouded in secrecy and taken to the State House in an ambulance, adding that Nigerians would like to know why it was done that way.

Ajiboso said if care was not taken, Nigeria may be thrown into darkness again as some people want to ensure that the sick president continues to rule, even when he is incapacitated.

Festus Afiyiodum of the Festus Keyamo Chambers said the return of the president had further compounded the political situation in Nigeria.

"From what we have seen in the papers, we can now confirm that the president is sick and incapacitated and the nation's constitution does not recognise that a sick president can rule and as such he should be well before returning as president", he said.

Afiyiodum said for the president to return, a letter must now be sent to the National Assembly that he is hale and hearty or fit to rule. If that is not done, Vice President Jonathan will have to continue to rule as the Acting President.

Yar'adua must write N/Assembly to resume office —Yadudu

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'adua will have to write an official declaration to the National Assembly informing it that he is back to the country from medical leave in Saudi Arabia, legal luminary Professor Auwalu Hamisu Yadudu said in Kano yesterday. Professor Yadudu teaches law at Bayero University Kano.

Yadudu, who spoke against the background of Yar'adua's return after a long medical leave

in far away Saudi Arabia, told *Daily Trust* that writing an official declaration to the legislature is the most ideal procedure to be followed before he takes over mantle of leadership from the present Acting President of the federation, Goodluck Jonathan as provided by section 145 of the Nigerian Constitution.

"The National Assembly gave two reasons for Jonathan to act as President. One of the reasons was necessity and the second one was the adoption of the BBC interview

as a formal declaration that the president was on medical leave.

"And since section 145 of the Constitution provides that the President writes before leaving for such leave, the same section of the constitution demands that he writes formally to the National Assembly that he has returned and will resume office. When the President writes the declaration, Jonathan ceases to be acting president", he said.

Yadudu however said adopting the BBC interview as for-

mal declaration by the president informing the National Assembly he was on leave was not ideal. "It is difficult, in my understanding, to say the BBC interview was a declaration by the president", he said.

The former legal adviser to the late head of state General Sani Abacha wished the president good health. "As the president returns to the country, I wish him well; but the question of whether he has the ability to continue with the leadership of the country is not for anyone to ask", he said.

... No need for letter to N/Assembly, says Okoye

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua does not have to transmit a written declaration to the National Assembly to resume as president since he never wrote any letter while leaving the country in the first place.

However, the matter has to be debated in the National Assembly, Barrister Festus Okoye, the Executive Director of Human Rights Monitor said yesterday in Kaduna.

Okoye who spoke to *Daily Trust* on how Yar'adua could resume office after arriving from

Saudi Arabia in the early hours of yesterday, said. "The implication as at today, is that we have a president of the federal republic of Nigeria on ground, exercising presidential powers, who never proceeded on vacation and who never told anybody that he was unable to discharge the functions

of his office."

In addition, the country has an "Acting President imposed on the nation by the National Assembly under the doctrine of necessity," he added. Okoye said before Vice President Goodluck Johnathan became Acting President under the doctrine, the mat-

ter was debated by the National Assembly. In the same way, Yar'adua's return has to be debated in the federal legislature before he resumes office, Okoye said.

According to him, the nation is being faced with this challenge because section 145 was not complied with.

Yakasai urges 'traitor ministers' to quit Cabinet

From Hisham Habib, Kano

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'adua should re-examine the loyalty of most of his cabinet members as loyalty remains the most essential ingredient in governance without which there will be no progress, Alhaji Tanko Yakasai, former Special Adviser to ex-president Shehu Shagari said in Kano yesterday.

Apparently disturbed by recent happenings in the country because of President Yar'adua's long absence, Yakasai said Nigerians need to reflect on recent happenings which showcased the attitude of those he called "traitors".

He told *Daily Trust* that a clear sign of betrayal, some "opportunists" wanted to use the absence of the president to create chances for their selfish interests, saying there

should be the need for the reorientation of the country's political process.

"We should thank God for sparing our lives to see these manifestations and this will serve as a lesson for those who don't hold trust to high esteem", he said.

Yakasai, who could not hide his happiness over Yar'adua's return, also said if loyalty was lost in any administration, then

it would more graceful to quit in an ideal government and this should be known by those who were dubious during those trying moments. He urged the traitors of the present administration who remain in the system to honourably resign, and urged the president to disengage their services in the interest of the nation.

Also speaking on the subject, Kano-based PDP chieftain, Alhaji

Lili Gabari, said prayers should be intensified for the development of the nation as some Nigerians had shown greed and unholy attitude while the president was recuperating.

He said there was a breach of the law as the constitution had clarified the process of power transfer while politics was used to deviate from the rule of law.

Yar'adua's return

N/Assembly keeps mum on Yar'adua

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

THE two chambers of the National Assembly were silent yesterday on the return of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua from his long medical vacation in Saudi Arabia.

In the Senate, there was no official communication to indicate that the president has returned to the country as Senators engaged in the amendment of Section 145 of the Constitution which has direct correlation with the issue of Yar'adua's absence.

Chairman Senate Committee on Information and Media Sena-

tor Ayogu Eze (PDP, Enugu North) said "Senate has no reaction for now."

On its part the House of Representatives said it would be preemptive to react on the return of Yar'adua to the country after spending 93 days attending medical treatment.

However, speaking to Daily Trust on phone, Chairman of the House Committee on Media and Publicity Rep Esemeyi Eyiboh (PDP, Akwa Ibom State) expressed happiness over the return of the president. He said: "We are very happy to have Mr President back to his duty post. It has gone further to

vindicate Nigerians' collective prayer for his quick recovery. So that is more or less our heart desire being answered by God."

He said the matter would be brought to the notice of the House either by a member or from the executive, "then we will get into discussion. And the outcome of that resolution is what we are going to communicate to the Nigerian public." In their individual reactions, some senators expressed delight with the situation.

Senator Smart Adeyemi (PDP, Kogi West) said the Senate is yet to be officially informed about Mr. President's return to the country

saying "We are not officially aware because the Senate President has not told any senator officially that the president is back."

Senator Garba Adamu Talba said "We thank God Almighty for His mercy to bring our president back, because his absence led to crisis that was why the National Assembly passed a resolution mandating the VP to act. So by this we toe the part of integrity and we did not do anything wrong by giving the VP the mandate, the resolution stated clearly that when the president returns the VP will seize to act and the President will assume his duties."

Rep Aminu Waziri Tambuwal (PDP, Sokoto State) said: "His return will end the various permutations, assertions as well as stories flying around concerning his health status. This has further confirmed that life is in the hands of God not we mortals."

Rep Ita Enang (PDP, Akwa Ibom State) said: "We are happy that the President is back and on the beat. But until he starts performing the function of his duties and we see that he is fully back, only then will we feel calm. So we still feel a lot of concern. We assume that Good luck Jonathan is still the Acting President."

U.S. fears return may fuel uncertainty

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE United States yesterday expressed concern that recent reports suggest that President Umaru Musa Yar'adua's health remains fragile and he may still be unable to fulfil the demands of his office.

Nigeria needs a strong, healthy, and effective leader to ensure the stability of the country and to manage Nigeria's many political, economic, and security challenges, said U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Johnnie Carson in a statement released by the U.S. embassy in Nigeria.

The U.S. however expressed hope that President Yar'adua's health is sufficient to enable him to fully resume his official duties.

"We hope that President Yar'adua's return to Nigeria is not an effort by his senior advisors to upset Nigeria's stability and create renewed uncertainty in the democratic process," the statement added.

"Nigeria is an extraordinarily important country to its friends and partners, and all of those in positions of responsibility should put the health of the President and the best interests of the country and people of Nigeria above personal ambition or gain. As a nation of 150 million people, Nigeria's democracy and its continued adherence to constitutional rule should be the highest priority."



PRESIDENT Yar'adua



THE empty council chambers after Secretary to the Government of the Federation Alhaji Yayale Ahmed announced that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan had cancelled the weekly Federal Executive Council meeting at the State House, Abuja, yesterday.

Now that Yar'adua is back, what next?

By Ibrahim Auduson

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'adua returned to the country early yesterday in the same manner he left for Saudi Arabia three months before, to the day: in the dark, and secretive. And equally effectively as in his departure, Yar'adua's return has thrown up many imponderables in the nation's political equation.

On November 23, the nation was informed through a statement issued by presidential spokesman, Mr Olusegun Adeniyi, that Yar'adua was leaving for Saudi Arabia for medical check-up.

The serious nature of the president's medical condition was already then a hot topic in national discourse. Even so, Adeniyi's announcement jolted the nation, and set off chains of events that are still being felt today. The National Assembly has since procured a piece of legislation that on closer examination may appear to be against the spirit and letter of the constitution, namely the resolutions, taken separately by the Senate and House of Representatives, providing cover for Vice President Goodluck Jonathan to assume

executive powers of the president, but to do so in acting capacity.

In the absence of a written letter by Yar'adua notifying the National Assembly of his intention to proceed on a prolonged medical vacation, the legislatures relied, ever so tenuously, on the transcripts of a translation of Yar'adua's statements made in a brief interview with the Hausa service of the BBC, as a good and authentic enough substitute for a written letter under the official seal of the President of the Federal Republic, and bearing Yar'adua's signature.

If the resolutions of the National Assembly had no basis in law, given the constitutional requirement for declaring the president incapacitated or appointing the vice president to take over his duties (without his written say-so), it would appear that Jonathan was dressed in borrowed (some might say stolen) robes in the name of dowsing a media-generated frenzy over "power vacuum" in the country's leadership. Because of the near-total absence of reliable information on the president's condition,

and the preponderance of speculative data, it came to a point that even among top government officials that Yar'adua was either incapacitated by being brain-dead, or was in fact dead.

Perhaps only members of the National Assembly would not acknowledge that their action was self-serving, and that it had nothing to do with preserving the constitution while addressing the problem that confronts the nation.

Analysis

The sharing of the spoils of office was already underway. Yar'adua loyalist Michael Aondoakaa, minister of Justice and Attorney General, was the immediate casualty. With new bosses in charge, he cannot be in the kitchen cabinet. Others were awaiting their turn, because there were talks of a cabinet shake-up, a dramatic move that would have been unthinkable in the circumstances.

While Jonathan waved the National Assembly resolutions as evidence of his right to exercise presidential powers, the question of how far the resolutions go to cover his actions has never been

resolved. As acting president could he, for instance change the composition of the cabinet?

As we have seen in his virtually unilateral action in varying the decision of the Federal Executive Council regarding the transfer of funds by law appropriated for the dredging of the River Niger, and diverting them to the Ministry of the Niger Delta, Jonathan is as keen in consolidating his position as Yar'adua (or his coterie of close confidants) is determined to hold on to his office. The result is that there is an undeniable schism between the Yar'adua camp and Jonathan's. Resolving this will determine what power bloc emerges as we approach the next general elections.

In what shape is Yar'adua, health wise? To what extent can he function in his office as president, and sustain the status quo until those elections?

With the intense struggle for power that will now ensue, the Yar'adua camp will be content to go along with the status quo, and effectively trumping any notion of Jonathan becoming president now, or as presidential candidate of the ruling party in the 2011 elections.

Yar'adua's Return

'President walked, not stretchered'

By Shehu Abubakar

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'adua personally alighted from the plane and walked into one of the waiting vehicles at the airport, Senator Ibrahim Ida told the BBC Hausa Service yesterday.

Also, an airport official, who was on duty at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport Abuja at the time, told *Daily Trust* that Yar'adua was not stretchered

onto a waiting ambulance as reported by some dailies.

"It was not true that any of the people that alighted from the aircraft was either on a stretcher or helped by anybody. I did not actually see the President, but from where I was I saw people in their normal shadows.

"The lights were off. I saw some people came out of the aircrafts and after sometimes they all followed someone that I believe was

the President into the waiting cars. Everybody that came out of the two planes walked into the waiting cars. I could see them from a distance. I also saw some bags being removed from the plane into the cars.

"May be some people that saw the bags from far thought it was someone they were carrying. It was after the convoy of cars had left including an ambulance that we were allowed to go back to our various duty posts. I saw even an

air traffic controller being chased away," the source added.

Armed soldiers were seen drafted to strategic locations in capital city that include the Abuja City gate along the airport road and major junctions leading to the Presidential Villa when the convoy of President Yar'adua was making its way to the Presidency around 2 am yesterday morning. In another development, a top official of the airport said he saw President

Yar'adua alighting from the aircraft from a distance, hesitated a little as if he was acknowledging greetings from those around before he entered a waiting car. Nobody helped him in, the source said.

He however said it was true that some fierce-looking plain cloth security operatives cordoned the Presidential Wing of the airport, Abuja, and drove away officials who were on duty when the president returned.



FROM right: Minister of Agriculture, Dr. Abba Ruma, Attorney General, Prince Adetokunbo Kayode, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, SGF, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, Head of Service Stephen Orosanye and Principal Officer to the Acting President, Chief Mike Oghiadomhe, during the Acting President's meeting with the ministers in Abuja, yesterday.

NBA to appeal judgement on Yar'adua

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

THE Nigerian Bar Association said it is set to appeal the judgement of the Federal High Court Abuja in its suit over the absence of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua unless the president made himself available and showed evidence of medical fitness to carry out presidential functions and responsibilities.

The NBA President Chief Oluwarotimi Akeredolu (SAN) who disclosed this while addressing journalists in Abuja yesterday expressed the hope that the matter will be given accelerated hearing at the Court of Appeal.

According to the NBA president, the association cannot discuss anything concerning the purported return of the President until he is seen physically.

"They said he is back, he has not told us he is back, until then, we shall not start discussing of his defect. We must see him physically before we discuss what will happen next", Akeredolu said.

The Chief Judge of the Federal High Court Justice Daniel Abutu had, on January 29, 2010 ruled that President Umaru Musa Yar'adua was under no obligation to transfer power to his Deputy, Goodluck Jonathan, under the provisions of Section 145 of the Constitution.

PDP welcomes Yar'adua, hails Jonathan

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) yesterday welcomed President Umaru Musa Yar'adua back to Nigeria from what the party called 'medical leave.'

PDP National Publicity Secretary Prof. Rufai Ahmed Alkali said the safe arrival of President Yar'adua from his sojourn in Saudi Arabia was a testimony to the fact that the prayers of all Nigerians for his quick recovery

had been answered.

The party, while describing the period during which the President was absent as a trying moment in the history of the country, called on all Nigerians irrespective of political leanings to cooperate with Yar'adua to realize the lofty programmes he has outlined for the country.

The party congratulated Goodluck Jonathan for his performance in acting capacity when the President was not available,

adding that Jonathan along with the Executive Council of the Federation ensured that there were no gaps in the affairs of government.

It pledged to continue to provide political leadership and guidance to ensure that all organs of government continue to work in harmony for the smooth running of the country.

PDP commend the leadership and members of the National Assembly, governors, elder statesmen, the judiciary,

the Armed Forces, socio-cultural groups and members of the media for ensuring the triumph of constitutionalism while the president was away.

Yar'adua's long absence had caused division within the ranks and files of the party leadership and followership, a development which became obvious when members of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) divided over constitutionality of his trip without vacation letter.

SNG insists on invocation of section 144

By Muideen Olaniyi

WOLE Soyinka led Save Nigeria Group (SNG) yesterday insisted that the invocation of Section 144 of the Constitution which recommended the setting up of a medical board to probe the fitness of the ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua was the only solution to the political disaster Nigeria finds itself in.

A statement signed by Engr. Buba Galadima, Mr. Yinka Odumakin, Mallam Salihu Lukman, Hajia Naja'atu Mohammed, Mr.

Mike Igini, Hon. Uche Onyegocha and Ms Annkio Briggs expressed commitment to March 3rd deadline given to the Executive Council of the Federation to act.

The SNG, while welcoming President Yar'adua back to the country after 93 days of medical trip to Saudi Arabia, condemned the way he (Yar'adua) 'was smuggled into the country like a piece of contraband in the dead of the night and through mafia tactics by his kidnappers', saying Nigeria is portrayed like a medieval society.



WOLE Soyinka

ANPP wants him to resume work immediately

By Abbas Jimoh

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) said President Umaru Musa Yar'adu who returned to the country in the early hours of yesterday should resume work immediately.

ANPP National Publicity Secretary Emma Eneukwu told *Daily Trust* that Yar'adua should get back to work to save the country from further deterioration and possible collapse.

He said the ANPP it is not comfortable with the controversies surrounding Yar'adua's trip and return but nonetheless wished him (Yar'adua) quick recovery.

"We thank God for the return of the president, we want him to resume work immediately to face the numerous challenges of governance in the interest of the country, everything is in shambles, so the president should sit up and remedied the situation," Eneukwu said.

Yar'adua's Return



SECRETARY to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji Yayale Ahmed announcing the cancellation of the weekly Federal Executive Council meeting at the State House, Abuja, yesterday.

President + Ag President = Confusion

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Acting Presidency was at an end. A nasty scene was averted when neither man turned up in the Council Chambers.

While announcing the cancellation of yesterday's Federal Executive Council meeting on Jonathan's orders at 12.10pm, Secretary to the Government of the Federation Alhaji Mahmud Yayale Ahmed addressed him as Acting President, whereas a statement issued at about 1.30pm by the Special Adviser on Media and Publicity to the President, Mr. Olusegun Adeniyi referred to Jonathan as vice president. Briefing newsmen at about 2.15pm after ministers met with Jonathan, Minister of Information and Communication Professor Dora Akunyili also addressed Jonathan as acting president.

The Presidency's statement which directed Jonathan to continue to oversee the affairs of state while Yar'adua completes his recuperation indicated that Yar'adua does not recognise him as acting president. "While the President completes his recuperation, Vice President Jonathan will continue to oversee the affairs of state", the statement said.

Jonathan was made Acting President by a resolution passed by both chambers of the National Assembly when Yar'adua failed to transmit a letter of medical vacation to the legislature as required by section 145 of the 1999 Constitution, more than two months after he went to Saudi Arabia. It wasn't clear yesterday whether Yar'adua's return has automatically abated the National Assembly's resolutions.

Yar'adua's statement issued by Adeniyi said, "After being dis-

charged by the team of medical experts overseeing his treatment in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, President Umaru Musa Yar'adua returned to the Presidential Villa, Abuja early this morning.

"President Yar'adua wishes to express his profound gratitude to all Nigerians for their prayers for his recovery, their exceptional generosity of spirit and their appreciation of the fact that all mortals are subject to the vagaries of ill-health. President Yar'adua is grateful to the Vice President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, for competently overseeing the affairs of state in his absence.

"The President also wishes to thank the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the entire membership of the National Assembly, the Governors' Forum, the Judiciary, the Armed Forces and other security agencies, former heads of state and other eminent Nigerians for their roles in maintaining order and stability during his absence.

"President Yar'adua wishes to re-assure all Nigerians that on account of their unceasing prayers and by the special grace of God, his health has greatly improved. However, while the President completes his recuperation, Vice President Jonathan will continue to oversee the affairs of state."

Jonathan's own statement later in the day, titled "Acting President Salutes Nigerians," said, "The Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Ebele Jonathan, today assured Nigerians that the ship of state is on course.

Speaking today in the State House, Presidential Villa, Abuja, on the return of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, he thanked Nigerians for their prayers both for the president and for the nation. He

said that the president's return is a pointer to the fact that the prayers of Nigerians are working.

"The Acting President called on Nigerians to continue to earnestly strive for the well being of the nation, noting that it is at times like this that all patriots must rise to the occasion, and place the interest of the country above every other consideration. According to him, Nigeria is still battling with the pains of development and progress; therefore all hands must be on deck to ensure that the integrity of the nation is maintained at times.

"Dr. Jonathan urged Nigerians to continue to work for peace, security and stability, stating that we have only one country that we can call our own; we must therefore single mindedly pursue our national interest at all times".

Despite the insistence by Jonathan's office that he was still the Acting President, Professor Dora Akunyili later dropped hints that he was slyly away from a full confrontation with Yar'adua. Briefing reporters after a meeting that Jonathan held with all the ministers, Akunyili said, "He invited us for a meeting in his meeting room at 2pm and when we came, he told us that the president has returned, that he has been briefed by the aides of Mr. President and that he hopes to see the wife of the President this evening and that when we meet next week, we will be briefed on the outcome of the Saudi trip by the members of council. And that when he is eventually briefed by our president he will call us again."

Yar'adua himself, whose sneak entry into the country at 2am yesterday was not captured by any news camera due to a heavy cordon placed by his body-

guards, failed to appear in public for the whole of yesterday. He did not turn up for the FEC meeting, held no other public meetings afterwards and did not do a broadcast, as some officials earlier said he would. He had arrived the country in an air ambulance, and the small convoy of cars that took him to the State House also had a Ford ambulance, though it was not clear whether Yar'adua sat in it or in a car.

The weekly Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting scheduled for yesterday was cancelled after the ministers had already waited for two hours. Secretary to the Government of the Federation Mahmud Yayale Ahmad entered the chambers at 12.10pm and told the ministers that "the Acting President has directed me to announce that this meeting is postponed. However, the Acting President will hold a special meeting with all ministers by 2pm in his conference room. Attendance is mandatory for all ministers." The ministers then dispersed, and regrouped less than two hours later at Jonathan's office.

Briefing newsmen after that special meeting, Information and Communications Minister Dora Akunyili said Jonathan had not seen Yar'adua since his return to the country. Akunyili said the 2pm meeting, which lasted for just ten minutes, "was not an elaborate one. The Acting President invited us for a meeting in his office. When we came, he told us that he has heard that the president has returned. He said he was briefed by the president's aides".

Akunyili herself had told reporters that she didn't know of Yar'adua's return until she heard the news on CNN yesterday morning.

Timeline

Nov 23, 2009 - Yar'adua goes to Saudi Arabia for medical checks. Three days later officials say the 58-year-old president is suffering from the heart condition acute pericarditis and it is unclear when he will return.

Dec 2, 2009 - Cabinet unanimously agrees there are no grounds to seek the president's resignation, rejecting calls for him to quit.

Dec 19, 2009 - Niger Delta rebel group MEND say they have carried out their first attack on an oil pipeline since an amnesty offer as the absence of Yar'adua was delaying talks.

Jan 12, 2010 - Yar'adua makes his first public comments in over seven weeks, saying in a radio interview that he is recovering from illness and hopes to return home soon.

Feb. 9, 2010 - Vice President Goodluck Jonathan assumes presidential powers. Parliament earlier had recognised Jonathan as acting head of state in an effort to end uncertainty.

-- The Senate resolution states that Jonathan will cease to be acting president once Yar'adua stated in writing to the leaders of both houses of parliament that he has returned from "medical vacation".

Feb. 10, 2010 - Jonathan chairs first cabinet meeting as acting head of state, seeking to revive government business after more than two months of stagnation.

He removes Justice Minister and Attorney General Michael Aondoakaa. Aondoakaa had been among ministers who held out against formally transferring power to Jonathan during Yar'adua's absence.

Feb. 12, 2010 - Jonathan approves the disbursement of \$2 billion from windfall oil savings to the country's 36 states and government agencies.

Feb. 17, 2010 - The cabinet rejects a motion to declare Yar'adua unfit to govern, deciding instead to send a delegation to Saudi Arabia for an update on his health.

Feb. 24, 2010 - Yar'adua arrives back in Abuja after three months in a Saudi Arabian hospital.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



CHIEF Executive Officer, National Institute for Educational Planning and Administration (NIEPA), Prof. Taiwo Ajayi, during the NIEPA's team visit to Media Trust Corporate Head Office, Abuja, yesterday.

DPP: Why we petitioned NJC over Katsina -Alu

By Nasidi A. Yahya

THE Democratic People's Party (DPP) yesterday said it petitioned the National Judicial Council over the Chief Justice of Nigeria Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu for stopping the delivery of judgment of Sokoto State governorship election appeal without any reason.

In the petition signed by Ademola Adebayo on behalf of the National chairman of the party, Lt Gen J.T Useni the DPP asked the NJC to investigate the CJN.

The petition reads in parts: "The present instance where the CJN in complete negation and violation of his powers under the constitution has written to the President of the court of Appeal ordering him to stop the delivery of judgment of Sokoto State governorship election Appeal already slated for 24th February 2010 is another blatant incidence of selfish individual or sectional interests being used to subvert the constitution".

The party also asked the NJC to ensure that the judgment is delivered and that the CJN should be disqualified from presiding over the judgment.

Dike tasks FG on peacekeeping

By Benjamin Auta

CHIEF of Defence Staff (CDS) Air Chief Marshal Paul Dike said Nigeria must build capacity in the areas of peacekeeping and peace enforcement should the need arise for any of the measures to be employed.

Marshal Dike who was speaking at the opening ceremony of the Senior Mission Leaders Course (SMLC) at the National Defence College (NDC) added that event in places like Guinea, Togo the Ivory Coast and Nigeria demands adequate build up of capacity.

"This is because contemporary events in developing countries like Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo and Nigeria demand that we adequately build our capacity for peacekeeping or peace enforcement should the need arise for any of the measures to be employed," he said.

Represented at the event by Major General I. Penap, of the Defence Headquarters, the CDS said that the African Union (AU) is poised to operationalize the African Standby Force (ASF) this year (2010).

He added that the course will serve the useful purpose of building the capacity of the ECOWAS Standby Force as it prepares to play its part in the African Standby Force (ASF).

Experts: Nigeria not immune to earthquake

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE National Space Research and Development Agency (NSRP) said last year's minor tremor in the southern part of the country shows that Nigeria may not be entirely immune to earthquake.

The Director of Space Application in the agency Dr. Halilu Ahmed Shaba spoke with Daily Trust shortly after presenting his paper at a 2-day workshop themed "The Haiti Catastrophe: Imperative for Contingency Plan for Nigeria," organised by National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

Shaba said Nigeria may not experience earthquake with magnitude like that of Haiti. He said, "I remember last year we have some tremors in the southern part of Nigeria and usu-

ally when you have tremors like that, they are signs that you will have this. The scale of the tremors is what translates into earthquake."

A tremor is a minor earthquake caused by slippage of the earth's crust at a fault, especially before or after a major earthquake.

Speaking at the event, Director General of NEMA Muhammad Audu-Bida said Nigeria should not fold its arm in taking measures against uncertainty and therefore must plan ahead against earthquake.

"Many think that a catastrophe of the Haitian quake or the Asian Tsunami may never happen in Nigeria and thus it will be a waste of resources preparing for it, planning is always indispensable," he said.

Meanwhile, Geologist, Dr Mathew

Ofofiele, has said that minor tremors being experienced across countries in West Africa can lead to a major earthquake in the continent if not checked.

He said continuous monitoring of such tremors would enable governments to raise necessary alarm and create awareness on time rather than be caught unaware in an event of an earthquake.

He spoke on the heels of a vibration experienced at NAN headquarters building located at the Central Business District of Abuja last weekend.

The five storey building, which, according to staff who were on duty at the weekend, visibly shook from its foundation while the entire furniture within the building were literally thrown off.

Niger River dredging on course, says Jonathan

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan did not suspend the dredging of Niger River, his Senior Special Assistant on Media and Publicity Ima Niboro said yesterday.

Niboro said the project is still on course, adding that only lower Niger dredging, from the Onya bifurcation to the Niger Delta communities along the Nembe /Port-Harcourt course, was suspended not the major Niger River dredging.

It was reported yesterdays that

Jonathan has suspended the dredging project, which was flagged off by President Umaru Musa Yar'adua last year.

Jonathan was reported to have approved the transfer of N19 billion from the special intervention funds from the Ministry of Finance to the Ministry of the Niger Delta to take care of shoreline protection and land reclamation.

He said the total cost of the project is N19 billion, out of which a sum of N5.5 billion has been released and transferred to Niger Delta Ministry adding that the cost of the major Niger River dredging

project, which takes off from the Warri bifurcation up to Baro, was N36 billion.

"This is to clarify the deliberate distortion of my comments during the press briefing yesterday on the outcome of the meeting of the Presidential Coordinating Committee on the Niger Delta Amnesty. Niboro said after consultations with governors of the Niger Delta region, the Steering Council of the Niger Delta Amnesty Programme decided that the most urgent requirement of the communities along the shores of the lower Niger are shore protection and land reclamation.

FG suspends police tracking project

By Misbahu Bashir

POLICE Affairs Minister Dr. Ibrahim Yakubu Lame has suspended the vehicle tracking project launched recently by the Inspector General of Police Ogbonna Onovo in conjunction with the United Bank for Africa.

Adam Modu, acting Perma-

nent Secretary of the Ministry, said the minister suspended "in view of this and the reactions the launching has generated up to the level of the National Assembly, the Minister has directed that further action on the project be suspended to enable appropriate administrative action to be taken in line with the policy of the

federal government on Public Private Partnership projects," he said.

The project is vehicle theft prevention and recovery system. It entails the installation of an electronic device in a vehicle, or fleet of vehicles, with purpose-designed computer software to enable the owner or a third party to track the vehicle's location.

EFCC quizzes Abdullahi Adamu again

By Misbahu Bashir

FORMER Governor of Nassarawa State Abdullahi Adamu was yesterday interrogated again by the officials of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC).

Adamu was arrested Monday by the operatives of the commission over alleged fraudulent award of contracts and stealing of public funds estimated at N15 billion. He was released on administrative bail and told to report at the Headquarters of the Commission in Abuja yesterday.

Adamu complied with the directives and arrived at the Commission at about 10am to answer questions on how he awarded contracts in his 8 year rule as Governor.

Adamu is the Secretary of the Board of Trustees of the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP) Chaired by former President Olusegun Obasanjo and had declared his intention to vie for the Nassarawa-West Senatorial seat ahead of the 2011 general election.

Most of the contracts in question were said to have been allegedly handled by companies belonging to one of the contestants in the recent governorship polls in Anambra State. The contracts were mostly not executed while others were badly handled after payments.

Head of Media and Publicity of the EFCC Femi Babafemi said the Adamu went to answer question on allegations against him.

Appeal Court stays action on Sokoto guber dispute

From Rakiya A. Muhammad & Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

THE Appeal Court in Sokoto has stayed action on the governorship case earlier slated for determination yesterday.

When the case came up yesterday, the presiding judge, Justice Musa Dattijo, said he received a letter dated February 19, from the

Chief Justice of Nigeria Aloysius Katsina -Alu, directing a stay of action on the appeal pending the determination of the allegations levelled against the judges.

Justice Dattijo then called for comments from the counsel on the petition. Counsel to the Democratic People's Party (DPP) Rickey Tarfa argued that the petition interfered with the adminis-

tration of justice.

He noted that the power to deliver judgment on a case such as this was exclusively for the Court of Appeal, adding that the court could not be bound by any decision from above.

Mr. Tarfa said the letter only requested for the judge's comments and therefore judgment should be delivered.

He added that if they failed to deliver judgment, it would amount to injustice, not only to the party, but to the society in general.

Counsel to the respondents, Mr. Jacob Ochidi, said there was a need to wait for the petition to be determined before delivering judgement.

Ochidi urged the judges to

put on hold further action on the case, pending when the National Judicial Council decides otherwise.

The presiding judge said though they were expected to give judgment yesterday, they would put on hold further action on the case until the petition was determined to protect their integrity.



FROM left: Deputy Governor of Kaduna State, Mr Patrick Yakowa; Governor Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State and chairman, Nigerian Textile Manufacturers Association, Senator Walid Jibrin, at the opening of Nigerian Stakeholders in Cotton/Textile Garment Industry round table meeting in Kaduna yesterday.

...We'll allow justice to take course - Dingyadi

From Rakiya A. Muhammad & Abdulfatai Abdulsalami, Sokoto

THE governorship candidate of the Democratic Peoples' Party (DPP) in Sokoto, Alhaji Maigari Dingyadi, yesterday said he and his party would allow justice to take its course.

He said this while commenting on the Appeal Court's decision to stay action on the case he brought before it challenging the participation of Sokoto State Governor Aliyu Wamakko in the 2008 re-run election in the state. Dingyadi said he was satisfied with the explanation of the Appeal Court on why it could not deliver judgment in the case yesterday as it bothered on integrity.

"I think they are right. They must be able to give judgment that can stand the test of time. So we align with them and we would allow justice to take its course. Sokoto people know why the judgement was not delivered, but we are waiting", he said.

He however decried the way the judgment was pre-empted by the media and stressed the need for caution on such matters.

Speaking on behalf of the DPP in the state, Yusuf Dingyadi said the party would sustain its struggle to ensure that justice is done.

"We are still in high spirit because we know that the rule of law will prevail in this matter. The judges have a right to fight for their integrity and we agree with their explanation on the matter, but we caution the CJN against any interference", he said.

Wamakko reiterates commitment to good governance

From Rakiya A. Muhammad, Sokoto

GOVERNOR Aliyu Wamakko of Sokoto State has reiterated his administration's commitment towards ensuring good govern-

ance in the state. Wamakko who was speaking with journalists after yesterday's Appeal Court decision said, "I assure you that we mean well for this state. Always draw our attention to areas that need to be attended to. We are human beings,

we are not perfect and have never claimed to be the best, but we are trying our best".

The governor also urged journalists to always ensure objective news reporting in the interest of the nation.

"Our country requires objective and mature reporting without sentiments, emotion or bias. Media men, your role is to educate, not to destroy to represent, not to divide. I urge you to do your best to foster unity", he said.

Gaidam extends olive branch to Albishir

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam of Yobe State Tuesday said he would constitute a reconciliation committee to bring back aggrieved members of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) to ensure victory in future elections.

Gaidam who spoke at a rally in Damaturu to celebrate his victory at the Supreme Court extended an olive branch to Senator Usman Albishir, his major

contender.

The governor, who warned that his overtures should not be seen as a sign of weakness also received Alhaji Tijjani Musa Tumsa, the 2007 gubernatorial candidate of the Action Congress (AC) into the ANPP.

"Our invitation should not be seen as a sign of weakness because any attempt to test our will and threaten the prevailing peace in the state through unguided utterances will be dealt with accordingly," he said.

Other prominent politicians that decamped to the ANPP include one-time Speaker of the state House of Assembly Alhaji Ibrahim Umar Potiskum, Alhaji Idi Barde, a former commissioner and chairman of Fune Local Government Area and Alhaji Jinjiri Abubakar.

The rally was attended by the former Governor of Yobe State Alhaji Bukar Abba Ibrahim, members of the state and National Assembly, chairmen and ANPP officials from all the 17 local government areas of the state, traditional rulers

and thousands of party supporters.

Senator Bukar Ibrahim said Gaidam must consolidate his gains by setting up a Think Tank which would draw a roadmap that would ensure the victory of the ANPP in future elections.

Chairman of the ANPP in the state Alhaji Sani Inuwa Nguru said the large turnout was a clear testimony that Governor Gaidam is a man of the people and a grass-root politician who was willing to carry everyone along.

"We are still in high spirit because we know that the rule of law will prevail in this matter. The judges have a right to fight for their integrity and we agree with their explanation on the matter, but we caution the CJN against any interference

Police hold two over rape

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

THE police in Agbor, Delta State, have arrested a bus conductor, Ahaba Emeka and his friend, Ojo Wisdom, for allegedly raping a 25 year old actress. Our correspondent learnt that the Imo State born actress who resides in Asaba was allegedly raped Monday at No. 12, Baleke Street, Agbor in Ika South Local Government Area of Delta State. Police sources said the victim's ordeal started when she went to a town near Asaba, Issele-uku to circulate handbills of her company's movie, but that because she finished the assignment late in the evening and had nowhere to pass, the night in the town, she approached three men, among them a bus driver, to take her out of the town.

