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TRUST IS A BURDEN

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Niger has dislodged another Islamic sect from 3 LGs



Page 9

Jonathan's posters take over PDP headquarters



Page 58



FROM left: Former United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Speaker, House of Representatives Dimeji Bankole and former United States President George W. Bush during the Thisday Nigeria at 50 discussion and Awards yesterday at The Dome, Abuja.

2011 must be free, transparent — Blair, Bush

By Mohammed S. Shehu

FORMER British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former United States President George W. Bush yesterday emphasised that the 2011 general elections must reflect the wishes of the electorate.

They listed transparent and free election, rule of law, free market economy and freedom of speech as the roadmap for democratic growth in Nigeria and Africa.

The two former lead-

ers spoke in Abuja during a special luncheon to herald THISDAY Awards ceremony on Nigeria at 50 hosted by the former US Secretary of State, Dr. Condoleezza Rice.

Blair said, "Corruption is wrong, it is the least efficient way of doing things, and it is important that the next election must be free and fair and nobody should try to interfere".

Also speaking on the matter, Bush said, "This is the nerve of bad govern-

Continued on page 5

Former EFCC cop shot dead

By Misbabu Bashir & Abubakar Yakubu

A former top detective in the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) who investigated alleged corruption cases of some top

politicians in the country was shot dead yesterday in Abuja by unknown gunmen.

Superintendent of Police Danjuma Mohammed, now an investigator attached to the Federal

Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), was shot dead by two gunmen in front of a new house he had just rented for one of his wives. His friends said he was billed to get married to a lady lawyer in Kano

next week.

He was shot in the abdomen and died on the way to hospital.

Mohammed's neighbor, Zubairu Dala Fika, said the assailants arrived at the deceased home

on 24th Crescent in Gwarimpa Housing Estate at about 11am in a gold colour Toyota Camry (2001 model) car.

The house was a storey build-

Continued on page 5

Inside Today's Daily Trust

Business

The automotive manufacturers under NAMA have asked the federal government for a bailout **29**

Sport

Ex-Eagles player Thompson Oliha has warned the Eagles not to underrate Nations Cup opponents in 2012 **60**

Africa

International envoys have arrived in Niger Republic to meet the new junta leaders **19**

NITEL not ripe for sale — Union leader

Page 30



FEC's six-man team in Saudi

By Mohammed S. Shehu & Aisha Umar

THE six-man team set up by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to visit ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua in Saudi Arabia left the country yesterday night through the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

The team, according to sources at the airport, left on board a presidential jet, and is expected to be in Saudi Arabia by now.

Members of the committee are the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alhaji

Mahmud Yayale Ahmed, Minister of Health Prof. Babatunde Oso-timehin, Minister of Agriculture Dr Abba Sayyadi Ruma, Minister of Foreign Affairs Chief Ojo Maduekwe, Minister of Petroleum Dr Rilwanu Lukman, as well as the Attorney General and Minister of Justice Prince Adetokunbo Kayode (SAN).

FEC constituted the team on Wednesday to travel to Saudi Arabia to obtain a first-hand assessment of the ailing President which has been a subject of the speculations.

The decision to form the team was a kind of compromise against suggestions to invoke Section 144 of the 1999 Constitution. But even the constitution of the team is seen as a move to kick-start the processes of declaring Yar'adua medically unfit to continue in office.

It is regarded as the first concrete step taken by FEC to ascertain the ailing ruler's health status, nearly three months since he left the country to seek medical attention at the King Faisal Specialist and Research Hospital, Jeddah.

When our reporter called Agric

Minister Dr Abba Sayyadi Ruma, one of the members of the team, to confirm the trip yesterday night, he switched off his phone and several efforts to call back failed. Efforts to talk to other members of the team through the phone also failed.

It is not clear if the team will be able to see Yar'adua when they get to Jeddah. It would be recalled that many delegations that went there in recent weeks could not see him.

Among the unsuccessful group were several state governors, the president's private secretary, PDP national chairman Vincent Ogbu-

lafor and his deputy, the 7-member House of Representatives delegation and some family members of the president.

Rep Mohammad Ali Ndume, a member of the House of Representatives delegation that went to Saudi Arabia but failed to see Yar'adua, earlier told Daily Trust that the restriction was on the order of Saudi Arabian authorities to save the ailing president from 'contact infection', a new ailment that infected him after he came out of the intensive care unit few weeks ago.



SHELTER Atrique Management visit to UBA: From left: Mr Emeka Echeazu, Group Head, International Finance Organisation, UBA Plc, Mr Tony Elumelu, Managing/CEO, UBA Plc and Mr Alassane BA, Managing Director, Shelter Afrique Nairobi, Kenya during a courtesy visit by management of Shelter Afrique to Mr Tony Elumelu at the bank's head office in Lagos at the weekend.

Reps to stop states from expelling 'non-indigenes'

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE House of Representatives is considering a legislation that would make it mandatory for state governments to consider persons other than their citizens as indigenes of the states.

The Bill for an Act to provide the right of Nigerians to be indigenes of any local government area or area council in Nigeria would ensure that persons, whose parents migrated to any local government on or before 1st October, 1960 are indigenes of that local government.

When passed into law, the Bill, sponsored by Rep Sama'ila Mohammed (ANPP, Plateau State) would restrict the issuance of indigene certificates to the Ministry of Internal Affairs as against the current trend where only State and local governments issue indigene certificates.

The Bill would also make it necessary for state governments to protect the interest of citizens other than theirs.

The bill might have been informed by the recent ethno-religious skirmishes in some states especially Plateau State, where several lives were lost and properties millions of Naira razed.

Speaking to Daily Trust in an exclusive chat yesterday, Rep Sama'ila expressed optimism that the bill will be passed by his colleagues.

Niger sacks Islahudeen sect from three LG's

From Ayegbasa Israel Ebije, Minna

NIGER State government has dislodged an Islamic sect, Islahudeen, from three of its local government areas of the state.

This is coming barely six months after Darul Islam sect was sacked from Mokwa, also in Niger State.

The dislodgement of the sect is sequel to a suit filed by people living in the affected local government in a Minna High Court

order which ordered the state police to dislodge members of the sect from their enclave.

The group which had its headquarters at Gada Kasanga, in Mashegu Local government area of the state also operated in Beri town in Mariga Local government area, as well as in Ibanpa and Rafi Kogra in Kontagora Local government area of the state.

Our correspondent gathered that leader of the group Amir

Umar Dogo Karfi fled his base before the task force evacuating them reached his location as he left behind his two wives and 15 children.

His family and that other some of his followers are presently under police custody pending further actions.

Daily Trust learnt that bulldozers and armed policemen arrived at the Gada Kasanga last Saturday where the sect central mosque and other buildings

belonging to the sect members were destroyed.

It was also alleged that over 42 members of the sect have come from neighboring Niger Republic were sent back to their country by men of the Immigration Service at the weekend.

Speaking on the state government action, Alhaji Ahmed Khadi of the Ministry of Value Orientation and poverty eradication said the exercise was peaceful and successful.

Obasanjo ignores question on Yar'adua

By Mohammed S. Shehu

FORMER President Olusegun Obasanjo, in his usual sense of humour, declined to respond to a question from reporters requesting him to talk on ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

Obasanjo, who was in Kuje Area Council, Abuja on Saturday for the opening of a one-day Nigerian Inter-Faith Action Association (NIFAA) training of faith leaders on the fight against Malaria, refused to respond to the question from a group of reporters who laid ambush on his way out of the venue.

NIFAA is an interfaith based organization founded by Blair and co-chaired by the Sultan of Sokoto Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar 111 and Roman Catholic Archbishop of Abuja, John Onaiyekan.

When the reporters approached him, he turned towards them, apparently to respond to their questions but the first question from one of the reports on whether he was planning to visit his "political son, ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua in Saudi Arabia," he characteristically turned back his face the other way round and proceeded to waiting vehicle.

The reporters tried to follow him but before they could reach him, he jumped into a jeep with a foreign number and zoomed off.

Speaking earlier at the event, Obasanjo congratulated NIFAA for bringing the two religions together to fight malaria, which he described as deadly.

"Wherever we have the two religions working together, they need to be celebrated. What people say about us is that Nigeria is a land of religious conflict, a land of religious killings, a land of destruction of property and lives. But this is not about the destruction of life and

property but saving of life," he said.



FORMER President Obasanjo

The Bill, sponsored by Rep Sama'ila Mohammed (ANPP, Plateau State) would restrict the issuance of indigene certificates to the Ministry of Internal Affairs as against the current trend where only State and local governments issue indigene certificates

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23,950 displaced in Jos —Commissioner

ABOUT 23,950 people were displaced during the January 18 Jos crisis.

Hajiya Hadiza Kangiwa, the Federal Commissioner for National Commission of Refugees, announced this in an interview with newsmen in Abuja yesterday.

She said the commission got the figure after conducting a thorough head count of the victims in the camps. Kangiwa said the victims had been assisted with some relief materials including food stuff, water storage facilities, sleeping materials, medical facilities, and detergent.

Giving the breakdown, Kangiwa said 3,000 persons were residing at the NDLEA centre, while 2,500 were at the Police Staff College.

She said 2,000 were camped at the Air Force Base while 1,450 were at the Multi Troops/Training Centre.

In other locations, she said, 3,000 were camped at the GOC Rukuba Barracks, and 3,000 at the Cocin, Catholic, Baptist and Rudan Primary School. She said 6,000 remained at the Bukuru B Division and 3,000 at the Central Mosque.

"As soon as the crisis erupted between January 18, and 19, we communicated with our NGOs to give us assessment of the situation; we collaborated with the military to give us statistics and the location of this people. We immediately got to the scene and were able to locate about eight camps and ensured that the items were distributed to the people," Kangiwa said.

Kangiwa, who decried the gory conditions of the victims, called on Nigerians to ensure peaceful co-existence and shun acts that put people through harrowing experience. She further advised them to always channel their resources towards the development of the country, instead of killing one another.

"All together, we have a total number of 31,826 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in both Jos and Bauchi crises. Out of the figures, 35 per cent are women, children 30, elderly 15, men and others 20," she said. She said the commission would open a Skills Acquisition Centre for the victims of the crisis. (NAN)

14 die in auto crash

From Vincent Egunyanga, Benin

ABOUT 14 people were Saturday killed in an auto crash at Ikpoba Hill, Benin City. The hill is along the Benin-Agbor-Onitsha express road. Four others are in critical condition in a hospital in the city.

A witness said the 18-seater bus which was said to be on high speed somersaulted when the driver attempted to avoid a pothole. The vehicle was said to have somersaulted three times before it caught fire and passersby were only able to rescue four persons

while the remaining 14 burnt to death. The witness said men of the Federal Road Safety Corps were not allowed by an angry mob to go near the scene as they were stoned.

The mob were said to have been disappointed that the men

did not arrive in time to save some of the passengers who died due to delay in receiving medical attention. The Sector Commander of the FRSC in the state Mr. Olatunji Henry confirmed the accident. He said he was yet to receive details.



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan (left) with former Head of State General Abdulsalami Abubakar who was at the State House to brief the acting president on the situation in Niger Republic after Thursday's coup de tat.

Student killed, 3 others injured in protest

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

A student of the School of Environmental Studies Gwarzo who was among those that besieged the Gwarzo Police Division in Gwarzo Local Government Area of Kano State was killed at the weekend.

The students staged a protest Saturday at the police station to demand for justice over the death of one of their colleagues who was allegedly killed by another student from the Government Secondary School, Gwarzo.

Findings showed that when

the students gathered at the police station asking the police to handover the suspect to them in order to avenge the killing of their colleague, the police refused and asked them to disperse. During the ensuing protest, the police allegedly fired canisters of tear-gas and later shot dead one Tahir Kabir, and injured at least three others.

The students earlier blocked the major entrance to the town and set bonfires along the road.

It was gathered that the three injured students were admitted at Gwarzo General Hospital and later discharged after treatment,

while the two schools were however closed pending the resolution of the crisis.

Sources at the village said the suspect had a disagreement with another student called Aliyu S. Aliyu over a handset. A few days after the disagreement, Aliyu was declared missing and five days later, his decomposing corpse was found on the outskirts of the town.

Police however arrested the person suspected to have had disagreement with Aliyu over the handset. Upon investigation by the police, the suspect confessed to killing Aliyu.

Public Relations Officer of Kano Police Command SP Baba Mohammed Azare confirmed the incident, saying they were yet to ascertain the cause of Kabir's death as the autopsy report was not ready.

He said the students had thrown pebbles in order to free the suspect from the police station, noting that the cause of Kabir's death might either be a stone or a bullet. "We are yet to receive the report, and so we cannot jump into conclusion. Without the report, we cannot take action against any suspect," said the police spokesman.

Village head, six others die in clash

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

A communal clash between the Lemfa and Gbondifu villages in Niger State over a disputed property has claimed the lives of a village head and six others.

The crisis, according to witnesses, was ignited at the weekend as a result of a disputed fish pond along the River Niger. The pond

has been the cause of bitter quarrels between both communities.

It was further alleged that some youths went to the village of Gbondifu, and killed the chief and six others as they attempted to wrestle the pond from the Gbondifu community.

As a result of the clash, houses and other property were burnt while many people were injured.

The Police Public Relations (PPRO) Mr Richard Oguche said both regular and mobile men had been sent to enforce peace in the area.

"It was an unfortunate incident that happened in the community and our men are already on ground to take charge of the situation and they will be there to monitor the situation," he said.

Police explain Jos shooting

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE police in Jos said the shooting of a police Inspector in Jos was an accidental discharge and not a fight between the police and the military.

Police Public Relations Officer ASP Mohammed Lerama told newsmen yesterday in Jos that the Inspector was injured as a result of an accidental gunshot and was taken to a hospital where he is responding to treatment.

Lerama said the military has taking over the responsibility of treating the injured

policeman and representatives of the state governor, the police and army had visited the victim in hospital.

He said the General Officer Commanding 3rd Armored Division, General Saleh Maina had visited Plateau State Police command over the incident, and commended the cordial relationship existing between the police and the army in the state.

The police spokesman added that the suspect was handed over to the military and would be investigated in line with military tradition.



PHOTO: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

FROM left: Dr. (Mrs.) Folake Ademola-Majekodunmi, former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, former President Olusegun Obasanjo, Executive Director, Nigerian Inter-Faith Action Association (NIFAA), Bishop Sunday N. Onuoha, Estu Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar representing the Sultan of Sokoto, Catholic Archbishop of Abuja John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan during demonstration on the use of mosquito net, at a one-day training for Nigerian religious leaders, organised by NIFAA in partnership with the National Malaria Control Programme (NMCP) in Abuja at the weekend.

2011 must be free, transparent

Continued from page 1

ance in Africa. For democracy to thrive, all elections must not only be seen to be transparent, but transparent in all its ramifications.

On criteria for good and bad governance, Bush said, "Bad governance is when you steal people's money that is entrusted in your care."

That is the hallmark of what is bad governance. When you ask me what is good governance. It is honest officials who are there to serve the interest of the people and will make sure tax payers' monies are spent on education, health among others.

"Stealing public money is not good governance. When leaders steal from the people that are bad governance, they ought to be in jail," he said.

Both leaders maintained that transparency, accountability and war against corruption among public officials are essential ingredients for good governance.

The said because of its strategic importance on the continent, Nigeria is important to the development of Africa adding that the future of Africa should be shaped by Africans.

Both Bush and Blair explained that the interest of America and Britain in Nigeria during their tenure was spurred by poor indices of development especially health, debt burden and capacity building.

For instance, Bush said he was concerned by statistics of HIV/AIDS when he was in office. According to him, over 50,000 infected persons had access of anti-retroviral drugs but by the time he left office it has increased to over two million.

On the recent listing of Nigeria on terror list, Bush and Blair explained the sensitivity of their respective countries to terrorism against the background of September 11 attack.

Bush said, "we are still very nervous after 9/11," adding that Nigeria was listed as a country of interest following the alleged Christmas failed bomb attempt by a Nigerian.

Both leaders asked Nigerian government to liaise with the American administration in the area of information sharing and the issue of being put on the list of countries of interest so that it can be addressed.

On Press freedom, the two former leaders said that the freedom of the press must be exercised with some responsibility, and that stories must be factual to make the right impact.

They appreciated the Chinese presence in Africa's economy and advised African countries to hold China accountable so that it will not only extract raw materials and leave the environment devastated.

On his high moment while in power, Bush said, it was when he ordered the deployment of troops to Iraq. He said he felt responsible for the death of every soldier there.

Jonathan promises credible polls in 2011

By Mohammed S. Shehu

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan has restated the commitment of the Federal Government to conduct free and fair elections in 2011.

He said this when he received in audience former US President, George W. Bush, in Aguda House, Presidential Villa, Abuja yesterday.

Jonathan assured that the government will work towards ensuring that the electoral process is transparent and reflects the wishes of the Nigerian people.

"I can assure you that come

2011, Nigeria's elections will be credible. We will do everything possible to overhaul the electoral process and leave a lasting legacy in our political history," he stated.

Jonathan used the occasion to call on the US Government to reconsider its stand on the listing of Nigeria among countries of interest under watch in the global war against terrorism.

He reiterated that terrorism is alien to Nigeria. He noted that Nigeria and US are strategic partners for global peace and development.

He thanked the US Government for its concern over

the health of President Umaru Yar'adua.

Earlier, Bush congratulated Dr. Jonathan on his assumption of office as the Acting President of Nigeria and expressed his best wishes for President Umaru Yar'adua.

"Sometimes in life, the unexpected happens. We wish you all the best even though we know it is not an easy job. With God's grace and the support of your team, you will succeed," he said.

Bush was accompanied by former US Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice and US Ambassador to Nigeria, Robin Sanders.

US Muslim group calls IRS plane attack terrorism

A major US Muslim group has decried officials' "double standard" in refusing to label the attack on the Internal Revenue Service in Texas as an act of terrorism.

Software engineer Joseph Stack flew his single-engine plane into an IRS office building in Austin, Texas on Thursday, apparently killing himself and at least one federal government employee, while injuring 13 others.

In the hours that followed the crash, Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo told reporters that the incident looked to be "a criminal act by a lone individual." However, Nihad Awad, national executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, labeled it an "act of terror."

"The position of many individuals and institutions seems to be that no act of violence can be labeled 'terrorism' unless it is carried out by a Muslim," said Awad.

"Terrorism is terrorism, regardless of the faith, race or ethnicity of the perpetrator or the victims," said Awad, adding in a statement that "if a Muslim had carried out the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) attack, it would have surely been labeled an act of terrorism."

"The attack on the IRS office in Texas perfectly fits the legal definition of terrorism, yet it is not being labeled as such. This apparent double standard only serves to render the term meaningless." US officials called it a deliberate assault on a US government institution, stressing there were no apparent connections to international terrorism, although White House spokesman Robert Gibbs did not rule out that it could still be considered an act of domestic terrorism. (Presstv.ir)

Former EFCC cop shot dead

Continued from page 1

ing with Mohammed yet to settle into the two bedroom apartment upstairs, while Fika moved into the two room house downstairs a week ago.

Fika said the deceased was in his house playing with his children when the assailants came.

"The deceased's wife, Hauwa, yesterday left the keys to their new home with my family and said he (Mohammed) will come today to collect them. So this morning around 11am, the deceased came and collected the keys from us, thereafter we sat in my living room with my children while my wife was in my room making my bed," he said.

He said Mohammed came in a Honda Accord car with Registration Number Abuja GG209 ABC, and when he was leaving the house, he (Fika) decided to see him to his car. As they drew open the gate they run into two gunmen. "One of the gunmen who held an AK-47 rifle stood by the entrance to my house while

another man holding a short gun was ahead of him monitoring the movement of people in the house. They told use to obey their instructions or else they will shoot and kill us. So we accepted to comply. We were told to return to the living room. From there we were led at gun point to my wife's room.

They collected our mobile phones and requested us to hand over our monies to them. I told them I had no money on me and they threaten to kill me should they search and find money on me," he said.

The gunmen directed Fika, Mohammed and their security guard, Vincent, to lie on the floor. They requested to know the owner of the Honda Accord car parked in front of the house and Mohammed told them he was the owner.

"The gunman with the short gun asked for the car keys and the deceased said he left them in his apartment upstairs and the gunman said he will go with him to collect the keys. When

they stepped out of the house we heard the gunman saying 'come back here my friend' and later the sound of gun shot. The other man guarding us joined his colleague outside and they fled," he said.

Mohammed's remains were deposited at the General Hospital Wuse.

FCT Police Commissioner John Haruna arrived the scene later and asked the people around some questions, examined the spot of the killing and left. But the Police Public Relations Officer SP Moshood Jimoh said investigations have commenced into the killing.

Mohammed was transferred a year ago from the EFCC to FIRS as an investigator. He was among the team of EFCC operatives that investigated a financial fraud case involving the former Governor of Delta State James Ibori and case involving Senator Iyabo Obasanjo.

EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi said Mohammed was transferred from the Commission to FIRS.

Residents flee Ondo community over clash

From Leye Adewumi, Akure

HUNDREDS of indigenes and residents of Arigidi-Akoko in Akoko North-west Local Government Area of Ondo State have fled the town following a clash after a verdict delivered by the Benin Court of Appeal last Tuesday.

Our correspondent learnt yesterday that some people who sustained injuries during the unrest have been taken to hospitals in neighbouring towns and Akure, the state capital.

Trouble started after the Court of Appeal struck out a notice of application to appeal the judgment of an Ikare High Court delivered in 2006 on the chieftaincy suit between a high chief in the town, Oba Aja of Ekiteji and the Zaki of Arigidi and four others.

Oba Olanipekun has however denied the allegation that his supporters were behind the attack, alleging that it was one Gani Asiru that had been fomenting trouble in Arigidi.

"We were at the Court of Appeal in Benin on Monday, February 15 for the hearing of my notice of application to appeal the judgment delivered by an Ikare High Court on a chieftaincy case between the late Zaki, Oba Momodu Olanipekun and the late Oba Aja of Ekiteji Quarters, Adebisi Adeola. The court however ruled that since the applicant and respondent in the case were dead, we should go back to the lower court to effect the changes in the names. But, Asiru immediately called his supporters at home and told them that he had won the case even though he was not the applicant and his supporters at home

immediately launched attack on other quarters' heads in the case, shooting three persons in the process," he said.

Other quarters headed by high chiefs under the paramount ruler ship of Zaki include, the Asipori of Ilepa, Dorh of Ayase, Adibo of Ogo, Gbadagi of Agbaluku and Oba Aja of Ekiteji. The Gbadagi of Agbaluku is the second-in-command to the Zaki contrary to the claim of Oba Aja of Ekiteji in his law suit.

Olanipekun said he had written many petitions to the state Commissioner of Police on the criminal acts of Gani Asiru who he said had been parading himself as Oba Aja, adding that only the Zaki had the authority to install any quarters' head in Arigidi.

However, Gani Asiru maintained that the judgment of an Ikare High Court in

2006 had settled the controversy surrounding the chieftaincy status of Oba Aja, recognizing him as second-in-command to Zaki and as Oba Aja of Ijaja, consisting of five quarters' including Ekiteji.

He said with the ruling of the Court of Appeal, the status quo remained.

Asiru who spoke with newsmen from hiding, after he had fled the town with some of his subjects alleged that the hoodlums that attacked people in the town were led by a native of the town that came in a white coloured Toyota Hiace 18-Seater bus with the Odua Peoples' Congress (OPC) banner on it. The Ondo State Police Public Relations Officer Adeniran Aremu who confirmed the incident said anti-riot policemen from the command had been drafted to the area, adding that they were on top of the situation.

PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE



ASSISTANT Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations in FCT, Wilson Inalegwu with Shehu Sani at the anti-Bush, Blair and condolexxa Rice demonstration in Abuja yesterday.

Yobe citizens hail Gaidam victory

From Hamza Idris, Damaturu

FOLLOWING his victory at the Supreme Court after three years of legal battle with Senator Usman Albishir, politicians, clerics and residents of Damaturu and environs have called on Governor Ibrahim Gaidam to consolidate his gains and provide good governance in Yobe State.

Mohammed Amin, a resident of Nayinawa Quarters in the state capital, described the judgment as a great relief because the governor would now concentrate and work without unnecessary distractions which trailed governance in the last three years.

Another resident, Ustaz Sanusi Jajere said now that the protracted legal tussle had come and gone, winners should use the opportunity and embrace all while Senator Albishir should also join the government and contribute to the development of the state.

The Supreme Court had last Friday passed a ver-

dict which put to an end the three-year legal tussle which started in 2007 after the alleged wrongful substitution of Albishir with late Senator Mamman Ali as the flag-bearer of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) for the gubernatorial election in Yobe State.

The judgment dismissed a bid by Albishir to unseat Gaidam who became governor after the death of Mamman Ali in January 2007. Ustaz Sanusi said in the past three years, Yobe had seen bitter rivalry and distractions which according to him had affected government activities.

"I am sure you have seen what happened in the last one week when virtually all the government functionaries and their supporters relocated to Abuja to listen to the judgment," he said.

State Chairman of the ANPP Alhaji Sani Nguru said with the recent judgment, everyone willing to join government in building the state would be accepted.

Gombe to challenge census figures of LG

THE Gombe State government is to challenge the census figure of 255,000 recorded for Yalmatu/Ideba Local Government Area by the National Population Commission (NPC).

Senator Idris Umar, Chairman, Senate Committee on Nigeria Air Force, told newsmen in an interview yesterday. He said the decision became necessary as the figure fell short of the 500,000 recorded before the 2006 census computation.

"We are at the tribunal to challenge the figures declared by the NPC

as the correct figure of the local government in the 2006 head count. The 255,000 figure allotted to the council was far from what we know is the fact.

"At the time the document left Gombe for Yola where they did computer censorship we had over 500,000 as the population. Therefore one begins to wonder how 500,000 and above could come down to a ridiculous figure of 255,000, hence we are challenging this," Umar said. Umar lauded the efforts of the tribunal in ensuring that justice prevailed.

Also speaking to newsmen, Alhaji Mohammed Salihu, Chairman Yalmatu/Ideba Local Government, reaffirmed that the figure does not state the correct number of people.

"We do not expect anything above the correct population, either. Rather we should be accorded the due figure. We are left behind in terms of development, because we were not given our correct census figure. We call on the tribunal to do their best to ensure that justice prevails," Salihu said. (NAN)

NBA gets electoral committee, Gani prize panel

From Adelanwa Bamgboye

THE National executive Council (NEC) of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA) has approved the appointment of five of its members as the electoral committee to conduct the NBA elections slated for July 2010.

The association took the decision in Yola, Adamawa State, at the end of its NEC

meeting Friday. The members are, Obi Okwusogu SAN (Chairman), Lawal Rabana (SAN), Fatima Kwaku, Phillip Ndubuisi Umeh and Abiola Olagunju (Secretary).

With the present arrangement, the NBA elections which had always been conducted during the Annual General Meeting of the association has now

been shifted to hold before this year's annual conference.

In a communiqué at the end of its NEC meeting, it was resolved that the NBA annual general conference would hold in Kaduna between the 22nd and 27th of August 2010.

The NBA NEC also adopted the recommendations of the NBA Human

Rights Institute (NBA HRI) to establish a signature award for the promotion of human rights and social justice in Nigeria. The award, to be known as the Gani Fawehinmi Prize for Human Rights and Social Justice in Nigeria, is so named in recognition of the path-breaking and inspirational work of late Chief Gani Fawehinmi.

NULGE cautions on constitution amendment

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

THE National President of the Nigerian Union of Local Government Employees (NULGE) Kingsley Ogba has cautioned the National Assembly not to relegate issues of local government service to the background in the constitution review.

Speaking in Kaduna during the National Executive Council (NEC) meeting of the union, he also warned that local government service would be doomed if the National Assembly fails to protect its interest in the 1999 constitution review.

Faulting the Joint Local

Government Account, he said the third tier of government deserved autonomy to enable it function effectively for adequate grass roots development. The NULGE president also condemned the use of local government funds by state governments to take care of primary schools.

"We hope the state of the local government service which is now in the National Assembly will not be relegated to the background. But if they fail to protect effective local government service, the local government is doomed, and that means development of the country is also doomed," he said.

NNPC evacuates condensate from Shell facilities

By Hamisu Muhammad & Fidelis Mac-Leva

THE Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), over the weekend, took steps to avert imminent power blackout in the country with the evacuation of condensate from some Shell Petroleum operated facilities to the Warri Refinery.

Last week, Shell, Nigeria's major gas supply company wrote to the Ministers of Power and Petroleum Resources threatening to shut

down its gas plants if the concentration of 472,000 barrels of wet condensate currently at the Warri Refinery was not evacuated.

NNPC Managing Director Mohammed Sanusi Barkindo has written Defence Minister Godwin Abbey seeking the provision of security for crude and gas oil pipelines in the Niger Delta to save Nigeria from total power blackout and revenue loss from crude oil export.

The NNPC said in a statement

that the issue of evacuation of condensate has remained intractable due to the damage of the vital SPDC operated Trans Forcados Pipeline system by incessant militant attacks.

"However, despite the odds, the NNPC in response to the impending national power crisis, on Friday commenced the evacuation of 140,000 barrels of condensate from Shell's facility at Ughelli through Warri Refinery," the statement reads in part.

Engr. Austen Oniwon, Group Executive Director, Refining and Petro-chemicals confirmed that two vessels were dedicated through the weekend to evacuate the condensate from WRPC tanks.

He said this would give SPDC about three weeks within which additional measures can be taken to improve the situation in the medium term.

Meanwhile, the NNPC management would on Wednesday meet with top management of

SPDC led by its Managing Director and Country Chairman of Shell Companies in Nigeria Mr. Mutiu Sumonu at the NNPC Towers Abuja.

The parley which is being convened at the instance of the NNPC would undertake a review of facilities around the western axis to improve the flexibilities of operations and also create alternatives that will extensively address the vulnerability of the Trans Forcados Pipelines.



SULTAN of Sokoto Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar

Sultan commissions 58km road in Jigawa

By Muideen Olaniyi

THE Sultan of Sokoto Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar III has commissioned the 58 kilometre Gwaram-Fagam-Sagi road which he requested Governor Sule Lamido to construct during his trip to Fagam for the distribution of Zakat in 2007.

Speaking at commissioning ceremony at the weekend, he assured of total support at all times to any political office holder who is willing to work for the people, saying, "We are to serve the people and whoever is serving the people is our friend, is our partner."

The visit was the fourth to Jigawa within the last three years by the Sultan.

He said, "We would not mind visiting Jigawa or any other state 100 times within a month or two or three if it has something to do with service to the people and if the people are happy and the government is happy. We believe our own part of the country, the North, will be happy and, of course, by extension, our Nigeria will also be happy."

The sultan hailed Governor Sule Lamido and his team for their outstanding performance and prayed the Almighty Allah to continue to guide them.

Governor Sule Lamido, in his response, said the deep compassion he noticed in the Sultan that made him promise to construct the Gwaram-Fagam-Sagi road as requested by the traditional ruler.

Northern Union disowns Youth Leader

By Muideen Olaniyi

NORTHERN Union (NU) yesterday disowned its Youth Leader Muhammad Alhaji Yakubu for appealing to ailing President Umaru Musa Yar'adua not to resign even on wheel chair.

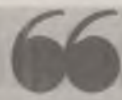
The Union's National Secretary, Col. Bala Mande, said in a statement issued in Abuja that the Dr Abubakar Olusola Saraki-led NU has never at any point in time advised the ailing President to refuse to hand over power even on wheel chair.

Describing the remark as a complete breach of the Union's protocol, Col. Mande said the Union would not hesitate to sanction the Youth Leader if found guilty after thorough investigation.

He said that the union has begun investigation into the circumstances that led to the said statement by its Youth Leader which was reported in a national daily last Thursday.

The statement read: "We wish to disassociate ourselves from the statement as it does not reflect the position or decision of the NU's Elders Council, which is the only body authorized to speak or issue statements on behalf of the Union through the Secretary-General.

"The Management of the Northern Union hereby wishes to appeal to all our members and the general public to disregard, in totality, all the contents of the said publication.



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Police arrest anti-Blair protester

By Misbahu Bashir & Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

THE Nigeria Police yesterday arrested a rights activist, Shehu Sani, who led a demonstration to protest the role played by former British Prime Minister Tony Blair and former United States President George Walker Bush in the war in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The protesters, under the aegis of Civil Liberty Organisation (CLO), matched from the Unity Fountain in Abuja close to the entrance of Transcorp Hilton Hotel where Blair, who is attending Thisday's Newspaper 'Nigeria at 50 Award', was staying. But police officers surrounded the protesters and ordered them to distance themselves from the hotel's vicinity and arrested their leader and some of the activists. The police officer who led the arrest Wilson Inalegwu said they apprehended the protesters because they did not obtain permission from the police. "I have just seen them in this place without knowing their intention of being here" he told BBC Hausa Service. He said as soon as investigation is completed the leader will be released. The arrested protester, Shehu Sani, said the police are just wasting their time by arresting him.

Meanwhile, the FCT Police Public Relations Officer SP Mohsood Jimoh said they only invited him for security reasons, saying that they sighted about 25 miscreants who might have used the opportunity to disturb peace. He said they have already discharged him after he endorsed some security papers in order to ascertain his motive for organizing the demonstration and ensure peace is maintained.

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METTLER TOLEDO

11-yr-old pupil raises N.6m for Haiti victims

By Maureen Onochie and Lami Sadiq

AN 11-year-old pupil of Premiere Academy Abuja, Master Abasiiodiong Francis Effiang, has raised the sum of N605,000 to help the victims of Haiti earthquake.

The Principal of the school,

Mr. Peter Mcloed, while presenting the cheque to the United Nations Children Fund, said Effiang sought the permission of the school's authority to carry out the fund raising campaign for children in Haiti who no longer go to school.

Mr. Mcloed said he approved

the fund raising campaign and made it optional for every child in the school to pay N1000 and all the 521 pupils paid, while some staff and parents also joined in the donation which helped raise the money.

The UNICEF Representative for Nigeria Dr. Suomi

Sakai, represented by the Emergency Officer Mr. Soji Adeniyi, thanked the school authority and pupils for their commitment in raising the money to help the victims of the disaster in Haiti.

Dr. Sakai "Your donations will aid UNICEF and its partners

in providing food, clean water, shelter and life-saving supplies to health care facilities and temporary care centers. We receive this cheque with special thanks and commend your noble efforts as young citizens contributing towards the care and protection of Haitian children."

Youth council, CDD condemn Nigerien coup

By Abbas Jimoh & Benjamin Auta

THE Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) and the National Youth Council of Nigeria (NYCN) have condemned the military coup d'état in Niger Republic.

CDD director Dr. Jibrin Ibrahim said it is unacceptable that the military overthrow of Mamadou Tandja was coming two days after the ECOWAS Summit reaffirmed its zero tolerance for coups in the region and elsewhere.

He however condemned the self succession project of the deposed Mamadou Tandja, saying his action if allowed to succeed would lead to political disaster.

Ibrahim said Tandja's political project was to throw away Niger's constitution of the 5th Republic because the constitution had a clause which said the section which provided a maximum tenure of two terms of five years each had a key that said it could not be revised, which made him to dissolve the parliament after lawmakers refused to amend the provision.

NYCN National Vice President Comrade Marvin Yobana said that the era of coup in the continent is past. "As national youth leaders we see dictatorship in whatever guise as an aberration and we condemn coups and we urge them to go back and dialogue among themselves," he said.

Army denies grumbling over recent postings

By Benjamin Auta

PROFESSIONALISM and merits among other factors are normally taken into account before any posting or appointment is made in the Nigerian Army, says the Director of Army Public Relations, Brigadier General Chris Olukolade.

A press release made available to Daily Trust, titled "claims of grumbling on Army postings not factual" the Army said that the speculative report only projects imaginary "grumbling" as act to promote disaffection in the Army.

"Speculative reports which only project imaginary grumbling in the Army could therefore be considered as an act intended to cause disaffection and rancor within the military system while at the same time fanning the embers of hate among the diverse ethnic groups in the country," the statement said.

The release added that there are clearly discernible guidelines for which the Army follows in carrying out its posting exercise adding that "the Army has been conforming with the demands of the federal character to the extent that it guarantees effectiveness and efficiency."



FROM left: Pope Benedict XVI, Executive Secretary, Nigeria Christian Pilgrims Commission (NCPC), Mr. John Kennedy Opara, Chairman, NCPC, Archbishop Nicholas Okoh and the Bishop of Enugu, Bishop Emmanuel Chukwuma during a visit to the Vatican, recently.

NLC blames Niger coup on bad governance

By Francis Okeke

THE Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC) yesterday said the takeover of political power by the military in Niger Republic is fallout of bad governance and contempt for democracy by most African leaders.

While condemning the coup as unacceptable, the NLC called on ECOWAS, AU and UN to immediately enforce stiff economic sanctions on the military government that has

been formed.

General Secretary of NLC Comrade John Odah said the union "believes that the recent resurgence of the military in politics in Africa is direct fallout of the failure of governance marked by greed, corruption and lack of moral principles on the part of the political leadership in most countries across the continent."

Odah called for a change of attitude "by our leaders and their concept of governance that has arrested the

development of our continent many decades after the end of colonialism."

However, NLC commended Acting President Goodluck Jonathan and AU's Security Commissioner Ramtane Lamamra for promptly condemning the military coup in Niger.

It urged continental bodies to go beyond condemnation and put in place a programme of action to force the junta out of power in Niger and restore democracy and state institutions in the country.

Niger: US urges speedy return to democracy

By Aisha Umar

THE United States of America said it places great importance on Niger's speedy return to democracy and the rule of law.

Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson said in a statement that the U.S. is deeply concerned by the February 18 events

in Niger where the military deposed the government of Mamadou Tandja.

The U.S. also expressed concern about the "illegal and unconstitutional actions" that resulted in the extension of President Tandja's term of office.

