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# Jonathan: Iwu's INEC is credible

By Mohammed S. Shehu, with agency report

IN spite of the seeming popular crave for a new election chief ahead of the general polls, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan said he was convinced that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) headed by Prof Maurice Iwu could hold credible

elections in 2011.

"I am convinced that the present INEC can conduct free and credible elections," Jonathan said yesterday in Washington at a breakfast meeting organised by the Council on Foreign Relations.

A top US official recently urged that Iwu be replaced when his tenure ends in June, to ensure free and fair

elections next year. Many civil and political groups in the country have also called on the acting president not to renew Iwu's tenure.

But Jonathan, who pledged to inject new blood into INEC and institute a lot of changes ahead of the elections, said the problem was not really about the constitution of the electoral

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## Driver runs over PDP chief, six others

From Ismail Adebayo, Birnin Kebbi

SEVEN people, including frontline politician Ibrahim Dan-Ilela aka Barden Gwandu, were crushed to death when a political thug driving a car at high speed run over them in Birnin Kebbi yesterday, witnesses said.

The late chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) was sitting in front of his home at around 8.30 am with some of his political associates when the Honda Accord car being driven by Murtala Lauje suddenly ran into them, according to

“Lauje, allegedly drunk, drove into the street at a very high speed



MINISTER of Aviation Fidelity Njeze (right) during a regional ministerial conference on aviation security in Abuja yesterday. With her is the Commissioner of Infrastructure and Energy for the African Union Commission, Dr. Elhan Ibrahim.

accounts of residents.

Five of them died on the spot while the two others died a few hours after the incident at the Sir Yahaya General Hospital in the Kebbi State capital.

A witness, Tijani Abubakar, told *Daily Trust* that Lauje, allegedly drunk, drove into the street at a very high speed and crushed the politicians.

He said Lauje appeared to have lost control of the vehicle and ran into the people, who were seated in front of Dan-Ilela's home.

Immediately after the accident, people around the area suspected politi-  
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# Explosion in Jos injures 3

From Ahmed Mohammed & Mahmud Lalo, Jos

THERE was an explosion yesterday at Barikin Akawu in the Dadin Kowa area of Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State resulting in the amputation of the hands of one person while injuring two others.

Police Public Relations Officer ASP Mohammed Lerama told *Daily Trust*, "There was an explosion in Dadin Kowa and a team of bomb experts led by the unit commander were sent to the scene of the incident in company of men from the State Criminal Investigation Department and the Air Force".

Lerama said when they arrived, they found three persons in a room and one of them, Abdul Samad, had his two hands chopped off while the other two were badly burnt and were rushed to hospital for treatment as they were in critical condition.

He said, "There was complete detonation from the substance, no particle of the substance was recovered to examine the cause of the incident whether it was accidental or the victims had evil intention. When they recover they will be fully investigated to know their mission", he said.

One of the victims, Musa Hassan told *Daily Trust* in hospital that the explosives chopped off

the hands of one Abdussamad Muhammed while one of their friends, Abdurrazak Shua'aibu who was with them in the room sustained some bruises on his right hand.

Hassan who sustained a bruise on his shaved head and was lying handcuffed to Shua'aibu on hospital bed said, "I was supposed to travel yesterday, but they (Muhammed and Shua'aibu) invited me to their house at Dadin Kowa this morning (yesterday) we were eating and discussing when we just heard a loud bang, I was confused, I heard a sharp pain on my hand and when I looked around I noticed that Muhammed's two hands from the

wrist were chopped off and blood was gushing".

He added, "Shua'aibu and I then ran out of the room in confusion while Muhammad was left lying in the room, we were then arrested and brought to the hospital".

Many people went to the Plateau Specialist Hospital to take a glimpse at them. On whether they knew that they were being accused of being in possession of explosives which they were planning to detonate, Hassan added, "We were not in possession of any bomb, I told you we just heard a loud bang and we were arrested for which I don't know why".

In his account of the incident, the Ward Head of Barikin Akawu

Dadin Kowa Jos, Malam Salisu Abubakar, said he was in side his house when he heard a big sound of explosives around 8:00am.

Malam Salisu said, "Abdulsamad was a worker in a company that brakes stones in the area, we invited soldiers and the police who took the victims to the hospital, I also led them to the dynamite industry where the boy worked before".

He said people of the area live peacefully with one another and all the crisis in Jos did not affect his area. He appealed to his subjects to remain calm and cooperate with the authorities to get to the root of the matter and pledged cooperation with the security operatives.



CROSS section of new Senior Advocates of Nigeria during their swearing-in at the Supreme Court, Abuja, yesterday..

PIC: KENNEDY EGBONODJE

## I am not against Buhari-Shekarau

From Auwalu Umar, Kano

KANO State Governor Malam Ibrahim Shekarau says he has nothing personal or political against retired General Muhammadu Buhari as erroneously portrayed in the media by the Congress for Peoples Change (CPC).

Reacting to an Ibadan-based publication credited to CPC's spokesman, Mr. Dennis Aghanya that the governor was angry that Buhari's exit from ANPP had truncated his pact with the PDP to stop the two-time presidential candidate from emerging as the ANPP flag-bearer in 2011, Shekarau said Buhari equally had never personally claimed that he (Shekarau) was against him.

"There was no agreement with PDP, as Mr. Aghanya asserted, to stop General Buhari from emerging the presidential candidate of ANPP in 2011, as part of negotiations to participate in the GNU", he said.

A statement yesterday by the governor's Senior Special Assistant Sule Ya'u Sule said like the party itself, Shekarau had accepted Buhari's exit from the ANPP in good faith and had wished him good luck in his future political outings.

The governor said Aghanya's statement reflected neither the position of the party nor gave a truthful account of events leading to Buhari's much-anticipated exit from the ANPP.

He said the decision to enter Yar'adua's Government of National Unity [GNU] was a collective party resolution taken in the "larger interest of national unity".

The governor also said he, like every party member, had his personal opinion concerning ANPP's participation in GNU but once the party had taken a decision, he had to oblige.

"General Buhari, on the other hand, and in keeping with his practice of disrespecting any party decision not sanctioned by The Buhari Organization [TBO], refused to accept the reality of the party's participation in the GNU. It didn't take long for the General to realize he was all by himself, which increased his frustration", he said.

## Customs warns on fake car documents

From Isa Umar Gusau, Maiduguri

THE Comptroller, Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) Borno Command Mr Lawrence Ikpebe has cautioned car dealers in the state against the use of fake duty certificates to cheat government.

The comptroller who spoke with newsmen in Maiduguri yesterday said the command was worried by the use of fake documents by car dealers in the state.

"Some of the car dealers prefer to obtain fake duty certificates for their cars and put buyers at risk of having their cars impounded because their papers were not genuine ones from the customs office which is the only body empowered by law to issue duty certificates on imported vehicles," Ikpebe said.

He noted that while it does not cost much to obtain the original certificates some dealers prefer to

cut corners by getting fake documents.

On the strategies he was adopting to check the trend, Ikpebe said he had already invited Maiduguri car dealers for a meeting as a way of sensitizing them on the problem and the dangers of the practice. He said he hopes that the meeting would help in sending a signal to them to stop the practice. He however threatened that the command may take

severe measures if persuasions fail.

"I want to say that both the giver and the taker of forged duty certificates are liable to prosecution at the law courts if they are arrested. This has to stop because we cannot continue to allow government to lose so much revenue. We are bent on ensuring that we stop them at all costs within the provisions of the law", the comptroller noted.

## Court adjourns to June 3 on Yuguda vs Gadi

From Ahmed Mohammed, Jos

THE Federal Court of Appeal in Jos has adjourned hearing on the case between former Deputy Governor of Bauchi State Alhaji Muhammadu Garba Gadi and

Governor Isah Yuguda, his Deputy Babayo Gamawa, the Speaker of the state House of Assembly, the state Chief Judge and 12 others to 3rd June for hearing.

The presiding judge, Justice Zainab Bulkachuwa, adjourned

the case yesterday to enable Governor Yuguda's counsel write their briefs on the arguments within 14 days after she granted their applications for extension of time and the former Deputy Governor's counsel are expected

to reply the arguments before the hearing date. Ex- Deputy Governor Garba Gadi was impeached by the state House of Assembly over allegations of gross misconduct and abuse of office in August 2008.

# Obama: Nigeria critical to Africa's survival

By Mohammed S. Shehu, with agency report

THE United States President Barack Obama has acknowledged Nigeria's leadership role in Africa, saying the country is critical to the survival of the continent.

"Nigeria is critical to the rest of the continent and if Nigeria does not get it right, Africa will really not make more progress," Obama said when he received the Acting President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan

on Monday at Blair House, Washington DC.

The Acting President began a four-day official visit to the U.S. on Sunday.

"There is the urgent need for free and fair elections and the need to tackle the problem of corruption and to establish security and stability in the country," Obama said.

He said his country "would like to work with Nigeria to ensure a politically stable envi-

ronment which will make Nigeria a good example to other African countries."

Obama thanked Jonathan for accepting his invitation to the Nuclear Summit and commended him for his leadership qualities particularly the manner in which he stabilised Nigeria's political situation.

NAN reports that earlier, Jonathan had given the assurance that the Federal Government would intensify its reform pro-

grammes to strengthen Nigeria's democracy and public well-being.

"Without credible reforms, we cannot phase out bad leadership and without that process, we cannot have a strong nation," Jonathan said. The Acting President pledged Nigeria's commitment to a successful implementation of the recently signed Bi-National Agreement between Nigeria and the U.S.

He expressed optimism that the Working Group established

by the Commission would contribute towards actualising the objectives of the Nigeria's Vision 20: 2020

Jonathan also thanked the American Government for the support it had given for the implementation of the amnesty, stating that the Government was committed to restoring peace in the Niger Delta region.

Jonathan congratulated Obama for the success of the healthcare bill in the U.S.



Acting President Goodluck Jonathan (right) with US President Barack Obama during their bilateral talks in Washington D.C. yesterday.

...urges Jonathan to make 'historic progress'

PRESIDENT Barack Obama has urged Nigeria's Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to make "historic" progress in combating corruption and backed his vow to forge electoral reform, US officials said.

Jonathan met Obama on Sunday during his first foreign trip, to Washington for a nuclear security summit, since taking over two months ago from Nigeria's ailing president Umaru Musa Yar'adua.

"The president reiterated that the United States places great importance on the US relationship with Nigeria and the Nigerian people," the White House said in a statement issued after the meeting at the Blair House official guest house.

"The president added that a strong, democratic, prosperous Nigeria is in the US national interest."

Jonathan agreed with Obama on the need to respect constitutional law, to work toward free and fair elections and on economic development, the statement said.

Obama "urged Acting President Jonathan to use his tenure to make historic and tangible progress in strengthening the Nigerian government's commitment to follow through on countering corruption," it added, noting Obama pledged US support to the acting Nigerian leader "in realizing his public promise for electoral reform."

The statement said the two leaders also discussed the importance of combating terrorism.

It did not specify whether they talked about an attempt to blow up a US jet bound for Detroit on Christmas Day. A Nigerian man, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, is accused of trying to detonate explosives concealed in his underwear during the foiled attack, blamed on an Al-Qaeda affiliate.

The president added that a strong, democratic, prosperous Nigeria is in the US national interest

## Halliburton: No one would be spared – AGF

By Boco Edet

MINISTER of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation (AGF) Mohammed Bello Adoke has said no official alleged to have received \$180million bribes paid by Halliburton to secure contracts in Nigeria would be covered up. The security committee set up by the federal government to investigate the case has submitted a report to the office of the justice minister for further action.

Adoke said yesterday the report would receive urgent attention as soon as he is briefed and assured that no one would be spared.

He spoke during a courtesy visit on the Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Mrs. Farida Waziri in Abuja.

It was alleged that Kellogg Brown and Root (KBR), a Halliburton subsidiary made payments to a range of officials in the executive, NNPC and the NLNG. A total sum of \$180 million was involved to secure a contract estimated to worth about \$6 billion.

The investigative team set up by federal government in April 2009 to look into the allegations of corrupt payment include the Inspector-General of the Police, EFCC Chairman and Directors-General of the National Intelligence Agency (NIA) and the State Security Service (SSS).

Adoke said "As lawyers we deal with facts, we don't deal with sentiments. There would be no cover up. My boss has said zero tolerance for corruption and I am sticking to that."

The AGF also said EFCC would receive fiat within 24 hours to expedite the prosecution of cases against Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) and the ministry was ready to equip the anti-graft agency with competent lawyers to handle such cases. He cautioned against inhumane treatment of suspects because Nigeria's ratings by the United Nations in respect of human rights was currently low.

He said the ministry would work within the policy framework of acting President Goodluck Jonathan who had said there would be zero tolerance for corruption.

Mrs. Waziri solicited the support of the AGF in the amendment of the money laundering act and the representation of assets forfeiture bill before the National Assembly.

## Terrorism: US security chief calls for coordinated global response

By Aisha Umar Agaie

UNITED States Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano yesterday said the attempted terrorist attack on Dec. 25 demonstrated that international terrorist threats must be countered with a coordinated, global response through enhanced security standards, increased information sharing and stronger screening meas-

ures.

She spoke in Abuja where she met with top officials from across Africa and the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) to discuss ways to bolster global aviation security. She also applauded the measures taken since Dec. 25 to strengthen aviation security in Africa—including Nigeria's installation of advanced imaging technology units at Murtala Muham-

mad International Airport in Lagos, the nation's busiest airport.

A Nigerian, Umar Farouk Mutallab, 23, is being charged in the US with trying to bomb a Detroit-bound passenger plane on Christmas day.

Secretary Napolitano said while the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA) does not conduct screening at foreign airports, the country is committed to

strengthening coordination with international partners to implement stronger and more effective measures to protect the integrity of the global aviation network.

Her visit to Abuja, at the invitation of the Nigerian government, marked the fourth in a series of major international meetings intended to build consensus on strengthening global aviation security.

# CJN forecloses abolition of the rank of SAN

From Adelanwa Bamgboye

CHIEF Justice of Nigeria (CJN) Aloysius Katsina-Alu has foreclosed the abolition of the rank of the Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) and warned that any SAN found to be unfit for the rank would henceforth have it withdrawn.

Speaking yesterday at the Supreme Court in Abuja during the conferment of the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) on 19 the nineteen lawyers, the CJN said the case for the abolition of the rank has not been clearly made out.

He said what has emerged from the debate was the need for even further refinement of the selection process.

"The Privileges Committee must learn to bear criticism with fortitude, and should continue to do its work with a renewed sense of fairness and transparency, in accordance

with the law," the CJN said.

"I charge you all to report to me, or to the Legal Practitioners Disciplinary Committee, deviant and unbecoming conduct from any SAN," the CJN said.

The conferment of the rank of SAN has elicited controversy and criticism with charges of favouritism, cronyism, ethnicity, and even nepotism against the Privileges Committee tasked with the final selection of the new silks.

In their acceptance speech, read by Dr. Samuel Efurosibina Mosugu, SAN on behalf of the other 19 new Silks, they vowed to continue to work for the promotion of the ethos, culture, traditions best practices and the integrity of the legal profession.

However, the NBA threatened to protest at the occasion because the NBA President Oluwarotimi Akeredolu SAN

was not granted audience.

The association also condemned the idea of not allowing the Attorney General of the Federation (AGF), Mohammed Bello Adoke (SAN) to speak at the ceremony marking the conferment of the rank of Senior Advocate of Nigeria (SAN) to some members of the NBA.

But eminent Senior Advocates of Nigeria including Chief Chimezie Ikeazo, Chief Wole Olanipekun, Alex Izinyon, Chief Patrick Ikwueto and several others prevailed on the members of the Bar and avoided a show down.

The NBA president, in an undelivered speech, alluded to the seemingly unending governorship legal battle between the governor of Sokoto State, Aliyu Wamakko and the candidate of Democratic People's Party (DPP), over the 2007 election.

PIC: AFOLABI SOTUNDE

## Braithwaite faults Jonathan, Ribadu romance

By Abbas Jimoh

DR Tunji Braithwaite, a renowned Elder statesman and leader of National Intervention Group (NIG) has faulted the reported attempt by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to bring back erstwhile chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) Malam Nuhu Ribadu.

In a statement in Lagos yesterday, the leader of the Nigerians United for Democracy decried the reported secret talk between the Acting President and Ribadu in the United States of America, describing the talk as unholy romance of Obasanjo protégées hell bent on reactivating the popularly buried third term agenda of Obasanjo in a new fashion.

"Both Nuhu Ribadu and Jonathan are well know Obasanjo proxies and their unholy romance should not surprise us but we will like to state that we shall resist with everything any attempt to foist the third term reign of General Obasanjo on us again through Jonathan, after Nigerians have massively thrown it overboard

"We are waiting for them to make an official statement on the matter before hitting the street. We shall not fold our arms and be ensnared again by the booby trap OBJ, Never again to be deceived by make believe."

He also cautioned the government of the United States of America not to get unduly involved in the internal matters in order not to vex the Nigerian people.

He therefore condemned the alleged schemes by Jonathan to nominate Mallam Nuhu Ribadu as his Special Adviser on corruption, and that all charges against him are being or have been dropped.

Braithwaite said "The current leadership of the EFCC is a more experienced crime buster, which by all standards has surpassed Ribadu's record given available facts and figures. Why would anybody want to set the hand of the clock back, if not for mischief?"



EXECUTIVE Secretary, Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF) Muttaqah Rabe Darma, when he visited Media Trust Head Office in Abuja, yesterday.

## PTDF trains 1,700 Nigerians as experts for oil industry

By Hamisu Muhammad

OVER 1,700 Nigerians have been trained as professionals in the oil and gas industry from 2005 to date by the Petroleum Technology Development Fund, the Executive Secretary of the fund Engineer Muttaqah Rabe Darma said yesterday.

Speaking when he visited Media Trust Limited Corporate office in Abuja, Darma said at a moment Nigerians are sufficient enough in all the 93 professional disciplines in the oil and gas industry.

He challenged the International Oil Companies to try the scholars from fund and they will be surprise with their performances because

they attended the best schools in the world.

"Our scholars attended the best universities in UK and some of the best universities in the world and they came tops in these universities. I assured you that they are qualified and competent to work in any international oil company"

He said after the previous turmoil that rocked the fund in the past, the new management has succeeded in sticking to the core mandates of building capacities to Nigerians in oil and gas industry.

On the allegation of the preferential treatment during the selection process of the Oversees Scholarship Programme Exams, the ES said the fund has computerised the exam proc-

ess so as to convince people that the selection process is transparent.

"In the new system you will go and sit before computer, you're the person to do the exam, answer the question and the computer will mark your result and submit the result to a data bank where all the results will be collected and selected the best results"

The PTDF boss said there are number of completed and ongoing projects which the fund is doing to strengthen them, including the upgrade of the Petroleum Training Institute, Effrum, Centre for Petroleum Policy and Strategy, Kaduna and the upgrade of the Universities and department across the nations among others.

## I will declare 'War Room' on Gas Supply -Ladan

By Hamisu Muhammad

NEW Group Managing Director of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Malam Shehu Ladan said he will declare 'War Room' on gas supply to overcome its shortage for power generation.

Speaking while addressing staff of the corporation, Ladan said his tenure will also concentrate on transformation of the NNPC, Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), integrity of the oil and gas infrastructure and sufficient gas supply.

He however said gas supply for power generation will be prioritised, because the

country is now experiencing terrible problems due to lack of electricity.

Ladan said his area of emphasis is not a new policy; but in accordance with the directive by Acting President Goodluck Jonathan that the new leadership of the oil industry must hit the ground running because there is no time.

"We have not come here as a new administration... I will continue where Dr Barkindo has left. There may be little shift in emphasis and that is normal," he said.

On the Petroleum Industry Bill, the new GMD said the new administration will work in harmony with various committees in the National Assembly for the successful passage

of the new petroleum industry law as it were.

He said promised to ensure integrity of the infrastructure in particular the pipelines which he considers as part of our major assets for the corporation.

Meanwhile, the former Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Mohammed

Sanusi Barkindo yesterday failed to turn up at the farewell ceremony organised for him at the NNPC Towers Abuja.

Barkindo was accused of secret employment and denial of promotions to many other qualified staff of the corporation, which the new GMD has promised to look into.

PHOTO: FELIX ONIGBINDE



FROM left: NNPC Group Executive Director, Commerce and Investment, Alhaji Baba Kusa; Group Managing Director, Alhaji Shehu Ladan and Group Executive Director, Refinery and Petrochemical, Engr. Austin Oniwo, during the NNPC GMD interactive session with staff of the corporation in Abuja, yesterday.

## Driver runs over PDP chief, six others

Continued from page 1

motives because Lauje belongs to a rival PDP faction. A mob pounced on him to avenge the killings, but he was rescued by the police.

One of the angry people at the scene of the incident said it was regrettable that Lauje was allowed to escape from the mob because he was a notorious thug being used by some aggrieved politicians to cause trouble in the township.

He alleged that few months ago Lauje was arrested and detained for playing inciting music around town to instigate people to violence.

The state police command said it has begun investigation into the accident. Police Public Relations Officer Dawud Muhammad Guru told Daily Trust: "We have commenced investigation into the accident; the driver is in our custody. We are still looking at it from the point of accident."

The PDP in the state said it was still studying the situation to determine if there was political motive or not. Party spokesman Kabiru Giant said told our reporter by telephone: "We are still looking at it, but we are yet to decide on the motive behind the accident."

Dan- Ilela, until his death, was a frontline politician in the state and a staunch supporter of the second term bid of Governor Saidu Dakin Gari.

He was once a member of the Kebbi State Pilgrims Board. The deceased has since been buried according to Islamic rites.

## Minister challenges aviation authorities on security

THE Minister of Aviation, Mrs Fidelia Njeze, yesterday urged aviation authorities worldwide to take measures to improve international aviation security standards.