One Mr. Friday, it was learnt obliged to assist her, but on the condition that she spent the night with him in Agbor. According to the sources, while they (the bus driver and the actress) were discussing, Mr. Friday received information that his wife who had travelled to Owerri, her home town, had returned to Agbor.

He then asked his conductor (Ahaba Emeka) to accommodate her for the night.

At about midnight, the conductor, Ahaba and his friend, Wisdom allegedly went into the room where the lady was sleeping and raped her.

The Police Public Relations Officer ASP Charles Muka confirmed the incident, saying the suspects would soon be taken to court.

Slain soldiers for burial today

From Monday Osayande, Asaba

SOME soldiers who were allegedly killed by militants in Delta State last year are to be buried in Warri, Delta State today.

The soldiers include, CPL Ibrahim Garba, Privates Yunusa Abdullahi, Idris Hussaini, Sapei Manam, Yakubu Madaki and Surajo Galadima.

The soldiers who were with the 3rd Battalion of the Nigerian Army, Warri, were killed on May 13, 2009 while protecting oil wells at Camp 5. The bodies of some of the soldiers were however not found. Mrs. Cecilia Madaki and Iretin Sapei, wives of one of the slain Yakubu Madaki and Manam Sapei had told newsmen that the military authorities recovered the bodies.

Military spokesman Lt Col Antigha who confirmed the burial said, "It is time to bury them, but the families of the dead soldiers are requesting that it should be a private ceremony."

Lagos workers flay budget reduction

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

WORKERS in the Lagos State Civil Service have flayed the reduction of the 2010 budget by the state House of Assembly, saying the reduction with over N40 billion would affect government's plans for them.

Our correspondent observed that some of the workers were seen at the state secretariat yes-

terday discussing the reduction.

The action of the House came barely 24 hours after Governor Babatunde Fashola announced a 15 percent increase in the furniture allowance of the workers. A worker in the Ministry of Transport who pleaded anonymity berated the lawmakers for the action.

He alleged that the action was due to the misunder-

standing between the House and the governor.

The House after deliberating for about four hours reduced the 2010 budget from the N429 billion presented by the governor late last year to N389 billion.

During the deliberation, the Chairman of the House Committee on Economic Planning and Budget, Kolapo Osunsanya, said the committee observed that the

yearly approved Personnel Cost of the state when compared with what was actually spent showed a wide margin.

He added that the committee observed that there was a reduction in the overall expenditure of the state from N80 billion last year to N67 billion this year. Hence, the committee recommended a reduction in the budget.



FROM left: Governor Babangida Aliyu of Niger State, his wife Jummai, and wife of Nasarawa State Governor Hajiya Ralia Doma, at the launching of deworming exercise and HIV/AIDS at Bako Kontagora Stadium in Minna on Tuesday.

Kano spends N309m on digital transmitters

From Ruqayyah Yusuf Aliyu, Kano

THE Kano State government has installed two digital transmitters at the state's radio station, Radio Kano. The transmitters were purchased at N309 million.

This was disclosed Tuesday by the Managing Director of the state's radio Alhaji Ghali Sadik

while addressing newsmen in Kano. Sadik said the transmitters would replace the 28 year old transmitters used by the radio station.

"The transmitters were purchased with a view to meeting the deadline given by the National Broadcasting Commission that all broadcast stations must be digi-

talized by the year 2012", he said.

He added that they would be fully in use in two weeks. Sadik commended the state governor for his commitment to the development of broadcasting in the state.

The Chairman, Board of Directors of the station, Alhaji Shehu Kura, said the purchase

and installation of the digital transmitters was a clear indication that the state was ahead of all other states in complying with the NBC's directive of digitalizing broadcast media in the country by 2012. He pledged judicious use of the transmitters to adequately inform, educate and entertain the people of the state and beyond.

Kaduna loses 2 officials, others in Senegal-bound crash

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

TWO officials of the Kaduna State Bureau for Religious Affairs and nine other indigenes of the state died Sunday in an auto crash on their way to Senegal

to celebrate the annual Mauld Nabiyyi and witness the commissioning of the Sheikh Ibrahim Kaulaha Mosque.

The Acting Permanent Secretary of the Bureau Barrister Hassan Mohammed Lawal told

newsmen in Kaduna Tuesday, "We don't know the exact town where the accident occurred, but we were told that it was about 150 kilometres to Senegal. We were told that a truck collided with their vehicle. The front tires of

the truck burst and the driver lost control. Eleven of them died instantly, including the driver," he said.

He said those who died include two officials of the bureau. They were 15 in the vehicle. It was

gathered that 11 of them died on the spot while the remaining four sustained various degrees of injury and were rushed to a hospital. Barrister Hassan said they had since been buried according to Islamic rites.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

STUDENTS of Wisdom International School, Funtua, Katsina State, during their visit to Media Trust Corporate Head Office, Abuja.

Judiciary strike worsens prison congestion

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

OFFICIALS of the Nigeria Prisons Service (NPS) have expressed concern over congestion in prisons in states complying with the current strike by the Judicial Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) over non-implementation of a new salary structure.

The Ogun State Public Relations Officer of the NPS Mr. Bayo Okunola told our correspondent in Abeokuta yesterday that the on-going strike was affecting the four prisons

in the state. The prisons are in Abeokuta, Sagamu, Ijebu Ode and Ilaro.

According to Okunola, the four prisons with capacity for 1,000 inmates are now accommodating about 1,500 inmates.

"A breakdown shows that the Abeokuta prisons with a capacity for 510 inmates is now filled with 710 inmates, while that of Ilaro is currently accommodating 200 inmates as against the original 160 inmates it was built to accommodate. Others are the Ijebu-Ode prisons, currently

housing 249 inmates instead of 220, as well as Sagamu prisons accommodating 300 inmates instead of 100 inmates. You can see that the facilities in these prisons have been overstretched as a result of the congestion caused by the strike action", he said.

The PRO hinted further that 1,324 of the inmates are awaiting trials while the rest are convicts, pointing out that 30 of the inmates awaiting trial are females while 1,294 of them are males.

Children find body at Maiduguri riverbank

From Sharafa Dauda and Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

AN unidentified dismembered and burnt body was Tuesday discovered at the riverbank in Maidokiri ward near Gidan Madara in Maiduguri by some children. Traders at the market said some children who were passing through the river came to inform

them about the body. Our correspondents said the body seemed to be that of a male adolescent, burnt and almost decomposing. Both legs had been chopped off from the knee and the arms from the elbow. Also severed was the head, which was removed from the lower part of the neck. The chest was cut open and all the organs from chest to the lower part of the

stomach were removed, leaving the ribs open. All the dismembered parts appeared to have been cut with a very sharp object.

While the Ward Head of Maidokiri, Bulama Makinta, refused to comment on the issue, Borno State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Isa Azare, said investigation had already begun on it.

Court stops lawmakers from banning ex-commissioner

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

A Birnin Kebbi High Court has ruled that the state's lawmakers lack the constitutional power to ban the former commissioner for finance in the state, Alhaji Sama'ila Bui, from holding public office for any period.

Justice Suleiman Ambursa while delivering judgment yesterday said the lawmakers do not have the power to institute a 10 year ban on Ambursa

and had contravened Sections 36, 128 and 129 of the constitution.

The state House of Assembly had instituted a 10 year ban on Alhaji Bui who was a commissioner in both Adamu Aliero and Saidu Dankingari's administrations for allegedly making false claims over liabilities left behind by former Governor Adamu Aliero.

The former commissioner had gone to court to challenge the ban at the state High Court. He prayed the

court to interpret sections of the 1999 constitution on the ban.

Justice Ambursa held that the Assembly and its Speaker, Alhaji Habib Jega, contravened Section 36 of the constitution and thereby infringed on the fundamental human rights of Alhaji Bui.

While he held that the House had the power to invite the former commissioner to appear before it, he said it lacked the authority to ban him.

Focus on unity to enhance development —Akpabio

AKWA Ibom State Governor Barrister Godswill Akpabio has advised statesmen in the state to focus on efforts that would unify the people of the state, and not things that could divide them.

Speaking with newsmen yesterday on allegations that he was behind the suppression of political opponents and some kidnappings in the state, Governor Akpabio said political opponents were giving colour to crime and playing to the gallery to have a lee-way into 2011.

He said rather than divide the people with lies, elder statesmen should muster efforts to support his administration's effort to develop the state to lay the right foundation for its industrial development.

"I met a state where I needed to know a lot of politics and fight wars against a lot of things- war against hunger, poverty, marginalisation, unemployment and others. A lot of policies are being pursued to enhance the economic status of the people. Things are changing in my state, democracy is bringing hope to the people, for instance, the administration's Operation Zero Pot hole is pursuing pot holes to ensure that pot holes do not pursue people out of existence", he said.

Akpabio said while the state government was battling to wipe out kidnappers and encountering other security challenges, it had trained 200 former militants in three months with the arrangement help start off businesses of their own.

The governor said in order to boost power supply, the Federal Government should allow states to form clusters to get licences to distribute electricity to the people, as the present arrangement only allows for generation and not transmission or distribution. He said Akwa Ibom, Cross River, Rivers and Bayelsa had applied for such license to enhance power supply in the respective states.

'NAMA spends N163m on diesel annually'

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) said over N163 million is being spent annually to power its generators in the 21 airports across the country.

According to NAMA's Executive Director (Operations) Mr Adebisi Adedara who spoke in an interview in Lagos, irregular power supply forced the agency to power its equipment with generators for effective air navigation services. "Power outage has compelled us to run our generators 24 hours daily to ensure maximum efficiency of our equipment and delivery of safe and efficient air navigation services. The money being spent on diesel is eating deep into our finances and affecting our overhead costs", he said.

Adedara explained that three generators were dedicated to the runways at the Murtala Muhammed Airport Lagos while six were installed at Iju, Lagos, to provide uninterrupted power for NAMA facilities.

The NAMA director said the agency had so far invested N2 billion to purchase some airspace infrastructure for effective navigation aid in the country's airspace.

"We have established two area control centres in Kano and Lagos with state-of-the-art equipment to provide positive area control in the upper airspace. Other facilities include the Total Radar Coverage of the Nigerian Airspace (TRACON) which includes primary and secondary radar heads for the airports, voice communication systems, voice recording systems and integrated aircraft billing system," he said.

KATSINA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY, MINES AND AGRICULTURE (KATCCIMA)
CORRIGENDUM
RE-INAUGURATION/FUND RISING DINNER
 This is to apologise for the TIME misrepresentation in respect of the above ceremonies slated for Saturday 27th February 2010 which was placed as a Half Page colour advert on our edition of 24 February 2010.
 We therefore wish to correct that, the inauguration and fund raising ceremonies are to be held by 8:00pm prompt at the stated venue not as represented in the advert earlier.
 Similarly all enquiries are to be channelled through the following numbers 08035962444 and 08037613539 and not the previous ones stated in the advert.
 Any inconveniences caused by the earlier misrepresentation are hereby regretted.

'Christian pilgrims must obtain e-passport'

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE Nigeria Christian Pilgrims Commission (NCPC) said the use of ordinary pilgrim's passport by pilgrims will no longer be accepted by the commission.

Chairman of the commission Archbishop Nicholas Okoh said at a press briefing held at the NCPC headquarters that any intending pilgrim should obtain e-passport before the pilgrimage.

He said the Italian authorities will only give visa to those with e-passport, while Israel said it will help in keeping record.

Archbishop Okoh said N9 billion was used for the just concluded pilgrimage in which two pilgrims from Lagos State and one from Kaduna State died.

He said one of the greatest achievements of last year's exercise was that no absconded, adding that the Italian authorities that Nigeria pilgrims will only be allowed to visit Rome if there is no record of abscondment in the first batch visit.

He said this year pilgrimage there will be extension of visit to Greece and Athens to allow pilgrims visit the entire holy site but will be included in the fare.

Okoh said preparation for this year's hajj has started. He said the commission will travel to Israel on pre-visit and also advertise for interested air carriers for this year pilgrimage soon, adding that the early preparation will enable the commission to meet up with deadline.

He said that some states could not travel to Israel because of late payment and the commission needed to keep to the time table but such states will be given priority this year which include Katsina, Kano, Jigawa, Sokoto Plateau, Borno, Bayelsa, and part of Benue.

NBTE to assist women centre on accreditation

By Akor Ojoma

THE National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) has promised to help the National Centre for Women Development (NCWD) attain the acceptable standard as a vocational education training centre.

Head of the NBTE visitation team and deputy rector of the Yaba College of Technology, Lagos, Mrs Moji White Bello, said this yesterday when she led a team comprising of different professionals from the board to inspect facilities put in place by the centre in Abuja.

She said the team was at the centre as partners in progress to interact and brainstorm to ensure that whatever programme is run at the centre is at an acceptable standard.

Mrs Bello said vocational education is an aspect of the economy that cannot be ignored and as such the government is trying to get it standardized to contribute to the development of the economy.

NBTE Desk Officer Engr. A. D. K Muhammed said the board is an institution of the Federal Ministry of Education, which has for over 2 decades, established, supervised and controlled

vocational education in the country.

He said the visit of the board is an approval visitation which is more or less advisory, the outcome of which will lead to the processes of consideration for accreditation and reaccreditation subsequently.

Earlier, Director-General of the National Centre for Women Development (NCWD) Hajiya Fatima Larai Hassan said enrolment at the centre in its over 10 years of existence has been very encouraging, adding that both men and women undertake courses at the centre.

Group plans summit on democracy

By Lami Sadiq

A nongovernmental organisation says it would organize a national summit to assess the prospects of democracy in Nigeria.

The group, known as Da Soul 11, said through its president, Mr Kletsaint Akor, that the summit will be graced by the executive, legislative and the judicial arms of government in order to sustain democracy.

He said the summit will also accommodate private stakeholders who would brainstorm on the challenges of good governance and the challenges the country has been facing in the last 50 years of independence.

Mr Akor said the best way to sustain an uninterrupted decade of civil rule is to concretize the bond of togetherness.

He said the 2-day sum-

mit, with the theme "A decade of Sustained Democracy: Assessments of Challenges and Prospects," will be followed by an award dinner.

The awardees include ex-President Olusegun Obasanjo, Senate President David Mark, Gov Bukola Saraki of Kwara State and Ambassador Sarah Jibril.

Outstanding institutions will include NTA, AIT, MTN and Globacom.

Immigration officer loses daughter

By Shehu Abubakar

MISS Zainab Sabo Abdu, a final year student of Industrial Design at the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi (ATBU) has died after a brief illness in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

Confirming the death to Daily Trust, her father, Alhaji Sabo Abdu, a retired Superintendent of Immigration, said the remains of Zainab have since been buried in Kafanchan, Kaduna State according to Islamic injunctions.

"I was in Maiduguri when I received a phone call from a relation that she was sick. Not long after that I got the sad news that she had passed on."

Students of ATBU were at the house of the deceased to commiserate with her parents.

VACANCIES

Jhpiego, an affiliate of Johns Hopkins University and a global leader in improving healthcare for women and families, seeks suitable candidates for the following positions:

TITLE: Strategic Information Officer (SIO)
LOCATION: Kano, Nigeria

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1) Provide technical leadership in M&E and PEPFAR reporting for the project in Kano state
- 2) Working closely with senior M&E officer and Project Management Team to develop the Project Monitoring Plan and reporting format for PEPFAR indicators and targets
- 3) design the data collection and reporting systems, using existing forms developed by PEPFAR partners in collaboration with the supervisor and project management team
- 4) Train and supervise project reporting staff at the facility and state level
- 5) Ensure project performance data gathered at health facilities, cleaned and entered electronically at state level, collated and also analyzed at that level to guide overall project direction and implementation especially in Kano state.
- 6) Contribute to the project reports to CDC/PEPFAR
- 7) Take charge of all M&E matters in the state.
- 7) Perform other duties assigned by the supervisors for the project

KEY QUALIFICATIONS:

- BSC in Statistics, Epidemiology or related field; equivalent experience in monitoring and evaluation will be considered.
- Significant experience in developing monitoring plans and/or management information systems at least 3 to 5 years experience.
- Significant experience designing and managing data collection systems
- Experience managing and supervising technical staff.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills and fluency in English; demonstrated ability to write lucid reports in English, ability to speak Hausa language will be an added advantage
- Experienced with PEPFAR reporting systems and formats will be highly desirable

TITLE: PMTCT/HCT Advisor
LOCATION: Kano, Nigeria

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide technical leadership for the project's PMTCT/HCT services in Kano state
- Participate in needs assessments with other Project staffs, NASCP, SACA & State authorities to determine which secondary and primary health facilities will receive project scale up and capacity building for PMTCT/HCT services
- Contribute to State's Capacity Building Plans and their implementation
- Train and supervise State and facility staff in PMTCT/HCT services
- Participate in selection of state's consultants
- Work and liaise closely with associations of persons living with HIV to recruit women peer support coordinators at PMTCT sites. Provide technical leadership in VCT and interpersonal prevention communication
- Work closely with the facility staffs and local NGO partners, to identify sites for outreach services, and need for mobile VCT/interpersonal prevention communication service
- Documents programmatic results and achievement for the project in the state.

KEY QUALIFICATIONS:

- A medical Doctor or a Nurse or any other closely related health care professional
- Significant experience in HIV/AIDS Programmes with a focus on PMTCT/HCT in resource poor settings like Nigeria
- Experience managing and supervising technical/facility staff.
- Experience with HIV/AIDS programs supported by bilateral agencies such as USAID and international agencies such as WHO and World Bank preferred, particularly those related to Voluntary Counseling and Testing, prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission, and care and treatment projects.
- Extensive experience in reproductive health care services and ability to multi-task
- 3-5 years experience in HIV PMTCT/HCT projects

Excellent oral and written communication skills and fluency in English and ability to speak Hausa language will be an added advantage.

TITLE: Community Mobilization Officer (CMO)
LOCATION: Zamfara, Nigeria

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide technical oversight and leadership for the development of communications plan and strategies for ZAIHAP project
- Work and share strategies with the project's international partner (Save the children) to achieve the best possible project results for community activities for the project.
- Provide technical support, leadership and monitoring to the project's local partners in the state.
- Take a lead in the development, adapting, reviewing and the distribution of CM and BCC materials including training manuals and tools.
- Lead the project's community activities collaboration efforts with the SMOH, SACA and other relevant community group in the state
- Document detailed reports on all the community activities carry out by ZAIHAP and her partners in the project state.

KEY QUALIFICATIONS:

- Minimum of Bachelor's degree in public health, social sciences and other related courses.
- Demonstrated track record of successful events, program coordination, project management and ability to multi-task.
- Experience with HIV/AIDS programs supported by bilateral agencies such as USAID and international agencies such as WHO and World Bank preferred, particularly those related to Voluntary Counseling and Testing, prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission, and care and treatment will be desirable
- Experience in working and coordinating activities of local NGO in Nigeria
- At least three years of training experience in the community mobilization field

Excellent oral and written communication skills and fluency in English and ability to speak Hausa language will be a key determinant factor.

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Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



EX-NASARAWA Governor Abdullahi Adamu

EFCC arrests Abdullahi Adamu – Over alleged N15 billion fraud

ALLAH is with you, no matter what they try, they will not succeed.

Muhammad Jamil
jameelis@yahoo.com

Nigerians should no longer be fooled by the actions of these politicians. Call it whatever, but ask him if he awarded the contracts truly and why they weren't executed. It's that simple.

Deji Yusuf
yusufdeji@yahoo.com

Did the EFCC just realise that Nasarawa State was manhandled during the former governor's regime? As for you, Barrister, am surprised that you are saying the former governor is the most outstanding politician in Nassarawa State. Is there water in the state? yet he is still the best politician. Barr Elayo, politically motivated or not, let the truth prevail. Let us allow the EFCC to do their job.

Umar Keana
hajimoh2k1@yahoo.com

My company executed a project of N5million and this man never paid us. For the past eight years we have been trying to collect the money. He should never be allowed to run for any office in that state.

Rakiya
phillips.shaks5@gmail.com

That is a very good job. Well-done, EFCC.

Muhammad
mujasa20104u@yahoo.com

It seems the EFCC just woke up from its slumber. If the agency wants us to believe that it is doing its normal routine of checkmating those at the corridors of power, let it arrest all the accused officials of the former regime and prosecute them according to the laws of the land. This will prove to us that the EFCC is acting in the interest of the masses.

Abbas Yusufu
aayusufu@yahoo.com

Saudi clears FEC team to Yar'adua

MAY Allah grant our president quickest recovery. I wish him well.

Aminu Jibrin
aminuj@ymail.com

When people pray, it's common to hear them ask God to ward off

devourers from their lives.

Now, how do you describe this present crop of leaders foisted on us? These people should be trembling if they know God, for God is just.

Adebola

akmome@yahoo.com

It is unacceptable for this delegation to go on this trip without medical experts.

Nigerians do not know exactly what this 'meeting' with

the president is to expected to do. The nation is in dire need of focus and these trips, speculations, and petty talk are not necessary.

Mahmud
mahmudringim@ymail.com

Yar'adua is back

YOU are welcome. Please do not hesitate to reverse the decision by your vice president to stop the dredging of River Niger. This is a Southern conspiracy, Obasanjo did the same thing and this is the reason we did not want him (Goodluck) to take over. He has already shown us that he is a regional shown.

Engr. Baba Shehu Uma
bashehu@yahoo.com

Let us thank Allah for the return of President Yar'adua. We also wish him a quick recovery. I hope his return will stabilise our nation's polity.

Danlami Wushishi
danwushishi@yahoo.com

Yar'adua's return in an air ambulance does not convince us that he is well enough to resume official duties. We are definitely not interested in the return of Yar'adua, we are only interested in the return of a president capable of withstanding the heat of governance.

Kunle
gheiwuhgerui@yahoo.com

When it is your time to shine, you will. Let people say whatever they want to, the important thing is that President Yar'adua is back. God bless the president and Nigeria and may he make him well enough to continue with his tenure.

Y. Kura
ydankura@live.com

You are welcome and may God give keep you strong and healthy.

Ismail Ahmad
ismgas@yahoo.com

Is our president okay now?

Theophilus
theophilus2007@yahoo.com

Glory be to Allah. May He give our president long life and prosperity. I also pray for his health condition to improve so that he can rule the country well.

Abubakar Y Kazaure
yazidabubakar@yahoo.co.uk

My fellow Nigerians, the return of our president from Saudi Arabia is an indication that God loves us and that He hears our prayers. What President Yar' adua needs now is our co-operation.

Sani Tunga
stunga88@yahoo.com

Yar'adua should resign because of his health. We all love him that

is why we want him to resign. He has made us proud, but he should please resign.

Bernard Kelvin Umaru
bernardkelvin@ymail.com

If I were the president, the first thing I will change is the decision by Acting President to suspend the ongoing Niger River dredging project.

Barr. J. Ibrahim
malamjaafar@yahoo.com

Welcome, our president. You came back at the right time, just when the Acting President started reversing some of your decisions. May Allah heal you so that you can continue with your good work.

H. Ibrahim
harunafai@saudia.com

I am excited to hear that our president is back after being away for a long time. God will surely give him the strength to deliver.

Muhammad Umar
mohaumar01@yahoo.com

We hope he can now address the nation's problems.

Kukuski
kukuski@yahoo.com

President Yar'adua, you are welcome. I wish you a quick recovery.

Garba Ibrahim
garbagimba@yahoo.com

Nigerians deserve to know the health condition of Yar'adua because he is a national asset. The money spent on his health is tax payers' money. This government should not take the about 150 million Nigerian people for granted.

Moses Sunday Ajehson
moskolo5590@yahoo.com

This is a lesson for Nigeria. There should be a certification of fitness before any election.

Abubakar
asslere@yahoo.com

There have been too many stories on the state of our dear President Yar'adua, while some are true, most of them are half truths.

Kadiri Noble
gentleflame2001@yahoo.com

Quite interesting, sure our prayers are being answered. We hope he continues on the path of national progress without any digression.

Theo Faruna
thefarus@yahoo.com



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

We thank God for bringing you back home safely and we pray for your total recovery. Meanwhile, kindly accept my humble advice, make sure you turn deaf ears to all sorts of tales. Nigerians were genuinely concerned about your health condition while you were away for treatment and prayed for you. May God preserve and protect Nigeria.

Ramatu Idris
ramatu1@gmail.com

I thank God that Yar'adua is back. Those trying to create confusion in the country should now find another job. I pray that Nigeria develops like Saudi Arabia, where other countries can send their presidents for treatment.

Muhammad
muhashariff@yahoo.com

Praise be to Allah, the master of all. We thank Him for bringing our president back and pray for his quickest recovery.

Kabir Rabi Dabai
kabirdabai2011@yahoo.com

Welcome back. I pray that God who elected you as president of Nigeria will give you the grace, strength and power to lead well.

Edogbanya
victoredogbanya@yahoo.com

Please know that our thoughts and prayers are with you, now and always.

Bala Musa Toro
balamusatoro@yahoo.com

Thank God, our dear president is back. We pray that God gives him the power to continue in his office. In any case, the hypocrites and those wishing Yar'adua death should now bury their heads in shame. Welcome back our president, may you live longer.

Mukhtar Musa
elmukhtar_musa@yahoo.co.uk

That is the will of Allah. May He grant him the wisdom and ability to continue to rule this country. We thank Allah for this.

Muhammad Lawal Ibrah

babanummi@yahoo.com

The president is welcome back. If he is well enough to continue in office, he should do so. But if not, he should honourably resign and take care of his health. Only the living and healthy can accomplish anything in life. I will also advice him to ignore sycophants in arriving at his decision even if they are members of his family. Do the right thing and leave the rest to God. May God bless Nigeria.

Ucha O.
fortune.obasi@yahoo.com

First of all, we thank God for letting us witness the return of our courageous president. His return is however a threat to some of our leaders. May God continue to take care of him.

Abubakar Ashiru
garbaashiru66@yahoo.com

Welcome back. The good people of Nigeria have been waiting for you. Hope you came back fit enough to continue the good things you started.

Zanna Bukar Baruwa
bukar.zanna@yahoo.com

Just the way he left the country 90 days ago, the return of President Umaru Yar'adua was shrouded in a lot of secrecy. What will now be the fate of the Acting President and what will become of the decisions and appointments made by him? Another political power game is about to unfold.

Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi
elkutigi@gmail.com

This is a very welcome development. I hope the next general election will be fair, credible and free. We now know those who hate Nigeria.

Danladi Haruna
danladiharuna1@yahoo.com

Now that the monitor is back, noise makers will pay the price of noise making. Aondoaka, you are a model.

Muhamma Malumfashi
mlawalmalumfashi@yahoo.com

I thank Allah that the president is now back. This will really help the country, but I urge those with little differences to put them aside and work for the country.

Muhammad
muhashariff@yahoo.com

Idang Alibi

idangalibi@dailytrust.com; 08036938729

NOA's concern for corruption and the environment

The perception among many Nigerians is that all our governmental institutions like ministries, departments and agencies (MDAs) have failed or that there is nothing much that can come from any of them. This spirit of cynicism has so become a part and parcel of our national mindset that even when one of them shows signs of being alive to its mandate, very few are willing to take notice.

This national psychology no doubt accounts for the rather lukewarm attitude of Nigerians to the many campaigns the National Orientation Agency has been waging in recent times aimed at ensuring value reorientation. I am referring in particular to NOA's concern for the environment. Long before the Environment Summit in Copenhagen in Denmark NOA has been mounting workshops across the country to get Nigerians to pay attention to the environment.

Our streets and living environment are notoriously dirty, littered with waste of all kind. Even in major cities like Abuja, Kano and Ibadan, you do not see any concern for cleanliness and wholesomeness.

Our streets and living environment are notoriously dirty, littered with waste of all kind

Most of our gutters are uncovered and ooze with powerful stench that constitutes serious environmental hazards. Some parts of our cities look like pigsties.

In the past this agency which was set up by the Babangida administration, was essentially a propaganda tool for selling government programmes, projects, policies and plans. I wish to observe that under the leadership of Alhaji Idi Farouk, NOA has more or less been transformed into an instrument for national rebirth. It has championed many national causes worthy of note. For instance, towards the end of last year, NOA embarked upon a series of workshops held in several parts of the country all geared towards addressing two of Nigeria's major ills: corruption and environmental degradation and unemployment.

I was privileged to attend two of those workshops which held in Kaduna at the main auditorium of the Arewa House between December 8 and 9 and December 10 and 11 last year. The first of them was a two-day workshop whose theme was *Raising integrity standard in the public service*. NOA said it organised the workshop in keeping with its mandate of value re-orientation and resuscitation of socially acceptable attitudes. As the theme of the two-day event indicates, it was aimed at raising awareness on the

necessity of doing something about the lack of integrity in public life of our public servants. NOA said the need for a united Nigerian action against corruption is so great that the slogan for every Nigerian should be: *See something, say something and do something about corruption*.

The second one which still held at the same venue between 10th and 11 December was on *Waste recycling as*

If waste is turned to wealth, it leads to wealth creation, employment generation

a tool for wealth creation and employment generation.

Through most of its carefully thought-out programmes NOA sometimes uses one stone to kill many birds. For instance, the waste to wealth campaign is aimed at achieving multiple objectives: to draw national attention to the enormous potential in the utilization of waste. If waste is turned to wealth, it leads to wealth creation, employment generation, economic empowerment and eradication of poverty. Another good that comes from waste recycling as a national goal is that it helps to give the youth a sense of belonging through giving them what they can do for self-realisation and self-fulfilment.

What is more, it helps to clean up and beautify our environment. One of our harmful environmental practices is the ill-disposal of waste.

The exhibition arm of the workshop unearthed some excellent locally fabricated machines and implements for turning waste into wealth. At the workshop participants had their eyes opened to the fact that every waste is recyclable. If any waste has not been recycled yet, it is only so because some one with the required expertise has not shown up yet. Some one with the knowledge and expertise to make good use of it does not know of the existence of such waste yet. The kernel of the truth revealed about waste in the Kaduna workshop was that there is abundant wealth in waste. It is gratifying that NOA has tried to keep faith with its primary mandate of ensuring attitudinal change in Nigerians.

Attitudinal change is a key to national development. Without such a change, we will keep beating about the bush. As a nation, we have become contemptuous of hard work and honesty. Integrity is not cherished as a high virtue in our society any more. The spirit of greed has overtaken the land. In spite of these sensible noises that NOA has been making on issues that are crucial to our national development, the question is: are Nigerians listening and changing?

Yar'adua: Time for closure

It should be recalled that in our statement of December 2, 2009, which was widely published and circulated not long after the absence of the President, we had urged that the path of constitutionalism be followed. We stated that in the event the President was unable to discharge his responsibilities, the Vice-President, Goodluck Jonathan should immediately be sworn in as substantive President. We are encouraged that since that statement, several groups and individuals from all walks of life lent their voice to this call.

Regrettably, that call was not heeded and the intervening period was heating up the polity. When on the 9th of February 2010, nearly three months after the President's absence, the National Assembly intervened; it did so not on the basis of legality, constitutionality nor even pragmatism.

We have serious concerns about this decision which paved the way for the Vice-President to assume the functions of Acting President. While this may have temporarily defused the escalating tension in the polity, we should never contemplate sacrificing the rule of law and the provisions of the Constitution on the altar of political expediency.

The action of the National Assembly has no foundation in law and violates the clearly stipulated provisions of the Constitution. It sets a

Having an Acting President without any defined tenure, and with no provision for a Vice-President

dangerous precedent for the future, especially when it is said that a radio interview amounts to "transmission of a letter" and where the doctrine of necessity was so furiously invoked. That was stretching the law and exhibited an unusual activism, even if it was a judicial ruling.

By this unconstitutional action, the National Assembly has created a Sole Administrator for the country. Having an Acting President without any defined tenure, and with no provision for a Vice-President, one person is now vested with power of the President and Vice-President.

This situation goes against the spirit of the Constitution and our Presidential system of government. The reason why we have a President and a Vice-President and indeed why the Vice-President is sworn-in before the President is because in the event of the President being unable to assume office or fully discharge the functions of his office as is now the case, the Vice-President assumes the office of the President. In the current situation, should anything happen to the Acting President, which God for-

bid, there is a lacuna as to who acts for him.

In the final analysis, even though the President has not informed the National Assembly in WRITING of his absence, and since no impeachable offence has been laid at the doorstep of the President, the National Assembly cannot act pursuant to sections 143 or 145 of the Constitution and thereby be a key to resolving the current impasse.

In order to avoid any serial violation of the Constitution, let us not shy away from the proper course of action. We are left only with the Federal Executive Council route. The Federal Executive Council, like all informed persons knew for sometime that the President was not only ill, but gravely ill. Instead of them acting in accordance with section 144 of the constitution, they again failed to rise to the patriotic challenge before them and took the easy way out by deciding to send a fact finding mission to Jeddah to ascertain the President's condition.

This Federal Executive Council decision is a product of moral cowardice. However, it is not too late for them to summon up the required courage and instead of buying time to avoid the inevitable, decisively resolve to apply section 144. It is up to those members who spin the falsehood of the President's imminent return to prove that the President is or likely in the near future to be able to discharge the functions of his office.

Any further procrastination will have grave consequences for the evolution, unity and integrity of Nigeria. We cannot afford to wait for three more months of a heated polity to do the right thing. Not only should the right thing be done, it should be done now.

DAUDA BIRMAH, OFR - Former Federal Minister;

AUDU OGBE - Former Federal Minister;

JOHN TEMPLONG [RTD];

HAMID ALI (RTD) - Former Military Governor, Kaduna State;

FAROUK ADAMU ALIYU - Former Member, House of Representatives;

TOM MATAIMAKI MAIYASHI - Former Commissioner, Kaduna State;

MAMMAN A. DAN MUSA - Former Deputy Senate President;

LAWAL BAWA (RTD AIG);

CLEMENT BAIYE - Former Managing Editor, New Nigerian Newspapers Ltd;

LAI MOHAMMED - Former Chief of Staff to Lagos State Governor;

SOLOMON EWUGA - Former Federal Minister;

MOHAMMED HARUNA - Former Managing Director, New Nigerian Newspapers Ltd.

MOHAMMED BOMOI - Former General Editor, Citizen Magazine;

HON. BALARABE WAKIL - Former Member, House of Representatives;

SETLEY DAZE - Former National Commissioner, INEC;

ABBA KYARI - Former Managing Director, UBA Plc



Your Letters

Nobody is talking now

Following the unwarranted and unprovoked attack on Christians and their places of worship in Hadeja, Jigawa state, nobody is saying anything now. No meeting of northern emirs is being summoned; no statement is coming from Arewa Consultative Council (ACC), no visit to the troubled spot by any top government official. Is it fair? With actions like

these, one gets the impression that some groups of people are being pampered or are considered more human than others in the same Nigeria. Where is the equity that is being preached? Everyone is just going about as if nothing has happened, in this same Nigeria. In no time now, some people will be telling us about the constitutional provision that all Nigerians should feel free to live anywhere and practise their faith without fear of molestation, that there is no indigenes/settlers vs. non-indigenes stratification. This is a blatant display of injustice and an abuse on our collective resolve

to live as one Nigeria under one God. Something should be done because if nothing is done what is the guarantee that it will not be replicated elsewhere in the ever volatile northern Nigeria.