He said the group calling itself the Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy must restore Niger to

the constitutional democracy that existed prior to the creation of the 6th Republic.

The Assistant Secretary said the United States will continue to support the hopes of the people of Niger to see restored constitutional order and a peaceful transition through prompt, fair, and transparent elections.

'FG not adequately funding mining sector'

By Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

THE outgoing Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development Alhaji Suleman D. Kassim has attributed the slow pace in the mining sector to lack of adequate funding by the Federal Government.

Kassim made the remark while

handing over to the new Permanent Secretary Engr. Sheik Musa Goni.

He said, "Adequate budgetary allocation is necessary for the development of the mines and steel sector for meaningful contribution towards the socio-economic development of Nigeria."

He said if the Federal Government

would make enough budgetary provisions for the sector, it will compete favourably with the oil sector in generating revenue to Nigeria's economy.

He also challenged the staff in the ministry and the incoming Permanent Secretary to be proactive and work as a team to move the sector forward.

In his speech, Engr. Goni said he

would put in his best in the discharge of his responsibilities and set good examples for the staff to follow in serving the nation and humanity.

Before his appointment as the ministry's Permanent Secretary Engr. Goni, had been in the sector for a long time, and he was the Director of the Mining Cadastre Department in the Ministry.

Fulanis, farmers unite for peace in Nasarawa

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

FULANIS and farmers of the Afo ethnic group of Udenin Gida community in Nasarawa State have agreed to live in peace.

Over 70 people were killed in the over two weeks' old clash between Fulani herdsmen and Afo farmers after Udenin Gida was burnt on December 18, 2009. But a peace move which was initiated by an elder statesman and leader of the Fulani community

in the state, Senator Walid Jibril, brought together the two groups on Friday for peace talks.

A communiqué which was issued after the two groups agreed to sheath their swords and embrace each other as neighbors, blamed the clash on indiscipline, lack of communication and spread of dangerous and unconfirmed rumours.

The communiqué also charged traditional rulers and the political elite

to work together towards ensuring lasting peace in the community.

Secretary of the Fulani group, Miyetti Allah, Muhammadu Hussaini, appealed to Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma to redeem his pledge of creating a grazing reserve in Udege to put an end to the hardship experienced by cattle rearers in the area.

Senator Jibril had earlier donated relief materials to victims of the clash.

Niger sacks another Islamic sect

From Ayegbsa Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Niger State government at the weekend dislodged an Islamic sect known as Islahudeen from three of its local government areas. This came barely six months after the Darul Islam sect was sacked from the Mokwa area of the state.

The dislodgement followed a suit filed by people living in the affected local governments in a Minna High Court which ordered the police to dislodge the sect.

The group which had its headquarters at Gada Kasanga in Mashegu Local Government Area of the state also operated in Bertown in Mariga Local Government Area as well as in Ibanpa and Rafi Kogra in Kontagora Local Government Area. Our correspondent gathered that the leader of the group, Amir Umar Dogo Karfi, fled his base before the task force evacuating them reached his location,

leaving behind his two wives and 15 children. His family and some of his followers are presently under police custody.

Bulldozers and armed policemen arrived at the Gada Masanga Saturday where the sect's central mosque and other buildings were destroyed. It was also learnt that over 42 members of the sect believed to have come from neighbouring Niger Republic were sent back to their country by men of the Immigration Service at the weekend. Alhaji Ahmed Khadi of the Ministry of Value Orientation and Poverty Eradication told our correspondent that the exercise was peaceful and successful.

"The exercise was based on a court order and we went in peacefully without any crisis or confrontation from members of the sect," Khadi stated, while confirming the disappearance of the sect leader.

Rotary reports decline in maternal mortality

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

THERE is great improvement in maternal death rate in Northern Nigeria, a report by a project aimed at reducing maternal and child deaths sponsored by the Rotary International said yesterday in Kano.

The report was made public during a technical review of the project at the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital. The project which began in 2008, investigated the causes of maternal death in the North, after which it trained healthcare providers in 10 participating hospitals, five each in Kano and Kaduna States, on managing normal labour, preventing and treating Eclampsia and post partum hemorrhage.

Analyzing the data collated from the 10 participating hospitals yesterday, a consultant Obstetrician and Gynecologist at the Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital and also a consultant for the Rotary project, Dr. Hadiza Shehu Galadanchi, said the results were "impressive and very encouraging", saying there had been a reduction in maternal mortality rate from 1,780 in 100,000. She added that the project hoped to attain the Millennium Development Goals target for health in 2010 by reducing maternal death by 75 percent. She noted that Eclampsia and PH accounted for 24 percent and 2.8 percent of maternal mortality in 2009 alone, adding that Anemia accounted for 18 percent of the deaths in the period under review.

Insects invade Katsina farmlands

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

SOME farmlands in Kukar Samu village of Safana Local Government Area in Katsina State were at the weekend invaded by insects which destroyed crops.

Spokesman of the farmers who spoke to newsmen in Katsina decried the inva-

sion and appealed to both state and local government authorities to take necessary steps by ensuring early fumigation of the farmlands to avert a re-occurrence.

He said beans, groundnut and sweet potatoes were the most affected, adding that they were the

largest farm produce in the area and that the communities relied on them for sustenance.

Another farmer, Alhaji Uwais Kuka, called for an urgent solution to the problem. He also urged the government to ensure adequate provision of fertilizer and insecticides.

Students deny attacking governor

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

STUDENTS of the Sa'adatu Rimi College of Education in Kano State have refuted media reports that they stoned and booed Kano State Governor Ibrahim Shekarau when he visited the college on Thursday.

A private radio station, Freedom Radio, had reported Tuesday that students of the college stoned

and booed the governor when he visited the school to commission some projects. The station also reported that when the students attacked the governor, some thugs descended on them, leaving scores injured.

Addressing newsmen in Kano at the weekend, the President of the college's Students Union Government (SUG) Comrade

Salim Hamza said the report was baseless and had no iota of truth in it.

He said the governor was cheered when he visited the school. Comrade Hamza said investigation showed that those interviewed by the radio station were not students of the college. He added that the students would take necessary action against the radio station.

One die, 2 injured in auto crash

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

ONE person has been confirmed dead and two others injured in a car crash which occurred Saturday along the Kano/Maiduguri road near Jigawar Gano in Dawakin Kudu Local Government Area. It was gathered that the crash was due to a collision between two trucks.

The Kano-bound truck was believed to have been carrying flour to Kano city while the other vehicle was carrying goods out of the state.

The Kano State Sector

Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission Alhaji Ahmed Kogari Hassan told our correspondent yesterday that one of the vehicles was trying to avoid potholes when it crashed into the other which was overtaking.

He said one of the drivers died instantly, adding that the two persons who sustained injuries were taken to hospital immediately. He maintained that 18 persons were in the vehicles though many of them escaped unhurt.

Alhaji Hassan blamed such crashes on over-speeding and non-func-

tional breaks which he said made it impossible for drivers to stop their vehicles on time.



OSITA Chidoka FRSC Corps Marshal



TRANSMISSION COMPANY OF NIGERIA (TCN)

PUBLIC NOTICE

PRE-QUALIFICATION OF CONTRACTORS FOR YEAR 2010 HV TRANSMISSION LINES & ASSOCIATED TRANSMISSION STATIONS

ADDENDUM

Sequel to our recent publication in the Federal Tender Journal, ThisDay and Daily Trust Newspapers, on Monday, 8th February, 2010. Please note this additional information in respect of pre-qualification for;

- (A) DESIGN AND ENGINEERING
- (B) PROCUREMENT AND CONSTRUCTION

1. COLLECTION OF DOCUMENTS:

Applicants are requested to indicate their interest by requesting for the "PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS" For (A) and (B) above, from the office of the:

Asst. General Manager (Procurement)
Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN)
Room 228, 2nd Floor, PHCN CHQ
Plot 441, Zambezi Crescent,
Maitama, Abuja.

or to the e-mail address below:

atonack@yahoo.co.uk

2. EXTENSION OF TIME

Submission of completed documents by applicants is now extended to Tuesday, 30th March, 2010, by 5.00p.m. Opening of applications will be on Wednesday, 31st March, 2010, by 10.00a.m. at the PHCN Auditorium, 2nd Floor, PHCN CHQ., Maitama, Abuja.

All other information in the original advert remains valid.

Signed: TCN Management

A BILL FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE RIGHT OF NIGERIANS TO BE INDIGENES OF ANY LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OR AREA COUNCIL IN NIGERIA AND FOR CONNECTED PURPOSES

HB. 338

C341

Sponsored by Hon. SAMAILA ABDULLAHI MOHAMMED

Commencement.

BE IT ENACTED by the National Assembly of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as follows—

1. This Act shall apply to all Nigerian Citizens residing in any Local Government Area or Area Council of Nigeria.

2.—(1) Every citizen of Nigeria is entitled to move freely throughout Nigeria and to reside in any part thereof, and no citizen of Nigeria shall be expelled from any Local Government Area or Area Council of Nigeria or refused entry thereto or exit therefrom.

(2) Nothing in subsection (1) of this section shall invalidate any law that is reasonably justifiable in a democratic society—

(a) imposing restrictions on the residence or movement of any person who has committed or is reasonably suspected to have committed a criminal offence in order to prevent him from leaving the Local Government Area or Area Council; or

(b) providing for the removal of any person from that Local Government Area or Area Council to any other Local Government Area or Area Council or State or any other country to—

(i) be tried outside that Local Government Area or Area Council for any criminal offence, or

(ii) undergo imprisonment outside the Local Government Area or Area Council in execution of the sentence of a court of law in respect of a criminal offence of which he has been found guilty.

(3) Notwithstanding the provisions of any Law of a State or Bye-Law of a Local Government Area or Area Council to the contrary, the person or persons to whom subsection (1) of this section apply shall be indigene or indigenes of the relevant Local Government Area or Area Council in Nigeria and shall be entitled to all the rights and privileges which other Nigerian citizens ordinarily resident in such Local Government Areas or Area Council are entitled.

3. Every indigene of a Local Government Area or Area Council in Nigeria shall have the right to acquire, own, possess, and maintain any property situate in the Local Government Area or Area Council in which he or she is indigene or elsewhere, including the power to develop, transfer, alienate or otherwise dispose of such property.

4. An indigene of a Local Government Area or Area Council shall be deemed an indigene of the State or Federal Capital Territory in which that Local Government Area or Area Council is situate.

5.—A person is an indigene of a Local Government Area or Area Council in Nigeria, if—

(a) he or she or any of his parents belongs to a tribe indigenous to the Local Government Area or Area Council in which they reside; or

(b) he or she or any of his parents (how high soever) is a migrant from another Local Government Area or Area Council and has resided in the new Local Government Area or Area Council on or before the 1st day of October 1960 and continues to reside there; or

(c) he or she or any of his parents is among the first to reside in the Local Government Area or Area Council and he resides in it; or

(d) he or she is a person born in that Local Government Area or Area Council and he subsequently continues to reside in it; or

(e) he or she is a spouse of a person who is an indigene by virtue of any of the circumstances mentioned in this subsection; or

(f) he or she is a person who has resided in the Local Government Area or Area Council for a period of at least five years;

6. Provided that nothing in this Section or Act shall be deemed to prevent a person from adopting any Local Government Area or Area Council as his or her Local Government or Area Council of origin different from that of his parents—

(a) persons who adopt another Local Government Area or Area Council other than that of his or her parents or spouse in accordance with the provision of this Act shall be deemed to have renounced his or her Local Government Area or Area Council of origin.

7. The right created under this Section is not extinguished by reason only that the person or persons mentioned in Section 5 (a) - (f) of this Section does not or do not, as the case may be, assimilate to the customary practices of the locality.

8. The Government of every State shall ensure that—

(a) all persons residing in Local Government Areas or Area Councils enjoy equal economic, political and cultural rights;

(b) the property, life, well-being, religion and culture of all persons residing in that State are secured, respected, honoured and protected;

(c) no person suffers any form of discrimination, deprivation, disenfranchisement, stigmatization, or ostracization on grounds only that such person or persons does not or do not belong to any of the predominantly ethnic groups in which he resides;

(d) no person living in any Local Government Area or Area Council in Nigeria shall be denied the right to observe and practice such cultural activities;

(e) the duties of a State to Indigenes of Local Government Areas or Area Councils as provided for under Section 9 of this Section shall also apply to all Local Government Areas and Area Councils in Nigeria.

PROVIDED that a law of a State shall not be invalidated by reason merely that it imposes restriction on the conduct of such cultural activities for the purposes of protecting public morality, public policy, public safety and the right of other citizens.

9. It shall be the duty of every person living in a Local Government Area or Area Council whether or not he is an indigene of that Local Government Area or Area Council to—

(a) respect and honour the culture and customs of the various communities living in that Local Government Area or Area Council;

(b) strive to live in harmony with others in the Local Government Area or Area Council irrespective of cultural or ethnic diversity and encourage his dependants, if any, to do same;

(c) make positive and meaningful contribution to the progress and well-being of the Local Government Area or Area Council;

(d) make public property and infrastructure free from acts of vandalism.

10. This Act shall be administered by the Federal Ministry of Interior.

11. The Ministry of Internal Affairs shall issue indigene Certificate to applicants on proof of—

(a) Certificate of birth in a particular Local Government Area or Area Council; or

(b) Sworn declaration of age in a Nigerian Court; or

(c) Tenancy Agreement with rent receipts for a period of five years in a particular Local Government Area or Area Council; or

(d) Evidence of attending an institution of learning for a period of at least

five years in a particular Local Government Area or Area Council; or

(e) Evidence of payment of tax to the relevant authority for a period of at least five years in a particular Local Government Area or Area Council; or

(f) Certificate or evidence of marriage; or

(g) Evidence of Voters Registration for at least five years in a particular Local Government Area or Area Council; or

(h) Evidence of employment for at least five years in a government's institution, private institution or self employment or commercial trading in a particular Local Government Area or Area Council; or

(i) Any other evidence which the Minister considers reasonable provided the applicant is a Nigerian citizen.

12.—(1) The Ministry shall issue Indigene certificates to qualified applicants within 24 hours of application; and

(2) Where the Ministry rejects an application, the applicant whose application is rejected shall be informed, in writing and within 24 hours, the reason(s) for the rejection;

(3) An applicant, whose application is rejected, may apply to the Minister of Internal Affairs requesting for a review of his application. The Minister shall make his or her decision known to the applicant in writing and within 48 hours of the application.

(4) Where the Minister further rejects the application, the applicant may apply to a Federal High Court for an enforcement of his right.

(5) The Fundamental Rights Enforcement Procedure Rules, 1987 shall apply to govern the procedure for enforcing the applicant's rights in this Act.

13. For the purposes of this Act, the following acts of commission and omission are offences under the Act:

(a) xenophobic expressions and slogans;

(b) statements that tend to induce clamour for secession, bifurcation, ethnic or religious cleansing or genocide;

(c) ethnically or religiously motivated violence and disturbances;

(d) discrimination or provocation on grounds of ethnic or religious affiliation;

(e) intra and inter-communal violence;

(f) failure to report any of the acts in paragraph (a) to (e) of this Section to the relevant authorities after full knowledge or its commission or an attempt or conspiracy to commit it;

(g) any attempt or conspiracy to commit any of the acts in paragraphs (a) to (e) of this Section;

(h) any publication, declaration or graffiti, preaching, agitating or inciting any of the acts in paragraph (a) to (f) of this Section.

14. Any person or group charged with any of the offences under this Act shall on conviction be liable to a fine ₦100,000.00 and a term of imprisonment which may extend to fifteen years.

15. Where death of any person results in any of the circumstances mentioned in paragraph (c) of Section 13, the person or group charged with causing such death, shall on conviction be sentenced to death.

16. If any of the offences mentioned in Section 13 (a) to (e) above is committed by public servant, he shall, in addition to any punishment that may be imposed under Section 14, be dismissed forthwith.

17.—(1) The government of a State in which any inter-ethnic violence has occasioned the death, displacement, disablement and injury of persons, groups or community, loss of property, shall in addition to any other punitive measure that shall be applied under Section 13 of this Act, be liable to pay adequate compensation and resettlement to the affected persons, groups or community;

(2) For the purpose of section 14, the funds of the State in question shall be applied in the payment of compensation to the victims of the violence or their families and the reconstruction of the villages, places of worship, markets, houses or other dwelling places.

18. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires —

"Area Council" means each of the administrative areas within the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja shown in Part II of the First Schedule to the Constitution—

"Belong to" or its grammatical expression when used with reference to a person in Local Government Area or Area Council refers to a person either of whose parents was a member of a community indigenous to that Local Government Area or Area Council;

"Community" indigenous to" or "Indigenous community" means a community living in a Local Government Area or Area Council before the date of independence;

"Constitution" means the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999;

"Date of Independence" means the 1st day of October, 1960;

"Indigene" means a person born in a Local Government Area or Area Council before the date of Independence or a person who has resided in a Local Government Area or Area Council for a period of at least five years, or a person who is married to an indigene of a Local Government Area or Area Council and has opted to become an indigene of the Local Government Area or Area Council of the spouse; or

"indigenous to" See the interpretation of "belong to", above;

"Indigenous community" See the interpretation of "Community, indigenous to" above;

"Relevant Locality" refers to the locality contemplated by and applicable in relation to person or persons within the purview of this Act;

"Local Government Area" means the Local Government Areas shown in Part I of the First Schedule to the Constitution;

"Migrant" means person, clan or community that moves from one locality to another within Nigeria;

"Parent" includes ancestors;

"Relevant authorities" includes the Police, the Inland Revenue Service, the Security Service, the Traditional Rulers in the Local Government Area or Area Council or any other State or Local Government Area or Area Council Agency as may be designated by a law of a State or bye-law of a Local Government Area or Area Council;

"Rights" means all the Fundamental Rights as enshrined in Chapter IV of the Constitution, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948, African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, 1986, etc.;

"State" means the thirty six States and Federal Capital Territory specified in Section 3 (1) of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999.

20. This Bill may be cited as the Indigeneship Bill, 2010. Short Title.

Indigeneship

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

The purpose of this Bill is to make provisions for the right of Nigerian citizens to become indigenes of any Local Government Area or Area Council in Nigeria irrespective of their particular community, ethnic group, place of origin, sex, religion, political opinion, or circumstances of birth and to enjoy all rights and privileges which other Nigerian citizens ordinarily resident in such local government areas are entitled to.

Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON www.dailytrust.com



Man loses 12 family members to fire

MAY the Almighty Allah grant them Jannatil Firdaus and give the family the fortitude to bear the loss. Amen. Our government should equally improve on the Fire Service, so that it can tackle such cases in future. There is also the need to ensure good town planning with accessible road network in every part of the country.

Lamara Garba Azare
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

May their souls rest in peace.
Al-Amin
Aminja09@hotmail.com

May their souls rest in perfect peace. This is a great loss, not only to Kano State, but Nigeria in general.

Adamu A Goni
amujeli@gmail.com

This is a very sad story indeed. It is a great tragedy that cannot be forgotten in a hurry. I join thousand of Nigerians to sympathize with the man. May Allah grant their souls rest, and give the family the fortitude to bear the loss. Amen.

Abubakar Chika Maru
abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com

What a tragedy, but like the story in the bible, God will give back to the bereaved everything he has lost in a hundred fold. Amen

Anonymous
maypat01@yahoo.com

May Allah accept their souls. May He also give the man the fortitude to bear the loss.

Aliyu Baba Adama
abaj61@yahoo.com

Well, what can we say, than to pray to God to help us and prevent a re-occurrence. We should always have an escape route in our houses, known only to family members. Access road is also very important so that in such cases, fire fighters will not have difficulty getting to the scene. We should always ensure that our gas cookers are in good shapes to avoid leakages. May God help us and give the family the fortitude to bear the loss.

Y.J.A Solomon
suhani68@yahoo.com

May their souls rest in perfect peace. Amen. And may Aljanna Firdaus be their final destiny.

Ahmed Saleem
hafnaf2004@yahoo.co.uk

May their souls rest in perfect peace. Government should also review the urban master plan. But why was the Fire Brigade unable to get to the house on time? It shows the inefficiency of the Planning Department and Fire Service.

M. Hilal
gogannaka@hotmail.com

190 MPs move to save Yar'adua

MALAM Umaru Musa Yar'adua should know that it was neither his power nor his popularity that gave him the presidency, just as his sickness is from the Creator. Therefore, he should follow the path of honour and dignity and resign as the leader of the country so that he can take care of his health. It is Allah, who gives and takes. Please resign now, as a sign of appreciation for what the Almighty has done for you. Remember that prior to your being nominated for the presidency, you had already signified interest to go back to the ABU. But God destined that you were going to be our president, at least you have made your contributions to Nigeria's development, let some one else take over from where you stopped.

Lamara Garba Azare
lamaragarba@yahoo.com

May the Almighty God save this nation. What happened in Niger, yesterday started along the same line.

Dan Kasa
najeriyakasata@yahoo.co.uk

That is not the solution. These members want section 144 to be violated.

Abubkr Badru Jkamshi
[damurna@yahoo.com](mailto:damura@yahoo.com)

Northern legislators have taken the right step. Because the Acting President is supposed to concentrate on issues that will ensure national development instead, he first decided to settle personal issues. Kudos to the MPs.

Idris H.
idrisharon4real@yahoo.com

This ethnic bias will not help the Northerners. I think these legislators are working towards a break-up of the nation. I am from the South-west and I think enough is enough. They should be careful.

Lanre Daniel
platinum275@hotmail.com

Whether we acknowledge it or not, facts remain facts. The actions of the president put us where we are today. We should learn from this experience and



PRESIDENT Umaru Yar'adua

we should always think of Nigeria first.

Aimola Edward Kehin
kehindeaimola@yahoo.com

We hope that the Northern legislators will wake up from their slumber and protect our region. They should also know that the resolution that empowered Jonathan Goodluck to act as president was a calculated plan to do away with northerners. The first FEC meeting presided over by Jonathan as Acting President confirmed that, where the able Minister of Justice was replaced. Let us stand up for our rights and move the region forward.

Abbas Yusufu
aayusufu@yahoo.com

Northern MP's, thank God you now understand that the arrangement to hand over power to the

vice president was not done out of cheer patriotism for the country, but to tactically relegate the region. Thanks to people like Abdul Ningi, more grease to your elbow.

Usman Abba Ahmed
uabba45@yahoo.com

Let us not forget that it was President Yar'adua, who brought civility to governance. We should know that he is being held hostage by some people who neither wish him nor Nigeria well. He does not deserve the humiliation of impeachment. What he deserves is our understanding, respect and prayers to be set free by his kidnapers. Let us pray for him to come back and finish his term. We must not dump our leader because he is going through trials.

Emeka
ugwuog@yahoo.com

Beginning of the end: Six-man FEC team to visit Yar'adua

AS far as the common man in Nigeria is concerned, it makes no difference who becomes what, as long as he belongs to the PDP. Is it not the same FEC that refused to take a decision on the matter? Why the U-turn now? Nigerians, I weep.

Ibrahim Sani Madugu
maduguemir@yahoo.com

That is the problem with Nigeria, there is too much sycophancy, especially under the present administration. Infact, the

members of the Federal Executive Council are quite aware that the health of President Yar'adua has deteriorated badly, but they pretend as if all is well. Because there is the possibility of a major cabinet reshuffle, every one of them wants to be recognised so that he/she can remain in the cabinet.

Usman Santuraki
usbaturaki@yahoo.com

The team is a collection of Yar'adua's supporters, so they can

cook up a story for us when they return. Nigerian leaders should have conscience and stop lying to us.

Yusuf Kwan
me.matters2006@yahoo.com

I thought the PDP, following the empowerment of Jonathan Goodluck as Acting President would focus on delivering the dividends of democracy to Nigerians.

Ahmed Adamu
agadamu_2004@yahoo.com

This is not a Northern agenda. Don't set up a precedent that is not good for the future. This is all about Nigeria. Look, I am a big fan of Yar'adua, but we have to be honest with ourselves. In a country where things are working, there is no way Yar'adua will get a re-election. Try and fight a good fight.

Last.P
oniko002@gmail.com

When will our legislators ever meet over the bad roads in the North, incessant religious and ethnic crises in the North, the abject poverty, poor state of education and unemployment in the region? Any time you hear they are having a meeting, it is always about what will go into their private accounts or anything to favour them. May God save the North and Nigeria.

Abdulrahman M Alfa
abdulrahmanalfa@yahoo.com

It is painful that the country is again descending dangerously into the bottomless abyss of sectional/regional politics. We should all deeply think through every action and disposition to save the country from imminent danger. For this is a dangerous time.

Nnanna
abaeze@yahoo.co.uk

This is a very unpatriotic and retrogressive political move. The country will be poorer for it and we are moving towards sectional and ethnic politics, which could bid the Nigerian project goodbye.

Dr Enabulele
jeokem58@yahoo.com

The Nigerian project is a dicey one indeed. When most of us thought that the issue of dereliction of duty by Yar'Adua was over, it is painful to see that Northern members in the House of Representatives are holding meetings to cause a regional divide. If what is good for the country is not good for the North, then we are heading for a major crisis.

Merem Emeribe
emeokoro@yahoo.com

Journalist accused of obstructing acting president's convoy

WHEN will we learn to stop segregating? Is the Acting President different from another Nigerian? To me, an Acting President and a journalist are equal.

Auwal Bala
auwalbala@rocketmail.com



By Ibrahim Biu

Politicians and truth telling

Last week, *Daily Trust* columnist Mahmud Jega wrote last Monday about truth telling. He spoke extensively about former President Olusegun Obasanjo and Prof Dora Akunyili, the current information minister all about the ailing President, Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

No doubt telling the truth to the people especially among our present day leaders has become a very difficult assignment nowadays. It is perhaps because of the fact that I'm not of the view that Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu of Niger state has quietly blazed a political trail with his public admission recently that the Public Private Partnership (PPP) programme in the state has failed to materialise into reality.

He cited the case of two projects in which the sum of five hundred million naira and another thirty-five million which has been sunk into them without a corresponding appreciable level of work done on any of the two projects that could be seen by any person. The first failed project involved a housing scheme in Minna worth five hundred million naira, while the other project is a thirty-five million naira water scheme in many parts of the state.

In a recent speech he delivered at a seminar on PPP in the state, Governor Aliyu gave the assurance that steps will

The governor acted the way he did even though PPP is being supervised by his own younger sibling, Barr. Mohammed Aliyu

be taken by his administration to ensure that the projects referred to are successfully completed as expected by Nigerites. To the surprise of many people who attended the event, the Chief Servant publicly acknowledged that the performance of PPP has been disappointingly awful and that this situation must be corrected by his administration. The governor acted the way he did even though PPP is being supervised by his own younger sibling, Barr. Mohammed Aliyu. It is a well known fact that Nigerians all too familiar with the way of our politicians will readily dismiss the governor's statement as a political gimmick made just to win cheap publicity as the country is now nearing another election period to be held next year

But I don't agree with this view. I am convinced that by this action, Governor Aliyu has put himself over and above his colleagues in terms of honesty of purpose and transparency. By telling the truth on the status of the PPP in Niger, the governor has proved that he is really an honest administrator who should be taken seriously for his words. Moreover a governor giving himself the thumbs down as he did even as it affects only one or two projects, is to me, an almost unheard of in the history of this country, because our leaders don't often like to tell the truth.

To me, even though Governor Aliyu is not perhaps the first governor from the northern part of the country to have done this type of thing, it is still an indication that we still have people with conscience

and integrity in the North among our leaders. Before now, I heard that Governor Danbaba Suntai of Taraba State has done a similar thing and even went further to say that he would not contest the 2011 elections, although he is entitled to seek a second term.

My major issue of concern here is that, even though we are in an uncertain period with many insincere leaders at the helm of our affairs, there is still a glimmer of hope with people like Dr. Babangida Aliyu showing the way by trying to do their best in this difficult times when many politicians will simply resort to telling lies to get away with it at all cost simply because they want to either be elected or re-elected into office. As at now, even though many of the politicians are practically doing nothing for their people that are busy involved in telling tall stories simply to deceive the electorate. The so-called dividend of democracy is just a mere slogan to them and has not been seen by many communities all over the country.

Therefore, when one or two of our governors are showing that they are different from the others, it is indeed a pleasant surprise. As for Dr. Aliyu, I am not really surprised by his action because of his background, exposure and antecedent. He is an experienced administrator having been in the bureaucracy, first as a director and later as a permanent secretary in many establishments and ministries before he veered into politics to be elected as governor by his people in Niger state on the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Moreover, Dr. Aliyu has even been regarded as rather a radical personality from his days as a union leader in the university and later at the trade union level and also as an elected representative. As a former permanent secretary, Dr. Aliyu had handled several sensitive issues differently to the admiration of his superiors before he was called by his people to go home and lead them. In almost all the places he had worked, he succeeded in distinguishing himself and endeared himself to his bosses which saw him climbing the leadership ladder quickly early in life without turning back. At the current stage he has reached, sources told me that Dr. Aliyu feels he is duty bound to tell the truth as it is to his people no matter how bitter it might be.

That is why I believe he really opened up on the failed PPP projects in his state. Any person who is close to him will know that the chief servant cannot be happy. That perhaps is the reason why he has given the assurance that he will definitely complete the projects as expected in order to make sure that the money invested in them is not lost.

The chief servant has also already put out his priorities which are of immediate benefit to his people. This include education, health, agriculture, provision of water, provision of infrastructural facilities, human resources development and laying a solid foundation for the socio-economic development of Niger state which he said should be among the three best developed states by the year 2020. He wants Nigerites to really get the dividends of democracy they deserve through reducing poverty and to improve their standard of living.

Biu wrote in from Life Camp, Abuja.



By Usman Albishir

My struggle for Yobe governorship

In its ruling on Friday February 20, 2010, the Supreme Court declared that the Appeal Court in Jos was wrong for granting me the right to file a fresh appeal against my substitution after I won the Yobe governorship primary elections in 2007 under the platform of the All Nigeria Peoples Party. As you are aware which I recall with humility, I won the primaries with landslide by scoring 382 votes to defeat my only opponent, the late Mamman Ali of blessed memory, who got 88 votes in an election that was very free and fair in which some new modalities (for the elections) were introduced by my opponent, yet I accepted that they be adopted for the primaries. Soon afterwards, there was a conspiracy that was hatched by some members of the party and my name was substituted.

As a law abiding citizen, I went to court, there were series of litigations which lasted for nearly three years. At the last instance before today's, the court of appeal in Jos, granted me right to file a fresh appeal against the fact that a high court in Maiduguri, had in 2007 declined jurisdiction to hear the matter after a first filed a case challenging ANPP and INEC for the wrongful substitution which contravened the electoral act, my human rights, democracy and common sense. The appeal court

As a law abiding citizen, I went to court, there were series of litigations which lasted for nearly three years

believed, like many others, that an appeal is fundamental right of a citizen regardless of the claims by my opponents that my first appeal didn't go through what they saw as due process.

Perhaps like most Nigerians, the Appeal court believed that technicalities shouldn't override the merit of any case, the

This, many think, should be the focus of litigations because otherwise wrong doers would always escape justice using technicalities in court processes

right to be heard and the right to justice. This, many think, should be the focus of litigations because otherwise wrong doers would always escape justice using technicalities in court processes.

However, the Supreme Court which is the highest court in our

dear country with nascent democracy, ruled today that I shouldn't be granted right to file fresh appeal and be heard because of due process in the filing of my cases (technicalities).

I cannot appeal that judgment because the law doesn't permit to.

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 that, in future elections, many political aspirants

As you are aware which I recall with humility, I won the primaries with landslide by scoring 382 votes to defeat my only opponent

would develop apathy in accepting to become substituted candidates because going by the just halted litigations, candidates who take the mandates of others through substitution would expect so much hurdle and by the grace of God, there will be no more escape for any one who takes the mandate of another, through the political corner cutting, called substitution which is no doubt a very big threat to party internal democracy, political stability and indeed peace and national security. I urge all of us to continual pray for Nigeria to persistently have in place a resolute judiciary that would firmly stand against this threat called substitution.

At this point I express my very profound appreciation to my political associates, millions of admirers within and outside Yobe state, family members, my legal team, friends and other well wishers for their support, prayers and love. I thank all of them and I pray that God rewards them generously for the steadfastness and towing the line of justice and fair play.

I wish to state that, much as I cannot claim to be happy with the Supreme Court's ruling, I am in high spirits with the fact that the ruling came when we still have time to collectively reflect and strategize in our next line of action ahead of the 2011 general elections.

With the overwhelming turn out of people who came out in solidarity during my recent visits to Damaturu and Gashua in parts of our dear Yobe state, I have no doubt in my mind, that we have a striking support across all levels and I humbly remain very appreciative of this support.

May God bless the good people of Yobe and the good citizens of the Federal Republic of Nigeria!

Albishir, who contested the 2007 governorship election in Yobe State, can be reached at usmanalbishir@yahoo.com



The West, media and Islamophobia (IV)

By Mohammed Haruna

Cont'd from Friday.

This may be easier said than done given the relative poverty of Muslims worldwide in spite of the God-given natural resources in their lands. However, as Aljazeera has shown abroad and Trust and, lately, Peoples' Daily, have shown here at

home, it is not impossible to meet the challenge of Western anti-Muslim propaganda.

Third, the Muslim leadership must be in the vanguard of the fight for equity locally and globally. A situation where Muslim leaders, religious or secular, shy away from speaking truth to power for whatever reason, as has often been the case, can only expose ordinary Muslims to contempt and to exploitation.

And talking about contempt for the Muslim Ummah takes me to the last but by no means the least step necessary for solv-

ing the problem of Islamophobia especially here in Nigeria. This is that the Muslim leadership must rise to the challenge of al-majirici in its modern day manifestation whereby Islamic schooling has become associated with child begging on our streets.

This is a serious blight on Islam in Nigeria which Muslims must do everything to remove.

Concluded.

Being excerpts of a lecture given under the auspices of Gombe State branch of National Council of Muslim Youths Organizations (NACOMYO)

Text us on 08 131 8000 30

What are you talking about?

THE Ajibola report is the second such document in less than a month to indict the Hausa as perpetrators of the Jos crisis. The federal government does not need any other report, except if they are hoodwinked by the Hausa-dominated security apparatus. We are watching closely. God bless Ajibola and Ayanting.
STEVEN Haruna, 07084212408.

Extrajudicial killings

GOVERNMENT should enact a law to end the killing of innocent people by the police, i.e. by prosecuting any policeman found killing an innocent person and prescribing death penalty. Police personnel should also be well screened before recruitment, because some of them were associated with drug use and alcohol, that's why they have no sympathy. If nothing is done people may soon take law into their hands.
HARUN A. Imam, Malali, Kaduna, 08038226335.

Beware of domino effect

WHAT happened in Niger can happen in Nigeria if we do not practice democracy in all its ram-

ifications. The press should not neglect its role as the vanguard of this positive change. The PDP is not democratic, but with impunity it continues to rule. See what iron-handed governors like Lamido are doing in Jigawa.
08032072540.

Serves Tandja right

A civilian regime turned into civilian dictatorship is worse than a military dictatorship. Tandj failed Africa and abused a rare privilege and trust. He should serve the rest of his tenure (fraud) in prison.
ABBA Sule, Ilorin, 08036306433.

What's it with Obasanjo?

SO Obasanjo wants Jonathan to be president. Why should the Nigerian media continue reporting more nonsense from this old betrayer, who seems to derive some pleasure in abusing our intelligence?
08086966667.

I don't understand

WHY the hue and cry over the boko haram killings shown on Aljazeera TV? Where are you when these people were killing and maiming innocent lives?

What is this about human rights? Those that are making all this noise should come to Maiduguri and count the number of orphans and destruction left behind by the boko haram militants. I sometimes wonder whether Nigerians have conscience.
08028683714.

Too many hands

DOES Yuguda need to employ 954 aides before he can administer Bauchi state?
08086966667.

Our only request

IS that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan should introduce price control in Nigeria.
IBRAHEM Sulaiman, Govt Day Sec. Sch., Yana, 08064890338.

Aren't you missing something, CBN?

ANY time names of failed banks are mentioned, that of Societé Generale is conspicuously absent. Have CBN and NDIC forgotten that the bank ceased to operate since 2003? Our deposits have wickedly been denied us for nearly seven years now. What a country!
A.S. Maradun, Zamfara State, 08069351974.



By Kabiru Danladi Lawanti

Governance and failure of Education-For-All programme

THE Nigerian government was a signatory to the Jomtien Conference, 20 years ago, where from March 5 to 9, 1990 participants from all over the world met to come with solutions to provide for a quality education to over 100 million children, including at least 60 million girls, who have no access to primary schooling. Education for All (EFA) programme by 2015 was born. Governments made commitments to be part of the programme. In Nigeria policies were put in place to achieve the stated goal which includes the Universal Basic Education (UBE) scheme, in order to check the problem of dwindling enrolment in primary and secondary schooling and educational deterioration generally in the country.

Earlier UPE scheme was instituted by the military government in 1976 to develop the educational capacity of illiterate Nigerians. The scheme was not as effective as expected though more people were able to go to school, read and write their names and better informed, as a result of the scheme. The Universal Basic Education (UBE) was enunciated in 1999. The latter policy made the first nine years of schooling free and compulsory for all Nigerian children of school age on paper. UBE is backed up by law which also stipulates free, compulsory and universal primary education. In April 2000, over 180 countries including Nigeria, met again at the world education forum in Dakar, Senegal to reaffirm their commitment to the achievement of universal primary education by 2015.

However, in Nigeria since the launch of the scheme, it is faced with myriad of problems including poor funding, lack of political will, poor implementation of policies and corruption, especially at the local level – the local education authority, vested with the responsibility of implementing the programme.