Speaking at the African Regional Ministerial Conference on Aviation Security in Abuja, Njeze called for a proactive response to emerging threats in the aviation industry. "In view of the fact that air transportation is critical to our economies, there is need to implement procedures that can strengthen the capacities of the industry to face civil aviation threats and risks," she said.

Njeze noted that the world had become a global village and that any security threat or lapse in a country, could affect the others, if not efficiently tackled.

The Director-General, Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), Dr Harold Demuren, directed international airlines operating in Nigeria to procure explosive detection devices for their aircraft. (NAN)

## Jonathan urges US to stem proliferation of light arms in Africa

ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan yesterday in Washington D. C. urged the US Government to assist in the control of manufacturing and free movement of light arms to Africa.

He made the call at a breakfast meeting and interactive session with the Council on Foreign Affairs, an independent, non-partisan and lobbyist organisation based in the U.S.

At the event, anchored by a former US Ambassador to Nigeria, Howard Jetter, the Act-

ing President decried the situation where African countries had become a dumping ground for small and light arms.

He attributed the high rate of crises, criminality, insecurity and human rights abuses on the continent to the proliferation of arms.

Jonathan, who is current Chairman of ECOWAS, said the organisation and the African Union would be willing to cooperate with the U.S. Government and other developed nations to

stop the trend.

He said the police and other law enforcement agencies in many African countries were not well equipped, and were therefore prone to attack by the deviants in the society, "who have uncontrolled access to weapons".

Jonathan noted that the crises in the Niger Delta region and Jos were escalated because the perpetrators had illegal access to arms.

He said the Federal Government had taken pro-active steps

to stem the crises, and assured that the perpetrators of the crises, particularly that of Jos, would not go unpunished.

The Acting President emphasised that the era of impunity had gone, and warned that anybody found wanting would be brought to book.

Governors Rotimi Amechi of Rivers, Adams Oshiomole of Edo, Ikedi Ohakim of Imo and Mahmoud Shinkafi of Zamfara were on the Acting President's entourage. (NAN)

## Jonathan: Iwu's INEC is credible

Continued from page 1

commission or its head but about "just one missing link"

He said: "The missing link is that our electoral law says at the end of voting, elections results must be announced at the polling unit. Most of the polling units handle not more than 500 voters, there are very few above that and everybody contesting election is supposed to have an agent at every polling unit.

"We also have observers and our law says at the end of the election, the result must be declared in each of these units, but it is always a problem declaring the result at the unit level because of conflicts. In most cases they take the results, at the end of the voting to the local government headquarters for collation and it is in that process that people think there are wrong-doings.

"That has been the problem in Nigeria and that is why we insist that if you cannot declare the results at that polling unit, we cancel it, all results must be declared at the polling unit and that is what happened in Anambra and Edo."

The acting president said INEC had demonstrated its ability to conduct credible elections recently in Edo and Anambra states as well as in last weekend's area council poll in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

He also said there was no compelling need to change the election laws, as "(even) if you do not change any of our laws, we can still conduct elections."

Jonathan said by June this year, majority of INEC commissioners, including Iwu would have completed their tenure. "Before 2011 there will be a number of changes in INEC.... At the national level, most of the officers have completed their tenure and some will complete theirs in a couple of months.

"So we are going to review them individually and the ones we feel are not good enough to be re-appointed, we will not reappoint them.

And we will inject fresh blood and make sure that we bring people that if we mention their names, people in the civil society will be happy, but that is psychological like I said it has to do with perception," he said.

Jonathan, who is in the US for President Barack Obama's Nuclear Security Summit, said that the perception on whether INEC could conduct credible elections in the country was "more of psychological than real... If people have a perception that a body cannot do what is right, even if they do what is right, people find it difficult to believe. The story of INEC comes with the feeling that it cannot conduct credible elections in Nigeria."

He added: "I promise Nigerians and the rest of the world that the 2011 elections in Nigeria will be credible."

During an interactive session, the acting president called on the U.S. and other developed countries to assist Africa in the control of the proliferation of small and light weapons flowing into the continent regretting that "it looks like Africa is a dumping ground for small and light weapons by the international community."

He also reassured of Nigeria's efforts in tackling the problem of power. "We will have definite road maps in the power sector. We want to change the focus and that is why we are yet to have minister of power and once we set the stakes, we will bring a minister on board," he said.

In an earlier speech, he said he was confronted "with the greatest test of my political career. While we continue to pray for the recovery of our president, Umaru Musa Yar'adua, it is my responsibility to work with Nigerians to improve the pace of development and to do so facing the right direction."

He said "in this responsibility of consolidating and deepening our democracy, we are committed to ensuring that the remaining period of the administration is not a transitional period but one which, we hope, one day be viewed as a watershed, a transformational time in our young democracy."

# Ondo Assembly elects new officers

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

FOURTEEN of the 26 members of the Ondo State House of Assembly resumed plenary session yesterday and elected new principal officers to replace the ones sacked alongside the former Speaker, Toafeek Abdulsalam, last Thursday. A new Deputy

Speaker in the person of Dare Emiola, representing Akoko South West Constituency II emerged while the former Minority Leader, Ifedayo Akinsoyinu, representing Ondo West Constituency II was made the Majority Leader. Ayodele Awodeyi and Tayo Abidakun were also elected Deputy Majority Leader and

Chief Whip respectively. Also at the sitting, two lawmakers officially decamped to the ruling Labour Party. With that, the Labour Party now has the majority with 14 members.

Those who defected to the Labour Party are the only Alliance for Democracy (AD) member in the House, Abiodun

Ogunbi and Bakkita Bello of the PDP. Bakkita Bello said he decided to join the LP because the PDP in the state was factionalised.

Meanwhile, the new Speaker, Samuel Adesina and 3,000 supporters of the new Speaker have dumped the PDP for the Labour Party (LP). The defection came five days after the sack of the

former principal officers of the House.

The new Speaker while speaking at the programme, cited alleged pettiness and lack of cohesion in the PDP as well as the monumental achievements of the Dr Olusegun Mimiko's led LP as some of his reasons for leaving the party.

## Kaduna govt empowers traders

From Ismail Mudashir, Kaduna

GOVERNOR Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State yesterday gave out N155 million as soft loans to 252 market associations as part of efforts to boost trade and other commercial activists in the state. Presenting the cheques to the beneficiaries, Sambo said the 21, 868 members of the associations would benefit from the loan. He said the loan was a revolving one, with only 8 percent interest.

"This gesture is aimed at reducing poverty in the state. That is why we are calling on the beneficiaries of the first phase to use the loan judiciously so that other traders in the state can benefit too," he said.

He said his administration was making arrangements with some banks to secure a two billion naira loan for the enhancement of the state poverty alleviation programme.

## Nigeria has failed women politically -Sarah Jubril

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Nigerian government has failed women, especially in politics, a former presidential aspirant and chieftain of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Dr. Sarah Jubril said yesterday in Minna. She said this at a rally organised by women in Niger State to endorse Governor Babangida Aliyu for a second term in office.

She flayed government's failure to implement the 30 percent stipulation of women in elective positions, adding that it was a disservice to the women folk. Dr Jubril said women in the Northern part of the country had been schemed out of politics, despite the fact that the voting strength of women in the region helped to develop democracy in Nigeria. She called on women in Niger State to ensure the actualization of the United Nations 30 percent affirmative on women in the 2011 general elections.



FROM right: EFCC Chairman, Mrs. Farida Waziri, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Federation, Bello Mohammed Adoke and Executive Secretary, National Human Rights Commission, Mr. Roland Ewubare, during the minister's visit to the EFCC chairman in Abuja yesterday.

## FRSC cautions on long distance trips

From Yahaya Ibrahim, Maiduguri

THE Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) in Borno State has advised motorists to stop embarking on long distance journeys at noon, saying the harsh weather condition being experienced was bad for vehicles and could endanger lives.

The Borno Sector Commander of the FRSC Alfred Adegboye, who gave the advice yesterday in Maiduguri said the heat in most parts of the North could cause mechanical faults in vehicles, saying it was better to travel in the early hours of the day.

Adegboye advised motorists to stop using fairly used tyres popu-

larly known as Tokunbo tyres, saying they could burst due to the excessive heat.

He added that arrangement had been concluded to embark on a campaign to sensitise commercial motorcycle operators in the state on the importance of crash helmet. He appealed to the state government to provide crash hel-

metts to commercial motorcycle operators in the state to protect their lives and that of passengers, adding that his men would redouble their efforts to ensure that they obey traffic laws.

He urged motorists and motorcycle operators to cooperate with the commission to ensure safety on the highways and roads.

## Lamido reacts to Rimi's death

From Yusha'u A Ibrahim, Dutse

JIGAWA State Governor Sule Lamido yesterday broke his silence over the death of the late Alhaji Abubakar Rimi, saying Nigeria and Africa had lost the glamour of politics. Lamido said words were not enough to describe the loss of the late Rimi, adding, "Nigeria has lost a courageous, fearless and committed political icon. He was the promoter of human rights, a leader that was concerned about the less privileged. It will be difficult for

anyone to replace him".

Lamido spoke yesterday while receiving a delegation of the Jigawa Council of Ulama's, the state chapter of the Nigerian Bar Association and council of chief, who paid him separate visits over the death of Alhaji Rimi.

"Whoever shares the similar political ideology with late Rimi should be his successor. When Sir Ahmadu Bello Sardauna, Tafawa, Mallam Aminu Kano and Zik died, nobody was pinpointed to succeed them. Politicians of our time should emulate Rimi's polit-

ical ideologies of fearlessness, transparency, truthfulness, patriotism and commitment" he said.

Earlier, the Chairman of the Jigawa State Council of Chiefs and Emir of Hadejia Alhaji Adamu Abubakar Maje told the governor that the delegation that comprised the emirs of Kazaure, Hadejia, Ringim, Dutse and Gumel were in his office to console him over the death of Alhaji Abubakar Rimi.

On his part, the chairman of the Nigerian Bar Association in Jigawa, Barrister Sani Husaini Garun-Gabas, expressed hope

that Rimi's principles and political ideologies would remain alive. He called on the governor to continue from where the late Rimi stopped.

**Whoever shares the similar political ideology with late Rimi should be his successor**

PIC:KENNEDY EGBONODJE

# Train derails in Kafanchan, kills one

By Shehu Abubakar & Ibraheem Musa, Kaduna

A locomotive goods train derailed in Kafanchan, Kaduna State killing its assistant driver, Transport Minister Alhaji Yusuf Suleiman said yesterday.

The minister told newsmen yesterday in Abuja that the train carrying goods derailed at an accident prone area in Kafanchan and it took rescuers over seven hours to dismantle some parts of the train and bring out the corpse of the assistant driver that died in the train.

Suleiman noted that the area is a prone to accident and has been causing train derailment since in the early 60s when train movement started in the area.

He said he has directed rail engineers and other experts to

carry out a study of the area with a view to commencing the total rehabilitation and re-railing of the area to avoid further accidents.

The minister said government is willing to address the problems of accidents prone rail lines to avert future derailments of trains. Speaking during the opening of a two days meeting with heads of parastatals of his ministry, Suleiman said they are expected to brief him formally on the activities of the directorates.

He said they had earlier briefed him when he assumed duties as the transport minister last week. He said the two days briefing is a comprehensive one aimed at giving him an insight into the main activities of the ministry.

Alhaji Suleiman said he was to be briefed by the heads of the National Inland Waterways Authority (NIWA), the Nigerian

Railways Corporation (NRC) and National Institute of Transport Technology (NITT), the National Maritimes Authority, NIMASA and other agencies of the ministry are expected to brief him today.

A source told Daily Trust that the cause of the accident was unknown as at press time but railway workers, security agents as well as members of the Road Safety Corps were on hand to help evacuate the goods and a few passengers.

The source who spoke to Daily Trust from Kafanchan, said that one of the drivers confirmed the accident to him and the source quoted him as saying that passersby also gave a helping hand. He further said that the train took off from Jos and was conveying goods for a Bukuru-based company to Enugu when the accident occurred.



PIC: NAN

MOTHERS queue with their babies during an immunisation exercise at the National Hospital, Abuja, yesterday.

## Bayelsa finance commissioner surrenders to EFCC

By Boco Edet

BAYELSA State Commissioner for Finance Sylva Opuala-Charles declared wanted by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) over alleged graft involving N4.5 billion surrendered himself to operatives of the agency in Abuja yesterday.

Opuala-Charles was declared wanted on March 25 after he failed to honour three letters of invitation sent to him by the Commission to answer allegations posed against him.

EFCC had earlier arraigned three officials of the state government before an Abuja Federal High Court on a six count charge bordering on money laundering totaling N2.4 billion. They pled not guilty to all the charges.

They include the state Acting Accountant-General, Francis Okokuro; the Director of Finance Cooperation, Abbot Clinton and the Director of Treasury, Ikobho Howells.

Opuala-Charles who was also charged alongside the other suspects was then said to be at large.

EFCC's spokesman Femi Babafemi confirmed that the Finance Commissioner had turned himself in and was being kept in custody.

EFCC had since last year launched an investigation into some allegations of diversion of public funds running into billions of naira by some Bayelsa state officials.

Bayelsa governor Timipre Sylva has said the attack against his government was meant to oust him out of office and denied allegations of misappropriation of the state's funds.

## NITEL workers ask government for justice

By Francis Okeke

WORKERS of Nigeria Telecommunications Limited (NITEL) have asked the Federal Government to pay their 24 months' salary arrears and resuscitate the company as it intends to do for Ajaokuta Steel Company.

Acting President Goodluck Jonathan recently approved the release of N650 million to resuscitate the ailing steel company after several botched attempts to sell it.

President of the National Union of Postal and Telecommunications Employees (NUPTE) Comrade Sunday Alhassan said this in an interview with Daily Trust yesterday.

While congratulating returning Minister of Information and Communication Prof. Dora Akunyili, he urged her to make the settlement of NITEL workers entitlements one of her key priorities.

He said Prof. Akunyili and her state counterpart Labaran Maku who oversee NITEL should make it a priority to "impress on the government that these workers are not allowed to die before their wages are settled."

He regretted that workers do not know their fate after the latest attempt to sell the company to a Chinese conglomerate and the subsequent indefinite suspension of Dr. Christopher Anyanwu the erstwhile Director of the Bureau for Public Enterprises (BPE).

## 2011: Wabara backs IBB, tells Iwu to go

By Abbas Jimoh

FORMER Senate President Adolphus Wabara yesterday in Abuja said former Military President Ibrahim Babangida is qualified to contest the 2011 presidential elections.

He also advised the chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof. Maurice Iwu to quit at the end of his tenure in June.

He was speaking at the thanksgiving celebration of Chief (Mrs) Vivienne Enwerem, wife of former Senate President Evan Enwerem, who with her son, Evan Enwerem jr, obtained their first degree at law from Buckingham University, England.

Wabara said that like any other Nigerian IBB is free to contest for any elective positions. "Is he not a Nigerian, what is wrong in that? I was a former senate president and if Nigerians say former senate presidents should not aspire to become Nigeria's president, will you like that?"

On the June 12 controversy, Wabara said Nigeria has moved up and that people are just playing politics with it, insisting that most of the civilians who were part of the annulment have since bounced back and playing active roles in politics.

On Iwu, Wabara said the INEC boss should read in-between the lines, "I want to believe that with all this spate of criticisms that even if he is offered he should just go and rest, just like Prof. Humphrey Nwosu.

Mrs Enwerem said at the occasion that she can only take appointment, but she would not go into active politics to seek elective positions.

## FG warns police convoy against coercing road users

By Misbahu Bashir

MINISTER of Police Affairs Adamu Maina Waziri has cautioned police convoy and escorts against threatening road users.

The minister said at a meeting with staffers of the ministry yesterday in Abuja that police escort should not prevent motorists from overtaking them and avoid coercing road users.

"The act promotes negative perception of the police and leads to accidents in many cases," he said.

The minister said one of the major problems of the Nigeria Police Force has to do with its image and perception by the public which needs improvement and therefore advised policemen attached to convoys to respect the rights of other road users.

He appealed to government officials and members of the public who have the privilege of having policemen attached to them as aides to use them with dignity and decorum in order to make them community friendly.

According to the minister, no government will allow policemen being misused at the risk of their lives and warned banks still operating without armoured vehicles to transport cash to immediately procure such as they risk losing policemen attached to them.

# Lagos moves to stop food traders' strike

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

AS the ultimatum given by the Amalgamated Foodstuff Dealers in Lagos State over multiple taxation draws nearer, the state executive council has opened discussion on the issue, our findings have shown.

Our correspondent gathered that due to the effect of the trader's warning strike a couple of weeks ago which created scarcity of beef, pepper and other foodstuff in the state, the committee set up

by Governor Babatunde Fashola to look into the complaints of the traders has hurriedly submitted its report to the executive council.

Although Governor Fashola was not around for the weekly executive council meeting, information from the council's meeting yesterday chaired by the Deputy Governor Princess Serah Sosan had it that the ultimatum handed down by the traders was given adequate attention.

Governor's office sources informed our correspondent that

before Fashola left the country at the weekend, he directed that the executive council should discuss the report by the ad-hoc committee and ensure that the traders do not go on strike as planned.

Secretary of the Caretaker Committee for Mile 12 market, Kabir Al-Hassan, last week informed our reporter that the traders would embark on an indefinite strike if by April 21 the state government fails to curb illegal activities of its agents like the Rapid Response Squad (RRS)

and officials of LASTMA who are fond of extorting money from trailer drivers who bring the foodstuffs to Lagos. Al-Hassan attributed the planned indefinite strike by the Hausa foodstuff traders to the multiple taxes they pay on the trucks bringing food items from the north to southern part of the country.

He said despite that they called off the warning strike, RRS men and their LASTMA counterparts continued extorting money from them and assaulting the trailer

drivers and their boys if they refused to give money.

He explained; "Each state from the north down to Lagos that we pass through collects various taxes from us. A trailers loaded with foodstuffs end up paying up to between N80,000 and N100,000 as taxes before getting to Lagos.

The worst is Lagos State. After paying at their border with Ogun State, we are being forced to pay another round of illegal tax by agents of the state", he said.

## Farmers task Nasarawa govt on fertiliser

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

FARMERS in Adudu community of Obi Local Government Area of Nasarawa State have appealed to the state government to supply fertilizer to the area.

The traditional ruler in the area, Alhaji Mohammed Abdulahi, who spoke with Daily Trust yesterday, said farming in the area was all-season long and though they do not rely on rainfall for cropping, there was need for supply of fertilizer to boost food production.

He said the area had contributed well to the state government's agricultural development programme, especially in the production of export crops including the Pepa yam which the government exported to UK last year.

"People in my domain, Hausas, Fulanis, Angas, Jukuns, Tivs and all, do not rely on the rainy season for farming. We farm all year round, using irrigation. We are big farmers, not small farmers who rely on the rains, and rest after the rains", said the traditional ruler.

Governor Doma unveiled the Pepa yam in London in 2009. The governor followed this up with the launch of a N530 million loan scheme called Badakoshi (Hausa for feed well) for 456 farmers and farmer groups across the state. The scheme which is planned to run for five years - 2009 - 2014, is aimed at providing the platform for accelerated and coordinated growth in the agricultural sector and to consolidate the state's position as a leading producer of food in the country.



PIC:FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Chief Executive and Founder, Women Peace and Development Initiatives, Chief Bolere Ketebu, member, Presidential Advisory Committee and former Deputy Speaker, Prince Chibudom Nwuche and Chairman, Executive Secretary, PANAFRSTRAG, Gen. Ishola Williams during the capacity building on developing women's agenda for peace building in Nigeria, held in Abuja yesterday.

## 2011: Pastor Bakare opposes IBB's bid

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

PASTOR Tunde Bakare, a leading member of the Save Nigeria Group (SNG) has vowed to ensure that former President Ibrahim Babangida does not return as president next year.

In an interview with Daily Trust in Lagos at the weekend, Bakare said his opposition to IBB's second coming was not on personal grounds but because he had nothing good to offer the country.

Bakare described IBB's interest to return to the Aso Villa as the tenure of former President Olusegun Obasanjo between 1999 and 2007 saying, "Obasanjo's eight year

rule is an ill-wind that blows the nation no good either in the past or at present."

Pastor Bakare warned that the second coming of Babangida would give the nation more problems on all sectors of the economy instead of removing the present problems.

"Even if I don't campaign against anyone, with all the resources God gave me, I'm going to campaign against him. He is too arrogant to come back," the pastor said.

Bakare argued that Babangida has to apologize to Nigerians on the June 12, 1993 presidential election annulled by his administra-

tion, the killing of Dele Giwa and other related allegations before making up his mind to step-in again.

"IBB must apologize to millions of Nigerians for scuttling their hopes when his government annulled the freest and fairest election in the history of this country. He still needs to tell the world how Dele Giwa was murdered through parcel bomb and how he met Obasanjo and invited him to be Nigeria's president from prison," he said.

He recalled that when Obasanjo assumed power in 1999 as civilian president, he told Nigerians that Obasanjo was an ill-wind that would blow the nation no good.

"I still maintain my words on him," he said.

Pastor Bakare who said Obasanjo was his elder brother having come from the same town and attended same secondary school in Abeokuta, said he had nothing personal against the former president but berated him for 'blowing away so many opportunities to make Nigeria a great country by putting wrong things right when he was the nation's number one citizen.

He said, "I don't hate him and I will never descend so low to allow anyone make me hate him. He is my brother, his position in this country is unique but he is one among those creating problems for this country"

## Robbers harass newspaper circulation driver

From Sadeeq Aliyu, Gusau

A driver who always transports newspapers from Abuja to Zamfara and Sokoto States, Usman Danfulani, was yesterday attacked by armed robbers on his way to Gusau to deliver

newspapers.

The driver told newsmen in Gusau yesterday that two armed groups stopped him at different locations before reaching Gusau but he escaped.

He said the first group stopped him around Tafa on Abuja -

Kaduna express way but when they sensed that he was not ready to stop they smashed his wind screen with a heavy metal which felled into the car but he managed to escape unhurt.