The Nigeria media are also not left out in this conspiracy. If it had been the other way round it would have grabbed headline news; but see what is happening, either some papers do not report it at all or it is tucked away somewhere in an obscure section in their papers. Let us not forget that we are all stakeholders and will pay for our actions.

J Jatau, Kano.

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

Showing their hands

SO the proposed dredging of the River has been stopped. Well, I am thrilled that Mr. President of amnesty, fed ministry of Niger Delta, as well as river Niger dredging is back. He has done a lot to the south-south, and has demonstrated that he can do more. His plan for Niger River dredging is to the best of our country. Now that he's back, he should go ahead with the project.

JAMILU Danjani, Hadejia, Jigawa State, 08069734943.

Why stop a good project?

I can't imagine the man we were hoping on, could go to extent of stopping the dredging of River Niger. What a shameful act! The Vice President's action has made us a laughing stock.

SHADRACK Benclamsi, Abuja, 08132083364.

Is this the aim?

BARELY three weeks in the saddle as Acting President Jonathan's first major act is stopping the dredging of River Niger. It is

unfortunate!

ISYAKU Abdu, Gulu, Kano, 07032854717.

...The only option?

FOR god sake, Mr Acting president, must you stop dredging River Niger before you can secure N19b for ecological control in Niger-Delta states?

HANSANU Ahmad, Zoo Road, Kano, 08033166064.

It's plain wrong

DIVERSION of 19 billion naira intervention funds meant for the dredging of that part of the lower River Niger, to the Ministry of the Niger Delta for so-called shoreline protection and land reclamation will not yield any fruitful results.

YAHYA Abdullahi Zango, 08036191691.

What Yaradua should do

NOW that Mr President is back, let him order for the restoration of the N19 billion surreptitiously taken to the Niger-Delta Ministry from the Niger River dredging project.

Indeed, we had an Acting President. Welcome back Baba. Please act.

ISA Mohammad, Bauchi, 08069652965.

Some answers, please

HABA acting president, why did you have to stop Niger River dredging? Can you please tell Nigerians the reason for stopping the project?

ABUBAKAR Danladi, 07030113214.

Return of order

I am extremely glad that Baba Yar'adua is back; we will now be governed constitutionally. Power grabbers and gold diggers, what would you say now?

MOHAMMED Tinshama, Kano, 08036033330.

Think again

THE return of President Umaru Yar'adua is not an issue for jubiliations; it is an issue of "how capable he is in handling the mantle of leadership?"

ABDULRASHEED Adamu, BUK, Kano, 08035682719.



By Babakura Ahmed

Time for Albishir to sheathe his sword

It is not over until it is over. This has been our cliché whenever our darling football club is facing trouncing by a better opponent. Despite our optimism for a win, we would eventually be forced to eat the humble pie. The electoral debacle in Yobe state between Senator Usman Albishir on one hand and the ruling ANPP and Governor Ibrahim Gaidam on the other must go on record as the most trenchant and the most litigated electoral case in the history of election trials in the country. As a citizen of Yobe state, I looked with amazement as the two gladiators fought the battle of the proverbial elephants during which the grass ultimately was the victim. While the two men dug in, Yobe state literally suffered the consequences of concentration-deficit to move it forward. It lasted this long because Usman Albishir who all along believed he had a good case, refused to listen to all entreaties to sheathe his sword in the interest of development of a serially raped state that had suffered leadership failure on end.

Now that it is apparently all over, Usman Albishir is left with two options. The more dignifying of the options to me is for him to reinvent and rebrand himself, return to the ANPP fold, join hands with Governor Gaidam in the spirit of brotherhood to give Yobe the type of leadership that has started to yield results for the people of the state. Even when the Albishir case looked unwinnable, Governor Gaidam had extended a hand of fellowship to him to retrace his steps, assume his role as a respected elder statesman and patriot and advice and encourage those in leadership to work for the growth of Yobe. The other option is, to hastily and in anger exit from the ANPP in the hope of currying favour or promises of another party to get its ticket to run for the governorship. I personally feel that remaining in the ANPP will better serve the interest of Albishir in particular and Yobe state in general; that is if the motivation to serve the state is embedded in the desire to uplift the living condition of the people. Albishir has demonstrated that he is a dogged and determined fighter who followed the path he believed was good but which has ultimately shown that the path was thorn infested. Having gave his best shot and having gone the whole hog, and with the way it has ended, it is pertinent to advice Albishir not to take any rash and ill-informed decision that will further alienate and render him politically irrelevant. As a pious Muslim, he should see the way things turned out as the way God wanted it.

In any case, the search in Yobe has always been for the right leadership that will bring about a radical shift from the self serving way some leaders had reduced it to. There is no longer denying the fact that the state is in good and reliable hands. This is evident in the quantum of unprecedented development that has been achieved under the leadership of Gaidam. The potentials for more progress are even more promising with the right atmosphere, people's support and loyalty to the government. No one is in any doubt today that Yobe state has been transformed with its future looking brighter than ever before. The combination of the late Mamman Ali/Ibrahim Gaidam team has shown that Yobe's problems were mainly leadership-related. Since its creation in 1991, Damaturu, the state capital looked more like a glorified local government headquarters. No part of the state fared any better as the resources of the state were mismanaged while corruption thrive unabated. Everyone in the state had resigned to fate and had accepted the fact that corruption and resource mismanagement were a way of life until the new dawn that heralded the present administration which has turned things around.

All hands must therefore be on deck to support and encourage the government to continue on the path of infrastructural development. The achievements recorded in the development of road network across the state, education, health care, poverty eradication, economic empowerment, rural development, civil service reforms, housing and security have changed the status of the state from a purely rural setting to a model state which has surpassed its peer states. Regardless of the ruling of the Supreme Court and under no circumstances should these achievements be halted or undermined on the altar of political exigencies. Democracy in an environment like the one in Yobe, should be a platform to advance the cause of the state and an avenue to improve the lot of the people. If this opportunity to make Yobe greater through the instrument of the present government is allowed to be sabotaged or slowed down, the state may find itself in the quagmire of the past in which case no one can hazard a guess as to what will become of it.

Babakura wrote from Dandal Way, Maiduguri (ahmed-babakura@yahoo.com)

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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The tragedy in Port Harcourt

The electrocution of 13 persons in a recent incident in Port Harcourt is a national tragedy. The tragic event occurred when a high tension cable of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) snapped during a heavy downpour. The live wire landed on two commuter buses travelling in the Oginigba area close to Trans-Amadi part of Obio/Apkor local government area, instantly electrocuting eight of the occupants. Two others died in hospital the same day. The toll eventually rose to 13.

It is a painful tragedy, given that it was avoidable if all preventable and cautionary measures were taken by the PHCN, the police authorities and the general public. Electrocution is one of the hazards of modern living, but what made this unique is perhaps the number of casualties. As usual, the PHCN, the police and state government officials restricted themselves to lamenting the tragedy, and blaming the public for not avoiding the high tension wire. High tension wires emit radiation which, in certain degrees, poses danger to life in the vicinity.

The police promptly condoned off the place from pedestrians and motorists, while the state government ordered a report from the PHCN about how the cable was still active when it broke. These actions should have been taken long before the tragedy occurred. Commendable as the Rivers State government's promise to bear the cost of treatment of those injured is, and its order for the demolition of all structures under high tension wires in the state capital, we however wonder if these are the only measures that could prevent recurrence of the incidence not only on the same spot but in other parts of the state where PHCN cables are reported to be in bad shape?

In many Nigerian cities today, PHCN has not done nearly enough to manage and maintain its facilities well, thus giving room for vandals to operate easily. Moreover, buildings and other illegal structures such as motor parks, markets spring up under high tensions wires across the country because the authorities have failed to apply appropriate sanction against those who violate the law on the right-of-way of such facilities. There are issues of the quality of PHCN materials and the absence of maintenance culture, especially in handling public property. Though electric cables manufactured in Nigeria are considered to be among the best in the market, corruption in the system has allowed the procurement of cheaper substitutes that cannot stand the test of time and the elements, thereby constituting dangerous hazards to the public as well as the utility services officials themselves. That is why, the Port Harcourt tragedy should be an eye-opener for the authorities on the need to carry out an audit of PHCN facilities in all parts of the country in order to ensure that they do not constitute any threat to the public.

We call for a thorough inquiry into the Port Harcourt incident; those found to have been negligent must be punished accordingly. It is also important that public enlightenment campaigns should be enhanced and carried out regularly to sensitise Nigerians on the danger of erecting structures, trading or carrying out any business under high tension cables and pylons. Similarly, PHCN must buckle up and ensure regular monitoring and maintenance of its facilities, especially those erected in the cities and along major roads that have become obsolete. An end must be put to this kind of avoidable negligence that too often leads to the deaths of innocent people and no one getting punished for it.

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Climate change and future (II)

Last week, I focused on the climate change meeting convened by an Abuja based NGO, Change Managers International Network (CMIN) in partnership with Action Aid International on February 11, 2010 at the Yar'adua Centre in Abuja. The meeting was convened to hear the outcome of the United Nations Climate Change Conference of Parties (UNCC-COP 15) which held in Copenhagen, Denmark from December 7 to 18 2009. Stakeholders from different parts of the country attended the meeting and shared with participants their reports on COP 15 and what their governments or ministries were doing on climate change.

The fourth presenter was Dr Uju Okoye, a Deputy Director in the Federal Ministry of Environment who made a presentation on the Youth and Environment in which she reviewed the input made by the youth at the COP 15 conference. She said the Government of Denmark organised a pre COP 15 meeting for Children which was attended by one representative from each country. The children met and developed their declaration which they read at Cop 15. Dr Uju stressed the need to 'catch them young' by educating and mobilising children and youth for action on climate change. She recommended inclusion of climate change under environment education that is currently in school curricular. The representative of the Federal Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs Nkechi Onwukwe underscored the fact that climate change is cross cutting and the gender perspective of the issue will be discussed at a stakeholders' meeting to be organised by her Ministry in March.

My presentation focused on the outcome of a summit I attended which was organised by the Inter Faith Action for Peace in Africa IFAPA in Gaborone, Botswana with the theme, "Envisioning a Peaceful Africa-Water for All". Representatives of the faith communities, government officials and the Organised Private Sector in Africa deliberated on climate change and made a statement which was presented at COP 15. The Summit reflected on the ways in which climate change is deepening the water crisis in Africa due to the death of rivers and lakes, the increasing aridity and advancing deserts. Experts at the Summit also made alarming predictions that, as a result of climate change:

- Between 75 and 250 million people will be exposed to increased water stress by 2020.
- By 2020, yields from rain-fed agriculture could be reduced by up to 50% in some countries. Agricultural production and food security is likely to be severely compromised in many African countries.
- Arid and semi-arid areas are expected to increase by 5%-8% by 2080.

Participants noted with concern how the consequences of climate change compound the realities of food insecurity and poverty in Africa. Climate change threatens to greatly increase the lethal impact

Civil Society Watch

By Hajiya Bilkisu (mni)

of poverty and disease in Africa. They also perceived that 'these changes will increase competition for diminishing water resources, and will force increasing numbers of people, communities and animals to become 'climate change refugees', posing additional serious challenges to peace and security in the region. Climate change and its impacts is an issue of justice. Africa and its peoples, who have contributed least to the emissions accelerating these global climatic processes, are suffering its worst effects. It is also an issue of basic human rights, as it impinges on the rights

- Take responsibility for monitoring and documenting changes in the local environment and water sources, including the impact of government initiatives with regard to water resource and environmental protection.
 - Protect existing forest areas, and undertake reforestation of areas from which the trees have been cut.
 - Promote rainwater harvesting.
 - Promote improved agricultural practices.
 - Re-examine their own practices against the principles of environmental protection and sustainability.
 - Equip themselves with the necessary training and skills for water source maintenance and environmental protection.
 - Undertake local fundraising initiatives for water resource management and maintenance.
- Governments and local authorities

The Summit reflected on the ways in which climate change is deepening the water crisis in Africa due to the death of rivers and lakes, the increasing aridity and advancing deserts

to life and an adequate standard of living for millions of people, and a gender issue, as it impacts women disproportionately. And ultimately it is a failure of our ethical, moral and religious duties, resulting from the systemic greed which has led to the inequitable concentration of the world's God-given resources and wealth in the hands of a few, and the unsustainable lifestyles of rich elites and developed countries.

A representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador M.K Ibrahim who attended the COP 15 conference noted in his presentation that the conference did not come out with a legally binding document and said it was a lost opportunity for Africa. He traced this to the disunity exhibited by African countries when they failed to speak with one voice and demand justice for the continent. Ambassador Ibrahim said 'the level of global warming by world agreement should not be higher than 2percent and suggested that Africa should have negotiated for reduction to 1 percent because its people are suffering from the impact of climate change.' He underscored the injustice whereby the industrialised countries pollute the environment while all of Africa's 54 countries are responsible for only 4 percent of the global emissions and its people are being subjected to untold suffering.

During the interactive session, participants made recommendations for the way forward but most of them were also reflected in the IFAPA Summit statement which is presented below:

Local communities and leaders (including local religious leaders and traditional chiefs) / civil society should:

- Make clear commitments with regard to water resource and environmental protection.
 - Establish Ministries of water and the environment - where they do not already exist - and provide such ministries with resources adequate to the task.
 - Ensure that they have good and comprehensive water policy and legislative frameworks, covering conservation, sustainability, infrastructure development, privatization and industrial water use, and following the principles of Integrated Water Resource Management.
 - Undertake mapping of water resources and assessment of current water distribution patterns.
 - Develop sound planning and water resource management strategies, including where relevant through regional and sub-regional cooperative frameworks and the harmonization of regulatory frameworks between jurisdictions.
 - Invest in water conservation and provision, and provide for appropriate monitoring and evaluation of initiatives in this area
 - Focus on water services for rural as well as urban communities.
 - Ensure that school curricula include education on water, conservation and environment.
- Private sector entities (national and international) should:
- Take all possible measures to reduce and eliminate water source pollution from industrial production or extractive processes.
 - Engage with local communities in order to plan investments and activities in such a way as to preserve water and other natural environmental resources, and to monitor the impact of such investments and activities.

INTERNATIONAL

Ex-warlord to run in Liberia's president poll

ONE of Liberia's most infamous warlords drank beer as he ordered his men to cut off an ousted president's ears 20 years ago. Now a senator, Prince Johnson says he plans to run for the presidency himself even though a government commission wants him tried for crimes against humanity.

Despite being widely known for the gruesome torture and slaying of Samuel K. Doe, a videotape of the event was even sold on Monrovia's streets, Johnson was overwhelmingly elected in 2005 to the Senate by his native Nimba county for a nine-year term.

In place of camouflage fatigues, Johnson now wears a business suit with a Liberian flag lapel pin. Johnson said in an interview with The Associated Press that he wants to serve in this West African nation's highest office to cement peace.

A civil war that had ravaged the country, turned children into cold-blooded killers and was marked by cannibalism ended only seven years ago.

"We are seeking the presidency to properly address the security situation of this country.

The Liberian peace process is still fragile because of insecurity. Armed robberies, etc., are giving our people sleepless nights," Johnson said, hammering a blow on his desk in his Senate office.

But human rights groups are concerned about Johnson's bid for the presidency in the 2011 elections because of his wartime past. Tania Bernath, a Liberia



SENATOR Prince Yormie Johnson, during an interview in Monrovia, Liberia.

expert for Amnesty International, said Johnson's notorious history may have helped propel him to the Senate. "There's still a

lot of support because there's a lot of fear," she said.

"Many may still believe if they don't vote for him, he may cause

problems." In the election, Johnson would face current President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a Harvard-trained economist who has won

respect from the international community since she became Africa's first democratically elected female president in 2005.

French President Sarkozy visits Gabon

FRENCH President Nicolas Sarkozy visits Gabon for his second trip to the former French colony in Central Africa.

Sarkozy arrived in Gabon yesterday morning and was met by President Ali Bongo Ondimba.

Sarkozy visited the mausoleum of Ali Bongo's father, the late dictator Omar Bongo.

Gabon's capital, Libreville, was cleaned up for the visit and the main avenues were adorned with posters of Sarkozy and Ali Bongo.

Sarkozy was one of the first leaders to congratulate Ali Bongo after his contested win in September's election.

Opposition leaders accused France of meddling in the election and propping up the elder Bongo. Protesters burned the French Consulate and French oil company Total evacuated employees and their families to the capital.

New Niger PM 'to press junta on poll time frame'

NIGER'S newly-appointed civilian prime minister said yesterday he had asked his military bosses for guarantees that they will return the West African uranium exporter to "real" democratic rule.

"I have asked for the necessary guarantees to be sure of committing myself in the process leading to a real restoration of democracy," said Mahamadou Danda, in his first public comments since his appointment. The guarantees include as precise a timeline as possible for a return to constitutional life and the organisation of elections, he added.

"My priority is principally the restoration of democracy," said Danda, adding that he had "yet to meet directly with the transitional president himself".

Junta leader Major Salou Djibo was going to have to "detail the transition agenda so that things are clear in everyone's head and that we have a pretty clear timeframe," he added.

Danda, who has a French degree in political science and was political counsellor in the embassy of Canada in Niger until his nomination, says he is not affiliated with any political party. He said he was chosen by the junta "because I was considered to be off the (political) scene," he said.

The junta on Tuesday named Danda, a former communications minister, as prime minister, five days after a coup that ousted the government of President Mamadou Tandja after a decade of increasingly authoritarian rule. Tandja had sparked a political crisis last year when he decided to extend his grip on power beyond the legal limit.

Djibo is expected to oversee the organisation of fresh elections and usher in a new constitution after a referendum, but has given no timeframe to UN and African envoys who met him in Niamey on Sunday. A coalition of rights and development groups urged the junta to set a date for elections.

Uganda behind schedule for fair elections in 2011 - EU

UGANDA has not yet done enough to ensure that its 2011 general elections will be free and fair, the European Union's ambassador to the east African nation told AFP yesterday.

"I am worried that legislatively speaking, the level playing field is not established," Vincent De Visscher said.

President Yoweri Museveni, in power since 1986, is widely expected to seek re-election but could face serious challenges from a number of candidates.

Senior government officials, including the attorney general and speaker of parliament, had previously assured De Visscher that all necessary changes to the country's election law would be completed by this month.

"For that, they are definitely late," he said, and added that he believes the legal amendments proposed by the attorney general are not satisfactory. De Visscher's comments come as

Uganda faces increased international scrutiny regarding its preparation for the polls.

Last month the US Congress directed Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to "closely monitor preparations for the 2011 elections in Uganda."

Its Foreign Operations Appropriations Act for the 2010 fiscal year also calls on the US State Department to "actively promote the independence of the electoral commission."

De Visscher also identified the electoral commission, which opposition leaders have long decried as a pawn of the ruling party, as an area of concern.

"The Electoral Commission will have to be judged on what they do," he said, describing the management of recent by-elections as "not perfect."

"What we are saying is that the clock is ticking and that they have to improve," he added.

International



PALESTINIAN Islamic Jihad supporters shout slogans during a rally in Gaza City against Israel's plan to restore two flashpoint Jewish holy sites in the occupied West Bank.

Israel's holy site plans 'threaten peace talks'

ISRAEL'S intention to renovate two contested West Bank holy sites could make it "difficult, if not impossible" to launch even indirect peace talks, a senior Palestinian official said yesterday. His remarks came as Palestinians scuffled with Israeli troops near one of the sites in Hebron for a third day, and as Israel's President Shimon Peres sought to defuse the controversy, which he called an "artificial conflict."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu sparked outrage among Palestinians earlier this week when he said he hoped to include Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem and the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron in a national heritage restoration

plan. Yasser Abed Rabbo, a senior official in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said the decision was part of "a deliberate poisoning of the atmosphere by an extreme rightwing government that does not want peace or serious negotiations."

"In these circumstances it will be difficult if not impossible to launch serious negotiations, either direct or indirect," he told reporters in Ramallah, referring to US-led efforts to revive Middle East peace talks.

The two sites are revered by Jews and Muslims, and the Tomb of the Patriarchs, where the biblical figure Abraham is believed buried, has been a flashpoint of Israeli-Palestinian violence for decades.



Nigerian Television Authority
Office of the Executive Director, Engineering

PREQUALIFICATIONS AND TENDER FOR TELEVISION EQUIPMENT

Tenders are invited from manufacturer/manufacturer's representative to supply studio equipment to any of the following stations

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3. NTA Gboko
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2 nos complete studio camera chain, 8-12 input SDI video switcher, 12xl and 8xl Router/Matrix Switchers, 2 No. VDAs, WFM, Picture Monitor, Vid Patch Bay, Audio Patch bay, 2 No Equalizer, 1 HDD, Graphics, 2 VCR (recorders) microphones, Audio Mixer, Audio monitoring Amplifier sys, Headset, Installation materials. Sony, JVC, Panasonic, Behringer, AKG or Soundcraft preferable.

Each Tender to be accompanied in a sealed envelope by the following

1. Company registration with CAC
2. Evidence of Tax Payment
3. Evidence of VAT Payment
4. Registration with NTA
5. Evidence of Execution of similar project would be an added advantage

Each submission should be addressed to the office of the Executive Director Engineering and clearly marked at the right hand corner of the sealed envelope "NTA/PREQUALIFICATION" to reach him on or before two weeks from the date of this advert.

Only prequalified companies shall be invited.

Engr. Shuaib Nda Adama
Executive Director, Engineering
For: Director General

IN THE NAME OF ALLAH, THE MOST GRACIOUS, THE MOST MERCIFUL.
ALL PRAISE BE TO ALLAH [SWT], LORD OF THE WORLD.

The Forum of Chief Executive of Kano State Extra-Ministerial Departments, Parastatals, Government Owned Companies and Institutions wishes to express its profound gratitude and appreciation to His Royal Highness the Emir of Kano, Alh. (Dr) Ado Bayero CFR LLD GP FOR TURBANING THE EXECUTIVE Governor of Kano State His Excellency, Malam (Dr) Ibrahim Shekarau as the first **SARDAUNAN KANO**, in recognition for his immense contribution to the wellbeing of the people of Kano State through memorable and remarkable Programmes and Projects.

The Forum expresses its heartfelt appreciation to numerous good citizens of Nigeria that cut across all strata of the Nigerian nation and citizens of other countries who participated at the turbaning ceremony of the Sardauan Kano. Many thanks also to those who contributed in any way to the success of the ceremony.

The forum once again congratulates the Sardauan Kano on this great accomplishment. May Almighty Allah (SWT) continue to guide and protect the Sardauan Kano, Malam (Dr) Ibrahim Shekarau and bless him with the courage to forge ahead for greater national responsibility.

May Allah (SWT) bless us all, and
Jazakumullahu Khairan.

Mallam (Dr) Ibrahim Shekarau
Executive Governor, Kano State

The Emir of Kano
Alhaji (Dr) Ado Bayero, CFR, LLD, JP.

Signed:

Hon. Nasiru Muhammad
Pro term Chairman

Tasiu Abbas Umar
Coordinator

Arc. Haruna Yahaya
Pro term Secretary

International

46 likely dead in Indonesian landslide

RESCUERS used heavy digging equipment yesterday to move tons of dislodged clay strewn with splintered remnants of upended houses after a mudslide on Indonesia's main island of Java buried dozens, leaving at least 46 dead or missing, officials said.

Officials had earlier said 72 had probably died but later revised the figure down. At least 17 bodies have been pulled from the rubble, but many more are believed trapped.

"It seems there is no possibility of anyone among those 46 surviving," said National Disaster Management Agency spokesman Priyadi Kardono. The true toll could be higher.

Days of heavy rain prompted the landslide Tuesday at a mountainous tea plantation near the village of Tenjoljaya in Ciwidey district of West Java province.

Some village houses and plantation buildings survived unscathed above where terraced rows of tea plants cleaved off the hillside and slid to a plain below.

Scores of houses as well as the plantation office and warehouse were rolled and crushed as they slid down the hillside with a swath of top soil and mud hundreds of yards (meters) wide.



RESCUERS carry a dead victim of a landslide at Dewata village in Pasir Jambu, West Java, yesterday.

Turkish court charges 7 officers in coup plot

A Turkish court formally charged and jailed seven senior Turkish military officers yesterday for allegedly plotting years ago to overthrow the country's Islamic-leaning government.

The court in Istanbul sent four admirals, an army general and two staff colonels to jail pending a trial and released six other officers who still could be charged later. Prosecutors were still questioning several other high-ranking officers, including former chiefs of the Navy, Air Force and Special Forces.

About 50 commanders were detained Monday in Turkey's highest profile crackdown ever on the military after discovering alleged military plans drafted in 2003 to overthrow the government and gathering wiretap evidence to back that up. The Turkish military has ousted four governments since 1960.

The crackdown dramatically escalated tensions between Turkey's military-backed secular establishment and Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose government has strong electoral backing and the EU's support.

It also signalled that a major political shift in Turkey, NATO's sole Muslim member and a US ally. The country's stability is crucial for Washington and the EU, which want Turkey to develop into a mature democracy.



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Mr. President, You are Welcome Back



Our prayer is answered, as Allah (SWT) has granted various supplications and spiritual interventions for the quick recovery of Mr. President, Alhaji Umar Musa Yar'Adua, the President and commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Your Excellency, as you arrived, we pray to Allah once again, that He will enable you to continue on the achievements recorded so far on Amnesty in Niger Delta, Rule of Law, Electoral Reforms, Dredging of River Niger, Vision 20:2020 and consolidation of seven (7)- point Agenda, the high point of your administration.

May Allah grant you more strength and wisdom to continue piloting the affairs of this great country, Amen.

On behalf of the management and the entire staff of El-Bashir Surgical Nig. Ltd., We join millions of Your Excellency's well wishers to welcome you back home, sound and healthy.



Signed

Alhaji Bashir Namadina (Katukan Jega)
MD/CEO, El-Bashir Surgical Nig. Ltd.
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FEDERAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

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COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONS IN THE FEDERATION, HELD AT HYDRO HOTELS, MINNA, NIGER STATE FROM 7TH-11TH DECEMBER, 2009.

1.0 The 39th Conference of Civil Service in the Federation was held at Hydro Hotels, Minna, Niger State, from Monday, 7th to Friday 11th December, 2009 under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Chairman, Federal Civil Service Commission, Amb. Ahmed Al-Gazali, OON, mni, mda. The Conference was attended by delegates from the Federal and State Civil Service Commissions in the Federation. The main theme of the Conference was "Civil Service and Good Governance in the 21st Century: Role of the Civil Service Commissions in Nigeria" while the sub-themes were:

- (i) Enhancing Security operations in the Civil Service: Place of Information and Communication Technology (ICT);
- (ii) Unemployment Crisis and Youth Restiveness in Nigeria: A Rational Approach".

1.1 The opening ceremony which started with a welcome address by the Chairman, Niger State Civil Service Commission, Amb. Abdulrahman Gara, OFR, was followed by an address by the Honourable Chairman, Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC), Amb. Ahmed Al-Gazali, OON, mni, mda. In his goodwill message, the Head of Civil Service of the Federation articulated some key achievements of his office which have been made possible through a historic collaboration with the Federal Civil Service Commission (FCSC). The achievements have deepened and broadened the on-going Civil Service Reform process. Specific mention was made of the tenure system for permanent Secretaries and Directors. He noted that renewed emphasis has been placed on training and re-training of Civil Servants to qualify for promotion, as it is in the military service of the country.

1.2 The Chief Servant of Niger State, Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu, OON, (Talban Minna), who declared the Conference open, identified the civil service as one of his passions and expressed tremendous regards for what the service represents that is, the engine of growth and development of any nation. The Governor acknowledged that the civil service is the only institution that is saddled with the responsibility of ensuring continuity in the implementation of development policies and programmes, regardless of changes in political administration. He identified the civil service as the most robust instrument for sustaining the unity and oneness of the country. He then charged the Conference to make every effort to restore the high esteem by which the civil service was once held in the course of their subsequent deliberations. He concluded his address with highlights of his determination to turn Niger State Civil Service around for the better during his tenure.

1.3 During its technical Session, the Conference received two thought provoking and electrifying papers, delivered by Ajhaji Ibrahim Damcida, retired Federal Permanent Secretary and Dr. Umar Bindir, Director-General, National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NOTAP). At the end of its deliberations, the Conference adopted the following resolutions:

- Aware of the importance of Legal Units in the conduct of the affairs of the civil service, Conference urged states that have not established Legal Units in their Commissions, to do so as a matter of utmost importance.

- Recognizing that the on-going public service reform is necessary for restoring the high esteem of the civil service and ensuring quality service delivery, the Conference urged that the momentum should be sustained with particular reference to reforms in ICT Sector and e-processes.

- Observing that the unemployment situation, particularly among the country's youths and able-bodied men is unacceptable, Conference appeals to all levels of governance to expedite action on the on-going efforts to address this challenge, with particular reference to increasing power generation capacity in the country.

- Noting the wide disparity in conditions of service between the public service and the private sector, Conference called for concerted measures at all levels of governance to reduce the disparity as an integral component of the on-going reform.

- Noting that the use of Consultants, in many cases worsened the issues which they were supposed to address, Conference advised that wherever competent hands exist in the service, the use of Consultants should be severely discouraged.

- Conference commended Government at all levels on the serious attention being given to the training and re-training of civil servants. Accordingly, it urged for sustenance of this momentum in order to make the service more alive and responsive. It requested that the new training modules being prepared by the Office of the Head of Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF), be made available to the states for possible adoption / adaptation.

- Conference noted with concern, the problem being encountered by states' pensioners in drawing their Federal share. Conference therefore appealed to the Federal Government to take urgent action to address the Situation.

- Conference noted with appreciation, the effort by the Federal Civil Service Commission to propose some amendment to the 1999 constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as it relates to civil service provisions and urged the Federal Civil Service Commission to forward the proposal as amended.

- Finally, the Conference greatly appreciated the government and people of Niger State for their exemplary hospitality and exceptional support. It also acknowledged the Federal and State Governments' support and sponsorship of the 39th Conference of the Civil Service Commissions in the Federation.

- The 40th Annual Conference of Civil Service Commissions in the Federation is billed to take place in Osogbo, Osun State of Nigeria.

CONFERENCE OF CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONS
IN THE FEDERATION
MINNA
10TH DECEMBER, 2009



**NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
THE PRESIDENCY**

No. 8, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Maitama – Abuja
Pmb 357, Garki – Abuja

INVITATION TO TENDER

1. INTRODUCTION

The National Emergency Management Agency intends to install Safety and ICT Facilities at its newly renovated Head-Office Building (and the Zonal Offices, where applicable) in order to enhance effective communication, security and safety measures. As such, the Agency invites qualified contractors to bid for the under-listed job lots:

2. SCOPE OF WORK

| LOT | DESCRIPTION OF WORK/TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS |
|-------|--|
| LOT 1 | INSTALLATION OF POWER BACKUP SYSTEM (HQTRS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connected load – 34250W • Hours of run time/day – 67.5 • DC/AC Pure Sine Wave inverter/charger – 48VDC/230VAC • Inverter of minimum rating of 6KVA per floor • Minimum Inverter surge rating – 2 x output power • Continuous charge rate – minimum of 85A • 200 A 12V deep cycle maintenance free battery • Depth of discharge – 33% • Battery bank • Display panel |
| LOT-2 | INSTALLATION OF FIRE DETECTION AND ALARM SYSTEM (HQTRS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 No. 8-zone fire alarm and control panel • 125 Nos. smoke detectors • 14 Nos. wall mounted sounders • 15 Nos. addressable call points • 8 Nos. fire hose reels and cabinets • 20 Nos. chemical powder fire extinguishers • 2 Nos. 12v batteries • Hose reels are to be connected to mains water supply and the Agency's borehole |
| Lot 3 | INSTALLATION OF LOCAL AREA NETWORK (LAN) AND INTERCOM (HQTRS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 120 Nos. network nodes • 8 Nos. Layer 3 switch with fiber ports for network segmentation • Wireless Access Points • Same trunking pipe for LAN and Intercom • 100 Nos. Intercom points • 75 Nos. telephone handsets • Integration of IP phones with existing Panasonic D500 PABX • Re-installation of existing servers |
| LOT 4 | INSTALLATION OF CLOSE CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV) CAMERAS (HQTRS): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cameras are required for perimeter and internal security coverage of NEMA building. • Cameras must have night vision capability. • Rugged and all weather capability. |

| | |
|-------|---|
| LOT 5 | INSTALLATION OF HF CODAN BASE STATION RADIOS (HQTRS & ZONAL OFFICES): Supply and installation of 10 Nos. HF Codan base station radios (voice and data capable) at Head -Office and 7 Zonal offices (at Abuja, Kaduna, Jos, Maiduguri, Lagos, Enugu and Port -Harcourt) with the following specifications: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGT SRx 2012 RF Unit • Codan 3020 transceiver power supply • Codan 3212 modem • NGT SRx 2020 Handset • Broadband antenna with coaxial cable • 45ft lattice mast (including earthing) • Desktop computer/printer/scanner |
|-------|---|

NOTE:- Tenders must be submitted separately for each Lot specified above and should be indicated as such.

3. TENDER CRITERIA

Each tender of interested companies should include the following:

- Company profile, including names phone numbers and e-mail addresses;
- Evidence of Incorporation;
- Tax Clearance Certificates for the last three years;
- Evidence of payment of non-refundable processing fee of N10,000.00 to the National Emergency Management Agency;
- Codan and NCC Certifications (for LOT 5 only).

4. SUBMISSION OF LETTERS OF INTEREST/TENDERS

All letters of interest/tenders (with all the supporting documents) must be submitted in a properly sealed and secured envelope. They should clearly indicate the lot number and work description, and must be submitted not later than 11th March 2010. They should be addressed to:

**The Director-General,
National Emergency Management Agency,
No. 8, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent,
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IMPORTANT NOTICE: This advertisement shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of NEMA, nor shall it entails any bidder to make any claim(s) whatsoever and seek indemnity from NEMA by virtue of that bidder having responded to this advertisement.

Signed
Charles A. Agbo (PhD),
Director (Planning, Research & Forecasting)



TENDERS ARE INVITED

FROM SUITABLY QUALIFIED COMPANIES
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NIGERIA'S 50TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

The Federal Ministry of Information and Communications invites interested and reputable companies with relevant experience to tender for production of compendium to commemorate Nigeria 50th Independence Anniversary. The publication will highlight the nation's journey so far, her history, achievements and challenges since independence as well as her people and aspirations. It will also feature photographs on the achievements in the various sectors of the economy, areas of tourist attractions, arts and culture, historical monuments and achievements of Nigerians in the Diaspora.

Features of the publication are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Size | A4 – (31cm x 23 cm) |
| Pagination | 800 pages |
| Cover | Full process colour printed on hard cover with gloss lamination |
| Inner Pages | Art paper 115gsm with full process colour |
| Colour Separation | Full process colour |
| Binding | Perfect binding, fully stitched and trimmed to size |
| Copies | 20,000 copies |
| Sort Copies | 5,000 copies of CD ROM with sleeve |

SUBMISSION

All completed tenders should be submitted in two separate envelopes inside a third sealed envelope submitted in the office of the Deputy Director, Procurement, Federal Ministry of Information and Communications, 9th Floor, Radio House, Central Area, Abuja on or before 10th March, 2010.