Last week I was in the village to attend a meeting of all stakeholders of the Lawanti Education Development Foundation, among the agendas discussed was problems facing the village single primary school in the area for the past 40 years. This is an unusual agenda, but later, as discussion went, I was told the primary school doesn't have even chalk in their stores. I was stunned and speechless, as the Chairman of the school PTA narrate to the gathering how the chalk received from the local education authority, in money value, in the preceding month could not pay the transportation fee of the person who went to collect it. This is ridiculous considering the fact that, last year alone, from January – November, Akko LGA received a total of N1,316,652,451.31 mainly allocated to the council to among other things improve the lives of its people. This was, apart from the special subvention through the EFA, UBE and MDGs.

Was this problem exclusive to that primary school alone or was it general? Who is responsible for overseeing the EFA project and UBE scheme in Gombe state that cannot provide even chalks for the teaching of the rural poor, who fall in the category of these 100 million children who have no access to school? It is said and said again; local councils in Nigeria in the last decade have failed woefully to meet the basic needs of their people. This has become clear with the high level of poverty, collapsed primary school system and the lack of basic amenities like water and sanitation in most of our towns and villages today.

It is a sad fact that Local councils in Nigeria have ceased to function effectively as stipulated in the constitution due to over interference by state governors and the selection of cronies, family members within the local area by powerful elites to run these local councils. Therefore, monies allocated for the transformation of people's lives at the grass root end up being shared between the state governors and these elites, leaving their people in abject poverty, hunger and illiteracy.

The situation in most local governments; the recklessness of most of our so-called representatives at the grass root level, the open stealing that is going on is all pointer to the fact that Nigerian politicians are yet to learn anything from the failures of the past. Local governments, which are supposedly the closest to the people, appear to be the farthest of all the three tiers of governments, due largely to poor governance, corruption and interference from state governors.

Today, the nation's public school system has collapsed at the primary level because the local education authorities have failed to maintain them. Quite a number of pupils sit under the tree to receive lesson; in some places, no teachers are available, while in others they combine both.

Lawanti wrote from Area 11, Garki, Abuja.

DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

Mr Tandja had it coming

In June 2009 Mr Mamadou Tandja dissolved the Niger Republic parliament and called a referendum with the sole aim of prolonging his tenure as President of Niger Republic, which was due to expire at the end of that year. Speaking at a polling station while casting his vote during elections in October to replace members of the parliament, Tandja remarked: 'I wish that this day will be good for Niger, that the voting will pass off smoothly and that the elected deputies (members of parliament) will be true patriots'. Mr Tandja ignored pleas from neighbours in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union, the United Nations and the rest of the international community, to adhere to the term limits imposed by the Niger Republic constitution, organize new elections and allow for a democratic succession as specified by law. In a last-ditch effort, ECOWAS dispatched Liberian President Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, to Niamey to confer with Tandja and make him see reason. These fell on deaf ears.

Tandja organised his parliamentary elections, making sure that only his loyalists who would not stand in the way of his third term plot, got elected. He obtained "overwhelming victory" at the referendum endorsing his plan to change the constitution and remove term limits, so that he can stand ad infinitum in future elections. In responding to Mr Tandja's hoped-for good day for Niger, this column warned him on October 23, 2009: "The rest of the world, particularly ECOWAS, must remind Mr Tandja that on the contrary, that day would be marked as a black spot in the desire to rid the continent of sit-tight leaders and dictators like him."

Last Thursday, soldiers of the Nigerien Army stormed the Presidential Palace and seized Mr Tandja and toppled the government. He is still in captivity while those who steered what has obviously become a successful military coup d'état, consolidate their position and grip on power. Under the "Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy", the soldiers have pledged a speedy return to civil rule, but have not specified any date.

The international community, including the AU and the United Nations have criticised the coup, and demanded a return to democratic order. The ECOWAS is in a particularly awkward position. The regional economic bloc suspended Niger's membership after Tandja made his controversial moves. As a rule, the organization and indeed all international agencies frown on violent disruptions to democratic order in any country.

It is hard to see how the contentious issues thrown up by Mr Tandja's blind ambition to perpetuate himself in power would otherwise have been resolved, democracy returned to its rightful course with Tandja in power and an illegal tinkering with the constitution. Like everyone else, we deplore military incursions into democratic governance, and express our regret that in the Niger case, it had to take soldiers' intervention to remind the politicians of their duty not only to protect democracy, but to nurture it as well. The Niger public's apparently spontaneous welcome for the coup leaders surely was evidence that Mr Tandja was not speaking for the majority of his countrymen when he claimed victory in the referendum to elongate his tenure.

The coup in Niger should be a powerful lesson to African and other Third World leaders that that they cannot continue to manipulate their way to perpetual hold on power. When they make peaceful change impossible, they must be aware of the violent alternatives that other interest groups may avail themselves with. As we reminded African leaders in this column last Thursday, ironically on the day of the Niger coup, the surest antidote to military coups is good governance. We urge the Niger coup leaders to quickly announce a timetable to return their impoverished country to the democratic path. Only that way would the fragile economic and social condition in the country find some salve from the international community.

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- ABDULKADIR ALIYU: Head, Advert

e-mail: opinion@dailytrust.com

The 'curse' of Ogun State?

By Gboye Jacobs

River Ogun flows majestically across the land of Ogun State. This may account for why the state was named after the River. The state used to have the reputation of being peaceful, safe and prosperous. But like Oliver Goldsmith described the deserted village, "all these charms have fled". Gbenga Daniel encountered the charms when he became Governor in 2003. He enjoyed them till like Williams Word Worth's Luke, "he began to slack in his duties" or, as we say in these parts, he started to backslide. Ogun, home state of the first African Bishop Ajayi Crowder has in Gbenga Daniel's era, become Nebuchadnezzar's Babylon of Shrines. While Churches and Mosques operate in day time, shrines operate in the night. The shriek of "Eri-woo-ya" has dwarfed the celestial praises to God. Shrines feed on sacrificial blood. This may account for the "City of Blood" which Ogun State has degenerated to.

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DAILY TRUST

EDITORIAL

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

Mr Tandja had it coming

In June 2009 Mr Mamadou Tandja dissolved the Niger Republic parliament and called a referendum with the sole aim of prolonging his tenure as President of Niger République, which was due to expire at the end of that year. Speaking at a polling station while casting his vote during elections in October to replace members of the parliament, Tandja remarked: 'I wish that this day will be good for Niger, that the voting will pass off smoothly and that the elected deputies (members of parliament) will be true patriots'. Mr Tandja ignored pleas from neighbours in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union, the United Nations and the rest of the international community, to adhere to the term limits imposed by the Niger Republic constitution, organize new elections and allow for a democratic succession as specified by law. In a last-ditch effort, ECOWAS dispatched Liberian President Mrs Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, to Niamey to confer with Tandja and make him see reason. These fell on deaf ears.

Tandja organised his parliamentary elections, making sure that only his loyalists who would not stand in the way of his third term plot, got elected. He obtained "overwhelming victory" at the referendum endorsing his plan to change the constitution and remove term limits, so that he can stand ad infinitum in future elections. In responding to Mr Tandja's hoped-for good day for Niger, this column warned him on October 23, 2009: "The rest of the world, particularly ECOWAS, must remind Mr Tandja that on the contrary, that day would be marked as a black spot in the desire to rid the continent of sit-tight leaders and dictators like him."

Last Thursday, soldiers of the Nigerien Army stormed the Presidential Palace and seized Mr Tandja and toppled the government. He is still in captivity while those who steered what has obviously become a successful military coup d'état, consolidate their position and grip on power. Under the "Supreme Council for the Restoration of Democracy", the soldiers have pledged a speedy return to civil rule, but have not specified any date.

The international community, including the AU and the United Nations have criticised the coup, and demanded a return to democratic order. The ECOWAS is in a particularly awkward position. The regional economic bloc suspended Niger's membership after Tandja made his controversial moves. As a rule, the organization and indeed all international agencies frown on violent disruptions to democratic order in any country.

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BAUCHI STATE GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA



Formal Launching of the Bauchi State Societal Reorientation Programme and Presentation of

GYARA KAYANKA

Flags to Honourable Commissioners and Local Government Chairmen



His Excellency:
Malam (Dr.) Isa Yuguda, fnim
(Matawallen Bauchi)
Executive Governor, Bauchi State.

Cordially Invites the General Public to the

Formal Launching of The Bauchi State Societal Reorientation Programme and Presentation of Gyara Kayanka Flags

CHAIRMAN OF THE OCCASION:

Prof. Abdussalam A. Sambo
(Chairman, L.G. Monitoring Committee Bauchi State)

GUEST SPEAKER:

Alhaji Aminu Saleh CFR, GCON
(Wamban Katagum)

ROYAL FATHERS OF THE DAY:

Their Royal Highnesses

- The Emir of Bauchi, Alh. (Dr.) Suleiman Adamu, CFR
- The Emir of Katagum, Alh. (Dr.) Muhammad Kabir Umar, CFR
- The Emir of Misau, Alh. Muhammad Manga III OON
- The Emir of Jama'are, Alh. Ahmad Muhammad Wabi, III, OON
- The Emir of Ningi, Alh. (Dr.) Yunusa Muhammad Danyaya, OON
- The Emir of Dass, Alh. Usman Bilyaminu Usman

Date: Tuesday 23rd February, 2010
- 10th Rabi Auwal, 1431

Venue: Multi Purpose Sports Hall Bauchi

Time: 10:00am

GUESTS OF HONOURS:

His Excellency, Alhaji Babayo Gamawa, Deputy Governor, Bauchi State

- Hon. Abubakar Ahmed Faggo, The Speaker Bauchi State House of Assembly
- Justice Sabo Sulaiman Darazo, The Chief Judge, Bauchi State
- Alhaji Abdullahi Yakubu Marafa, The Grand Khadi, Bauchi State
- Barrister Ahmed Ibrahim Dandija (Maidalan Misau), The Secretary to the State Government, Bauchi State
- Alhaji Abdulkadir Mohammed Ibrahim (Cika Soron Bauchi), The Head of Service, Bauchi State
- All Honourable Members Bauchi State House of Assembly
- All Honourable Commissioners Bauchi State
- All Special Advisers, S.S.A.s, S.A.s and P.A's Bauchi State
- All Local Government Chairmen Bauchi State



Announcer: Dr. Salisu Shehu

Special Adviser on Education and Societal Reorientation and Chairman LOC
08069693033, 08023563251, 08034468222, 08058618547

INTERNATIONAL

Envoys arrive in Niger where rallies back coup

INTERNATIONAL envoys arrived yesterday in the West African nation of Niger where thousands of people staged rallies to support the military coup that ousted the country's strong-arm leader.

UN representative Said Djinnit, Ramtane Lamamra, the African Union commissioner for peace and security and Mohammed Ibn Chambas, head of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) were to meet the new junta leaders.

All three organisations have condemned the deadly military action which ousted Mamadou Tandja, who had led the uranium-rich nation for more than a decade.

The AU has suspended Niger while the West African bloc kicked out Niger after Tandja changed the constitution to extend his grip on power.

"We have come to assess together the situation prevailing in Niger. We will meet the new authorities with whom we will have discussions," ECOWAS president Chambas told AFP at Niamey airport.

The envoys are also to meet other political players in the country to see how "they can support efforts for a return to constitutional order within the shortest



PEOPLE cheer and take photos of members of the military junta during a rally in Niger's capital Niamey, yesterday.

possible time," Djinnit told AFP on Saturday.

Amid the international condemnation of Thursday's coup

however, Niger's opposition massed thousands of people on the streets of Niamey Saturday to welcome the end of Tandja.

Related article: Mamadou Tandja, ex-soldier who casts shadow over Niger

Other pro-junta rallies were

staged in several other towns in the vast and arid country on the southern edge of the Sahara desert.

...as opposition urges junta to hold elections

political opposition urged the desert country's new military junta at the weekend to hold elections as soon as possible and restore civilian rule after a coup ousted the uranium-rich West African's dictatorial president.

The call came as thousands of people rallied in the sun-blasted streets at a downtown roundabout, cramming around army trucks mounted with anti-aircraft guns in a show of support for the junta which toppled Mamadou Tandja Thursday after he stayed

in office months past his legal mandate.

A delegation from the 15-nation regional bloc led by former Nigerian leader Abdulsalami Abubakar, who is mediating the crisis, arrived overnight to press for a peaceful transition. "The army loves the people and will always stand beside Niger," leading junta member, Capt. Djibril Adamou Harouna told the crowd.

"We wanted to come here today to thank you for your support."

The military turned against Tandja two days ago, raking the presidential palace with gunfire in a brazen daylight raid that saw the ousted leader whisked to a military barracks outside the capital. Hours later, the soldiers swiftly announced a junta was in charge led by Salou Djibo, a little known commander of a platoon just outside the city.

The coup — which left several soldiers dead when presidential guards exchanged fire with mutineers — has been condemned by the UN and foreign governments.

Opposition parties condemn Rwanda grenade attacks

THREE Rwandan opposition parties joined forces yesterday to condemn a spate of grenade attacks which rocked the capital Kigali as the country prepares for a presidential election.

The parties said Friday's "cowardly and wicked acts are meant to instil fear in the population at a crucial time when we are heading for the Presidential election in a few months to come".

Attackers identified by police as from an extremist Hutu militia responsible for the 1994 genocide simultaneously lobbed grenades at the train station, a restaurant and an office building, killing one person and injuring at least 30.

"We condemn these barbaric acts in the strongest terms and call upon the Rwandan Government to investigate and bring to book the perpetrators of these acts," said a statement from the Permanent Consultative Council of Opposition Parties in Rwanda. The council, formally launched yesterday, is comprised of the

Unified Democratic Forces, The Green Democratic Party and the Iberakuri party, which alone of the three is recognised by the government.

The three parties said they had decided to unite their efforts "faced with the numerous administrative and judicial obstacles erected by the authorities in place in order to prevent the political parties to have themselves formally registered."

They condemned "a growing number of threats, aggressions and harassments suffered by the opposition in the run up to the presidential election," in August.

The statement called on the authorities "to ensure a fair hearing of the suspects once they are apprehended and guarantee security of persons and their property."

Police said Saturday they had detained two suspects they said were members of the Interahamwe militia, responsible for the genocide.

Key Darfur rebel group signs deal with Khartoum

DARFUR'S most heavily armed rebel group, the Justice and Equality Movement, said at the weekend that it had signed a framework agreement with the Sudanese government in Chad that provides for a ceasefire.

Soon afterwards, Sudanese President Omar al-Beshir

announced that he was quashing death sentences handed down by the courts against some 100 JEM fighters for their parts in an unprecedented rebel assault on the capital Khartoum in May 2008.

"We have just initially signed the framework agreement," JEM

spokesman Ahmed Hussein told AFP by telephone from the Chadian capital Ndjamena.

"We will discuss of many issues -- return of the IDPs (internally displaced persons), power and wealth-sharing, compensation, detainees," he said, speaking in English.

International

Democracy in Africa or Democratic Africa

By Charles Onunaiju

IN the past two decades, nearly all of African countries have established institutions of democracy, often through multi-party election process. However, the credibility of the election process in most cases have been disputed.

Along with the establishment of formal institutions of democracy has also come with a constitutional order, in which political process is defined according to the established rules. However, the practical experience of the constitutional order in Africa in the past two decades indicates poor socio-economic content that suggest a de-democratization of democracy.

The performance of the institutions of democracy in Africa in the past two decades has left a yawning and disturbing gap between the formalistic institutions of democracy and the real challenges of democratization. Over the past two decades, the establishment of formal institutions of democracy in Africa has distorted the debate about the challenges of democratization in the more elaborate socio-economic and historical context.

The assumptions of liberal democracy of the west as the "end of history" has grossly distorted and befuddled the challenges of democratization in Africa and reduced it to the mechanistic rendition of Western liberal democracy.

It is conveniently forgotten that the success of liberal democracy in the west is anchored on the social and economic condition of a fully developed capitalism undistorted by external intervention.

Infact the growth of western capitalism into imperialism, a neo-global network of exploitation of emerging and weak nations, is more accountable to the success of western liberal and representative democracy.

Therefore the stability and sustenance of liberal democracy in the west is rested on a whole range of indices, and factors, none of them a mere wish for a form of government merely cherished or desired and even globally acknowledged.

Since the establishment of formal institution of liberal democracy in Africa, every bit of Africa's political space is fought viciously by the fractious elite, with the mass of the people as mere onlooker or sometimes even cruelly manipulated and lined up as ethnic and religious defence walls for the battering elites.

The high expectation of inclu-

sive politics and multi-racial state, following the collapse of apartheid in South Africa has largely evaporated. The impoverished people of the country have not had their electoral weight translated into more widespread prosperity.

All the charters of popular participation drawn in the thick of the anti apartheid struggle has been jettisoned by the ruling African National Congress (ANC) in favour of a drive to integrate in the neo-capitalist world order. In spite of the fact that recently, the ominous temples of capitalist order were shaken to its foundation by the subjective greed and insider abuse of its operators but more importantly by the objective condition of its unsustainable internal contradiction, Africa desperately rushes to ingratiate and integrate in its order.

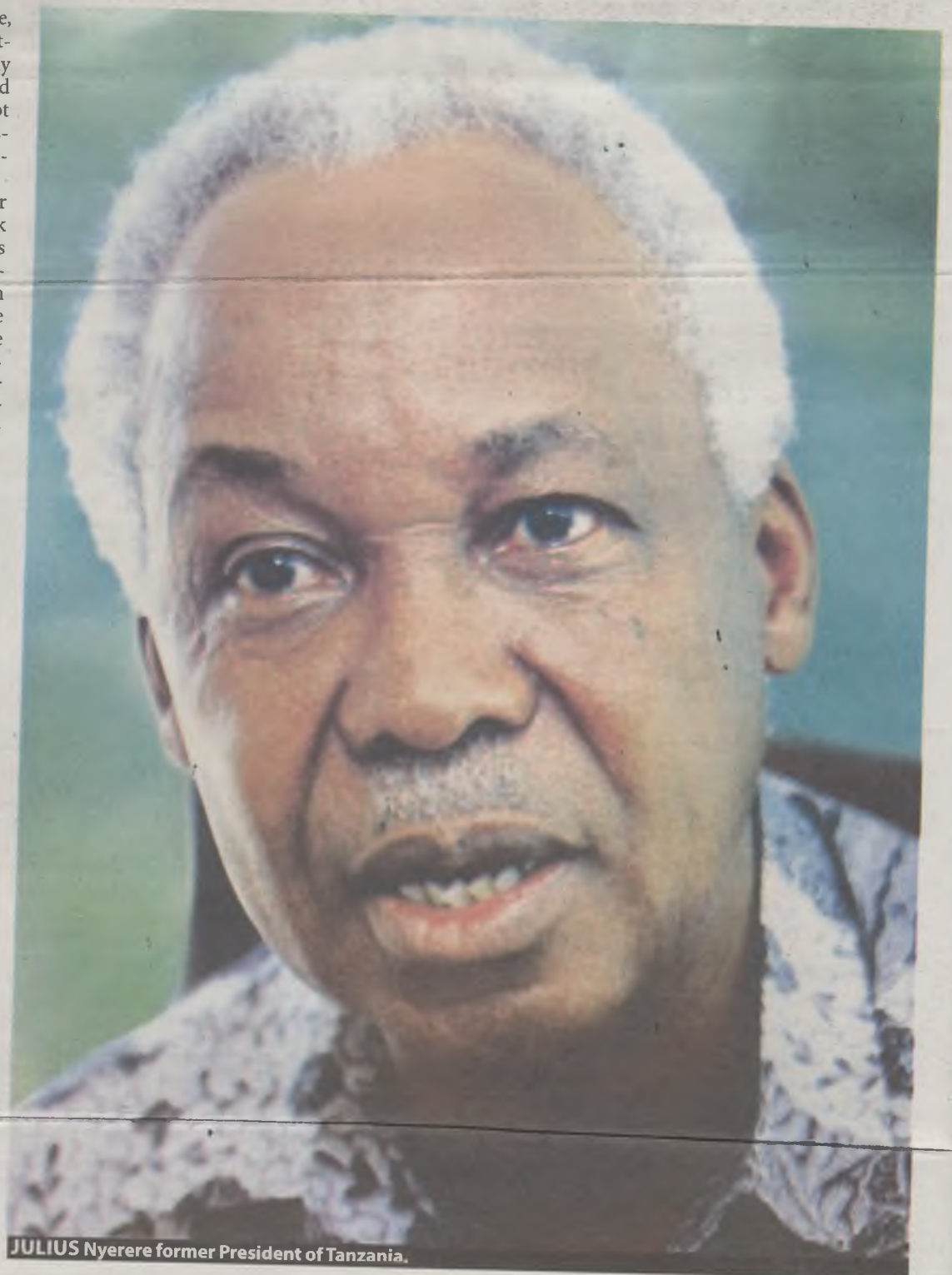
The political order of liberal democracy in Africa has brought about a huge social disconnect in which the majority of the African peoples in their respective states have been reduced to mere atomistic mass only used to calculate electoral gains by politicians, juggled as figures and statistics by bureaucrats, and sampled by western imperialism as reasons for humanitarian foreign policy.

In neither of all these are the people even remotely involved in the making of their fate. In most of Africa, the façade of liberal democracy as the end of history is even unraveling. In small and impoverished Niger republic, tucked in the Sahel region of West Africa, the return of full military dictatorship, with reports that the streets is bursting with rejoicing masses exposes the fragility of the institutions of democracy in Africa.

The problem of democracy in Africa is that it does not answer questions about the socio-economic conditions of the mass of the people. It consolidates on the masses as the incidental object of abstract institutional building instead as the core or the reason for which every institution must justify its relevance or existence.

In the past twenty years, elections in Africa has been more or less a farce, staged to justify the power grab of the most hollow of the fractious elite, most beholden to western imperialism.

Elections whose issues does not throw up the challenges of democratization in Africa, especially on the fundamental issues of continuing in the socio economic attachment to neo-global capitalism or a break from it,



JULIUS Nyerere former President of Tanzania.

could never have touched on the core issue relevant to Africa.

Tragically, continental club of the African States, the African Union (AU) has keyed in to the imperialist distortion of the real challenge, and meaning of democratization in Africa.

Sadly, the body parades no heavy weight in terms of original thinkers in the likes of Kwame Nkrumah, Julius Nyerere, Amikar Cabral etc, it harbours theatricals like Moumer Ghaddafi, Abdoulaye Wade and other supine pretenders like Mwai Kibaki, Joseph Kabila etc.

Given the travails of democracy in Africa, is democratic Africa possible? The socio-economic stalemate or lethargy in

Africa means that democratic Africa is possible but only on account of inclusive and popularly participative process in which the formal state in Africa is challenged to its mechanistic, formalistic and unresponsive structure. Only a model of socialist participation, in which the states loses its character and form as a vast bureaucratic cum military network of extortion, intimidation and exploitation, would the political process been enlivened with robust energy of the masses of the people.

Only a socialist Africa would guarantee that people's involvement in public life would go beyond the rudiments of voting, which does

not even count in most cases, to a qualitative new levels of actively designing solutions to Africa problems and working as owners of the solution to bring about the change they need.

On that account, Africa would enter the global arena on its terms, like the Chinese and Indians are doing, and concomitantly exert its influence for good to roll back the pernicious grip of imperialism.

The crucial challenge of socialist Africa, will not fall like the mythical manner from heaven, but a conscious drive from the organized workers, the intelligentsia and the patriotic wing of the fractions contending elites and even the armed forces.

International

Death toll from Portugal landslides rises to 40

RESCUE workers dug frantically yesterday to free cars and homes buried under heaps of caked mud in Madeira, after torrential flash floods and mudslides killed at least 40 people on the popular Portuguese island.

More than 120 others were injured and an unknown number of others were missing, possibly swept away or smothered, authorities said, adding that they expected the death toll to rise.

Heavy rain lashed the island Saturday, turning some streets in capital of Funchal into raging rivers of mud, water and debris. The storm, the worst to hit the island since 1993 — also displaced 250 people.

Cars that had been swept downhill by muddy waters had landed, crumpled, on the rooftops of houses downstream.

Rescue teams who had dug out one car from

chocolate brown slime were seen working inside it, possibly to recover more bodies.

The death toll "will likely increase, given the circumstances of this flood," regional social services spokesman Francisco Ramos said, adding that there were "great difficulties" in communications.

The flash floods were so powerful they carved their own paths down mountains and through the city, churning under bridges and even tearing some down.

Residents had to cling to railings to make sure they weren't swept away. Cars were consumed by the force of the water, and the battered shells of overturned vehicles littered the streets. Rescue workers wearing helmets helped people cross at some places where the flow of the water wasn't so strong.

The water swept even

a heavy fire truck downstream, slamming into a tree, while rescuers on inflatable rafts navigated through streets looking for trapped residents.

The weather improved yesterday, making it easier for rescue workers to move around. Still, some roads and bridges were washed away while others were littered with uprooted trees, cars and boulders, all hampering search and rescue efforts.

Prime Minister Jose Socrates said he was "profoundly shocked" by the severity of the floods and promised the government would help Madeira recover as quickly as possible.

A medical team backed up by divers and rescue experts was being sent yesterday aboard a C-130 transport plane to the archipelago, 550 miles (900 kilometers) southwest of Lisbon.



KHAGENDRA Thapa Magar, 18, who stands at 22 inches (56 centimeters) tall, is carried by his father Rup Bahadur Thapa Magar, as he arrives for a meeting with media in Katmandu, Nepal before leaving for Europe.

Nepal's shortest man in quest for world record

A man who is only 22 inches (56 centimeters) tall left his home country of Nepal yesterday in a quest to be recognized as the world's shortest living man.

Khagendra Thapa Magar is travelling to Europe to campaign for the Guinness World Record title.

He applied to London-based group for a place in the record book in October, soon after turning 18, but said he has not received any response.

Magar's family initially filed a claim when he was 14, but it was rejected because he was not an adult and there was a chance he might grow.

"We are going to Italy to try to record his name in the Guinness Book of World Records," his father, Rup Bahadur Thapa Magar, told reporters in Katmandu. They plan to appear on an Italian television show to talk about his bid for the title.

Once in Italy, Magar, his father and a supporter will decide on their next desti-

nation.

His supporters saw him off from the Nepalese capital yesterday, offering flower bouquets and gar-

lands.

The current record is held by He Pingping of China, who is 29 inches (73 centimeters) tall.

FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY ADMINISTRATION OF NIGERIA

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT SECRETARIAT

THIRD NATIONAL FADAMA DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
FCT-FADAMA COORDINATION OFFICE,
FRCN ROAD, OPP. GWAGWALADA MARKET,
GWAGWALADA, ABUJA P.M.B 630, GARKI - ABUJA.

Re: Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Country:	Nigeria
Project:	NFDPIII
Contract:	Procurement of Motorcycles & Office Equipment
Project ID:	P096572
Credit No:	4494-NG
Bid Issue Date:	January 25, 2010
IFB No:	FCT/FCO/NFDPIII/NCB/G/01/2010 and FCT/FCO/NFDPIII/NCB/G/01/2010

For the Procurement of Motorcycles and Office Equipment

NOTICE OF POSTPONMENT OF LAST DATE OF BID SUBMISSION AND OPENING.

The FCT Fadama Coordination Office wish to inform our prospective Bidders for the Procurement of Motorcycles and Office Equipment which was earlier advertised in Daily Trust and Leadership Newspapers of 25th January, 2010 that the last date of Bid submission and opening which was earlier scheduled for Friday, 26th February, 2010 is postponed to Thursday, 4th of March, 2010.

This is to allow for the National Public Holiday for the celebration of Eidel Moloud on 26th February, 2010. The FCT Fadama Coordination Office regrets any inconvenience this might cause our potential Bidders. The FCT Fadama Coordination Office also wish to notify bidders that the specification for the Generator is for Diesel Engine and not Gasoline Engine as specified in error in Bidding Document

Abdullahi D. Salisu
Project Coordinator

A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER

EGYPT AIR is interested in appointing a GSA in KANO.

IF you forecast a potential movement from KANO to EGYPTAIR's network and interested in such representation.

You can contact:
THE DISTRICT MANAGER,
EGYPT AIR,
14C MURTALA MUHAMMED WAY,
INVESTMENT HOUSE, KANO.

VACANCIES

A reputable Financial Organization involved in stockbrokerage, Financial Advisory and Issuing House activities based in Abuja with offices in Lagos and Kano requires suitable candidates for the under-listed positions. Prospective applicants will be based at our Abuja Office and, subject to office demand, may be deployed to other locations where his/her services are required.

Candidates with strong urge and who meet the under-listed requirements are invited to forward their applications.

HEAD, INVESTMENT UNIT

1) Job Description:

- Investment appraisals;
- Prepare Feasibility Report/Business Plan;
- Conduct economic and financial research;
- Analyze financial data and develop forecasts;
- Lead other team members;

2) Qualification and Experience

A good first degree in Economics, Business Administration, Accounting, Banking & Finance or other related field.

A relevant Postgraduate degree is desirable.

A professional qualification like ACCA, ACA, ACS, ACIB will be an added advantage;

3) Minimum of 5 years working experience in an Investment Banking firm or related industry.

INVESTMENT ANALYST:

1) Job Description:

- Analyze Investment appraisal
- Prepare Feasibility Report/Business Plan;
- Conduct economic and financial research;
- Analyze financial data and develop forecast;
- Work with other team members;

2) Qualification:

A good first degree in Economics, Business Administration, Banking and Finance, Accountancy or other related field.

A Postgraduate degree or professional qualification will be an added advantage.

3) Experience:

Minimum of 2-3 years working experience in an Investment Banking firm or related industry.

IT & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT) LEAD:

1) Job Description:

- Managing the Organization's On-line facilities;
- Software Installation, Configuration and Maintenance;
- Database Management and Maintenance;

2) Qualification

BSc Computer Science/Information Technology.

Possession of professional qualification will be an added advantage.

3) Experience:

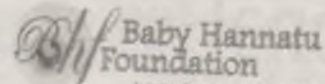
Minimum of three (3) years practical experience. Networking experience is an advantage.

Method Of Application:

Interested and qualified candidates should submit their hand-written or soft copy of their applications including scanned CVs to the email address below not later than 2 weeks from the date of the publication. Applications should show candidates e-mails and contact mobile phone numbers.

vacancies.advert09@gmail.com

Only short-listed candidates will be contacted.



Garki Hospital Abuja, Tafawa Balewa Way, Area 3, State, Abuja.
Website: www.babyhannatu.org E-mail: info@babyhannatu.org, babyhannatu@yahoo.com
Tel: 0904 1928 296, 0803 0512 000, 0803 181 0761, 0802 127 0276, 0803 578 2068

PRESENTS

An Enlightenment Forum

on

Infertility & IVF

The forum is a **monthly programme** aiming at enlightening the general public & fertility challenged couples on causes of infertility, how to cope with the problem, the treatment options and medical advances.

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. Ibrahim Wada OON
Consultant Gynaecologist/IVF Expert

Date: Friday 26th February, 2010
Time: 5.00pm prompt
Venue: Garki Hospital Abuja Main Hall, Area 3, Garki, Abuja

HIGHLIGHTS: LECTURE, Q & A SESSION, ONE-ON-ONE COUNSELLING, CLINIC OPTIONS ETC

Please see schedule of future Public Enlightenment days below:

DATE	TIME
26 th March 2010	5.00pm
30 th April 2010	5.00pm
28 th May 2010	5.00pm
25 th June 2010	5.00pm
30 th July 2010	5.00pm
27 th August 2010	5.00pm

For seat reservations,
Call - Patricia 08033311931.
Festus - 08064693264

Organized by:
Baby Hannatu Foundation
"Charity for the childless"

VACANCY! VACANCY!! VACANCY!!!

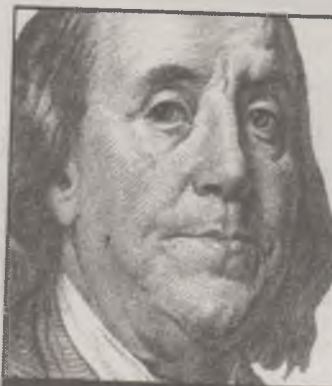
BECOME A QUALIFIED AUDITOR

As a School Certificate Holder (with five credits inclusive of English and Mathematics) there is the opportunity for you to become a Qualified Auditor in our Kano office.

The six year training programme should lead to:

- Your registering and sitting (i) accounting technician, and (ii) professional, examinations
- Firm to pay your tuition and examination fees for success at each level of examinations
- Your getting hands on accounting practice experience.
- Your qualification as a **Chartered Accountant**

Confident and smart applicants should send an application letter and curriculum vitae to recruitment@iaaaco.com



MONEY TALKS

More information at free seminar
PRINCIPLES OF TRADER'S PROFESSION

International currency market FOREX is a reliable and lucrative tool to increase capital.

Alpari is a leader in providing training programs for FOREX trading. We know how to explain complicated theories as simple as possible in order to make Forex trading comprehensible for everyone. If you attend our seminar, you will hear what a trader's job is.

We address a potential applicant by giving our trainings and seminars. We are happy to share our knowledge and trading experience with you.

Sophisticated investment is a key to financial independence. One has to make a tremendous work to cultivate his abilities in order to get this independence. Knowledge, experience and work can open the door to success but you should keep in mind what risks are related to trading.

If you attend our seminar you will learn how to start FOREX trading and how to make money with minimum risk. You can increase your initial deposit several fold even if you start trading with a small amount of funds.

Free seminar: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12pm - 12pm

1st, 2nd & 3rd Seminars of every month 11am - 11pm

Training: Monday-Thursday (4 days) weekly 12pm - 4pm

Training: 1st - 820,000

4th floor, 11A Allen Avenue (beside Mama Cass),
Ikeja, Lagos Nigeria
Tel.: +234 182 18274
+234 803 4573593
www.alpari-forex.com/en/nigeria/





FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

P.M.B. 3045, KANO

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

VACANCY FOR THE POST OF PROVOST

The Governing Council of the College hereby advertises the vacancy for the post of Provost for interested and qualified candidates to apply.

DUTIES

The Provost is the Chief Executive Officer of the College. He or She is required to provide sound academic, administrative and professional leadership to the College in executing the policies laid down by the Governing Council towards the attainment of the mission and vision of the College.

He or She shall foster good rapport with the Federal Ministry of Education, National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), Education Trust Fund (ETF) and other bodies that the College relates with for the smooth conduct of its affairs.

QUALIFICATIONS

- i) Candidates must possess at least a Masters Degree from a recognized University in a field relevant to at least one programme in the College. The possession of a Ph.D is an advantage. The possession of a Professional Teaching Qualification (Nigeria Certificate in Education 'NCE') or Post-Graduate Diploma in Education (PGDE) is mandatory.
- ii) Candidates must be Chief Lecturers in Colleges of Education or Readers/Associate Professors in Universities or equivalent Institutions for at least 5 years. Candidates must have also held senior teaching, research and high administrative posts in Tertiary Institutions for at least 15 years.
- iii) Candidates must show evidence of commendable academic and administrative leadership as well as professional standing/honours and funds/research grants attracted.
- iv) Candidates must be of good conduct, possess high sense of discipline, dedication, drive, resourcefulness in attracting funds to the College. Be able to command the respect and loyalty of the members of staff and students of the College. He or She must be someone who is not likely to promote personal, social, ethnic, political, religious and other sectional interests.
- v) Preference will be given to those who have proficiency in ICT.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

- i) The appointment is for an initial period of four (4) years in the first instance and may be eligible for re-appointment for a second term of four (4) and no more.
- ii) The salary attached to the post is according to a special scheme of service and is consolidated.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Application should be submitted in twenty (20) copies with up-to-date Curriculum Vitae which must include the following information:

- 1- Full names, surname underlined.
- 2- Marital status
- 3- Number of children.
- 4- Date and place of birth, local government area.
- 5- State of origin.
- 6- Geo-political zone.
- 7- Nationality
- 8- Current post address/e-mail address.
- 9- Permanent home address/phone number.
- 10- Educational Institution attended with dates.
- 11- Academic and professional qualification and distinctions with dates.
- 12- Membership of professional association/bodies.
- 13- Honorary or fellowship of learned society (if any)
- 14- Work experience in chronological sequence.
- 15- Co-curricular activities.
- 16- Publications in standard journals.
- 17- Names and address of three (3) referees one of which must be the present employer.
- 18- Report of medical fitness (from a Government Hospital).
- 19- Date available to assume duty if appointed.

Applications should be forwarded to the Registrar/Secretary to Council, to reach him on or before six (6) weeks from the date of this publication. In addition, candidates are required to ask their referees (3) to send Confidential Report on them to the same address as below before the closing date.

SIGNED

Alhaji Mohammed Aliyu MNIM
(Registrar/Secretary to the Council)
Federal College of Education, Kano.

NB: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted, please.

C R D VACANCY

The Centre for Research and Documentation (CRD) is a non-governmental, non-profit making organization registered as a Trust. The Centre is dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge through Research, Documentation and Capacity Building in Civil Society.

The Centre invites applications from qualified candidates for the position of an **Accounts Assistant** at its office in Kano.

Candidates for this position must:-

- Possess a minimum of OND or a B.Sc/HND in Accounting.
- Have acquired a minimum of 3years experience in 'Non-profit' accounting.
- Not be more than 35 years old.
- Have some working knowledge of Computer and be conversant with Accounting software.
- Be introduced by at least two referees who are willing to vouch for the candidate's honesty.

Method of application:

Candidates who meet the requirements should forward their handwritten applications accompanied by an up to date CV and photocopies of credentials to the address below on or before March 26, 2010; Please send three copies of each document.

- **Women are especially encouraged to apply.**

Admin. Officer
Centre for Research & Documentation (CRD)
29A Sokoto Road, Nassarawa G.R.A.
P.O. BOX 72,
Kano.

VACANCY

POST: Executive Director

Centre for Research and Documentation (CRD), Kano, Nigeria.