Usman also said another group at Kawo Kaduna stopped

him along with another truck but he also escaped through the bush.

The driver who lamented the poor security along the high ways in the country, explained that fear of such attacks by men of the underworld was what caused delay in delivering newspapers to

the required destinations at the right time.

He said in most cases Newspapers were loaded to their vehicles in good time but for fear of such attacks they have to make intermittent stopovers to avoid dangerous spots.

# Kogi Assembly to ban street begging

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

THE Kogi State House of Assembly is on the verge of passing a bill that would prohibit street begging in the state. The House Commit-

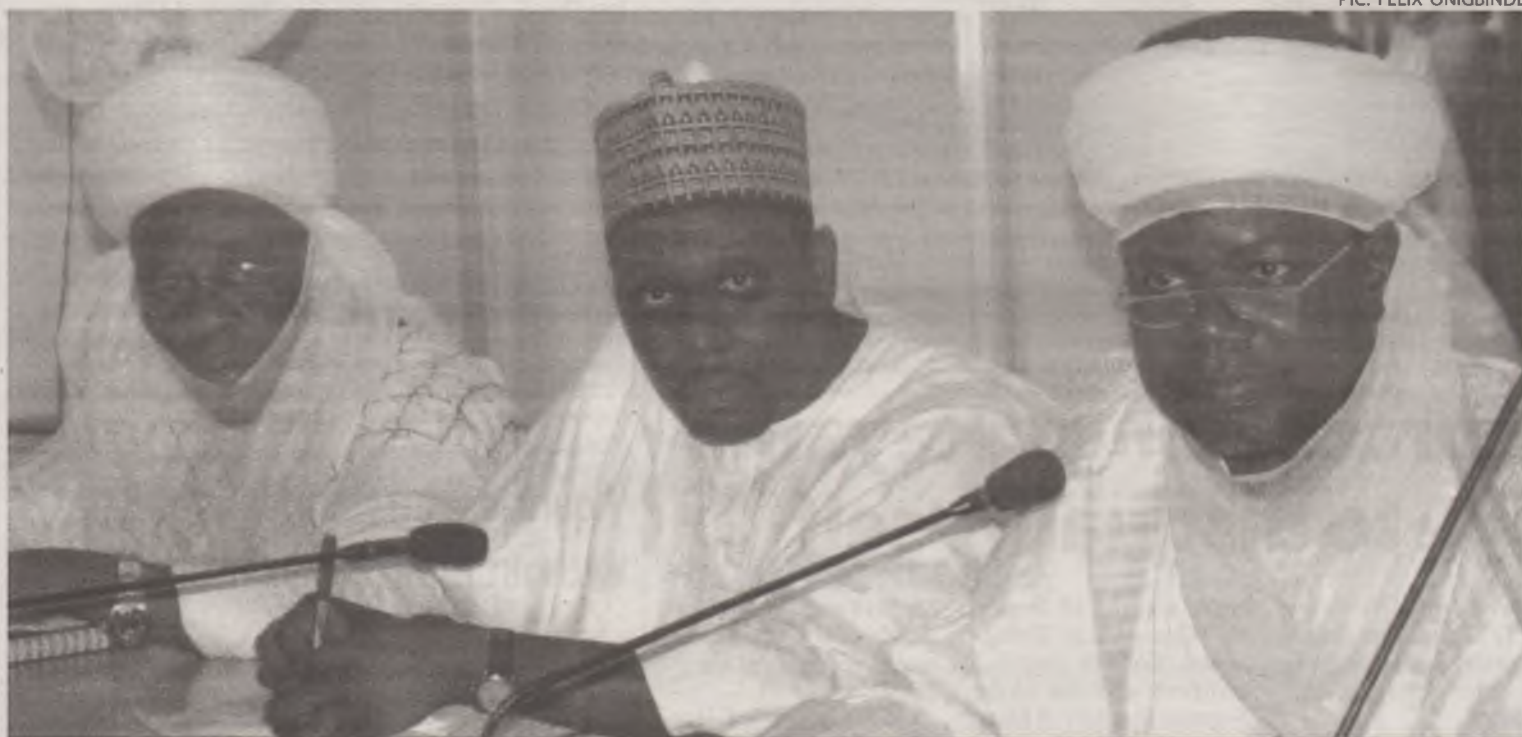
tee Chairman on Information Mr. Mustapha Allah-Dey disclosed this to our correspondent yesterday. Allah-Dey, who is representing Lokoja I Constituency said the House was worried about the

growing number of street beggars in the state.

He maintained that most of the beggars, especially those within Lokoja, the state capital, were from neighbouring states.

"Many of these beggars are not indigenes of Kogi State. They think Lokoja accommodates all sorts of things that is why they have come to settle here. We will soon show them that street beg-

ging is not tolerated in this state. Efforts are underway to pass a bill to prohibit the act. This will not only affect beggars from outside the state, but all street beggars," he said.



PIC: FELIX ONIGBINDE

FROM left: Ekeh Ankpa Alhaji Ahmadu Yakubu, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) Prof. Moh'd Ali Pate and Emir of Argungu Alhaji Samaila Mera, during the meeting of the Northern traditional leaders committee on primary health care delivery, in Abuja yesterday.

## 165,000 living with HIV/AIDS in Kogi

From Isiaka Wakili, Lokoja

ABOUT 165,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS in Kogi State, statistics from the state Agency for the Control of AIDS has shown. The Special Assistant to Governor Ibrahim Idris on the Control of Aids, Mercy Okpe, who spoke with our correspondent yesterday in Lokoja said the situation had posed a huge challenge to the state, adding that the current prevalence rate of HIV was clearly above the national average of 4.6 percent and that most of them were rural dwellers. She said in the last one year, over 1,000 people had died of the disease.

Okpe added that it would be disastrous for the state if people did not explore the HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) services to know their status and adopt preventive measures if negative and for those, who test positive to enrol for free care and treatment.

She said international development and implementation partners were facilitating most of the HIV/AIDS services in the state.

"These partners have among other things, facilitated the inauguration of about 28 support groups of people living with HIV/AIDS, trained and supported our health workers in tertiary and primary health facilities to provide qualitative HIV care and treatment," she added.

## Princewill wants FG to reduce agenda to three

From Muhammad Bello, Port Harcourt

THE Action Congress (AC) leader in Rivers State, Prince Tonye Princewill, wants the Federal Government to reduce the 7 point agenda to three: the Niger Delta Issue, power sector and electoral reform.

He maintained that if the Acting President could address these issues adequately, Nigeria would be a better place. Princewill, who said this in a radio interview monitored in Port Harcourt added that the successful articulation and implementation of the agenda was largely hinged on the peaceful resolution of the Niger Delta issue.

According to him, if there is peace in the Niger Delta, the gas needed for the power sector will be readily available. Speaking on the Ledium Mitee led committee on the Niger Delta, of which he is member, he flayed the Federal Government's failure to issue a white paper on the committee's recommendations, saying the timely implementation of the recommendations would go a long way in resolving the Niger Delta problems.

He urged Acting President Goodluck Jonathan to make the issue a priority. On former Vice President Atiku Abubakar's return to the PDP, Princewill said the decision was borne out of necessity.

## Ondo students seek reinstatement of scholarship

From Adewale Giwa, Akure

THE National Association of Ondo State Students has urged the state government to rescind its decision, suspending payment of the 2008/2009 scholarship and bursary to students.

The state government had ordered the stoppage of the scholarship and bursary due to fraudulent practices by staff of the scholarship board. The union, which spoke through its leader Temola, said it had earlier issued an ultimatum to the state government, but

that it suspended it because of the intervention of relevant stakeholders in the state.

"We had earlier given the state government ultimatum, but we decided to make a u-turn after we were called to an emergency meeting with security operatives. We were begged to shelve our plan and they also assured us that the money will be paid on time. We have also asked the government to single out individuals or groups, who are behind the fraud so that they can be made to face the law," he said.

## Health workers demand permanent employment

From Jaafar Jaafar, Kano

HEALTH workers numbering about 5,741 in the 44 local government areas of Kano State are appealing to the state government to give them permanent employment, saying most of them have been working as casual staff for over five years. Speaking to newsmen yesterday in Kano, the chairman of the Temporary Health Workers Association in the state, Salisu Tasi'u Sulaiman, said they

had approached the government several times over the issue, all to no avail.

He said most of them were pharmacists, technicians, environmental health assistance/technicians, community health extension workers, laboratory technicians, dental health technicians/assistants among others.

"We obtained our certificates from accredited institutions. We've been promised permanent employment, but up till now we

are still casual workers. We are like doctors because we attend to patients, give nursing care, man the laboratories among other places," he said.

According to him, they were paid N5,000 as salary while some of them receive less than N5,000.

"We are suffering because the N5,000 we receive as salary cannot sustain us," he added.

The state Commissioner for Health Hajia Aishatu Kiru said the state government was absorbing

them in bits, saying the state government did not have the capacity to employ all of them at the same time.

"We are doing our best to ensure that they are employed on a permanent basis, but it is impossible for us to do it in one swoop," she said.

The commissioner said although, the health workers were not under the state government, they were doing their best to absorb them as permanent staff of the state civil service.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as OKE CHINWE CLARA, now wish to be known as NNABUIFE CHINWE CLARA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.

### CHANGE OF NAME

I, formerly known as OKE SHARON IFEOMA OLUSOLA, now wish to be known as NNABUIFE SHARON IFEOMA OLUSOLA. All former documents remain valid. General public please take note.



STRANDED commuters along Oshodi-Badaqary road, Lagos, yesterday.

PIC: OLADIPUPO ODUNEWU

## Contempt proceedings: Keyamo wants judge to disqualify self

By Atika Balal

LAGOS based lawyer Festus Keyamo has filed an application before an Abuja High Court asking the trial judge in the contempt proceedings filed against him by the Comptroller-General of Customs, to disqualify himself from hearing and determining the matter.

In a motion on notice, Keyamo is also asking Justice A. M Talba for an order transferring the contempt proceedings to the Chief Judge of the

Federal Capital Territory (FCT) High Court for re-assignment or an alternative order of staying proceedings.

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

Last year, the court restrained Keyamo and his agents from publishing any libelous statement concerning Dikko, who is

being accused of forging his West African Examination Council (WAEC) certificate and that of the Nigerian Institute of Management.

But Keyamo was said to have ignored the warning to restrain from such acts pending the determination of the motion on notice before the court; he allegedly circulated a damaging report through his column in a one of the national dailies titled "update on Dikko Saga".

He also wrote a letter to Acting President Goodluck Jonathan dated March

23, 2010 availing him with details of the said certificate forgery scandal against Dikko.

In the letter titled, "Forgery of certificates by the Comptroller General of Customs, Alh. Abdullahi Inde Dikko: the grand cover-up", Keyamo asked Jonathan to investigate the allegations and take appropriate action.

Keyamo, who insists that the alleged libelous statements about Dikko are true, is to appear before the court as ordered on April 19.

## CNPP doubts Jonathan's commitment to electoral reforms

By Muideen Olaniyi &amp; Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

CONFERENCE of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) yesterday said that Acting President Goodluck Jonathan was not committed to genuine electoral reform.

CNPP, in a notice to President Barack Obama on the occasion of the maiden visit of the Acting President Jonathan to the United States, urged the US President to regard Jonathan's statement on genuine electoral reform as an orchestra of deception meant to garner legitimacy and curry favor from the United States government.

The coalition group, in a notice signed by its National Publicity Secretary Mr Osita Okechukwu, stated that it took the position because of his refusal to send the three Electoral Reform Bills in the Uwais Report as Executive Bill to

the National Assembly.

"Mr President take note that Acting President, Dr Goodluck Jonathan has wittingly or unwittingly failed to mobilize his party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) to use the over 800 out of 990 members of the State Houses of Assembly, 260 out of 360 members of House of Representatives and 90 out of 109 Senators to amend the core and relevant sections of the Constitution and the Electoral Act 2006.

"President Obama and his government should note that replacement of Professor Maurice Iwu is just a tip of the iceberg, as Acting President Jonathan and his cohorts might replace with another professor scoundrel," CNPP added.

While acknowledging Obama's concern for Nigeria, CNPP urged him to join 'in halting the dangerous slide of Nigerian democracy into One Party State'.

## 'Agencies can't sign bilateral ties without ministry's consent'

By Aisha Umar Agaie

MINISTER of Foreign Affairs Odein Ajumogobia has said that the current situation where Ministerial Departments and Agencies sign bilateral agreements without recourse to the ministry is totally unacceptable.

He said this at an inaugural meeting with management staff of the foreign ministry, adding that it is the duty of the staff to make the ministry well regarded by other MDAs.

Ajumogobia urged management and staff to double efforts in reinvigorating the ministry to attain the status of a flagship for all the MDAs in the country.

In his remarks, the Hon. Minister of State Dr.

Aliyu Idi Hong asked the staff whom he referred to as highly skilled and professionals to be proactive and have a rethink on the big brother diplomacy that is now the hallmark of the nation's foreign policy.

He said giving out charity to other nations without commensurate fulfilment of national self interest would not augur well for Nigeria, pointing out that even developed nations nowadays attach reciprocity to their foreign policy initiatives.

In his speech, the Permanent Secretary Ambassador Martin Uhomobhi and the under Secretary for Administration and Finance Ambassador Anthony Sekudo pledged loyalty and cooperation to the ministers.

## EU launches N380m project on democracy

By Aisha Umar Agaie

THE European Union (EU) has launched N380 million (€1.8m) financial supports for various projects dealing with democracy and human rights in Nigeria for 2009 and 2010.

The projects will be implemented by non-governmental organizations that will be selected on a competitive basis and awarded grants by the EU delegation in Nigeria.

A statement from EU said the priority areas that will receive funding from the EU under the

scheme include the following themes: Protection of the rights of children and young people (including actions aimed at addressing child trafficking, Protection of women's rights (including actions that support the implementation of the Convention Against All Forms of Discrimination against Women), Actions that aim at the abolition of the death penalty.

Others include actions that target the prevention of torture and ill-treatment by state agencies, including extra-judicial killings, conflict prevention and resolution, among others.

## Niger Delta ministry, Rivers State partner on amnesty

By Sunday Williams

MINISTRY of Niger Delta Affairs and the Rivers State government have agreed to step up efforts at actualizing the amnesty programme of the Federal Government.

Minister of state for Niger Delta Sam Ode made the remarks in Port Harcourt when he paid a courtesy visit to the Rivers State Deputy Governor Engr. Tele Ikuru.

The minister commended the River State government for its efforts at actualizing the amnesty program.

Ode was in Port Harcourt to represent Acting President Goodluck Jonathan at the first Niger Delta Disaster summit.

Speaking earlier, the Rivers State deputy governor commended the Acting President for appointing Sam Ode into the federal cabinet.

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# Online Reactions

WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON [www.dailytrust.com](http://www.dailytrust.com)



**FORMER President Ibrahim Babangida**

## 2011: Youths group for IBB launched

REALLY the truth will come out very soon. Those who are against the former military president will not succeed this time because he is the only person who can come and put everything right. I wish him success.

**I. S. Musa**  
[ibagyar@yahoo.com](mailto:ibagyar@yahoo.com)

This is a welcome development and the person of IBB deserves this initiative. I will appreciate if a channel created for willing people like me to join the association is made available.

**Adamu Sa'ad**  
[adamusaad23@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adamusaad23@yahoo.co.uk)

I have a feeling that no matter how bad a man's character, he must have followership, especially in Nigeria where people are still struggling with basic needs -like food, clothing and shelter. That is why the likes of IBB can be encouraged. I think IBB is not a bad person; but he found himself cheered to failure by rather self-centered persons. If I were him (IBB), I will sit back and only assume an advisory role so that I can exit this world honorably.

**Peter**  
[petermikeone@yahoo.com](mailto:petermikeone@yahoo.com)

## 3 houses burnt in fresh Plateau attacks

THAT is why I said the Plateau traditional leaders must take a cue from the exemplary leadership of the Emir of Kazaure, Alhaji Najeeb Hussein Adamu, who relocated his palace to the residence of the Pastor in Kazaure during a crisis last month when hoodlums attacked a Christian settlement in the town and set some churches ablaze. His timely intervention ended the crisis without much casualty. He went round at night till 3am asking the irate youths to calm down. But in the case of Plateau, the traditional institution, the government and the elite are all guilty of fueling the crisis.

**LAMARA Garba Azare**  
[lamaragarba@yahoo.com](mailto:lamaragarba@yahoo.com)

Nigerians are becoming sick and tired of these cases of incessant restlessness in Plateau State. We cannot afford to endure violence which continually bring the lives of our dear brothers and sisters to untimely ends, as there is no peace like a violent peace. Let us imbibe the culture of dialogue by agreeing to disagree and to ultimately resolve our differences. May God unite our nation peacefully.

**Isa Mariri**  
[isamariri@yahoo.com](mailto:isamariri@yahoo.com)

# EFCC cages ex-ministers

WHAT an analysis of events! Not surprised with this kind of insistent analysis that Daily Trust has continued to provide. When people are in office they must handle issues with care and make sure they leave no skeleton in their cupboard. Whatever it is, if one is clean, nothing will happen but if you mis-use the power that God has given you, doing and undoing at will, then it will always haunt you.

**Aji Isuwa Suleiman**  
[suleimanaji@yahoo.com](mailto:suleimanaji@yahoo.com)

Cage them for their selfish interests but the Acting President and the watch-dog (EFCC) should take caution because of the obvious implications.

**Yahaya Ibn Idris**  
[ibnidrees@gmail.com](mailto:ibnidrees@gmail.com)

I don't think any of the minis-

ters retained can actually be said to be better than those sacked in terms of performance in their assigned duties. That should be the yardstick. If EFCC has a case, all those involved should answer irrespective of whether sacked or retained. Doing it based on ones allegiance to someone else is diversionary. If that's the case, then EFCC is getting it the wrong way especially as election year is drawing near. After all, I don't think Dr. Jonathan needs more power than what he presently has.

**Adzu Midlu**  
[adzumails@yahoo.com](mailto:adzumails@yahoo.com)

It is ridiculous to start hunting ministers only once they've left office. Is it that Waziri can't stand up to the fight or perhaps there's an unwritten immunity clause for serving ministers. In all hon-



**EFCC Chairman Farida Waziri**

esty I'm not a fan of Ribadu but at least he had the courage to take some bulls by their horns while they were still in office. If the saying "what a man can do, a woman

can do better" is anything to go by, I expect Waziri to call a spade, a spade.

**Abdulkadir Ali Bage**  
[alizaki001@yahoo.com](mailto:alizaki001@yahoo.com)

## Jonathan arrives US on 4-day working visit

WE hope the visit of the Acting President to the US will bring about some diplomatic changes between the two nations. Relations between Nigeria and the US have suffered series of setbacks. First was the 2007 general elections that was adjudged as being flawed and the attempted bombing of a US



**ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan**

plane on Christmas eve by a Nigerian which made the US to place Nigerians on a US watch list.

This is indeed a positive development towards normalizing the diplomatic ties between the two nations.

**Ibrahim Tsadu Ibrahi**  
[elkutigi@gmail.com](mailto:elkutigi@gmail.com)

If all the delegates return home and we still do not have current in our electric bulbs and the sockets of our appliances; water still do not run in our taps: then the trip is a jamboree. But if in some few months from now improvements are noticed here and there, you would have done well. So we are watching and waiting!

**Theo Faruna**  
[thefarus@yahoo.com](mailto:thefarus@yahoo.com)

We hope the Acting President (Dr.) Goodluck Jonathan will be discussing with Barrack Obama on their failure to generate 6000mw of Electricity to Nigerians.

**Yahaya Ibn Idris**  
[ibnidrees@gmail.com](mailto:ibnidrees@gmail.com)

I am proud of Nigeria's invitation to this very important peace conference. This will give us the opportunity to repair the damage caused by Mutallab. I wish the Acting President and his entourage a good deliberation.

**Ahmad Said**  
[cristals7@yahoo.com](mailto:cristals7@yahoo.com)

## ...ex-Speaker Na'Abba faults trip

PLEASE leave Jonathan alone to attend meeting like other presidents of the world. We cannot continue to backslide due to problems that our elites have caused Nigerians.

**Prince**

[princemicheal72@yahoo.com](mailto:princemicheal72@yahoo.com)

Leaders like Na'abba should watch their tongues. We have not forgotten what he did when he was in power.

The security situation then

was worse than what we have now. Can he tell the whole world what he did to solve security problems as the head of the lower house?

**Daron**  
[daron@gmail.com](mailto:daron@gmail.com)

## 'Jonathan to meet Obama on the margin'

LET'S be honest with ourselves, Nigeria has fallen off the cliff of respectability big time.

While other leaders are being

received in the Whitehouse, the nearest our leader can get to the Whitehouse is the makeshift hall in the Blairs' house.

Nigeria's position in the world

will never be the same unless we get a good leader to ride the mighty tide.

**Gaddaffi**  
[catanengine@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:catanengine@yahoo.co.uk)

## Abaji AC supporters protest result

IT is a pity. This is the way we will march to the 2011 election: security personnel that cannot secure

polling centres and the complicity of INEC officials. This is grossly unacceptable and cannot

yield a free and fair election.

**Abubakar Abbas**  
[abt302000@yahoo.com](mailto:abt302000@yahoo.com)

## PDP: Ex-MPs plotting Ogbulafor's ouster

WELL, the leadership of the PDP should try to resolve their differences because as the 2011 general election approaches, the opposition parties are looking for slight mistakes so that they will take the advantage of that crisis to penetrate the party. Be careful.

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

I don't know what is happening in this country. Why is it that some of our leaders are not willing to see this nation stable? ...Crisis here and there every day. Now their next play is to cause confusion within the ruling party instead of them to focus on the way that will move our country forward.