Signed
Permanent Secretary
For: Federal Ministry of Information & Communications



NIGER STATE GOVERNMENT

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
NIGER STATE, MINNA.

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR DRILLING BOREHOLES IN NIGER STATE

The Ministry of Water Resources Niger State, Minna, hereby invites interested and reputable **CONTRACTORS** to be considered for pre-qualification on drilling of boreholes across the State. The boreholes are to be drilled in rural communities, Hospital/Health Centre, Market, School, Emir Palaces etc, across the State.

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS ARE:-

- Evidence of incorporation with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Evidence of registration with the Niger State Due Process Office/Ministry of Water Resources.
- Company Audited Account for three years
- Experience/Technical Qualification of the key personnel
- Equipments and Technological capacity
- Similar projects executed and evidence of knowledge of the Industry
- VAT Registration and Evidence of past VAT Remittance
- Office/Address

NOTE

1. Applicants are requested to bring along original document for sighting during the opening of pre-qualification documents.
2. This invitation for pre-qualification is not an invitation to tender. The pre-qualification documents must be in a sealed envelop clearly marked "pre-qualification for drilling of boreholes in any of the 25 Local Government Area of Niger State.
3. Only pre-qualified **BIDDERS** shall be allowed to tender for borehole drilling
4. Pre-qualification documents shall be submitted on or before 10th March 2010 by 12noon, to the office of Permanent Secretary Ministry of Water Resources. Opening shall take place by 12noon the same date at the conference room of the Ministry of Water Resources.

Signed
ENGR. MUSA HASSAN, FNSE
Permanent Secretary



FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTRE, BIDA.

P.M.B. 14, BIDA, NIGER STATE.
e-mail : fmcbida@yahoo.co.uk
www.fmcbida.org

SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES FOR EMPLOYMENT INTERVIEW

This is to inform the under listed applicants that they have been shortlisted for the employment interview exercise in the above named hospital, scheduled to hold between 15th - 17th March, 2010 in the Conference Hall of the Centre at 8.00am on the dates appointed against their names

Candidates are requested to appear for the aptitude test /interview with the original copies of their credentials, Certificate of citizenship and writing materials.

Candidates are also note that they shall be responsible for their transportation and accommodation as may be required during the exercise.

DAY 1: 15/03/2010

| S/N | REGISTERED NURSE/MIDWIFE NAME | STATE |
|-----|-------------------------------|----------|
| 1 | SCHOLASTICA CHAWAI ZUBAIRU | NIGER |
| 2 | NWACHUKWU I. JOSEPHINE | EBONYI |
| 3 | MEMUNAT MOH'D | NIGER |
| 4 | RAMATUA. SALIHU | NIGER |
| 5 | IGAH AUGUSTINA | BENUE |
| 6 | AISHAT BOLANLE ABDULKAREEM | OSUN |
| 7 | NNADI PERPETUA | ANAMBRA |
| 8 | MARKUS SUZANA | KADUNA |
| 9 | MATILDA MARK | KADUNA |
| 10 | GIMBA ISA KOLO | KOGI |
| 11 | HABIBA ALIYU LEMU | NIGER |
| 12 | NNABUICHE CHINYERE | ABIA |
| 13 | IGODO CHINYERE DOROTHY | ABIA |
| 14 | FASOLA SUSAN OLUBUNMI | OSUN |
| 15 | PATIENCE UGOCHI IKEH | IMO |
| 16 | MEMUNAT MOHAMMED | NIGER |
| 17 | MAGAYAKI POLYCARP | TARABA |
| 18 | MRS. HALIMAT ATIKU | NIGER |
| 19 | OTUWE VICTORIA I. | KOGI |
| 20 | BADMUS AFISAT OMOLOLA | LAGOS |
| 21 | HARUNA LANTI | KADUNA |
| 22 | MADU RAHEAL | KWARA |
| 23 | JAMES TSADO | NIGER |
| 24 | JUMMAI MANZO | GOMBE |
| 25 | OLAYEMI ELIZABETH F. | OYO |
| 26 | SUNDAY ACHIMI | KOGI |
| 27 | MARY HARUNA | NIGER |
| 28 | HAJARA IBRAHIM | KADUNA |
| 29 | SHERIFF LYNDA SIN | KADUNA |
| 30 | IDRIS ADAMU BELLO | NIGER |
| 31 | NWAOBOLI N. THERESA | DELTA |
| 32 | ADANYI MEMBER LUCY | BENUE |
| 33 | SHABA OMKHAFFE RACHAEL | KWARA |
| 34 | BAMISAYE THOMAS O. | EKITI |
| 35 | BALOGUN OLUSHOLA | KOGI |
| 36 | MOH'D ALI BALEWA | YOBE |
| 37 | RUTH PAUL MODUPE | KOGI |
| 38 | SALIHU RAKIYAT | KOGI |
| 39 | DAVID F. ELIZABETH | NIGER |
| 40 | ASONGO GRACE M. | BENUE |
| 41 | BABALOLA KADIRI | ABEOKUTA |
| 42 | BABALOLA ELIZABETH A. | OYO |
| 43 | AISAGBONCHI ESTHER | EDO |
| 44 | AYUBA ISHAYA MWADA | BORNO |
| 45 | ISAAC O. OOTOYIBO | KOGI |
| 46 | LINDA MAKUN DUNG | PLATEAU |
| 47 | MONDAY NAKAKA | NIGER |
| 48 | TAGWAI P. CHARITY | KADUNA |
| 49 | SAMUEL YEJIDE ROSELINE | KOGI |
| 50 | USMAN MUNIRAT FUMILAYO | KOGI |
| 51 | IBRAHIM A. ASIFAT | OSUN |
| 52 | MUSA IRIMIYA | KADUNA |
| 53 | ATAGUBA ILEMONA | KOGI |
| 54 | EZE D.A. | ENUGU |
| 55 | UMAR M. IBRAHIM | KOGI |
| 56 | MOSES ELIZABETH | OSUN |
| 57 | BIODUN EMMANUEL DANIEL | KOGI |
| 58 | MARYAM NWADI ABUBAKAR | IMO |
| 59 | ADENUGA BUKOLA A. | KOGI |
| 60 | OKUKU ENEYAMIRE SARAH | KOGI |
| 61 | ADEPOJU ADEYINKA REMI | KWARA |
| 62 | PERPETUAL NNEDI | ANAMBRA |
| 63 | FATIMA TALATU UMARU | NIGER |
| 64 | FATIMA ISAH | NIGER |
| 65 | ADEOJO FUNMI GRACE | ONDO |
| 66 | AINA TOSIN J. | OSUN |
| 67 | BERNARD M. OLOWOOKERE | KOGI |
| 68 | ADEGO G. FUNMI | KOGI |
| 69 | MRS DORCAS OLOYADE | OYO |
| 70 | BOSEDE ADEOLA KEHINDE | KWARA |
| 71 | HASSANA H.A. UMAR | NIGER |
| 72 | MARYAM NWADI ABUBAKAR | IMO |
| 73 | OLATUNJI R.O | OYO |
| 74 | EUNICE I. OMKHAFFE | EDO |
| 75 | ADEMO LA ADEWUMI | KWARA |
| 76 | AREMU MODUPE JOKE | KWARA |
| 77 | SAMUEL M. AKINS | KOGI |

RADIOGRAPHERS

| S/N | NAME | STATE |
|-----|-------------------|-------------|
| 1 | EKOWA PRINCE J.C. | ENUGU |
| 2 | UBI KANU EYONG | CROSS RIVER |
| 3 | UZU C. DAVID | DELTA |

DAY 2 : 16/03/2010

ADMINISTRATION/ ACCOUNTANTS/AUDITORS/ PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

ADMINISTRATION

| S/N | NAME | STATE |
|-----|---------------------------|----------|
| 1 | ATTAH HENRY ATTAH | BENUE |
| 2 | HAJIA GANA MAINA | BORNO |
| 3 | BWALA YAKUBU | BORNO |
| 4 | ELIZABETH ONYENZE | IMO |
| 5 | YAHAYA ABUBAKAR | KEBBI |
| 6 | TOLOGBONSE SAMSON BIDEMI | KOGI |
| 7 | UMORU MICHAEL PETER | KOGI |
| 8 | ODAIBO EKUNDAYO FRANCIS | KOGI |
| 9 | KAYODE GRACE ABIMBOLA | KOGI |
| 10 | ALATISHE AARON O. | KWARA |
| 11 | ALIYU UMAR ODU | NASARAWA |
| 12 | MOH'D BABANGIDA MUSA | NASARAWA |
| 13 | JIBRIN IBRAHIM OJOKO | NASARAWA |
| 14 | OBAGU OMOLE | NASARAWA |
| 15 | ZABURA UMAR KHADIJA | NIGER |
| 16 | USMAN MUSTAPHA | NIGER |
| 17 | DAUDA ISYAKU | NIGER |
| 18 | MUSON YELWA MOHAMMED | NIGER |
| 19 | HANAFI UMAR MOHAMMED | NIGER |
| 20 | YISA NATHANIEL GANA | NIGER |
| 21 | HASSAN IBRAHIM | NIGER |
| 22 | MAMA PATRICIA A. | NIGER |
| 23 | ABUBAKAR M. KUDU | NIGER |
| 24 | DAN-AZUMI SULAIMAN | NIGER |
| 25 | MOHAMMED ABDULATEEF | NIGER |
| 26 | IBRAHIM DANJUMA SALIHU | NIGER |
| 27 | ADIGUN OMOLOLA NAOMI | OYO |
| 28 | AKARI ALALI | RIVERS |
| 29 | MOH'D SALISU USMAN BOKANI | NIGER |
| 30 | OWONIBI TITILAYO LOLA | KOGI |
| 31 | JULIANA JAMES ADENIRAN | KWARA |
| 32 | WAZIRI NATHANIEL WINSTON | ADAMAWA |
| 33 | BABAS GODIYA | BAUCHI |
| 34 | HASSAN NURUDEEN MOH'D | BAUCHI |
| 35 | ADOLE ANNA | BENUE |
| 36 | WABA EMMANUEL C. | BORNO |
| 37 | ISAH DAUDA | FCT |
| 38 | ANDREW ISREAL | KADUNA |
| 39 | DOGO SIMON JATAU | KADUNA |
| 40 | SANI KASSIM ABDUL MUMIN | KANO |
| 41 | ABDULAHY YUSUF AHMAD | KANO |
| 42 | ANUWE EREMA BERNARD | KOGI |
| 43 | BANKOLE IMOLEAYO EZEKIEL | LAGOS |
| 44 | LUBUNGA BALA SAMBO | TARABA |
| 45 | Anyajike Dominic D. | IMO |
| 46 | ARUME EMMANUEL | BENUE |
| 47 | MOSUGU FUNMILAYO J. | KOGI |
| 48 | IDOWU CLARA ADEBUKOLA | OSUN |
| 49 | VICTOR TOYIN ODEKUNLE | KWARA |

PHARMACY TECHNICIAN

| S/N | NAME | STATE |
|-----|------------------------|---------|
| 1 | IDRIS YAKUBU IBRAHIM | KWARA |
| 2 | OLUREMI TEMITOPE F. | KWARA |
| 3 | ESTHER G.N. SULE | KWARA |
| 4 | JOHN CHUNG ALEX | PLATEAU |
| 5 | MUSA ADAM | NIGER |
| 6 | UMAR SANDA ZAKARI | NIGER |
| 7 | JIBRIL ALHASSAN | NIGER |
| 8 | TIJANI SAIDU | NIGER |
| 9 | ANCHE M. HUSSAINI | KADUNA |
| 10 | BASHIR TANKO | NIGER |
| 11 | EPHRAIM OKECHUKWU IBE | ANAMBRA |
| 12 | ABAH LAWRENCE | KOGI |
| 13 | ADETOJI GRACE OLUBUNMI | KWARA |
| 14 | ADELEJE KEHINDE M. | EKITI |
| 15 | YAHAYA SARKI | KADUNA |
| 16 | IDOWU BOLARINWAA. | OGUN |
| 17 | DANBO YI PRISCILLA | KADUNA |
| 18 | PELEG MOSES | KADUNA |
| 19 | ISAH USMAN | NIGER |
| 20 | ILIYA NA'ALI | KASTINA |
| 21 | YAKUBU SAMILA | KASTINA |
| 22 | DORCAS T. IBRAHIM | KADUNA |
| 23 | IBRAHIM K. ACHASSAN | NIGER |
| 24 | KANTOIK GRAHAM | KADUNA |

FINANCE

| S/N | ACCOUNT/AUDIT | STATE |
|-----|-------------------------|----------|
| 1 | AISHA LAMINDE BABANKOGI | NIGER |
| 2 | ANNA DANLAMI | NASARAWA |
| 3 | Awulu Paul Ochoi | Kogi |
| 4 | USMAN IBRAHIM | KWARA |
| 5 | MOHAMMED SHEHU | KWARA |
| 6 | IMADE HAPPINESS O. MRS | EDO |
| 7 | Onyenze Ifeoma Ahaneku | IMO |
| 8 | SULEIMAN HADIZA | NIGER |
| 9 | OGUNYEMI O. ANTHONY | KWARA |
| 10 | UMAR MOHAMMED | KEBBI |
| 11 | VICTOR KATUN AHMADU | NIGER |
| 12 | ALH ISHIAKU JAFARU | NIGER |
| 13 | MUHAMMAD DANJUMA ALI | NIGER |
| 14 | KAWU ABUBAKAR A. | NIGER |
| 15 | ANDY DANGANA | NIGER |
| 16 | IBRAHIM MOHAMMED USMAN | NIGER |

| | | |
|----|------------------------|----------|
| 17 | MUSA BABA BIDA AWOSU | NIGER |
| 18 | OLUDA DAVID | KOGI |
| 19 | JIMOH YUNUSA O. INGWOH | KOGI |
| 20 | MUSA ALI KUDI | KOGI |
| 21 | BATURE MUSA DAVID | PLATEAU |
| 22 | ABDULRAHMAN ABDULLAHI | NIGER |
| 23 | ADEDEJI TUNJI | KWARA |
| 24 | BADON ANTHONY KPOOBARI | RIVER |
| 25 | DANJUMA MUH. ALI | NIGER |
| 26 | ANNA DANLAMI | NASARAWA |
| 27 | BABALOLA. EZEKIEL | OYO |
| 28 | OKE EZEKIEL ADEYINKA | EKITI |

DAY 3: 17/03/2010

MEDICAL LAB. SCIENTIST, SCIENTIFIC OFFICERS, LAB. TECHNICIANS, STORES AND CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARIES

MED. LAB. SCIENTIST/SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

| S/N | NAME | STATE |
|-----|-------------------------|-------------|
| 1 | SHOLAANNA IGUNNU | KOGI |
| 2 | ASUQUO CHRISTOPHER E. | AKWA IBOM |
| 3 | ACHU ETTA TAKIM | CROSS RIVER |
| 4 | DASOFUNJO KAYODE | KWARA |
| 5 | AKANBIOLA I. OLUWABUMI | KOGI |
| 6 | FATIMA IBRAHIM F | KWARA |
| 7 | ADESANYA SOLOMON ADEOLA | OGUN |
| 8 | UZOKWE OKECHUKWU PEACE | ANAMBRA |
| 9 | BANSO FOLAKE BOSE | OYO |
| 10 | BAMBE OYELEYE THOMAS | KWARA |

MED. LAB. TECHNICIAN

| S/N | NAME | STATE |
|-----|----------------------|---------|
| 1 | KOLAWOLE DADA | ONDO |
| 2 | GRACE A. JONADAB | NIGER |
| 3 | ISRAEL OLUWADARE A. | KWARA |
| 4 | OYEKAN MARY O. | OYO |
| 5 | DANIEL CYRUS | KADUNA |
| 6 | BANJO O. JOSEPH | OGUN |
| 7 | OLORUNFEMI HELEN F. | KOGI |
| 8 | CHIBUEZE K. ADITE | ABIA |
| 9 | ISMAIL A. ISHAQ | KWARA |
| 10 | AGABIO DEBORAH O. | KOGI |
| 11 | ATOFARATI KUDIRAT A | KWARA |
| 12 | IZANG BLESSING PETER | PLATEAU |
| 13 | JAMES JOHN | NIGER |
| 14 | AJUMA AJIBILI | KOGI |
| 15 | COMFORT JOSEPH | KADUNA |
| 16 | OMOTOSHO NIMOTAA. | KWARA |
| 17 | ROSELYN AIYEDUN | KOGI |

CONFIDENTIAL SECRETARIES

| S/NO | NAME | STATE |
|------|----------------------|---------|
| 1 | ASMAU MOH'D KUDU | NIGER |
| 2 | HARUNA REBECAH | NIGER |
| 3 | BABA NDAGI | NIGER |
| 4 | HAJARAT MOH'D (MRS.) | NIGER |
| 5 | CHRISTOPHER JAMOK | PLATEAU |
| 6 | YAHAYA ARINOLA | KWARA |
| 7 | GANA ESTHER J. | NIGER |
| 8 | ESTHER MOMOH USMAN | NIGER |
| 9 | ELIZABETH ABU | KOGI |
| 10 | EDOTA USMAN UMARU | NIGER |

STORE OFFICERS/ASST. STORE OFFICERS

| S/NO | NAME | STATE |
|------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1 | ABUBAKAR UMAR | NIGER |
| 2 | AHMED LAWRENCE | NIGER |
| 3 | BALA ALFA | NIGER |
| 4 | SULE ALHAJI MOHAMMED | NIGER |
| 5 | USMAN IBRAHIM SHEHU | KWARA |
| 6 | DANIEL GANA | NIGER |
| 7 | OWOLABI SUNDAY EMMANUEL | KWARA |
| 8 | MUSA BABA MOHAMMED | NIGER |
| 9 | ADAMU ALHAJI DWALE | NIGER |
| 10 | JOSHUA EZEKIEL NDA | NIGER |
| 11 | YUSUF B. ABOKI ZUN | NIGER |
| 12 | JULIANA JOSEPH | BENUE |
| 13 | KOLO LEAN N. | NIGER |
| 14 | HABIBA MOHAMMED | NIGER |
| 15 | UMAR MOHAMMED | NIGER |
| 16 | ANWALU MOHAMMED | NIGER |
| 17 | SHETTIMA MUSA HADIZA | NIGER |
| 18 | IDI AHMADU ALIYU | NIGER |
| 19 | ABUBAKAR SADIQ UMAR | NIGER |
| 20 | ABDULATEEF SHITTU | KWARA |
| 21 | ABDUL-AZEE Z IBRAHIM | KEBBI |
| 22 | TABITI ABIHA | NASARAWA |
| 23 | KOLAJO ELIZBETH B. | KOGI |
| 24 | YAHAYA UMAR | NIGER |
| 25 | FOLORUNSHO LYDIA TOYIN | KWARA |
| 26 | LAWAL ABDULFATAI | KWARA |
| 27 | AHMED ABDULKASIM | NIGER |

For further information please contact:
Bar. C.P. Ogbuji on 08057198437
Mr. Richard M. Apata on 08032849576

Signed:
A.M Benu
Head, Administration

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536



FOUNDERS of Petroflow Intergrated Consultants after signing of Cooperation Agreement in their London Office: (L-R) Mal. Zilkifl Abba, GM InterAct Activity Management UK; Mr. Steward Wordsworth, Dr. Lekan Aluko and Vice President of Aceton Group UK, Mr. Paul Alock

Oil reforms: 'Shell only concerned about profit'

By Hamisu Muhammad

A world renowned energy consultant, Dr. Pedro Van Meurs has described Shell's opposition to the fiscal provisions of the PIB as contained in the government memorandum to the National Assembly, as one induced by the desire to make more profit for its shareholders.

Speaking at the ongoing Nigeria Oil and Gas Conference/ Exhibition in Abuja, Meurs said: "There is no truth in the allegation that PIB fiscal system is the harshest in the world or that it will halt investment.

I have been advising governments all over the world for over 40 years and I know that this is a battle whereby the oil company will try to get out of the parliament, the highest possible share.

Van Meurs was responding to Ann Pickard the outgoing Regional Executive Vice President, Shell Exploration and Production, Africa, who on Tuesday while delivering a paper at the 2010 NOG, described the PIB as "a cumbersome document that lacks insight into the very basics of our industry."

While forecasting a bleak future for the oil and gas industry post-PIB, Pickard also criticized the fiscal provisions of the proposed law which she described as the "harshest in the world".

But Van Meurs who incidentally is from Netherlands, the home country of Shell, stated that there is nothing in the proposed law that will scuttle future investment in the industry.

World Bank boosts small businesses in Nigeria with N5 trillion

WORLD Bank grants for Medium, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) in Nigeria between 2008 and 2010 has reached 31.1 billion dollars (about N5 trillion), an official said.

The Team Leader of the World Bank Business Development Service (BDS) in Nigeria, Mr Emeka Ile, gave the information in Kaduna on Tuesday.

He said the grants were aimed at stimulating the growth of MSMEs, adding that the beneficiaries were ventures that were providing relevant services to communities.

"These grants are performance based and are only released to functional organisations upon the fulfilment of certain conditions."

He said the bank had established three MSME pilot schemes in Kaduna, Lagos and Abia for effective monitoring of projects around the country. He said the BDS had interests in Agriculture, the investment climate and in the public-private partnership.

Ile said the BDS was also concerned about the value added chain and non-financial services and to that end, was collaborating with Oceanic Bank Plc to serve as a

service provider for the scheme.

He said the BDS had encouraged the growing of Catfish in all the three states where it ran its pilot scheme.

The team leader said the bank had received grant commitments under the fund from 9,473 MSMEs within the period from its providers. He said the bank was training service providers, including banks, on the scheme.

He said the banks were poor managers of the MSME and explained that it was the responsibility of the World Bank to train them. (NAN).

Petroflow opens office in Nigeria

By Sunday Williams

A Nigerian UK-based oil and gas upstream engineering and flow assurance consultancy, Petroflow Integrated Consultants (UK) Limited has setup an office in Nigeria.

As part of effort to support Nigerian Government's effort initiative in broadening and welcoming foreign investors, Petro-

flow last month, signed a cooperation agreement with InterAct Activity Management, an Aceton company who provide a broad range of professional engineering and project management support services to the international oil and gas industry. The alliance is designed to enhance local capacity and provide services that range from field development through the production phase to facilitate decommissioning and abandonment.

Trust Index

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|
| Inflation | → | 12.3% |
| GDP | → | 6.90% |
| Budget | → | N3.1tr |
| External Reserves Acct | → | \$41bn |
| Excess Crude Acct | → | \$4.2bn |
| Poverty Ratio | → | 54.4% |
| Monetary Policy Rate | → | 6% |
| Banks | → | 24 |
| Oil Price | → | \$78 a barrel |
| Power Supply | → | 2, 200MW |
| Oil output per day | → | 1.9mbd |
| Broad Money Supply | → | N10,730,793.1m |
| Credit to Private Sector | → | N10,155,442.0m |
| Inter-Bank Rate | → | 2.2600% |
| Treasury Bills | → | 2.645% |
| Deposit Rate | → | 12.56% |
| Prime Lending Rate | → | 19.03% |

Stock Market Index

Date: Wednesday, February 24, 2010

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Index: | 22,957.25 |
| Deals: | 7,122 |
| Volume: | 443,068,331 |
| Value: | N 2,743,544,891.21 |
| Cap.: | N 5,529,062,221,646.92 |

CBN

CBN EXCHANGE RATES

2/12/2010

| | Buying(NGN) | Central (NGN) | Selling (NGN) |
|-----------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| CFA | 0.2897 | 0.2997 | 0.3097 |
| DANISH KRONER | 26.8799 | 26.971 | 27.062 |
| EURO | 200.1899 | 200.8681 | 201.5462 |
| POUNDS STERLING | 230.3512 | 231.3322 | 232.1132 |
| RIYAL | 39.36 | 39.4934 | 39.6267 |
| SDR | 226.2265 | 226.9929 | 227.7592 |
| SWISS FRANC | 136.5655 | 137.0281 | 137.4907 |
| US DOLLAR | 147.6 | 148.1 | 148.6 |
| WAUA | 226.801 | 227.5693 | 228.3376 |
| YEN | 1.6378 | 1.6434 | 1.6489 |

BUREAU DE CHANGE RATES

| BUYING | |
|---------|-----------|
| DOLLAR |N151 |
| EURO |N207 |
| POUNDS |N240 |
| SELLING | |
| DOLLAR |N152 |
| EURO |N209 |
| POUNDS |N242 |

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

Business/Agric

Agric: Nigeria earns N57bn

From Mohammed Shosanya, Lagos

NIGERIA earned \$378 million (about N56.7 billion) from export of agricultural produce in 2009, the Federal Ministry of Commerce and Industry has said.

The report was contained in the ministry's export statistics obtained by our correspondent yesterday.

According to the statistics, the export leaped by 15 per cent over \$341.8 million (about N51.2 billion) recorded in 2008.

It also said the nation's total exported commodities jumped from 271 million tonnes recorded in 2008 to 282.4 million tonnes in

2009.

According to the report, some of the produce exported during the period under review to include cocoa beans, cocoa butter, cocoa cake, ginger, sesame seeds and cashew nuts.

Others include; sheanuts, cotton lint, palm kernel cake, shea butter, cashew kernel, rubber, chillies and hibiscus flower, among others.

The statistics further revealed that some produce such as cocoa and beans export had increase from 159,189 tonnes in 2008 to 201,643.5 tonnes in 2009.

Palm kernel, according to the statistics, also increased from 1,693 tonnes the previous year to

4,860 tonnes in 2009

Reacting to the development, Mr John Adetola, the Head of Federal Produce Inspection Department, expressed satisfaction over the increase in the export of some of the produce.

He said the impressive record to the department was due to crack-down on smugglers who engage in shady means of exporting produce.

"We have major registered where houses and anyone that stocks commodity illegally and transport directly to the various ports for shipment was discouraged," he said.

The Cocoa Processor Association of Nigeria, (COPAN) said

that the semi processed commodity dropped because of high cost of diesel and inconsistency in payment of Export Promotion Grant (EEG).

The Executive Secretary of the association, Mr Felix Olajide, said that EEG was put in place to cushion the harsh impact of doing business in Nigeria.

Mr Tunji Owoeye, the President of National Cashew Association of Nigeria (NCAN), blamed low yield of cashew nuts on aged cashew trees

He advised the government to encourage cashew tree regeneration and motivate the general public to return to the farm to boost export trade.

Katsina sells 2000mt of fertilizer to farmers

By Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

KATSINA State government is to sell 2,200 metric tonnes of fertilizer to irrigation farmers under the 2009/2010 irrigation scheme.

The state Governor Ibrahim Shema who launched the sales at Daberam dam irrigation site in Daura local government area of the state Tuesday said the move become imperative for the state to move from rain dependant to dry season farming towards the realisation of 6,000 hectares of irrigation target this year.

Governor Shema who described it as part of his administration's resolve to empower youth through agriculture assured of their readiness to adopt special measure that will ensure the fertilizer reaches the actual target beneficiaries.

He disclosed that half of the amount was produced by youth at the four fertilizer blending plants established by the state in four local government areas of the state, while the rest was complimented from the fertilizer in the state's irrigation farming stock.

He said the fertilizer is to be sold at the state's controlled price of one thousand five hundred naira per bag, saying his administration will not treat lightly on any attempt to subvert the process by any group or individual.

NACRDB asks cassava growers to help recover N234m loan

By Tina A. Hassan

THE Nigerian Agricultural Cooperative and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) has called on the Nigerian Cassava Growers Association (NCGA) to assist it recover loans worth N234.410 million given to its members in 2007 but which are yet to be paid.

NACRDB and the Flour Mills Association of Nigeria (FMAN) had approved a collaborative loan of N 234.410 million to be disbursed to NCGA members but some of them who accessed the loan were defaulting.

President of NCGA Aliyu Boboi has advised members of the body to join hands with the bank in fishing out members who defaulted in paying their loan so that the bank's confidence in the association would be reawakened and members that are yet to benefit from such loans can be able to do so.

Chairing the National Executive Councils' meeting recently, Boboi said a loan recovery committee has been constituted to ensure a speedy recovery of the loan from the defaulting members and the NACRDB headquarter in Kaduna has given a directive to its zonal managers to accord the farmers the necessary cooperation in recovering the loan.



SWEET Potatoes

Farmers to boost potato irrigation

By Tina A. Hassan

FARMERS around Nigeria have begun collaborative effort tagged "love Potato Campaign" with stakeholders in agricultural to ensure the farming of potato using irrigation in the dry season for an all year yield.

National President of the Potato farmers' Association of Nigeria (POFAN) Chief Dan Okafor said this in Abuja weekend while inaugurating a three-man organizing committee that would oversee the flagging off of the campaign billed to take place next month.

According to the President, potato farming holds a very large potential for the transformation of agriculture and the overall economy of Nigeria if well harnessed. He said although the Federal Government has continued to display nonchalance to potato cultivation "we as the farmers have decide to come together and join our resources to see that we promote the potato farming in Nigeria."

He said the committee is to make all the necessary preparations and ensure that the campaign which would kick start in Abuja and be replicated in all the states and local governments of the federation is successful.

The terms of reference given to the committee include ensuring that it source money for the production of flies that would be used during the campaign, ensure that a similar committee is constituted in all the states and to report to the President within three weeks of its inauguration.

Chairman of the committee Emmanuel Nwafor assured the farmers that the committee would do its best to ensure that the purpose of setting up the committee is achieved.

USAID, IITA to train farmers on safe use of herbicides

By Tina A. Hassan

THE United States Agency for International Development (USAID)-MARKET survey is collaborating with the International Institute for tropical Agriculture (IITA) to train farmers on safe application of herbicides for weeds control. The two bodies have agreed to ensure a steady supply of inputs to the farmers at a discounted rate backed by trainings on the safe use of their products.

IITA, the provider of the platform, will provide technical support in a weed control private-public sector model linking resource poor farmers with control giants such as Syngenta and Dizengoff.

Project Manager, IITA-MARKETS Cassava Value Chain Project Dr. Bassey Tarawali said the initiative would provide employment for the teeming youths in the rural communities by boosting incomes and guaranteeing food security.

Accord agric top priority, FG told

From Mustafa abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State Chairman of FADAMA Farmers Association Alhaji Oba Ajibade has charged the Acting President, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan to give agriculture top priority in the proposed review of the seven-point agenda of the Umaru Yar'aua administration.

In a statement yesterday, he advised the Jonathan administration to make very good use of Agriculture with the objectives of broadening the country's revenue base, providing employment for young school leavers and teaching them basic farming skills so that they can become full time farmers and self employed.

The chairman warned against over reliance on oil, adding, "The life span of oil wells is not forever; what is forever is land which produces its resources year round".

He appealed to the Federal Government to include Kwara State among the second set of the FADAMA states that would benefit from the World Bank Funds so as to complement the effort of Governor Abubakar Bukola Saraki in his bids to make the state the food basket of the country.

He said: "There is limit to what oil wells can give you. Even the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), pegs the amount of oil its members can produce, but no OPEC is there to fix the amount of cassava, yams, corns, cocoa, rubber, palm oil, groundnut or any other agricultural products you get from the soil".

Business/Maritime

Nigeria ratifies IMO convention on pollution control

THE Federal Government has fully ratified the International Maritime Organisation (IMO's) Convention on ways of preventing the spread of harmful aquatic organisms which are often carried by ships' ballast water, from their potentially harmful effects.

With the ratification of this Convention, Nigeria ranks one of the eight countries of the world to take positive steps in curbing the menace of water hyacinth—a dangerous water-borne plant which poses danger to navigation as well as aquatic lives.

This development formed the fulcrum of a two-day National Training Course/Awareness Raising Seminar organized by the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), on Ships' Ballast Water Management, which held in Lagos during the week.

All ships especially tankers, carry ballast water while on voyage to enable her maintain stability and continue to operate effectively and safely on water.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the event which held at the Federal Palace Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos, Director-General of NIMASA, Mr. Temisan Omatseye, noted that such ballast waters have been recognized as one of the major vectors for the introduction of invasive alien species in aquatic environments.

According to him, such unwholesome introduction often resulted into a major threat to the entire marine environment.

He said the need to help developing countries understand the problem and monitor the situation informed why IMO decided to put the training seminar together in partnership with the GloBallast organ of the organization. He noted further that the aim of the programme was to assist developing countries to effectively implement the provisions of the Convention, and to subsequently reduce the transfer of such harmful aquatic organisms.

The trend, he said, would also assist NIMASA in building the capacity to address ballast water issues, undertake legal, policy and institutional reforms and managements as well as prepare for the implementation of the provisions of the Ballast Water Conventions.

Nigeria, Hong Kong synergize to boost cargo facilitation

CARGO facilitation in Nigeria, particularly the 48-hour customs clearance of goods is set to get a boost as bilateral agreement between the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and Hong Kong enters a cooperation and collaboration phase meant to impact on capacity development of Customs Service. Consequently, a government delegation, led by the Comptroller General of Customs, Alhaji Dikko Abdullahi and a few others departed the country at the weekend, for a brainstorming session with their Hong Kong Customs counterparts, in a gesture that is expected to benefit both countries. Customs spokesman Wale Adeniyi in a telephone interview said that while the on-going collaboration is meant to benefit both countries, it would particularly afford Nigeria the opportunity to directly observe and rub minds with the Hong Kong customs cargo clearing operations, compare notes with the aim of ensuring desired improvement.

'We've sufficient cargo handling equipment'

THE management of APM Terminals Apapa Limited, operator of the Apapa Container Terminal at the Lagos Port Complex has said that the company has adequate and sufficient cargo handling equipment for all its operations including positioning of containers for customs examination.

Speaking against the backlog of containers awaiting customs examination, Commercial Manager of APM Terminals Apapa, Koen De Backker stated that the backlog problem is not due to the terminal operator's inability to position containers for examination but as a result of the slow rate at which the containers are being examined. "We can easily demonstrate that with figures", De Backker said. Investigations revealed that examinations are not taking place because agents fail to show up after their containers have been positioned.

Scanners: Cotecna trains 52 Customs officers

NO fewer than 52 Customs Officers have been trained within six weeks by Cotecna Nigeria Limited, one of the service providers for the Destination Inspection (DI) Scheme ahead of the commencement of the newly built fixed scanner at the Apapa Port. The training, it was gathered will be a continuous process so as to equip the Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) on how to scan and interpret images on imported containers in preparation for eventual take over from Cotecna in 2013 when the contract between the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) and Cotecna lapses. Out of the 52 customs officers, 17 were trained on maintenance, while 35 were train for general operation of the software.



CUSTOMS Comptroller Federal Operations, Zone B. Abu Bawa Gusau showing seized textile materials to journalists in Kaduna.

Four banks to disburse \$40m Cabotage funds -Transport Minister

Stories from Adelanwa Bamgboye, Lagos

FOUR banks have been listed to participate in the disbursement of the 40-million dollars Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund (CVFF).

The Minister of Transport, Alhaji Ibrahim Bio, promised to be transparent in the disbursement of the 40-million dollars Cabotage Vessel Financing Fund (CVFF). He did not give the names of the banks.

Bio, stated this in Abuja during a courtesy visit by the Executives of Maritime Reporters' Association of Nigeria (MARAN).