The Centre for Research and Documentation founded in 1994 and registered in 1996 as a trust with the Corporate Affairs Commission is a NGO dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge through research, documentation and capacity building in civil society. During the institution building phase of the Centre's life the CRD commenced major projects on comparative democratization (phase) and Civil Society in Nigeria. These projects include, Policy Dialogues, Research, Documentation and Post-Graduate Student Training. This Phase commencing from 2000 will involve consolidation and production of the researches in progress as well as the refining of the CRD's vision and the development of a strategic program with a commensurate funding raising plan for the next five years.

The CRD is seeking application from suitably qualified candidate to fill the post of Executive Director effective from July 2010 or as soon as possible thereafter. The Executive Director will, under the general guidance and supervision of Annual General Meeting and the Governing Council have overall responsibility for heading the CRD and managing its day to-day activities. The duties of the Executive Director will include:

- Providing general direction for the expansion of programmes and activities of the Centre
- Reviewing and defining the Centre's vision and goals
- Providing leadership and support for the Centre's research and management activities
- Ensuring continuity and overseeing the development and implementation between the Centre's existing and new strategic plan
- Representing the Centre with international development agencies, the academic community and similar research centers
- Development and implementation strategies for effective resource mobilization and management

The ideal candidate will have an outstanding record of professional achievements and sound management ability in development work. She/he will have a strong background in capacity building and experience in civil society organizations. In addition, she/he is expected to have the following qualifications:

- ⊙ Post- Graduate degree in political Sciences or other related field in the social sciences from recognized university
- ⊙ Experience in project cycle management with at least 10 years of experience in senior management positions
- ⊙ Proven experience in fund raising

The Centre offers competitive salaries and benefits. This is the contract post for three- year period, subject to renewal. Interested candidates are invited to submit, by March 26 2010, three copies of their curriculum vitae, a covering letter and a writing sample of 5 to 10 pages to the following address:

The Chairman,
Search Committee,
Centre for Research and Documentation,
P O Box 72,
29A Sokoto Road, Nassarawa GRA,
Kano State,
Nigeria.



KADUNA POLYTECHNIC

P.M.B 2021 Kaduna, Nigeria

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR EDUCATION TRUST FUND (ETF) SPECIAL INTERVENTION PROJECTS

Applications are hereby invited from reputable and interested suppliers/contractors with relevant experience and good track record for pre-qualification tender:

PROJECTS

1 CONSTRUCTIONS

LOTA

- A1 Construction of Block of Classrooms and staff offices in Electrical and Computer Engineering Department
- A2 Construction of Chemical Engineering Department Classrooms and offices
- A3 Construction, Equipping and Commissioning of Lecture Theatres
- A4 Construction Equipping and Commissioning of Interactive, teaching and learning platforms/Laboratories

2 RENOVATIONS

LOT B

- B1 Renovation of Automobile workshops in Mechanical Engineering Department
- B2 Renovation of Civil Engineering Laboratory
- B3 Renovation of Classrooms and Drawing Studio in Civil Engineering Department
- B4 Rehabilitation of Laboratories in Electrical and Computer Engineering Department
- B5 Renovation of Classrooms, Staff Offices and Conveniences in Mineral Resources Engineering Department
- B6 Renovation of Student Union Secretariat
- B7 Rehabilitation of Electrical and Mechanical Engineering Classrooms and Lecture Theatres in Tudun Wada Campus (CST and COE)
- B8 Renovation of Isa Kaita Library

3 PROCUREMENT OF FURNITURE

LOT C

- C1 Procurement of classroom furniture for Mechanical Engineering Department
- C2 Procurement of classroom furniture for Civil Engineering Department
- C3 Procurement of classroom furniture for Electrical and Computer Engineering Departments
- C4 Procurement of classroom furniture for Chemical Engineering Department
- C5 Procurement of classroom and workshop furniture for Mineral Resources Engineering Department
- C6 Procurement of furniture for the new Lecture Theatres in College of Engineering
- C7 Procurement of furniture in the main Library

4 PROCUREMENT OF ICT EQUIPMENT

LOT D

- D1 Procurement, Installation and Commissioning of ICT Equipment for Main Library
- D2 Procurement, Installation and Commissioning of ICT equipment/ Software for CAD Laboratory in the College of Engineering

5 PROCUREMENT OF BOOKS

LOTE

- E1 Procurement of books and journals

6 PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

Reputable and interested contractors and suppliers are required to submit their applications along with the following documents;

- i. Evidence of Incorporation /Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission.
- ii. Evidence of Tax clearance certificate in the last three (3) years (2007- 2009).
- iii. Evidence of V.A.T Registration and remittance in the last three years (2007-2009).
- iv. Company profile which should include names, qualification and experience of key personnel, list of similar projects previously executed with photographs, contract values, locations and names of clients to include GSM number(s) and e-mail addresses of the firm if available.
- vii. Evidence of valid subsisting registration with FME/FMH/FMWT.
- viii. Evidence of similar projects handled by the firm including cost (Practical Completion Certificate).
- ix. Evidence of valid subsisting registration with Kaduna Polytechnic in the relevant category.
- x. Evidence of financial capability to handle the chosen project.
- xi. Original documents should be available for sighting on demand during or after opening of pre-qualification documents

7 SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION

Pre-qualification documents in sealed envelope with "Pre-qualification as Contractor/Supplier" as the case may be written at the top left hand corner should be hand-delivered not later than 12 noon on 15th March, 2010 to:

**The Registrar,
Kaduna Polytechnic,
P.M.B. 2021,
Kaduna.**

8 OPENING OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENT

Pre-qualification envelopes will be opened at 12.30 p.m. on Monday, 15th March, 2010 and interested members of the public especially the intending contractor/suppliers are hereby invited.

9 NOTIFICATION OF PRE-QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS/SUPPLIERS

Names of pre-qualified contractors/suppliers will be displayed on the notice boards at the Central Admin Building, Bursary, and Department of Physical Planning.

PLEASE NOTE

- a) Submission of pre-qualification documents to Kaduna Polytechnic is neither commitment nor an obligation to award any contract to any contractor/supplier or agent.
- b) Advertisement for invitation for pre-qualification should not be construed as a commitment on the part of the Polytechnic, nor shall it entitle any contractor/supplier to make any claims whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from Kaduna Polytechnic.
- c) Due diligence would be followed as all documents submitted would be verified, past executed works and contractor's offices may be visited. Discrepancies found would disqualify the contractor.

Signed

Alhaji Mamoon A. Abubakar
Registrar & Secretary to Council.



UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

7TH FLOOR, NIGERIAN COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION BUILDING
PLOT 423 AGUIYI IRONSI STREET, MAITAMA - ABUJA

**INVITATION TO STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATION
ON UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROGRAMMES IN NIGERIA**

The Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF), in its quest to actualize its vision of "ICT Access for all" as well as meet the objectives of the Federal Government on ICT access, hereby invites Stakeholders to the consultation forum scheduled as follows:

ZONE	DATE	VENUE	TIME
NORTHEAST (Yola)	February 24 - 25, 2010	Lamido Zubairu Education Centre, Yola	8.00 AM

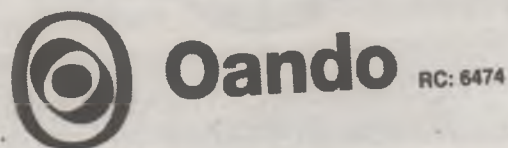
The Consultations, which shall include capacity building workshop by the Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation (CTO), is planned to hold in the six geo-political zones and the Federal Capital Territory. The Consultation is intended to afford various stakeholders (beneficiaries of USPF projects, financial institutions, ICT Entrepreneurs, Community-based organizations, opinion leaders, network operators and other development partners) opportunities to suggest ways of improving implementation of ICT programmes of USPF.

Pre-Registration: Please note that Pre-registration is required for all participants. To pre-register, kindly call or text the Programme Consultants (Growing Businesses Foundation) on 07025400082, 08034278438 or 08094541624. Only pre-registered representatives of groups shall be allowed to participate in the Forum. Pre-registration closes 48 hours before the Forum begins

Funso Fayomi (Esq)
Director/Secretary, Universal Service Provision Fund



Important Notice to Receiving Agents



RIGHTS ISSUE

of

301,694,876

Ordinary Shares of **50 Kobo** each at

₦70.00 per share

On the basis of one (1) new ordinary share for every three (3) ordinary shares of 50 Kobo each held as at the close of business on Friday, 18 December 2009 for those shareholders in Nigeria whose names appear on the Register of Members and transfer books of the Company and shareholders in South Africa whose names appear on the Register of Members and transfer books as at the close of business on the Friday¹ prior to the offer opening date².

LEAD ISSUING HOUSE



VETIVA
CAPITAL MANAGEMENT LIMITED
RC 446561

JOINT ISSUING HOUSES

FCMB CAPITAL MARKETS LIMITED
A MEMBER OF FCMB GROUP

FCMB



Stanbic IBTC Bank PLC
A member of Standard Bank Group
RC 125097

RC 446561

- The Acceptance List in connection with the above-referenced Rights Issue closed on Friday, 19 February 2010. Accordingly, all Receiving Agents are advised to submit their returns as well as a CD containing a schedule of the particulars of subscribers to the Registrar – **First Registrars Nigeria Limited, Plot 2 Abebe Village Road, Iganmu, Lagos** not later than **Friday, 05 March 2010**.
- Returns must include a bank draft for the total amount, drawn on any bank's Lagos office, payable to "**First City Monument Bank PLC**", "**Stanbic IBTC Bank PLC**" or "**Diamond Bank PLC**" and crossed "**Oando PLC Rights Issue**". Any payment for an amount exceeding N10million should be made to "**First City Monument Bank PLC**", "**Stanbic IBTC Bank PLC**" or "**Diamond Bank PLC**" through the e-payment mode. Evidence of such payment in form of a Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) Advice should be provided upon submission of returns.
- Receiving Agents are advised to ensure that Acceptance Forms included in their returns are correctly completed. Incorrect/incomplete returns will be rejected and returned to the Receiving Agent by post.
- Returns not received by the close of business on **Friday, 05 March 2010, WILL NOT be accepted.**

1. Friday, 29 December 2009.

2. Acceptance List Opened in South Africa on Monday, 01 February 2010 and Closed on Friday, 19 February 2010.



**NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF TRANSPORT
TECHNOLOGY (NITT), ZARIA**



**ADMISSION INTO NITT CERTIFICATION PROGRAMMES FOR
TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS PROFESSION (2010)**

APPLICATIONS ARE INVITED FOR ADMISSION INTO THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES OF THE INSTITUTE:

**1. PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE IN TRANSPORT AND LOGISTICS
(CTL) Level I (JUNIOR-CADRE)**

Duration: 1 year

Admission Requirements:

- (i) SSCE with 4 credits and a pass in English Language OR
- (ii) Formal evidence of employment in any mode of transport or logistics function for a period of at least 7 years or
- (iii) Grade II Trade Test or technical examination certificate in building, electric mechanical, procurement, warehousing and stores operation, driving etc from an accredited government institution.

Certification: NITT Professional Certificate in Transport and Logistics (CILT) (International) Certificate in Transport and Logistics.

**2. PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN TRANSPORT AND
LOGISTICS (DTL) Level II (MIDDLE CADRE)**

Duration: 2 years

Admission Requirements:

- (i) Holders of National Diploma, NCE, or equivalent with a minimum of 5 years experience in the Transport industry or any transport/logistics organisation.
- (ii) Fresh graduates employees in any mode of transport or logistics can be admitted to part II of the programme.

Certification: NITT Professional Diploma in Transport and Logistics.

**3. PROFESSIONAL ADVANCED (POST GRADUATE) DIPLOMA
IN TRANSPORT LOGISTICS (PGDTL) Level III (SENIOR CADRE)**

Duration: 1 year

Admission Requirements:

- (i) Minimum of Bachelor's Degree or HND certificate in any relevant field with a minimum of five years experience in transport and Logistics organizations;
- (ii) Holders of NITT Professional Diploma in Transport and Logistics with 2 year post qualification working experience.

Certification: NITT Advanced Diploma in Transport and logistics and CILT Advanced Diploma.

**4. PROFESSIONAL MASTERS IN TRANSPORT AND
LOGISTICS (MTL) Level IV (MASTERS)**

Duration: 1 year

Admission Requirements:

- (i) A first degree or HND plus NITT Advanced Diploma in Transport and Logistics and at least one year post qualification experience.
- (ii) Possession of first Degree or HND plus Chartered Membership of CILT and 2 years post CILT membership experience.

Certification: NITT Professional Masters in Transport and Logistics and University of Pretoria Professional Masters in Logistics & Supply chain Management.

These qualifications meet the Academic requirements for different grades of membership of CILT International.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE:

Application forms can be obtained from:

- (i) Nigerian Institute of Transport Technology (NITT) Headquarters, P.M.B. 1148, Basawa Road, Zaria, (08033507166 and 08037005932)
- (ii) NITT Abuja Liaison Office, Shippers Plaza, Plot 438, Michael Okpara Street, Wuse zone 5, Abuja, 08033495832 or 08023634087
- (iii) NITT Lagos Annex/Guest House, No. 9 African church close off Coker Road, Ilupeju, Lagos, 08034521930 or 08035905619.
- (iv) NITT Port Harcourt Liaison Office, Federal Secretariat, Aba Road, Port Harcourt, 08063817592.
- (v) Further details can be obtained from NITT website: www.nitt.gov.ng

Application Form Fees:

- * N1,000 for certificate
- * N1,500 for Diploma
- * N2,000 for Advanced Diploma
- * N2,500 for Masters

Deadline for submission of completed application form is 31st March 2010

Signed:

M.S. JIMADA
REGISTRAR

FEDERAL MEDICAL CENTER AZARE

No. 5 Sule Katagum Road, PMB 005 Azare Bauchi State
(OFFICE OF THE HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION)

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR SENIOR STAFF VACANCIES

Applications are hereby invited from suitably qualified candidates to fill the available vacancies in the underlisted departments:

1. CLINICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

1.1 Post: Consultants (All Specialties)

Requirements: Candidates must possess fellowship of Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria or Fellowship of West African Postgraduate Medical College or their equivalent in the specialty. Candidates should hold current practice licenses from the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and appropriate indemnity insurance cover.

Salary: CONTISS 13/2 i.e. (N1,503,506) [CONMESS 5/2] i.e. (N2,858,442)

1.2 Post: Medical/Dental Officer

Requirements: Candidates must possess MBBS/BDS with full registration with the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria and NYSC discharge or exemption certificate

Salary: CONTISS 10/2 i.e. (N909,773) [CONMESS 2/2] i.e. (N1,590,117)

1.3 Post: Dental Therapist

Requirements: Candidates must possess Higher National Diploma in Dental Hygiene from an approved health institution plus NYSC discharge or exemption certificate.

Salary: CONTISS 7/2 i.e. (N599,242) [CONHESS 7/2] i.e. (N981,712)

1.4 Post: Dental Surgery Assistant (Asst. Dental Technologist)

Requirements: Candidates must possess Higher National Diploma in Dental Technology from a recognized institution or its equivalent plus NYSC discharge or exemption certificate.

Salary: CONTISS 7/2 i.e. (N599,242) [CONHESS 7/2] i.e. (N981,712)

1.5 Post: Dieticians

Requirements: Candidates must possess B.Sc Higher National Diploma in Dietetics with one year internship from a recognized institution or its equivalent plus NYSC discharge or exemption certificate.

Salary: CONTISS 7/2 i.e. (N599,242) [CONHESS 7/2] i.e. (N981,712)

1.6 Post: Physiotherapist

Requirements: Candidates must possess Degree in Physiotherapy from a recognized university and must have registered with the Medical Rehabilitation Therapist Registration Board of Nigeria plus NYSC discharge or exemption certificate.

Salary: CONTISS 9/2 i.e. (N803,243) [CONHESS 9/2] i.e. (N1,342,232)

1.7 Post: Asst. Medical Social Worker

Requirements: Candidates must possess a National Diploma in Social Work or relevant Social Science Studies.

Salary: CONTISS 6/2 i.e. (N376,206) [CONHESS 6/2] i.e. (N835,053)

2. PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

2.1. Post: Pharmacist

Requirements: Candidates must possess Bachelor of Pharmacy Degree from a recognized university and be registered with the Pharmacists Registration Board of Nigeria (PRBN) plus NYSC discharge or exemption certificate.

Salary: CONTISS 9/2 i.e. (N803,243) [CONHESS 9/2] i.e. (N1,342,232)

2.2. Post: Pharmacy Technician

Requirements: Candidates must have finished the prescribed 3 year training program from an institute of Health Technology and be registered with PCN.

Salary: CONTISS 8/1 i.e. (N362,757) [CONHESS 6/1] i.e. (N812,256)

3. PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

3.1. Post: Medical Lab Scientist

Requirements: Candidates must possess a degree in Medical Lab Science from a recognized institution or Associate Membership of the Institute of Medical Laboratory Technologists of Nigeria and must have successfully completed NYSC or exemption.

Salary: CONTISS 7/2 i.e. (N599,242) [CONHESS 7/2] i.e. (N981,712)

3.2. Post: Medical Laboratory Technician

Requirements: Candidates must possess IMLT certificate for Technician cadre with at least 2 years working experience.

Salary: CONTISS 6/2 i.e. (N376,206) [CONHESS 6/2] i.e. (N835,053)

4. NURSING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

4.1. Post: Nurses

Requirements: Candidates must be RN or RM plus current practice license. Postbasic qualification will be an added advantage.

Salary: CONTISS 6/2 i.e. (N376,206) [CONHESS 6/2] i.e. (N835,053) or

CONTISS 7/2 i.e. (N599,242) [CONHESS 7/2] i.e. (N981,712)

5. MEDICAL RECORDS DEPARTMENT

5.1. Post: Health Records Officer II

Requirements: Candidates must possess B.Sc in Health Record Administration/Health Information Management or Biostatistics from a recognized university and must be registered with the Health Records Officers Registration Board of Nigeria plus NYSC discharge or exemption certificate.

Salary: CONTISS 7/2 i.e. (N599,242) [CONHESS 7/2] i.e. (N981,712)

5.2. Post: Medical Records Technician

Requirements: Candidates must possess National Diploma in Health Information Management from a recognized institution and must have registered with the Health Records Officers Registration Board of Nigeria as Health Records Technician.

Salary: CONTISS 6/1 i.e. (N362,757) [CONHESS 6/1] i.e. (N812,256)

6. FINANCE AND SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT

6.1. Post: Accountant II

Requirements: Candidates must possess a B.Sc (Accounts) from a recognized university plus NYSC discharge or exemption certificate.

Salary: CONTISS 7/2 i.e. (N599,242) [CONHESS 7/2] i.e. (N981,712)

7. ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

7.1. Post: Quantity Surveyor

Requirements: Candidates must possess a Degree in Quantity Survey from a recognized institution with a pass in the final examination of The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors plus NYSC discharge or exemption certificate.

Salary: CONTISS 7/2 i.e. (N599,242) [CONHESS 7/2] i.e. (N981,712)

7.2. Post: Bio-Medical Technician

Requirements: Candidates must possess National Diploma in Biomedical Technology or its equivalent from a recognized institution/body plus at least one year cognate working experience.

Salary: CONTISS 6/1 i.e. (N362,757) [CONHESS 6/1] i.e. (N812,256)

METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested candidates should forward their applications with 10 copies of their curriculum vitae and photocopies of their relevant credentials to:

The Medical Director,
Federal Medical Center Azare,
PMB 005 Azare
Bauchi State

Each candidate should request 3 referees to submit Letters of Reference directly to the Medical Director at the above address. All applications must be received within six (6) weeks from the date of this publication.

signed

Kabir M. Lele

Asst. Director Administration

For: Medical Director

NIGER STATE COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NGCSDA)

ENGAGEMENT OF CONSULTANT FOR BASELINE SURVEY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Credit No: IDA 4496-UNI
Project No: P090644
Contract No: NGCSDA/BS/LC/01

1. BACKGROUND

The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of Community and Social Development Project (CSDP) and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for consultancy services of baseline survey of 25 LGAs in Niger State.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The overall objective of the baseline survey is to ascertain the socio-economic status of communities in the 25 LGAs, and will serve as baseline for a comparative impact assessment of project performance at the end of the project life.

3. SCOPE OF THE ASSIGNMENT

The consultant is expected to visit the 25 LGAs and obtain the following information:

- Name of LGA, Communities and existing CDAs/CBOs
- Distance of Communities to the LGA Headquarters and State Capital.
- Population of Communities disaggregated into Gender, Adult, Children, Ethnicity Natural Resources features such as land water and forests.
- Occupation (cropping pattern, crops, yield, domestic animals like sheep, goats, cattle and others).
- Available Infrastructure (schools, health centers, water supply, markets, electricity, etc).
- Average household size (family) disaggregated into gender/adult/children.
- Sources of household income/economic activities.
- Identity (if any) vulnerable groups (orphans, leprosy, charity homes, etc.)
- Others

Please request to nigercsdpproc@yahoo.com for detailed TOR.

4. DURATION

The survey is expected to be concluded within eight (8) weeks

5. NGCSDA hereby invites eligible firms to submit Expression of Interest in respect of the assignment. Interested firms MUST provide detailed company profile showing experience and competence relevant to the assignment.

6. Please note that the cost of EoI and negotiation of the contract are not reimbursable as direct cost of the services.

7. SKILLS REQUIREMENT

A firm shall be selected under Least Cost Selection (LC) method and procedures, in accordance with the policies of the *International Development Association (IDA)* detailed in the Guidelines of Selection and Employment of Consultants by World Bank borrowers which can be found at the following website: www.worldbank.org/procure.

To be considered, a consultancy firm must have the following experience and competence:

- Relevant experience of 5 years or more in conducting rural baseline surveys.
- The firm should possess the following expertise:
 - Socio-Economist/Rural Sociologist
 - A Natural resources expert and
 - A Hydro geologist.
- In addition, the consulting firm should have an M&E Specialist that works with the team on designing the questionnaires and reviewing the collected information for quality and consistency
- Familiarity of Consultant(s) with the zones of the state is very crucial in this assignment

8. SUBMISSION

Three copies of Expression of Interest should be packaged in properly sealed envelope, clearly marked "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN RESPECT OF BASELINE SURVEY" and MUST reach the following, not later than two (2) Weeks from the date of this publication:

Community and Social Development Agency
No A6, Muazu Muhammad Road
Abdullahi Kure House
P.M.B. 210
Minna, Niger State.



FEDERAL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION (TECHNICAL) BICHI
P.M.B 3473, KANO

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION/TENDER FOR 2010 APPROPRIATION

INTRODUCTION

The Federal College of Education (Technical) Bichi is desirous to execute the following Projects funded under the 2010 Capital Appropriation:

- Water supply/additional bore holes
- Supply of Technical Equipment
- Construction of Technical Education Complex Phase I & II
- Renovation of Students Hostels
- Supply of 640KVA Generator
- Construction of Laboratory in Demonstration School
- Construction of Sports Complex
- Construction of Collage Central Stores
- Construction of Students Hostel
- Construction of Lecture Halls
- Construction of Business education Complex

Interested skilled and highly reputable contractors are hereby invited for pre-qualification.

PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Photocopy of the following document are required:

- Certificate of incorporation from Corporate Affairs Commission.
- Current Tax Clearance for the last 3 years valid up to December 2009.
- Company profiles including details of key staff C.V to be deployed for the execution of the project showing qualification and experience.
- Evidence of experience in similar contracts including letters of awards and details on involvement.
- List of equipment, plants including machineries owned or to be hired.
- Copies of current company Bank statement, reference latter and consent to allow for verification with bankers.
- Company audited account for the year 2007-2008.
- Additional relevant information including GSM number.

PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Pre-qualification should be enclosed in sealed marked envelopes (2010 Pre-qualification forname of project) and submitted to the Registrar's not later than 23rd March, 2010.

OPENING OF TENDER/PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

All Tenders and the general public are hereby, invited to the public opening which will hold in the Collage Council Chamber on the 23rd March, 2010 at 12noon. The Collage will analyze the pre-qualification documents and only companies who pass the minimum marks will be contacted for collection of Tender Documents.

Signed:
ENGR. SANI UMAR D/KUDU MNSE
Secretary

BUSINESS

0805 1000 536

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GENERAL Ibrahim Babangida (Rtd) welcoming the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive of Union Bank of Nigeria Plc, Mrs Funke Osibodu, to his Minna home, while on a condolence visit to him weekend.

BRIEF

PAN, others seek bailout fund

By Sunday Williams

THE automotive manufacturers under the aegis of Nigerian Automotive Manufacturers Association (NAMA) have asked the federal government to bail out the sector to save it from imminent collapse.

NAMA called on the Federal Government to emulate what the American Government did to the automotive industry in the face of the global economic meltdown in form of bail-out intervention. The manufacturers who made the call in a three-point communiqué issued at the end of one day meeting held at Peugeot Automobile Nigeria Limited (PAN), Kaduna at the weekend stated that the call has become imperative after careful appraisal of the internal and external dynamics of the country's economy, especially in relation to the automotive sub-sector.

The communiqué which was jointly signed by the chairman of the association and managing director of PAN, Dr. Haroun Aliyu, and the Executive Director, NAMA, Arthur Madueke, further called on the three tiers of government and their agencies to procure all their vehicles from the local manufacturers/assemblers in accordance with the Federal Government's Gazette on patronage dated March 3, 1994.

Foreign reserves drops to \$41bn

AfDB forecasts 7% GDP for Africa

By Idris Ahmed & Aisha Umar

NIGERIA lost about \$238 million from its foreign reserves in a day.

From \$42.2 billion on February 17, the reserves went down to \$41.9 billion on February 18.

No official comment as to the reduction on the reserves which was posted on the website of the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) yesterday.

Reserves are meant to showcase the country's credit worthiness in the international market as well as to facilitate easy credit facilities for the local importers.

Unofficial explanation by a top CBN officer linked the drop to more outflow than inflow into the reserves. By outflow he meant money going out and inflow money coming in.

The foreign reserves peaked at \$64 billion in August 2008, when the prices of crude oil at the international market also peaked at \$147 per barrel. Crude oil

is now sold for \$77 per barrel.

The drop in the reserves was coming a week after the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan ordered the sharing of \$2 billion from the Excess Crude Account by the State Governors, leaving it with a balance of \$4.2 billion.

The account which is kept for the rainy day peaked at \$20 billion in January 2009.

Meanwhile, the African Development Bank (AfDB) said yesterday that Africa's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) could grow to about 7 percent in 2011 from a forecast of about 5.5 percent growth for 2010.

AfDB President Donald Kaberuka said this at the Bank's Committee of 10 (C10) meeting in Cape Town, according to Reuters.

"When we look at this year 2010, I totally concur with the numbers from the International Monetary Fund... (of) around 5.5 percent of real GDP growth and going into 2011, perhaps 1.5 percent more", Kaberuka said.

The C10, consisting of African finance ministers and central bank governors, was formed to develop an African response to the global financial crisis after a meeting in November 2008.

AfDB Vice President of Infrastructure and Regional Integration Bobby Pittman said the Bank could finance infrastructure projects worth up to \$10 billion over the next three years in Africa, with a focus on the energy sector.

"We are estimating our pipeline of deals that we could finance within the next three years at \$7 to \$10 billion, and that's a conservative figure," Bobby Pittman told Reuters.

Last year, AfDB approved approximately \$15 million through its African Development Fund to the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja and the International Institute for Water and Environmental Engineering to promote and enhance linkages among African Science and Technology institutions.

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	→ \$77 a barrel
Power Supply	→ 2,500MW
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%

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	230.5512	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	→ N242

SELLING	
DOLLAR	→ N152
EURO	→ N209
POUNDS	→ N244

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

Stock Market Index

Date: Friday, February 19, 2010

Index: 23,168.64

Deals: 6,490

Volume: 284,089,386

Value: N1,641,682,612.12

Cap.: N5,579,975,818,870.39

Business

NITEL not ripe for sale - Union leader

President Senior Staff Association of Communications, Transport and Corporation (SSACTAC) NITEL branch, Comrade E.Y. Kazzah, says government has consistently ignored the recommendations of the inter-ministerial technical committee that NITEL be repositioned for two years before putting it up for sale. He however advises the emerging buyers to prioritise staff welfare, adding that NITEL is a hot cake to any discerning investor.

By Jibrin Abubakar

WHAT is the position of your association in the effort to sell NITEL to a new consortium, the New Generation Telecommunications Limited?

We use to tell people that the problem of NITEL is akin to the Nigerian problem. It is a complex organisation where all Nigerians have interest. This is the fifth attempt to privatise NITEL. All along, we have been telling the world that where there is no transparency, there is bound to be lapses here and there. As far as we are concerned, we, the representatives of workers were not invited at any stage. We did not partake in the bidding exercise and nobody has officially communicated us what we have seen on the pages of the newspapers. We however want to believe that this fifth attempt should be the final attempt in the effort to sell NITEL. We are hopeful that the preferred bidder will be able to pay the \$2.5billion and should be able to have the financial and the technical capability to turn around NITEL. This has been our prayers all along.

Do you think the 75 per cent stake is worth \$2.5bn? I asked this

question because experts have valued NITEL at around \$500million.

I think \$2.5billion is reasonable. We have our facilities in 774 local governments in this country. You should appreciate this price. It is reasonable. It could be more than that. But let us leave it at that.

Now that you are not part of the process, what are you going to do about it?

Considering the protracted problems of NITEL since the year 2000 to date, remember the ILL of London, remember the Pentascope era, the Orascom attempt, the Transcorp era and now the New Generation Telecommunication Limited, I think the workers and union are tired of these protracted problems of NITEL, and what we are saying is that we are observers to some extent and we are working to some extent, we are saying that whoever will pay for NITEL, let them pay so that we can sort out this problem once and for all. What we are telling government is that so long we would not do the right thing; we are bound to have problems.

The China Unicom and the Minerva group have come out to say that they are not involved in the deal. Don't you fear that this may also go in



COMRADE E.Y. KAZZAH

the Transcorp or the Pentascope way?

It would be difficult to associate these lapses to the Bureau of Public Enterprises. A lot is left to be desired when it comes to sincere transactions in Nigeria. A lot is left to be desired when you talk of sincerity and commitment to reality. But I don't want to believe what is on the pages of the newspapers. I want to see this as sponsor attempt to derail BPE from what it is doing.

Some people are not comfortable that MTN or Glo where not given the opportunity to run NITEL. There argument is that they have the technical expertise to do it and because Glo, especially is also the second national carrier. What is your take on this?

If they are really interested, why didn't they come forward until now? The thing is that Glo has the licence as second carrier and it would amount to issuing it a double licence to operate, and MTN is also running a GSM Outfit. The MTEL arm of NITEL is also there. It would amount to double licences also. This is what I observe. But that is not the issue to worry about. The issue is that Nigerians should have known the right thing to be done at the right time. At different stages, we in the Union have spoken and have given advices but these advices have been ignored.

What are some of these advices?

One of the advices is that you cannot sell NITEL as it is today. We should allow that technical committee that was set up to reposition NITEL. So the aim of the technical committee is to reposition NITEL for one year or two years and then put it up for sale. But government ignore all that. The committee is headed by the permanent secretary in the ministry of communication. The inter-ministerial committee was not allowed to perform and invariably BPE took over NITEL. The committee was thus relegated to the background. In fact it was not allowed to participate in the privatisation process because they have observed that the sale is not practicable, so they opted for a better time.

Do you think NITEL will be able to compete favourably in the industry?

Yes it will be able to compete favourably. That is why MTN and Glo are not comfortable with it. MTEL is all over the 774 local governments in the country already. All you need is diesel to power the systems. All you need is to inject reasonable funds into NITEL/MTEL. The structures and the manpower are all there for you.

But as you are aware

the sale does not include NITEL's liabilities. What is your take on this?

We have been told that all the liabilities of NITEL will be settled by the use of proceeds from the sale of NITEL. So the sale is excluding the liabilities of NITEL.

What is the implication of the sale of NITEL on the workers?

If it is a very sound and financially committed company that is coming in, it should be able to employ more workers. We need more hands. They should not think of sacking workers. NITEL is a very big organisation.

What is the staff strength of NITEL?

Currently, including the securities casuals, I think it is about 4,000 staff. It used to be 12,000. About 8,000 or so were laid off.

What is the situation of the disengaged staff of NITEL?

The 2006 negotiation between government and labour failed. With that, President Olusegun Obasanjo then decided to come up with an approval that the workers were to be paid five years pension buyout. The implication of that was that the disengaged NITEL staff were paid. With that the benefits of NITEL's disengaged staff were not properly addressed. That agitation will continue until

and unless government addresses the issue properly. Pensioners are supposed to be paid their pensions for life.

What about the current staff of NITEL. Are they being paid their monthly salaries promptly?

No. NITEL still owes them 20-month salaries. What is your message to the new buyers and to the workers?

First, my message to the new buyers of NITEL is that as soon as they are able to pay, they should take confidence of the workers and the management. I want to assure them that if they work together they will succeed. Not like Transcorp when the workers were seating on one table, Transcorp was seating on another. That situation brought about the problem Transcorp experienced. They should treat their workers as human beings. For government, I want to appeal that they should quickly look for intervention fund and pay the workers' salaries. This will boost the morale of the workers so that by the time the core investors come on board they will be ready to work with them and give the necessary information they need about the organisation. I want to appeal to workers to be patient, assuring with providence in God that the issues will be resolved and NITEL will pick up again.

The journey so far

The journey to privatise NITEL has been a difficult one. It began in 2000 and was stopped in 2002, when IILL of London, the core investor, failed to pay the \$1.317 billion it offered. In 2003, Pentascope was appointed by government to run a three-year contract to prepare it for sale but this was aborted due to alleged incompetency. In 2006, Orascom of Egypt offered \$256.53 million but this was also rejected by the Federal Government on the grounds that it was far below NITEL's market value. Transcorp in 2006 also offered to buy 51 per cent stake at \$500million but the deal went sour and Transcorp hands-off. Now, the new core investor, the New Generation Limited is buying 75 per cent at \$2.5billion.

I think the workers and union are tired of these protracted problems of NITEL, and what we are saying is that we are observers to some extent and we are working to some extent, we are saying that whoever will pay for NITEL, let them pay so that we can sort out this problem once and for all.

Business

No problem with NITEL sale to new investors-BPE

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) yesterday said it was standing by the New Generation Telecommunications Limited Consortium in spite of the dust raised by media denial of involvement by China Unicom in the bid for the Nigeria Telecommunications Limited held last Tuesday in Abuja.

A statement issued by the spokesman of the BPE, Mr. Chigbo Anichebe, said information at the disposal of the bureau has not proved to the contrary that the firm was not qualified.

He said "While not joining issues with anybody, we wish to state categorically and for the records that the NCP/BPE stands firmly by the results of the open and transparent bid process of NITEL/M-TEL held on the 16th February 2010. We have not seen any evidence to the contrary."

China Unicom is the country's second largest telecoms company and was named as part of the consortium that won the bid in Abuja on Tuesday.

Two days after, a spokeswoman of the firm

denied its involvement, raising questions about the whole process of privatizing NITEL which had suffered several setbacks in the past decade.

The statement further said "when the Technical bids were received on February 15, 2010 and opened by the Bureau of Public Enterprises on 16th February, 2010, New Generations Communications Limited Consortium included as part of its submission a 'Commitment Letter' from Minerva Group signed by the Group Chairman, Ahmed Abdullah, accepting to fund the acquisition and another letter from China Unicom (Europe) Operations Limited, accepting to be its Technical Partner."

Anichebe also said the letters in reference "were immediately sent to our advisers BNP Paribas for conduct of due diligence and confirmation of the validity of the letter. BNP Paribas called Mr. Williams So, President of China Unicom (Europe) Limited on phone and he confirmed the relationship by e-mail (sow@chinaunicom.cn).

The BPE frowned at

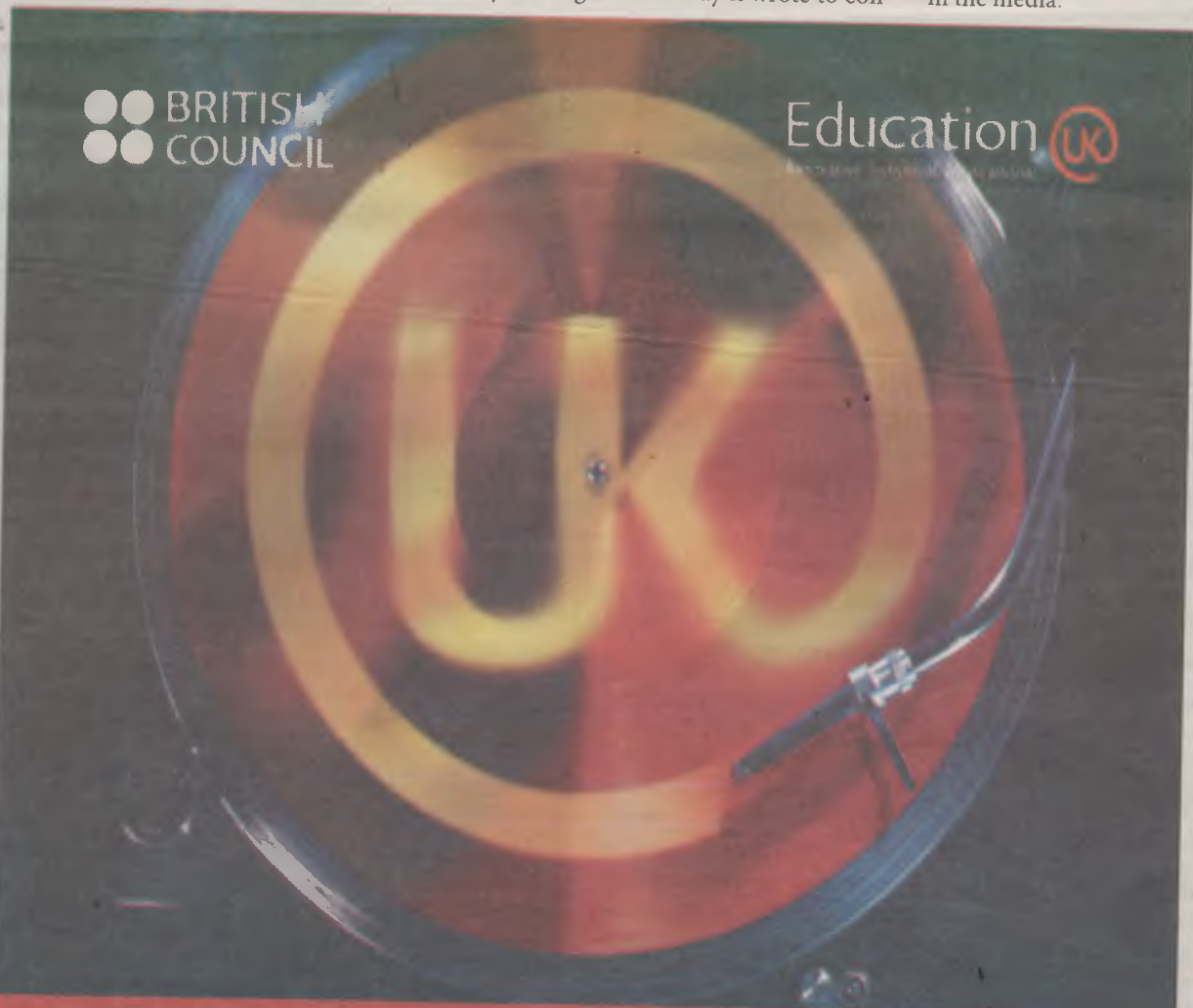
dramatizing the whole scenario in the media.