**Abubakar Chika Maru**  
[abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com](mailto:abubakarsuleiman2009@yahoo.com)

I am sure many Nigerians will not be surprised at the former legislators move or action, considering the kind of intrigues that has been going on recently. A lot of ex-legislators have invested their retirement benefits to sponsor party activities with the hope they could be lined-up for another political appointment, but what did they get in return? ...Relegation upon relegation. It is a known fact that one of them was recently nominated for ministerial appointment, but with a twist from the powers that be in PDP, within a twinkle of an eye, that name was dropped. Do you think the ex-legislators will be happy when, before their watchful eyes the contract of multi-billion naira new PDP secretariat goes to one of the brothers of a top party echelon member? Are all these and many not enough reasons to ignite the ex's to a palace coup? A word is enough, they say for the wise.

**Salisu Umar**  
[salisgaladumci@yahoo.com](mailto:salisgaladumci@yahoo.com)



By M.T. Usman

## Gane mini hanya with Mustapha Jokolo

Former Emir of Gwandu, Alhaji Mustapha Haruna Jokolo was a guest of the *BBC Hausa Service* in the weekly programme *Gane Mini Hanya* that aired on 3rd April 2010. Jokolo is one of the important Muslim leaders in the country, hence can be regarded as qualified to speak on issues affecting Islam and Muslims. Significantly too is that Mustapha Jokolo is a descendent of Abdullahi Fodio, one of the founding fathers of the 19th century Sokoto Caliphate. We learn a lot from the works of scholars like Professors A. A. Gwandu, Sani Zaharaddeen and S.A. Balogun about the relevance of Gwandu in the history of the caliphate, in particular the intellectual contributions of Abdullahi Fodio. It is a common practice among Muslim scholars in some parts of contemporary West Africa to make reference to Abdullahi Fodio's *Diya ul-tawil*, which is a major work on Qur'anic exegesis. There are also works on poetry, political administration and Islamic jurisprudence. Other modern scholars have also studied Abdullahi Fodio's contribution in the area of political administration especially the significance of Islamic values in governance which could be found in *Diya ul-Sultan*. Jokolo must have learnt from the

There was an assumption that General T.Y. Danjuma could have emerged as number two man under the then Head of State, General Olusegun Obasanjo

legacy of his ancestor, because in the BBC interview, he touched on the current crisis of leadership Nigeria which largely came about because leaders have thrown away the good values of leadership like those we inherited from the caliphate. He was critical of the politicians holding public offices because of their failure to serve the people who elected them.

The former emir also talked about Muslim-Christian relations in northern Nigeria in the light of recurring conflicts in parts of the region. He tried successfully to situate the incessant communal/religious violence in parts of northern Nigeria (like the most recent one in Plateau State) within the prevailing socio-economic circumstance in Nigeria. He accused the politicians of social injustice that contributes to social conflicts. Jokolo's views on the problems of leadership gives a correct picture of the objective political reality in many parts of Nigeria. However, his analysis of the role of religious followers in escalating communal/religious violence in northern Nigeria is open to further discussion. Perhaps by virtue of his military background, Jokolo gave some of his examples from the armed forces to illustrate the 'rise and fall' of some officers in northern Nigeria which could be linked to their faiths. For example there was an attempt to show that the way appointments were done after the

botched coup of 1976 could be considered among the contributing factors for deteriorating relations between Muslims and Christians in Northern Nigeria. This may sound controversial because there are different angles from which the issue could be explained. A reference to history is important because that will give us a clearer understanding of the way events unfolded especially after the assassination of General Murtala Muhammed on 13th February 1976. There was an assumption that General T.Y. Danjuma could have emerged as number two man under the then Head of State, General Olusegun Obasanjo. But one should not ignore the fact that the ascension of General Obasanjo (a Yoruba Christian from the South) to the position of Head of State was a development that would not leave the political arrangement within the military hierarchy unaffected.

The emergence of Shehu Musa Yar'adua (a Hausa/Fulani Muslim from the North) to the number two position of (Chief of Staff, Supreme Headquarters) was essentially a military decision which did not depend on input from the civilians (Muslims or Christians). There is no denying the fact that the military government endorsed Shehu Yar'adua's appointment after considering the exigency of geo-political balancing in Nigeria. It is quite valid for one to assume that Shehu Yar'adua must have emerged as the most favourite among the names of northern (Muslim) officers which were presented to the Supreme Military Council (SMC). Consequently, there is no doubt that Shehu Yar'adua was chosen by the council not because a Christian nominee was rejected. Any claim of supposed manipulation of the military establishment at that material time by northern civilians (technocrats and traditional rulers) or any other group with religious bias is in serious doubt. Nonetheless, internal politics of the military in Nigeria particularly the many intrigues during the era of military dictatorship is subject to further research. At any rate, whatever one says on the matter should be subjected to in-depth scrutiny.

Religion no doubt plays a vital role in the life of most Nigerians, and for this reason, it influences our politics, social relations and virtually every other human activity. It is argued that religion is a factor that could determine the social and political influence of a military personality (in service and retirement) in Northern Nigeria. However evidence in the region shows that the influence of ex-military officers depends not on their faith, but the massive wealth they possess and also distribute around that could enhance their social standing and political influence. Some of such former officers in the North are often conferred with "honorary" positions by religious organizations as well as traditional titles in our palaces sometimes even without indicating their interest. By engaging in "symbolic" religious practices and rituals, wealthy ex-military personnel build a strong base in religious bodies and organizations.

To be concluded.

Dr Usman is of Department of History, Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto (mtu\_2@yahoo.com)



By Idahosa Asowata

## To lose one's mother

My mother, Alice Non-amwan Asowata's journey that started on this earth about 80 years ago, ended on Thursday, April 8, 2010. She died peacefully in my house in the early hours of that day. This, obviously, was preceded by going to and out of hospitals, the longest and wearisome being in the middle of 2009.

When I returned from work at about 5.30 p.m., on Monday, April 6, the plates containing her breakfast, lunch and dinner lined up her room as if they were to be paraded at a culinary contest. It was not a good omen; I was alarmed. I opened all the plates and the contents, all untouched, had gone stale. What with this scotching heat!

My wife and children had been placing the food there dutifully, probably not wanting to wake her. Two days earlier, I was in bed. My mother was on her way to use the toilet and she fell with a big thud. I rushed to her aid. She laid face down. I lifted her with great effort, placed her on a chair and waited on her to come to. This was very slow. Then I carried her to the room and placed her on the bed. She complained of broken leg, waist and general weakness.

Her voice was still very clear, sharp and authoritative. She slept after. In the morning, I left for work, with instructions to help her up when she calls out. I asked how she felt after giving her drugs she had been taking on daily basis. Her voice was very reassuring. When I returned in the evening, I checked up on her and she said she was okay. Somehow, I was not convinced, so I asked if she would like some food. She

My mother was on her way to use the toilet and she fell with a big thud. I rushed to her aid. She laid face down

answered in the affirmative. I fed her briefly and she downed it with water. That was the first time I would ever feed my mother.

In the morning, I went into the room to greet her. There was no response. I went to check the oil level in the car outside. There was something eerie about the room, the silence. Since coming to the house, she had always said her byes and welcome whenever I was going out or coming in, no matter the time of the day. I rushed back to the room and greeted again. Still no response. I was apprehensive and involuntarily and instinctively touched her raised hand that was resting on her chest.

Alas! It was cold and stiff. I have heard of this kind of story I am relating now. I touched her harder this time. The hand did not drop. Instead, the entire body shook as I shook it. I called her again. No response. More silence

greeted my curiosity. It was then that I realised that my mother was dead.

As a young man, I didn't the closeness to my mother that I have other speak of their own. I was given to a 'Miss' for tutelage. Miss, as we call her to this day, was actually a nurse. She retired recently. So, my secondary school years were the closest I had with my mother. Her coming to live with me therefore provided the much needed opportunity for me to know her in close quarters.

She was one woman with strength of character and iron cast determination. You could call her stubborn. She protected her eight children like the hen would its newly hatched. And I mean this. As old as I am, my mother came out one day to help me deal with "a driver who drove rough for me." I had to take her back to the house. She was very protective.

She told me a lot of interesting stories and filled in the gaps in some information that were sketchy to me those days. And she asked a lot of questions too.

My mother's lonesome journey began in 1984 when my father died. As a man, I noticed that my mother did not keep any male company ever since. She loathed the idea and scowled at those who cannot keep to themselves at the demise of their husbands. She killed her loneliness by visiting her children in our village, Oza, in Orhionmwon Local Government Area of Edo state. After that, she launched out by visiting me in Abuja in 1994, Sam Asowata in Abeokuta same year and Moses in Benin.

She frowned at any of her male children seen with more than one spouse or a girl friend after marriage. Although ours was a polygamous home with three wives, she fought this infidelity with her eyes closed. So, nobody dared bring any outside woman home. And that is the way it has been.

Much later, the baby of the nuclear family, Osaretin, now a Pharmacist, rented an apartment for her in Benin, but this was not to last for long as she needed children and helpers around her. She was aging fast and ailing. She relocated to the village and later Abuja. She stayed with Magdalene, second to the last child, who was by now nursing a second child. These children tended to occupy her time, but not for long. Late last year, she relocated to my house.

Like most women, my mother of inestimable value, refused to tell me her age when I asked who her mates in the village were. She did not even tell me the period or event that occurred around the time she was born.

In her own way, my mother came, saw and conquered. She lived her life the way she wanted it. She was not a gourmet. She ate much of fruits as paw-paw, banana, orange, and very light food. She also liked biscuits and soft drinks. She was a sparse eater.

Anna Eboigbe, Idahosa, Samuel, Moses, Deborah, Igbinbo, Magdalene Okunbor and Osaretin survived her. We all miss her now.

Asowata is editorial staff member of the News Agency of Nigeria.



## Your Letters

Send your letters to [letters@dailytrust.com](mailto:letters@dailytrust.com)

### Furore over Sam Odeh's ministerial nomination

The Furore generated in certain quarters over the nomination and subsequent confirmation of Sam Odeh as a Minister representing Benue State, is further manifestation of the contempt with which the Idoma are held in the State.

Sam Odeh has proven that he is a detribalized Nigerian as evident by his magnanimous show of patronage, which benefited the Tiv more than his ethnic stock,

when he held sway as the Special Adviser on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs; but that has not spared him the hammer especially by the old brigade who see most openings at State and Federal level as the exclusive reserve of the Tiv.

Incidentally there were more Tiv than the Idoma who came to felicitate with him at his inaugural which shows that the outburst was completely at variance with the popular feelings of the people.

Therefore, for an elder Statesman like Abu King Shuluwa to openly cast aspersion on the suitability of Sam because of his ethnic background, is to say the least tragic and out of psyche with Governor Suswam's push for a greater Benue where justice and fair play is supposed to reign supreme.

Instructively too, the last Minister that represented the State was more of an embarrassment than an asset to the State. His tenure was raked in controversies and his colleagues at the bar had cause to question his professional competence as the Nation's Chief law Officer.

It is hoped that Sam Odeh will bring his urbane disposition to bear in the running of the affairs of a heady Ministry such as the Ministry of Niger Delta where he has been so assigned.

For long, we have played the ethnic card to the detriment of our collective pursuit as one people, bonded together through inter-tribal marriages of which Sam is a product.

Stevin Adeyi Adikwu  
([adeyiali@yahoo.com](mailto:adeyiali@yahoo.com))

## Text us on 08 131 8000 30

### No-confidence vote on North's rulers

I challenge the Arewa Consultative Forum, Northern Governors' Forum and other northern-affiliated organisations on their nonchalance over the plight of *almajirai*. Virtually the whole Northern Region has now turned to a begging zone, with *almajirai* roaming streets and even infiltrating to the south. Is it because the practice is not a political threat as such, the leaders relish in watching it unchecked, in spite of its social hazards? Certainly I advocate the scrap of ACF, vote of no confidence on our governors for their abysmal failure to tackle the unfortunate practice of begging. SAGIR Usman K/ Nassarawa, Kano, 08034233279.

### What about us?

GOVERNOR Namadi Sambo of Kaduna State, you have given

traders of Gumi market millions of naira; now what are you going to give your civil servants to motivate them to vote for you into office for the second term?

HARUN A. Imam, Kaduna, 08038226335.

### Do they ever learn?

SO the EFCC has reined in ex-ministers, and restricted their movement. It is a truism that whatever you sow, that you shall reap. The present crop of ministers should tread softly because their stewardship will equally be monitored by God, if not man.

MAXWELL, Sokoto, 08039648802.

### Enough of the recycling

WHY must it always be OBJ, or IBB, or Atiku or Buhari? Those calling for the return of the Evil Genius are evil themselves and do not mean well for this country. The great Pele can not compete

with Lionel Messi of today. Nigerians must say No! To monopolists of the National Cake.

NDANA, Kaduna, 08068014505.

### Re: is he, or is not, a terrorist?

I was highly impressed with T. U. Madara's comment on the above in yesterday's *Daily Trust*. Yes if it were a Muslim man that carried out that insane act, it would have been all over the world, 'Muslim Calabar terrorist plans a suicide attack on an airline'. Let's try and be sincere to ourselves and stop this profiling.

TOMBOY, Kaduna, 08036917176.

PREFERENTIAL treatment in selecting teachers for workshops in Kaduna is becoming too much and unbearable. This is why teachers who feel neglected do not enter classes. Chairman primary education board should investigate the matter.

NASIRU Musawa, 07069219802.



By Aliyu Adams

## Doma and burden of leadership

No one can deny that in just a few years, Nasarawa State has been transformed. It has its fair share of leaders who piloted its affairs from inception to date. Admittedly, some of them did their best, but the state remained at its relatively lower rung of development.

In 2007 when the atmosphere was changed with political promises few people could cut a slice of truth and out of the politicians' usual sweet talk. The ageless promise almost without plan of most is encapsulated by the perceiving needs of the people under the rubrics of infrastructure like road construction, rural electricity, health, agriculture, rehabilitation of fallen educational standard, provision of portable water etc.

Politicians make promise without thinking, and forget what they promised almost as soon as they get the mandate. This is the trend that has characterized contemporary politicians and politics.

Alhaji Aliyu Akwe Doma (*Madaucin Doma*) jumped into the gubernatorial contest when credibility of most politicians was in shreds. Politics was dirty was all everybody had to say about the quest for leadership.

If the sordidness of politics was contemporaneous to new generation politicians, what most people had to say about Governor Doma of Nasarawa state, at the time, was that he was a misfit. And so they called him "Baba", as in "old man".

His style and approach would betray the normative rascality of non-accountability to the people and recklessness with public funds. During the second republic when he was deputy governor, his influence and political clout resulted in the development of the then southern plateau which is now Nasarawa state.

Those who were old enough remember the good old days of massive development under the principle of functional democracy, pray fervently for Alhaji Doma to get the mandate "so that you can do it again-the roads and the urban and rural water projects", they cried.

Three years after Governor Doma got the mandate to rule the state, the transformation of the state has been stupendous. From road networks to electrification, water, development of human resources, education, health, agricultural and realistic grassroots development, the testimonial has been more than impressive.

The construction of Panda Gitata road began during the second republic and was never given attention by any government; its completion is now underway. So are other major and feeder roads in the state. The state capital is now defined by standard road network and reasonable supplementary development.

Doma as one of Nigeria's most successful technocratic politicians, remains underrated by his opponents, criticized and dismissed by arm-chair analysts, and adjudged unfavourable by his admirers, but he delivers at critical moments to the chagrin of his detractors and the joy of his supporter.

At critical moments, the assumption that people have of governor Doma has often proved to be off the mark and provided him a leeway towards emerging as a powerful political leader guiding Nasarawa state on the path of growth and greatness. His deposition in political matters of grave importance stands him out as a leader worthy and calculated. As statesman and leader of high repute, he takes his time weigh the implications of all decisions concerning matters of states and the volatile political arena before taking action.

Doma's stewardship has recorded relative peace. He readily prefers to err on the side of caution is sometimes described as too thorough by some undiscerning minds who joined politics basically for self-interest. For a politician that has a clear vision and focus of his reason for being in politic, Alhaji Doma ensure that his actions are a reflection of the view of the people whose mandate he holds in trust realizing that he will be held accountable for his action or in action.

Knowing what the burden of leadership is he has refused to adopt confrontational style particularly on issues that are unnecessary, inciting and damaging to his integrity.

A conservative assessment of his development résumé in the state since his administration took office will put him in a clear position among the first five governors who has lived up to their promise.

Adams wrote from Karu, Nasarawa State.

# DAILY TRUST

## EDITORIAL

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

## Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi (1940-2010)

The circumstances surrounding the death of Second Republic governor of the old Kano State and frontline politician, Alhaji Muhammadu Abubakar Rimi, on April 4, 2010 have once again highlighted the widespread concern on the bad state of the nation's security apparatus. Indeed, this is the latest in a series of shameful but preventable security-related lapses that have been occurring over the years, without any concrete solution being advanced by the authorities. Rimi lost his life four years after his wife Sa'adatu was murdered in their Kano home in 2006 by persons whose identities are yet to be unravelled by the police.

These days, the life of every Nigerian is at risk as security appears porous and almost non-existent, with daily reports of cases of armed robbery attacks, politically-motivated assassinations, kidnappings or ritual killings. Notwithstanding government's continued assurances and affirmation towards addressing the problem, little is seen to be done, thus eroding public confidence in the entire system. This is indeed a sad commentary, coming barely six months to the nation's 50th independence anniversary.

The late Abubakar Rimi was an accomplished politician of his time; a self-assured and confident personality who also became a veritable bridge-builder across ethnic, sectional and generational divides. The massive turnout at his funeral was proof that he was a man of the people. This may not be unconnected with his charisma as a politician and the populist policies and programmes he initiated and executed as governor. He arguably transformed the state through various developmental projects, including the opening up of the vast rural areas of the state, the aggressive implementation of the formal and non-formal education programmes as well as the well planned and coordinated road construction projects throughout the state. He identified with the people both in principle and in action, thus justifying the self-proclaimed status of 'leader of change in Kano.' He was perhaps among the most astute political figures of the Second Republic, who until his death avoided the use of religion to score cheap political points. Aside the crisis that riddled the hierarchy of the defunct Peoples Redemption Party (PRP) which led to his defection to the defunct Nigeria's Peoples Party (NPP) and consequent altercation with his political mentor, the late Malam Aminu Kano, Rimi succeeded in avoiding any major scandal that could impact negatively to his person and politics. He also fell short of achieving his political dream when in 2003, he ran for president and failed; the slide continued with the emerging powerful political blocs that made gains without Rimi's blessings.

The late Abubakar Rimi however maintained that status of being a frank talker unafraid to forcefully express his views on any issues of national importance. His position on the attempt by the late Head of state, General Sani Abacha to perpetuate himself in power and the botched third term bid of former President Olusegun Obasanjo as well as the current state of affairs occasioned by the ill-health of President Umaru Musa Yar'adua, are few of some of the cases in which took a stand and defended it. His death is indeed a great loss to the nation.

Rimi was born at Rimi village, Suma'ila Local Government Area of Kano State, in 1940. After years of working experience in several places, he ventured into politics and became the first civilian governor of Kano State in 1979. He served as Minister of Communication in 1993, under Sani Abacha. He was a founding member of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and, though he defected to the Action Congress in the build-up to the 2007 general elections, he returned to the PDP in 2007 and remained with the party until his death.

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**GARBA ALIYU ABUBAKAR:** Asst. General Manager (IT)  
**ABDULKADIR ALIYU:** Head, Advert

e-mail: [opinion@dailytrust.com](mailto:opinion@dailytrust.com)

## 2011: Between OBJ and IBB

Last weekend, the worst kept secret in the land was revealed. The former military president Ibrahim Badamasi Babangida threw down the gauntlet to his rivals by declaring that he will indeed stand for president in 2011, a prospect which previously belonged in the realm of imaginative speculation.

Now, Abuja - where I live - is a long way from Ota. It was not possible for me to have seen the contours on Obasanjo's face when IBB made the declaration. But somehow, I felt that the OBJ, who enjoys a love-hate relationship with former, must have laid an egg at the prospects of IBB's to a duty post he - Obasanjo - was stamped to leave in disgrace almost three years ago, today!

In the coming days and months, OBJ's morbid fear of IBB's return to the Villa as President, is certain to increase in intensity. His anxiety is also guaranteed to lead to costlier errors that will make even the ill-fated third term bid, and the foisting of an ailing Umar Yar'adua on the nation seem like child's play.

And that is because although there can be no limits to OBJ's diabolical and often short-sighted scheming, he has never been the consummate strategist, gifted with the intricate knowledge of the power concept like IBB. If it were not so, he would not have ended up in Abacha's death row, needing divine intervention for his eventual survival. He betrayed the same naivety during his third term misadventure and subsequent disgrace.

By comparison, posterity has shown that IBB knew when to 'step aside' in the collective interest of the nation, as he put it in 1993, even though he certainly spared himself some grief as well. He proceeded to maintain a dignified silence for all the time Abacha was public enemy number one in some quarters until the diminutive infantry General finally expired.

For a typically cautious person, the manner IBB announced his candidacy bordered on bravado. His timing was also instructive. His minders must have done a SWOT analysis to assure the General that the time was indeed ripe for a successful shot at presidency.

Today, June 12, acknowledged in some quarters to be IBB's major albatross, is but a pale memory. It is commemorated only in Lagos state governed by the Action Congress. And if Nigerians derided IBB and the late Abacha administrations for whatever reasons, their sins paled in significance to the ruinous legacies of OBJ between 1999 and 2007.

Time, it seems, has been of immense benefit to IBB. It was surely evident in the immediate aftermath of the recent death of his wife, Maryam. For someone frequently derided over the June 12 affair, the Obviously, the outpour of grief and support from all corners of the country - including the Southwest - for the period his hilltop residence became a Mecca of some sorts, must have surprised IBB.

## Muhammad Al-Ghazali

[ghazalism@dailytrust.com](mailto:ghazalism@dailytrust.com),  
08052100432 (SMS only)

For want of a formidable nationwide political platform, surely, IBB's minders must be encouraged to believe that his principal rival in the north, Muhammadu Buhari, is now less of a threat than he was, say, four years ago, when he carried the flag of the ANPP. Buhari's departure from the party was certainly the final act in a long process as it gradually unraveled into insignificance.