According to him, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency would be responsible for 50 per cent of the loans, the banks 35

per cent while the shipping company would be responsible for 15 per cent.

According to him, the government will recoup the loans unlike the previous exercise where beneficiaries used the monies for something else.

It would be recalled that many prominent Nigerians who benefited from the defunct Ship Building Ship Acquisition Fund did not repay back their loans and neither did they acquire any ship, as they saw the loans as their share of the national cake.

Bio also directed that the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) should immediately produce a port development plan to expand the nation's ports.

According to the minister, any organisation without a developmental plan will continue to drift and there would be no measure of improvement.

"Let the NPA have a 25 to 30-year port development plan. NPA has the capacity and the resources if they only plan," he said.

Bio explained that Nigeria controlled 70 per cent of maritime trade in Central and West African sub-regions and so much is expected as both an international and regional maritime player.

He expressed concern that both Apapa and Tin-Can Island port had been choked up, adding that there had been growth in the nation's cargo throughput but no corresponding growth in expansion of the ports.

Customs records N432m at Seme border

THE Nigeria Customs Service (NCS), Seme border command has recorded for January 2010, an all time high revenue figure of N432 million which is an increase of 65 percent, over what was generated in January 2009.

The figure was also 46 percent over what was realized in December, and might even be higher, but for the high volume of ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) that came in through the Seme border.

The CIF value of goods traded under the ETLS in January alone was N950 million, meaning that averagely, additional Customs duty of above N190 million could have been further generated.

The NCS spokesman Mr. Wale Adeniyi while confirming this

however noted that the NCS has also began the implementation of Federal Government's bilateral preferential trade arrangement with Benin Republic on manufactured goods known as Joint Committee in Commerce (JCC).

"Under this scheme, goods under import prohibition in Nigeria are allowed duty free access into the Nigeria once it is ascertained they are produced in Benin Republic" Adeniyi said, citing examples as Cement, textiles, vegetable oil, soaps and detergents, and confectionaries, all of which in 2009, amounted to N206 million that came into Nigeria through Seme.

He explained further that such importers were compulsorily registered, alongside their products

and the corridors of importation.

"Corridors of importation of goods under JCC are usually specified to enable Customs freely identify and process their goods as they come in," he observed, stressing that except this fact was adequately understood, un-informed industry watchers might continue to raise alarm that contraband goods were being let into the country even in the day time with impunity.

He denied assertions that the NCS and other agencies at the border station had compromised their position in January, pointing out that the month of January which dubbed the controversial month was when the Service posted the highest revenue figure in recent years.

Star Feature

Kaduna-Colombia Where drug barons thrive

For years, governments have been struggling to reclaim the Badarawa primary school in Kaduna North local Government Area, now known as Colombia, a hide-out for drug barons. But their efforts seem to have failed, as Indian hemp and other hard drugs businesses flourish there. It is the meeting point of hard drugs barons in the state.

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

STOP any okada rider, otherwise known as commercial motorcycle operator, from any parts of Kaduna metropolis and ask him to take you to Colombia, he will take you straight to Badarawa primary school, in Kaduna North Local Government Area.

Colombia is the country in south America famous for the hard drugs business. Kaduna Colombia was named after the country, following the thriving of hard drugs businesses in the area.

Business activities commence in Kaduna Colombia daily around 3:00 pm, and last till the early hours of the following day. Patrons of the centre cut across all cadres of people in the society. Uniformed men are not left out of the drug business. Daily, over 200 Indian hemp and other drug smokers patronise the centre. The joint shares a fence with the Badarawa Army anti riot task force.

'For us, the odour of Indian hemp has since become part of us, because daily, we teachers and pupils inhale it whenever we are in school,' the head teacher of a nearby primary school said, pleading that his name should not be mentioned in the report for fear of being attacked by the hoodlums.

He said the joint is often populated by Okada riders, car owners and other consumers of Indian hemp. 'You will be surprised to see the kind of people that patronise the joint. It is fuller than the normal market. They are no longer afraid of security men, because they trade even in their presence.'

'There was a time a pregnant teacher fell down after inhaling the substance, and we quickly rushed her to the hospital, before she was revived. Initially, they start their business around 10:00 am, but when we begged them, they agreed to start their trading by 3:00 pm on school days. At weekends, they start in the early hours of the day,' he said.

He said over 200 people patronise the joint daily. 'Just come by 3:00 pm, you will not need any interview to do your story. But I must advise you to conceal your identity, because they will not hesitate to harm you if they get to know your mission.'

'They don't harm us physically but they sit on the staircase

while the class is on, and they will be inhaling their Indian hemp. The odour of the hemp will be disturbing the class, and most times, female teachers run out of the class because of the odour. They sell as much as 10 bags of Indian hemp daily. After consuming the substance, they will be fighting themselves,' he said.

The traditional ruler of the area, Sarkin Gari, Alhaji Abdulhamid Diwa said their major problem in the community is how to get rid of the place, which he describes as the devil's den. 'We have done all within our reach to stop the Colombia joint. We wrote a letter to the Emir, SSS, Police, and all other stakeholders in the state, but all efforts to stamp it out is yet to yield results.'

According to him, in Kaduna as a whole, there is no Indian hemp joint which attracts drug barons like Colombia. 'They sell all forms of drugs you can imagine, including cocaine. Go there around 4:00 pm, you will see for yourself and you will appreciate what we are contending with. Our children attending the school are exposed to all forms of drugs, especially those in the afternoon shift, who are now familiar with odour of Indian hemp. They inhale it while we are in class, and at times, they misbehave because of the smell of the drugs.'

On how to address the problem, the traditional leader advocated for a 24 hour stationing of security men in the joint, saying

anything short of that would not address the problem. 'Not too long ago, we invited a vigilante group to assist us. But when they got there and saw what was happening, they told us that the place is beyond what they can control. So they left.'

He commended the Zamani college community for assisting in fencing the school, but added that the patrons of the joint raised a fence of the main entrance on four different occasions. He lamented that 'our major worry is that the fence is close to the old Badarawa cemetery, and they have told us that they would not allow anything to block the road because they use it as their getaway.'

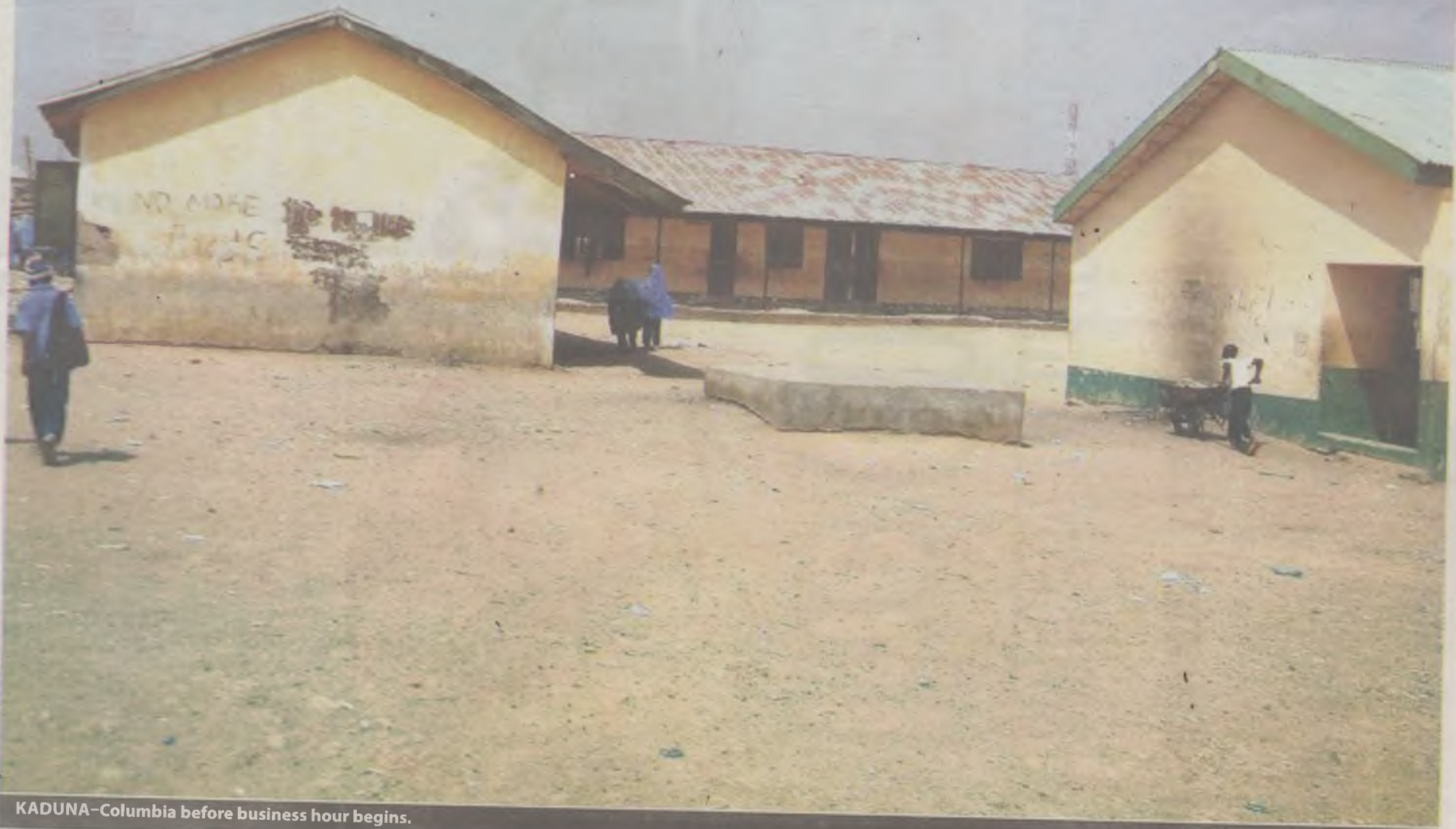
During a visit by our correspondent to the joint at about 3:00 pm last Friday, about a hundred people were seen gathered there. Some of them were seen smoking Indian hemp in the school's courtyard, others were seen in classes. A number of motorcycles were parked inside the school field.

When our correspondent was leaving the joint, he approached an okada rider who came out from one of the school classes, where the sellers of Indian hemp were operating. The correspondent stopped him and negotiated with him to convey him to Unguwan Sarki. He said he went to the school to refresh himself after the day's job.

'You know this our job needs something to refresh one, and that is why we are always going there. I saw you too coming out from another class, and that is why I decided to carry you for 30 minutes'

“Our children attending the school are exposed to all forms of drug especially those in the afternoon shift, who are now familiar with odour of Indian hemp. They inhale it while we are in class, and at times, they misbehave because of the smell of the drugs”

bia:



KADUNA-Columbia before business hour begins.

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many wraps did you take?" he asked our correspondent.

When our correspondent told him two wraps, he told our correspondent that he is a beginner, that he takes four to five wraps at a go. "You know I don't chase girls, what I do is to smoke and nothing else. I have been patronising the centre for years. I am 42 years now with a wife and 5 children. I grow up to know Colombia as a good joint,"

When contacted, the Public Relations Officer of the Kaduna state police command, DSP Aminu Lawan, said the command was aware of the joint, and that they have started the raiding of Indian hemp joints in the state.

"Whenever our men go there to arrest them, they will run to houses close to the joint, and it is very difficult for us to be entering people houses to arrest them. This is why we are urging the community to wake up and educate their children on the dangers inherent in drugs. They should also help us with information on those selling the drugs," he said.

When asked whether the joint has been declared as a black spot, he says, "We are yet to, because there are certain security issues that must be taken into cognisance before a place is declared to be a black spot, but we are aware of it. I would not know whether they sell Cocaine there, because that falls under the responsibility of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA)."

On allegations that their men patronise the joint, he said "I am not aware that any police man or officer goes there, but if you have any concrete evidence that our people go there to smoke, let

us know. Take my words, we are not going to spare them, because our commissioner is a no-nonsense man, you know,"

He reiterated the commitment of the command to wipe out all the Indian hemp joints, and disclosed that they have raided a joint in Nassarawa, Chikun Local Government Area of the state. He said all 24 person arrested would be transferred to NDLEA for necessary action.

DSP Lawan advised the patrons of the joint to have a change of attitude towards the consumption of the substance, saying it does more harm than good.

The NDLEA Officer-in-Charge of the strike force, Mr. Happy Johnson in an interview said the people of the community are not helping matters. He said they have struck the joint many times,

but that the patrons of the place go back there, as soon as they leave.

"We know the place, they call it Colombia. Aside from Indian hemp, they sell all forms of drugs like the one they call Rohynol, and it may be possible that they sell cocaine there, because of the way people troop to the joint," he said.

In a telephone interview, the Assistant Director of NDLEA in Kaduna state, Malam Idris Bello, said the command would do everything possible to stop the drug business going on in the joint, and warned parents to ensure that their children stop patronising there.

“ You know I don't chase girls, what I do is to smoke and nothing else. I have been patronising the centre for years. I am 42 years now with a wife and 5 children. I grow up to know Colombia as a good joint”



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Business/Aviation

NAMA spends N163m on diesel annually

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

EPILEPTIC power situation in the country is taking its toll as the Nigerian Airspace Management Agency (NAMA) confirmed that over N163 million is being spent annually to power its generators in the 21 airports across the country.

According to the NAMA's Executive Director (Operations), Mr Adebisi Adedara, in Lagos, irregular power supply had forced the agency to power its equipment with generators for effective air navigation services.

His words: "Power outage has compelled us to run our generators 24 hours daily to ensure maximum efficiency of our equipment and delivery of safe and efficient air navigation services. The money being spent on diesel is eating deep

into our finances and affecting our overhead costs.

Adedara explained that three generators were dedicated to the runways at the Murtala Muhammed Airport while six were installed at Iju, Lagos, to provide uninterrupted power for NAMA facilities.

The NAMA Director of Operation said that the agency had so far invested N2 billion to purchase some airspace infrastructure for effective navigation aid in the country's airspace.

He said, "We have established two area control centres in Kano and Lagos with state-of-the-art equipment to provide positive area control in the upper airspace. Other facilities include the Total Radar Coverage of the Nigerian Airspace (TRACON) which includes primary and secondary radar heads

for the airports, voice communication systems, voice recording systems and integrated aircraft billing system."

Adedara hinted that NAMA is collaborating with the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

He added that the World Bank had approved another round of training programme for the agency's air traffic controllers in Florida, U.S.

He said that 103 air traffic controllers had so far been trained under the arrangement.

It could be recalled that NAMA was established in January 2000 by the Olusegun Obasanjo administration in compliance with ICAO's principle of separating aviation service providers from the regulators.



A Lufthansa aircraft

Lufthansa airline introduces Internet service on board

By Shehu Abubakar

LEADING German airliner, Lufthansa Air, has concluded arrangements to reintroduce Internet services for its customers on board their flights under their FlyNet program in collaboration with Panasonic. Lufthansa Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Wolfgang Mayrhuber, said the facility that will be reintroduced by the airline in the middle of this year will accord its customers the full freedom to communicate via the Internet in the clouds.

"It is onboard broadband Internet service that permits in-flight data transfer over standard GSM/GPRS mobile networks. Our passengers will have WLAN

Internet access, send SMS messages by mobile phones and transfer data via smart phones such as PDA, iPhone or BlackBerry devices.

"In terms of communications, Lufthansa customers can look forward to a top-tier in-flight service. On long haul routes, we offer business travellers, in particular, a range of communications options on a par with those available at powerful hotspots or upmarket hotels. FlyNet thus completes the standardised communications products for Lufthansa passengers throughout the entire travel chain." Mayrhuber said the airline has decided to devote a lot of funds to ensure the comfort and safety of its passengers.

Confirming the arrangement, the Chief Executive officer of Panasonic Avionics Corporation, Paul Margis, said, "We are thrilled to be working with Lufthansa as the launch customer for Panasonic's new broadband service, exConnect. Lufthansa's previous experience with passenger connectivity makes them the ideal launch customer for the exConnect service. Lufthansa was a true pioneer with their FlyNet branded services. We are proud to bring FlyNet back to their passengers."

Lufthansa had earlier on January 15, 2003 launched the World's first scheduled flight providing broadband Internet access on board before the service was withdrawn in 2006 by Lufthansa's then partner connection by Boeing.

NAHCo gets new director

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Nigerian Aviation Handling Company Plc (nahco aviance) has announced the appointment of Mr. Kayode T. Ojo as its Executive Director, Finance and Strategic Planning in line with the on-going programme of enhancing its human capital to constantly achieve value-driven service delivery. Speaking on the development in Lagos, Mr. Bates Sule, Managing Director/CEO of nahco aviance said that the, "creation of the position of Executive Director and the appointment of Mr. Ojo are in keeping with the Board's review of the company's organisational structure introducing the positions of Executive Director, Finance & Strategic Planning and Executive Director, Operations and Business Development as part of internal re-engineering to strengthen the operations of the company.

Arik Air takes delivery of fourth Boeing 737-800

FROM Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

ARIK Air has announced that it has taken delivery of its fourth brand new Boeing 737-800 aircraft, increasing the carrier's overall fleet size to 25.

According to the airline, in a statement in Lagos, the brand new Boeing 737-800 aircraft arrived at Arik Air's hangar at Murtala Muhammed Airport, Lagos on Friday, February 21, 2010, direct from Boeing Corporation in Seattle, U.S.A.

Arik said that the aircraft was the first of several brand new aircraft due for delivery to it throughout 2010. Christened 'City of Calabar', this latest aircraft brings to four the number of Boeing 737-800s that Arik Air operates.

It could be recalled that the airline received the first three Boeing 737-800s from the manufacturer in March, June and November 2009 respectively.

Commenting on this latest aircraft to join the airline's fleet, Arik Air's Managing Director, Mr Jason Holt said: "Taking delivery of a new aircraft is always a momentous occasion for the airline. Because this aircraft is the first of our planned deliveries for 2010, its arrival is a particularly important milestone. The delivery also reinforces our widely known commitment to operate technologically advanced aircraft and maintain our leading position in the market."

Arik Air's Chief Commercial Officer, Mr. Suraj Sundaram explained: "This addition to our fleet will enable the airline to increase capacity on select domestic routes and introduce new routes within Africa, in response to the demands of our growing Nigerian and regional customer base. Our guests can feel reassured that they are flying the most modern fleet in the industry, both in terms of efficiency and comfort."

The Boeing 737-800 is a new, stretched version of the older Boeing 737-400. It incorporates all the enhancements found on other members of the Next-Generation Boeing 737 family, including a redesigned passenger cabin, a flight deck featuring the most versatile display system offered on any commercial jetliner today while delivering superior levels of operating performance. The aircraft's winglets, for example, help reduce noise on takeoff and help improve overall fuel efficiency. The Boeing 737-800 has a cruising speed of 855 kilometers per hour and range of 5,665 kilometers.

Arik Air's brand new 'City of Calabar' is configured to carry 148 passengers, 16 in Business Class and 132 in Economy Class. It comes equipped with personalized in-flight entertainment in both cabins offering a choice of audio channels, Nollywood and international movies as well as a selection of short entertainment programming.

The airline currently operates a fleet of 25 state-of-the-art regional, medium haul and long haul aircraft serving 22 airports across Nigeria as well as Accra (Ghana), Banjul (Gambia), Cotonou (Benin), Dakar (Senegal), Freetown (Sierra Leone), Niamey (Niger), London Heathrow (UK), Johannesburg (South Africa) and New York JFK (USA).

The airline currently operates over 130 flights daily from its hubs in Lagos and Abuja with a workforce of over 2,000.

NCAA calls for accurate data to grow aviation industry

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

THE Director General of the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Dr Harold Demuren, has called on airlines and other stakeholders in the aviation industry to keep accurate data of their operations to move the sector forward. Speaking at a two day sensitization workshop on Statistical Statutory Returns organised for airlines and other aviation industry stakeholders at the NCAA Headquarters Annex at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport, Ikeja, Lagos, Demuren said data has been identified as a veritable tool in the economic regulation of the aviation industry.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Wednesday, February 24, 2010

| 2ND-TIER SECURITIES | No of Deals | Quot. (N) | Quantity Traded | Value of Shares (N) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|---------------------|
| CAPITAL OIL PLC | 22 | 0.55 | 789,500 | 441,435.00 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 23 | | 796,500 | 456,765.00 |
| AGRICULTURE | | | | |
| FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC | 35 | 0.85 | 2,721,182 | 2,290,326.87 |
| LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC | 12 | 0.69 | 260,346 | 179,638.74 |
| PRESCO PLC | 37 | 5.32 | 639,220 | 3,276,310.00 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 84 | | 3,620,748 | 5,746,277.61 |
| AIR SERVICES | | | | |
| AIRLINE SERV.& LOGISTICS PLC | 5 | 2.75 | 219,386 | 603,311.50 |
| NIG. AVIATION HANDLING COY. PLC | 85 | 8.70 | 990,528 | 8,612,632.52 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 90 | | 1,209,914 | 9,215,944.02 |
| AUTOMOBILE & TYRE | | | | |
| DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC | 46 | 0.50 | 7,850,538 | 3,925,269.00 |
| R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC | 20 | 4.76 | 194,960 | 957,287.50 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 66 | | 8,045,498 | 4,882,556.50 |
| BANKING | | | | |
| ACCESS BANK PLC | 177 | 9.51 | 3,166,622 | 29,915,431.32 |
| AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC | 49 | 2.58 | 7,928,949 | 20,602,296.37 |
| DIAMOND BANK PLC | 193 | 9.10 | 32,232,824 | 313,803,994.58 |
| ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC | 75 | 5.71 | 31,981,937 | 182,616,860.27 |
| F/CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC | 67 | 9.22 | 2,709,039 | 25,096,794.79 |
| FIDELITY BANK PLC | 100 | 2.68 | 5,596,122 | 14,627,481.85 |
| FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC | 918 | 14.60 | 10,191,306 | 148,099,214.11 |
| FINBANK PLC | 99 | 0.70 | 8,470,187 | 5,889,275.35 |
| GTBANK PLC | 455 | 18.01 | 8,203,016 | 148,184,438.18 |
| STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC | 68 | 8.38 | 719,188 | 6,030,593.84 |
| INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC | 104 | 2.05 | 4,149,315 | 8,391,321.98 |
| OCEANIC BANK INTER. PLC | 110 | 2.10 | 19,376,565 | 40,365,296.73 |
| BANK PHB PLC | 67 | 2.00 | 1,590,059 | 3,113,185.77 |
| SKYE BANK PLC | 165 | 7.45 | 10,523,955 | 80,395,587.14 |
| SPRING BANK PLC | 7 | 1.03 | 132,689 | 136,959.67 |
| STERLING BANK PLC | 65 | 1.76 | 3,066,420 | 5,393,087.22 |
| UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC | 257 | 13.50 | 10,122,744 | 135,865,462.72 |
| UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC | 202 | 6.18 | 13,713,293 | 82,490,787.83 |
| UNITY BANK PLC | 38 | 1.10 | 13,669,028 | 15,711,882.20 |
| WEMA BANK PLC | 33 | 1.21 | 1,660,142 | 2,046,577.50 |
| ZENITH BANK PLC | 258 | 15.72 | 35,911,498 | 565,265,691.93 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 3,507 | | 225,114,898 | 1,834,042,221.35 |
| BUILDING MATERIALS | | | | |
| ASHAKA CEMENT PLC | 89 | 16.20 | 863,943 | 14,083,498.27 |
| BENUE CEMENT COMPANY PLC | 43 | 50.02 | 260,454 | 13,035,230.17 |
| CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC | 30 | 15.85 | 2,609,372 | 41,506,782.88 |
| LAFARGE WAPCO PLC | 36 | 35.00 | 490,665 | 17,138,089.50 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 198 | | 4,224,434 | 85,763,600.82 |
| CHEMICAL & PAINTS | | | | |
| BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC | 6 | 3.52 | 20,129 | 74,276.01 |
| CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC | 7 | 28.33 | 157,002 | 4,408,448.10 |
| DN MEYER PLC | 8 | 3.26 | 4,061,531 | 13,240,591.06 |
| NIG.-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC | 1 | 15.04 | 47 | 671.63 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 22 | | 4,238,709 | 17,723,986.80 |
| COMMERCIAL SERVICES | | | | |
| AFROMEDIA PLC | 5 | 0.53 | 436,200 | 226,462.00 |
| COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC | 2 | 0.50 | 140,000 | 70,000.00 |
| RED STAREXPRESS PLC | 12 | 2.52 | 455,469 | 1,152,149.29 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 19 | | 1,031,669 | 1,448,611.29 |
| COMP. & OFFICE EQUIPMENT | | | | |
| NCR (NIGERIA) PLC | 1 | 8.13 | 10,664 | 90,963.92 |
| OMATEK VENTURES PLC | 18 | 0.54 | 804,250 | 437,495.00 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 19 | | 814,914 | 528,458.92 |
| CONGLOMERATES | | | | |
| A.G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC | 4 | 2.85 | 81,389 | 231,777.32 |
| JOHN HOLT PLC | 1 | 9.28 | 66 | 582.12 |
| PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC | 60 | 25.70 | 374,252 | 9,673,367.10 |
| SCOA NIGERIA PLC | 2 | 8.71 | 1,034 | 8,561.52 |
| TRANSNATIONAL CORP. OF NIG. PLC | 58 | 0.52 | 12,232,684 | 6,182,418.12 |
| UAC OF NIGERIA PLC | 100 | 43.07 | 1,571,911 | 67,883,672.55 |
| UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC | 70 | 25.00 | 348,529 | 8,679,844.05 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 295 | | 14,609,865 | 92,660,222.78 |
| CONSTRUCTION | | | | |
| COSTAIN (WA) PLC | 45 | 4.97 | 859,644 | 4,321,601.20 |
| G. CAPPALC | 1 | 14.46 | 11 | 159.06 |
| JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC | 31 | 28.49 | 195,145 | 5,349,411.07 |
| ROADS NIGERIA PLC | 2 | 3.46 | 695 | 2,336.37 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 79 | | 1,055,495 | 9,673,507.70 |
| ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY | | | | |
| CUTIX PLC | 2 | 2.89 | 53,200 | 159,796.00 |
| NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC | 3 | 0.88 | 20,750 | 18,260.00 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 5 | | 73,950 | 178,056.00 |
| F/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO | | | | |
| 7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC | 5 | 30.60 | 3,427 | 109,537.74 |
| BIG TREAT PLC | 13 | 0.81 | 1,253,806 | 1,016,875.74 |
| CADBURY NIGERIA PLC | 84 | 15.61 | 1,876,204 | 29,619,989.81 |
| DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC | 160 | 12.70 | 2,442,047 | 30,945,401.61 |
| DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC | 120 | 16.00 | 3,275,525 | 52,112,512.49 |
| FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC | 99 | 46.30 | 541,961 | 25,105,293.48 |
| HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC | 8 | 7.40 | 331,746 | 2,454,920.40 |
| P.S. MANDRIDES PLC | 1 | 5.95 | 700 | 3,962.00 |
| NATIONAL SALT COY NIG. PLC | 40 | 6.11 | 1,300,320 | 8,107,706.80 |
| NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY PLC | 24 | 27.00 | 89,636 | 2,417,175.80 |
| NESTLE NIGERIA PLC | 30 | 270.00 | 111,298 | 31,346,475.89 |
| NORTHERN NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC | 4 | 23.00 | 22,021 | 507,624.05 |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|--------|-------------|------------------|
| TANTALIZERS PLC | 53 | 0.99 | 4,647,582 | 4,581,824.63 |
| UNION DICON SALT PLC | 1 | 5.71 | 7,000 | 38,010.00 |
| UTC NIGERIA PLC | 12 | 0.75 | 20,160 | 15,298.51 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 654 | | 15,923,433 | 188,382,608.95 |
| FOOTWEAR | | | | |
| LENNARDS NIGERIA PLC | 1 | 3.85 | 78 | 285.48 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 1 | | 78 | 285.48 |
| HEALTHCARE | | | | |
| EVANS MEDICAL PLC | 6 | 1.07 | 6,700 | 6,941.00 |
| FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC | 38 | 2.42 | 1,172,934 | 2,870,676.43 |
| GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMERNIG. PLC | 17 | 26.00 | 158,929 | 4,132,554.00 |
| MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC | 16 | 5.04 | 66,001 | 330,674.70 |
| NEIMETH INTER. PHARM. PLC | 18 | 1.47 | 113,666 | 164,222.51 |
| UNION DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV. PLC | 72 | 0.64 | 8,495,342 | 5,232,154.98 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 167 | | 10,013,572 | 12,737,223.62 |
| HOTEL & TOURISM | | | | |
| CAPITAL HOTEL PLC | 5 | 2.62 | 328,800 | 859,200.00 |
| VIKEJA HOTEL PLC | 15 | 1.54 | 538,255 | 819,145.85 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 20 | | 867,055 | 1,678,345.85 |
| IND./DOMESTIC PRODUCTS | | | | |
| ALUMACO PLC | 2 | 15.80 | 175 | 2,626.75 |
| B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC | 3 | 10.39 | 1,820,384 | 18,913,789.76 |
| FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG PLC | 10 | 0.50 | 234,032 | 117,893.24 |
| VITAFAM NIGERIA PLC | 13 | 4.71 | 278,930 | 1,332,264.30 |
| VONO PRODUCTS PLC | 2 | 0.63 | 1,016 | 609.60 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 30 | | 2,334,537 | 20,367,183.65 |
| INFO & COMM TECHNOLOGY | | | | |
| CHAMS PLC | 53 | 0.72 | 2,918,451 | 2,098,242.52 |
| STARCOMMS PLC | 31 | 2.01 | 3,416,840 | 6,961,003.20 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 84 | | 6,335,291 | 9,059,245.72 |
| INSURANCE | | | | |
| AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC | 4 | 0.50 | 196,000 | 98,000.00 |
| AICO INSURANCE PLC | 180 | 1.08 | 6,659,173 | 7,353,577.24 |
| CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC | 13 | 1.00 | 3,884,500 | 3,730,885.00 |
| CORNERSTONE INSUR. CO. PLC | 17 | 0.51 | 844,970 | 439,113.20 |
| CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSUR. PLC | 41 | 2.90 | 1,708,700 | 4,879,755.50 |
| EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC | 2 | 0.50 | 6,000 | 3,000.00 |
| GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC | 26 | 0.53 | 563,415 | 302,921.95 |
| GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC | 19 | 2.15 | 3,038,529 | 6,615,358.33 |
| GUINEA INSURANCE PLC | 5 | 0.50 | 189,000 | 94,500.00 |
| INTERNATIONAL ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC | 44 | 0.59 | 5,734,199 | 3,343,985.09 |
| LASACO ASSURANCE PLC | 25 | 0.51 | 705,138 | 356,215.28 |
| LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC | 3 | 0.55 | 406,600 | 223,660.00 |
| LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC | 2 | 0.50 | 8,000 | 4,000.00 |
| MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC | 6 | 0.64 | 745,160 | 476,902.40 |
| N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC | 18 | 0.53 | 1,488,677 | 779,308.50 |
| NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC | 13 | 0.77 | 395,384 | 299,378.04 |
| OASIS INSURANCE PLC | 2 | 1.29 | 6,000 | 7,380.00 |
| PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC | 5 | 3.61 | 81,500 | 279,545.00 |
| REGENCY ALLIANCE INSUR. COY. PLC | 2 | 0.50 | 55,000 | 27,500.00 |
| STACO INSURANCE PLC | 5 | 0.79 | 1,407,800 | 1,112,162.00 |
| STANDARD ALLIANCE INSURA. PLC | 69 | 0.50 | 12,316,218 | 6,190,729.27 |
| UNIC INSURANCE PLC | 9 | 0.82 | 311,500 | 253,560.00 |
| UNITY CAPITAL ASSUR. PLC | 1 | 1.10 | 1,000,000 | 1,100,000.00 |
| UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY. PLC | 5 | 0.50 | 20,145,111 | 10,072,555.50 |
| INTERCONTINENTAL WAPIC INSUR. PLC | 30 | 0.95 | 687,740 | 665,372.16 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 546 | | 62,584,314 | 48,709,364.46 |
| LEASING | | | | |
| C&I LEASING PLC | 25 | 2.67 | 1,408,364 | 3,536,255.00 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 25 | | 1,408,364 | 3,536,255.00 |
| MARITIME | | | | |
| JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERV. PLC | 104 | 1.26 | 2,490,274 | 3,109,548.34 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 104 | | 2,490,274 | 3,109,548.34 |
| MEDIA | | | | |
| DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC | 32 | 0.70 | 1,420,527 | 1,007,323.98 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 32 | | 1,420,527 | 1,007,323.98 |
| MORTGAGE COMPANIES | | | | |
| ASO SAVINGS AND LOAN PLC | 33 | 0.62 | 2,400,693 | 1,588,791.24 |
| RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC | 6 | 0.50 | 23,135,900 | 11,567,950.00 |
| UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC | 35 | 0.90 | 4,760,790 | 4,524,807.73 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 74 | | 30,297,383 | 17,681,548.97 |
| OTHER FINANCIAL INST. | | | | |
| CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC | 25 | 1.00 | 11,489,509 | 11,476,347.73 |
| DEAP CAPITAL MGT & TRUST PLC | 1 | 2.02 | 2,000 | 4,040.00 |
| ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC | 13 | 0.57 | 1,345,000 | 768,538.00 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 39 | | 12,836,509 | 12,248,925.73 |
| PACKAGING | | | | |
| NIG. BAG MANUFACTURING COY. PLC | 288 | 2.27 | 1,431,300 | 3,262,123.44 |
| NAMPAK NIGERIA PLC | 1 | 6.99 | 116 | 771.40 |
| POLY PRODUCTS (NIG) PLC | 6 | 4.23 | 66 | 265.32 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 290 | | 1,431,482 | 3,263,160.16 |
| PETROLEUM (MARKETING) | | | | |
| AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC | 122 | 45.20 | 1,331,579 | 60,067,004.42 |
| BEKO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC | 6 | 2.24 | 15,085,800 | 33,792,192.00 |
| MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC | 15 | 69.79 | 38,824 | 2,710,825.78 |
| CONOIL PLC | 25 | 34.17 | 348,140 | 11,877,597.16 |
| ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC | 34 | 6.00 | 689,141 | 4,110,308.24 |
| MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC | 12 | 97.51 | 4,272 | 395,758.08 |
| OANDO PLC | 29 | 93.99 | 20,157 | 1,894,556.43 |
| TOTAL NIGERIA PLC | 16 | 142.50 | 50,271 | 7,289,841.60 |
| SECTOR TOTALS | 259 | | 17,568,184 | 122,138,083.71 |
| OVERALL TOTALS | 7,122 | | 443,068,331 | 2,743,544,891.21 |

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**PRESIDENTIAL COMMITTEE ON TARIFFS AND FISCAL
INCENTIVES**

**INVITATION TO AN INTERACTIVE FORUM ON THE REVIEW
OF TARIFFS AND FISCAL INCENTIVES: SUB-COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURAL SECTOR**

The challenges thrown up by the recent global economic recession have made it imperative to diversify the basis of our economy more urgently than ever before. The Federal Government of Nigeria has identified tariffs and incentives as key factors in stimulating direct investment in various sectors of our economy.