It said: "a member of a

consortium that wishes to pull out of the consortium is free to do so by writing

to the BPE and other members of the consortium the same way it wrote to con-

firm its membership and not by dramatizing its exit in the media."



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ABUJA: 22 - 23 February
Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja.

LAGOS: 25 - 26 February
Expo Centre of the Eko Hotel, VI, Lagos.

Time: 10:00am - 5:00pm each day.

Tickets available at any British Council office or the exhibition venues for N2,000 only.

www.britishcouncil.org/nigeria-educationuk

aerial view

Fidelity Bank produces 75 millionaires

By Idris Ahmed

FIFTEEN more millionaires last week emerged in the on-going Fidelity Bank Save and Smile promo draw held in Abuja.

The January draw of the promo was held for the bank's ten regions spread all over Nigeria. About 75 millionaires have already emerged in the bank's promo which started in August last year.

From the Abuja region, an account held by the Julius Berger Senior Staff Association of Nigeria was picked in the millionaire category.

Osaze Nwayo Kiyem won one million naira from the Lagos Central region, while Chimebere Kingsley Okafor won one million from the Lagos Island region. Muoghalu Angelina won a million from the Midwest region while Adimorah Patrick Chikado

won a million naira from the Lagos Mainland region.

Two millionaires emerged from the North region. They are: Godwin Igbekhai and Garba Ibrahim Adamu. From the South South region, Onyejiaka Wesley Nnamdi and Calistus Ifeanyi Odoh won one million naira each.

From the South East (I) region, Ezeanyanso Chibuzo and Ezeekulie Charles Emeka emerged winners, while Emmanuel Great Nmaju and Ezinwa Ogbnnah won one million naira each from the South East (II) region.

From the South West region, Benson Bill won one million naira.

In the same draw, forty five customers won generator sets, while ten customers won television sets. Seven customers won motorcycles and twenty seven others won refrigerator sets.

Star Feature

In Abuja, it pa rent a crowd

A group of 'businessmen' who specialise in renting crowds for people, particularly politicians, have stormed Abuja in search of their 'clients'. **Fidelis Mac-Leva** reports that these professional crowd renters, are taking full advantage of politicians' need for crowds, to make brisk business in the nation's capital city.

THEY claim to be non-political, non religious and non-governmental Organizations [NGOs]. They go by different names, acronyms and appellations. They have different aims and objectives. Of course, they have different modes of operation. But a common thread seems to run through their individual activities, which revolve around the 'business' of mobilising support for their clients, in return for 'settlement'. Meet Nigeria's 'professional' crowd renters.

These professional crowd renters who masquerade as pro-democracy activists, are now sprouting everywhere in the country like mushrooms on decayed soil. They have found a haven in Abuja - the nation's federal capital territory - where the continued absence of the President on health grounds, coupled with the biting effects of the global economic meltdown, seems to have presented a veritable opportunity for the business of

crowd renting in the country.

Of course, the multitude of jobless and dishevelled youths that dot the nooks and crannies of the country, easily present themselves as ready crowd to be hired by the renters, who in turn organize them into mock solidarity marches and rallies for their paymasters.

Although they have tentacles that are spread as far as the ward level, Abuja seems to be the operational base of these professional crowd renters. It is from here that they mobilise both material and human resources, to coordinate their business activities at the ward, local governments, states and zonal levels.

Their clients are made up of politicians; particularly political office holders from the local government, state, zonal and national level. These politicians who include local government chairmen, councillors, state governors, as well as state and

national assembly members, are ever ready to provide financial and logistics support required for the renting of crowds, that are mobilized to drum up support for their political ambitions or ideological interests.

It is pretty easy for the crowd renters to be 'signed on' by their clients. All that is required is to register an NGO, and come up with convincing proposals for solidarity rallies, either in support of political office holders and their programmes, or to stage protest marches against their opponents or perceived enemies.

Apart from solidarity rallies and protest marches, proposals are also made for seminars, workshops and summits at the state and zonal levels. These proposals seeking financial support are addressed to political office holders, as well as heads of government ministries and parastatals, at the state and federal

“ It is pretty easy for the crowd renters to be 'signed on' by their clients. All that is required is to register an NGO, and come up with convincing proposals for solidarity rallies, either in support of political office holders and their programmes.



PROFESSIONAL crowd renters have shifted concentration of their activities to Abuja.

levels.

Apparently realizing the critical significance of the oil rich Niger Delta region to the socio economic and political history of the country, the professional crowd renters have taken full advantage of

the situation there, to organize sponsored programmes in the area.

For instance, *Daily Trust* learnt that sometime last year a "Peace and youth Empowerment Summit" was staged in Port Harcourt by a so called

NGO with the theme "The Elimination of Small Arms and Dangerous Weapons in Delta." Apparently the organizers of the summit staged the Amnesty of the federal government to make brisk business

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where regular solidarity rallies and prayers are organized.

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With the current medical vacation of the President, the professional crowd renters have shifted concentration of their activities to Abuja, where regular solidarity rallies and prayers are organized ostensibly for the quick recovery of the ailing

President.

How do they mobilize their crowd? Although they wouldn't admit to hiring crowds, *Daily Trust* found out that the professional crowd renters use their 'agents' in the suburbs of the federal capital territory, who

in turn recruit idle youth to be rented. These youths referred to as 'delegates', are then conveyed in hired vehicles, and taken to the programme venues at the end of which each of them is paid between N500 to N1000 for their services.

They are also provided with materials such as posters, banners and T-shirts bearing the required solidarity messages for the events. 'Delegates' who travel from other parts of the country, are given accommodation in designated hotels, at the end of which they are 'settled' to return to their respective destinations.

But like any other business venture, the business of renting crowds in Abuja has never been without hiccups, particularly in the form of disagreements between the 'renters' and the 'rented'. This reporter encountered some of the aggrieved 'delegates', who shared their experiences after a recent rally at the Eagle Square Abuja.

A group of angry 'delegates' had accosted an 'agent' after the rally, demanding to be 'settled' in accordance with the 'rent agreement'. It took a lot of persuasion and intervention from people, and a possible mob action was averted at the Square.

"He [referring to the agent] came to our area [Masaka] with a bus, and requested us to follow him with the promise that each of us will be given N1000 at the end of this rally. Now he is telling us a different story", said one of the 'delegates' when this reporter sought to know what the matter was.

On his part the 'agent' who wouldn't disclose his identity told this reporter that he was expecting money from his 'clients', in order to settle the delegates.

Further investigations show that after every successful rally, the professional crowd renters move from one politician to another, or from ministry to ministry in pursuit of money. This kind of situation, it was learnt, pitches them against their 'agents' and the 'delegates', and also affects further programmes.

"We have now resolved that before we attend any rally as delegates, our 'rent fees' must be settled in advance", said Ibrahim Momoh, spokesperson of the 'delegates' from Masaka.

This type of disagreement, *Daily Trust* learnt, had often led to the postponement of several proposed rallies and summits by the crowd renters. For instance, a summit was proposed for Abuja about three weeks ago. It was intended to be what the organizers initially tagged: "National Summit on the Seven Point Agenda and grand solidarity Rally." The proposed two day event was billed to take place at the popular Eagle Square Abuja, by the second week of February this year. A total of four million 'delegates' were estimated to be mobilised by the 'crowd renters' from all the thirty six states, as well as the 774 local government areas of the country to be in attendance.

But what was attributed to logistics problems, the proposed summit, also called: "Four Million Man March" was rescheduled and re-tagged: "National Prayers for the Recovery of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua." *Daily Trust* checks also reveal that the recent transfer of power to Vice President Goodluck Jonathan, may have informed the decision of the organizers to change the theme of the proposed national summit.

'Nigeria Prays' as the rescheduled event is re-tagged is now billed to take place on a weekend, all things being equal. But instead of targeting four million 'delegates', the organizers are now expecting one million people for the proposed two day event.

Apart from the thirty six states of the federation, Nigeria Prays, according to the organizers, would also attract foreign delegates this time around, particularly from the United Kingdom and the USA. By last week delegates were said to have started arriving Abuja, from some of the geo political zones of the country. They were being accommodated in designated hotels.

But the Yar'adua-Goodluck Jonathan 7 Point Agenda Alliance Crusade [YAGOSPAC], organizer of the event, has denied any political or economic interest in its activities. Comrade Mike Newgent Ekamon, Director General of YAGOSPAC said their NGO was merely sensitizing the Nigerian masses to be supportive of the federal government's 7-point agenda.

"It is part of our campaign that gave birth to amnesty in the Niger Delta region", said Ekamon in an interview. While denying any financial backing from any quarters, the DG however said they derive their funding from goodwill, as well as contributions from 'well-meaning Nigerians'.

By last week organizers of the proposed 'Nigeria Prays' were said to be running after politicians, and moving from one ministry to another, in pursuit of the release of funds to meet up with 'rent agreements' and provide other logistics for the success of the programme.

“He [referring to the agent] came to our area [Masaka] with a bus, and requested us to follow him with the promise that each of us will be given N1000 at the end of this rally. Now he is telling us a different story”, said one of the 'delegates' when this reporter sought to know what the matter was.

Business/Finance

Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Friday, February 19, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
2ND-TIER SECURITIES				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	14	0.60	345,021	215,462.60
MCNICHOLS PLC	1	1.07	2,500,000	2,675,000.00
SECTORTOTALS	15		2,845,021	2,890,462.60
AGRICULTURE				
FTN COCOA PROCESSORS PLC	27	0.93	2,711,700	2,565,349.00
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	7	0.75	2,560,900	1,920,675.00
PRESCO PLC	2	5.21	8,900	44,055.00
SECTORTOTALS	36		5,281,500	4,530,079.00
AIRSERVICES				
NIG. AVIATION HANDLING COY PLC	75	8.59	634,347	5,386,189.76
SECTORTOTALS	75		634,347	5,386,189.76
AUTOMOBILE&TYRE				
DNTYRE & RUBBER PLC	14	0.50	1,163,000	581,500.00
R.T. BRISCOE (NIGERIA) PLC	12	5.50	56,587	305,634.22
SECTORTOTALS	26		1,219,587	887,134.22
BANKING				
ACCESS BANK PLC	176	9.39	9,209,317	85,948,273.89
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	67	2.77	1,526,423	4,198,784.84
DIAMOND BANK PLC	120	9.50	4,987,058	47,008,860.44
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	125	4.95	3,834,328	18,979,923.60
F/CITY MONUMENT BANK PLC	70	9.30	2,474,536	22,913,154.65
FIDELITY BANK PLC	126	2.64	8,632,618	22,515,969.59
FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	766	14.61	9,262,118	136,378,094.16
FINBANK PLC	112	0.74	30,434,474	22,885,323.39
GTBANK PLC	386	18.10	6,038,502	110,058,619.86
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	69	8.61	1,106,568	9,542,349.07
INTERCONTINENTAL BANK PLC	104	2.11	3,485,270	7,275,258.99
OCEANIC BANK INTER. PLC	89	2.19	2,115,984	4,532,592.56
BANK PHB PLC	77	2.06	4,709,687	9,535,777.66
SKYE BANK PLC	284	7.50	15,369,969	115,937,714.29
SPRING BANK PLC	15	1.08	99,893	112,621.99
STERLING BANK PLC	74	1.90	5,897,437	11,240,221.73
UNITED BANK FOR AFRICA PLC	202	13.67	4,258,467	58,134,810.96
UNION BANK OF NIGERIA PLC	186	5.99	2,180,687	13,169,537.63
UNITY BANK PLC	30	1.03	4,596,930	4,751,076.67
WEMA BANK PLC	48	1.20	1,612,422	1,907,449.53
ZENITH BANK PLC	274	15.70	22,786,191	354,865,035.64
SECTORTOTALS	3,400		144,618,879	1,061,891,451.14
BUILDING MATERIALS				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	85	16.12	2,388,002	38,478,641.23
BENUCEMENT COMPANY PLC	35	50.01	302,809	15,174,549.41
CEMENT CO. OF NORTHERN NIG. PLC	34	16.00	403,709	6,438,677.10
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	27	35.50	181,055	6,367,420.07
SECTORTOTALS	181		3,275,575	66,459,287.81
CHEMICAL & PAINTS				
BERGER PAINTS NIGERIA PLC	2	3.36	4,476	15,755.52
CHEMICAL & ALLIED PRODUCTS PLC	4	25.78	52,957	1,413,565.10
DN MEYER PLC	8	3.80	1,068,005	4,056,888.74
NIG.-GERMAN CHEMICALS PLC	4	15.04	40,000	571,600.00
SECTORTOTALS	18		1,165,438	6,057,809.36
COMMERCIAL/SERVICES				
AFROMEDIA PLC	14	0.53	682,000	359,460.00
COURTVILLE INVESTMENTS PLC	8	0.50	177,100	88,990.00
RED STAR EXPRESS PLC	13	2.52	699,901	1,777,933.05
SECTORTOTALS	35		1,559,001	2,226,383.05
COMP & OFFICE EQUIPMENT				
NCR (NIGERIA) PLC	1	8.13	2,898	23,792.58
OMATEK VENTURES PLC	27	0.57	3,017,290	1,601,185.46
TRIPPLE GEE & COMPANY PLC	2	4.37	1,019	4,239.04
SECTORTOTALS	30		3,021,207	1,629,217.08
CONGLOMERATES				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIGERIA) PLC	5	2.85	37,800	111,582.00
PZ CUSSONS NIGERIA PLC	31	26.20	249,430	6,531,815.20
TRANSNATIONAL CORP OF NIG. PLC	69	0.50	14,723,052	7,361,526.00
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	38	42.01	305,453	12,840,216.37
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	66	25.00	502,167	12,560,734.59
SECTORTOTALS	209		15,817,902	39,405,874.16
CONSTRUCTION				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	48	5.30	1,998,949	10,643,063.07
JULIUS BERGER NIGERIA PLC	14	28.00	53,669	1,457,627.10
MULTIVERSE RESOURCES PLC	6	0.50	1,074,500	537,250.00
ROADS NIGERIA PLC	1	3.46	10,000	32,900.00
SECTORTOTALS	69		3,137,118	12,670,840.17
ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY				
CUTIX PLC	2	2.90	70,000	203,000.00
NIGERIAN WIRE AND CABLE PLC	5	0.85	92,000	78,203.00
SECTORTOTALS	7		162,000	281,203.00
F/BEVERAGES & TOBACCO				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	6	30.60	13,400	430,302.00
BIG TREAT PLC	14	0.85	586,400	495,512.00
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	88	16.00	1,614,199	25,567,132.85
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	131	12.70	1,432,281	18,195,371.39
DANGOTE SUGAR REFINERY PLC	68	15.49	705,824	10,947,776.14
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	111	45.51	1,097,276	49,908,338.41
HONEYWELL FLOUR MILL PLC	5	6.72	305,500	2,052,855.00
NATIONAL SALT COY NIG. PLC	31	6.50	460,330	2,974,905.08
NIGERIAN BOTTLING COY PLC	22	27.10	169,842	4,385,081.74
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	19	268.00	42,712	11,485,638.55
NORTHERN NIG. FLOUR MILLS PLC	1	21.80	33	755.37

What is a Writer?
It is a bond with special funds set aside to retire the term bonds of a revenue issue each year according to a set schedule.

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TANTALIZERS PLC	35	0.87	2,759,655	2,336,496.05
UTC NIGERIA PLC	12	0.75	79,807	62,047.22
SECTORTOTALS	543		9,267,259	128,842,211.80
HEALTHCARE				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC.	14	1.12	231,802	264,691.16
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	52	2.37	4,166,437	9,785,861.96
GLAXOSMITHKLINE CONSUMER NIG. PLC	29	26.50	192,333	4,996,010.30
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	12	4.80	39,546	193,040.80
NEIMETH INTER PHARMS PLC	16	1.47	191,166	271,999.70
U/DIAGNOSTIC & CLINICAL SERV PLC	9	0.70	2,370,120	1,680,784.00
SECTORTOTALS	132		7,191,404	17,192,387.92
HOTEL & TOURISM				
KEJAL HOTEL PLC	8	2.53	266,000	667,670.00
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	19	1.70	330,383	561,451.10
SECTORTOTALS	27		596,383	1,229,121.10
INDUSTRIAL/DOMESTIC PRODUCTS				
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	9	11.50	263,400	3,027,670.24
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	4	0.50	179,625	89,812.50
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	13	4.81	345,868	1,661,437.67
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	2	0.63	51,000	32,130.00
SECTORTOTALS	28		839,893	4,811,050.41
INFO & COMM. TECHNOLOGY				
CHAMS PLC	24	0.74	1,094,292	811,749.84
IHS NIGERIA PLC	1	4.03	1,000	4,030.00
MAS TELECOM INNOVATION NIG. PLC	3	0.50	40,700	20,350.00
STARCOMMS PLC	15	2.11	5,438,550	11,485,302.00
SECTORTOTALS	43		6,574,542	12,321,431.84
INSURANCE				
AFRICAN ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	5	0.52	95,398	49,606.96
AIICO INSURANCE PLC.	117	1.05	2,656,919	2,789,564.95
CONTINENTAL REINSUR. PLC	26	1.00	6,238,915	6,338,569.25
CORNERSTONE INSUR. CO. PLC.	15	0.53	610,560	320,783.10
CUSTODIAN & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	13	3.00	732,605	2,213,165.56
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	4	0.50	65,500	32,750.00
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	41	0.52	11,363,370	5,805,796.10
GUARANTY TRUST ASSUR. PLC	20	2.28	974,592	2,220,597.92
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC.	2	0.50	76,000	38,000.00
CONSOLIDATED HALLMARK INSUR. PLC	5	0.50	89,000	44,500.00
INTER. ENERGY INSUR. COY. PLC	51	0.55	9,031,900	4,909,164.26
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC.	66	0.51	6,250,734	3,178,012.00
LAW UNION & ROCK INSUR. PLC.	8	0.58	933,500	526,725.00
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	2	0.50	6,000	3,000.00
MUTUAL BENEFITS ASSUR. PLC	5	0.64	233,200	149,248.00
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC.	30	0.53	1,869,292	999,690.84
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC.	16	0.71	1,487,555	1,054,619.58
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	2	1.35	81,000	109,350.00
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC.	1	3.61	10,000	34,300.00
REGENCY ALLIANCE INSUR. COY. PLC	1	0.50	1,200	600.00
SOVEREIGN TRUST INSUR. PLC	1	0.50	3,650	1,825.00
STACO INSURANCE PLC	1	0.83	10,000	7,900.00
STANDARD ALLIANCE INSUR. PLC	30	0.53	3,861,000	2,047,730.00
UNIC INSURANCE PLC.	9	0.78	308,462	239,550.36
UNIVERSAL INSUR. COY. PLC	6	0.50	165,000	82,500.00
INTERCONTINENTAL WAPCO INSUR. PLC	10	1.00	688,164	687,998.00
SECTORTOTALS	487		47,843,516	33,885,546.88
LEASING				
C&I LEASING PLC	25	2.58	513,876	1,334,776.72
SECTORTOTALS	25		513,876	1,334,776.72
MARITIME				
JAPPAUL OIL & MARITIME SERV. PLC	121	1.25	3,170,590	3,915,476.45
SECTORTOTALS	121		3,170,590	3,915,476.45
MEDIA				
DAAR COMMUNICATIONS PLC	31	0.73	1,319,031	989,559.97
SECTORTOTALS	31		1,319,031	989,559.97
MORTGAGE COMPANIES				
ABBEY BUILDING SOCIETY PLC	1	1.61	500	765.00
ASO SAVINGS & LOAN PLC	33	0.65	5,837,892	3,759,105.76
RESORT SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	12	0.50	3,596,500	1,798,250.00
UNION HOMES SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	44	0.90	2,011,627	1,836,764.63
SECTORTOTALS	90		11,446,519	7,394,885.39
OTHER FINANCIAL INST.				
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC.	10	0.98	1,260,000	1,222,400.00
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	9	0.60	611,101	370,410.60
SECTORTOTALS	19		1,871,101	1,592,810.60
PACKAGING				
NIG. BAG MANUFACTURING COY. PLC	409	2.45	4,084,058	9,999,905.50
SECTORTOTALS	409		4,084,058	9,999,905.50
PETROLEUM (MARKETING)				
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC.	57	39.50	400,584	15,711,304.55
BECO PETROLEUM PRODUCT PLC	9	2.24	237,305	495,332.60
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	8	69.79	4,425	313,347.00
CONOIL PLC	13	31.00	43,828	1,362,224.10
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC.	26	6.50	292,972	1,814,867.83
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC.	20	97.51	49,973	4,630,503.12
OANDO PLC	11	93.99	6,156	578,602.44
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC	17	142.50	13,168	1,914,738.15
SECTORTOTALS	161		1,048,411	26,820,919.79
PRINTING & PUBLISHING				
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	2	9.76	1,000	9,280.00
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	4	5.40	78,254	401,511.60
SECTORTOTALS	6		79,254	410,791.60
OVERALL TOTALS	6,490		284,089,386	1,641,682,612.12

GAINERS	AP	0.90
	WAPCO	0.51
	NAHCO	0.40
	CADBURY	0.35

LOSERS	FLOURMILL	0.51
	VITAFOAM	0.18
	FIRSTBANK	0.18
	IBTC	0.16



SUBSIDY SPEND
2006-2009
N2.5 trillion
2010 Projection:
N600 billion

PETROL SUBSIDY IS...

- **Unconstitutional:** Subsidy payments are not budgeted for and has no legal backing.
- **Unfair:** Benefits a few despite all States' contribution to subsidy.
- **A Huge Financial Burden:** Huge amount paid as subsidy could have completely eradicated the nation's infrastructural challenges.
- **A Value Destroyer:** Promotes inefficiency and deprives the nation the opportunity to realise its potentials.

This subsidy is not sustainable and therefore does not make sense.



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NCC defers SIM card registration deadline

By Yunus Abdulhamid

THE Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has pushed back the mandatory SIM card registration from March 1 to May 1, 2010.

A statement issued by the NCC's Head, Media & Public Relations, Bashir Batel, on Monday said the deferment became

necessary "following the discovery that large amount of SIM cards with instant activation features, which were already distributed by the service providers before the earlier announcement, would not have been cleared out before March 1, 2010." He said the new deadline is expected to give the operating companies to clear the backlog of SIM cards in the

market to allow for seamless registration of all new SIM cards from the new date. The Commission has directed all telecom operating companies to put all necessary arrangements in place to ensure that all new SIM cards are registered before they are activated with effect from May 1, 2010.

The extended period will also give the service providers the

extra time to finalise the installation of all necessary facilities for the registration, Muoka said. There had been concerned raised by telecoms stakeholders that the mandatory registration of SIM card owners might lead to a sharp growth in the industry when it was announced last year.

The NCC had however insisted that the measure was to improve

security in the nation as was the standard practice in other parts of the world. The registration process will include the capture of the photograph and biometrics of the subscriber.

Existing SIM Card holders, necessary processes and procedures are currently being put in place to guarantee a smooth registration exercise, NCC said.

Firm to train 10m rural dwellers on ICT

By Yunus Abdulhamid, who was in Ibadan

THE Universal Service Provision Fund (USPF) has made a commitment of training 10 million rural dwellers on Information Communications Technology (ICT) from the South West.

This is part of its five-year strategic plan running from 2007 to 2011, the Director/ Secretary of the fund, Mr Funso Fayomi said this in Ibadan at a two day Stakeholders Consultative Forum for the zone. The theme of the workshop was "Driving Development Through ICTs."

USPF is an arm of the Nigeria Telecommunications Commission (NCC) responsible for the design and promote on of widespread availability of network services and application throughout Nigeria, especially in the un-served and underserved areas.

Fayomi said the workshop, which had more than 600 participants in attendance, was to have a firsthand interaction with the people to have feedback from opinion leaders and community based groups on their area of ICT needs to tailor the trainings.

He said the same consultation would be taken to other geopolitical zones of Nigeria to take ICT to all corners of the country as enshrined in the World Summit of Information Society action plan.

In his remarks, Minister of State for Information and Communications, Alhaji Ikra Bilbis who is the chairman of the USPF board said, "The current low penetration of ICT platforms in the rural areas and attendant uptake can be turned around as seen in the case of mobile telephoning. This can help further expand wealth, reduce poverty and decrease the level of unemployment with its attendant socio-economic consequences." He was represented by Chief Moses Makinde, a board member.

Director of the Commonwealth Telecommunication Organization (CTO), Bashir Batel said, "the organization has selected 18 African countries who are Commonwealth members to assist in the area of ICT, part of which deals with access, connectivity, content and services" to underserved communities. While commenting on the forum, the Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC), Engr Ernest Ndukwe who was represented by the Director of USPF, Funso Fayomi stated that, "the USPF, using the bottom-up approach seek to include in its programme implementation, projects that are specific to particular locations, it is hoped that the numerous Community Based Organizations (CBOs) in the various region take up the challenge for development of their respective localities."



DIRECTOR Programme Development, Commonwealth Telecommunications Organisation, Mr. Bashir Patel (L) chatting with Director of USPF, Mr Funso Fayomi at a two-day USPF Stakeholders Consultative Forum for South Western Nigeria in Ibadan, Oyo State over the weekend. At the extreme right is Growing Businesses Foundation Founder, Mrs. Ndidi Nnoli-Edozien.

ITU sees 5bn mobile subscriptions in 2010

AFTER reaching around 4.6 billion mobile cellular subscriptions by the end of 2009, ITU expects the number of mobile cellular subscriptions globally to reach five billion in 2010, driven by advanced services and handsets in developed countries and increased take-up of mobile health services and mobile banking in the developing world.

"Even during an economic crisis, we have seen no drop in the demand for communications services," says ITU Secretary-General Dr Hamadoun Touré, taking part in the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona, "and I am confident that we will continue to see a rapid uptake in mobile cellular services in particular in 2010, with many more people using their phones to access the internet."

ITU expects to see the number

of mobile broadband subscriptions exceed one billion globally during 2010, having topped 600 million by the end of 2009. With current growth rates, web access by people on the move - via laptops and smart mobile devices - is likely to exceed web access from desktop computers within the next five years.

"Even the simplest, low-end mobile phone can do so much to improve healthcare in the developing world," adds Dr Touré. "Good examples include sending reminder messages to patient's phones when they have a medical appointment, or need a pre-natal check-up. Or using SMS messages to deliver instructions on when and how to take complex medication such as anti-retrovirals or vaccines. It's such a simple thing to do,

and yet it saves millions of dollars - and can help improve and even save the lives of millions of people."

Concerning mobile banking, rapid growth in mobile cellular subscriptions has meant that there are now large numbers of people worldwide, especially in developing countries, who have a mobile phone subscription but no bank account - and increasingly, subscribers are using their phones for banking.

ITU is the main source of internationally comparable data and statistics on ICT. The Market Information and Statistics Division of the Telecommunication Development Bureau (BDT) collects, harmonizes and disseminates more than 100 telecommunication and ICT indicators from over 200 economies worldwide.

Etisalat hosts distributors to dinner

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

AS part of its commitment to build strong partnership with its distribution partners, Etisalat Nigeria is set to host a Distribution Partners' Award Event to recognize and reward them for their contribution to the continuing growth of its business in Nigeria.

The award, scheduled for March 4, 2010 in Abuja, according to a statement issued by the company, is set to celebrate the unique partnership that keeps Nigeria talking.

"The award ceremony promises to be an evening of superlative fun, glitz and glamour as

the company rolls out the red carpet for the distribution partners," the statement said.

Chief Commercial Officer, Etisalat Nigeria Wael Ammar explained that the award night is planned to celebrate and reward the distribution partners' commitment to the success of the company's business.

"Our distribution partners play a key role in the fast and expansive development of our business and it is for this reason, amongst others, that we are keen to continually engage with them as we gain market share in the Nigerian telecommunications market. Rewarding them for the level of support they had given us and the level of support we look forward to receiving, is very much in line with our robust business strategy."

Visafone rolls out services in Maiduguri

From Zakariyya Adaramola, Lagos

VISAFONE says it has expanded its coverage to Maiduguri, capital of Borno State. It said the company's entrance into Maiduguri is a further expression of its commitment to increase access to world-class telecommunication services at customer friendly tariffs, to customers across different states and cities. "Residents of Maiduguri and its environs will have the opportunity to enjoy several packages from the company's bouquet. These include Visa Internet, for fast and reliable access to the internet; VisaChill, a product which enables subscribers to make free mid-night calls; Visa Profit, designed for increased business returns; and Visa Call Hunting, a re-definition in customer care designed for both small and large organisations", the statement said. The statement issued by the company explained that subscribers in Maiduguri have the option to choose from a rich array of low, mid and high-end mobile phones to meet their personal and business needs.



FEDERAL JUDICIAL SERVICE COMMISSION, ABUJA

SUPREME COURT COMPLEX, THREE ARMS ZONE, P.M.B. 484, ABUJA.

INVITATION FOR PRE-QUALIFICATION EXERCISE

Preamble:

The Federal Judicial Service Commission (FJSC) wishes to invite competent, and reputable contractors and other service providers to apply for pre-qualification for the jobs specified below in its Year 2010 Budget. Comprehensive details in respect of the pre-qualification are as follows.

LOT 1: PURCHASE OF ASSORTED VEHICLES:

LOT 2: OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT:

- (a) Supply of Office Furniture
- (b) Supply of Office Equipment
- (c) Purchase and Installation of Library Equipment
- (d) Purchase and installation of Training Equipment

LOT 3: COMPUTERIZATION:

- (a) Purchase of Computer Hardwares,
- (b) Installation of Computer Software
- (c) Expansion of the existing IT System
- (d) Upgrading of E-Payment Platform

LOT 4: POWER GENERATING PLANTS

Purchase and installation of Power Generating Plants

LOT 5: WATER SUPPLY (BOREHOLES)

Drilling of Water Boreholes

LOT 6: MAINTENANCE AND OTHER SERVICES

- (a) Maintenance of Vehicles
- (b) General Maintenance of Office Buildings
- (c) Maintenance of Office Furniture
- (d) Maintenance of Office Equipment.
- (e) Maintenance of Computers.
- (f) Fumigation and Cleaning of Offices and Stores

LOT 7: OFFICE MATERIALS, TOOLS AND OTHER CONSUMABLES

- (a) Supply of Stationeries
- (b) Supply of Library Books
- (c) Supply of Air Freshners, Disinfectants, Toilet Paper, Liquid soap
Hand wash, First aid materials, etc.
- (d) Supply of Consumables.
- (e) Supply of Electrical fittings.
- (f) Supply of Computer Accessories
- (g) Supply of Tools (Wheel Barrows, Shovels, Cutlasses etc).
- (f) Supply of Motor Vehicles tools, Tyres, Batteries, Spare Parts, etc.

LOT 8: UNIFORMS AND OTHER CLOTHING

Supply of uniforms and other clothing materials for Drivers, Security Guards, Craftsmen.

LOT 9: PRINTING OF NON-SECURITY DOCUMENTS.

LOT 10: STAFF TRAINING:

Workshops, Seminars, Induction Courses, Capacity building, Conferences etc.

LOT 11: CONSULTANCY SERVICES

- (a) Information Technology
- (b) Legal
- (c) Engineering
- (d) Finance and Management
- (e) Health

PRE-QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Prospective Contractors shall be required to possess the following pre-qualification documents:

- (a) Evidence of Registration with the Federal Judicial Service Commission (Not mandatory).
- (b) Valid Certificate of Incorporation/Registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission.
- (c) Current Tax Clearance Certificate for the last 3 years (2007, 2008, 2009).
- (d) Value Added Tax Registration Certificate.
- (e) Company's Profile including detail of key staff strength
- (f) Name and Address of Banker(s) including a letter of reference from the bank.
- (g) Evidence of execution of similar contracts with the Federal Judicial Service Commission or any other government establishment. (Letter of Award and Certificate of successful completion must be attached.)
- (h) Audited Financial Statements for the past 3 years.

SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Pre-qualification documents should be enclosed in a sealed envelope marked "2010 PRE-QUALIFICATION" and must be addressed and returned within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication to:

The Secretary,
Federal Judicial Service Commission,
Supreme Court Complex,
P.M.B. 484,
Abuja.

PLEASE NOTE:

- (a) Late submissions will be rejected.
- (b) The Advertisement for "Pre-Qualification to tender" shall not be construed to be a commitment on the part of the Federal Judicial Service Commission, Abuja nor shall it entitle any person to make any claim whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from the Commission by virtue of such tender having responded to this advert.
- (c) Application for pre-qualification must be specific and should clearly state area of proven competence and interest.
- (d) Pre-qualification for each lot should be done separately as non-compliance may lead to disqualification.

SIGNED:
Adamu B. Abdul
FOR: SECRETARY



SHIRORO HYDROELECTRIC PLC.

P. M. B. 125 MINNA, NIGER STATE.

GENERAL PROCUREMENT NOTICE AND INVITATION FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST/PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR 2010 FISCAL YEAR

Preambles:

In compliance with the Public Procurement Act 2007 (as amended) the Management of Shiroro Hydroelectric plc wishes to notify the General Public on its need to procure Goods and services in 2010 fiscal year. The procurement of these Goods and Services are to be funded from year 2010 Federal Government Appropriation and the Multi Year Tariff Order (MYTO)/ Internally Generated Revenue (IGR).

The company wishes to invite interested, competent, reputable and qualified contractors to apply for pre-qualification for category SH 2 and/or express interest for SH 1 in respect of each LOT of their interest.

LOT SH 1	WORKS/ SERVICES
LOT SH 1A	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of 1MW Black Start Generating Set
LOT SH 1B	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Automatic Reservoir Monitoring System
LOT SH 1C	Construction of Weather Yard and Supply of Meteorological Equipment
LOT SH 1D	Renovation of the 30-Bed Hospital Complex
LOT SH 1E	Renovation of Staff Quarters
LOT SH 1F	Supply, installation and Commissioning of X-Ray Diagnostic Equipment
LOT SH 1G	Bathymetric Survey of the Reservoir
LOT SH 1H	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Chiller Plant
LOT SH 1I	Extension of Power Supply
LOT SH 1J	Rehabilitation of Road network
LOT SH 1K	Provision of Potable Water
LOT SH 1L	Human Capital Development Programmes
LOT SH 1M	Spraying of Power Transformer
LOT SH 1N	Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Internet Facility
LOT SH 1O	Rehabilitation of Gantry Cranes
LOT SH 2	GOODS
LOT SH 2A	Supply of Vehicles
LOT SH 2B	Supply of Secondary School Science Laboratory Equipment and Chemical/Reagents
LOT SH 2C	Supply of Governor Oil Pump Control Unit
LOT SH 2D	Supply of Pump Control Unit Relief Valve
LOT SH 2E	Supply of Aeration Pipe/Support Plates
LOT SH 2F	Supply of Hospital Drugs and Laboratory Equipment/Materials
LOT SH 2G	Supply of Automobile Spares Parts and Tools
LOT SH 2H	Supply of Chemical Analysis Laboratory Equipment
LOT SH 2I	Supply of Lubricants
LOT SH 2J	Supply of Stationery
LOT SH 2K	Supply of Materials Handling Equipment
LOT SH 2L	Supply of Pumps
LOT SH 2M	Supply of Water Treatment Chemicals
LOT SH 2N	Supply of Air-conditioners
LOT SH 2O	Supply of Office Furniture
LOT SH 2P	Supply of Electrical Maintenance Materials
LOT SH 2Q	Supply of Mechanical Maintenance Materials
LOT SH 2R	Supply of Safety Wears

TENDER REQUIREMENTS:

All bids must be accompanied with the following:

1. A copy of Certificate of Incorporation/Business Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) in Nigeria.
2. Current Company Tax Clearance Certificate for the last 3 years in case of a Nigerian company. Originals to be produced for sighting.
3. Updated Value Added Tax Registration Certificate (VAT) and evidence of VAT remittances in the last three years.
4. Company profile including, among others, organizational structure and key professional staff, relevant manufacturing capacity; copy of company and equipment brochure should be submitted along side bids.
5. Evidence of having successfully done similar work/supply/services and respective locations in the past.