Besides, unlike OBJ who kept the PDP on a tight leash for eight years of his presidency, two years of tame handling by Yar'adua has left the battle for the soul of the party seem a winnable prospect for any presidential candi-

former boss of the EFCC in some official capacity.

His adversaries have equally attempted to exhume the ghost of the Pius Okigbo Panel that probed the affairs of the CBN and the Gulf war oil windfall. But I know for certain that IBB has nothing to fear from the release of the White Paper of the report in the manner ignorantly suggested in some quarters.

As a matter of fact, that no government since Abacha's time has deemed it necessary to go public with the report is itself indicative of one thing: there is little political capital to be made from it especially if the target is IBB!

But the IBB camp has everything to fear from the return of Ribadu, and the recourse to the dirty antics of the Obasanjo era! Convenient security reports could be arranged and shown to eminent Nigerians to fore-close the candidature of feared political opponents like I discovered recently.

OBJ has tested the waters already in the manner indicative of his present political convictions. He now believes the zoning arrangement which he enthusiastically advocated during his tenure is pure nonsense

date with sufficient clout, and daring.

First to make the pitch of course, was the former Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, who is making good his plans to return to the party fold. And now, there was nothing from IBB's demeanor last week, to suggest that he could not be that candidate.

The next few months should tell just how far the two men will go in battling the few PDP Governors also rumoured to be interested in the Presidency for the party's ticket assuming the zoning arrangement holds. In my view, the biggest threat both men will face is Olusegun Obasanjo, who still has his peculiar designs for the future of the country.

OBJ has tested the waters already in the manner indicative of his present political convictions. He now believes the zoning arrangement which he enthusiastically advocated during his tenure is pure nonsense, like I have always emphasized in this column. But just when did the man metamorphose into an ultra democrat?

Either way, OBJ's new political arrangement for the nation, coupled with the expected return of Nuhu Ribadu, and acting President Jonathan Goodluck's fast developing lust for power, most certainly deepened by the weekend photo-op with President Obama, are the biggest threats to the ambitions of IBB, Atiku Abubakar, and the governors rumoured to be interested in the Presidency, come 2011.

IBB's entrance into the race has certainly raised the interest level. To underscore the seriousness of his candidacy, only yesterday, his camp uncharacteristically raised fears on the possible return of the

There is no suggestion here that Goodluck Jonathan will descend to that level of political debauchery, but what if he is primed to become the ultimate beneficiary at the expense of the victims? The reported meeting between Jonathan and Ribadu in Washington over the weekend, for instance, provides conclusive proof that the former Chairman of the EFCC, at least, is no longer regarded as a fugitive from the law by the acting President. Could it be the first act in a grand design to unfold in the coming days?

The return of Nuhu Ribadu as an anti-corruption crusader in whatever capacity will raise the ante in the simmering volcano that is our political firmament. Depending on his subsequent actions, his motives are likely to be questioned if it negatively affects the political arithmetic of the forces aligned against the status-quo, especially if the perpetrators of the irregularities associated with the establishment of *Transcorp*, among numerous others, are not among the first to face justice.

The bad news for the IBB camp is that Ribadu's return, even in an advisory role, will not only provide additional proof of Obasanjo's stranglehold in the present dispensation, it also enhances whatever closet designs Jonathan Goodluck has for the Presidency. The interplay of both could foreclose IBB's ambition.

For now, the final battle for the political soul of the nation is joined. Will it be OBJ or IBB, Jonathan, or a dark horse, lurking in the shadows? These, no doubt, are interesting times. We can recline our chairs and watch the spectacle as it unfolds before us.

# INTERNATIONAL

## Sudan vote better on second day after chaotic start

VOTING proceeded generally smoothly on the second day yesterday of Sudan's multi-party elections after a chaotic start which had prompted cries of foul and forced officials to admit "mistakes."

Queues -- one for men, one for women -- formed in stifling heat at voting stations in central

Khartoum even before polling opened, as cars arrived bringing even more voters. As the day wore on, queues at numerous voting centres in Khartoum visited by AFP had swelled and voting was proceeding calmly.

On the first day of voting Sunday, queues as well as tempers were short as electoral officials

battled with logistical problems, inadequate or incorrect voting material and irate voters who could not find their names on the lists.

Electoral officials said much of Sudan was calm yesterday although problems were reported in a few areas of Africa's largest country on the second day of its

first multi-party polls in 24 years.

An AFP correspondent said some outlying districts of the southern regional capital Juba were still awaiting voting material yesterday, despite assurances by electoral officials these were on their way.

Party officials, meanwhile, said that while voting had finally

begun in some villages in the eastern area of Kassala, the locations of some polling stations were changed without notice. And tension was mounting, according to several sources, in the state of Bahr al-Ghazal in south Sudan where an independent candidate's popularity appeared to threaten the seat of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) candidate.

No clashes were reported however and police yesterday said there had been no major incidents linked to the poll. But the avalanche of complaints linked to voting procedures on Sunday compounded question marks about the credibility of an election from which key candidates had already withdrawn ahead of polling day citing fraud.

The three-day polling process had always threatened to be difficult with voters, many of them illiterate, having to contend with ballots for simultaneous presidential, parliamentary, state and southern regional elections.

The SPLM, the southern former rebels, described the first day of polling as "wasted" due to a raft of procedural problems and demanded the vote be extended from three to seven days.

Samson Kwaje, campaign manager for SPLM leader Salva Kiir, said irregularities included polling stations opening late, wrong ballot boxes in the wrong places and ballot boxes going missing.



SUDANESE voters line up to cast their ballots at a polling station near the south central town of Bor.

### Foreign poll observers a 'farce' - Ugandan president

UGANDAN President Yoweri Museveni said any plans to send foreign observers to monitor polls next year would be farcical, adding that they should be ignored, in an interview published yesterday.

"This is just a farce because whom are you supervising? Who can supervise me? Who has got more experience than myself?" Museveni was quoted by the independent *Daily Monitor* as saying. "Politely just ignore them, but it is really pretentious to say the least." Hundreds of foreign observers were deployed to monitor Uganda's last general election in 2006.

In February, the European Union envoy to Uganda said the country was behind schedule to ensure free and fair elections in 2011, while the US Congress directed Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in January to "closely monitor preparations" for the poll. "We know what we are doing. If there is anything that needs to be done.

If there is anybody who knows how it should be done, it is us, not anybody else," Museveni said. The former guerrilla fighter has led Uganda since seizing power in 1986 and is expected to seek re-election after presidential term limits were scrapped in 2005.

### Fresh charges against Zimbabwe PM's aide dropped

PROSECUTORS in Zimbabwe said yesterday they have dropped grain-hoarding charges against Roy Bennett, a top aide of Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai.

"We are no longer proceeding with the case because it has been brought to our attention long after the allegations," Chris Mutan-

gadura, a chief law officer in the attorney general's office, told AFP. "We are going to write a letter to the police advising them to file the docket away and write a letter to his lawyers informing them of our decision," he said.

Bennett, a top aide to the Zimbabwean prime minister, was

served with a summons two weeks ago to appear in court on charges of keeping maize at his farm in 2001 without clearance from the government's grain marketing board. He was already facing terrorism charges after being accused of funding a plot to topple long-time President Robert Mugabe in 2006.

### Govts 'too busy' to discuss pygmy rights - Congo official

A conference aimed at protecting the rights of central Africa's pygmies has been shelved because governments are too busy to discuss their fate, a Congolese official said yesterday.

The Republic of Congo was to host an international forum this week at which more than 500 people were expected, including UN representatives, politicians and pygmies.

However, the official said the meeting "has been postponed because of the overly busy agendas of governments and partners," adding that it had been rescheduled to next February. "There are plenty of other reasons, which could be of a financial nature," the official at the forest economy ministry added.

Often marginalised, pygmies are nomads who live in the great forests of central Africa, where the Congo basin is recognised as vital to the planet as the second largest natural source of oxygen after the Amazon rainforest.

About three million pygmies are estimated to live in the Congo basin. Forest Economy Minister Henri Djombo said last week that the aim of the meeting was "to elaborate and adopt a plan of action to protect the rights and emancipation of the indigenous people of Central Africa".

"The indigenous peoples (pygmies) are players who live with biodiversity and work to manage it in durable fashion. We have much to learn from them and should be humble to go to their school," Djombo said before the conference was postponed.

## International

## Top Iran official spurns US nuclear summit

IRAN'S envoy to the UN nuclear watchdog spurned the US nuclear summit opening yesterday, saying any decision taken at the conference is not binding on nations absent from the event.

Ali Asghar Soltanieh, a key member of the Iranian team engaged in negotiations with world powers over Tehran's controversial nuclear programme, also accused Washington of being the "real" threat to global peace given its large nuclear arsenal.

"The outcome of the Washington conference is already known. Any deci-

sion taken at the meeting is not binding on those countries who are not represented at the conference," Soltanieh told ISNA news agency.

US President Barack Obama was later yesterday to open the nuclear security summit which is being attended by leaders of 46 other countries. Iran, which is at loggerheads with the United States over its atomic programme, is not represented at the conference.

Soltanieh said it was Washington that was "the real threat to international security with its nuclear weapons."



IRANIAN Ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Ali Asghar Soltanieh speaks to journalists after the board of governors meeting at the UN agency's headquarters in Vienna.

# MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY

Constituency legacies are those humanitarian projects initiated, implemented and bequeathed to the deserving communities as related to our elected political office holders. As the nation draw closer to another elective year, it becomes imperative that lawmakers will be taking inventory and account for the stewardship of services they rendered to uplift the well being of their people. As it affects the federal lawmakers, quite a good number have demonstrated kindness and generosity vis-a vis their electioneering promises. They are trailing the blazing of good representation through provision of constituency projects and contribute to debates, bills and other sundry issues of national importance.

To celebrate our National Assembly representatives, **Media Trust Limited**, the publishers of *Daily Trust*, *Weekly Trust*, *Sunday Trust* and *Aminiya* newspapers, is packaging a special project on the above subject [MY CONSTITUENCY LEGACY]. The aim is to applaud and highlight the contributions of individual lawmaker who has demonstrated kindness to his/her people. Given the foregoing, federal lawmakers are invited to participate in the project as a way of showcasing their contributions [Constituency projects] executed to the admiration of their various constituencies.

For participation/enquiries, please contact :

**Leke Adelere on 08059100282**

**Lillian Tanimola 08052377534.**

**The date of publication is from Monday, May 17 to Saturday, May 31, 2010.**

Thank you as we anticipate your participation.

Management

**DAILY TRUST**

## Iraqi premier accuses neighbours of meddling

IRAQ'S prime minister accused neighbouring states yesterday of meddling in his country's internal affairs in efforts to influence government building after March 7 elections produced no clear winner.

Nouri al-Maliki told a government committee meeting he was upset to hear representatives of neighboring states talking on television as if they were Iraq's "guardians." "Our message is clear: do not interfere in our affairs," al-Maliki said.

He didn't specify which of Iraq's six neighbors — Iran, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan, Syria or Turkey — he was referring to. "We want good relations with our friends, brothers, Arab neighbors, Muslim neighbors," he stressed. But, he added "such good relations can only be built on the basis of mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs and the end of paternalism."

The election left al-Maliki's State of Law coalition trailing former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi's Iraqiya alliance by two seats. Neither side won enough to govern alone and has been scrambling to cobble together a coalition.

Both coalitions, as well as other parties, have been rallying neighboring countries for support.

Al-Maliki has led a government dominated by religious Shiites for the past four years, while Allawi, a secular Shiite, drew most of his support from the country's Sunni minority on a campaign pledge that he was looking to transcend ethnic and sectarian divides.



# NATIONAL PRIMARY HEALTH CARE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Plot 681/682 Port Harcourt Crescent, Off Gimbiya Street, Area 11, Garki Abuja. P.M.B. 368, Garki  
Website: www.nphcda.gov.ng



## PROGRESS IN POLIO ERADICATION: Thanks to our Royal Fathers

The ongoing global effort to rid the world of the scourge of poliomyelitis is yielding result! Thanks to our dear country Nigeria, which contributed 90% of the reduction in cases recorded in the Polio Eradication Initiative (PEI) in the year 2009. More thanks to our traditional leaders, who have passionately supported our mission.

The systematic engagement of the traditional leaders was kicked started on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2009, when His Eminence, the Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III led other Royal Fathers from Northern Nigeria to commit themselves to among others, "forge a strong partnership in the fight against Polio and other diseases as well as improving Primary Health Care Services in general." This was followed by an inaugural meeting of the committee in Abuja, where the members, under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness, the Shehu of Dikwa, Alhaji Kyari Ibn Umar El-Kanemi christened the committee and resolved to:

- To improve immunization coverage and ensure total eradication of polio virus
- To contribute to the development of an effective primary health care system

The Northern Traditional Leaders have taken this as a crusade and are determined to take Nigeria out of the comity of nations still transmitting the dreaded Wild Polio Virus (WPV) by actively engaging in key activities, among which are the following:

- a. Advocacy to both local & international stakeholders;
- b. Planning and sensitization meetings;
- c. Community mobilization;
- d. Supervision and monitoring;
- e. Daily evening review meetings;
- f. State and national debriefing meetings

The outcomes of these interventions include; increase in the number of children immunized during immunization plus days and increased community participation and ownership. Comparing the first quarter of 2009 to the same period in 2010, polio cases in Nigeria have reduced drastically as over 80 cases in 20 States were recorded in the former period, while only one case in one State was recorded in the latter period.

The National Primary Health Care development Agency and its Development Partners are indeed grateful to our Royal Fathers for this unprecedented dramatic progress in the ongoing efforts to eradicate polio from our country. We hereby pledge our continued collaboration with the traditional institution and look forward to a sustained partnership. 19<sup>th</sup> Expert Review Committee Meeting

The Expert Review Committee (ERC) on Polio Eradication at its 19<sup>th</sup> meeting held in Minna Niger State in March, acknowledged the immensurable contribution of our Royal Fathers thus; "ERC recognizes & strongly commends the essential role of Traditional Leaders in improving IPD (Immunization Plus Day) quality through social mobilization, team supervision & addressing non-compliance." The Expert Review Committee is the highest external Technical Advisory Group on Polio Eradication Initiative in Nigeria.

The team of experts drawn from within and outside the country was quick to caution that "Nigeria remains at very high risk of polio". Consequently, it respectfully requested the "Traditional Leaders to ensure 100% of Ward & Village Heads play a supervisory role in upcoming IPDs in HR/VHR LGAs & track this closely." Other recommendations of the Expert Review Committee include:

- i. **Traditional Leaders** should be invited by State/LGA authorities to systematically promote & support the broader immunization agenda, building on their very successful role in polio eradication.
- ii. **Expansion of State and LGA Task forces** by end-2010 to include full immunization agenda.
- iii. **Every State & LGA** should have a budget line for routine immunization; to be tracked at State and national levels respectively.

### Challenges

The Polio Eradication Programme in Nigeria is still fraught with some challenges. These include:

- i. Gaps in population immunity in some areas;
- ii. Weak commitment some few States and 84 LGAs;
- iii. Poor performance by many vaccinators;
- iv. Sub-national level funding challenge; and
- v. Risk of importation of the Polio virus from Chad and Senegal

To surmount the above challenges, NPHCDA and Partners in collaboration with the traditional leaders would among others put measures in place to further improve the quality of the immunization plus days and evolve special interventions targeting the identified 84 high risk LGAs in 12 States. These are LGAs that have recorded cases of the Wild Polio Virus in the last three years. Consequently, the probability of having WPV in such area is high. It is therefore imperative that the progress report on these LGAs be made public periodically as a feedback mechanism for the Nigerian people.

We therefore wish to appeal to all Nigerians, particularly, our fathers and mothers, to give the health workers all the needed cooperation during Immunization Plus Days to protect our dear children from polio and other child killer diseases now!

**Table: High Risk Areas**

SN	STATE	LGA	SN	STATE	LGA	SN	STATE	LGA
1	Bauchi	Bauchi	29	Plateau	Kanam	58	Katsina	Funtua
2	Bauchi	Gensuwa	30	Sokoto	Shibe	59	Plateau	Jos North
3	Bauchi	Katagum	31	Zamfara	Bangudu	60	Sokoto	Wurno
4	Bauchi	Idah	32	Zamfara	Gusau	61	Zamfara	Buduyum
5	Borno	Dambai	33	Zamfara	Kaura Namoda	62	Zamfara	Talata Mafara
6	Borno	Makkahar	34	Zamfara	Shale	63	Abia	Isiala-Ngwa South
7	Gombe	Yenewa/Daba	35	Katsina	Batagrawa	64	Bauchi	Allakari
8	Kaduna	Zaria	36	Katsina	Katsina	65	Borno	Kaga
9	Kano	Bunkure	37	Yobe	Gidam	66	Borno	Konduga
10	Kano	Dala	38	Borno	Mafa	67	FCT, Abuja	Bwari
11	Kano	Dambatta	39	Jigawa	Malam Maduri	68	Jigawa	Kazaure
12	Kano	Dawakin Kudu	40	Katsina	Zango	69	Kaduna	Makarfi
13	Kano	Dawakin Tofa	41	Jigawa	Dutse	70	Kaduna	Sabon Gari
14	Kano	Fagge	42	Kano	Tarauni	71	Kano	Kibaya
15	Kano	Gobirawa	43	Yobe	Berde	72	Kano	Kura
16	Kano	Ganem Mallam	44	Jigawa	Jahun	73	Katsina	Danja
17	Kano	Gumawa	45	Kaduna	Igabi	74	Katsina	Faskari
18	Kano	Gwale	46	Kano	Sumaila	75	Katsina	Ingawa
19	Kano	Gwarzo	47	Katsina	Batsari	76	Katsina	Igaita
20	Kano	Kano Municipal	48	Katsina	Bindawa	77	Katsina	Matazu
21	Kano	Kumbotso	49	Katsina	Charanchi	78	Katsina	Rimi
22	Kano	Miyiki	50	Katsina	Dutsin Ma	79	Sokoto	Gwadabawa
23	Kano	Nassarawa	51	Katsina	Mashi	80	Sokoto	Sokoto South
24	Kano	Rimin Gado	52	Yobe	Gulbi	81	Yobe	Damaturu
25	Kano	Rogo	53	Borno	Jeri	82	Yobe	Gulani
26	Kano	Tudun Wada	54	Jigawa	Hadejia	83	Yobe	Potiskum
27	Kano	Ungogo	55	Kano	Warawa	84	Yobe	Yunusari
28	Katsina	Shibe	56	Katsina	Bakori			
			57	Katsina	Daura			

### Legend

- Very High Risk LGAs
- High Risk LGAs

**Let's all Join Hands in this noble cause!**

**Together, we can eradicate Polio from our communities, our LGAs, our States and indeed, our country, NIGERIA!!!**

*Signed:*

**Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate**  
Executive Director/CEO



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Plot 681/682 Port Harcourt Crescent, Off Gimbiya Street, Area 11, Garki Abuja. P.M.B. 368, Garki  
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## Traditional Leaders in Action

Traditional Leaders are in the vanguard of Polio eradication Initiative in Nigeria. Their activities include Advocacy, Planning and Sensitization, Community Mobilization, Supervision and Monitoring; Tracking missed children; resolving non compliance and participating in Daily Evening Review Meetings, among others.



HRH, Alhaji Samaila Mohammed Mera, Emir of Argungu Iri during an Advocacy meeting on Polio Eradication with the Kebbi State Governor, His Excellency, Alhaji Danbatur (I).



His Eminence, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar, the Sultan of Sokoto, immunizing a child at his Palace.



HRH, Alhaji Abubakar Umar Sulaiman, Emir of Bode, Yobe State, administering the Oval Polio Vaccine on himself, to further assure his people that the vaccine is safe.



HRH, Alhaji Najeeb Husaini Adamu, Emir of Kano, immunizing a child at his Emirate flag-off of Immunization Plus Days.



HRH, Alhaji (Dr.) Ado Bayero, immunizing his grandson during the flag-off of Immunization Plus Days.



HRH, Alhaji Be'lo Mirwanad Sam, Emir of Borno, at an Evening Review Meeting during Immunization Plus Days in Gusau LGA, Zamfara State. On his right is the Permanent Secretary, Zamfara State Ministry of Health, Alhaji Habiru Abu Anka.



His Eminence, Alhaji Sa'ad Abubakar III, the Sultan of Sokoto (arrowed) with the Hon. Minister of Health and other participants at the 15th June 2009 meeting in Kaduna to kick start the systematic engagement of traditional leaders.



HRH, Alhaji Yahu Mohammed Samail, Emir of Zamfara, at an advocacy meeting on immunization with members of the Kaduna State Task Force on immunization, led by HRH Banet Ufwaya, Chief of Kaduna (1st right).



HRH, Alhaji Shehu Idris, Emir of Zamfara (2nd right) at an advocacy meeting on immunization with members of the Kaduna State Task Force on immunization, led by HRH Banet Ufwaya, Chief of Kaduna (1st right).



Another cross section of members of the committee at one of their regular meetings.



Inauguration of the Northern Traditional Leaders Committee on PFW Delivery: HRH, Alhaji Samaila Mohammed Mera Emir Argungu (left) Chairman of the committee (arrowed) with other members and then Honourable Minister of Health (in suit) at the inaugural meeting of the committee on 23rd June 2009 in Abuja.



A cross section of members of the committee at one of their regular meetings.



District Head of Zaria, (arrowed) chairing a micro planning meeting for Immunization Plus Days.



Dr. Muhammad Ali Pate, NPHCDA Executive Director, immunizing a child at the flag-off of Immunization Plus Days in Maiduguri, Borno State.



HRH, Alhaji Sayyadi Mahood, Emir of Ringim, Jigawa State, immunizing a child at his Emirate flag-off of Immunization Plus Days.



A cross section of Traditional & Religious Leaders at an Immunization Plus Days Planning meeting in Gwandu Emirate, Kebbi State.