2. Consequently, a Presidential Committee on the Review of Tariffs and Incentives was inaugurated to identify barriers to investment and recommend strategic incentives that will promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and ultimately stimulate economic growth by creating employment, developing capacity for backward integration as well as reducing our dependence on import.

3. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Agriculture, His Excellency, Dr. Abubakar Bukola Saraki, the Executive Governor of Kwara State, invites views and inputs on strategies aimed at improving direct investment in order to increase food production, generate employment, promote backward integration and reduce dependence on import. The Sub-Committee is therefore, inviting the relevant stakeholders, as well as existing and prospective investors to a One-Day interactive / consultative forum as follows.

Date: Thursday, 25th February, 2010
Time: 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
Venue: Lagos/Osun Hall, Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja

Signed:
Ochi C. Achinivu
Permanent Secretary
For: the Honourable Minister



BAUCHI STATE AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (BSADP)
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES,
ABUBAKAR UMAR SECRETARIAT,
BAUCHI STATE.

THIRD NATIONAL FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
BAUCHI STATE FADAMA COORDINATION OFFICE, DASS ROAD, BAUCHI.

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

Country: Nigeria
Project: NFDP III
Contract: Procurement of Office Equipments
Project ID: P096572
Credit No: 4494-NG
Bid Issue Date: February 25, 2010
IFB No.: BA-SFCO/NFDP III/NCB/G/01/2010
Last Date of Bid Submission: March 26, 2010

- This invitation for Bid follows the General Procurement Notice for the Project that appears in the DG market of June 19, 2009 and the This Day Newspaper of July 3, 2009.
- The Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a Credit from the International Development Association (World Bank) in various currencies to finance the cost of the Third National Fadama Development Project (NFDP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for the Procurement of Office Equipments.
- The Bauchi State Third Fadama Coordination Office (BA-SFCO) now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the supply of Office Equipments as listed below.

| Lot NO | Item NO | Description | Quantity | Bid Security | Delivery Period | Delivery Location |
|--------|---------|----------------------------------|----------|--------------|-----------------|--|
| 1 | 1 | Desktop Computer and Accessories | 16 | At least 3% | 60 Days | BSADP Hqts, Gidan Gona, Dass Road Bauchi |
| | 2 | Lap Top Computer | 5 | At least 3% | 60 Days | BSADP Hqts, Gidan Gona, Dass Road Bauchi |
| | 3 | Printers (Heavy Duty) | 16 | At least 3% | 60 Days | BSADP Hqts, Gidan Gona, Dass Road Bauchi |
| | 4 | Software License | 3 | At least 3% | 60 Days | BSADP Hqts, Gidan Gona, Dass Road Bauchi |
| Lot NO | Item NO | Description | Quantity | Bid Security | Delivery Period | Delivery Location |
| 2 | 5 | Generator Sets 3.5KVA | 8 | At least 3% | 60 Days | BSADP Hqts, Gidan Gona, Dass Road Bauchi |
| | 6 | Digital Photocopy Machine | 1 | At least 3% | 60 Days | BSADP Hqts, Gidan Gona, Dass Road Bauchi |
| | 7 | Digital Camera | 1 | At least 3% | 60 Days | BSADP Hqts, Gidan Gona, Dass Road Bauchi |

- The Bauchi Fadama Coordination Office now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for office Equipments to be procured.
- Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines. Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Sources Countries as defined in the Guidelines.
- Interested eligible may obtain further information from Bauchi State Fadama Coordination Office, Gidan Gona, Dass Road Bauchi 08020971710, e-mail: bauchifadama@yahoo.com (Coordinator), 08065520255 e-mail schinade01@yahoo.com uk (Procurement Officer); and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from the hours of 8:00Am to 4:00 Pm Mondays.
- Qualifications requirements include: bidders must be a legal entity, have at least three (3) years of audited account and must have annual turnover of ten Million Naira (N10,000,000.00)
- A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Ten Thousand Naira (N10,000.00). The method of payment will be in cash. The bidding Documents will be obtained on payment.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 12 Noon March, 26, 2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 12:00 Noon March 26, 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of not less than 3% of bid price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
- The address referred to above is
Bauchi State Fadama III Coordination Office
Bauchi State Agricultural Development Project (BSADP)
P.M.B 0050.
Gidan Gona, Dass Road, Bauchi.
Bauchi State.

Dr. Ali Garba: 08020971710, e-mail: bauchifadama@yahoo.com
(Project Coordinator)



MONEY TALKS

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**SHEHU IDRIS COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY,
PMB 1050 MAKARFI,
(Office of the Registrar)**

4th JOINT CONVOCATION CEREMONY 2010.

The Provost Shehu Usman Muhammad, wishes to invite all graduands, their guests and the general public to the Pre- Convocation Lecture and the Joint Convocation Ceremony (2007-2009).

Events:

PRE-CONVOCATION LECTURE

Topic: Advancing Environmental Health Education in Nigeria, Problems and Prospects.
Speaker: Mr Augustine Ebisike, Registrar Environmental Health Officers Registration Council of Nigeria (EHORECON) Abuja.
Chairman: Prof. Idris Funtua, DVC (Admin) A.B.U. Samaru Zaria.
Date: Friday 26th February, 2010.
Time: 3:30pm
Venue: College Auditorium, Makarfi.

CONVOCATION CEREMONY

a) Award of Fellowship of the College, Higher Diplomas, Diplomas, Certificates and Prizes.

Award of Honorary Fellowship of the College to be Conferred on:

Arch. Muhammad Namadi Sambo, FNIA, the Executive Governor of Kaduna State.
b) Immortalization of the College Library Complex in Memory of Late Alhaji Aliyu Muhammad Shika.
Date: Saturday 27th February, 2010.
Time: 10:00am
Venue: Convocation Square Main Campus Makarfi. (35km off Zaria- Kano Road).

Note:

Graduands of 2007, 2008 and 2009 are required to pay a non-refundable fee of N1,200. Only for a copy of Proceedings and hiring of Academic gowns from 24th-26th February, 2010.

SIGNED
B.M Ahmed
Registrar.

labour report

Sale of NITEL and the fate of workers

By Francis Okeke

THE recent auctioning of Nigeria Telecommunication Limited (NITEL) and Mobile Telecommunication Limited (MTEL) by the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE) to New Generation Telecommunications Consortium has raised various questions as to the future of the staff of both companies.

The sale which pitched heavyweights in the telecommunication industry against each other but saw the emergence of the Chinese consortium as the preferred bidder has raised hopes in Nigerians because of the gains to be made by all if NITEL and MTEL functions effectively.

It no longer news that four or five attempts had been made before the last attempt and Nigerians are weary and some even nonchalant on the affairs of the company.

But the staff of NITEL have over the years appealed to government and even staged protest rallies on their plight following the failures that had trailed the sale of the company in the past.

Sunday Alhassan who is the President of the National Union of Post and Telecommunications Employees (NUPTE) issued a statement days after the auction calling on the authorities involved to ensure that outstanding issues bothering on staff welfare were immediately addressed.

He said that "NUPTE is once more compelled to call attention of the Nigerian people and government to the debilitating crisis that has continued to plague Nigerian Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) and the misguided/failed attempts by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) to 'revamp' the company."

He said that workers should not continue to suffer because they had no hand in running down the company.

He said that "workers were not the ones who ruined NITEL and MTEL. All through its history as a government-owned enterprise, responsibility for appointment

and supervision of its board/management remained the sole prerogative of government."

He added: "that the Nigerian public put up with constricted telecom services for years is not in doubt. But working families traumatized by the sad fate visited on the company cannot, contrary to assertions by some misguided individuals, be the guinea pigs for the unpatriotic actions of elite interests entrusted with this erstwhile national patrimony."

He stressed that "the criminal handover of NITEL to PENTASCOPE was not the handwork of NITEL workers. When the first attempt to sell NITEL to International London Limited (ILL) was made, NITEL had over 10,000 employees, 553,471 functional lines and generated income at N53.41 billion as a viable company."

"In 2003 before PENTASCOPE (a flight-by-night company with no known record as a

telecoms service provider/manager) took over, NITEL generated and collected N51.43 billion as revenue in one year from about 555,055 connected lines.

"After 23 months of Pentascope's rape, the connected lines dropped to 440,000 and a debt profile of over N40 billion was incurred which eventually led to the revocation of the deal with Pentascope." According to him, "the Trans-national Corporation (Transcorp) took over in 2006 with fanfare, NITEL'S connected line was 400,000. Three years after, it dropped to less than 100,000. Working lines was 296,000, it dropped to 5,000. M-TEL had about 1.3 million lines deployed all over the country (a record achievement unequalled by any other GSM provider at the time!) but today, there are none!"

The union leader explained that 250,000 CDMA lines that were at 90% completion before

Transcorp took over were not completed, stressing that there were 249 (out of the original 284) active exchanges in the NITEL network nationwide at the time, but today less than 60 of them are working and many of them shut down.

He pointed out that Transcorp promised to inject \$500 million to turn around the company but three years after, it refused to inject the funds and BPE failed to ensure compliance by Transcorp to the terms of the privatization agreement.

Alhassan lamented that "NITEL/MTEL has been subjected to a coordinated campaign of destruction by vested interest and its Nigerian workforce to glaring abuse, orchestrated and supervised by the BPE! Painfully, those individuals responsible for this pathetic state of the company and their backers enjoy their loot rather than answer for their actions, at the same time that Nigerians continue to pay a heavy

price for a stunted telecom industry in several respects, particularly in the paucity of delivery of rural ICT services."

Now that New Generation Telecommunications Consortium has emerged as the preferred bidder, most Nigerians would want to see the BPE and other regulatory agencies deliver on their statutory duty of ensuring that the company delivers telecom services.

There is no excuse for failure to enforce privatisation agreements by the BPE and other related agencies. Strict adherence to agreements will ensure economic growth which ultimately leads to more jobs and a decent work environment.

In this respect, all labour issues particularly outstanding terminal benefits of workers exited as well as unpaid arrears of salaries owed its current staff must be first line charge items on the sums accruing to BPE from this new deal with the Chinese.



COMRADE Sunday Alhassan, President National Union of Post and Telecommunications Employees (NUPTE)

FG shares experience on decent work agenda

By Francis Okeke

THE Federal Government has enumerated its achievements in the implementation of the Global Job Pacts which is geared toward mitigating the impact of the economic crisis on working families and enterprises both in the informal and formal economies through the Decent Work

Agenda.

Government enumerated this in a presentation at the 36th African Regional Labour Administration Centre (ARLAC) Conference, which held in Zimbabwe.

Director Planning, Research, Analysis and Statistics in the Ministry of Labour and Productivity Omoha Lexy Omoha who led the Nigerian delegation

stated that government through the ministry has consistently made frantic efforts in actualising the four strategic objectives of the Decent Work Agenda and social partners.

Omoha noted that the ministry had "convened a National Employment Summit in collaboration with the International Labour Organisation (ILO) in

order to meet the challenges of global economic and financial crisis."

The Nigeria Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) focuses on three priority areas: Employment Creation for women and youths, Fight against Child Labour and mitigation of effect of HIV/AIDS on spouses of workers.

The leader of the delegation disclosed that Nigeria has ratified the ILO instruments concerning employment policy, wages, inspection, migrant workers, occupational safety and health, working hours and social mechanisms, stating that extant labour laws were reviewed in line with the 35th ILO Conventions ratified by Nigeria.

Sign Language



No pain, no gain
 Photo location: Antigua, by H. Geismar
 Culled from telegraph.co.uk



Shocking English
 Photo location: Nanning, China, by Bob Cheney
 Culled from telegraph.co.uk

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.

94

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

Solution to Sudoku 93

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

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EDUCATION

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Why MDGs intervention is necessary in education, by Dukku

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

MINISTER of State for Education Hajiya Aishatu Jibril Dukku has said that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) intervention is positively turning around the fortunes of education sector in the country.

Speaking at a function organised by the Centre for Women and Gender Studies of the Evan Enwerem University, Aishatu said eight wide goals were developed in the education sector

with which the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Education For All (EFA) are pursued vigorously.

She said the Education Ministry has remained steadfast in its resolve to improve efficiency of basic education, with higher completion rates and increased enrolment in primary and junior schools.

She said the Federal Government is committed to providing education for all citizenry devoid of discrimination on the basis of

gender, physical condition, geographic location and socio-economic status of parents.

Hajiya Aishatu described education as an instrument of development of any nation, an antidote to poverty and key for unlocking national resources.

She said education opens door for citizens to participate in development, adding that achievement of other Millennium Development Goals depends on its success in the education sector

She noted with satisfaction the achievement so far in overcoming the problems of out of school children, disparities in access between genders across regions and social groups, teachers' quality, inadequate infrastructure and materials as well as poor students learning environment.

She also pointed out that prior to the MDGs intervention, about 10.5 primary school age pupils and six million of Junior Secondary age were out of school

for various reasons, adding that 15 to 25 percent reduction has been achieved from that staggering number.

She said the Federal Government in collaboration with international partners have recorded a major feat in the area of twin problem of girls school dropout in Northern Nigeria and the boys drop out in the South, saying that the campaign was being scaled-up to encourage enrolment and retention of boys and girls in school.

MTN to boost science education with N100m

From Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

MTN Foundation has promised to commit about N100million into the funding of science and technology education by giving scholarships for 500 indigent students in higher institutions across the country, chairman of the foundation Ambassador Ahmadu Hamzat, has said.

Ambassador Hamzat, who disclosed this at the formal presentation of the MTN Foundation Science and Technology Scholarship award certificates and cheques to 98 beneficiaries at the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria, also said that the foundation has so far invested more than N930million on its Schools

Connect and Universities Connect projects.

He said since the future of Nigeria depends on quality science and technology education, the nation's youths should therefore be encouraged to deploy their talents in that direction. He said that the scholarship which is worth N200,000 for each beneficiary annually, would cover the cost of books and tuition.

While noting that 98 of the beneficiaries were drawn from higher institutions in the northern part of the country, the foundation chairman advised the recipients not to relent in their efforts to better their current academic performance.



CHAIRMAN of Katchey Company Ltd Alhaji Abdulrazaq Isa (left), Senator Tunde Ogbeha, Minister of Information Professor Dora Akunyili and Governor Ibrahim Idris of Kogi State commissioning the Abdulrazaq Science Complex donated to Government Secondary School Dekina by Katchey Company.

Kwara poly approves 64% CONTISS for staff

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE chairman of the governing council of Kwara State Polytechnic Ilorin Engineer Musa Yeketi said the polytechnic has approved implementation of 64 percent Consolidated Tertiary Institutions Salary Structure (CONTISS) for staff effective from January this year in order to forestall further exodus of staff from the institution.

The chairman, who stated this at a maiden stakeholders' conference organized by polytechnic, said that the goal is to make it 100 percent before the end of this year.

"While our action had been applauded by the polytechnic staff and others outside the polytechnic, we are confronted with the

great challenge of keeping up the payment in the face of the present unrealistic students school fees," he said.

Alhaji Yeketi expressed concern over the mass exodus of some academic staff of the institution owing mainly to the non-implementation of CONTISS.

"The main reason for their leaving is the issue of consolidated tertiary institutions salary structure. Some of the lecturers had left for universities and polytechnics in Akwa Ibom, Auchi, Bauchi, Offa and Kwara state university," he said.

Speaking on students affairs, the chairman urged the students to shun violence, stating that it "pays to be peaceful, orderly and law-abiding."

Egwu lauds World Bank on Step-B projects

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Minister of Education Dr Sam Egwu has commended World Bank for the Science and Technology Education Post-Basic (STEP-B) projects, saying that over \$60 million out of a total commitment of \$100 million for the projects had been disbursed.

Dr Egwu, who disclosed this at a mid-term review meeting with the World Bank team in Abuja, said the second component of the projects will involve the release of \$7 million each to nine schools for research activities.

He said that it is only a well coordi-

nated and implemented intervention that can achieve the desired impact in the development of the education sector.

According to him, the mid-term review of the performance indicates that these projects are on course and contributing positively towards the improvement of facilities in the nation's institutions.

He called on the World Bank to remove unnecessary bureaucratic bottlenecks creating difficulties in accessing the facilities by deserving institutions, saying that the Education Ministry on its part has intensi-

fied efforts to ensure effective monitoring of projects funded by the World Bank interventions under the STEP-B Project.

The World Bank representative in Nigeria, Olatunde Adekola and other members of the mid-term review team specified standards must be met before disbursement of such funds at any giving stage.

Mr Adekola, however, assured that appropriate capacity building workshops would be put in place to expose and guide prospective beneficiaries of the funds on project proposals and implementation.

Stick to agreement or face strike, ASUU tells FG

By Abdullahi M. Gulloma

THE Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) has called on the Federal Government to respect the 2009 agreement signed after about four months of industrial action or face fresh strike.

In a statement at the end of the last National Executive Council (NEC) of

ASUU, the union said there are strong indications that government would not obey the agreement reached or take decision that needs to guarantee peace and uninterrupted academic calendar this year.

The statement signed by the national president of the union Professor Ukachukwu Awuzie reads in part: "After two and a half years of

tedious negotiations from November, 2006 to June 2009, Nigerians heaved a sigh of relief when ASUU signed an agreement with the Federal Government of Nigeria on the cardinal issues of funding, university autonomy and academic freedom, conditions of service of academic staff and other matters affecting universities in particular and education in general.

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Oyo students demand compensation over Jos crisis

From Musliudeen Adebayo, UNIJOS

STUDENTS from Oyo State studying in the University of Jos under the aegis of Federation of Oyo State Students Union (FOSSU) have demanded for compensation from their state government over the losses they have incurred

during the recent crisis in Jos, the Plateau State capital.

Officials of the union told *Daily Trust* at the University of Jos that the demand was necessary in view of the inability of the Oyo State Government to evacuate them during the crisis.

The officials also denied alle-

gations by the Oyo State Government that the students were being used by some politicians to castigate the state government and top government officials as was aired in media stations in the state such as the Oluyole FM, Premier FM, Splash FM, BCOS and NTA.

President of the union Com-

rade Oluwaseun Akinsola said "students from states such as Benue, Balyesa, Lagos Kogi, Edo Delta, Ogun, Nassarawa, and Kwara were duly compensated."

He said after the 2008 crisis, N5,000,000 (five million naira) and relief materials were given to the Yoruba community in Jos by

Governor Adebayo Alao Akala but that no student received penny out of the money and the items.

He said also that during the January crisis, the state government evacuated some indigenes but no single student was evacuated.



PIC: NAN

PUPILS of Grace Garden International School, Abuja at the education fair organised by the British Council in Abuja.

Jonathan commends UNAAB for academic excellence

ACTING President Dr Goodluck Ebele Jonathan has commended the Governing Council, management and staff of the University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, (UNAAB) for their commitment to the pursuit of academic excellence and fast-tracking infrastructural development that engendered accreditation of some programmes of the university by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

Speaking at the 17th convocation ceremony of the university, Dr Jonathan expressed confidence that in the nearest future UNAAB would become one of Nigeria's pre-eminent universities.

The acting president, who was represented by the Minister of Education Dr Sam Egwu, said government will continue to meet its obligation to tertiary institutions for them to remain competitive and meet up the challenges of technology-driven world.

Idah poly gets new deputy rector

A new Deputy Rector has been appointed for the Federal Polytechnic, Idah, Kogi State. He is Mr. James Drisu Abu.

His appointment was approved by the Governing Council of the polytechnic on February 10, 2010, following his election by the Academic Board on January 28, 2010.

The appointment takes effect from February 11, 2010 and is for a period of two years.

Mr. Abu was born on March 25, 1960, at Emachi-Ajaka in Igalamela/Odolu Local Government Area of Kogi State. He began his formal education from St. Patrick Primary School, Ajaka, between 1967 and 1973, after which he proceeded to our Lady of Schools, Anyigba, Kogi State, from 1972 to 1978 where he obtained the West African School Certificate (WASC).

UNILORIN reduces fees for foreign students

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Senate of the University of Ilorin has approved the reduction of fees for African Students under the internationalization policy of the university, *Daily Trust* learnt yesterday.

The scholarship scheme will give foreign African Students the opportunity to enjoy free

tuition, free accommodation, N90,000 subsistence and N10,000 miscellaneous allowances.

The scheme also includes transportation allowance to and from Ilorin per session and complimentary access to facilities of the university health services.

The package for foreign students also includes reduction of tuition fee to N35,000

per student for the next five years, exclusive of other charges.

Already, the university has foreign staff members from Japan, Ghana, Senegal, Netherlands and Sierra Leone and it has signed a memoranda of understanding with more than 12 universities in Africa, Europe, and the United States of America.

...Begins new degree programmes

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Senate of the University of Ilorin has approved the commencement of Bachelor of Science degree in Forest Resources Management in the Faculty of Agriculture, and Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Physiotherapy, and Radiography, all in the College of Health Sciences.

Daily Trust learnt that both B.Sc. Forest Resources Management and B.Sc. Nursing will commence next session while B.Sc. degrees in Medical Laboratory Sciences, Physiotherapy, and Radiography will start in 2011/2012, 2012/2013, and 2014/2015 sessions respectively.

Similarly, the Senate has approved the establishment of a collaborative master's

degree programme in Peace and Security Studies with the Institute of Security Studies, which will run for a minimum of 12 calendar months and a maximum of 24 calendar months.

The programme will include courses in Crime, Conflict and Crisis Management, Domestic and International Terrorism, Intelligence gathering, Gender, Conflict and Development among others.

UNAD dismisses 500 students over irregularities

THE University of Ado-Ekiti (UNAD) has dismissed over 500 students over illegal transfer from one faculty to another, Vice Chancellor of the university Professor Dipo Kolawole, has said.

Professor Kolawole stated in Ado-Ekiti while appearing before the State House of Assembly Committee on Public Petition and Education to defend the petition filed against the university's management by the affected students.

In a petition dated February 9, 2010, the

affected students urged the lawmakers to direct the management of UNAD to reverse their dismissal from the institution.

The Vice Chancellor explained to the committee that the affected students left their various departments without proper documentation by the appropriate authority.

He told the committee that the students' illegal activities were detected during a screening exercise conducted in December, 2009.

He maintained that the illegal transfer and other sharp practices by the students, who

are mainly from the Department of Business Administration, were facilitated by some "identified" senior lecturers and staff of the institution.

The VC noted that the affected students were not been manipulated as being alleged by them but willing accomplices in the whole process.

Professor Kolawole said that the Senate of the university has approved their dismissal and with a verdict of "no merit" to the affected students.

Jebba Paper Mills: Well positioned to meet West Africa's paper needs

In 2007, Jebba Paper Mills (JPM) Limited, a subsidiary of MINL Limited, Lagos, acquired the assets of the moribund Nigerian Paper Mills Limited, which was closed for over 15 years. The resuscitation exercise has been planned in three phases at an estimated cost of N12 billion.

Presently, the Mill has now recommenced commercial production after phase 1 of the resuscitation process, at an investment of N3 billion. JPM had disclosed that phases II and III would require investment of N9 billion, resulting in capacity enhancement which would invariably create employment for at least 1,500 individuals, besides generating indirect employment in excess of 10,000. However, MINL Limited's audacious acquisition of the erstwhile company has already placed it on a higher pedestal, as it now occupies a pinnacle position not only in Nigeria but in the entire West African region. It would also be pertinent to mention that JPM is the only functioning paper mill in West Africa with the technical capabilities of producing both white and Kraft paper. Though the company is presently concentrating only on production of Kraft/Brown/Fluting paper used in packaging, it has disclosed that production of white paper would follow in due course. "This is the only paper mill producing Kraft/Brown paper among ECOWAS countries. As you are all aware, the mill in its earlier incarnation was built and commissioned in the late 60s as a Federal Government company. Production was discontinued during the mid-90s and subsequently, the mill was put up for privatisation during 2001/2002," said S.K Agrawal, chairman, MINL Limited. Agrawal, who spoke during the commencement of commercial production at the Mill in Kwara State recently, observed that the resuscitation work in Phases two and three would be completed progressively. "Upon such completion, our Mill can meet the entire demand of Kraft Paper for the sub-region besides creating job opportunities for thousands," he said. Commenting on the obstacles militating against the continued growth of the company, the chairman revealed that despite various modifications and technological upgrades which the company has undertaken, the mill cannot achieve financial viability under the import duty structure is presently applicable for paper and paper products in the country.

As such, for the company to perform optimally as well as continue to make the desired impact it has set out to accomplish in the Nigeria economy, the management are of the view that the basic raw materials of waste paper and paper pulp required by the company to operate should be allowed to be imported at zero duty

"The prevalent import duty on Kraft/Brown paper and white paper is presently 5

percent. You are aware the cost of production in Nigeria is higher than developed/developing countries to the extent of 35 – 40 percent, and it is for this reason that most of the manufactured products in Nigeria require import tariff protection as a safeguard measure. Such protection is essential for paper manufacturing as well to make it survive," he posited. Providing an insight into what needs to be done to salvage the situation, Agrawal called for a re-look of the import tariff structure for this category of products and consideration of certain fiscal and general incentives. "We would therefore urge decision-makers in our country to please modify import tariff structure and plan fiscal and general incentives in this country; otherwise we would continue to remain a raw material company," he noted. According to him, countries like China and India would not have been the vibrant economies of today, if their respective governments had not provided very large tariff protection and fiscal incentives in the formative years.

In the same vein, a major contribution of Jebba Paper Mills to the Nigerian economy is that its products will serve as import substitutes thereby saving the country huge amount of foreign exchange expended on importation of Kraft/Brown paper yearly.

In the words of Narendra Kumar, chief operating officer, 'commencement of production at Jebba Paper Mills Limited, Nigeria will now have sufficient capacity of Kraft/Brown/Fluting paper to cover 67 percent of the country's requirement, thereby substituting imports and conserving foreign exchange around \$100 million annually'. In accordance with the practice in developed countries, JPM has introduced the concept of making Kraft/Brown paper by recycling waste paper, "Use of waste/scrap paper has triple benefits – clearing the environment, conserving forest resources by saving trees and generating indirect employment opportunities for thousands of unemployed persons in the activity of waste paper collection alone." The COO further enjoined the government to modify import tariff structures for Kraft/ Brown/ Fluting paper by introducing an import duty of 35 percent plus Levy of 10 percent or an import duty of 20 percent plus Levy of 20 percent for Kraft/Brown/ Fluting paper covered under H.S. Code 4804.1100.00 to 4804.5900.00 and H.S. Code 4805.1100.00 to 4805.9300.00, to enable the company become viable and continue operations and pursue the next phases of the resuscitation process. "Moreover, this would attract other investors in this sector and it would not be long, before the other two moribund integrated paper mills see the light of day and jobs lost are revived, besides Greenfield investment in such a priority sector, so vital for the economy", Kumar added.

JPM

GOOD NEWS

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News Extra

Baby starved to death for failing to say "Amen" before eating



STARVED to death: Ria Ramkissoon and her son Javon Thompson, who wasn't given any food after failing to say, 'Amen' before eating

As the boy died, between December 2006 and January 2007, the three members of the now-defunct Mind Ministries are said to have prayed for his resurrection

A religious cult leader ordered a baby to be starved to death after failing to say 'Amen' before a meal, a court heard yesterday.

Christian Queen Antoinette ordered 16-month-old Javon Thompson be deprived of food after he failed to thank God before eating, it is claimed.

The 41-year-old is on trial for murder along with her daughter, Trevia Williams, 22, and Marcus Cobbs, 23.

As the boy died, between December 2006 and January 2007, the three members of the now-defunct Mind Ministries are said to have prayed for his resurrection.

They then destroyed all evidence of his death and stuffed his body in a suitcase, which they hid in a shed behind a home in Philadelphia, assistant state's attorney Julie Drake told jurors.

The jury heard how Javon's mother, Ria Ramkissoon, was recruited into the cult and did nothing to stop him from wasting away, even though she was 'distraught' over his slow and agonising death.

Ramkissoon pleaded guilty last year to child abuse resulting in death and plans to testify against Antoinette, Williams and Cobbs. At her insistence, the plea deal included an extraordinary provision: 'If Javon comes back to life, the plea will be vacated.'

Ramkissoon, then a teenage single mother, joined the cult because she wanted to become



QUEEN Antoinette and her daughter Trevia Williams, right



a Christian and was told she wouldn't have to work or go to school, Drake said.

The members lived together in a small apartment and were forced to abide by an increasingly strict set of rules, and Antoinette was 'leery' of Javon, it was claimed.

'If she perceived a rebellious spirit in someone, she would characterise it as demonic,' Drake said.

The cult members 'did eve-

rything they could think of' to make Javon say 'Amen' before Antoinette ordered them not to feed him until he did, she told the court.

Antoinette later took the boy away from his mother and placed him in Williams' care, the prosecutor said.

In full view of every member of that household, Javon wasted away,' Drake said.

'If this little boy had ever had

the capacity to say "Amen", he surely lost it.

'He could not say anything,' Ramkissoon prayed for days for Javon to be resurrected, and Antoinette 'told her it was her fault' the boy did not come back to life, Drake said.

The three, who are representing themselves, appeared in court yesterday.

Antoinette, who is facing a first degree murder charge, declined to make an opening

statement.

Williams and Cobbs - who have been charged with second degree murder - spoke briefly.

Williams suggested the prosecution's theory of the case was flawed. 'Pay attention to details,' she said. Cobbs pledged that 'when the truth comes out,' jurors would realise the defendants are not guilty.

'The truth shall set you free,' he said. The all deny the charges. The trial continues.

News Extra

Con man serving time in Wisconsin helped run suspected diploma mill

A lifelong con man imprisoned in Wisconsin worked with associates outside the walls to operate a suspected diploma mill that was recruiting students for at least two years until authorities uncovered the scheme, the *Associated Press* has learned.

Kenneth Shong, 44, helped to run "Carlingford University" while he was behind bars, according to interviews and documents obtained by AP through the state open records law. Prison authorities uncovered the scheme in late 2008, but Carlingford's Web site was taken down only this month after AP interviewed its designer.

The school was apparently just a phony moneymaking venture, according to state regulators. Its Web site claimed Carlingford had an office in Mobile, Ala., and a "regional training center" in Green Bay, but both were merely post office boxes.

Web designer Brian Truckey acknowledged in an interview that he ran Carlingford's Web site and that it contained inaccurate information he was told to post. He said Shong, an inmate at Racine Correctional Institute whose criminal career has spanned the globe, was in charge.

"We don't move forward until I get instructions from him," said Truckey, president of a small business in Green Bay called Serpent Technologies.

But Truckey insisted Carlingford was largely legitimate and added he was earning a graduate degree in exchange for running the site, which he said was his "thesis." Hours after the interview, the site was suspended.

Higher education regulators in Wisconsin and Alabama had already sent letters to Carlingford representatives asking them to cease and desist operations.

The Wisconsin Department of Justice has opened a criminal investigation into Carlingford, which boasted of "delivering knowledge at the speed of thought" and offering degrees that were accepted worldwide.

"It has become apparent that Carlingford University is likely part of a criminal scheme being conducted by one or more inmates or ex-inmates," David Dies, executive secretary of the Wisconsin Educational



THIS Oct 22, 2007 photo released by the Wisconsin Department of Corrections shows convicted sex offender David Kaster. Prison investigators say Kaster worked with inmate Kenneth Shong to operate Carlingford University, a suspected diploma mill.

Approval Board, wrote DOJ last year in asking for the probe.

The investigation comes as Wisconsin lawmakers consider a bill that would make it easier for prosecutors to press charges against so-called diploma mills and their customers. The bill would make it a crime to issue and use false academic credentials.

Shong, who has several aliases, including Kenneth Onapolis, has not been charged in connection with Carlingford. But he was put in isolation for 45 days as punishment after prison officials uncovered his role in late 2008 by reading his mail.

A prison investigation found Shong's main partner was David Kaster, a convicted sex offender he met while serving time. Kaster, a former high school swimming coach convicted of sexually assaulting female students, was released in 2007.

He wrote to Shong on Carlingford letterhead to discuss plans to set tuition rates, design degrees and class rings for "CU" and spend money to advertise online.

At least three inmates applied to Carlingford while the prison was investigating and Kaster cashed two \$35 checks cover-

“The Wisconsin Department of Justice has opened a criminal investigation into Carlingford, which boasted of ‘delivering knowledge at the speed of thought’ and offering degrees that were accepted worldwide

ing their initial fees. The prison stopped payment on the third. Kaster also contacted groups to market the school to other inmates, the investigation found. It's unclear how many, if any, diplomas were issued or how much the scheme netted.

Investigators obtained a let-

ter sent from Carlingford's "dean of students," another Shong associate, that congratulated inmate Kenneth Fleming for being admitted and noted he had paid \$1,740 to enroll.

"Should I just send Fleming a course completion certificate with his 'grades' for the last course he took?" Kaster asked Shong in one letter. "He is looking for something like that."

Fleming wrote to an investigator last year that he considered himself a victim of the scheme and wanted restitution.

Kaster could not be reached for comment, but authorities ordered him to not have any contact with Shong or anyone associated with Carlingford.

In a telephone interview from prison, Shong acknowledged that he had advised others on how to run Carlingford but downplayed his role in the scheme.

"I would not say I'm the driving force behind anything," he said.

He claimed Carlingford was part of a legitimate London-based outfit that offered academic degrees around the world, a claim the prison investigation found untrue. Its London address was an empty storefront, it found.

Shong has been convicted of bank fraud, theft and other financial crimes and has a history of "outwitting, outplaying and outlasting authorities," as one judge wrote in 2005. After years on the run, he was captured by U.S. marshals in Vanuatu, a small island near Australia, in 2002 and returned to the United States to face federal fraud and tax evasion charges.

After his prison term ended, Wisconsin authorities brought him back to finish serving a 12-year sentence on a 1989 sentence on forgery charges. He had escaped while on parole in 1993.

Department of Justice spokesman Bill Cosh declined comment on the investigation. But Dies said investigators were poring through "a fairly large volume of material" they obtained, including bank records.

At a court hearing in 1989, Dane County prosecutor Ann Sayles said Shong used fake checks, obtained bank credit to buy an expensive car, and defrauded companies to buy plane tickets under a fake name. She called him "a professional con man" and said his shady business activities were continuing in jail. "I'm not so certain," she said, "the public is safe even with him in prison."

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Parents refund daughter's dowry to enable her remarry

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A man recently told an Abuja Upper Area Court that his proposed in-laws refunded the dowry he paid for their daughter in order for her to marry someone else.

The man, Idris Hassan, however said he is not bothered about her plans to remarry but wants her family to refund every penny he spent on her.

Hassan told the court that he met Jummai Bature some time

in May last year, after which they started a relationship and he looked after her when she fell sick.

"When she was sick, Jummai asked me to search for medicine for the cure because it was a spiritual attack and I tried everything within my power and she recovered from the ailment," he said.

He said after she recovered, Jummai's parents persuaded him to pay her dowry since they are satisfied with the way he handled and treated her when she was sick.

"I agreed and paid N24,000 as demanded but was later asked to come and collect the money because of some flimsy excuses," he added.

Idris said Jummai's family told him that she was married before and that the man has come back for her, adding that he reported the incident to the village head so that the family can refund to N256,000 as the money spent on the courtship.

According to him, the fam-

ily refused to refund his money and sent hoodlums to attack him; hence he took the matter to court.