6. Evidence of financial capacity (Please submit company's Bank Statement in the last one year).
7. Detailed list of equipment owned/to be hired by the company for works.
8. Sworn affidavit affirming that information being provided by bidders are correct.
9. Any other relevant information that will place the bidding company on a comparative advantage over others.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

1. All documents submitted will be subjected to verification from the relevant agencies.
2. Only technically qualified companies will be allowed to participate in the competitive tender.
3. Bids can only be submitted within working hours
4. This advertisement shall not be construed as a commitment on the part of Shiroro Hydroelectric plc nor shall it entitle responding bidders to seek any indemnity from PHCN by virtue of such bidder having responded to this advertisement.
5. Late submission will not be entertained.

SUBMISSION OF DOCUMENTS

The Pre-qualification Documents/Expression of interest must be submitted in sealed envelopes indicating clearly the category and Lot number as contained in this advert marked "**Pre-qualification/Expression of interest for 2010 procurement**" which must be submitted within six (6) weeks from the date of this publication and addressed to:

The Chief Executive Officer,
Shiroro Hydroelectric plc
P. M. B. 125
Minna.
Niger State.

Submission of the bid shall close at 12 noon,
Monday 5th April 2010.

MANAGEMENT

FEDERAL MINISTRY OF FINANCE



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



HIGH COURT OF THE FEDERAL CAPITAL TERRITORY, ABUJA

2010 INVITATION FOR PRE – QUALIFICATION TO TENDER

The High Court of Justice, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja wishes to pre-qualify competent contractors and other service providers who wish to tender for contracts for construction and supply of goods and services in the year 2010.

Interested persons are hereby invited to submit their documents for screening and further necessary action.

The court will require the following goods and services:

(1) SUPPLY OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND SPARE PARTS

- (a) Peugeot 307 station Wagon vehicles.
- (b) Kia Rio and Kia Caren Cars.
- (c) Honda Accord (Discussion conts.)
- (d) Honda Civic (leather) full option.
- (e) Water Tanker.
- (f) Mitsubishi Canter.
- (g) Toyota Hilux single and double cabin.

(2) SUPPLY OF OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT

- (a) **Supply of Court Furniture.**
- (b) **Supply of Residential furniture and equipment.**
- (c) **Supply of Office Equipment such as:** Fax Machine, Electric Typewriters (IBM), Shredder Machines, Security Safes (Fire Proof), Adding Machines, Air Conditioners, Refrigerators, Standing Fans, Ceiling Fans, Steel Filing Cabinets, Photocopier Machines, Television sets, TV stands, wall clocks, Rubbish bins, stabilizers, Ups etc.

(3) SUPPLY OF COMPUTERS, COMPUTER ACCESSORIES, NETWORKING AND COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT

- (a) Supply of Desktop and Laptop computers.
- (b) Deskjet and Laserjet Printers.
- (c) Supply of Court Recording equipment.
- (d) Provision of Intercom services.
- (e) Computerization of Courts.
- (f) Supply of Projectors and related equipment.

(4) Construction of Court Building and Multi-level Car Park.

(5) PROVISION OF CONSULTANCY SERVICES IN THE FOLLOWING AREAS.

- (a) Construction.
- (b) Information Technology.
- (c) Finance.
- (d) Legal services.
- (6) Rehabilitation of courts and Hon. Judges Quarters.
- (7) Sinking of New and Rehabilitation of existing Boreholes in courts and Hon. Judges Quarters.
- (8) **Supply of Power Generating plants/Installation and Generator spare parts.**
- (9) Rehabilitation of fire fighting equipment & Replacement of central Alarm systems in residence & Court buildings.
- (10) **Supply of Library Books, Equipment and periodicals.**
- (11) **Printing of Judicial Forms, probate forms, non-security documents and other documents.**

(12) MAINTENANCE SERVICES

- (a) Facility management of courts.
- (b) Maintenance of Vehicles.
- (c) Maintenance of Office Furniture.

- (d) Maintenance of Office Equipment.
- (e) Maintenance of Generators and Plants.
- (f) Maintenance of Computers.
- (g) Maintenance of Judges' Quarters.
- (h) Maintenance of Courts.

(13) Supply of stationeries.

(14) SUPPLY OF VARIOUS STATIONERIES TO THE COURTS AND OFFICES

- (a) **Supply of Sporting Equipment.**
- (b) **Supply of Sanitation Equipment.**
- (c) **Supply of Security Equipment.**
- (d) Supply of Dinner Sets, Tea Sets, Kettles, Cutlery Sets etc.

(15) SUPPLY OF UNIFORMS

Supply of Uniforms for the Drivers, Securitymen, Craftsmen, Artisans, Registrars and court clerks etc.

PRE – QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENT

Prospective Contractors Shall be required to possess the following pre – qualification documents:

- (a) Valid Certificate of Incorporation/Registration.
- (b) Current Tax Clearance Certificate.
- (c) Value Added Tax Registration Certificate.
- (d) Three Years' company Audited Accounts (Companies with annual turn-over of less than Two Hundred Million Naira (N200,000,000) need **NOT** to apply).
- (e) Evidence of Registration as a Contractor with the High Court of the FCT, Abuja.
- (f) Company profile with Curriculum Vitae of Directors.
- (g) Details of Equipment and Plants.
- (h) Bank Reference Letter.
- (i) Evidence of execution of similar contracts with the High Court or any other Government establishment (Letter or Certificate of Successful completion must be attached).

SUBMISSION OF PRE – QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Pre-qualification document should be enclosed in sealed envelop marked "2010 PRE – QUALIFICATION" and must be returned to Tenders Board Secretariat, High Court of Justice Abuja, within two (2) weeks from the date of this publication, addressed to:

The Secretary,
High Court of the FCT, Maitama,
Abuja, F.C.T.

PLEASE NOTE:

- (a) All documents submitted will be subject to verification by the Court from relevant Agencies like CAC, FIRS etc.
- (b) Late submission will be rejected.
- (c) This advertisement for "Pre – qualification to tender" shall not be construed to be a Commitment on the part of the High Court of the FCT, Abuja nor shall it entitle any person to make any claims and / or seek any indemnity from the Court by virtue of such person having responded to this advert.
- (d) Applicants must be specific in their areas of specialization and interest.

SIGNED:
GARBA M. GUMMI
FOR: CHIEF REGISTRAR
HIGH COURT OF THE FCT, ABUJA



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION,

INVITATION TO TENDER FOR THE GENERAL CLEANING SERVICES OF THE FEDERAL SECRETARIAT PHASE I AND OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION, PRESIDENCY, SHEHU SHAGARI COMPLEX, THREE ARM ZONE, ABUJA

The Office of the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (OSGF) intends to contract the cleaning services in the Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase 1, as well as the Shehu Shagari Complex, Three Arm Zone, Abuja.

2. The Ministerial Tenders Board of the Office of the Secretary to Government of the Federation hereby invites interested competent and reputable facility management companies to submit tenders for the work.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work shall be as follows:

- (i) Daily sweeping and cleaning of allotted lot;
- (ii) Daily cleaning of all fixed items, movable items and structural components in the allotted lot to include tables, chairs, glass surfaces, metal surfaces, wood surfaces, concrete surfaces, etc.;
- (iii) Daily mopping, scrubbing and polishing of all granite floors/surfaces in the allotted lot;
- (iv) Daily hovering of all carpets and upholstery in the allotted lot;
- (v) Constant and emergency mopping and keeping dry any wet area or item which may occur as a result of flooding or heavy staining as may occur in the allotted lot;
- (vi) Three monthly (Quarterly) comprehensive dry-cleaning and shampooing of all carpets in the allotted lot; and
- (vii) Collection of refuse within the allotted lot to be dumped at the central refuse dump sites for periodic evacuation by the Abuja Environmental Protection Board (AEPB), in any of the following lots:-

- Lot 1: Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase 1, Abuja, Tower A (inclusive of odd floors lift lobby);
- Lot 2: Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase 1, Abuja, Tower B (inclusive of even floors lift lobby);
- Lot 3: Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase 1, Abuja, Annex 1A & 1B;
- Lot 4: Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase 1, Abuja, Annex II A & B;
- Lot 5: Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase 1, Annex III A & B;
- Lot 6: P-Wing of the Shehu Shagari Complex, Three Arm Zone, Abuja; and
- Lot 7: Main Building, Shehu Shagari Complex, Three Arm Zone, Abuja.

4. QUALIFICATIONS/REQUIREMENTS

All interested Companies are required to submit the following documents:

- (i) Copy of the company registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission;
- (ii) Copy of Tax Clearance Certificate for the last three (3) years;
- (iii) Copy of VAT Registration Certificate inclusive of TIN;
- (iv) Evidence of compliance with the Pensions Act;

- (v) CVs including e-mail addresses of key personnel including photocopies of relevant professional certificates where applicable;
- (vi) List any verifiable documentary evidence of similar jobs successfully executed within the last three (3) years or being currently handled with contract sums not less than N5m;
- (vii) List of tools and equipment to be used for the work and their locations. State whether or not the tools and equipment are on lease or owned;
- (viii) Evidence of working capital of not less than N5,000,000.00;
- (ix) Affidavit disclosing whether or not any officer of the OSGF or BPP is a former or present director, shareholder or has any pecuniary interest in the bidder and confirm that all information presented in its bid are true and correct in all particular; and
- (x) Bid security of 2% of bid price.

5. COLLECTION OF TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL BID DOCUMENTS

All interested bidders are hereby requested to collect relevant technical and financial bid documents upon a written application address to the Deputy Director (Procurement), Procurement Unit, OSGF, 6th floor of Tower B, Room 1B, Federal Secretariat Complex

6. SUBMISSION

The technical and financial tender bid documents should be collected from and upon completion, should be submitted simultaneously but in separate envelopes marked "TENDER FOR GENERAL SERVICES IN LOT" and addressed to the Secretary, Ministerial Tenders Board, in Room 1B 6/22 on the 6th Floor of Tower B, of the Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase 1, Abuja. Deadline for submission shall be 2.00 p.m. on 5th April, 2010 and the contractors or their representatives are invited to witness the opening of the bids immediately after the deadline.

Notes

- (a) Late submission shall not be accepted;
- (b) The Office of the Secretary to Government of the Federation, (OSGF) may reject all bids at any time without incurring any liability whatsoever submitted;
- (c) Only contractors whose technical bids are successful shall be invited to the financial bid opening.

Permanent Secretary
Office of the Secretary to the Government
of the Federation



NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA STAFF VACANCIES

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT

The National Library of Nigeria is the apex Library in the country. It was established by Act No. 29 of 1970 and has responsibility for the development and provision of Library and Information Services in Nigeria.

This specialized professional institution invites applications from suitably qualified, mature and motivated candidates, with excellent work ethics and attitudes, to fill the following vacant positions:

1.0 DIRECTOR (PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES) - CONTISS 15 (N2,232,99.00 X N80,447.00 - N2, 875,791.00 (2 Positions)

RESPONSIBILITIES

Under the general direction of the Director/Chief Executive Officer:

- Performs highly responsible Professional and administrative duties as Head of Department.
- Formulates policies, plans and programmes for the effective operations of a department of the National Library of Nigeria.
- Carries out specialized operational and research activities in Management and Information Services as they relate to any of the following departments:
 - (a) Collection Development and Processing;
 - (b) National Bibliographic Control;
 - (c) Research and Development;
 - (d) Public Services;
 - (e) Virtual Library Services

(B) Competencies

- Deep understanding of role of National Library as the main depository of legal deposit Materials.
- Appreciation of role of National Library as linchpin in the development of Library and Information Services in the country
- Compelling vision of the role of National Library in National Development.
- Possession of excellent managerial, interpersonal, communication, organizational and planning skills.
- Knowledge of Library automation software and general usage of ICT in Library operations.
- Demonstrated ability to effectively assemble, organise, motivate and lead a professional staff of not less than 50, in the department of primary responsibility.
- Good interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work in a multi-ethnic environment and to maintain effective working relations with people of different linguistic and cultural backgrounds.

(C) Academic and Professional Qualifications

Applicants are required to possess a University degree, with honours in Library Science OR in any discipline plus appropriate professional qualifications e.g. FLA, MLS, (Library Science) or PH.D (Library Science) obtained from a recognized institution of higher learning. Registration with the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria is a mandatory requirement.

(D) Experience

A minimum of eighteen (18) years post-professional qualification experience is required, five (5) of which must be in a Management position.

(E) Publication

Commitment to continual professional development through scholarly research, including publications in reputable journals, presentation and participation at workshops/seminars and robust activity in the work of Nigeria Library Association either at National, Sectional or State Chapter Level.

Candidates who have less than three years experience as Deputy Directors at Federal level or as Directors at state level NEED NOT APPLY.

2.0 DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION -CONTISS 15 (N2,232,199.00 X N80,447.00 N2,875,791.00)

(A) RESPONSIBILITIES

Within delegated authority, the Director of Administration will be responsible for the following duties:

- Initiating and coordinating actions covering the entire span of

human resource activities, e.g. recruitment, placement, Promotion, performance appraisal, job classification reviews and training.

- Providing advice with respect to Conditions of Service, Public Service Rules, duties and responsibilities, privileges and entitlements of staff.

- Advising the Director/Chief Executive Officer on Human Resource issues, thus contributing in the formulation /interpretation of policies of the National Library Board.

(B) Competencies

- Proven ability to plan and organise work requiring an in depth understanding of the Department's strategic direction.
- Commitment to the goal of achieving Federal balance in staffing.
- Good interpersonal skills and demonstrated ability to work in a multi-ethnic environment and to maintain effective working relations with people of different linguistic and cultural backgrounds.
- Mature judgments and ability to provide strategic work structure to maximize productivity and achieve goals.
- Ability to coach, mentor and develop staff.
- Capacity to encourage good performance, coordinate and monitor the work of others and to delegate appropriate responsibility, accountability and decision-making authority.

(C) Academic and Professional Qualification

A first degree with honours in either Humanities or any Social Sciences. Membership of a recognized Professional Administration/Personnel Management body is essential. Possession of post graduate qualification e.g. M.F.A. M.L.L.R., MBA etc will be an added advantage.

(D) Experience

A minimum of eighteen (18) years post-qualification cognate experience in the public or private sector will be required. **Candidates who have less than three years experience as deputy Directors at Federal level OR as Directors at state level NEED NOT APPLY.**

3.0 DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS CONTISS 15 (2,232,199.00 X N80,447.00 N2,875,791.00)

(A) RESPONSIBILITIES

Within delegated authority, the Director of Finance and Accounts will be responsible for the following duties:

- Exercising overall supervision of work of Department.
- Ensuring full implementation of Financial Regulations.
- Planning, integrating and coordinating the work of supervisors responsible for the various units of the Department.
- Providing authoritative advice, financial interpretations, and corrective actions in response to audits to ensure adherence to Financial Regulations.
- Ensuring that accurate and complete accounting, reporting and internal control systems are functioning and that all relevant records are maintained.
- Arranging end-of-year closure of account, reports and bank reconciliations.
- Establishing and maintaining a set of sound policies, procedures and standards in order to ensure proper accounting, financial management and control.
- Performing other related duties as directed.

(B) Competencies

- A complete in-depth grasp of financial principles and practice with sound command and knowledge of budget development and financial administration.
- Ability to establish priorities and to plan, coordinate and monitor own work plan and those under his/her supervision.
- Good computer skills in word processing and spreadsheet.
- Demonstrated ability to develop and maintain effective work relationships with relevant government agencies.
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to maintain effective working relations with people in a multi-ethnic environment, with sensitivity and respect for diversity.

(C) Academic and Professional Qualification

A first degree with honours in Accountancy from a recognized University, plus possession of professional qualification of any of the following accounting bodies:

- (i) Institute of Chartered Accountants of Nigeria (ICAN).

- (ii) ANAN
- (iii) ACCA
- (iv) ICMA (obtained from abroad ICPA)

(D) Experience

A minimum of eighteen (18) years post qualification cognate experience in Public or Private Sector will be required. **Candidates from South East, South-South, and South West, geopolitical zones are especially encouraged to apply for Job Titles 1, 2 and 3.**

Candidates who have less than three years experience as deputy Directors at Federal level OR as Directors at state level NEED NOT APPLY

4.0 DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES) CONTISS 14 (N1,820,908 x N70,108.00 N2,381,772.00)

(A) JOB DESCRIPTION

Under the general direction of the Director of Department:

- Responsible for the day-to-day operation of a Division;
- Deputizes for the Director in his absence;
- Discharges any other functions as may be assigned by the Director from time to time.

(B) Academic Qualifications

Applicants are required to possess first degree (not below 2nd class lower) in Library and Information Science and a post graduate professional qualification e.g. MLS., M.PHIL or PH.D in Library and Information Science obtained from a recognized institution of higher learning.

(C) Experience

A minimum of fifteen (15) years post-professional qualification experience is required. Knowledge and experience of new Information and Communication Technologies in Library and Information Management will be an added advantage. **Candidates presently earning below CONTISS 13 or Grade Level 15 need not apply.**

(D) Publication

Candidates must show evidence of authorship of not less than eleven (11) Conference /Seminar papers and five (5) journal articles published in Reputable Professional Journals OR three (3) chapters contributed in a standard text book OR one (1) standard text book.

5.0 CHIEF LIBRARIANS (PROFESSIONAL LIBRARY SERVICES) CONTISS 13 (1,445,529.00 x N57,976.00 N1,903,855.00)

(A) JOB DESCRIPTION

Under the supervision / direction of a Deputy Director:

- Responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Sections of the Department
- Carries out specialized, operational and research

activities in Management and Information services as they relate to any of the following major functional areas and duties:

- (a) Collection Development and Processing;
- (b) National Bibliographic Control;
- (c) Research and Development;
- (d) Public Services Department
- (e) Virtual Library Services Department
- (f) Discharges other duties as may be assigned by the Director from time to time.

5.1 REQUIREMENTS

Academic Qualification

Applicants are required to possess a University degree in Library Science and appropriate professional qualifications e.g. FLA, MLS, M.Phil (Library Science) obtained from a recognized institution of higher learning. Registration with the Librarian's Registration Council of Nigeria is a mandatory requirement.

Experience

A minimum of twelve (12) years post-professional qualification experience is required.

Knowledge and experience of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in Library Management will be an added advantage.

National Library of Nigeria cont.

6.0 CATALOGUERS

(A) Responsibilities

- Works under the supervision of Head of Division.
- Operates in the Bibliographic Services Division of the Department
- Performs Bibliographic services/duties, particularly Cataloguing and Classification

(B) Competences

- Proficiency in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) especially as it applies to Library Management and Operations.
- Excellent interpersonal and organizational skills.
- A good team player able to manage multi-tasks and work with minimum supervision.
- Knowledge of Online Public Access Catalogue (OPAC).
- Cognate experience in Cataloguing and Classification is essential.
- Good Internet skills for operation of Online Cataloguing.

(C) Academic Qualifications

Applicants are required to possess a university degree and appropriate professional qualifications, i.e. BLS, BLIS, MLS, M. Phil (Library Science) or PH.D (Library Science) from a recognized institution of higher learning. Registration with the Librarians' Registration Council of Nigeria (LRCN) is mandatory.

(D) Experience

Practical experience of at least four (4) years of continuous work in a Cataloguing environment is necessary. Entry point shall depend on experience and qualification.

7.0 PROGRAMME ANALYSTS AND DATA PROCESSING OFFICERS

(A) Responsibilities

- Manage the services provided by the internet café end-to-end.
- Customer service.
- Administration of workstations
- Billing and making necessary accounts.
- Periodic reporting on the activities of the cyber café on a quarterly and annual basis.
- Maintenance of all PC'S and the network in the cyber café.
- Provision of IT advice /support to internal office staff on an ad-hoc basis.
- Monitor internet use to ensure communication is maintained and that there is no downtime.
- Monitor and restrict download of inappropriate content that can compromise the entire network.
- Liaise with internet service providers (ISPs) in case of downtime on internet or e-mails.
- Ensure daily server maintenance.
- Assist users in need.
- Any other duties assigned by the Head of ICT.

(B) Competences

- A minimum of 2-3 years experience in cyber café management
- Strong analytical and organizations skills
- Excellent Communication Skills with good knowledge of Customer Service.
- In-depth interest in IT support and must be IT savvy.
- Basic knowledge of networking.
- Familiar with Windows environment.
- Experience in troubleshooting and repairing of Pcs.
- Possess analytical and problem-solving abilities.
- Possess high level of understanding in respect to both hardware and software related issues.
- OS Setup and configuration.
- PC/Notebook Deployment.
- Knowledge of Microsoft office Suite.

(C) Academic and Professional Qualifications

i Programme Analysts

Applicants are required to possess B.Sc. in Computer Science, Computer Engineering or Information Technology. In addition, have excellent, demonstrable computer skills and experience in same field.

ii Data Processing Officers

The applicants are required to possess Ordinary National Diploma in Computer Studies or Data Processing from Institutions recognized by Government.

(D) Experience

Practical experience of 2-6 years. Entry point shall depend on experience and qualification.

CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

The posts are on permanent and pensionable status, but new entrants into the service will be on probationary appointment for the first two years before their appointments may be confirmed, subject to satisfactory performance on the job. Other conditions of service are as obtained in institutions operating the Consolidated Tertiary Institutions Salary Scale (CONTISS) and the approved staff conditions of service of the National Library Board.

12 METHOD OF APPLICATION

Interested applications are required to submit fifteen (15) copies of their applications and detailed Curriculum Vitae, which should include names and addresses of three referees. Those currently in Public Service should forward their applications through their employers. Applicants should request their referees to send confidential reports on them direct to the National Library of Nigeria. All applications and referees' reports should be addressed to:

**THE DIRECTOR / CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NIGERIA, HEADQUARTERS,
SANUSI DANTATA HOUSE,
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT,
P.M.B. 1
GARKI - ABUJA**

CLOSING DATE

All applications should reach the office of the Director/Chief Executive Officer not later than six (6) weeks from the date of this advertisement.



**AMINU KANO TEACHING HOSPITAL
P.M.B. 3452, KANO.**

**INVITATION FOR
PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER**

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Management of Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital plans to execute the under listed projects under the 2010 Capital Budget.

2.0 PROJECTS

- Extension of Ophthalmology Department
- Construction of Admin Annex
- Expansion of Pharmacy Department
- Extension of Sewage line to 80 flats
- Extension of Health Record Department
- Purchase of Electrical Panels
- Provision of Picture Archiving & Communication System (PACS)

3.0 PRE-QUALIFICATION OF BIDDERS

Interested companies/suppliers with experience in similar jobs are hereby invited for pre-qualification.

Interested companies are expected to submit the following:-

- Evidence of Registration with Corporate Affairs Commission. (CAC)
- Copies of Tax Clearance Certificates for the last three years (2006, 2007 and 2008)
- Evidence of VAT Registration.
- Company profile, which should include CVs of key personnel with evidence of technical and Managerial capability.
- Evidence of similar projects executed in the past, including Letters of Award, Agreements and Certificates of Completion.
- Details of equipment and plants owned by the company (for building Contractors)
- Evidence of financial capability through letter of reference from a reputable bank.
- Evidence of payment of Non refundable Pre-qualification fee of Twenty thousand (20,000.00) in Bank Draft payable to AKTH, Kano.

Interested companies/suppliers applying for the pre-qualification should please note that:-

- Response to the pre-qualification is not an invitation to tender.
- The Hospital Management reserves the right to reject any or all pre-qualification submissions by a company.
- The Hospital will not enter into correspondence with any company/supplier on why the company was dis-qualified.
- This advertisement for pre-qualification should neither be construed as a commitment on the part of the Hospital nor shall it entitle companies/suppliers to make any claims whatsoever and/or seek any indemnity from the Hospital.

4.0 GUIDE FOR SUBMISSION OF PRE-QUALIFICATION DOCUMENTS

Two sets of the pre-qualification documents neatly bound and in separate sealed envelopes clearly marked "PRE-QUALIFICATION TO TENDER FOR..... At AMINU KANO TEACHING HOSPITAL", should be dropped in the tender box stationed at the Office of the Chief Medical Director, not later than two weeks from the date of this advertisement.

5.0 SCREENING OF DOCUMENTS

All submitted documents would be screened and those qualified will be notified in writing through their contact address.

Signed:

A.M. SULAIMAN

**AG. Director Of Administration
Aminu Kano Teaching Hospital, Kano.**

TRANSPARENCY MOVEMENT

SOKOTO STATE GUBERNATORIAL RE-RUN APPEAL: THE FACTS, THE ISSUES AND THE LAW

Suddenly, the Democratic People's Party (DPP) and its gubernatorial candidate during the 2007 gubernatorial election and the 2008 re-run election in Sokoto State, Alhaji Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi have gone into frenzy and hysteria in a desperate attempt to influence the outcome of their election petition presently before the Court of Appeal, Sokoto Judicial Division.

The Democratic People's Party (DPP) and its gubernatorial candidate Alhaji Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi have in the past few weeks sought to present themselves as the underdogs in the Gubernatorial dispute in Sokoto State who have already secured victory before the Court of Appeal and are about to be stripped of the said victory by the incumbent Governor and the Peoples Democratic Party.

They have in the process attempted albeit unsuccessfully to blur the facts of the two suits they filed in Court by suppressing their pre-election matter pending in the Court of Appeal, Abuja Judicial Division and in the Supreme in favour of the one relating to the outcome of the election which they filed before the Election Petitions Tribunal in Sokoto State and which is presently pending at the Court of Appeal, Sokoto Judicial Division.

The truth of the matter is that His Excellency Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako contested and won the Governorship election of Sokoto State under the platform of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP). Alhaji Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi one of the contestants in the said election of April 14, 2007, being dissatisfied with the return of His Excellency Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako filed a petitions before the Election Petitions Tribunal in Sokoto and the Tribunal dismissed his petition based on the that the petition was not grounded on section 140 of the Electoral Act, 2006.

Dissatisfied with the said decision, he subsequently appealed to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal, Kaduna Judicial Division in its judgement in Appeal No CA/K/EP/GOV/60/07 allowed the Appeal and ordered fresh election between the same parties and candidates as appear on Exhibit R8. The candidates on Exhibit R8 were:

1. Abubakar Chika Sarkin Yaki-----ANPP
2. Muhammed Maigari Dingyadi-----DPP
3. Ahmed Bello Ahmed-----AD
4. Abdul Wahab Yahaya Goronyo----UNPP
5. Dr. Umar Bello-----AC
6. Aminu A Salah Tauma-----CNPP
7. Abdullahi Umar Farouk-----APGA
8. Aliyu Magatarda Wammako-----PDP
9. Bello Ibrahim Gusau-----PPA
10. Abubakar Garba Alhaji-----ADC

In their desperate bid to subvert the course of justice, the Democratic People's Party and its candidate ran to the Federal High Court Abuja in suit No FHC/ABJ/CS/260/08 praying the lower Court to interpret the judgement of the Court of Appeal and declare that by the said judgement His Excellency and his Deputy are disqualified from contesting the re-run election.

The Federal High Court saw through their antics and declined jurisdiction as it is unheard of in legal parlance for a lower Court to vary, interpret or re-interpret the judgement of a higher court. They moved quickly and filed an appeal against the refusal of the Federal High Court to assume jurisdiction.

They did not stop there and wanting to eat their cake and have it, the DPP and its candidate Muhammed Maigari Dingyadi opportunistically and without reservation participated in the re-run election ordered by the Court of Appeal in suit No CA/K/EP/GOV/60/07.

The people of Sokoto State in a great show of confidence and fidelity to the administration of His Excellency Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako voted overwhelmingly for the Peoples Democratic Party and its flag bearer and handed down a most humiliating defeat to the opposition.

Determined to rule the people of Sokoto State by hook or crook, the DPP and its candidate filed another matter before the Election Petitions Tribunal in Sokoto still insisting that His Excellency Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako was not qualified to contest the election based on their own interpretation of the judgement of the Court of Appeal, Kaduna Judicial Division which said issue is on all fours with the subject of their appeal before the Court of Appeal, Abuja Judicial Division in the pre-election matter which they filed.

It must be emphasised that the DPP and its candidate have consistently emphasised the alleged non qualification of His Excellency Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako to contest the election and not his overwhelmingly return as Governor of Sokoto States on the valid votes of the people.

As expected, the Election Petitions Tribunal declined jurisdiction and contended that the sanctity of the Courts must be protected rather than abused through a multiplicity of actions on the same matter. Of course and as expected, they rushed to the Court of Appeal, Sokoto Judicial Division and lodged an appeal against the decision of the Election Petitions Tribunal which declined jurisdiction in their matter on the premise that it does not have the power to interpret or set aside the decision of the Court of Appeal. It also held that the entire petition is an abuse of court process.

The reality of the situation as at present is that the DPP and its gubernatorial candidate have two cases pending before the Court of Appeal in the Abuja and Sokoto Judicial Divisions and in the Supreme Court on the same issue. One is a pre-election matter contending that His Excellency Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako was not qualified to contest the re-run election and the second one on the same issue wherein they urged the Election Petitions Tribunal to declare that His Excellency Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako was not qualified to contest the re-run election. The Appeal arising from the refusal of the Election Petitions Tribunal to assume jurisdiction on the matter is what is pending before the Court of Appeal, Sokoto Judicial Division.

The framers of the Nigerian Constitution and those that drafted the Electoral Act, 2006 were fully aware and envisaged that disputes regarding elections are part of the electoral process. They did not make pretensions to the fact that there are perfect elections. They anticipated that it was important to create specialized Election Petition Tribunals to deal with challenges arising from the conduct of elections. They also deemed it important to empower other category of courts to deal with issues

arising from nominations (pre election matters) as distinct from election matters.

It is this principle and dividing line that the DPP and its candidate are insisting on abusing through a multiplicity of suits on the same subject matter. They activated the provisions of section 32(4) of the Electoral Act and filed a suit at the Federal High Court, Abuja and which said suit is pending at the Court of Appeal. The DPP and its candidate have also exercised their right and have approached the Supreme Court over the refusal of the Court of Appeal to allow them amend their process. The matter has been slated for hearing on the 15th day of March 2009.

Wanting to eat their cake and have it, they also proceeded to the Election Petitions Tribunal to press for the same issues pending before the Court of Appeal. The Election Petitions Tribunal saw through their antics as a clear attempt to abuse the process of the Court and subvert the Course of justice and declined jurisdiction.

The DPP and its gubernatorial candidate, Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi are fully aware that section 32(4) gives the High Court of a State or the Federal High Court exclusive jurisdiction to determine whether a candidate in an election is qualified to contest the election. They are fully aware that any individual that has reasonable ground to believe that any information supplied in an affidavit by a candidate is false may approach the High Court of a State or the Federal High Court to challenge the qualification of such an individual.

By the provisions of section 32(5) of the Electoral Act, 2006, if the High Court of a State or the Federal High Court determines that any of the information contained in the Affidavit supplied by a candidate is false, the Court shall issue an Order disqualifying the candidate from contesting the election.

The implication of this is that it is only the Federal High Court and the High Court of a State that are given exclusive jurisdiction in the determination of whether a nominated candidate is qualified to contest the election or not and not an Election Petitions Tribunal.

In the case of *Odedo v. INEC* (2008)17 NWLR (Pt. 1117) 554 the Supreme Court of Nigeria clearly stated that section 285 of the 1999 Constitution provides for the jurisdiction of Election Tribunals. The Court also held that section 285(1)(a) of the 1999 Constitution cannot accommodate pre-election matters. The Court further held that "as the reliefs sought by the appellant were on pre-election matters, section 285(1) (a) could not avail him as that sub paragraph does not provide for litigation arising from party primaries. It was because the matter or dispute involved pre-election issues that the action was filed at the Federal High Court. The instant case dealt with the pre-election matter of substitution of candidates".

In the earlier judgement of the Supreme Court in the case of *Amaechi v. I.N.E.C* (2008)5 NWLR (Part 1080)227 the Court affirmed that it is the High Court of a State and the Federal High Court that have jurisdiction on pre-election matters. The Court also held that "even if the Appellant's suit related to nomination and sponsorship of a candidate for an election, it is still not an election matter. This is a pre-election matter premised on the breach of his right derived from the Constitution of Nigeria and section 34 of the Electoral Act, 2006." The Court also held that the section 285(2) of the Constitution cannot be construed to destroy the jurisdiction which the ordinary courts in Nigeria have in pre-election matters."

It is clear that the DPP and its candidate are fully aware of all these and are therefore pursuing their matter before the Court of Appeal, Abuja judicial division and the Supreme Court.

The main cause of anxiety really relates to the antics of the same DPP and her candidate in the case on the same matter and on the same issue pending before the Court of Appeal, Sokoto Judicial Division.

It must be pointed out again that the Election Petition Tribunal in Sokoto declined jurisdiction to entertain the Petition filed by the DPP and her candidate. They therefore appealed to the Court of Appeal contending that the Election Petitions Tribunal was in error in declining jurisdiction.

The issue before the Court of Appeal is to determine whether the Election Petition Tribunal was right in declining jurisdiction to entertain the matter. If the Court of Appeal finds that the Election Petitions Tribunal ought to have assumed jurisdiction, it will simply remit the case back to the Election Petitions Tribunal for trial.

As pointed out by the Supreme Court in the case of *Odedo v. INEC* (supra) "jurisdiction is the spinal cord of every litigation, and once raised, it must be dealt with before further steps can be taken in the matter."

It is therefore mischievous to contend even remotely that judgment is awaiting the DPP and its candidate at the Court of Appeal, Sokoto Judicial Division and somebody is attempting to subvert it.

It must also be pointed out that sovereignty in a democracy belongs to the people through whom all governments derive their power and authority. It is the votes of the people that must remain the major determinant of electoral succession.

Courts of law cannot therefore determine leadership succession for and on behalf of the people. So, doing will strip the people of that singular electoral power embedded in them.

His Excellency, Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako is in office on the basis of the mandate conferred on him by the people of Sokoto State. During the April 14, 2007 Gubernatorial Election in Sokoto State, he secured a total of 392,258 votes to defeat his closest rival, the DPP candidate who secured a total of 296,419 votes. During the Court of Appeal ordered re-run election on the 24th day of May 2008, the people of Sokoto State renewed their faith in the leadership of His Excellency Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako. In the said election a total of 785,682 votes were cast out of which 698,362 were valid votes. His Excellency Aliyu Magatakarda Wammako won the election in all the 23 Local Governments of Sokoto State and secured a total of 562,395 votes to defeat his closest rival Alhaji Muhammadu Maigari Dingyadi of the DPP who secured a total of 124,046 votes.

It stands to reason that if by any stroke of imagination the mandate of the people of Sokoto State must be tampered with, a new mandate must be conferred on a candidate by the people of Sokoto State. They must be the ones to make a determination on who governs them. It is undemocratic and usurpation of the sovereign right of the people to impose an unpopular candidate on them through the judicial process. It means trading off the votes of over 70% of the people of Sokoto State.

Courts of law must be the guardians of the Constitution and provide safeguards for the mandate of the people and not a means of subverting the said mandate.

Umar Farouk
General Secretary

Steve Emelieze Esq.
General Counsel

Sign Language



Oops! Touyist (tourist) Reception Centre. The Tickei (ticketing) office of Lijiang Airine (airline)

Photo location: Lijiang, China, by Albert Wu Cheng.

Culled from www.signspotting.com

HOURS OF BUSINESS

MONDAY - FRIDAY

OCT - APRIL
8.30 - 6.00

MAY - SEPT
8.30 - 5ish

SUNNY DAYS
8.30 - TILL I'M FED UP

We are still in the recession, don't get fed up.

Photo location: Southampton, UK, by Rasheed Shobande

Culled from www.signspotting.com

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.

91

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

Solution to Sudoku 90

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



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Registrar/CEO Pharmacists Council of Nigeria

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to Pharmaceutical Practices in Nigeria and Africa in general.



PHARM. ALEX ONYIDO
CEO, Pal Pharmaceuticals Ind. Ltd., Kano

News Extra

Forever young: Nigerian football's age-old problem

Nwankwo Kanu is 42 and Taribo West, whose career ended two years ago, is in his late fifties, say bloggers in Nigeria

Nwankwo Kanu's official age is 33 but his real age is 42. Obafemi Martins is not 25 but 32. Jay-Jay Okocha was 10 years older than his "official" age throughout his career. And Taribo West, whose playing career ended only two years ago, is in his late fifties. Who says so? A stream of bloggers on some of Nigeria's most popular websites, in response to comments made after the country's timid effort in last month's Africa Cup of Nations.

Failure to win that trophy is nearly always considered a scandal in the continent's most populous nation but Nigeria's latest misadventure in the tournament triggered a particularly explosive condemnation back home.

It started when a former manager of a leading Nigerian club told the Lagos Guardian: "What happened in Angola is a confirmation of what has been happening in the past where most of our players falsified their age during competition. Most of the players are beyond the age they professed and this made it impossible for them to withstand the pace of teams like Zambia and Benin."

It also led to an entertaining discussion that shows no sign of abating as the Nigerians, who have three months to prepare for the World Cup, reacted to the criticism by sacking the coach. "Our boys are old, we are paying the price for age cheating," said Ken Anugweje, a former national team doctor and board member of the Nigerian Football Federation.

Suspicions about true ages of some Nigerian footballers date back 20 years. FIFA banned Nigeria from all international fixtures for two years after finding that the birth dates of three of their players in the 1988 Olympics were different from ones used by the same players in previous tournaments.

A year later Pelé famously declared "an African team will definitely win the World Cup by the turn of the century" after watching seemingly promising Nigerian youngsters lift the Under-17 World Cup and reach the final of the Under-20 competition. How was Pelé to know that the so-called Under-20s of 1989 were so old that, in the



JAY-JAY Okocha



TARIBO West



NWANKWO Kanu



OBAFEMI Martins

words of George Onmonya on nigeriavillagesquare.com, "most of our players have now retired and become grandpas"?

Nigeria have a rich tradition of seemingly promising youngsters who mysteriously fail to fulfil their potential. Phillip Osondu was the best player at the 1987 Under-17 World Cup, after which he was snapped up by Anderlecht, only to drift out of the game and into janitorial work after questions were raised about his real age.