## International

## Obama's healthy choice

By Charles Onunaiju

BARACK Obama did not need the endorsement. But he got it anyway. A day after the final passage of the Health Care Reform Bill, Cuban leader Fidel Castro wrote of it as a "miracle".

What was miraculous about it, Castro wrote, is that "it is really

to Congress.

Arm-twisting of recalcitrant politicians and a few deals to appease the more right-wing Democrats (the so-called Blue Dogs) gave Nancy Pelosi and Obama the required majority in both Houses of Congress. The Bill went through by a whisker.

Obama's reform is moderate. Its provisions are similar to

the Tea Party movement at every turn.

Republican leader John Boehner went to the floor of Congress and yelled, "Hell, no you can't" (this in reference to the Obama slogan, "Yes we can"). Other Republicans held signs that said, "Kill the Bill".

Their partisans outside yelled racist and homophobic state-

excess of \$2.5 trillion.

The US spends more per capita on health care than either the United Kingdom or Sweden. Yet, it has a higher infant mortality rate and worse life expectancy.

The latest figures showed that almost 46 million Americans had no health insurance (that is, over 15 per

health care reform).

Health care reform would provide the impetus for more policies that produce social solidarity, such as, perhaps, public transportation and a more robust public education system.

That Obama was able to get any reform on the table, and get this Bill passed, is a stick in the eye of the far Right, and this is why *The New York Times'* David Leonhardt noted that this Bill is "the centrepiece of [Obama's] deliberate effort to end what historians have called the age of Reagan".

The closest the US came to some kind of health insurance reform was in 1974, when Senator Edward Kennedy and President Richard Nixon agreed to a plan, with one of its centrepieces being mandated coverage by private employers (but with no cost controls and with little provision for the unemployed). "A new spirit of compromise is in the air," said Senator Kennedy, but before the Bill could go forward, Nixon's presidency crashed into the Watergate scandal.

The Reagan revolution was premised on an antipathy to government, and to the restoration of unfettered wealth for the elite. Policies set in play opened a vast inequality gap between the richest and the poorest, with the middle class on a gradual slide towards the poor.

The various asset bubbles of the Clinton era were able momentarily to reverse the middle class' downward trend, but not for long. Clinton's health care plan never stood a chance.

The Republicans were too combative to defend the "gains" of the Reagan years, and Clinton himself had too much fealty to Wall Street to stand up for the rights of the working majority. Obama might not share Clinton's temperamental affinity for the bankers, but he is the leader of a party given over to corporations (the union element is much constrained).

Nevertheless, times are now different. Even the Business Roundtable came around to the view that some kind of health care reform was necessary. That provided the opening. Obama's insurance reform is far from comprehensive.

However, it is not the Bill that is important. The politics of it is central. The political Right has been outflanked. It has revealed both its legislative weakness and its capture by the unruly far Right.

During the presidential campaign, Obama pointed out, "The project of the next President is figuring out how you can create bottom-up economic growth as opposed to trickle-down economic growth." The stroke of Obama's pen has not solved the health care crisis in the US. But it has set back the Reagan revolution a little bit.



PRESIDENT Obama

incredible that 234 years after the Declaration of Independence... the government of that country has approved medical attention for the majority of its citizens, something that Cuba was able to do half a century ago."

Certainly, the passage of this Bill is remarkable. In January, when Republican Scott Brown won the Senate seat in Massachusetts, the air went out of the Obama reform balloon.

The Republicans were gleeful. It appeared that they would now lie down on the tracks to stop the Democratic express. But congressional leader Nancy Pelosi refused to back down.

She squelched pressure from Obama's Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel to send a much narrower Bill to Congress. Pelosi led the defence of the relatively fuller Bill. Obama, it seems, agreed with her. They wanted to take the fight

those of a Bill from Richard Nixon's White House that was on the table.

There is little in the reform that will bring the United States in line with Scandinavian social democracy, with English or Canadian national health, or with Cuban socialised medicine.

It is less a Health Care Bill than an attempt to rationalise and regulate the health insurance industry. Certainly there are some very productive parts to this Bill, notably the ban on exclusions to pre-existing medical conditions, and it provides subsidies to the indigent to buy health insurance.

Despite the moderation, the Bill has raised the ire of the country's right wing. They are convinced that Obama has taken the country down the road to socialism. Several Republican members of Congress matched the vitriol of

members at Democratic members of Congress, and even spat on them. After the Bill's passage, many Democratic members received death threats.

Democratic leader James Clyburn called on his Republican colleagues to calm things down. "This stuff is beyond the pale. People out in the streets get their signals or what they think are their signals from the people in positions like we hold," he said. Republican leaders, Clyburn pointed out, "are aiding and abetting this kind of terrorism".

The political climate in the US is decidedly right of centre. If a constrained reform of an out-of-control health care system can raise such ire, imagine what might have happened had Obama tried a more radical approach? Health care costs now account for 17.3 per cent of the US economy, or in

cent of the population). Health care insurance costs have been borne either in private or by the employers.

For the latter, this has become a huge economic problem, and as its bill rises, it makes US firms much more globally uncompetitive. It would seem rational for the major corporations, therefore, to seek universal health care, just to get the health care insurance costs off their books.

But they are not all inclined to this reform. The main reason has little to do with costs and more to do with politics.

Since the Reagan revolution of the 1980s, all government-driven policies that facilitate social solidarity have been systematically resisted by the business elite (whose American Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers are resoundingly against



UNIVERSAL SERVICE PROVISION FUND

7<sup>TH</sup> 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
NORTH WEST	April 15 - 16, 2010	Shiroro Hotel, Nnamdi Azikiwe Way, Minna, Niger State	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

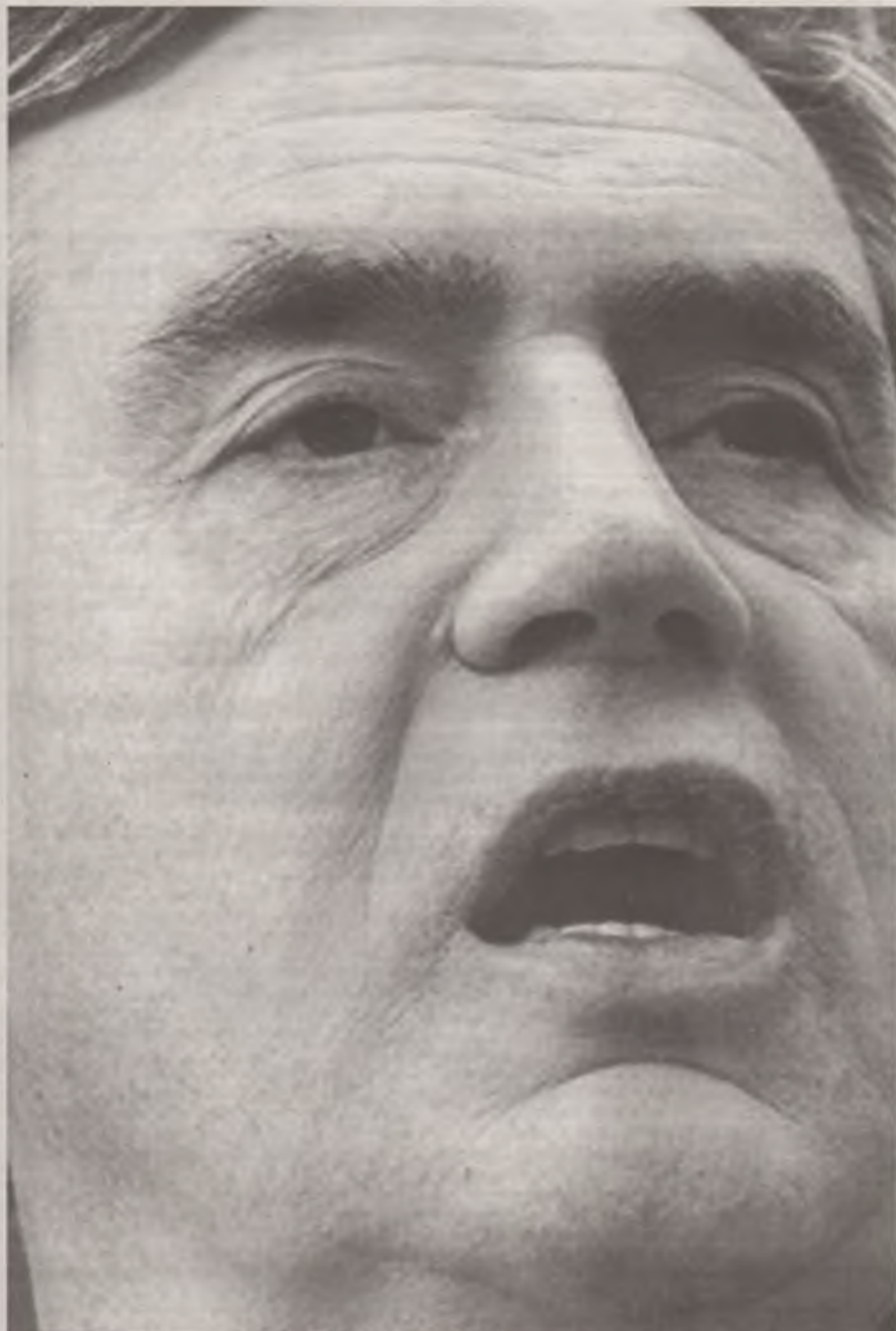
**Funso Fayomi (Esq)**

Director/Secretary, Universal Service Provision Fund



COMMONWEALTH  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
ORGANISATION

## International



PRIME Minister and Labour Party leader Gordon Brown unveils his party's election manifesto, seeking to seize back the initiative after a first week of campaigning.

## Russia points to human error in fatal Polish crash

RUSSIAN investigators suggested human error may have to be blamed in the plane crash that killed the Polish president and 95 others, saying yesterday that there were no technical problems with the Soviet-made plane.

The Tu-154 went down while trying to land Saturday in dense fog near Smolensk airport in western Russia. All aboard were killed, including President Lech Kaczynski and dozens of Polish political, military and religious leaders. They had been travelling in the Polish government-owned plane to attend a memorial at nearby Katyn forest honoring thousands of Polish military officers who were executed 70 years ago by Josef Stalin's secret police.

The pilot had been warned of bad weather in Smolensk, and was advised by traffic controllers to land elsewhere which would have delayed the Katyn observances.

The pilot was identified as Capt. Arkadiusz Protasiuk, 36, and the co-pilot as Maj. Robert Grzywna, 36. Also on the cockpit crew were Ensign Andrzej Michalak, 36, and Lt. Artur Zietek, 31. In Warsaw, there was concern that the pilots may have been asked by someone in the plane to land at Smolensk instead of diverting to Minsk or Moscow, in part to avoid missing the com-

memoration ceremonies.

In Warsaw, Polish Prosecutor General Andrzej Seremet said Polish investigators talked to the flight controller and flight supervisor and "concluded that there were no conditions for landing." "The tower was advising against the landing," Seremet said.

Polish investigators have not yet listened to the cockpit conversations recorded on the black boxes, but will, to see if there were "any suggestions made to the pilots" from other people aboard the plane. Other Russian officials said the pilots were offered the chance to land in Moscow, Minsk or Vitebsk, but they chose Smolensk, despite four failed attempts before the fifth and fatal approach.

Polish media reported in August 2008 that pilots flying Kaczynski to Tbilisi refused the president's order to land there because of the country's military conflict with Russia, diverting instead to Azerbaijan. In remarks shown on Russian television, Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov told a government meeting including President Dmitry Medvedev that the data recorders on the plane were found to have been completely functional, which will allow a detailed analysis.

## Brown launches Labour election manifesto

PRIME Minister Gordon Brown unveiled his party's election manifesto yesterday, seeking to seize back the initiative after a first week of campaigning dominated by economic squabbling.

The Labour Party leader set out "a plan for national renewal" after the May 6 polls, vowing to rebuild the recession-battered economy, cut the giant deficit while protecting public services, and shake up the political system.

In government since 1997, centre-left Labour hope their manifesto will help them overturn opinion polls that have consistently put them behind the main opposition Conservatives. "The forward policies we set out today are rooted in the day-to-day concerns of the British people," Brown said at the launch, held at a newly-built hospital in Birmingham, central England.

Brown fired the starting gun for the poll race last Tuesday, and the economy has dominated campaign-

ing so far, with the Conservatives and Labour arguing over whether Brown's payroll tax rise plans would help or hinder the recovery.

Britain's budget deficit is 167 billion pounds, according to government estimates. The manifesto promised not to raise the basic rate of income tax -- though did not say the same of value added tax (VAT), a levy on goods and services.

It set but plans to modernise Britain's infrastructure with a high-speed rail network and widespread broadband Internet access. The manifesto pledged to reform financial institutions so that banks "pay their fair share to society".

On political reform following last year's row over lawmakers' expenses, it pledged referendums on switching to the alternative vote system for general elections, and on an elected upper House of Lords. It laid out plans to give people the right to recall lawmakers and a vote in parliament on whether to reduce

the voting age to 16.

"This is the first post-crisis vote for our country, and the most important in a generation. Get the big decisions right now... and we not only renew our economy but renew our politics and society too," Brown said. But, acknowledging that his party risks being ousted on May 6, he admitted: "Labour is in the fight of our lives."

A YouGov poll in The Sun newspaper yesterday put the centre-right Conservatives down three points on 37 percent, Labour up one on 31 percent and the Liberal Democrats unchanged on 20 percent. Despite their opinion poll lead, the Conservatives may not win enough seats to hold a majority in parliament. The Conservatives' manifesto, to be unveiled Tuesday, will include pledges to scrap a planned rise in payroll taxes, give married couples a tax break and introduce a young people's community service programme.



BRITISH COUNCIL

[www.britishcouncil.org/africa](http://www.britishcouncil.org/africa)

## VACANCY

The British Council in Nigeria is currently receiving applications for a vacant post available in Lagos. If you wish to apply for this post, please complete the application form as requested. You will need to address the competencies in the job description.

### POSITION:

#### Education Project Coordinator

Application pack and full job description can be found on <http://www.britishcouncil.org/africa-vacancies>

### JOB AIM:

To contribute to the achievement of Country Plan objectives by supporting the planning, management, delivery and evaluation of country, regional and global products and services.

To contribute to the development of BC Nigeria as an innovative and high performing country operation. To model the values and principles of an integrated operation and to contribute to BC's regional strategy.

Applications should be sent to: [Hposts@ng.britishcouncil.org](mailto:Hposts@ng.britishcouncil.org)

Applications received after the stated deadline will not be considered. Telephone applications and enquiries will also not be accepted. Please apply using the materials on the website. We are unable to process applications that do not conform to the required format, and we will not accept curricula vitae or handwritten applications.

Deadline for application: **10am, 23 April 2010.**

Only applicants **short-listed** for interview will be contacted.

The British Council is committed to a policy of equal opportunity and is keen to reflect the diversity of UK society at every level within the organisation. We welcome applications from all sections of the community. Candidates with special needs should please ask us for this information in alternative formats. We guarantee an interview to disabled candidates who meet the essential criteria. We are the UK's international organisation for cultural relations. We are registered in England as a charity.



## JIGAWA STATE

### 2009 Millennium Development Goals Conditional Grants Scheme Invitation for Bids by Pre-Qualified Contractors



Date of Bid Submission  
Contracts Identification Nos

27<sup>th</sup> April, 2010  
JG/2009 CGS/PHCs/NCB/LOTS 1 - 8  
JG/2009 CGS/BHCs/NCB/LOTS 9 - 26  
JG/2009 CGS/SAC/NCB/LOTS 1  
JG/2009 CGS/SPB/NCB/LOTS 1 - 12  
JG/2009 CGS/HPB/NCB/LOTS 1 - 13  
JG/2009 CGS/WSS/NCB/LOTS 1 - 2

Jigawa State Government and Federal Government of Nigeria (represented by the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on Millennium Development Goals (OSSAP MDGs)), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly fund the implementation of various Projects and Programmes to put Nigeria on track to the attain the Millennium Development Goals in Nigeria within the target date of 2015. This follows the approval of various projects and programmes for the State by the National Committee on Conditional Grants Scheme (NCCGS) under the 2009 MDGs Conditional Grants Scheme. The Jigawa State MDGs-CGS Project Coordinating Office under the Directorate of Budget and Economic Planning is mandated to use part of this grant to cover eligible payments under the above listed five contracts as described hereunder in table 1.

2. Having completed the pre-qualification exercise and published the names of pre-qualified contractors (Table 3 of this advert), the Jigawa State MDG-CGS Project Coordinating Office now invites sealed bids from pre-qualified contractors within their pre-qualified eligible areas in accordance with the information contained in tables 2 of this advert.

LOT No.	Contract No.	Work Description	Amount of Bid Security (N)
1	JG/2009 CGS/PHCs/NCB/LOTS 1 - 8	Renovation and Improvement of Existing Primary Health Centres and Basic Health Clinics	500,000
2	JG/2009 CGS/BHCs/NCB/LOTS 9 - 26	Construction of Basic Health Clinics	400,000
3	JG/2009 CGS/SPB/NCB/LOTS 1 - 12	Construction of Solar-Powered Boreholes in Schools and Small Towns	300,000
	JG/2009 CGS/SAC/NCB/LOTS 1	Construction of Workshops and Classrooms in a Skill Acquisition Centre	1,00,000
4	JG/2009 CGS/WSS/NCB/LOTS 1 - 2	Construction of VIP Latrines in Boarding Schools	100,000
5	JG/2009 CGS/HPB/NCB/LOTS 1 - 13	Construction of Hand Pumps in Rural Communities	100,000

3. Bidding Documents (and additional copies) may be purchased at the CGS Projects Coordination Office, Millennium Development Goals Coordination & Monitoring Department, Directorate of Budget and Economic Planning, New State Secretariat, Takur, Dutse, Jigawa State, for a non-refundable fee of N30,000.00 (Thirty Thousand Naira Only) for the first LOT and additional N10,000.00 (Ten Thousand Naira Only) for subsequent LOTS purchased within the same project group as in table 1. Interested Pre-qualified contractors may obtain further information at the same address.

4. The method of payment will be in cash. Bidding Documents will be available from 14<sup>th</sup> April 2010 through to 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2010.

5. Bids should be valid for a period of 120 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security as per the table above. Bids should be delivered to the Office of the Permanent Secretary, Directorate of Budget and Economic Planning, New State Secretariat, Takur, Dutse, Jigawa State, on or before 12 noon of Tuesday, April 27<sup>th</sup> 2010 at which time the bid-opening exercise would be performed in presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

6. There would be a one-day workshop to inform contractors of the rules and regulations that would guide the preparation of bids and the evaluation of submitted bid documents. This is expected to take place on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April at the Auditorium of the New State Secretariat.