Jummai and her mother, Aisha Bature, who were in court, denied owing Idris such amount of money, adding that the case is already before Ruwan Gidiya Sharia Court in Katsina State.

During the court's hearing, Jummai's mother presented a letter from the Sharia court and urged the area court to either dis-

charge the case or transfer the proceedings to the Sharia court.

Counsel to the complainant, Kenny Clet, pleaded with the court to adjourn the case for his client to provide his witnesses since they are denying owing him.

Judge Issa Alhaji Yahaya granted his request and urged both parties to come with their witnesses on the next hearing date.

The case was adjourned to March 10, for further hearing.

Teacher arrested for punishing pupil

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A teacher with Great Legacy Academy, Karu village was yesterday arrested by the police for punishing a pupil who failed to carry out an assignment she was given in school.

The class teacher, Mathew Peter, was arrested following a complaint made by the pupil's mother at Karu Police Station.

The teacher said he gave the whole class pupils work to do and warned that whoever fails to do it will be punished. "I punished the whole class because they are just nine pupils in my class and I beat each of them three days ago but this morning, the mother of one of the pupils came to the school, held my shirt and said I should follow her to go and see what I did to her daughter," he said.

The woman, Princess Chidi, said she actually went to the school to confront the teacher in order to let him know the gravity of what he did to her daughter because the girl has been down since that day.

"I only went to the school to let him know that my daughter has been seriously ill but when I held him, he started beating me, which was why I called the police to arrest him for assaulting me," she said.

The teacher has been charged to court for alleged assault but the woman has decided to withdraw the case because people have begged off the teacher's behalf.

Mr. Clifford Oike, the proprietor of the school, expressed disappointment at what happened in his school.

He said it would have been better if the woman had reported the teacher's behavior to him instead of going to fight the teacher.

"I leave everything to the Almighty God and still hold on to the saying that teachers reward is in heaven," he said.

Residents express joy over Yar'adua's return

By Usman A. Bello, Lami Sadiq & Romoke Ahmad

SOME Abuja residents yesterday expressed joy when news filtered in early in the morning that President Umaru Musa Yar'adua has returned to the country.

Ojo Mathias, a businessman, said he is very happy because the president is a good man, who is out to stamp out corruption in the country.

"He has started some probes to fish out certain corrupt persons and should not be distracted," Mathias said.

Friday Okpeke, a student, also praised the president for his good works and hoped that he is well enough to take over.

Another resident, James Ayuba, said the president's recovery is good for the country, as it will calm tense.

"As you can see, things are at a standstill and I believe now that he is back to the country, things will move forward," he said.

Ishiaku Sule, a Public officer, said God has answered the prayers of Nigerians for the president to come back and continue the good work he has started.

"The National Assembly should follow the constitution and do the right thing for the country in allowing him to continue if he is well enough but if



RESIDENTS crowded in front of a news stand at Nyanya to read news of President Yar'adua's return yesterday.

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU

he is not too strong, the acting president to continue so that we can have peace".

Mr Ogbonna called for the removal of the acting president and immediate reinstatement of

President Yar'adua.

He urged the president to fulfill his campaign promises to the people who prayed for his quick recovery when he was in Saudi Arabia for treatment.

Another resident who only gave his name as Jimoh, said though he is happy that the president came back alive, he wants him to improve on the power sector.

Al-Habibiyyah disburses alms today

By Abbas Jimoh

THE Al-Habibiyyah Zakat Foundation maiden public disbursement of Zakat holds today in Abuja.

The Director and Chief Imam of the foundation, Imam Fuad Adeyemi, told City News yesterday in Abuja that the disbursement would be for over 40 beneficiaries, who are to receive

between N30,000 and N100,000.

While advising Muslims to pay Zakat to fast track national development, he said Zakat negligence contributed in no small way to the recent global economic meltdown, where millions of people worldwide lost their wealth and jobs.

"Also the religious uprisings in most places in Nigeria are as a result of unpaid Zakat and this

is disheartening, that despite the massive human and material resources Allah endowed Nigeria with, the country is still ranked as one of the poorest in the world," he added.

Imam Adeyemi advised that if we pay our Zakat on time and disbursed them in accordance with Quranic injunctions, we will not be poor.

He said that only five Muslims

donated what would be disbursed as alms, adding that people outside FCT cannot be given now as the donors were FCT residents.

"We plan to establish a forum for beneficiaries, where they would be trained in a collaborative programme with the National Directorate of Employment and National Poverty Eradication Programme, among others.



THE NIGERIA AGRICULTURAL QUARANTINE SERVICE

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND WATER RESOURCES HOLDS A NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP

UNDER THE THEME: NAQS: A SUPPORT TO FOOD SECURITY DRIVE AND AGRICULTURAL EXPORT

DATE: 2ND - 3RD March, 2010
VENUE: INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, EXECUTIVE HALL, ABUJA

PROGRAMME: DAY 1

2nd March, 2010

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---|---|
| 8.00am | 9.30am | - | Arrival and registration of participants |
| 9.30am | 10.00am | - | Arrival of Dignitaries |
| 10.00am | | - | Guests seated |
| 10.05am | | - | Arrival of the Permanent Secretary, FMA&WR |
| 10.10am | | - | Arrival of the Honourable Minister of Agriculture And Water Resources and Chairman of the occasion. |
| 10.15am | | - | Opening prayers |
| 10.20am | | - | Introduction of Dignitaries |
| 10.30am | | - | Welcome address by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources |
| 10.35am | | - | Tea/Coffee break |
| 11.00am | | - | Goodwill messages |
| | | - | 1. Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture |
| | | - | 2. Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture |
| | | - | 3. Director, Federal Department of Livestock |
| 11.30am | | - | Keynote address by the Honourable Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources |
| 11.35am | | - | Vote of thanks by the Coordinating Director, NAQS, Dr. M. Magaji |
| 11.45am | | - | Group photographs |

PAPER PRESENTATIONS

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|---|---|
| 12.00noon | 1.00pm | - | Nigeria Quarantine Service: Present and the Future |
| 1.00pm | 2.00pm | - | The role of the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service in the 7-Point Agenda of the Federal Government and the attainment of Vision 20-20-20 |
| 3.00pm | | - | Lunch break |
| 3.30pm | 4.30pm | - | WTO/SPS Agreements: Tools for promoting Agricultural International Trade |
| 5.00pm | | - | Cocktail Party |

3rd March, 2010

DAY 2:

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---|---|
| 8.30am | 9.30am | - | Bio-security on livestock farms and compliance with Quarantine procedures for imported animals |
| 9.30am | 10.30am | - | Wholesome Agricultural Practices (From Farm to Table) Plant Component |
| 10.30am | 11.30am | - | Best practices in fish production, processing and International trade in Nigeria |
| 11.30am | 12.30am | - | Emerging plant diseases and strategies for control |
| 12.30pm | 1.30pm | - | Trade animal disease surveillance and movement control: The complimentary roles of State Ministries of Agriculture and Natural Resources and the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service. |
| 1.30pm | 2.00pm | - | Facilitating collaboration between Government Regulatory and Security Agencies, with the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service in protecting the national agricultural economy |
| 2.30pm | 3.30pm | - | Lunch break |
| 3.30pm | 4.30pm | - | Interactive session of Importers and Exporters of Agricultural commodities, with the staff of the Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service |
| 4.45pm | | - | Presentation and adoption of workshop communiqué |

Signed:
DR. MAMMAN MAGAJI
Coordinating Director
Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service

Two labourers admit stealing laptops

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

TWO Labourers yesterday in court admitted stealing two laptop computers belonging to one Seyi Fabuji of Federal Housing Authority, Lugbe, Abuja.

Danjuma Audu, 28, and Jonathan Joseph, 29, both of Kabusa village, Abuja, were accused of stealing the laptops and some foreign currencies.

Police prosecutor, Yilkudi Dungji told the court that on December 22, 2009, the complainant reported to the police that he came back from church only to dis-

cover that the accused persons forced open his window and entered his room.

"The accused persons forcefully entered the complainant's room and stole two laptop computers, 50 dollars, 40 pound sterling, shoes, shirts and jewellery, thereby committing offences punishable under Sections 79, 354 and 288 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor stated.

"During police investigations, the accused persons confessed to have broken into the complainant's house and stolen his property, which they sold to one Ishiaku Solomon, now at

large," the prosecutor added.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they confessed to have stolen the two laptop computers, but denied stealing money and other items.

Based on the plea, the prosecutor asked the court for a hearing date to enable the police produce evidence and witnesses.

In her ruling, Chief Magistrate Hafsat Soso granted the accused persons bail in the sum of N150,000 with a reliable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to March 30 for hearing.

NGO members trained on anti-abortion issues

By Abubakar Yakubu

A Non Governmental Organisation 'OO Safewomb International Foundation' yesterday ended a five-day train the trainer workshop in Abuja.

United Nations representative, Engineer Peter Smith said the training course primarily concerns the sanctity of innocent life from fertilization until natural death and how the issue can be enshrined in Nigerian law.

He explained that discussions were held on how adult stem cell research has produced many therapies, whereas embryonic stem cells research has produced no cure to date.

Other topics treated were on chastity sex education and population growth.

Mr Smith produced evidence to prove that economic development and population growth are completely un-related.

He also talked about his 15 years involvement at the United Nations meetings, where he led a large coalition of pro-life/pro-family NGOs.

Our reporter learnt that the meeting was hosted by Lady Justina Okugun, executive director of OO Safewomb International Foundation.

Highlights of the event were pro-life presentations demonstration by trainers, drama sketches and award of certificates.

PIC: ABUBAKAR YAKUBU



PARTICIPANTS at the 'OO Safewomb International Foundation' training programme in Abuja yesterday.

Artisan in court over stolen cylinder gauge

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

A 25-year-old panel beater was yesterday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly stealing a gas cylinder gauge and damaging three windcreens belonging to one Odi Chukwu's customers.

The accused, Ojo Abdulsalam was arrested by the police on February 17, 2010 for committing the offence.

Police prosecutor, Paul Anigbo told the court that on February 17, one Odi

Chukwu of Galadimawa village, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused intentionally damaged the windcreens of three vehicles belonging to his customers.

"The accused committed offences punishable under Sections 288 and 327 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor stated.

He said during police investigations, the stolen gas cylinder gauge was recovered from the accused, who confessed to the crime.

When the charges were read to the accused, he pleaded not guilty and requested for bail, which was not objected to by the prosecutor.

Chief Magistrate Hadiza Dodo granted the accused bail in the sum of N50,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum, who must reside within the jurisdiction of the court and swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to March 8 for hearing.

W/Bank commissions N104m hospitals in Abuja

By Hamisu Muhammad

HEALTH System Development Project II, a World Bank assisted project has commissioned two Comprehensive Primary Health Centres at Dagiri community in Gwagwalada and Dabi village at Kwali.

The Health Centres are to address the high rate of maternal and child mortality cases in the country, said Mrs Anne Okigbofisher, World Bank task team leader during the hand over ceremony of

the centres. She said Nigeria records 10 percent of the world's maternal mortality rates out of the 524,000 women that die yearly during child birth, adding that approximately 99 percent of the mortality rate are due to child birth complications in developing countries.

According to her the objective of HSDP II is to reduce such complications and improve safe delivery in the country.

She commended the project team under the leadership of Dr. Jamilu Isa Yankwashi for their ded-

ication toward attaining the target of the projects.

In his opening remark, Minister of FCT, Senator Muhammad Adamu Aleiro congratulated the people in the communities for benefiting from the health centres.

He said government emphasis on health matters is to strengthen primary health care services because it is the health care level at which the bulk of the rural populace can be effectively catered for in terms of reach and affordability.

The minister, who was repre-

sented by his chief of staff, Alhaji Abubakar Jibrin Yalwa, said with the presence of primary health centres in communities, pressures will reduce in the secondary and specialist hospitals.

The FCT Health Secretary, Dr Precious K. Gbeneol tasked the area councils to take up the challenge of maintaining the centre through adequate and sufficient funding.

She called on the staff deployed to the centre to rededicate themselves to duty. "Be caring and courteous to patients in need of your

attention," she added.

Also speaking, HSDP II Project Coordinator, Dr. Yankwashi said the World Bank has given an additional \$4 million for the project in the FCT.

He said the amount will be used in constructing three additional primary health centres and school of health technology in the FCT.

According to him, the FCT HSDP II has spent \$4.5 million so far in constructing six primary health centres in all the area councils.



Our client is an emerging force in the fast developing genetic agricultural industry, with special interest in seeds and seedlings. To meet the challenges of the next phase in their expansion program, the organization requires outstanding professionals to fill the following positions:

1. General Manager – genmgr@aviraltd.com

The successful candidate will be responsible for managing and oversight of all operations, including developing and implementing a business plan and budget that will result in profitability

Key Responsibilities

- Develop and execute business development models and strategies to achieve profit
- Analyse financial data and formulate policies to enhance revenue growth and cost control
- Budget forecasts and planning
- Implement employee performance evaluation and improvement plans
- Prepare reports on farm conditions, crop yields, machinery upkeep, performance forecasts, etc. for management
- Manage requisitions and purchases for farm operations
- Regular interactions and effective communication of business plans to stakeholders
- Develop and maintain strong business relationships with relevant agencies and regulatory bodies

Location: Yola

Qualification, Knowledge, Skills & Experience

- A good first degree (minimum 2.2) or equivalent in the social sciences from a reputable institution. A higher degree/professional qualification will be an added advantage
- Minimum of 8 years' experience in agronomy and crop production, four (4) of which must be at supervisory/managerial level
- Strategic thinking
- Strong agronomy background
- Effective negotiation and conflict resolution skills
- Broad administrative knowledge and leadership skills
- Financial acumen
- Good inter-personal skills
- Excellent communication
- PC Proficiency

2. Research Manager – resmgr@aviraltd.com

The successful candidate will be responsible for managing field trial programs, research activities and generate data for products development

Key Responsibilities

- In-field research yield trial management
- Lead the development of products based on research and trial programs
- Generate and efficiently interpret research data
- Provide relevant insights and recommendations from research for product enhancement
- Provide effective, timely and sound technical support to meet and exceed project objectives
- Provide technical leadership to encourage and develop innovations
- Ensure proper management of research resources
- Manage other research employees to meet research objectives

Location: Yola

Qualification, Knowledge, Skills & Experience

- A good first degree (minimum 2.2) or equivalent in Agricultural Engineering or a related discipline from a reputable institution. A higher degree/professional qualification will be an added advantage
- Minimum of 3 years' experience in research and development, one (1) of which must be at supervisory/managerial level
- Strong agronomy background
- Data analysis
- Project management
- Innovation management
- Interpersonal relationships
- Excellent communication
- PC proficiency

3. Production Manager – prdmgr@aviraltd.com

The successful candidate will be responsible for the implementation and management of all aspects of commercial seed and crop production

Key Responsibilities

- Manage crops, fields and commercial seed production
- Manage the production fields
- Oversee production facility construction and management
- Run and analyse production data
- Manage land acquisition and leases for production
- Implement and manage the quality control of production
- Coordinate planting and harvesting activities
- Liaise with foreign technical partners
- Effectively managing efficient vendors of materials, equipment or supplies

Location: Yola

Qualification, Knowledge, Skills & Experience

- A good first degree (minimum 2.2) or its equivalent in Agriculture or Engineering from a reputable institution. A higher degree or professional qualification will be an added advantage
- Minimum of 5 years' relevant experience in agro production, three (3) of which must be at supervisory level
- Strong agronomy background
- Data management
- Strategic thinking
- Negotiation and leadership
- Excellent communication

4. Technical Sales Manager – tsmgr@aviraltd.com

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Key Responsibilities

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- Ensure sales targets and business objectives are met
- Determine and effectively manage sales budgets to optimise resources and enhance financial control
- Analyse industry trend and develop sales strategies based on market intelligence
- Regular interaction with R&D to optimize value to customers
- Develop and manage effective and efficient customer-relationship management system to promote service quality and feedback
- Ensure product technical support for optimum customer satisfaction

Location: Yola

Qualification, Knowledge, Skills & Experience

- A good first degree (minimum 2.2) or equivalent from a reputable institution. A higher degree or professional qualification will be an added advantage
- Minimum of 5 years' professional field sales experience in the agro industry, three (3) of which must be at supervisory level
- Strong business acumen and leadership skills
- Good presentations and interpersonal skills
- Negotiation and people management experience
- Strong products and industry knowledge
- Excellent communication
- PC proficiency

How to Apply: Send an updated Curriculum Vitae (in MS Word format) as an email attachment to the email address for the position you are applying for within **2 (two) weeks** of this publication. All short-listed candidates will undergo written and oral assessments. **Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.**

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**2010 TRAINING PROGRAMMES.
APRIL TO AUGUST 2010**

| COURSE | COURSE TITLE | DURATION & DATES | TARGET AUDIENCE | VENUE | FEE |
|----------|---|---|--|---|-----------|
| TUE 14 | Organising and Mobilizing Strategies for Trade Union Effectiveness | 4 Days 20 th - 23 rd April, 2010 | General Secretaries, Presidents, Chairman/Chairperson, Representatives of Employer Associations and Non-Governmental Organisations, others charged with Organising and Mobilizing Responsibilities | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| LMR 11 | Global Trends in Labour-Management Relations: Enhancing Sustainable Organizational Growth Through Quality Labour Administration | 4 Days 4 th - 7 th May, 2010 | Officials and Members of Trade Unions, Government Establishments, and Representatives of Employers Associations; Personnel/ Admin/Industrial Relations Officers/Managers, Other officers whose job schedule involves Labour Administration | Central Hotel, Kano | 30,000.00 |
| TUE 17 | Emerging Issues in Nigerian Industrial Relations System: Implications for Organisational Development | 4 Days 11 th - 14 th May, 2010 | Officials and members of Trade Unions, Government Institutions, Employers Associations and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| ADLP 71 | Conflict Prevention, Resolution and Transformation as a Panacea for Enterprise Development | 4 Days 18 th - 21 st May, 2010 | Officials of Ind. Unions, NLC, TUC, CTUC, NGO, Special Adviser consultants to the States or Federal Govt. on Labour matters, Head of Govt. Parastatals & other Govt officials, Clerks of the House Assemblies, Chairmen and Members of the House Committee on Labour Matters and others responsible for maintaining industrial peace | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| LMR 45 | Emerging Issues in Social Security: Agenda for Trade Unions and Management | 4 days 1 st - 4 th June, 2010 | Organizing Secretaries of Trade Unions, Members of NLC, Personnel and Industrial Relations Officers and Workers that interface between their Organizations and The Public | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| ADLP 13 | Gender Issues in Micro-Enterprise Development | 4 Days 8 th - 11 th June, 2010 | Officials of Industrial Unions, Senior Staff and Employers Associations, NGOs, Labour Officers, and Research Officers, Senior and Middle level Officers in the National and State Planning Commissions, Women Officials of Industrial Unions | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| TUE 23 | Conflict Resolution Strategies and Implications for Organisational Growth | 4 Days 15 th - 18 th June, 2010 | Government and Trade Union officials HR Managers, Representatives of Employers Association and other Officers in charge of Negotiation | Modetele Owerri | 30,000.00 |
| ADLP 52 | Innovative Management Practice in a Changing Environment | 4 Days 22 nd - 25 th June, 2010 | Managers of Private and Public Sector Organization, Officials of industrial Unions, NLC, TUC, CTUC, NGO, Management Staff, and other individuals management practices | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| LMR 19 | Rethinking Labour Governance and Administration within the Context of Globalization and National Reforms | 4 days 6 th - 9 th July, 2010 | Representatives of Trade Unions, Government Agencies and Employers Associations, Human Resources Managers, Officials of Non-Governmental and Civil Society Organizations (NGOs and CSOs) | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| TUE 8 S | Labour Laws and Employment Regulations for Trade Union Officials | 4 days 6 th - 9 th July, 2010 | Officers of Industrial Unions, Senior Staff and Employers Associations, Government Officials, HR Managers/Officers and Supervisors | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| TUE 27 | Special Three-day Workshop on Health and Stress Management | 4 days 6 th - 9 th July, 2010 | Trade Union Officials, Labour Officers and Factories Inspectors, Establishment, Industrial Relations Officers and Occupational Health and Safety Officers in the Private and Public Sectors | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| LMR 10 | Workshop on Leadership and Strategic Change Management for Actualizing the MDGs for effective service delivery | 3 days 13 th - 15 th July, 2010 | Heads of Service of State, Special Advisers to State Governors on Industrial and Labour Relations, Permanent Secretaries of Estab. and Training Matters, Officials of NLC and TUC, President, General Secretaries, Chairman of Labour Unions, Other Officials whose jobs involve Human Capital Administration | Conference Centre, Federal Secretariat, Abuja | 40,000.00 |
| ADLP 50 | Sustainable Enterprise Promotion Through Good Human Resource Management Practice | 4 Days 20 th - 23 rd July, 2010 | Officials of Industrial Unions, Senior Staff Association, Employers Associations, Women's Management and Leadership Positions in the Union Public and Private Sector, Government Officials | French village Badagry Lagos | 30,000.00 |
| TUE 20 | Productivity Schemes and Work Ethics for Achieving Organisational Competitive Edge | 4 Days 20 th - 23 rd July, 2010 | Officials of Industrial Unions and their Affiliates, Workers and Representatives of Employers Associations, Personnel Officers and Managers | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| LMR 11 | Improving Productivity through Good Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Management | 4 days 20 th - 23 rd July, 2010 | Managers from Private and Public Sector organizations, Consultants, Trainers Concerned with Human Resources Management and Enterprise Improvement, Organized Labour Representatives | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| ADLP 55 | Workshop on Protocols and Etiquette | 4 Days 3 rd - 6 th August, 2010 | Officials of the Industrial Unions, Employers Associations, Govt officials, Special Adviser/Consultants to the State/Federal Government Labour Matters, Head of Govt Parastatals, & other Govt Officials, Clerks of the House of Assemblies | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| LMR 16 | Labour Laws and Employment Regulations | 4 days 3 rd - 6 th August, 2010 | Officials of Trade Unions, Government Establishments and Employers Associations, Personnel/ Admin / Industrial Relations Officers/Managers in the Public and Private Sectors | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| LMR 50 | Emerging Trends in Conflict Resolution and Management: Utilizing the ADR | 4 days 17 th - 20 th August, 2010 | Officials and members of INCs, IAF, NLC, Employers Associations, Trade Unions Officials and other Interest Groups | Ilorin | 25,000.00 |
| TUE 56-R | Strengthening Collective Bargaining and Social Dialogue to Achieve Industrial Harmony | 4 days 24 th - 27 th August, 2010 | Trade Union Executives, Representatives of NECA, MAN, Government institutions and Agencies concerned with Post-Reforms Evaluation | Women Development Centre Kaduna | 30,000.00 |

For further enquires on Courses, Consultancy, and Academic Programme, Please contact:

The Director-General

Michael Imoudu National Institute for Labour Studies

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**THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA THE COMPANIES AND ALLIED MATTERS ACT CAP C20
LFN 2004 COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES (MEMBERS VOLUNTARY WINDING UP)
NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF LIQUIDATOR
(Pursuant to Section 491)**

To the Registrar General of Companies,

I, Mr. BASHIR MAIDUGU of BASHIR MAIDUGU AND COMPANY of Suite 21 Lozumba Complex, Garki Area 10 Abuja FCT hereby give you notice that I have been appointed liquidator of **EMERGING MARKETS PROJECTS FACILITATORS (NIGERIA) LIMITED** by special resolution of the Company dated 4th JANUARY, 2010.

Presented by:
Mr. BASHIR MAIDUGU

LIQUIDATOR

ABUJA
4TH JANUARY, 2010

EMERGING MARKETS PROJECTS FACILITATORS (NIG.) LTD

Business Office:
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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA
COMPANIES & ALLIED MATTERS ACT, 1990
COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES
SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF
EMERGING MARKETS PROJECTS FACILITATORS NIGERIA LIMITED

BOARD RESOLUTION OF EMERGING MARKETS PROJECTS FACILITATORS LIMITED MEETING HELD ON THE 4th DAY OF JANUARY, 2010 AT SUITE B7, KADO MULTIPURPOSE SHOPPING COMPLEX ABUJA.

The following resolutions were duly adopted;

1. That EMERGING MARKETS PROJECTS FACILITATORS (NIGERIA) LIMITED be wound up voluntarily.
2. That all necessary steps be taken to ensure that Corporate Affairs Commission be notified accordingly.
3. That Barrister Bashir Maidugu of Suite 21 Lozumba Complex Garki Area 10 Abuja FCT as hereby appointed as liquidator.

Dated this 4th Day of January, 2010

DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR

DIRECTOR



Arewa Suites, Abuja

Samuel Adesujo Ademulegun Street, Off Herbert Macaulay Way,
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Insects invade farmlands in Safana

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

SOME farmlands in Kukar Samu village of Safana local government area, Katsina state were this week invaded by insects that destroyed some food and cash crops in the area.

Checks by Daily Trust revealed that, the devastating effect of the insects has constituted a serious source of concern to the affected communities who largely depend on farming activities for their survival.

Spokesman of the affected farmers, who spoke to newsmen in Katsina, decried over the invasion and appealed to both state and local governments to take urgent steps by ensuring early fumigation of the farmlands to avert further spread of the insects.

He listed crops such as beans; groundnut and sweet potatoes as the most affected which he said are the largest farm produce by the communities that have relied on them for their self sustenance and in complimenting government's effort on food security.

Another farmer, Alhaji Uwais Kuka decried the invasion which he said has significantly affected their yield this year and called for an urgent solution to arrest the situation. He also urged the government to ensure adequate provision of more farming inputs such as fertilizer and insecticides.

They however acknowledge the efforts of governments at all levels in spending huge resources to improve on both irrigation and rainy season farming in the state and urge them to do more in the overall agricultural development.

Post Copenhagen workshop to hold Mar 1-2

By Nasir Imam

NIGERIACAN, a coalition of groups and individuals working to promote government and individual actions on climate change, will hold a post Copenhagen workshop on 'Strengthening Nigeria's Response to Climate Change' which will take place on March 1-2, 2010 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

The coalition works to improve policies, increase access to climate change information and support government in negotiating for an effective and fair international deal.

After the first year of advocacy, the workshop seeks to review progress in reforming climate change governance in Nigeria, assess implications of the Copenhagen Accord for ongoing reforms, and develop a work plan for the coalition's activities in 2010 and beyond.

Participants to this workshop will include Nigeriacan members and invited stakeholders in government, CSOs, private sector and media organisations. The opening session will be chaired by Dr Donald Duke, chairman, Nigeriacan advisory panel.



A forest on the edge of Lake Walchen in the Bavarian Alps, Germany

Telecom coys given ultimatum on installation of masts

By Mustapha Suleiman

IN line with its mandate of ensuring safer and environment-friendly telecommunications operations in the country, the Director General of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency, NESREA, Dr. Ngeri Benebo has issued a 3-month ultimatum to telecommunication companies who violates environmental law by installing masts and base stations in areas that posed danger to human health, safety of property and the environment.

The DG handed down this ultimatum yesterday at a consultative meeting with telecommunications operators held at the NESREA headquarters in Abuja.

She noted that it has become necessary for NESREA to convene the meeting in order to find pragmatic and effective solutions to the increasing public complaints about indiscriminate installation of masts and base stations, as well as the growing concerns about the risks such acts posed to human health and the environment. She read the riot act to the telecom operators as thus: "you are to carry out an inventory and audit of your mast/base stations nationwide within 3 months from

today. I expect your submission in 12 hard and soft copies, State by State, on or before 24th May, 2010. NESREA has accredited consultants whom you can engage for this service. NESREA will review your submission and certify the masts and base stations to be environment complaints. In this way, public confidence will be restored regarding the sitting of your masts and base stations also our officers will serve as your reference and support platform."

The meeting had in attendance representatives of MTN, Visafone, Etisalat and others.

Firefighters identify inadequate fire cover at airports

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

MEMBERS of the Nigerian Aviation Fire and Safety Association (NAFSA) has identified lack of sufficient fire cover and the poor state of the existing ones across the nation's airports as a major challenges confronting them in the course of discharging their

duties.

Speaking at the unveiling of the annual calendar of the association on Tuesday at the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN) Headquarters, President of the association, Mr Lewis Ojeifo disclosed that most of the fire covers are decaying saying that there is urgent need for the government to change them.

According to him, some of these tenders are as old as twenty five to thirty years thereby putting Fire fighters under serious stress.

He explained that due to the poor state of the tenders usually exposed fire fighters to risk to their lives against international best practices.

His words: "We are appealing

to the management to ensure that the recommended fire tenders and equipment are sourced from the manufactures. They should also ensure that maintenance and servicing are done in accordance with the manufacturers' maintenance schedule."

He said: "On this note, we are appealing to the management to ensure that the recommended

fire tenders and equipment are source from the manufacture's and that maintenance and servicing are also done in accordance with the manufacturers' maintenance schedule. Fire officers must of necessity be trained by the manufacturers on how to maintain the tenders as this will enhance the life span of the tenders."



Lagos to shut houses with pit latrine

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

LAGOS state government is set to enforce the 1978 decree banning pit latrine, threatening to henceforth shut any house with pit latrine in any part of the state.

This was even as it has scheduled a sewage and wastewater summit towards finding solutions to the unchecked haphazard and uncoordinated disposition of citizenry to

sewage management, next week.

Addressing newsmen in Lagos yesterday, the Commissioner for Environment, Dr. Muiz Banire, explained that pit latrines pollute the underground water which consequently is harmful to the general health of the citizenry.

On the scheduled sewage and wastewater summit, the state government noted with dismay the inappropriate sewage manage-

ment; sewage dumping rather than disposal, discharge of raw sewage at legal and illegal dump sites, dilapidated dislodging trucks, contamination of surface and groundwater, devalued and degraded environment.

He stated that Governor Babatunde Fashola's government has since inception conducted several studies, "Carefully analyzed findings and in the final analysis has

developed a five-year sustainable sewage and sanitation strategy programme."

According to him, the summit with the theme: sewage and waste management in Lagos state: charting a new course is targeted at sensitizing government functionaries, public office holder, captains of industries, manufacturers, planners, educational institutions, research centres and the general

public on the dangerous implications of improper sewage and wastewater management.

"The summit would also provide a platform of exchange to explore better initiatives and practices in sewage and wastewater management," Banire said, adding that the summit would also appraise plans and policies already in place, "with a view to institutionalizing reforms for the sector."



LEFT, Acting Perm Sec, Alhaji Bashir Sambo, in a farewell handshake with incoming Permanent Secretary, Dr. Nathaniel Olorunfemi during the handover ceremony at the Environment Ministry's Headquarters, Abuja

Residents get free water as epidemic looms in Ogun

From Kehinde Akinyemi, Abeokuta

OGUN state water board, at the weekend, offered residents of Abeokuta, the state capital free water supply as scarcity of public water utility persists, raising fears imminent outbreak of epidemic.

The water situation worsened last week with residents resorting to stream and untreated borehole water supply. But, in what appears to be a palliative measure, the water board sent out tankers from neighbouring Ijebu ode and Sagamu to give free supply to residents. At

the popular Ibara area, a 8,000 liter tank-truck was seen along Quarry road dispensing water for residents.

A house wife, Mrs. Taiwo Salami told our Correspondent that "the service was a great relief as we do not have a single drop of water as at the time the people arrived. We thank them, but the situation is worrisome and we are only begging them to restore regular supply."

Another beneficiary, who simply identify as herself as Biola, said that the palliative measure was a welcome development, "particularly, when all places we used to get

water had gone out of supply. I am still contemplating seeking option of going to the nearby stream to get water for laundry." However, some residents, in areas such as Obantoko, Adatan, Mokola, Saje, Adedotun complained that the gesture was not extended to them, leaving them at the mercy of endless search for portable water.

Official reaction to the development was to the effect that the water cooperation suffered a major fault in its technical development, which hampered the already epileptic supply from the public source.

WEP mobilises FCT communities against land degradation

By Mustapha Suleiman

AN NGO, Women Environmental Programme (WEP), made up of group of grassroots women in Nigeria with the major aim of addressing the gender injustices on issues relating to environment, economic and social rights of women, children and youths in the society yesterday organised a seminar to mobilise and sensitise FCT residents on environmental degradation, especially those carried out by construction companies, which at times leave behind attendant negative impacts affecting both health, environmental and economic lives of the host communities.

The seminar was organized in conjunction with Host Community Network (HOCON) and had in attendant representatives and community leaders from Mpape, Kuje, Gwagwalada, Chika and Karmo. Nnimmo Bassey, President Friends of the Earth International and the Executive Director Environmental Right Action (ERA), formally inaugurated the Abuja Chapter of the Host Communities Network (HOCON), a network that is meant to train, mobilise and unite host communities to speak with one voice against any form of land degradation caused by construction companies in their communities.

Fashola wants Lagosians to clear drains

LAGOS State Governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola (SAN), Monday called on Lagos residents to clear drains and flood channels in their environment in order to mitigate the effect of heavy flood expected to accompany the rains this year.

Governor Fashola, who made the call while fielding questions from the audience at the Blue Roof Hall, LTV 8 venue of a public forum to commemorate the 1000 days in office of the Babatunde Fashola-led Administration with the theme, "Repositioning the Public Service for Effective Service Delivery: Towards a Model Mega-City State", said the global climate change is already manifesting in the country in the form of extreme weather conditions adding that just as extreme heat is being experienced in the country, extreme rain will follow shortly.

Ondo to witness palm oil revolution

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

ONDO State is set to take its pride of place in the production of oil palm in the nation by partnering with a Malaysian Firm, Agro Bayu Consultancy in its bid to revolutionize its flagging oil palm plantations in the State.

Governor Olusegun Mimiko who disclosed that already a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) would soon be

signed during the presentation of a project package presented by Agro Bayu Consultancy, Malaysia and the Ondo State Wealth Creation Agency in Akure at the weekend said oil palm revolution would be a focal point of the vision of his administration.

The Malaysia firm was represented by two leading Palm experts, Mr. Zolkfli Mahmud and Mr. Esnan Ab-Ghani.

The governor who noted that the Malay-

sia government took palm seedlings from Nigeria in the early 1960s regretted that the successive administrations had abandoned Palm tree production due to the discovery of crude oil in the country.

In his remark, the Leader of team, Mr. Zolkfli Mahmud who has presented over five hundred papers on palm tree productions around the world, noted that palm seedlings from NIFOR would be used in

the first phase of establishment of Oil Palm Nursery for high seedlings to supply to all plantations in the state.

The proposed planting sites for first year of palm revolution are Ore axis, Akunu axis, Supare axis and Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba Akoko which would serve as research and training institute for the project

The second year of the palm revolution is processing plant which will end in 2012.

Inside Politics

Politics and imperative of realignment in Yobe

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

LAST week's Supreme Court judgment has put to rest over three years legal tussle on who the authentic gubernatorial candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in Yobe State between Senator Usman Albishir and Governor Ibrahim Gaidam who inherited the case from late Senator Mamman Ali.

Though the case is over, the consequences of the judgment may either strengthen or bring to an end the dominance of the ANPP which is seen as the more 'traditionally acceptable' political party in Yobe State.

Many citizens of Yobe, including politicians and clerics, among others, consider the judgement as a relief and an opportunity for the government in power to consolidate its gains.