The star of Nigeria's finalists at the 2001 Under-17 competition went on to become officially the third-youngest player to appear in the senior World Cup when he started the 0-0 draw with Eng-

land in 2002. But that was as good as it got for Femi Opabunmi, who by 2005 was playing part-time football in the French lower leagues.

A trawl through the blogosphere makes for intriguing reading. "A friend of mine who once played in the Nigerian league told me his real age was 34 but his football age was 21," wrote Onmonya. "You can walk into any immigration office in Nigeria today, forge documents at the nearby business centre, change your name, place of birth, date of birth, pay 7,000-10,000 naira instead of the official price of about 5,500 for an international passport and

within hours you have completed the whole process." A new passport, a new person – and if you are a footballer, a younger one.

A former employee of the British embassy in Nigeria told Observer Sport that when visa applicants complained to him about having their applications rejected, he would reply: "Well don't talk to me about it, I'm dead." He would respond to their looks of puzzlement by pointing to the wall behind him, on which hung his death certificate, purchased for a small fee from a Lagos supplier. Fifa reckon they have finally come up with a fool-proof way of determining real age. Ahead of last year's Under-17 World Cup in, as it happened,

Nigeria, the governing body announced that players would be subjected to wrist scans using magnetic resonance imaging, and this would determine their true age.

That led some countries to undertake precautionary scans beforehand. The results were never announced, but Nigeria suddenly discarded 15 squad members, while Gambia omitted 11 of the 18 who had helped them to victory in the African Under-17 championship a few months earlier. Reports claim that retrospective analyses of the previous three Under-17 World Cups showed more than a third of all players were too old.

Culled from theobserver.co.uk

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News Extra



NASTY surprise: A teenage found a five-inch wire brush in his McDonald's burger

Five-inch wire brush discovered in McDonald's burger

A teenager came perilously close to serious injury when he came across a five-inch wire brush lodged in a McDonald's burger he was eating.

Brett Stephens was given the Chicken Legend sandwich by his mother who had earlier purchased the £3 snack from the fast food chain's Kidderminster branch.

The 18-year-old was shocked to discover the sharp object embedded in the meat part of the burger.

His furious mother Janet, said: 'It was beyond belief. He bit into the burger and just shouted.

'I looked at it and started to pull it out and it kept coming - it was right through the piece of chicken.

'I have a three-year-old grandson too, I would hate to think what could've happened if the burger had been for him and not my son.'

Ms Stephens claims McDonald's bosses simply laughed when she confronted them about the dangerous discovery and only offered an exchange.

'I called the store immediately but all they said to



JANET Stephens (pictured) found the brush in a McDonalds burger

me was to bring the burger back and they would replace it for another one.'

The incident has since been reported to Wyre Forest District Council's food safety team.

A spokesman for McDonalds said: 'We are very sorry that our usual high standards were not met and we have launched an urgent investigation.

McDonald's takes the safety and quality of its food very seriously indeed and we offer our unreserved apologies for this isolated incident.

'We asked for the item to be returned, to help our ongoing investigation and to resolve this complaint to the customer's satisfaction.'

Peter Maloney, princi-

'It was beyond belief. He bit into the burger and just shouted

pal environmental health officer at Wyre Forest District Council said: 'Once the relevant information has been collected by the investigating officer, the most appropriate action will be determined by reference to national legislation and local guidance on food safety.'

Your Excellency, Please, Consider These Issues

Your Excellency, permit me to congratulate you on your elevation as Acting President and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, as well as Chairman of the Economic Community of West African States, ECOWAS.

You came as an answer to a prayer. You arrived at a period in our life when even the most benevolent of prophets could not but see doom. In a most unique way, your emergence deflated our worst fears and resolved a very significant constitutional crisis for the country. And we are glad to reassure you, Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, that although the mantle of leadership fell on your shoulders ultimately, every well-meaning Nigerian owes the duty to pray for you. They must also help you chart the way towards that Promised Land envisioned by our Nation's Founding Fathers, the Tafawa Balewas, the Obafemi Awolowos, the Nnamdi Azikiwes, the Alvan Ikokus, the Akintolas, the Adaka Boros, the Aminu Kanos and the Shehu Yar'Aduas. And that informs why I here make my own small contribution towards making your tenure the success the world prays it will become.

AGENDA FOR THESE TIMES

The Niger-Delta and the amnesty issue deserve urgent attention. The roadmap, if you ask indigenes and interest groups in that region, has been most accurately captured by the report of the Ledum Mittee-headed Niger-Delta Technical Committee.

You must attack the problem of inadequate electric power supply as a matter of national emergency.

We need to devote attention to the matter of electoral reforms. There is a crying need for the country to join the league of African Nations that have successfully organized free, fair and credible elections. We cannot trust politicians to become born-again overnight. There must be a system in place that will inherently guarantee the independence and incorruptibility of electoral agencies, including ensuring that INEC gets first line charge in the Federation Account, ensuring neutrality in the appointment of its Chairman and state electoral commissioners, in short the bulk of recommendations that the Mohammed Uwais Commission outlined. That is the way to go.

CBN AND THE ECONOMY

Undoubtedly, the economy needs your undivided attention. Time has come for the country to offload the incompetent, inconsistent and incoherent management currently running the Central Bank of Nigeria. Mallam Sanusi Lamido Sanusi must go. To the consternation of virtually all his predecessors alive, the CBN Governor has mismanaged the CBN in a roughshod manner that has killed off confidence in our banking system and sent shocks paralyzing the entire monetary sector; and the national economy is tottering. He is a man on a mission, an obnoxious mission as clearly outlined by that prophetic *Vanguard* scoop of March 2009. He must be stopped. The North, indeed the country, contains myriads of eminently qualified persons that can competently replace him. Please, save our economy.

CHANGE OF CABINET

You owe this current Federal Executive Council nothing. Your inherited Cabinet reeks of deadwoods. This FEC demonstrated inordinate prejudice and self-interest in the most critical era of our national life. That apart, Nigerians have lost confidence in this FEC, which these past years has shown no spark of resourcefulness to drive the engine of national development. You need a more vibrant and more ingenious team to help make the difference your regime must make in a hurry. It may mean jettisoning the Seven-Point Agenda for a more manageable concept. Nigerians want you to recognize national priorities in this last minute of this administration. It may call for putting together a team of eminent Nigerians who, rather than get interested in the kitchen, will supply you watchtower vision and clarity. Talk of Emeka Anyaoku, Ledum Mittee, Shehu Sani, David Dafinone, Wole Soyinka, Abubakar Umar, Pat Utomi, Olu Falae and the likes. Convince them to form your think-tank.

THE VEXED MATTER OF AUDITOR-GENERAL OF THE FEDERATION (AGF)

Without subtracting from your personal merits, your outstanding credentials and your remarkable destiny, your Presidency today stands as a loud testimonial for the cardinal principle that strand this Nation together. You are a product of the country's commitment to the Federal Character doctrine enshrined in the Constitution. You are a product of natural succession. You are a product of due process. Your Excellency, all these ingredients were sacrificed in the procedure that produced the current nominee for the post of Auditor-General of the Federation. In clear defiance of Federal Character, our Nation's financial agencies today are all virtually in one segment of the country: Minister of Finance, CBN Governor, Accountant-General of the Federation, Minister of National Planning, Comptroller-General of Customs and Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), among others are all in the North. To allow the

post of AGF go that way too may jeopardize accountability and transparency and violently compromise the Constitution.

Moreover, there is no legal backing for the procedure that produced the present presidential nominee for AGF. The *Audit Bill*, which the appointing authority illicitly adopted in form and letter, is still pending before the National Assembly, yet to be passed; as a matter of fact, it has yet to scale second reading at the Senate. This was possible because the nominee is a protégé of Barrister Michael Aondoakaa, former Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation. This made it possible too that in routing the nomination to President Umar Yar'Adua, the Head of Service and the Secretary to the Federal Government were deliberately by-passed to avoid the necessary scrutiny by these two crucial officials.

The Association of Concerned Career Auditors in the Federal Public Service has said the nomination is faulty, particularly as the nominee's sponsors sidelined qualified career audit Directors in the office of the Auditor-General to handpick an officer equivalent of an Assistant Director. Members of the National Assembly have said the nomination is faulty. The Press has said the nomination is faulty. The Secretary to the Federal Government supports that the nomination is faulty, and that it contradicts the extant rules of Civil Service succession that he specifically communicated to all MDAs in August 2008.

Sentiments apart, the current Acting Auditor-General has performed efficiently. Actually, some feel that opposition to his candidacy comes from clear signs that he will discharge the functions of the office TOO WELL, TOO CLINICALLY and TOO CONSCIENTIOUSLY. So far, he has unearthed some untoward transactions hurting the Nation's finances. As *The Punch's* Editorial of last Monday February 15 pointed out, the 2008 Audit Report of the Federation from the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation (submitted record-breaking early for the first time in 20 years by this Acting AGF) uncovered several leakages in fiscal operations, including the non-remittance by Nigerian embassies of monies collected at these outposts. Through such loopholes, the country cannot account for over N1.5 trillion collected by MDAs nationwide in five years since 2003. In the words of the Editorial, "The authorities must initiate moves to trace missing funds, as established through the many probes of the National Assembly and other bodies, and to recover same. Culprits must be exposed and punished to serve as deterrent to others and as evidence of a national commitment to ethical standards and accountability." In this task of public fiscal accountability, the Nation cannot afford to discountenance or disenfranchise the importance of a competent head for the Office of the Auditor General.

You must allow overriding national interest, Civil Service career progression, orderliness, and succession, rule of law, national unity and Federal Character to settle this matter as happened in the appointment of the Chief Justice of the Federation Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu and Your Excellency.

SOVEREIGN NATIONAL CONFERENCE

We pray you see good sense in abandoning the current puerile attempts by the National Assembly to amend the Constitution. How can a National Assembly, considered as bogus, unwieldy and expensive, lead the way to trim its own weight and budget? Who would lose a case where he is made the Judge in his own Cause? This Constitution was foisted on us, the leftovers of a politicized Military. How can we continue with a Constitution that failed to make commonsense provision for the Vice President to step automatically into the shoes of an absentee President to prevent a vacuum in leadership? Let us have a Sovereign National Conference. The people must decide all prevailing questions at a Sovereign National Conference.

FINALLY

On a last note, let me say: Courage, Your Excellency. Courage is what these times deserve. And courage you must exercise. For the sake of Nigerian unity and because you secured this post by popular acclamation, you must not succumb to intimidation. God is with you, Your Excellency. So rest assured that civil society groups, OPC and the Yoruba nation, the entire Nigerian Nation and the international community, all stand behind you like the Rock of Gibraltar.

Once more, Your Excellency, accept the warmest expression of our best regards.

DR. FREDERICK FASEHUN

Founder/President, Oodua People's Congress (OPC)

PROPERTY

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'Slum devt essential to LGs development'

BY Mustapha Suleiman

THE Minister of State for Works, Housing and Urban Development, Mrs. Grace Ekpiwhre, has emphasised the importance of slum development in towns and cities across the country.

She made this assertion during a courtesy call by members of United Cities and Local Government

Association (UCLGA) in Abuja on Tuesday.

The Minister said: "There is no doubt that many of our cities and our Local Government headquarters are having the problem of slum development, and it is very important for us to start at the Local Government level to tackle the issue of urban renewal and urban planning."

The Minister who reiterated the significance of planning in building houses in Local areas said: "We all

see hue and cry when the Government decided painfully that some structures that people have spent life savings to put up may have to give way in overall development of communities and cities and also to ensure we provide decent accommodation for our people". She further encourages the association in their preparation to host unity congress of United Cities of Local Government in March.



CHIEF (Mrs.) Grace Ekpiwhre, Minister of State for Works, Housing and Urban Development with Mr. Alassane Ba, Managing Director of Shelter Afrique, during the visit by the delegation from Shelter Afrique, recently

Katsina NUJ embarks on graveyard rehabilitation

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

MEMBERSHIP of the Nigeria Union of Journalist (NUJ), in Katsina state last weekend commenced massive graveyards rehabilitation programme to encourage other bodies embrace the culture of caring for the dead.

A cross section of members of the correspondent's chapel, radio and theatre arts workers union (RATTAWU) in the state were led in the exercise by the state council chairman, Abdullahi Isma Yamadi at Danmarna graveyard in Katsina metropolis.

Speaking further, the chairman said that the initiative, which is first of its kind, was introduced to re-awaken the hitherto non-challant attitude of people towards our final abode and the need to cater for such special places to reduce some of the ills that has bedevilled our societies.

While flaying the attitude of those who trespasses and dump solid waste inside the graveyards, the chairman commend members of the pen profession for a large turnout and appeal on other NGO's to come out en mass to embrace similar exercise.

In his remark, chairman of the NUJ rehabilitation committee, Alhaji Abba Bishir (Wazirin Larabawa), described the exercise as additional service to humanity and called on government to improve security situation by erecting permanent fences in all the graveyards.

Bauchi to provide land for Jos crisis victims

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

PLANS are on the way to provide Jos crisis victims with permanent plots of land, Counsellor representing Tilden Fulani in Toro local government area of Bauchi state, Isa Abdulkarim Tilde said.

The Counsellor disclosed this yesterday during a tour of some of the places where the displaced people were situated in Tilden Fulani.

According to Abdulkarim "we have discussed on how we are going to accommodate victims by providing them with permanent pieces of lands between Magamar- Gumau, Toro and Tilden Fulani".

He added that the plots of land are going to be purchased from individuals in the areas and be given to the displaced persons for free stressing that the "there is the need for people to also come and give other forms of contribution to the displaced persons so that they can begin a new life in their new settlements".

Abdulkarim, who emphasized the need for people to live in peace, pointed out that peaceful coexistence is one of the necessary ingredients that can allow positive development to flourish in every society.

The counsellor, who decried the recurrent crisis in neighbouring Plateau, added that the authorities in charge of the protection of lives and

property in the state have failed adding, "The fact that certain group of people are not wanted in the state has led to all sort of human rights abuses, while the constitution has given any Nigerian the right to reside where ever he deems fit, there are many Plateau people who are working in Toro Bauchi state, in fact my neighbor is from Plateau and he is working in Bauchi but no one has ever ask him to pack and leave".

Abdulkarim who could not understand why some people cannot accommodate other community further stressed that for every society to develop, "there must be the participation of different ethnic groups regardless of religious background or any other affiliation."

Kwara, coy sign N1.3b MoU for Ilorin stadium rehab

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin

THE Kwara State Ministry of Sports and Youth Development, and Aron Construction Company yesterday signed over 1.3 billion naira Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for renovation and upgrading of the state sports complex, Ilorin.

Representing the ministry at the signing, the state's Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development,

Alhaji Abubakar Kannike, said that the renovation works slated for completion within the next 48 weeks

The commissioner said emphasis would be on the mini bowl of the stadium built by the former Administrator of the state, Brigadier George Innih (rtd.) 33years ago.

He added that the stadium would be expanded from 10,000 capacities to about 18,000 seats with 4,000 accounting for the VIPs.

"When completed, it is expected to meet FIFA specifications and IAAF, to enable the state the opportunities of hosting major sporting events in the nearest future".

"The stadium today, despite its dilapidated state, remains one of the very few in the country that can simultaneously host 23 sporting events".

"Among others, it can be used for hand ball, Volleyball, Basketball,

Badminton, Table Tennis, weight lifting, Judo, Lawn Tennis, Hockey pitches, swimming pool (Olympic size), squash Hall, including four practicing football field, alongside hostels currently being occupied by the students of the Kwara Football Academy."

Kannike said that already the sum of N15million has been earmarked by the state government for prompt renovation of Offa township stadium



FHA commissions Lagos Diamond Estate

By Nasir Imam

THE Federal Housing Authority in partnership with Locke International Limited last Friday officially commissioned the FHA Diamond Estate in Isheri-Olofin, Lagos.

Arc Terver Gemade, Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Federal Housing Authority (FHA), at

the occasion said the estate consists of 600 houses with the supporting infrastructure needed by the residents to enjoy their lives.

He said "Not too far from here at Egan, work is continuing with the construction of another estate under a partnership arrangement. Also at Abesan, we have just opened another site where

contractors have mobilized for the delivery of another estate which is being handled by direct construction.

"This is the idea behind the concept of New Town Development which FHA has adopted as one of the delivery methods for the realization of its target of 100,000 housing units between now and 2013.

"In the same vein, we have

already submitted proposals for a new town development in Abuja which we hope would see additional 25,000 units to the housing stock of the capital city."

Senate President David Mark, at the occasion, said his joy derives primarily from the fact that by the completion of this estate, close to 600 families have been taken off

the housing queue.

In her remarks, Minister of State for Works, Housing and Urban Development, Chief (Mrs.) Grace Ekphiwhre, said she is particularly thrilled by the Co-operative Housing model which is the easiest way by which millions of Nigerians through a do-it-yourself approach can be assisted to build their homes.

Jigawa spends N20.8b on roads' construction

THE Jigawa Government says it has spent N20.8 billion on the construction of township roads across the state.

Alhaji Baba Ali, the Commissioner for Works and Transport, said this on Saturday during the inauguration of the 57.7-km Gwaram-Fagam-Gwani-Sagi road in Gwaram Local Government Area.

Ali said that the government without any outstanding debt had completed projects involving the rehabilitation or construction of 550 km roads.

He said about N13.5 billion had been earmarked for roads' construction and rehabilitation under the Phase 2 of the road development programme of the state government.

He said that six township roads, which were under construction, had reached appreciable stages of completion.

The roads include Kafin-hausa-Ruba-Sabonsara-Bulangu road, Gada-Farun-Daba road, Tsamiya-Yalwan-Damai Iggi road and Jiboga-Birnikudu road among others.

The commissioner thanked the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III, for his intervention in the construction of Fagam Sagi road.

He recalled that the Sultan urged Gov. Sule Lamido, during his visit to the area in 2007, to construct the road so as to enhance the well-being of the people.

The Sultan inaugurated the Gwaram-Fagam-Gwani-Sagi road and performed the foundation stone laying ceremony of Fagam Jumaat mosque. (NAN)



SENATE President, Senator David Mark (left) and the Managing Director, Federal Housing Authority, Arc Terver Gemade at the commissioning of FHA Diamond Estate, Isheri Olofin, Lagos last Friday

W/Bank team inspects Lafia-Doma road

From Hir Joseph Lafia

THE 25 kilometres Lafia-Doma Road in Nasarawa State, last Friday, attracted a team from the World Bank and the Ministry for Works, Housing and Urban Development for an on-the-spot assessment of the extent of damage on it.

The visit followed an intervention by the World Bank with about \$5 million for the complete rehabilitation of the deteriorating road. Lafia-Doma Road is one of Nasarawa's major roads where truck loads of agricultural produce leave to other parts of the country on a daily basis.

The World Bank representative, Binyam

Reja, and members of the Road Sector Development Team at the ministry drove between Lafia and Doma, stopping at various points to see the extent of damage on the road. They were led to the road by the Chief Maintenance Engineer of the Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), Engineer Musa Useni. FERMA recently completed the sealing of potholes along the road through direct labour, returning vehicles on it after months of deterioration.

The World Bank representative expressed satisfaction that the road indeed needed the intervention.

Dr. Lawal who visited alongside his associates, former Nasarawa State governor, Abdul-

lahi Adamu and a former deputy governor in the old Plateau State, Halilu Bala Usman, drove along the road and stopped at "Amba Bridge", at the outskirts of Lafia, the state capital, where he came face to face with the untold hardship faced by residents and road users alike following the worsening condition of the road.

Incidents of flooding have continued to overwhelm residents of the state capital, a development which cuts many areas from the rest of the town during rainy season. Worst hit are residents of Tudun Amba, a slum which rises from both banks of Amba Stream. Storm waters collected from other parts of the town often swell up at the culvert along Lafia-Doma Road, and overflow the banks, thereby pouring into homes.

Surv Gen blames boundary disputes on lack of survey, demarcation

The Surveyor-General of the Federation, Mr Austin Njepuome, has blamed the recurrence of boundary disputes on the lack of survey and demarcation of areas.

Njepuome said in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Abuja on Sunday that surveying and mapping were

the bedrock of every development.

He said that in the past, surveying activities had been at its lowest ebb due to poor funding.

He noted that human activities were enormous due to the country's population and land mass, leading to disputes.

"Our population is large, likewise the land area. With such population it means that human activities are enormous.

"We have not been able to sustain our function of mapping and demarcation, because the office has suffered from zero allocation in the past.

"During 1980s to late 90s, surveying and mapping activities were at their lowest ebb, there was nothing we could do.

"We did not do what we were supposed to do in those days due to lack of funds. Hence, boundary disputes which could have been avoided," he said.

CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

Court remands nine suspected fake journalists

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court Friday remanded nine suspected fake journalists in police custody pending the proper filing of their bail application before the court.

The accused persons, Theophilus Akor, 34, Noel Joseph, 31, Emmanuel Ogazie, 38, Agada Adonduwa, 41, Victor Joseph, 26, Joseph Omenka, 31, Okwo Okwo Romeon, 28, Alkali Richard, 43, Sam Okereke and Lily Chijindu Ukata, 29 (who was absent owing to ill health) were arrested last Tuesday.

Police prosecutor, John Udeh, a deputy superintendent, told the court that on February 16, the accused persons were arrested by a combined team of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Nigeria Press Council (NPC) and the police arrested the accused persons.

"The accused persons were arrested at different venues of ceremonies within Abuja metropolis for impersonating journalists and being in possession of falsified documents, thereby committing offences punishable under Sections 364 and 132 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor stated.



THE suspected fake journalists in court ...Friday.

He said that during police investigations, it was discovered that the accused persons were neither members of the NUJ nor qualified to practice journalism.

When the two-count charge was read to the accused persons, they denied the allegations and their counsels, A.F. Obaimoke,

Maxwell Okpara, Chugbo Nwachukwu and Andy Osuafor, made oral applications for their bail.

While not objecting the oral bail applications as put forward by the counsels, the prosecutor asked the court for time to enable the police conclude their investigations.

In her ruling, Chief Magistrate O.O. Oyewumi ordered that the accused persons be remanded in police custody till today to enable their counsels put up formal applications for their bail.

The case was adjourned to March 8 for hearing.

Two accused of defrauding transport minister

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

TWO suspected fraudsters were recently arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly defrauding the Transport Minister, Alhaji Bui Ibrahim of N4 million.

Hafisu Mohammed and Ibrahim Saniya were accused of collaborating with some other persons, now at large, to defraud the minister of the said money.

Police prosecutor, Stanley Nwodo told the court that on August 3, 2009, the accused persons and others, now at large, conspired to impersonate one Alhaji Dahiru Mangal and used his name to defraud the minister.

"The accused persons unlawfully conspired and impersonated one Alhaji Dahiru Mangal by using a GSM number 08033571616 to defraud Alhaji Bui Ibrahim, minister of transportation, of N4 million," the prosecutor stated.

He also stated that the offences the accused persons jointly committed are punishable under Sections 96, 179 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

When the three-count charge was read to the accused persons, they denied the charges and asked for bail, which was opposed by the prosecutor.

Chief Magistrate David Ochimana ordered that the accused persons be remanded in Kuje prison custody until formal applications for their bails are brought to the court by their counsels.

The case was adjourned to March 24 for further mention.

Alleged scam case concerning Neliaku for judgement today

By Abubakar Yakubu

RULING will today be delivered at FCT High Court 24, in a land case between Crown Realties Plc as plaintiff versus Ike Neliaku, Ben Ifeanyi Okoye, Miss Orji Uzoamaka, Kahab Investment Limited and ABC Shelters Ltd as defendants.

The plaintiff had through their lawyer, Sylvester O. Imhanobe told the court that on April 24, 2008, Miss Uzoama on behalf of Kahab Investments Limited, sent a letter of offer for the sale of Plot 1647 Cadastral Zone A03, Garki II, Abuja that was covered by an offer of Statutory Right of Occupancy dated May 8, 2006 issued to Ben Ifeanyi Okoye for the price of N300 million.

He said the contract of sale between Ben Okoye and the plaintiff was executed on May 13, 2008, adding that by a letter of mandate dated May 12, 2008, Okoye mandated the plaintiff to pay N300 million to ABC Shelters.

The lawyer said the money was paid to the company vide a sterling bank manager's cheque dated May 9, 2008 and was received by Ike Neliaku, a director of ABC Shelters.

"The plaintiff paid Miss Uzoamaka and Kahab Investments Limited N7, 330,685 as agency fees for introducing the vendors of the property," the lawyer informed.

Barrister Imhanobe explained that after the execution of the contract of sale and payment of the purchase price for the property, the plaintiff moved to take possession of the property and was shocked to find a notice erected at the property to the effect that it is a subject matter of litigation in suit FCT/HC/CV/409/02 with judgement delivered in favour of the true owner of the property, who is none of the defendants.

"Upon discovery, the plaintiff informed Ben Ifeanyi Okoye and Ike Neliaku of the state of affairs and requested for the return of

the agency fees and the purchase price as agreed in their sales contract but the defendants have refused to return the money collected and the purchase price of the property," the lawyer added.

The plaintiff then sought for a declaration that the defendants have no legal or equitable title in the property and an order directing the return of N7, 330,685 and N300 million being the agency fee and purchase price of the property respectively.

The plaintiff also sought from the court, an order directing the defendants jointly or severally to pay damages of N100 million only as bank charges/ interest incurred on the loan secured from Sterling Bank for the purchase of the property, loss of bargain, and expenses incurred in the course of negotiating the contract.

Other prayers asked for by the plaintiff are 10 percent interests in its favour for the agency fee and purchase price.

In his defence statement, Ike

Neliaku admitted that Ben Okoye is the title holder of the plot.

"Ben Okoye, who is a very close friend and associate gave the plot to me to build a private school owned and managed by my wife and when the FCDA refused to approve the development, we decided to sell the property and use the property as well as proceeds to buy another parcel of land," he stated.

Neliaku admitted putting the property for sale and said the plaintiff conducted a status search and informed through Mr Mike Orisabiyi that they were convinced the property was unencumbered and prepared to discuss the price.

He said it was agreed with the plaintiff to pay N300 million for the property, adding that the plaintiff insisted that half of the outstanding certificate of occupancy fees for the property amounting to N6,772,660 should be borne by ABC Shelters and deducted from the agreed N300 million.

"While receiving a cheque of N300 million from the plaintiff, we also handed over an ABC Shelters cheque for N6, 772, 660 to the plaintiff thereby bringing the actual purchase price of the land to N293,227,340," he added.

Mr Neliaku explained that ABC Shelters handed over to the plaintiff, the original copy of the statutory right of occupancy of the property, the contract of sale agreement, the deed of assignment and the power of attorney, all duly executed by Ben Okoye.

He said weeks after the transaction, the plaintiff wrote ABC Shelters complaining that they went to the property and was confronted with a high court judgement in respect of the property showing that Ben Okoye did not have good title to the property.

"We promptly informed the plaintiff that we have never been aware of any pending litigation in respect of the property nor judgement of any court in respect of the property," Neliaku stated.

Thugs beat AC councillors, injure 2 others

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH

TWO councillorship candidates, Yakubu Sarki and David Daniel, representing Alu-Mamagi and Yaba ward, in Abaji Area Council were allegedly beaten to stupor at the weekend by some thugs suspected to be sympathetic to the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Our reporter learnt that two members of the Action Congress (AC) at the rally also sustained fractures on their legs, while four vehicles, including a Honda civic car, Nissan, Volkswagen Jetta as well as a Toyota corolla belonging to supporters of the party had their windscreen smashed by the thugs.

City News, however, observed at Agyana village, the home town of the incumbent chairman, Alhaji Yahaya Musa Muhammed, when a Volkswagen Jetta convey-



ONE of the AC vehicles destroyed by thugs at Agyana village ...Saturday.

ing two of the party members was stopped in front of the council chairman's house and its occupants beaten with sticks.

Commenting on the incident, the Abaji chapter Chairman of AC, Mohammed Bello, said they were on their campaign rally after they had taken permission from the police, when some PDP youths from Agyana village, mounted

road blocks and attacked some of their members and councillors coming from Alu-Mamagi village to join the rally at Abaji town.

When contacted, the Abaji Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Dan Hajji, however said the matter will be referred to the FCT police command today (Monday) as investigation is still ongoing to fish out those involved.

Foreign donor commends CRH activities in Kabusa

By Sunday Ejike Benjamin

A health related Non Governmental Organisation (NGO), Center for the Right to Health (CRH) was yesterday given a pass mark by the International Programmes of the Solidarite Sida's Head, Helene Roger, for improving the health conditions of people in the rural community.

The delegation from Solidarite Sida, a French organisation came on an assessment tour of the center's health intervention projects that they have been sponsoring for the past six years.

Helene Roger told City News that she was impressed with the level of CRH's involvement in improving the health status of the residents of Kabusa, a community settlement

in Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC).

She said Solidarite Sida spends about 20,000 Euros annually in sponsoring CRH projects in Nigeria, adding that the amount is not enough considering the health needs of the rural people and called on other related NGOs to be pro-active in the provision of health facilities to people living in the rural areas.

The CRH Project Director, Mr. Bede Eziefule told our reporter that the delegation was in the country to assess what the center has been doing with the funding given to them by the Solidarite Sida as well as to see CRH's impact on the people of Kabusa through the 'health on wheel' project.

According to Bede, the visit will afford them the

opportunity to get first hand information on the activities of the center from the people in the community and will also enable the delegates to know the challenges and the prospect of the project.

The Esu of Kabusa community, Chief Yohana Koche while commending Solidarite Sida for the provision of health facilities to the people in the community through CRH, also appealed to the organisation to build a hospital in the community.

Solidarite Sida provides financial and technical support to associations of people living with HIV and associations that fight against AIDS.

They also offer programmes and take overall charge of people affected by the virus.

Bus driver denies abducting teenage girl

By Lami Sadiq & Usman A. Bello

A 28-year-old driver Friday denied before an Abuja Upper Area Court that he abducted an 18-year-old girl.

The accused, Tony Ojo was accused of keeping the girl against her wish for three days.

Prosecutor Mohammed Garba stated that on February 16, 2010, one Vincent Haruna reported at the Garki Police Station that on February 14, the accused abducted his younger sister to his house for three

days, adding that the accused illegally had sex with her.

When the charge was read to the accused, he denied it and requested for bail, which was not objected by the prosecutor.

Judge Umar Kagarko granted the accused bail in the sum of N50, 000 with a surety in like sum.

The judge ordered that the surety must live within the jurisdiction of the court and have a fixed address.

The case was adjourned to March 10 for hearing.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OF NIGERIA



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF HEALTH

AVIAN INFLUENZA CONTROL AND HUMAN PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROJECT
INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR PROCUREMENT OF TREATMENT CENTRE EQUIPMENT THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING (ICB)
AICP/HH/GD/NCB/08-09/02

- This invitation for bids follows the General Procurement Notice for this Project that appeared in dg market publication of 3rd November, 2006, the Guardian Newspaper of 24th October, 2006 and the Daily Trust Newspaper of 20th October, 2006
- The Federal Government of Nigeria has received a credit from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/International Development Association toward the cost of Avian Influenza Control Project and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the contract for Procurement of Treatment Centre Equipment.
- The Avian Influenza Control Project – Federal Ministry of Health now invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for the Procurement of Treatment Centres Equipment.

Lot	Item Description	Quantity	Bid Security	Delivery Period	Delivery Location
1	VENTILLATOR	16	At least 2% of bid price	120 days	Avian Influenza Control Project Office, No 2, Cassandra Street, off Usuma Street, Off Gana Street, Maitama, Abuja
2	INFUSION PUMPS	32			
3	CONTINUOUS ECG MACHINES	16			
4	INTUBATION KITS	64			
5	TRACHNOTOMY TUBE	64			
6	DEFIBRILLATORS	16			
7	ICU BEDS	32			
8	SCREENS	64			
9	OXYGEN TANKS	16			
10	MASKS	16			
11	AMBU BAGS (ADULT)	64			
12	AMBU BAGS (PADIATRIC)	64			
13	SUCTION MACHINES	64			
14	STABILIZERS	74			
15	UPS	32			
16	ROOM AIRCONDITIONERS	16			
17	HEPA FILLARATION SYSTEMS	16			
18	REFRIDGERATORS	8			

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Avian Influenza Control Project – Federal Ministry of Health and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 9.00am to 4.00 pm Monday to Friday, except Public Holidays.

Avian Influenza Control Project office
No. 2 Cassandra Street,
Off Usuma Street,
Off Gana Street, Maitama, Abuja
Office Hours: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm
Phone Nos. 09 – 5230531

6. Qualifications requirements include:
• Evidence of previous supply (sale) of similar equipment proposed for the last five years
• Audited Financial Statement for the last three (3) years to demonstrate the financial capability of the bidder in terms of profitability and adequate working capital

7. 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 stated in No. 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ten thousand naira (N10, 000.00) or an equivalent in a freely convertible currency paid into the Federal Avian Influenza Control Project Account No. 720044435 with IBTC chartered Bank plc, at the Cadastral Zone A6 of Maitama-Abuja or any of its branches in Nigeria. The bidding document should be collected by hand from the address in NO. 5 above or can be forwarded to bidders by courier service on request. The method of payment will be cash payment to the Bank.

8. Bids must be delivered to the address below Avian Influenza Control Project office No 2, Cassandra Street, off Usuma Street, Maitama, Abuja on or before 12.00 noon on the 5th of April 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 Avian Influenza Control Project office, No 2, Cassandra Street, off Usuma Street, off Gana Street, Maitama, Abuja at 1.00 P.M. on the 5th of April 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security of at least 2% of bid price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

9. The address(es) referred to above is(are): Dr Shuaib Belgore, Component Coordinator, Avian Influenza Control Project office, No 2, Cassandra Street, off Usuma Street, Off Gana Street, Maitama, Abuja. Office Hours: 9.00 am – 4.00 pm, Phone Nos. 09 – 5230531

(Signed)
Component Coordinator
Avian Influenza Control Project office
No 2 Cassandra Street,
Off Usuma Street,
Off Gana Street, Maitama, Abuja

Register Now...



...or your daily bread will be taken away

It is no longer going to be business as usual at the ports and land border. As part of an intensive restructuring process; The Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria has given all stakeholders at the ports and land borders an ultimatum to get registered between 1st February 2010 to 15th April 2010 or face exclusion

All un-qualified Freight Forwarders will be fined or jailed once caught.

Call 098734379



E-mail or visit our website:

Email Address: info@crffn.gov.ng
Website: <http://www.crffn.gov.ng>

HOW TO APPLY

Apply at www.crffn.gov.ng by selecting Register Here and follow all instructions on all the pages. Ensure you print your Acknowledgment Slip take to the bank, make your payment, collect the Pay4Me User Receipt from the Bank. Visit CRFFN portal again, go to Continue Application, login with your Application Number and PIN number and submit your application by clicking "Submit Application" and Print Payment Receipt" buttons. Your registration IS NOT COMPLETE unless you have the TRANSACTION ID NUMBER on the Pay4Me User Receipt. For more info go to Membership Application Process under Membership on www.crffn.gov.ng



Council for the Regulation of Freight Forwarding in Nigeria

Inside Politics

Ex-Gov Adamu declares for Nasarawa-West senatorial seat

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

FORMER Nasarawa State governor Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu made a formal declaration to enter the race for the Senatorial seat of Nasarawa-West ahead of the 2011 general elections. The seat is presently being occupied by Senator Abubakar Danso Sodangi, who has been there since 1999.

The former governor told a large and crowd at the palace of the Emir of Keffi, venue of the declaration, that he was responding to mounting pressures on him to put up for the election to represent the people at the Senate.

He said the idea was brought to bear on him since 2007 when he was leaving office after his second and final tenure as governor. However, the former governor said he resisted the pressure because he felt it would be morally wrong for him to use his office as governor to muscle his way into the senate.

Adamu, who is the current chairman of the Board of Trustees of the PDP, maintained that contesting the Senate seat at that time was against his political philosophy since doing so would have denied other contenders a level playing ground.

"I have now decided to bow to the pressures this time around", he said, stressing that "the voice of the people is the voice of God."

The event attracted prominent Nigerians as well as his political associates at both national and state levels including a former minister, Barrister Musa Eleyo, former and serving legislators.

"I call it a rare privilege to be called back to duty. I promise that if given your mandate, I will serve you to the best of my ability as a true honourable and distinguished member of the upper chamber," he declared.



ALH. Abdullahi Adamu

Are governors ready for constitution review?

By Nasidi A. Yahaya

THE prolonged absence of ailing President Umaru Yar'adua who is receiving medical attention in far away Jeddah, Saudi Arabia has brought yet another opportunity for the Nigeria's House of Representatives to amend the constitution to remove the lacuna found therein.

The lawmakers who were amending some parts of the constitution under the ad-hoc committee for the review of the 1999 constitution headed by Deputy Speaker Usman Bayero Nafada are now faced with yet another constitutional lacuna due to President Yar'adua's absence.

Thus, on Wednesday last week, the House called for a Public Hearing to subject two critical bills on the subjects to public debate and consideration. The essence was to call all stakeholders to provide individual and group perspective to the issues for amendment so that the bill that will be presented to the plenary session of the House for consideration will be a product of widespread public consultation. It will also be in line with the wishes and aspirations of greater percentage of the Nigerian people.

The first bill slated for consideration at the public hearing was a Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, while the second is a Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to make provision for the Vice President and Deputy Governors to assume and discharge the functions of the President or Governor respectively in their absence or in the event of temporary incapacity.

The first bill is seeking the amendment of sections 76(2); 116(2); 132(2) and 178(2) to change election period in the country. The bill requires that elections must hold six months before winners are sworn in, and it also creates room for the resolution of all litigations arising from the elections within the period.

The second bill for consideration is seeking amendment of sections 145 and 146 on one hand; and



BUKOLA Saraki, Chairman, governors' forum

sections 146, 190 and 191 on the other. The essence of the bill is to make provision for smooth transition of power from the President to the Vice President or from the Governor to the Deputy Governor when the need arises.