#### INVITATION TO BID BY PRE-QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS

S/N	Project Description
<b>Primary Health Care Proposed and Basic Health Clinics - JG/2009 CGS/PHCs/NCB/LOTS 1 - 6</b>	
1	Upgrading of Existing Basic Health Clinics to Primary Health Centres (Renovations, Improvements and Provision C2 Ward (Paediatric) and C3 Ward (Maternity) at Unguwar Ya in B/Kudu LGA
2	Upgrading of Existing Basic Health Clinics to Primary Health Centres (Renovations, Improvements and Provision C2 Ward (Paediatric) and C3 Ward (Maternity) at Aujara in Jahun LGA
3	Upgrading of Existing Basic Health Clinics to Primary Health Centres (Renovations, Improvements and Provision C2 Ward (Paediatric) and C3 Ward (Maternity) at Madaka in Gagarawa LGA
4	Renovation and Improvement of Existing Model Primary Health Centres - Renovations of Hospital Structures and 3No. Intermediate Staff Quarters at G/Gabas in Mallam Madori LGA.
5	Improvement of Existing Primary Health Centres - Renovations of Structures and Provision of Block B1 (Pharmacy) and Block B2 (Theatre) at Kila in Gwaram LGA
6	Improvement of Existing Primary Health Centres - Renovations of Structures and Provision of Block B1 (Pharmacy) and Block B2 (Theatre) at Karkama in Yankwashi LGA
<b>Construction of Basic Health Clinics - JG/2009 CGS/BHCs/NCB/LOTS 9 - 26</b>	
1	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Galafa H/P - in Auyo LGA
2	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Karanga HC - in Birmiwa LGA
3	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at L/Kudu HP - in Buji LGA
4	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Wurma - in Dutse LGA
5	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Yalawa HP - in Gagarawa LGA
6	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Adiyani - in Guri LGA
7	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Dabi H/P - in Gwiwa LGA
8	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Kadume HP - in Hadejia LGA
9	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Gidan Gona H/P - in Jahun LGA
10	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Dumadumin Kyaure HP - in K/Hausa LGA
11	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Ung Jibrin H/P - in Kaugama LGA
12	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Farun Daba HP - in Kazaure LGA
13	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Saban Gari - in Kiyawa LGA
14	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Tagwaro Disp - in M/Madori LGA
15	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Jajeri HP - in Maigatari LGA
16	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Makera H/P - in Miga LGA
17	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Jeki H/P - in S/Tankarkar LGA
18	Construction of Ward Level Basic Health Clinic at Nahuche Disp - in Taura LGA
<b>Construction of Workshops and Classrooms in a Skill Acquisition Centre - JG/2009 CGS/SAC/NCB/LOTS 1</b>	

1	Expansion & Improvement of Dutse Skill Acquisition Centre (Civil Works and Hand Pump)
<b>Solar Powered Boreholes in Boarding Schools &amp; Small Towns - JG/2009 CGS/SPB/NCB/LOTS 1 - 12</b>	
1	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in Tsadir (Auyo LGA), Kwazalewa (K/Hausa LGA), SSS K/Hausa (K/Hausa LGA) and Hantau (Miga LGA)
2	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in Kuzunzumi (Babura LGA), Shabaru (S/Tankarkar LGA) and Buduru (Garki LGA)
3	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in Surko (B/Kudu LGA), Dingaya (Gwaram LGA), GSS Unity Gwaram (Gwaram LGA) and Falgen (Buji LGA)
4	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in Macinamari (Birmiwa LGA), Matara Babba (Guri LGA), GGASS Birmiwa (Birmiwa LGA) and Doteri (K/Kasamma LGA)
5	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in Jabarna (Jahun LGA) and GSS Jahun (Jahun LGA)
6	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in Garin Barka (Gumel), Hana Kango (Maigatari LGA) and GSS Maigatari (Maigatari LGA)
7	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in Hadin (Kaugama LGA), Tashena (Mallam Madori LGA) and Masalladin Hamza (Hadejia LGA)
8	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in Baazuni (Kazaure LGA), Kwaila (Roni LGA)
9	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in Kafin Bahausha (Ringim LGA), GTC Ringim (Ringim LGA) and GSS Unity Ringim (Ringim LGA)
10	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in GSS Taura and Chukuto (Taura LGA) and Ma'aduwa (Gagarawa LGA).
11	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in Jigawar Tsada (Dutse LGA), GSS Dutse (Dutse LGA) and Gwadaba (Kiyawa LGA)
12	Construction of Solar Powered Boreholes Schemes in JSSS Karkama & Dewan Gawo (Yankwashi LGA) and Guntai (Gwiwa LGA)
<b>Hand Pump Borehole Projects Rural Communities - JG/2009 CGS/HPB/NCB/LOTS 1 - 13</b>	
1	Construction of 5No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Auyo Local Government (Sabuwar Auyo, Karsha, Fulanin Yamma, Garin Fako and Zilawa AND Construction of 10No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Kafin Hausa Local Government (Abdullawa, Kargumaka, Adarauhe Galadima, Makwa Sharga, Rimi, Gulin Gulun, Kira Babba, Azauna, Dumadumin Kyaure and Tsagaiwa).
2	Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Babura Local Government (Masako, Jansa, Girambi, Kadagawa, Jan Mutum, Unguwar Toro, Danyayi and Gidan Gide AND Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Sule Tankarkar Local Government (Maitsamiya, Dantafiya, S/Tankarkar PHC), Dantuwo, Amanga, Baruma, S/Tankarkar Dispensary and Banda Kado)
3	Construction of 10No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in B/Kudu Local Government (Lemo, Kaderi, Lunkunde, Andazawa, Gobirawa, Sabuwar Kaura, Rangwan, Gudalai, Kachakawa Gidan and Yalwan Funtuwa AND Construction of 10No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Gwaram Local Government (Bare Bai Health Post, Rahama HP, Martaba HP, Ganji HP, Budinga HP, Isawa HP, Zangon Gaba HP, Haya BHC, Kafin Fulani and Kilawa HP)
4	Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Birmiwa Local Government (Kuka Gwauru, Birmiwa New Layout, Dargazawa, Fulanin Barburan, Fulanin Mai Jama'a, Rigar Baso, Fulanin Markewa and Mara AND Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Kiri Kasamma Local Government (Melen, Gayin Gana, Sunkuye, Maiari, Maikintari, Madugunari, Kiri and Matarar Ganji).
5	Construction of 10No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Buji Local Government (Jibari Gantaa, Gidan Mai Dantari, Tigar Gada, Gudduba, Abirji Shagala, Jaimeri, Bakori, Madaba Rinde and Tillbakwai AND Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Dutse Local Government (Kuka Uku Dankabo, Kwamawa Cikin Gari, Unguwar Juda, Kishigawa Cikin Gari, Chamo Gabas, Bakawa, Kadage and Sararai)
6	Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Garki Local Government (Zakoki, Dakidaka, Makerar Kanawa, Galadimawa, Kekau, Matsari, Kashin Ganji and Gidan Baki AND Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Taura Local Government (Asayaya, Daurawa, Abakura, Idan Zakara, Zarga, Zangon Maje, Bardo and Kaura AND Construction of 5No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Gagarawa Local Government (Islamliyya, Kore Sabuwa, Makerabu, Zingaran and Gurfali)
7	Construction of 5No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Guri Local Government (Yalwan Musari, Kasaga Tsohuwa, Madamuwa, Rigar Mamam Ganji and Zuba Kirji AND Construction of 1No. Solar-Powered Water Scheme at Chadi Sabon Garun Hadejia)
8	Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Gwiwa Local Government (Karo, Mori, Badole, Dinya, Humnun Gere, Madurkusa, Shada and Gaskole AND Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Roni Local Government (Unguwar Tudun Roni, Tsailiken Kwaila, Amariyawa PS, Shimmifdar Fulani, Sabo, Dansure PS, Jabiyyawa and Makadi Dage)
9	Construction of 5No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Kaugama Local Government (Gann Barde Dukawa, Kuri, Kudun Makada, Rangyana and Sarko Isa AND Construction of 8 No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Mallam Madori Local Government (Malawa, Zarau, Meso, Azamu, Gandun Sarki, Kachakama, Wulmar and Chanchanda).
10	Construction of 10No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Kazaure Local Government (Ganguli H/C, Kyankyaro Sabuwa, Tsallewa, Fanda, Ballami, Katsinawa, Gandun Galadanchi, Shagan, Maigero and Unguwar Faru. AND Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Yankwashi Local Government (Karkama, Zoto, Kuda, Achalaifiya, Firji, Sada, Gwarta and Ringim)
11	Construction of 10No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Kiyawa Local Government (Kagara, Bagayale, Balago, Garko, Shuwarin, Kwanda, Garko, Tsirma, Maje and Katanga) AND Construction of 10No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Jahun Local Government (Zirki Fulanin Gidan Baima, Durzai, Dan abrama, Yammacin Girawa, Chirimarwan Aujara, Asayaya, Achau Makaranta, Tukuya and Fulanin Gunka)
12	Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Maigatari Local Government (Dogon Kore, Rigar Mamam, Haro Gata, Mainono, Haro Gawo, Rigar Dore, Kogi Mai Shayi and Wanzama) AND Construction of 10No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Gumel Local Government (Baikarya, Kokinami, Dan Farantama, Kuka Uku, Maidabara, Garin Baushe, Garin Gambo, Garin Baki, Garin Dagariyo and Maituriniya)
13	Construction of 8No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Miga Local Government (Nabadawa, Mai Wando, Gidan Nagari, Dun Naka, Asayaya, Zagau, Garingami and Kwangi) AND Construction of 10No. Hand Pump Borehole (School or Health Facility Based) in Ringim Local Government (Kwangi, Dogaji, Nissan Marke, Tsungur Gari, Malamawar Kale, Majiyawar Fulani, Dan Maken, Dingare, Kwaiwayu and Malamawar Yandutse)
<b>Construction of VIP Latrines in Boarding Schools - JG/2009 CGS/WSS/NCB/LOTS 1 - 2</b>	
1	Construction of 2No. 4-Compartment VIP Latrine with Urinals & H/Washing Facility GGASS Birmiwa, GDSS Fantal, GDSS Turabu, GSS Aujara and GSS Unity Ringim
2	Construction of 2No. 4-Compartment VIP Latrine with Urinals & H/Washing Facility in GGSS Maigatari, GDSS Gumel, GDSS Kiri, GGASS Babura and GDSS Gwiwa

Continued on next page...

Page 1...

## LIST OF PRE-QUALIFIED CONTRACTORS ELIGIBLE TO BID IN THE 2009 JIGAWA STATE CGS PROJECTS WITHIN THE AREA PRE-QUALIFIED

S/N	NAME OF COMPANY	ADDRESS	AREA PRE-QUALIFIED		
			Civil Works	H/Pumps	Solar Boreholes
1	A & S GEN. ENTERPRISES LTD	No. 7, Hadiza House, Zaria Rd. Kano	Yes	-	Yes
2	A.D.Z. GLOBAL SERVICES LTD.	No. 72 Sabon Garu Quarters, hadejia.	-	-	Yes
3	A.G.M & SONS	No. 1A Nguru road Hadejia.	Yes	Yes	Yes
4	A.S. UNIVERSAL CONSTRUCTION LIMITED		Yes	-	-
5	A.U.H. GLOBAL SERVICES LTD.	No. 100 Unguwar Mu'azu Hadejia.	Yes	Yes	-
6	A.Y.A. LOGISTICS & CONSTR. LTD.	No. 16/17 zaria road, Kano.	Yes	Yes	-
7	A.Y.H. INVESTMENT LIMITED		Yes	-	-
8	ABDUL-RAHMAN ABDUL-RASHID VENTURES LTD.	No.77 Ibrahim Taiwo Road Kano.	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	ABJ AND H CONSTRUCTION LTD.	PLOT 510 OLU SHEGUNOBASANJO WAY WUSE ZONE 1. ABUJA	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	ADAHAMA WORLDWIDE SOLUTION	Abuja Quarters behind Central Mkt. M/Madori.	Yes	-	-
11	ADI ENGINEERING & GENERAL SERVICES	No. 718 Zoo Road, Kano.	Yes	Yes	Yes
12	ADLER	No. 42, Sultan Rd. Kano	Yes	-	-
13	ADSOV VENTURES NIG. LIMITED	No. 4 Nuhu Sunusi Street, Dutse	Yes	-	-
14	AFMUM GENERAL CONTRACTORS & SUPPLIERS	No.5 GRA, opposite bye pass Rd, Dutse	Yes	-	-
15	AFRINA ENGINEERING & SERVICES LTD	Yahaya Abubakar link, GRA, Bauchi	Yes	-	-
16	AGRIUN LIMITED	No. 28 Hadejia Road, Kano	Yes	Yes	Yes
17	AJAWA INVESTMENT NIG. LIMITED	Kiyawa Road Dutse.	Yes	Yes	Yes
18	AKMAS RESOURCES TECHNOLOGIES & DEVELOPMENT LTD	29, Jabi Rd, Kaduna	Yes	Yes	Yes
19	ALASKA GENERAL ENTERPRISES	42, Sabon Kanti, B'kudu, Jigawa state	Yes	-	-
20	ALBARKA GLOBAL CONST. LTD	Suite 3, Asma'u House, Sani Abacha Way, Dutse	Yes	Yes	Yes
21	ALFAYUS NIG. LTD	Block 2, Flat II Abiriba close, Area II, Garki Abuja	Yes	-	-
22	ALH. HARUNA ISMA'IL ENTERP.	No. 7 Kwalam Town	Yes	-	-
23	ALHAJIN GABAS LIMITED	Plot 510 J-Inkande Building (Hall Brothers) Wuse Zone 1, Abuja.	Yes	-	-
24	AL-ITTIHAD NIG. LIMITED	No. 13 New Court Road, Gyadi Gyadi, Kano.	Yes	-	-
25	ALKAB NIGERIA LIMITED	Plot 6 Yahaya Gusau Road, Sharada, Kano.	Yes	Yes	-
26	ALLEES TREE VENTURES LIMITED	Suite No. 5 First Floor, Zardina Plaza 20A Ali Akilu Rd. Kaduna.	-	Yes	Yes
27	ALMUKAB DYNAMICS LIMITED	Plot 76 Rijiyar Zaki Layout Gwarzo Road, Kano.	Yes	-	-
28	ALMUSTAFALLS DRILLING & CONST. CO. LIMITED.	Museum House No. 3 Zaria Road, Kano	-	-	Yes
29	AL-NASIBY GENERAL ENTERPRISES LTD	No. 65, Ibrahim Taiwo Rd, Kano	Yes	-	-
30	ALPHA SIGMA LIMITED	Plot 6 Ibrahim Altyu Way, Dutse.	Yes	-	Yes
31	AL-SUMS CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.	No. 227 Nassarawa, Kano.	Yes	Yes	Yes
32	AL-TAMRU NIGERIA LIMITED	No.22 New GRA Quarters Hadejia	Yes	-	-
33	AMIM CONSULT NIG. LIMITED	No. 5B Maje Road, Hadejia.	Yes	-	-
34	AMSAI TURNKEY PROJECT LIMITED	No. 15 Beirut Road, Kano.	Yes	-	-
35	AMSO INVESTMENT LIMITED	Yaounde Street Plot 85, Zone 6 Wuse Abuja	Yes	Yes	Yes
36	ANHAS NIGERIA LIMITED	No. 29 Dahiru Mustapha Avenue, City Centre, Kano.	Yes	-	-
37	ARCHFIRST NIG. LTD	No. 3, PDP street, Dikko Rd, Gombe	Yes	-	-
38	ARKY TECHNO DOCK RESOURCES LTD.	No. 19D Old Kano Road Azare, Bauchi State.	Yes	-	-
39	ASSOCIATED MEGA PLANNERS	No.21, Rumka street, Unguwar sarki GRA, Kaduna	Yes	-	-
40	AUMAMS NIG. LTD	No. 17-18, Kiyawa Rd, Dutse	-	Yes	-
41	AZ ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD	34 NNDC RD. Sharada, Kano	-	Yes	Yes
42	B.M. INVESTMENT LIMITED	No. 29 Dahiru Mustapha Avenue, City Centre, Kano.	Yes	-	-
43	BABA CONSTRUCTION LIMITED	PLOT NO. 1 JF MALAM KATO SHOPPING COMPLEX, KANO	Yes	Yes	Yes
44	BABA WARWADE & SONS ENTERPRISES	No.15, Court Rd, Dutse, Jigawa state	Yes	-	-
45	BABAN DOKI GENERAL ENTERPRISES LTD.	No. 5 Emir Palace Road, Kwaslam Taura LGA.	Yes	-	-
46	BAFSA GLOBAL CONCEPT LTD.	No. 10 GSS Lautai Road, Behind Gumel General Hospital, Gumel.	Yes	-	-
47	BAISHEMI ZANGOMA	No. 3, Diginsa Rd, Birniwa	Yes	-	-
48	BAMZY LIMITED	No. 94 Hotozo GRA, Kano.	Yes	-	-
49	BARWAN DUTSE NIG. LIMITED	No. 32D OLAYINKA QTRS, TAKUR, Dutse.	Yes	Yes	-
50	BASA BISA NIGERIA LIMITED	Plot No. 258 Maiduguri Road, Kano	Yes	Yes	Yes
51	BASELINK INTERNATIONAL LIMITED	Suite 11/12, Dee Auwal Plaza, Plot 2044, Michael Okpara way, Abuja	Yes	Yes	Yes
52	BAV & CO. LTD	Plot 450, Na'ibawa Qtrs. Zaria Rd, Kano	-	-	Yes
53	BEACON ENG. NIG. LIMITED	Plot U7/13 Kundila Housing Estate, Maiduguri Road, Kano.	Yes	Yes	-
54	BEAMS SYSTEMS LTD	A2, Zaibabdin House, New Court Rd, Kano	Yes	-	-
55	BEEFAR CONSTRUCTION LTD	Plot10, Sahih Complex Farm Centre, kano	Yes	-	-
56	BELINVEST NIGERIA LIMITED	Kim. 10 Gaida Quarters, Kano.	Yes	-	Yes
57	BISACODE NIG. LTD	12 Freetown Crescent, Off Adetokumbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja	Yes	-	-
58	BIZ TECHNOLOGIES INITIATIVE SYSTEM LTD	New Goje Rd, Gombe	Yes	-	-
59	BNB GLOBAL INVESTMENT LTD.	Plot 39 Nassarawa Layout, Gumel	Yes	-	-
60	BRIGHT STONE NIGERIA LIMITED	Block 67 Flat 7 Gabronel Street, Wuse, Abuja.	Yes	-	-
61	BSM GLOBAL PROJECTS LTD	No. 305, Aminu Kano Way, Kano	Yes	-	-
62	CEYLON CONSTRUCTION SERVICES LIMITED	Suite C 202, 11 Dunukofia Street Area II, Abuja.	-	-	Yes
63	CHAMBERLAIN GLOBAL CONCEPTS LIMITED	No. 11A Isa Kaita Road Kaduna.	Yes	Yes	Yes
64	CHATEL INTEGRATED VENTURES LTD.	No. 15A Idma/Jabi Road, U/Rimi Kaduna	Yes	-	-
65	CHINA ZHONGHAO NIG. LIMITED	Plot 7 Inuwa Abdulkadir Road Kaduna	Yes	-	Yes
66	CIRCULAR CONSTRUCTION LIMITED	No. 58B Wharf Road, Kano.	Yes	-	-
67	COMPLETE TRUST NIG. LIMITED	House No. 7 Bakin Kasuwa, Kazaure. Nicon luxury Hotel, suite 62 plot 903, Tafawa Balewa Way Area 11 Garki, Abuja.	Yes	-	-
68	COPIOUS ENERGY NIG. LIMITED	No. 397 Hotozo Quarters, Kano.	-	-	Yes
69	DABI GLOBAL PETROLEUM NIG. LTD.	No. 3 Modibbo Adama Way Yola, Adamawa State.	Yes	-	-
70	DAH-MOYIH NIG. LIMITED	No. 12 Kano Road, Kazaure.	Yes	Yes	Yes
71	DAKAKKE VENTURES	No. 1 A, Iyaka Rd, Kano	Yes	-	Yes
72	DALA CONSTRUCTION LTD	Plot 52, Sharada phase III, Kano	Yes	-	-
73	DAMISCO NIG. LTD	No. 101 Bakin Kasuwa, Jahun.	-	Yes	Yes
74	DAN IYA DRILLING & GENERAL SERVICES.	No. 28A Gandun Albasa Kano.	Yes	Yes	-
75	DANJIRO NIGERIA LIMITED	Plot 83 Kinshasa street, Zone 6 Wuse, Abuja.	Yes	-	-
76	DANOMILL & COMPANY	No. 18 Club Road Kano	-	-	Yes
77	DANTEK LIMITED	No B 518 Investment House, Dutse.	Yes	-	-
78	DARAGI AND SONS NIG. LIMITED	No. 5, Dan Amarya plaza, Tarauni, Maiduguri Rd, Kano	Yes	-	-
79	DATUWA ADMART ENTERPRISES LTD	Suite B13Ummi Plaza Zaria rd./Zoo Road, Kano.	Yes	-	Yes
80	DESIGN THREE SIXTY LIMITED	Block AA 333, Kundila Housing Estate, Kano	Yes	-	-
81	DIWUMA ENTERPRISES LTD	No. 2 Kanti Daura Road, Sani Sarkin Bai Shopping Complex, Kazaure	Yes	-	-
82	DUTSEN TAURA NIGERIA LIMITED	No.9, Yola street, Area 7, Garki Abuja.	-	-	Yes
83	ELL SERVICES LTD	Plot 4, Opposite VVF Hospital	Yes	-	-
84	ESCO ENG. SERVICES NIG. LTD	No. 11A Isa Kaita Road Kaduna.	Yes	Yes	Yes
85	EYAT AND ASSOCIATES LIMITED				
86	FAGAM FARMS & GENERAL CONTRACTORS LTD.	No.21 Hakimi Street, Dutse.	Yes	-	-
87	FAKABA GLOBAL SERVICES LTD	No. 380, Court Rd, Kano	-	Yes	Yes
88	FALCONS INTEGRATED WORKS LIMITED	4a Batawa Close Off Hadejia Road, Kano.	Yes	-	-
89	FAMUSA RESOURCES LIMITED	No. 33 Jakara Off city Post Office, Kano.	-	-	Yes
90	FOREST INVESTMENT NIG. LIMITED	A8 Fanaha Business Suite Ademola Adetokumbo Crescent Wuse II Abuja.	-	-	-
91	GARE INVESTMENT NIG. LTD	Gidan Buhari, Opposite Sahad stores, Zaria Rd, kano	Yes	-	-
92	GAZAB GLOBAL INVESTMENT CONCEPT LTD	No. 5, Jirny Carty Sreet, Asokoro, Abuja	Yes	-	-
93	GEL-GEO HYDRO ENG LTD	NO 189, NEW HOSPITAL RD, GYADI GYADI, KANO	-	Yes	-
94	GEOLOGICAL DRILLING INVESTMENT	369, Aminu Kano Way, Kano	-	Yes	-
95	GIDAN ADEDE GEN. ENTERPRISES LTD	No. 5, Alh. Na'isa plot, Kiyawa jigawa state	Yes	-	-
96	GIHAZU GLOBAL CONCEPT LTD	Plot 2442, Isa Kaita Asokoro, Abuja	Yes	-	-
97	GLOBAL EARTH SOLVE LIMITED	Plot 5 Opp. VVF Hospital, Zoo Road, Kano.	-	-	Yes
98	GRID CONSTRUCTION & INVEST. LTD	No. 2, Emirs Rd, Gombe	Yes	-	-
99	HABIBU YA'U INVEST. CO. LTD	No. 1, Gawo Kiyawa RD, Dutse	Yes	-	-
100	HAGAN TEAM ENGR. CO. LTD.	No 17 Zaria Road, Gyadi Gyadi, Kano	Yes	Yes	Yes
101	HAKISTA INVESTMENT LTD	Plot 47, Freedom House, Sharada phase II, Kano	-	Yes	-
102	HAMISCO NIG. LTD	Plot 269, Maiduguri Rd, Kano	Yes	-	Yes
103	HANS COMPANY NIG. LTD	76, Hausawa layout, Second link off Court Rd, Kano	-	Yes	Yes
104	HASH INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD.	No. 302 Dausayi Town, Hadejia Road, Kano.	Yes	Yes	Yes
105	HAVAGE ENGINEERING SERVICES.	No. 13A Gwari Avenue Barnawa GRA, Kaduna.	Yes	-	-
106	HAZACO CONSTRUCTION CO. LIMITED	No. 31 Sule Kataqum Road Azare, Bauchi State.	Yes	-	-
107	HIGH LIGHT NIG. LTD.	No. 78E Ado Bayero Road Kano.	Yes	-	-

Continued on next page...