However, some observers are of the opinion that the judgement had added salt to some deep wounds that will further the division within the ANPP. Supporters of the party had long been divided into two camps headed by Gaidam and Albishir.

Speaking on his victory shortly after the judgment, Governor Gaidam said the apex court proclamation was "from the Almighty Allah who gives power to whom He pleases."

Observers have, however, argued that it would be an uphill task for the Inuwa Nguru leadership of the ANPP to resolve the crisis because it will entail membership revalidation which will give opportunity for the Albishir faction to get registered as members of the party.

On his part, Albishir said he had accepted the Supreme Court judgment with a big heart. "I am however very contented that my struggles, much as they were painstaking, would in the short and long term help in deepening democracy in Yobe State and Nigeria as a whole. I am sure in future elections; many political aspirants would develop apathy in accepting to become substitute candidates," he said.

Albishir said he is now into consultations with his supporters to determine his next line of action. He said many political parties including the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had approached him. "We would not rush into taking decision because there is no need for that; we would take our time and take decision that will be favourable to all of us," he declared.

The recent judgement which was endorsed by Justices Dahiru Mustapha, George Adesola Oguntade, Francis Fedode Tabai,

Ibrahim Tanko Muhammad and Olufunlola Adekeye, all of the Supreme court of Nigeria was seen by many as something which provided answers to the question of leadership both in government and at the party's level. But it may also spell doom for the party, some observers have said.

Since he assumed office, Gaidam has attracted considerable followership from within the ANPP and beyond because of his 'inclusive' system of administration. Observers say Gaidam has paid patronage to many grassroots political leaders within and outside the ANPP, something which is believed to have widened his political horizon.

Senator Albishir on the other side is seen as a grassroots politician, a dogged fighter with enormous wealth at his disposal. It is believed that Albishir capacity to wriggle his way amidst difficult circumstances even though the recent Supreme Court judgement had proved that he could have limitations occasionally.

However, the patience he demonstrated as he endured the turbulence of legal procedures in the last three years has endeared him to many political actors in Yobe State. He is known to have retained the loyalty of many political goal-getters including some members of the State House of Assembly and the National Assembly like Senator Ahmed Lawan, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Public Accounts, Rep Zakari Galadima, among many others.

But many admirers of the two leaders have reached the conclusion that Albishir and Governor Gaidam need each other in order to consolidate the gains of the ANPP in Yobe. For now, observers are waiting to see if the two politicians will agree to come together.

"But it takes two willing hands to clap", Barrister Ali Hamidu, a legal practitioner observed. According to him, anything short of that will split the votes of the ANPP which will give other political parties the chance to win many positions in the 2011 general elections.

Another fear lies in the fact that even if Albishir remains in the ANPP, his chance of clinching the party's governorship ticket for 2011 election is somewhere close to zero because the party had, during a special meeting in Damaturu last year, endorsed Governor Gaidam as its candidate for the next election.

Apart from this, suggestions that Gaidam along with the chair-



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Gaidam



SENATOR Usman Albishir

man of the ANPP and other stakeholders have promised to support most of the present elected politicians in the state and National Assembly to return to their positions unopposed.

But a close associate of Albishir who does not want his name in print described the plan as suicidal "because it means that even if Albishir decides to remain in ANPP, all his supporters must have to shelve their ambition of vying for any elective post till God knows when".

In the event that Albishir decides to move to the PDP or any other platform with his supporters, the popularity of ANPP in Yobe State will certainly be depleted even though he may likely meet stiffer hurdles in his new destination, another observer said.

There are unconfirmed reports that the PDP has promised to surrender its gubernatorial ticket to Albishir or his anointed candidate if he decamps to the party. But it may not come as easy as the suggestion is. "I don't think if that can be possible because there are many people who are eying the ticket and have suffered for the party in the last ten years or more," Mohammed Sani, a supporter of the PDP observed.

He said there are people within the PDP who are craving for compensation because of their enormous contribution to the growth of the party. For instance, Alhaji Adamu Maina Waziri, former minister of state for agriculture, has been one of the benefactors of

the PDP who ought to be 'compensated', he said.

Other contenders who may likely resist an automatic ticket for Albishir in the PDP include the state chairman of the party Alhaji Abba Gana Tata who is also known to be nursing governorship ambition. Another guber hopeful in the PDP is Engineer Yakubu Bello and Alhaji Hassan Saleh, the gubernatorial candidate of the National Democratic Party (NDP) who moved to ANPP in 2007 and then cross carpeted to PDP.

Alhaji Hassan Saleh, one time secretary to the Yobe State government who recently quit a juicy federal appointment is also said to be aspiring for the governorship ticket of the PDP even as Alhaji Garba Umar, another influential director in one of the federal government parastatals is said to be bracing up for the same ticket.

Governor Bukar Abba's open support for Ali reportedly piqued Albishir, who believed he was the "bona fide" candidate of the party. Albishir and his close aides, as a consequence, therefore explored the possibility of an 'alliance' with the PDP, with a view to defeating Mamman Ali.

The trouble started when the then governor of the state, now Senator, Bukar Abba Ibrahim, insisted that Albishir should be declared as the only gubernatorial candidate of the party.

Bukar's order was at that time reluctantly accepted by other contestants including his deputy

Saleh Bagare, his commissioner for finance Alhaji Garba Maidugu, among many aspirants, but completely resisted by late Governor Mamman Ali who insisted that primary election must hold.

Pundits have opined that Bukar wanted to compensate Albishir with the party's ticket as an expression of gratitude. It was reported that Albishir was instrumental to the success of Bukar during his debut on the political scene when he (Bukar) contested and won the governorship seat of the state in 1992 on the platform of the Social Democratic Party (SDP).

Again, Albishir was said to be the brain behind Bukar's election on APP's platform in 1999 through his contact with former Head of State Abdussalami Abubakar, and then launched Bukar again in 2003 on ANPP's platform.

During the party's primaries in 2007, Albishir scored 388 while late Mamman Ali got 88 but the former could not contest during the gubernatorial election because of his controversial indictment by the Economic and Financial Commission (EFCC), a development which paved way for Ali's ticket.

Now that the case has been buried, realignments in the ANPP becomes inevitable. But more than anything, the disposition of Gaidam and Albishir in the emerging political space will determine the efficacy of the party as it faces the challenge to be posed by opposition parties especially the PDP.

Inside Politics

I never failed to answer Audu's calls, says Gov Idris

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

KOGI State governor, Alhaji Ibrahim Idris, has said that since his assumption of office, he had never barred anybody from interacting with him.

The governor, through his Director of Press, Mr Richard Olaniyan Elesho, was reacting to an allegation by former Governor Abubakar Audu that he (Governor Idris) did not answer his several telephone calls.

According to Elesho, the governor has not only extended olive branch to anyone who has anything meaningful to offer to the state, but he has also said that opposition members willing to work with him to move the state forward are welcome.

"Prince Abubakar Audu could have

called Governor Idris with a wrong number. What time and with which number did he call him? As a former Chief Executive of Kogi State, he should have known how to book an appointment with a seating governor. So, if he had truly wanted to talk to the governor, he should have asked for his number. The governor could not have refused to answer his phone call. The governor's door is open to all", Elesho maintained.

The governor's aide further noted that all the prominent members in Audu's government, including his first and second deputies as well as his running mate in the last gubernatorial re-run election, did not only joined the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), but are also identified with Governor Idris' government.



GOVERNOR Ibrahim Idris

Mischief makers behind Dakingari, Aliero rift

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin-Kebbi

A member of the Board of Trustee of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) form Kebbi State, Alhaji Sani Zauro, has decried the rift between Governor Saidu Dakingari and the FCT Minister Alh. Adamu Aliero, saying those who are behind it are after some political gains.

Zauro, while speaking to *Daily Trust* at Zauro, near Birnin-Kebbi, said much as he knew, both politicians do not have personal problems with each other. He said, however, that certain politicians who do not want to see Senator Aliero close to the governor have resorted to peddling dangerous rumours to come between them.

"We know Governor Dakingari is doing well in Kebbi but my concern is that he should not allow mischievous people to derail him. He needs Aliero more than these people if PDP must make progress in Kebbi".

The BOT member who was former chairman of the ANPP in the state noted that Aliero is a major fac-

tor in the politics of Kebbi, particularly in the success of PDP in the state.

On the leadership controversy trailing the PDP in Kebbi, he enjoined party members to abide by the position of the National Working Committee (NWC) that Alhaji Suleiman Nasiah should direct the affairs of the party in the state.



ALH. Adamu Aliero

'Public survey backs Uwais report'

By Abbas Jimoh

MAJORITY of Nigerians still regard the full implementation of the Justice Muhammed Lawal Uwais led Electoral Reform Committee (ERC) as the best option for credible electoral reform in the country.

This assertion is contained in wave one report of the Public Survey on the Proposed Electoral Reforms in Nigeria prepared by NOI Polls for the Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE) and MacArthur Foundation. The Survey was presented at the Dennise Hotel in Abuja yesterday.

General Secretary of ACE, Emma Ezeazu, said that the result of the survey is one of the four of such sur-

veys at ensuring wide participation of Nigerians in the electoral reform process.

"The opinion poll conducted between February 3 and February 8 involved telephone interviews with 2,122 randomly selected phone-owning Nigerians, aged 18 and above, across the six geopolitical zones across the country, with the telephone numbers drawn from a database which had been carefully selected and scientifically built to adequately represent all parts of Nigeria," the report said.

When asked for appropriate selecting mode for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) chairman and commissioners, 85 percent favours the National Judicial Council (NJC) to advertise

the positions and select top three candidates, eight percent agrees that the president selects a candidate of his choice, while six percent either don't know or refused to take position.

On the funding of INEC 85 percent said INEC should control how the funds are spent after the budget is approved by the National Assembly, while nine percent favours the president controlling INEC's funding.

When asked why the outcome of the survey tallied with the position of the ACE, officials of the NOI, Toyin Akinyuli and Ogbeneware Bobori, explained that the outcome of the survey is independent of ACE and that statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) software was used for data entry and analysis.

Group condemns campaigns against Iwu

By Abbas Jimoh

THE True Democracy Advocacy Network (TRUDAN), a non governmental organization (NGO), made up of legal practitioners, yesterday in Abuja condemned recent calls for the sacking of the Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Prof. Maurice Iwu, by the Action Congress (AC) and 'foreign collaborators', as a desperate and self-serving agenda that has nothing to do with development of democracy

in the country.

A statement jointly signed by TRUDAN's national president, Haruna Abubakar and secretary general, Ubaka Otuya, wondered why the AC would be calling for the removal of Prof. Iwu, especially coming on the heels of the recent Anambra State governorship election and that of Edo State Assembly in Etsako, that were adjoined to be free, credible and peaceful by both local and international observers.

"Rather than call for

the removal of the INEC chairman, the AC and Alhaji Mohammed should have joined other lovers of democracy in commending Pro. Iwu and the electoral commission for doing a great job in the above mentioned elections, in which they showed pure fidelity to the principles of true democracy by the transparent manner the elections were conducted, which many say was a sharp departure from the past exercises that were drowned in avoidable controversies and discrepan-

cies," the group said.



PROF. Maurice Iwu

SPORT

Obasi: We must play our own game

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World Cup semi final target difficult –Hoddle

By Orkula Shaagee & David Ngobua

ONE of those interviewed by the Nigeria Football Federation for the Super Eagles Technical Adviser's job, Glenn Hoddle yesterday said that it will be difficult to achieve the semi-final target set for the incoming foreign coach by the Federation.

Hoddle, who spoke to reporters shortly after he was interviewed at the Nicon Luxury Hotel in Abuja yesterday, explained that there is not enough time to prepare a team that would reach the semi-final at the South Africa 2010 World Cup.

"It depends on a lot of things, for any of the coaches, whoever becomes the manager. There must be enough time to prepare the team, so it is difficult there, but I think with the experience I have had, it will give us another good opportunity to get there", Hoddle stated.

On whether Nigeria has the materials to be transformed to do well at the World Cup in South Africa, the former England manager said the country has quality players to put up a credible show.

According to him, he has garnered enough experience as England manager, and will be the right person to take charge as Eagles coach.

"Yes, I think we don't have a team, I wouldn't be here, and I wouldn't have put myself forward for the interview. But I think their quality is good

enough to do well at the World Cup and the reason I am here is the possibility of becoming the coach. I believe the squad is a very good one and that is why I am here.

"I hope I can become the manager, of course, I truly believe with the experience of being the England manager and being at the World Cup and working in Europe. It will be a positive year for the sport", Hoddle said.

Hoddle, now 52, has run an academy in Spain since leaving Wolves in 2006. But it is thought he would be interested in a short-term appointment for the World Cup, which would then

There must be enough time to prepare the team, so it is difficult

allow him to return afterwards to Jerez, where he helps released players fight back into professional football.

Hoddle took England to the second round of the 1998 World Cup before losing to Argentina. He was sacked by the FA in February 1999 for his controversial spiritual views.



ENGLISH coach Glenn Hoddle entertaining questions from sports journalist after the interview session with the NFF yesterday. Hoddle believes the World Cup semi final target set for the new Eagles tactician is difficult to achieve.

NOC crisis drastically affecting sports –Nimrod

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

NATIONAL President of beach volleyball federation Engineer Musa Nimrod has said that the crisis rocking the Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) is adversely affecting sporting activities in the country.

Nimrod called on all the warring parties to bury their sword for the sake of sport development.

Chatting with sports writers in Kaduna, Nimrod appealed to the former Football Association (FA) Chairman of Gombe state

to withdraw his case against the Minister of Sports and Chairman of National Sports Commission Engineer Sani Mohammed Ndanusa in the interest of sport development.

The former Gombe FA Chairman had instituted a suit against Engr. Ndanusa, and the Nigerian Olympic Committee (NOC) before an Abuja High Court over alleged certificate forgery. In the suit, he sought for an order of interim injunction restraining the NOC from giving recognition to Ndanusa as candidate for the office of president of the

NOC.

However, Nimrod expressed shock over the institution of the legal action by Gara Gombe, saying the issue he raised has since been resolved in Dutse, Jigawa state before he instituted the legal action.

Musa, who is also the chairman of Volleyball association in Kaduna state, said the quarrel between the present presidents of Nigeria Olympic Committee (NOC) Engr. Habu Gumel and the minister of sports has been resolved by prominent sport lovers in the country.

He also said the crisis if not quickly resolved would drastically affect Nigeria's outing in the forthcoming Commonwealth Games, saying activities in sport federations in the country have been on its lowest ebb.

"All what I have to say on this issue is that, I am appealing to Gara Gombe to withdraw his case against the Sports Minister for the interest of sports development in the country. Before Gara went to court, this matter was already resolved by the intervention of some elders in this country who care to see the

progress of sporting activities in this country, but look out what is happening today after Gara take this matter to court all the activities of various sports organization in this country has stopped.

"This problem is affecting volleyball game in the country, nothing is now going on, and this will also affect the preparation of this country in the Commonwealth Games which is around the corner. This is why I am appealing to Gara Gombe, and those who may be nursing the ambition of instituting a legal action to stop it," he said.

NFF orders re-instatement of Sharks GM

By Orkula Shaagee

THE Nigeria Football Federation yesterday directed the Rivers State Football Association and the management of Sharks Football Club to re-instate Mr. Okechukwu Kpalaku as the General Manager of Sharks FC within 48 hours, until a proper Board is constituted for the club.

In a statement issued in Abuja, NFF's Deputy General Secretary (General Services) Barrister Musa Amadu directed both the FA and the Club to reverse all the decisions of the State Commissioner for Sports, Honourable Boma Iyaye on Sharks FC and maintain the status quo.

The statement described the action of the Rivers State Commissioner as contained in his letter to the NPL Electoral Committee dated 8th February, 2010, as a "gross and flagrant violation of Article 13 1(a) (i) and (ii), and Article 1.9(4) of

He is having a groundswell of support from his colleagues in the whistle profession.

the Globacom Premier League 2009/2010.

The statement further stated "This should also serve as a final warning to the Honourable Iyaye from further breach of NFF statutes, regulations, directives and ethics.

"Failure to maintain the status quo will compel the NFF, as the national governing body for football in Nigeria to sanction Sharks FC appropriately in full compliance with the regulations governing football in Nigeria" Barrister Amadu concluded.

Meanwhile, massive support has been pouring in from three leading candidates in the Nigeria Premier League (NPL) election next week, ahead of today's screening exercise to be conducted by the Nigeria Premier League Electoral Committee in Abuja.

Sam Sam Jaja is one of the candidates for the chairmanship seat of the Nigeria Premier League who today appears before the Nigeria Premier League Electoral Committee for screening in Abuja alongside ex-Rangers International Davidson Owumi and Victor Baribote, Chairman of Bayelsa United.

He is having a groundswell of support from his colleagues in the whistle profession, serving and retired referees who yesterday lamented the "gang-up to stop one of our own."

Obasi: We must play our own game

FOR a player who nearly missed out on selection for the CAF Africa Cup of Nations earlier this year, Chinedu Obasi has covered enough ground to hopefully secure a place for himself in Nigeria's squad for the 2010 FIFA World Cup South Africa.

The 23-year-old forward won silver medals at the FIFA U-17 World Cup in 2001, the FIFA U-20 World Cup four years later, and the Men's Olympic Football Tournament in 2008, and had been flirting with a regular place in the senior side for a good while. And although he only snatched a place on the plane to Angola 2010 at the 11th hour, Obasi seized his chance in style, impressing as the Super Eagles finished third.

Nigeria have since enmeshed themselves in the quest for a coach who will mastermind success in South Africa, which is something the Hoffenheim player is eager to help his country achieve. "Whenever you put on the Nigeria jersey, there is pressure," Obasi told FIFA.com. "But for me, the more I play, the better. I want to contribute to the success of this team."

A speedy attacker known as 'Edu', Obasi admits Nigeria will have to improve on their recent performances in order to realise their ambitions at the 19th edition of the FIFA World Cup. With the demotion of coach Shaibu Amodu and the search for his successor, the last few months have been trying, and it is only apt that they intend to embark on some serious soul-searching before arriving on the world stage in June. Since they missed out on Germany 2006, Nigeria's qualification for South Africa 2010 was greeted by euphoria on the streets of Abuja and Lagos, although they required an unexpected slip-up from Tunisia - namely a defeat in Mozambique in their final preliminary - to sneak through.

Despite a third-placed finish, Angola 2010 did little to appease

Nigeria's critics. A 3-1 loss to eventual champions Egypt had pointed questions from the very start and, although he broke the deadlock with a brilliant strike in that game, Obasi concedes the team's display was lacklustre.

"If we are honest with ourselves, we didn't perform as we expected to," reflected Obasi, who was eventually named one of the tournament's best 23 players by the CAF. "I know the frustrations from our fans back home who wanted us to win this tournament.

"In Nigeria, people expect us to win games, they are passionate about football. This on its own is pressure, but we understand. We didn't play good football at the start of the Cup of Nations, I can't point fingers as to what exactly led to that, but we all knew that we were not playing well."

Obasi, who was a ball boy

In Nigeria, people expect us to win games, they are passionate about football.

when Nigeria hosted the FIFA U-20 World Cup in 1999, believes there is plenty of time for Nigeria to pull together and make a major impact at South Africa 2010. "We just need to work a bit harder and improve on our shortcomings," he said.

"Obviously we went to Angola to win the Nations Cup. We wanted to be the top team in Africa again, but things didn't go according to plan. Life is like that: sometimes you plan for something and it doesn't turn out the way you had planned it. The



OGBUKE Obasi celebrates after scoring a goal. He believes there is plenty of time to make a major impact at the World Cup in South Africa.

World Cup has to be different for us because there is so much at stake."

After a difficult draw placed them in Group B, Nigeria will kick off their account against two-time world champions Argentina in Johannesburg. Tricky encounters against Greece and Korea Republic will follow, but Obasi believes the opener

against La Albiceleste is key to his side's chances of reaching the Round of 16.

"We know that we will have a tough job at the World Cup," he said. "We are up against some tough teams like Argentina, with top players like (Lionel) Messi. It's important for us to prove that we can play our own game against the best."

Semi finals target is laughable, says Toro

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE semi finals target set for the yet-to-be employed foreign coach by the Taiwo Ogunjobi-led NFF technical committee has been described as laughable and unrealistic.

Condemning the committee's target in an interview with Trustsports yesterday, former NFA scribe, Alhaji Sani Toro, said no coach in the world can achieve that target given the present situation and the short time he will have to prepare for the game.

Toro maintained that such a target can only be achieved when there is ample time to prepare the team and qualities as well as committed players are

available to prosecute the global football championship.

"What we are talking about here is the World Cup, not the African Nations Cup. How on earth would anybody expect the Super Eagles that struggled to make an impact at the Nations Cup to make it to the semi finals of the World Cup, where we have football giants like Argentina, Brazil, Spain and the rest?"

"Do we even have the players who are capable of taking on the world? If we have the best coach in the World, it will still be an impossible task for him to transform the present Eagles to a world beater over night. The quality of the players we have today cannot go as far as the

NFF wants them to go in South Africa. It is just laughable," he reasoned.


The Bauchi-born football administrator maintained that the quality of the players Nigeria took to the 1994 World Cup in the United States of America cannot be compared with the current squad.

"Even the commitment level of the current players cannot be compared with that of the 1994 squad. Then, we were ranked as the fifth best team in the world and we had just won the Nations Cup, yet we could not go beyond the second round of the World Cup. If those players could not make it, how would the current team make it to the semi finals?"

"We should just forget about

this target, because it is completely unrealistic. The NFF should set a target of the second round for the new coach whenever they employ one. Even at that, can the current players achieve that in the group where we have Argentina, Greece and Korea?"

"The best contract should have been a long time one, like four years. In 1989, the contract we gave Westerhof was to last four years. Today, he is ranked as the best coach Nigeria has ever had. We need such a long time contract not the one that will expire at the end of the World Cup, only for us to start looking for another coach to prepare us for the Nations Cup qualifier," Toro counselled.



Round of 16

Advantage Inter

IT'S advantage Inter after Jose Mourinho defeated his old side Chelsea 2-1 in a gripping Champions League last 16 first leg at San Siro.

Esteban Cambiasso scored the winner after Salomon Kalou had equalised Diego Milito's early opener to leave everything open for the second leg in London. But the game may be overshadowed by a serious-looking injury to goalkeeper Petr Cech.

The big team news prior to kick-off was the decision by Chelsea coach Carlo Ancelotti to play Florent Malouda at left back in the absence of the injured Ashley Cole and Yuri Zhirkov. There were no other major surprises as Didier Drogba led the line supported by Salomon Kalou and Nicolas Anelka.

For Inter, Samuel Eto'o won the nod over Goran Pandev to partner Diego Milito in attack. Thiago Motta and Dejan Stankovic returned as starters in midfield, while Julio Cesar was fit to play, sporting two black eyes.

It took Inter just two minutes to break the deadlock. Motta and Wesley Sneijder combined before Milito cut inside John Terry and buried the ball past Petr Cech at his near post.

Chelsea started to threaten more and more.



INTER Milan's Argentinian forward Alberto Milito celebrates after scoring the first goal against Chelsea during their UEFA Champions League second round, first leg match yesterday.

Julio Cesar beat the ball away from Ballack, while Drogba spun and fired wide from 10 yards.

The Ivorian was looking dangerous, and he volleyed wide from the edge of the area. Down the other end, Milito was booked for simulation.

Right on half time there was a huge penalty shout as

Kalou ran through on goal and went down under pressure from Walter Samuel. The referee waved away the appeals, but replays appeared to show that the Argentine had caught the Ivorian's right foot in what would have resulted in a penalty and red card for Samuel.

Chelsea came out of the

second half with intent and within five minutes they levelled the scores after a bad goalkeeping error from Julio Cesar. Kalou curled the ball towards the corner, but Julio Cesar let the ball bounce through and over his fingers.

Inter's reaction was immediate and emphatic. Esteban Cambiasso made

a rare foray forward, and slammed home the ball into the bottom corner from 25 yards after his original shot had been blocked.

Mourinho went for the jugular and brought on Mario Balotelli for Motta. Meanwhile, Chelsea lost Cech to a serious-looking injury and Henrique Hilario was summoned.

All square at the Luzhniki

CSKA Moscow came from behind to draw 1-1 with Spanish side Sevilla in their Champions League last-16 clash at the Luzhniki stadium in Moscow yesterday, leaving the return leg in two weeks time delicately poised.

CSKA bore little resemblance to a team that had not played a competitive match since December, producing some electric counter-attacking play down the flanks.

Chilean winger Mark Gonzalez produced a spectacular equaliser on 65 minutes with a 35-yard strike that is likely to be a contender for goal of the season, swerving past a helpless Andres Palop.

The home side could have added a second on 84 minutes when Czech striker Tomas Necid picked up the ball inside the Sevilla penalty area, only for his left foot shot to be saved by the 36-year-old custodian.

Deprived of top scorer Luis Fabiano and a recovering Frederic Kanoute, the Spanish side lacked composure in front of goal and only took the lead with their first clear-cut chance of the game thanks to a defensive blunder.

A Jesus Navas cross evaded the entire CSKA defence, leaving Alvaro Negredo, who came into the match on the back of two successive red cards in the Spanish championship, to creep in behind for a simple tap-in on 24 minutes for his first Champions League goal of the season.

Much of the pre-match hype had centred on CSKA's Serbian midfielder and reported Bayern Munich target Milos Krasic but tight marking by Sevilla's midfield enforcer Didier Zokora limited the 25-year-old's influence on the game.

That left Japanese midfielder Keisuke Honda to provide the driving force for the Russian team's attacking play and he came close to adding his own name to the scoresheet on 31 minutes, firing just wide from 18 yards.

The 9-million-euro signing from Dutch side VVV-Venlo, making his first appearance for Leonid Slutsky's men, narrowly missed the target again minutes later when he picked up a rebound from an Evengi Aldonin effort.

GLO-CAF AWARDS COUNTDOWN



Media Accreditation ends March 5

ACCREDITATION of Journalists for the 2009 Glo-CAF Awards ceremony has commenced. The forms have been posted on the official websites of Globacom Limited and the Confederation of African Football (CAF). Officials of CAF and Globacom have said that only accredited Journalists would be admitted into the venue to cover the event.

A statement from the company explained that the accreditation procedure has been put in place

to ensure orderliness and provide easy access for the media the State House Banquet Hall. "The awards ceremony is to a large extent, a media event and Globacom and CAF highly appreciate the contributions of the media to the growing international stature of the event. We will continue to provide the enabling environment for the media to cover the event and also enjoy the experience", a Globacom official said in Lagos.

The forms can be downloaded from the CAF website, www.cafonline.com and from the Globacom website, www.gloworld.com. The statement also noted that the forms are free of any costs and advised Journalists to disregard anyone demanding for payment for the forms.

It further stated that forms not returned on or before Friday, March 5, will not be considered, adding that "accreditation is strictly the prerogative of CAF and Globacom".

The two organisations said that accreditation will be issued to a determined number of media houses, noting that "it is not all applicants for the accreditation that will be successful".

Ghana ready for Awards Nite — Minister

THE Ghanaian government has declared its readiness to ensure a successful and memorable 2009 edition of the Glo-CAF awards scheduled to hold in Accra on Thursday, March 11.

Deputy Sports Minister, Hon. Nii Nortey Duah, said the country had put structures in place to support the Confederation of African Football (CAF) and sponsors of the awards, Globacom, in hosting the best awards ceremony ever held in the history of the event.

Hon. Duah made the declaration at the unveiling of Ivory Coast's Didier Drogba, Cameroun's Samuel Eto-O Fils and Ghana's Michael Essien as the Top 3 contenders for the Glo-CAF African Footballer of the Year Award.

"We are glad that Glo chose Ghana to host this edition. We are indeed proud that we have again been found worthy of hosting this prestigious show after the second edition in 2007. Let me assure CAF

and Glo that Ghana is ready. We are putting all arrangements in place to make it a very beautiful experience for all our guests," the deputy minister stated.

He expressed happiness with the nomination of Essien for the Footballer of the Year crown as well as other Ghanaians nominees for other awards, adding, "We are hopeful that Essien will win the ultimate prize."

Ghana also got nominations in the following categories: Black Stars for the national team of the year, Dominic Adiyah for the young player of the year and Silas Tetteh for coach of the year.

Hon. Duah also commended Globacom for its support towards the growth of African football generally and for Ghanaian football in particular.

THE THURSDAY COLUMN

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T.Y. Danjuma and Sanusi Lamido: Two sides of positive audacity

I have never met General T.Y. Danjuma, nor have I ever even seen him live. That is not quite accurate; in 1978, I was attending the Basic Announcers' Course at the Radio Nigeria Training School in Lagos. So I stayed in my uncle's house on Mulliner Road in Ikoyi; one morning a car was escorted by an armoured car on Kingsway road and the occupant of the car was General Danjuma, then Army Chief of Staff. That was the closest I ever saw the man, except on the pages of newspapers. Sanusi Lamido Sanusi belongs to my generation. When I edited *Daily Trust*, we became quite close because he wrote quite regularly about many of the major controversies raging in Nigeria, during the early years of the new Millennium.

I have always been fascinated with General Danjuma, especially the forthright manner he expresses his opinions on national issues. I will cite two cases. In the lead to the emergence of General Olusegun Obasanjo as Nigeria's president in 1999, General Danjuma believed that in the circumstance, Obasanjo was the best candidate for presidency. He made it clear, supported the man and even threatened to go into exile if Nigeria rejected the candidate. His man won and Danjuma played a stabilizing role in government by accepting to be Defence Minister. It is on record that General Danjuma exposed the theft of N400million allegedly perpetrated by the Permanent Secretary of his ministry, a certain Makanjuola, reported to be Obasanjo's cousin! Danjuma moved on from government, and when time came to fight Obasanjo's Third Term Agenda, he did not shy away from a fight. The cowardly effort by the old despot to attack his economic interests did not deter him from denouncing what he felt was wrong and against the interest of the Nigerian people. That is the correct definition of patriotism.

Last week, General T.Y. Danjuma took things to a higher level in philanthropy, when he decided to give \$100million (about N12billion) to good causes in health care, education and poverty alleviation. And as was his wont, Danjuma gave a forthright reason for his new endeavour: "I am now in my 70s and could have simply enjoyed retirement quietly....The truth is I have served Nigeria all my life in different capacities, and late in my life, when I became a very wealthy private citizen, I decided to also serve my country through the channel of philanthropy". Not only did he give the money, he disclosed the origins of wealth: shipping and oil! Ideologically, I do not accept the capitalist system. But I also know that if it is the choice of a country's ruling elite, we have to judge their actions within the parameters of those choices. What has been missing in Nigeria is that our absurd form of capitalism has not been used to develop the nation's productive forces, while its rich people have not developed the idea of giving back to society in a manner that can help to consolidate their class project.

Philanthropy cannot eliminate the problems of an unjust society, but when those who have become very rich within the values of such a society give back, they can assist the progress of their society. This is the import of the decision taken by General T.Y. Danjuma. In recent years, Nigerian billionaires have been celebrated on the pages of our newspapers. But what General Danjuma has done, is to put them on notice that they need to respond to the appalling levels of poverty and underdevelopment in our society. You cannot possibly be comfortably rich in a country where the major-

ity of your people, over 70% in fact, live on less than \$1 per day. It is a scandal! I think General Danjuma realizes that such a society won't endure, and so he chose to enter the field of philanthropy in a big way! In the words of a television advertisement, if we all do a little, we will do a lot! T.Y. Danjuma is calling on Nigeria's rich with his grand gesture!

Then last Sunday, *The Nation* newspaper carried a very interesting interview with Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, governor of Nigeria's Central Bank. Engaging as it was revealing, I came to the conclusion that appointing Sanusi Lamido as CBN Governor, must be recorded as one of the best decisions taken by President Umaru Yar'adua. Against the background of the unrelenting media campaign against Sanusi, by those whose interests he has exposed; it became clearer to me that in Sanusi, Nigeria found a courageous patriot with an uncommon passion to do a very difficult job! He is also

very determined to do what is right not because he wants to be praised, but precisely because doing what is right will help Nigeria, on an incremental basis, to begin to actualize potentials that we all say it possessed!

There were juicy answers to questions asked and what is underlining as a streak is the brutal frankness. Told that he might be undermining the "creative aspect of banking" with his reforms, Sanusi confronted his interviewer with all guns blazing: "What do you call creative? A managing director sits down, gets her nanny and a lawyer, they incorporate a company, she sits down and approves loans, takes the money to buy property in Dubai, sets up the next company, takes up the money to buy a plaza in Abuja. Is that creativity? That's what we saw. Where was the creativity?" On the type of temperament to do a job as his, the answer was also clear: "Somebody that can face this problem head-on"! These answers are really an aperture into his conceptualization of what the patriot should do for his country. "Whether we succeed or not as a country does not depend on what Central Bank does....It is for every Nigerian to just say, why don't we take this as a turning point and begin to clean up the image of the country-in power, petroleum, in government, in the universities? That's when you can say we've succeeded".

Now a platform informed by a perspective like this and the surety of being comfortable with his birth and circumstances won't be popular with the forces he has taken his war to and those who live within the chauvinism of ethnic identity. The beauty of it is that he is not fazed doing his job! But the genuine patriot can build an alliance with individuals like Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, assured that it is the genuine interest of Nigeria that is being worked for. Between General T.Y. Danjuma and Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, is a gulf of experience and age, but I think in their different ways, they represent a positive audacity that is useful in these trying times in Nigeria.

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Shehu Sani and *Thisday* Newspaper's war-criminal guests

Last weekend, *Thisday* newspaper hosted three notorious war criminals: George Bush, Tony Blair and Condoleezza Rice. Members of the ruling elite were falling upon themselves for photo-ops and to shake the blood-soaked hands of the butchers of the children of Iraq. Shehu Sani chose a different path: he protested! He is my Man of the Week.

“Philanthropy cannot eliminate the problems of an unjust society, but when those who have become very rich within the values of such a society give back, they can assist the progress of their society. This is the import of the decision taken by General T.Y. Danjuma

SPORTS REPORT



FABIO Capello

Capello: Lack of home players hurt England

The scarcity of English players in the Premier League is a problem for the national team, according to the England manager Fabio Capello.

In an interview for *Gazzetta dello Sport*, the Italian described Wayne Rooney as one of the three best young players in the world but believes the Manchester United striker needs to get in the penalty box more. And Capello added that, no, he does not dye his hair.

Capello said Rooney

and Lionel Messi were the "two young players anyone would want in their team, together with Cristiano Ronaldo ... Wayne is extraordinary, he has talent and desire to learn. [Sir Alex] Ferguson taught him a lot, I've only had to refine details.

"I've told him that goals are best scored within the 12-metre zone. Besides, Ronaldo's departure from Manchester has made him [Rooney] more responsible. At United he is much more involved now."



SACHIN Tendulkar

Tendulkar hits highest score ever in ODI

Sachin Tendulkar has become the first cricketer to make a double-hundred in the 39 years of one-day international cricket.

The blazing innings comes 10 months after his 36th birthday and four years after he was booted off his home ground in Mumbai, with his career apparently in terminal decline. Somewhat improbably given yesterday's innings, the abuse had been for slow scoring.

Tendulkar ended India's second one-day game against South Africa unbeaten on exactly 200, after 147 balls of beautiful destruction. He relied on finesse as much as force, hitting only three sixes to go with 25 fours.