The public hearing was to serve as an avenue to brainstorm and identify grey areas and to sharpen loose ends in an effort to produce an authentic document believed by many to be a veritable means of deepening the roots of democracy and democratization process in the country.

Though the critical stakeholders were fully informed, the attendance at the public hearing was below expectation. Out of the 36 states of the federation, only Bauchi, Kwara and Taraba sent in representatives, while Chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), Professor Maurice Iwu and the Attorney General of Federation, Prince Adetokunbo Kayode were absent.

Also, Chief Justice of the Federation, Justice Aloysius Katsina-Alu sent a representative in the person of Justice G. A. Oguntade [JSC]. Similarly, the number of the State Assembly Speakers and members in attendance were far below expectation, especially considering the importance of the issues at

stake. This raises the question of seriousness and sincerity on the part of some of stakeholders, particularly those always shouting hoax at the slightest opportunity but will not be willing to participate in a quality dialogue like the public hearing called by the House for an honest and long term resolution of the crisis.

Daily Trust learnt that the absence of the Governors from last Wednesday's hearing might not be unconnected with perceived indifference to the bill seeking to make their deputies take over from them in acting capacity after 21 days of their absence from the state.

Also, there is perceived fear that deputy governors may use that avenue to canvass for their 'autonomy' as most of them do not have a clear constitutional role that can empower them to compete with their governors.

After consultations with the Speaker of the House Dimeji Bankole at the event on Wednesday, the Chairman of the Adhoc Committee for the review of the constitution, and Deputy Speaker, Rep Nafada announced the extension of time for the hearing to enable the stakeholders make out time to attend the hearing this Wednesday.

The Deputy Speaker who was earlier invited to the podium to deliver his welcome address rather



DEP. Speaker Usman Nafada

expressed regrets that a matter of such national importance could be so treated with levity by the states governors.

He said: "The reason behind amending section 145 was as a result of the public outcry that there was a vacuum created by the absence of the president; and civil societies, eminent personalities, state governors and so many other interest groups came to the National Assembly to see the leadership about how we can salvage this country. And we were able to resolve the problem temporarily through a resolution.

"Now we are looking for a permanent solution to the problem, and what is expected is that those who have been calling for that should have been here to present their memoranda, their positions and opinion on this matter. It is not just for the House to sit down and do it. Yes, the House can sit down and do it, but it is part of our responsibilities to call for public hearing in order to hear the views of Nigerians in matters like this.

"We feel this matter is an important issue that requires the attention of the State Governors, Attorney Generals of states, and also the INEC Chairman. But from what I can see Mr. Speaker, we have members of the House of Representatives here who are the majority, and I don't think

we are calling this public hearing for members of the House of Representatives.

"I can only see three representatives of state governors, and there is nothing that will pass and become a law regarding the amendment of the constitution without having 2/3rd of the state Houses of Assembly assenting to the position of the National Assembly. The Attorney General of the Federation who is supposed to be here is not here also.

"I don't think the three representatives of state governors here are adequate enough to represent the 36 states of the federation.

"So may I, Mr. Speaker, plead with you that we postpone this public hearing to next week when they would be ready so we can get their views, so nobody would come out later to say they were not there," Rep Nafada declared.

This is an avenue for the nation's civil society and other stakeholders to contribute their quota in fashioning out laws through a true democratic process. Therefore, the decision of Rep Nafada to reschedule the public hearing to give all stakeholders an opportunity to participate is therefore timely and commendable. It is a democratic move that is capable of yielding positive results in the latest effort of the parliament to amend the 1999 Constitution.

Inside Politics

Jonathan's posters take over PDP headquarters

By Suleiman M. Bisalla & Abdulkadir Badsha Mukhtar

POSTERS of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan have clearly taken over Wadata Plaza, national headquarters of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and structures in the vicinity, *Daily Trust* observed at the weekend.

Apart from a billboard strategically placed by the fence in front of the two story building, several posters of the Acting President are also glued to the walls and electric polls surrounding the building as well as some buildings opposite the Secretariat.

"Supporting Dr. Goodluck Jonathan, Acting President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, Federal Republic of Nigeria," the billboard, sponsored by 'PDP Youth Vanguard' reads.

Just a few meters away, adjacent to the PDP building, *Daily Trust* observed that close to a dozen faded posters of ailing President Umaru Yar'adua remained stuck to a fence opposite the Skye Plaza. One poster sponsored by a group which calls itself 'Nigeria for Alhaji Umaru Musa Yar'adua (NAUMY) reads: "Second Term is Real for Your Presidential Seat."

Many of the Jonathan's posters which enjoy prominence around the vicinity of the secretariat were pasted to cover posters of the numerous aspirants of the Anambra governorship elections who bitterly struggled for the party's ticket in November last year.

Jonathan has been acting as President since the National Assembly passed a resolution to elevate him to the status. Several

groups including the Eminent Elders Group, Northern Union and so on have endorsed the decision to break a seeming deadlock by making Jonathan Acting President. Now, there appear to be high-wired political manoeuvres to actualise a Jonathan Presidency following complete lack of information about the state of health of the President Yar'adua and his prolonged absence from the country.

Neither the delegation from the House of Representatives nor the leadership of the PDP which were in Jeddah to see the President recently were allowed to see him. Now, a six-man delegation of the Federal Executive Council including some members of his kitchen cabinet is due to leave for Jeddah to see the President and report to council.



POSTER of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan, take over Wadata Plaza

Appeal Court delivers judgement on Sokoto guber Wednesday

By Abbas Jimoh & Jafar Jafar, Kano

THE Court of Appeal, Sokoto Division, will on Wednesday deliver judgment in the governorship tussle between Sokoto State governor Aliyu Magatakarda Wamakko of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and his challenger Alhaji Muhammad Maigari Dingyadi of the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP).

This was contained in a letter of notice served the counsels to the appellants and the respondents and signed by the Senior Registrar of the Court of Appeal, Sokoto Judicial Division.

The notice reads in part:

"Take notice that the above mentioned Appeal/Motion will be listed for Judgement before the Court of Appeal sitting at Dendo Road off Sultan Abubakar Road, Near Police Headquarter Sokoto."

The DPP and its candidate Dingyadi have been challenging the decision of the Election Petition Tribunal over the qualification of Governor Wamakko to contest the repeat election in Sokoto State.

Meanwhile the National Youth Leader of the Democratic Peoples Party (DPP), Malam Abdurrahman Baffa Yola, has expressed confidence that the Appeal Court will do justice to the case, saying DPP's opti-

mism was borne of the belief that they had a strong case before the Appeal Court.

Speaking with our correspondent yesterday in Kano, the party's leader said: "It is just like submitting a JAMB form after the registration is closed. No matter your qualification, you will not even be short-listed to sit for the exams," he said.

Malam Baffa Yola said the Sokoto case was a litmus test for the judiciary and the Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to prove that democracy and rule or law can be protected and advanced.



THE CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON DRUGS, NARCOTICS
AND FINANCIAL CRIMES

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HON. RABE NASIR

Cordially invites

The General Public and all stake holders to

PUBLIC HEARING

On

**A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND
ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL
CRIMES COMMISSION
(ESTABLISHMENT) ACT 2004**

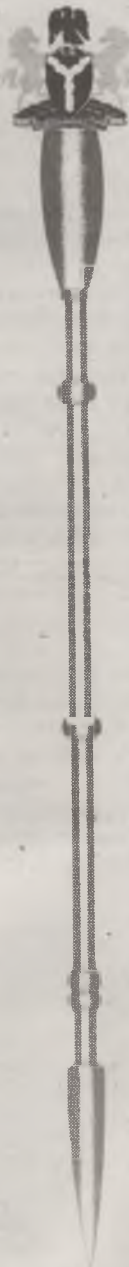
Date: Thursday 25th February 2010
Time: 10.00.am prompt
Venue: Conference Room 0.28
Ground Floor House of
Representatives (New
Building)

**SPECIAL GUEST OF HONOUR
RT. HON. DIMEJI BANKOLE,
CFR, SPEAKER,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

All Memoranda should be submitted in twenty (20) Copies to the Committee Secretariat in Committee Room 5 (White House) House of Representatives.

For Further enquiries please contact the Committee Clerk Mohammed Baba on Telephone no. 08038664405.

Signed
Hon. Dr. Rabe Nasir
Committee Chairman



TRUST CLASSIFIED

PUBLIC NOTICE GLORIOUS FOUNDATION CHURCH WORLD OUTREACH

The general public is hereby notified that the above named organization has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990

- The Trustees are:**
- 1. Pastor James Ebute Idoko - President
 - 2. Pastor Tom Sunday Ikpebe - Secretary
 - 3. Bro. Patrick's Omatule - Member
 - 4. Pastor Johnson Omohia - Member
 - 5. Bro. Johnson Maduakor - Member
 - 6. Bro. Uche Emeka - Member
 - 7. Mrs. Salome Rose Ebiute - Member

Aims and Objectives:

1. To preach the gospel of Jesus Christ in all part of Nigeria and the world using bible as the compass and guide.
2. To help the less privileged once in the society such as the orphans, widows, bound and destitute and engage in children evangelism.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission plot 240, Tigris crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Garki, Abuja Nigeria within 28 days of this publication

Signed:
Chris Ike Okpe Esq
Chris Okpe & Co, CC 8 Ibrahim Taiwo Road, Kaduna.

DANDALI FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied for registration to the Corporate Affairs Commission under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

- Trustees**
- 1. Hashim Yusuf
 - 2. Alhaji Umaru Dembo
 - 3. Umar Said Tudun Wada
 - 4. Shehu Mustapha Chaji
 - 5. Engr. Muaz Magaji

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. To improve community awareness on social services such as Democracy and good governance by providing information, experience sharing and skills acquisition.
2. To improve the socio-economic status of community through self reliance strategies and capacity building.
3. To assist in reducing illiteracy among the youth through capacity building strategies.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot 420, Tigris Crescent off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

SIGNED
BARR.ABDULLAH IMAM
NO 5 AUDU BAKO WAY,KANO
0803 349 2205

CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known **MISS MAMAH JULIETH IFEOMA**, now wish to be called **MRS. IKECHUKWU JULIETH IFEOMA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly **MISS AKINSANYA ADEOLA ABOSEDE**, now **MRS BALOGUN ADEOLA ABOSEDE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly **MISS DORCAS CHIDE MUSA**, now **MRS. DORCAS CHIDE ABDULSALAM** Former Documents remain valid. Authority concerned and general public take note.

I formerly known as **MISS OGOCHUKWU EUCHARIA NWANKWO**, now wish to be addressed as **MRS. EUHARIA OGOCHUKWU ODION-EKPEN**. Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria please take note.

I, formerly known as **UGWOKE FESTUS**, now wish to be called **UGWOKE FESTUS ONYEMA**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I formerly known as **SAIDU ABUBAKAR IZGE** now to be known as **SA'EED SALISU ABUBAKAR IZGE**. All former documents remain valid. General public take note.

I, formerly known as **FATIMA ISAH ADAMU**, now wish to be known as **FATIMA ISAH ALABI**. All former documents remain valid. FCE Kano and general public to take note.

I, formerly **UMARU ABUBAKAR**, now wish to be called and addressed as **SABO ABUBAKAR**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ADAEZE BLESSING ANICHE** now wish to be known and addressed as **MRS. ADAEZE BLESSING NSOFOR**. All former documents remain valid. General Public take note.

I, formerly known as **ABDULLAH AHMED MUHAMMED**, now wish to be known as **ABDULLAH ABDULKADIR MUHAMMED**. All former documents remain valid. General public should take note.

I, formerly known as **MISS ITOGHOMHEN EGIOMBENSE OBABUEKI** now wish to be known as **MRS ANN ITOGHOMHEN CHARLES-ADOGHE**. All former documents remain valid. SIS and general public please take note.

I, formerly addressed as **MISS AGOH VICTORIA CHIOMA** now to be known as **MRS AMANAMBA VICTORIA CHIOMA CHIDOZIE**. The general public should please take note.

I, formerly known as **COLLINS OZINULI CHINEDU OKEOZOR** now wish to be known as **COLLINS OZIANULI CHINEDU**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

I, formerly known as **LOVENDA O. OKPE** now wish to be known as **LOVENDA O. OTACHE**. All former documents remain valid. General public to note.

EMWAI COMPANY LIMITED

3 Kanta Road, TurakLali House, P.O Box 9717 Kaduna. Tel: 080-33709180 E-mail: emwai@group@yahoo.com

KAOLIN MINE FOR SALE
A Kaolin Mining site covering an Area of 200 hectares in Gombe State, situated along the Bauchi-Gombe Road and parallel to the Railway line for ease of transportation to all parts of Nigeria, is available for sale. Estimated deposits are 2 million metric tonnes.

2. Also, a Farmland, size 450 Acres, near Kaduna on Kaduna/Abuja Express Road, is available for sale.

Interested buyers may make enquiries by e-mail only
emwai@group@yahoo.com or
emwai@group@yahoo.com

Signed:
IBRAHIM YAHAYA
For: Emwai Company Ltd Kaduna

GOMBE RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

This is to inform the General Public that the above Named NGO has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for the appointment of additional Trustees, under part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990.

- The Trustees are:**
- 1. Professor James Bako Ketho - Chairman
 - 2. Mohammed Sami Sani Asaad - Member
 - 3. Alhaji Abubakar Hamina Saleh - Member
 - 4. Aminu Mohammed Najada - Member
 - 5. Mr. Kalagar Kudi Ludo - Member
 - 6. Gajibanga Baki Starkey Akali - Member
 - 7. Gombo Isa - Secretary

The Newly Elected Trustees are:

- 1. Ali Abubakar Ayyu - Member
- 2. Muhammad Musa Ayyu - Member
- 3. Muhammad Karim Tai - Member

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Articulate and strengthen the spirit of the community development in the people.
2. Capacity building for community driven development.
3. Promote peaceful co-existence among our people irrespective of religion, economic, culture, political and tribal differences.

Any objection(s) to the appointment should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, Plot No 420 Tigris Crescent, Off Aguiyi Ironsi Road, Maitama, Abuja within twenty eight (28) days of this publication.

Signed:
GAMBO ISA
Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE LOVE TO THE WORLD INITIATIVES

Notices is hereby given to the general public that above named Association is applying for Registration under Companies and Allied Matters Decree 1990 law of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

- The Trustees are:**
- 1. Josephine Anunbor
 - 2. Shola Adokola
 - 3. Agnes Ibrahim

Aims and Objectives:

1. To assist the needy and the less privilege
2. To bred loveable people without greed, those on the street without any hope of tomorrow, those that have never seen anybody show them love, those that don't even know what is love.

Any objection(s) to the above registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General Corporate Affairs Commission, plot 240, Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, Maitama Garki, Abuja within twenty eight (28) days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
SECRETARY

ASSALAM RESOURCE FOUNDATION

This is to inform the general public that the above named Foundation has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

- The trustees are:**
- 1. HRH Dr. Sa'id Usman (OFR)
 - 2. Sen. Abubakar Na'amo Abdullahi
 - 3. Alhaji Ibrahim Bui
 - 4. Alhaji Ibrahim Sadat Usman
 - 5. Alhaji Muktar Isa Maidobino
 - 6. Hajija Fathia Ali-Kote
 - 7. Hon. Mohammed Arzika Tureta
 - 8. Alhaji Hassan Nuhu
 - 9. Muhammad Takut Shuaib
 - 10. Hajija Amina Ibrahim Bui
 - 11. Miki'Ali-Kote (Secretary)

Aims and objectives:

1. To support Orphans and Vulnerable Children to meet their social, material, emotional and spiritual needs.
2. To provide parental care to the children so they can have a standard upbringing.
3. To provide all the necessary support for each child to overcome his or her initial disadvantages and achieve a better life.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Secretary

WOMEN, ORPHANS AND ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCACY INITIATIVE

This is to inform the general public that the above named initiative has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

- The trustees are:**
- 1. Mrs. Jennifer Ejembi-Emdin
 - 2. Robert Emdin
 - 3. Ikongbeh Omakwu Marx

Aims and objectives:

1. To assist indigent widows.
2. To offer scholarships to exceptionally gifted orphans.
3. To sensitize the public on the dangers of climate change.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
Ikongbeh Omakwu Marx Esq
08037243544

LABOUR, HEALTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

This is to inform the general public that the above named Centre has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part c of the companies and allied matters act No. 1 of 1990.

- The trustees are:**
- 1. Mr Ayodele Akele
 - 2. Mr Adeyemi Oloye
 - 3. Mr Ayodele Musiliu

Aims and objectives:

1. To monitor and develop documentation and research, data bank on and the promotion, protection and sustenance of economic, social, cultural rights policies and human rights in Nigeria.
2. To create public awareness, campaign and educate on human rights, economic, social and cultural rights.

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs Commission, 420 Tigris Crescent, off Aguiyi Ironsi Street, P.M.B 198, Maitama, Abuja within twenty-eight 28 days from the date of this publication.

Signed:
G. I Baiye (Miss)
Solicitor
3rd Floor AD Plaza, Wuse II, Abuja
08036798825

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of the original letter of offer of term of Grant/Conveyance of Plot No. 51 on BOTP/86 with FILE NO. BO/7183 off Lagos street Maiduguri belonging to **ALHAJI MUSA WAKAWA** of Damboa Road Maiduguri is missing. All efforts to trace it proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general Public of the loss of the original letter of term of Grant/Conveyance of Plot No. 4 OTHMAN CLOSE Damboa Road, layout Maiduguri with C of O NE/1327 belonging to **MOHAMMED ABBA AJI** old GRA Maiduguri is missing. All efforts to trace it proved abortive. If found please contact the nearest police station.

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the loss of the original letter of term of Grant/Conveyance of Plot No. 127 on BOTP/73 (BO149567) Pompomary Medium Density layout Maiduguri belonging to **Sen. MOHAMMED IBRAHIM KIRIKASAMA** of Gombole Road Old G.R.A Maiduguri is missing. All efforts to trace it proved abortive. If found, please contact the nearest Police Station.

SPORT

Villa close in as
City ends barren
with Liverpool

Page 63



Oliha: Don't underrate Nations Cup opponents

By Ibraheem A. Fatai

FORMER Super Eagles midfielder Thompson Oliha has warned the Super Eagles against underrating their opponents in the Nations Cup 2012 qualifiers, saying they could pose serious threat to their quest to appear in the biennial soccer event if they are not taken seriously.

Giving this warning in a telephone interview with *Trustsports* moments after the draws were made on Saturday, Oliha said the opponents appear very weak on paper but could pose stumbling blocks to the Eagles on their way to the 2012 tournament.

He therefore advised the Nigeria Football Federation, the yet to be named Eagles handler and the players to put all necessary machinery in motion immediately after the World Cup to enable the Eagles have an excellent qualification campaign.

"Gone are the days when Nigerians would go to bed believing that the Eagles would run over their opponents in the group. With the recent drift in form of the Eagles and some upsets recorded in Angola, vying for the top position against Ethiopia, Guinea and Madagascar will not be as easy as some Nigerians have been describing it.

"Eagles can have a smooth ride to the 2012 tournament if they take their opponents as serious contenders to the top position from the group. Anything short of that may spell doom, because no country in African football will allow itself to be overrun by another country without giving it some fight and resistance.

"Although, the qualifier will commence in September, barely two months after the World Cup, the preparation should be made



SOME of Nigeria's junior players like Ibok Edet, who is challenged here by Germany's Richard Sukuta-Pasu, left during their U-20 World Cup in Egypt will form part of Eagles team for the 2012 campaign.

in conjunction with that of the World Cup. We are all living

witnesses to what Malawi did to Algeria in the last Nations Cup in

Angola; such surprises await big countries like Nigeria who may

take their opponents for granted," Oliha stated.

Kwara shops for Westerhof replacement

From Mustafa Abubakar, Ilorin & Ibraheem A. Fatai

KWARA State Commissioner for Sports and Youth Development Alhaji Abubakar Kanike says the ministry is currently in search of a reputable soccer tactician as a replacement for Mr. Clemence Westerhof as new Director of Kwara State Football College of Excellence (KSFCE).

The move, according to the

commissioner, is sequel to the unceremonious exit of the former Super Eagles handler from the football academy some months ago.

Speaking to newsmen during the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the renovation and upgrade of the state stadium complex in Ilorin, the Commissioner said the state government had approved a search team to Eng-

land to shop for the Dutchman's replacement.

Kanike said, "We have a mandate to go to the United Kingdom to hire a new Technical Adviser to replace Mr. Clemence Westerhof as the Rector of the Kwara Football Academy any moment from now."

However, a source closed to the academy revealed to *Trustsports* that the former Super Eagles handler's absence from

the college may have to do with ill health, which might have prompted his long absence from the KSFCE.

It added that the delay in hiring a replacement for him was to avoid any contractual arrangement between it and the Dutch tactician.

The source noted, "If the state had gone ahead before now to announce a replacement for him, he could have

gone to court over it until now the state is free to employ a new hand."

When contacted on telephone, Chief Coach of the academy, Paul Odey, confirmed the search for the Dutch replacement, saying "the government team led by the state Commissioner for Youth and Sports is currently in United Kingdom searching for a credible replacement for Westerhof."

NPL elections: Aspirant threatens court action

MR Bode Oyewole, a disqualified aspirant in March's elections into the board of the Nigeria Premier League (NPL) on Saturday in Abuja threatened to take legal action against his disqualification.

"I have always believed that elections are not a matter of life and death but I am not going to sit back and allow what is unfair and wicked to go on," he said on his disqualification.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) reports that Oyewole, a former Chairman of Shooting Stars Football Club in Ibadan, arrived at the screening venue in Abuja early Friday.

However, after waiting for about six hours and the last of the six

screened candidates was called in, Oyewole was informed by a friend that his name was not on the list of those to be screened.

Further enquiries from NPL officials working with the Electoral Committee revealed that only six candidates were to be screened, while Oyewole was not among them.

A visibly disappointed Oyewole later said the development was a surprise to him, adding that his disqualification was morally wrong and fraudulent.

"This has come as a surprise to me and it has questioned the credibility of the electoral committee despite my earlier confidence in it.

"My confidence was as a

result of the presence of Chief Felix Anyansi-Agwu, the Enyimba International FC Chairman, who is the Vice-Chairman of the committee.

"But for the committee not to tell me of this development earlier and allow me to leave Ibadan and come here to waste my time is morally wrong. It is also an indication of something fishy going on," he said.

Oyewole, who was a member of the NPL Interim Management Committee from 2005 to 2006, said that he was unhappy with the situation and vowed that he would take all measures to fight his case.

"I am not happy about this because I am not trying to be on the board because of what I can get but because of what I can contribute.



Kano Pillars players in a victory party during one of their Premier League outings

Lack of funds delay tennis activities

PRESIDENT of the Nigeria Table Tennis Federation (NTTF), Wahaab Omotoshe has said that lack of fund was responsible for the late start of the federation's activities for the year.

Omotoshe told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Lagos on Saturday that monetary challenge prevented the federation from organising any competition until the national U-13 and U-6 championships this month.

"There was problem of fund and sponsorship, and this affected all the programmes the federation line up," he said after the one-week championships which ended on Friday.

"But instead of just sitting and waiting for the fund and sponsors which are not forthcoming, we started from somewhere.

"This is just the beginning of our many competitions for the year,"

Omotoshe said.

He said the objective of the championships was to discover talents at the junior level.

"This is the maiden edition, we know the players are of school age and they ought to be in school but we have to start from somewhere.

It is also to help us begin early preparations for the many international competitions coming up soon.

NFF suspends women league

THE Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has suspended Week 9 matches in the 2009/2010 Women Professional League, an official said at the weekend in Abuja.

"The NFF on Friday decided that the Week 9 matches earlier to be played on Feb. 20 and Feb. 21, 2010 have been suspended," Mr Danlami Alanana, the Secretary of the NFF's Women Football League Unit, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Saturday. NAN reports that the

latest postponement is the fifth in the league since the season began on Dec. 6, 2009.

Alanana said the decision was to allow players in the under-20 women national team camp to be more prepared for their international match next weekend.

The national team, known as the Falconets, are in camp for the second leg match in the African qualifier for the 2010 FIFA U-20 Women's World Cup.

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In compliance with section 468 (1) (2) of The Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990 NOTICE IS HEREBY, given that a meeting of the above named company will be held at the company's Board Room Julius Berger Plc Yard Utako, Abuja-FCT on 26th day of March, 2010 at 11am. To consider the following matters:

i) To receive the Final Accounts of the Liquidator showing how the Winding Up of the Company had been conducted and the property of the company had been disposed of together with the Auditors Report therein.

ii) To receive any explanation on the winding up in general and any incidental Matter (S).

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LOSS OF PASSPORT

I the undersigned **Antoine Bou Harb**, Lebanese National declare that I have lost my passport whose number is **RL1337128** issued in Beirut.

I will be very grateful to anyone who finds this passport to call me on my phone number **08035950491** or to hand it to the nearest police station or to the Embassy of Lebanon on the following address:

Embassy of Lebanon
Plot 762 Lake Chad Crescent
Maitama-Abuja

LOSS OF DOCUMENT

This is to inform the general public of the original right of occupancy (R of O) with No. MFCT/LA/FCT. 698 in respect of plot 1080 Guzape (A09) District, Abuja, belonging to Hon. Ayuba J. Ngbako of 40, Samuel Ladoke Akintola Boulevard, Garki 11, Abuja donated to RELIANCE DEFENCE EQUIPMENT LTD. All efforts to trace the document proved abortive. If found, please contact the nearest police station, FCDA, AGIS and relevant authorities please note.

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This is to inform the general public and authority concerned of the Copies of Application for Land in Abuja with File No. OD310, Receipt of Acknowledgement and also Receipt Updated payment bearing **Mr. Sam Adelana Otuyelu** while on transit and that all efforts made to trace the missing documents proved abortive. FCDA and relevant authorities to take note. Any body with useful information relating to the recovery of the said documents should please contact the undersigned or the nearest police station.

Signed:

Mr. Sam Adelana Otuyelu
08023420774

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The General Public is hereby notified that the above named Association has applied to the Corporate Affairs Commission for registration under part of the company and allied matter Act, 1990.

THE TRUSTEES ARE:

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| 7. Bello Tukur | 8. Mohammed Shuaibu |
| 9. Alhaji Mohammadu | 10. Abdullahi Ali Kano |

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- To bring about awareness and create employment opportunities to people both in Abuja and Nigeria at large, wherever they reside.
- To assist our members whenever the need arise, whether in sickness or happiness.
- To foster unity among Tsakuwa people

Any objection should be forwarded to the registrar general, corporate affairs commission, plot 565 Tegris Crescent, Maitama Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

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This International school has a large, secure and serene campus with state of the art facilities in the countryside just outside Abuja.

Prospective students are invited to apply to the school to join JS1. Interested parents should purchase application forms from the school or examination centres below:

Schedule for Entrance Examination.

DATE: Saturday, 6th March, 2010, **TIME:** 9:00 am, **VENUE:** Capital Science Academy, Kuje
OTHERS CENTRES (13th March, 2010):-

Lagos: Radiance Primary School, O Close, Festac Town

Kaduna: Turaki International School, Rabah Road, Malali, Kaduna

Kano: Benny International School, Hadejia Road.

Jos: Alama Private School, Rock Haven, Jos

Maiduguri: Abande Memorial School, Dipcharima Road GRA Maiduguri

Port-Harcourt: Montessori Int'l School, 57 King Perekule Street, Old GRA

Limited spaces are also available in SS1, contact the school for more information.

Forms are available at all examination centres and at the following banks at the cost of N5,000 only:

First Bank, Jos Street, Area 3, Garki, Abuja; First Bank, Main Branch, Premier International School, Off Aminu Kano Crescent, Wuse 2, Abuja

and can also be downloaded from www.capitalscience.net

Completed forms should be submitted to the Capital Science Academy or any of the centres.

Contact: +234 809-649-6475, +234 803-596-1720 and +234 806-799-2797



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Forms can also be downloaded from www.capitalscience.org. Completed forms should be submitted to Capital Science Academy, Kuje-Abuja,

Schedule for Entrance Examination.

Date: Saturday 6th March, 2010.

Time: 9:00am.

Venue: Capital Science Academy, Kuje - Abuja.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

Mr. Maikano Stanley, (6thform coordinator)

+234(0)7033474599, +234(0)7026451812, **E-mail:** 6thform@capitalscience.org

Signed
MRS RACHEL BORLAND
Principal



Villa close in as City ends barren with Liverpool

ASTON Villa gained ground in the Premier League's battle for fourth place on Sunday as they thrashed Burnley 5-2 and then watched Manchester City and Liverpool cancel each other out in a dire goalless draw.

City remain fourth on 46 points, with Liverpool on 45 and ahead of Villa only on goals scored. Tottenham Hotspur, away to Wigan Athletic later on Sunday, have 43 points and will go fourth with a win over the team they beat 9-1 earlier in the season.

Chelsea are top on 61 points after their 2-0 win at Wolverhampton Wanderers on Saturday, taking full advantage of Manchester United's surprise 3-1 defeat at Everton which left the Premier League champions on 57. Arsenal are third on 55 following their 2-0 home win over Sunderland.

The battle for fourth place, and the final Champions League qualifying berth, was to the fore yesterday and Villa were first up at home to second-bottom Burnley.

The hosts trailed to an early Steven Fletcher goal as Burnley dreamed of a first away win of the season and though Ashley Young levelled after 52 minutes, it was still tense 10 minutes into the second half.

Villa then produced a spell of terrific attacking and exploded with four goals in 12 minutes. Stewart Downing got the first two and Emile Heskey and Gabriel Agbonlahor also weighed in as Burnley's defence lost concentration.

Martin O'Neill's Villa, who face Manchester United in the League Cup final next Sunday, then eased off the gas but Martin Paterson's late score for the visitors was no consolation.

The eagerly-awaited battle at Eastlands turned out to be one of the duller games of the season as City and Liverpool seemed content to play for a draw from the start.

An appalling first half did not feature a chance until Liverpool's Martin Skrtel headed wide in stoppage time.

The second half was little better, with Pepe Reina's save to deny City's



LIVERPOOL'S English midfielder Steven Gerrard (R) competes with Manchester City's English midfielder Gareth Barry during the English Premier League football match at The City of Manchester stadium yesterday.

Emmanuel Adebayor the only notable action.

Liverpool boss Rafa Benitez eventually introduced Yossi Benayoun and Fernando Torres for the last

quarter but even they could not lift the torpor.

In other games on Sunday Blackburn Rovers beat Bolton Wanderers 3-0 in a Lancashire snowstorm with

goals by Nikola Kalinic, Jason Roberts and Gael Givet while a late free kick by Bobby Zamora gave Fulham a 2-1 home win over Birmingham City.

Ancelotti insists on Premier League title race

CARLO Ancelotti has insisted there is still life in the title race despite seeing Chelsea extend their lead at the top of the Premier League to four points on Saturday.

The Blues' 2-0 victory over Wolverhampton Wanderers, coupled with Manchester United's 3-1 defeat at Everton, means Ancelotti's men have some breathing space at the summit with just 11 games remaining.

However, the Italian insisted that while he was pleased his players managed to take advantage of United's slip-up, there were still plenty of points left to play for.

"We went into this game [against Wolverhampton Wanderers] knowing we had the chance to improve our position after the Manchester United result," he told Press Association Sport.

"The players were aware United had lost, and we managed to take advantage of the situation.

"We didn't play that well, but we had a good spirit, battled for every ball and deserved the points.

"But there will be a lot of games between now and the end of the season, and nothing is decided at this moment. There are still a lot of points to play for.

Federer out of Dubai with lung infection

WORLD number one Roger Federer has pulled out of the Dubai Championships because of a lung infection.

The Swiss, a four-time winner in Dubai, is expected to be out of action for a further two weeks.

Federer was due to make his first appearance since winning the Australian Open last month, but he will now return to action at Indian Wells in March.

British number one Andy Murray and world

number two Novak Djokovic are among those competing in Dubai.

Federer's withdrawal leaves Murray as the highest-ranked player in the top half of the draw, and the Scot will open his campaign against Russian qualifier Igor Kunitsyn.

Croatia's Marin Cilic is a potential semi-final opponent for Murray in what would be a repeat of their Australian Open encounter at the same stage, which the Briton won in straight sets.

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GUEST COLUMNIST

By Issa Aremu, mni

Mr Tandja's *politicide*

Another avoidable coup d'état occurred in Niger Republic on 18 February 2010. This reactionary development has once again brought to the fore the imperatives of good governance in West Africa's sub region. For discernable political observers, Niger was actually a political disaster waiting to happen anyway. President Mamadou Tandja's rise and predictable fall confirms the old received wisdom that those who dare to live by the sword end up somehow consumed by the very sword. His entry into politics started with the 1974 coup d'état that brought Seyni Kountche to power. He held various high-level posts under that undemocratic regime before heading the National Movement for the Development of Society (MNSD) as an opposition leader during the 1990s. A 1999 coup paved the way for a free and fair election in which Mamadou Tandja was elected President. His reign has been characterized by messianic complex of indispensability which in turn made him to criminally alter the rules of political engagement to his favour as an incumbent. It is an open knowledge that the recent coup was preceded by a year-long political crisis in Niger related to President Tandja's efforts to extend his mandate beyond December 2009, when his second term was originally scheduled to end.

Arguing indispensability and claiming that the people wanted him to remain in office, Tandja dissolved the National Assembly in May 2009 and subsequently appointed a new Constitutional Court, enabling him to push forward with a constitutional referendum in August 2009 that extended his mandate for an additional three years. Tandja went further. He promoted addictive coups, as it were, against constitutional order by scrapping the semi-presidential system of government in favour of a presidential system.

Opposition legitimately reacted furiously to Tandja's efforts to remain in office and denounced him as a dictator. Tandja also faced strong international and regional criticism as a result of the events of 2009; Niger was suspended from the regional body ECOWAS.

Tandja said that he needed to remain in office to oversee various projects of tremendous economic value, as if one of the poorest nations in the world could risk isolation.

With disastrous record of constitutional violations, it was self evident that bad governance Tandja promoted would end up with worse case scenario as we sadly witnessed recently. Niger under Tandja had been what a democracy should not be.

In 2005, the country hit the global head line through a famine which the whole world acknowledged but falsely denied by the ousted dictator. According to Niger President, Mamadou Tandja, then there was no famine. "The people of Niger look well-fed as you can see" he reportedly told BBC. According to him, famine was no famine but something close to it, namely food shortages occasioned by usual endemic poor rains and locust invasions in Niger.

He accused the media, aid agencies and opposition parties of exaggeration and smear campaign against his administration.

The controversial remark of President Mamadou Tandja about zero-hunger in Niger brought to the fore the poverty of his leadership in particular and leadership challenge in Africa.

According to the Human Development Report in that year, Niger was 176th i.e. second to the last (war-weary Sierra Leone) on the Human development index. The life expectancy at birth of President Tandja's "well-fed people" was 46 years, adult literacy was 17.1 per cent and combined gross enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools was as miserable as 19 per cent, 85.3 per cent are below income poverty line while as many as 41 per cent of children are under weight for age. These sobering statistics are NOT manufactured by the opposition nor aid agencies as President Mamadou was quick to make cheap

political capital then from the misery of his own people that time. Niger shows the linkage between poverty and lack of democracy. The challenge of governance is to deliver prosperity for the people. The world cannot resolve on end to poverty while some miserable politicians in the continent play politics of poverty and sit tight denying alternative to their misuse.

The event in Niamey has also called to question the relevance of NEPAD once enthusiastically promoted by President Olusegun Obasanjo, South Africa's Thabo Mbeki, Senegal's Abdoulaye Wade and Algeria's Aboulazeez Bouteflika in 2000. NEPAD was seen as a new African initiative that raises the prospects of an African Renaissance through sustainable development and good governance. NEPAD underscored the fact that economic development was impossible without addressing the political question.

It called for pair review mechanism among member states to promote best democratic processes such as free and fair elections. The events in Niger show that pair review mechanism is not working. The ease with which Tandja defied the warnings of AU about the danger of subversion of constitutional order tasks leaders to rethink pair review methodology. The new military junta in Niger must quickly return the country to democracy and avoid further isolation of the country. The disgraced former President Tandja already brought ruination. The new military junta should not entrench dictatorship. It must immediately organize free and fair elections so that the people of that impoverished nation would determine who rules them according to the best global political practices.

issaaremu@yahoo.com

“His reign has been characterized by messianic complex of indispensability which in turn made him to criminally alter the rules of political engagement to his favour as an incumbent”



PRESIDENT Mamadou Tandja of Niger

SPORTS REPORT



MARIA Sharapova

Sharapova takes Memphis title

Top seed Maria Sharapova breezed to a 6-2 6-1 victory over Swedish qualifier Sofia Arvidsson to easily win the Memphis Championships women's title.

The dominant Russian did not drop a set during the tournament as she won her 21st career title.

"I feel great. I came here for matches - I got five and I got the win, so it was a good week," Sharapova said.

"I served and returned well, two things that are very important indoors."

Arvidsson, who won at Memphis in 2006, lost nine successive games from 2-2 in the first set.



BOBBY Zamora

Zamora's late stunner sinks Birmingham

Bobby Zamora capped Fulham's second half fight-back as the Cottagers claimed a dramatic 2-1 win over Birmingham yesterday.

Roy Hodgson's side trailed in the third minute when Fulham defender Chris Baird headed a spectacular own goal at Craven Cottage.

But Damien Duff scored a superb equaliser after half-time and Zamora drove in a brilliant free-kick winner in stoppage time to lift Fulham above Birmingham into ninth place.

Birmingham had been on the front foot in the early stages and James McFadden should have done better than shoot straight at Australian goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer.

McFadden didn't need to rue that miss for long as Baird gifted Birmingham the lead in comical fashion.

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