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108	HIMMA DYNAMIC VENTURES	Q4 Danja Road Off Katuru Road, Unguwar Sarki, Kaduna.	Yes	-	-
109	HOMAY NIGERIA LIMITED		Yes	-	-
110	HOMELUX CONSTR. & EQUIPMENT CO. LTD.	Lautai House Wudil Road, Kano.	Yes	-	-
111	HYDAMAX CONSULTING LIMITED	No. Dadaye Estate, Zaria.	Yes	-	-
112	I.I.C. CONSTRUCTION COMPANY	No. 3 Konoko Street, Wuse II, Abuja.	Yes	Yes	Yes
113	IBRACO MAFRICA NIG. LIMITED	Off old Cinema Road Near abbatoir, Dutse	Yes	-	-
114	IDI ALIKO & SONS ENTERPRISES	No. 177 Koki Qtrs. Off Gidan Ta'ambu, Kano.	Yes	-	-
115	IHSAN ENTERPRISES CO. & GEN. SERVICES	No. F9, B/Kubu Juma'a Mosque shops, B/kudu	Yes	-	-
116	IMAM AHMED NIG. LIMITED	Bakin Kasuwa Taura, Taura LGA.	Yes	-	-
117	INJI CONSULT	No. 15 B.U.K Road Kano.	Yes	Yes	-
118	INSULAR NIG. LTD	No. 36, Ali Akilu Rd, Kaduna	Yes	-	-
119	INTERPHASE ASSOCIATES LIMITED	UBA front Building, No. 3 Yakubu Gowon Way, Kaduna.	Yes	-	-
120	ISA HALILU NIG. LTD	C18, Hauwa House, Zaria Rd, Kano	Yes	-	-
121	ISIHAQA ABUBAKAR NIG. ENTPR.	No. 15 Shuwarin, Jigawa State.	Yes	Yes	-
122	ISMU'ID NIG. LTD	No. 5, Korau Rd, Nasarawa	-	Yes	Yes
123	J. INKANDE NIGERIA LIMITED	No. 1A Nguru road Hadejia.	Yes	-	-
124	JAL BAIT VENTURES NIG. LTD	109, IBB way, Kano	Yes	-	-
125	JAMBAL GLOBAL INVESTMENT LTD.	No. 7 Lamido Terrace, Nassarawa, Kano.	-	Yes	-
126	JARMARI INVESTMENT LTD	Plot 239, Sokono Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja	-	Yes	-
127	JAWAD GLOBAL RESOURCES LTD	Plot 191, Rahama complex, Wuse zone 4, Abuja	Yes	-	-
128	JERTA TECHNOLOGY CO. LIMITED	Plot 3 & 4 Gidan Falaki, Zaria Road, Kano.	Yes	-	Yes
129	JIBO ABUBAKAR GUMEL NIG. LTD.	No. 57 Maiduguri Road Gumel.	Yes	-	-
130	KAGO NIGERIA LTD	No. 214 Hotoro GRA Kano	Yes	Yes	Yes
131	KANOKE AND KIYAWA ENTEPRISES		Yes	-	-
132	KANOTEK SERVICES LTD	No. 333, Aminu Kano way, Kano	Yes	-	-
133	KAP ENGINEERING COMPANY	Sabuwar Maranjawa, Off Central Mosque, Dutse	Yes	Yes	-
134	KHANADI GLOBAL LINKS LIMITED	No. 17/18 Mariya Sanusi Dantata House, Old B.U.K Road, Kano.	Yes	-	-
135	KHIMAH GENERAL CONSTR. LTD.	No. 4 Hakimi Street, Yadi P.O. Box 358 Dutse	Yes	-	-
136	LAMIDO WATER TEK	No. 334 Aminu Kano Way, Kano	Yes	-	Yes
137	LAND BASE ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD.	No. 903 Hotoro GRA, Kano.	Yes	Yes	Yes
138	LEADWAY CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD.	Plot 16 Sharada Road, Kano	Yes	-	-
139	LOYALTY PROPERTY LTD	No.5 K/Hausa Rd, Jahun	-	Yes	Yes
140	M. & Y. KANKAROFI CONSTRUCTION & INVESTMENT LTD.	No.9 Zoo Road Kano	Yes	Yes	Yes
141	MAHAUYA INVESTMENT LIMITED	No. 12 Abidjan Creasent, Unguwar Rimi Housing Estate, Kaduna.	-	Yes	-
142	MAI AZARA ENGINEERING LTD.	Otunba Modupe Olufusoye House 53 Oguniyi creasent Akane Road, Ondo	Yes	-	Yes
143	MAI YAYA INVESTMENT LIMITED	No. 1 Sallari junction, by Bako Block Industry, Kano	Yes	-	-
144	MARRCX & CONSTRUCTION NIG. LTD.	No. 23 Gyadi Gyadi Zana Road, Kano.	Yes	-	-
145	MASAQ MERCHANDISE NIG. LTD	Off Adamu Street, Stadium Rd, Ilorin	Yes	-	-
146	MASO ENERGY SOURCES LTD	Plot 7112, Hotoro Commercial Layout, Kano	-	Yes	-
147	MERITAGE HOMES NIG. LTD	Suite 11/12, Dee Auwal Plaza, Plot 2044, Michael Okpara way Wuse zone v, Abuja	Yes	-	-
148	MID BLOCKS & CONSTRUCTION LTD.	No. 3 Dankadai Link, Karkasara Taurani, Kano.	Yes	-	-
149	MIMO INDUSTRIES LIMITED	No. 9 Ajasa layout Civic Centre, Kano	Yes	Yes	Yes
150	MN ATAJ CONSTRUCTION LIMITED	No. 575 Gadon Kaya, Kano.	Yes	-	Yes
151	MUFIDA VENTURES	No. 5, Maikwano House, Hakimi Street, Dutse	Yes	-	Yes
152	MUQSITOT GLOBAL VENTURES LTD.	Plot 14 Ebitu Ekiwe Street Off Chidda Hotel Jabi, Abuja	-	Yes	-
153	MUSA' O & SONS NIG. LIMITED	Bakin Kasuwa Hadejia, P.O. Box 30 Hadejia, Jigawa State.	Yes	-	-
154	MUSHAB INVESTMENT LIMITED	No. 4 Gandun Sarki Layout, Hadejia.	Yes	Yes	-
155	MUSUAL PYRAMID DYNAMIC LTD	Sultan Peoples' shopping complex plaza, Area II, abuja.	Yes	-	-
156	NASHE VENTURES LTD	Ja'en Rinji Qtrs. Sharada phase II, Kano	Yes	-	-
157	NEW STOCK INVESTMENT LTD	10B, Niamey Rd, Unguwar Sarki, Kaduna	Yes	-	-
158	NIA NIGERIA LIMITED	By Katsina Road Shop No. 1 Alasawa Quarters, Kano.	-	-	Yes
159	NISCA ARK VENTURES LIMITED	No. 15 Nuhu Mohd Sunusi way, Dutse.	Yes	Yes	Yes
160	NIZAM ENGINEERING LIMITED	No. C35 Yahaya Gusau, Off BUK Kano.	Yes	-	Yes
161	NORTHSTAR DRILLING COMPANY LTD.	No.334A 4th Close Off 5th Avenue Gwarinfa, Abuja.	-	Yes	Yes
162	NORTUSTAR DRILLING COMPANY LTD.	No.334A 4th Close Off 5th Avenue Gwarinfa, Abuja.	Yes	-	-
163	NURAM HOLDINGS NIG. LIMITED	No. 15 Independence Road, Kano	Yes	Yes	Yes
164	OBED CASENA LIMITED	Suite No. 5 First Floor, Zadina Plaza 20A Ali Akilu Rd, Kaduna.	Yes	-	-
165	OMOLARA ARISES NIGERIA LTD.	Plot 9 Tunde Ogbeha Street Gudu District, Abuja.	Yes	-	-
166	PELICAN INTEGRATED SYTEMS NIG LTD	No. 3, Opposite police station, Gandun sarki layout, Hadejia	Yes	-	-
167	PISANO NIG. LTD	No. 1, Zaria Rd, Kano	-	Yes	Yes
168	PRESTIGE INTERGRATED SERVICES	Gidan Sani Maihula, Zoo Road, Kano.	Yes	Yes	Yes
169	RAJUVEL LIMITED	No. DS 3, Abba Zadawa Shopping Complex, Bauchi.	-	Yes	Yes
170	RASADAL VENTURES LTD	1ST Floor, Asma'u House, Sani Abacha Way, Dutse.	Yes	-	-
171	RAWDA INTEGRATED SERVICES LTD	No.136, Marine Rd. Apapa, Lagos	Yes	-	-
172	RINGIM GALADANCHI NIG. LTD.	No. 5 Nuhu Sunusi Road, Dutse.	Yes	-	-
173	SABIDA GLOBAL SERVICES LTD	A.B.M. Kabara Motors, No.3 Obasanjo Road, Kano.	Yes	Yes	Yes
174	SABO GALAMAWA & SONS	No. 7 Hakimi Street, Dutse	Yes	-	-
175	SABY INTEGRATED PROJECTS LTD.	No. 22 Kundila Housing Estate, Maiduguri Road, Kano	Yes	-	-
176	SADEX ENGINEERING LIMITED	No. 140 Suleiman Gezawa Street, Kano.	-	-	Yes
177	SAGALILI NIG. LIMITED	No. 8, Creasent Useini Housing Estate, Phase 2, Kado Area10 Garki Abuja.	Yes	-	-
178	SAHIH ENGINEERING SERVICES LTD.	Gwarzo Road Behind Old BUK Kabuga, Kano.	Yes	-	-
179	SAHIH INTEGRATED & LOGISTICS	No. 390 zaria road Naibawa Qtrs, Kano.	Yes	-	-
180	SAUKI INTEGRATED INVESTMENT LTD.	Suite 6 Neighbourhood Centre, Wuse Zone 3 Abuja.	-	Yes	Yes
181	SHELTADOM LIMITED	No. 44 hadejia Road, Bompai Kano.	Yes	-	-
182	SIR WALTER DRILLING & GENERAL SERVICES LTD.	No. 10 Opposite Union Bank Zoo Road, Kano.	-	Yes	Yes
183	SOLAR FORCE NIG. LTD	No. 1, Rima street, Maitama, Abuja.	-	-	Yes
184	SOLID WORKS	No. 7 Hakimi Street, Dutse	Yes	-	-
185	SOUND PROJECT CONSULT LTD.	No. 18 Kano Road Azare, Bauchi State.	Yes	-	-
186	SPIDER ENGINEERING & TECH. SERVICES	Plot 3 Zaria Road, Kano.	Yes	-	Yes
187	SPRING GLOBAL RESOURCES & CO	No.2, Yahaya Gusau Rd, Kano	Yes	-	Yes
188	SUKUDAI CONSTRUCTION NIGERIA LIMITED	No. 13 Kiyawa Road, Dutse.	Yes	-	-
189	SYMPATHY MERCHANT & INVESTMENT LTD	No. 16B, Guda Abdullahi Rd. Near Samsam Rogers, Farm centre, Kano	Yes	-	Yes
190	SYSI ENGINEERING SERVICES	No. 7 Gandun Bundugoma Maje Road, Hadejia.	Yes	-	-
191	TAHIR WATER & GENERAL ENTERPRISES LIMITED.	No. 217 Goron Dutse, Kano.	-	-	Yes
192	TALAKU INTEGRATED SERVICES	Behind Total Filling Station M/M	-	Yes	Yes
193	TOSHILA INTEGRATED NIG. LIMITED	No.1 Abuja Quarters M/Madon	Yes	Yes	Yes
194	TRI-C (3C) INTERNATIONAL	OC - 28 kabuga Haousing Estate	Yes	Yes	Yes
195	TRIPOD ENGINEERING SERV. LTD.	No. 10 City Centre Gyadi Gyadi Qtrs. Zaria rd, Kano.	-	Yes	Yes
196	TRIPPLE K INVESTMENT LIMITED	No. 21A Sultan Road Extension Nassarawa, Kano.	-	Yes	Yes
197	TRUST ENGINEERING SERVICE LTD.	No. 22 New Court Road, Kano.	-	Yes	-
198	TYONEX NIGERIA LIMITED	KM. 10 LASU - IGANDU ROAD, LAGOS	Yes	-	-
199	ULTIMATE MERCHANDISE VENTURES LIMITED	No. 53 IBRAHIM TAIWO/27/32 CIVIC CENTRE	Yes	Yes	Yes
200	UMAIRI (NIGERIA) LIMITED	A 1- 2 Kundila Housing Estate, Phase III Zaria Road.	Yes	Yes	Yes
201	UMARADO & SONS LIMITED	No. 7 Bakin Kasuwa, Kazaure.	Yes	-	-
202	UNIVERSAL DRILLERS & TECHNICAL SERVICES.	No. Emirs Palace, Ringim.	-	Yes	Yes
203	UNIVERSAL TURNKEY PROJECTS LTD.	Plot 32B Trade Fair Complex, Kano	Yes	-	-
204	USAZ INVESTMENT LIMITED	No. 4 KSIP Shopping Complex Kundila Maiduguri Road, Kano.	Yes	-	-
205	USESCO NIG. LTD	No.25, Unity School Rd, Ringim, Jigawa state	Yes	-	-
206	UTHFAZIHA GEN. ENTERPISES	No.9, Old Govt House Rd, Dutse	Yes	Yes	Yes
207	WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL ENG. SERV	No.86 Rd, Gyadi gyadi, Kano	-	Yes	-
208	WATER & WASTE WATER ENG. SERVICES	Block F9 Maiduguri Road, Kano	-	Yes	Yes
209	WITCO LTD	No. 140, Zaria Rd, Kano	-	Yes	Yes
210	WNL DEVELOPMENT SOLUTIONS LTD	No. 18, Hassan Estate Kawaji Dakata, Kano	Yes	-	-
211	WOODHILL ENG. NIGERIA LTD.	No. 17B Audu Bako Way Nassarawa, Kano.	Yes	Yes	Yes
212	XMATRIX 369 LIMITED	Phase II sharada Kano	Yes	-	-
213	Y. ALISON NIG. LIMITED	No. Y.53 Gangara T'wada Kaduna	Yes	-	-
214	YANDUNA VENTURES NIG. LIMITED	No. 144 Opposite Akija Hotel Kano	Yes	-	-
215	YARAQ GLOBAL SERVICES	Abuja Quarters behind Central Mkt. M/Madori.	Yes	-	-
216	YAZIM CONSTRUCTION CO. LIMITED	No. 57 Maiduguri Road Gumel.	Yes	-	-
217	ZAMU SABA NIG. ENTERPRISES	No. 39, Unguwar Sarki, Jahun Jigawa state	Yes	Yes	-
218	ZUKRUF NIG. LTD	Suite 11/12, Dee Auwal Plaza, Plot 2044, Michael Okpara way, Wuse zone v, Abuja	Yes	-	-

Signed  
Adamu M. Garun Gabas,  
(Permanent Secretary),  
Budget & Economic Planning Directorate,  
Jigawa State.

# BUSINESS

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## 2010: Financing N1.5tn budget deficit

By Abdul-Rahman Abubakar

IT is no longer news that implementation of the 2009 budget was below average in most ministries and agencies of the Federal Government. The poor budget performance has as usual been blamed on dwindling oil revenue which finances over 90 percent of the economy and the reason is that Nigeria has over the years deliberately refused to diversify its source of income even with abundance of other natural resources.

But much as the 2009 appropriation is a failure in terms of achieving set targets and economic growth, the 2010 budget also promises to go in the same dimension. As a budget for a year preceding general elections, it is expected that most of the 2010 budget goes into completion of some critical ongoing projects as well as key sectors of the economy. This is important not only to improve the economy and infrastructures but to also brighten the chances of the ruling party at the polls.

However, a close look at financial provisions made in the budget reveals a revenue shortfall of N1.52 trillion which is about 35 percent of the total revenue projection. The huge deficit has further enunciated the need for diversification of the economy. In financing the deficit, federal government is projecting tight economic measures aimed at maximising revenue collection from all available sources. As part of financing plan for the deficit, government plans to make N9.56 billion from sales of some of its properties nationwide. The budget also provides for income of N107.208 billion as proceeds from privatization of some government firms, it also expect to make N309.13 billion as FGN's share of the Excess Crude Account and to also rake in N132.312 billion from the FGN share of signature bonds for the 2010 rounds.

In a bid to balance the budget, the federal government has also resolved to borrow from domestic and foreign sources. The 2010 budget will receive \$500 million USD (N75 billion) from international bonds and has projected to borrow N897.3 billion from an already ailing domestic financial system. Several banks in the country have for several months survived on life line provided by the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) but the federal government still expects to suck such



ACTING President Goodluck Jonathan

huge amount to finance the budget deficit.

In real revenue projections which mainly accrue from sale of oil, government is hoping that price of crude oil remains above \$67 USD per barrel while it also prays for stability in the Niger Delta to enable it export 2.350 million barrel per day (mbpd). Other key assumptions in the budget include; Joint Venture Cash Calls of \$7 billion USD, Gross Domestic Product (GDP) 5.4 percent, inflation rate 11.2 percent and Exchange rate of N150 to \$1 USD.

Projection for expenditure is similar to previous budgets with recurrent expenditure taking about 50 percent of the revenue. This year's budget provides funds for settlement of wages arrears for some category of workers. To take of some arrears government is to set aside N439 billion out of the total N2.2 trillion for recurrent on settling of arrears, payment of pensions and severance to workers. Under this arrangement

for example, the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU) and other unions are to get N80 billion as salary wages adjustments while N42 billion is to be expended on arrears for parastatals monetization.

On the capital expenditure side of the budget, N123.4 billion is to be spent on capital supplementation for ongoing projects including payment of local contractors. Under the provision, government is to pay N10 billion as outstanding liabilities for year 2008 and 2009. Local contractors numbering 698 that have been verified for payment will receive N17 billion while another N10 billion is set aside for verification of 4931 unverified local contractors as well as for payment. The policy thrust of the budget is based on efforts by government to stimulate the economy out of the global economic recession which has affected retard growth.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE

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

### STOCK MARKET INDEX

Date:	Monday, April 12, 2010
Index	27,929.86
Deals:	15,310
Volume:	932,596,441
Value:	N5,989,273,754.80
Cap.:	N6,755,546,653,319.67

### TRUST INDEX

Inflation	12.3%
GDP	6.90%
Budget	N4.6tr
Ext. Reserves Acct	\$40bn
Excess Crude Acct	\$3.2bn
Poverty Ratio	54.4%
Monetary Policy Rate	6%
Banks	24
Oil Price	\$85 a barrel
Power Supply	2, 500MW
Oil output per day	2.6mbd
Broad Money Supply	N10,796,734.5m
Credit to Private Sector	N10,018,035.3m
Inter-Bank Rate	1.1600%
Treasury Bills	2.02%
Deposit Rate	12.28%
Prime Lending Rate	18.38%

CBN EXCHANGE RATES			
7/4/2010	Buying (NGN)	Central (NGN)	Selling (NGN)
CFA	0.2818	0.2918	0.3018
DANISH KRONER	26.3988	26.4895	26.5791
EURO	196.5935	197.2611	197.9286
POUNDS STERLING	223.4818	224.2402	224.999
RIYAL	39.2667	39.4	39.5333
SDR	223.0563	223.8117	224.5691
SWISS FRANC	137.7198	138.1875	138.6551
THE DOLLAR	147.26	147.75	148.29
WAUA	222.3787	223.1338	223.8889
YEN	1.5712	1.5765	1.5818

Bureau de Change Rates	
BUYING	
Dollar	N151
Euro	N202
Pound	N232
SELLING	
Dollar	N152
Euro	N205
Pound	N234

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

## Star Feature

# Is casket making a dying trade?

Casket making for many artisans is a no go area. The few that engage in it are stigmatised. But this has not deterred some from making a prosperous living out of the receding vocation.

By Tosin Omoniyi

**D**ONATUS Nwosu is one man who has refused to let his disability get in the way of his progress in life. While many of his counterparts and even others without such physical restrictions have resorted to begging, to survive the daily ordeals of life, he has receded into a trade not many would want to venture into. Donatus is the director, Dunu Furniture and Caskets, located at Kugbo in the outskirts of Abuja. He makes a living constructing coffins which he sells to patrons in and around the capital city.

Before settling for his present vocation, he says he has had a rough time sailing through the vicissitudes of life. He starts: 'I was not born crippled. In fact, I was born healthy and had a healthy life growing up as a kid. I was a bright kid academically and had siblings looking up to me. The accident that changed my whole life occurred in 1973.'

**H**e recounts that he had been on his way to his hometown when he was involved in an auto accident, which caused massive injuries to his left leg. After numerous surgeries at the Enugu state specialist hospital, he was eventually discharged. He says that he was never fully recovered, but had to live with constant pains which put paid to all his aspirations academically. According to him all efforts by his late father to mitigate his sufferings, yielded no results. 'In the end I had to jettison my education even though I was one of the best students at the time. The constant pains I experienced is not something I always like to remember. In the end, after all said and done, I had to relocate to Abuja to stay with my elder brother,' he recalls.

According to him, his reliance on the benevolence of his brother was shaken, when he found out that he was not willing to offer any form of assistance, but rather looked down

on him due to his disabilities, and rather saw him as an unnecessary burden. Out of frustration he was introduced to a furniture maker who took him under his tutelage. It was in the course of his internship with his master, that he decided to go into the business of constructing coffins, which appeared to him then as a terrain which most carpenters feared to tread. He says that he had to sell his first casket for the sum of N3000, even though it was worth over N15000. This, he says, he did to attract patronage. Unfortunately his bad leg started giving him problems, and in the end with the help of a clergy man and concerned friends, he was amputated which brought a form of relief to him. Then he went back to the business of coffin making.

**A**sked about the challenges he encounters in his unique business, he says they are numerous, but surmountable. 'There is a form of discrimination

and stigma against people like us in this profession. People tend to look down on us consciously or unconsciously, and this has a great effect on our morale. There was a time I had accommodation problems and a friend helped me out by allowing me to move in with him. But the day he found out what type of business I was engaged in, was the last day he allowed me to stay with him. To his credit however, he gave me this shed that I am using today, but that was the last time he allowed me to stay with him. On several occasions I have been promised finances by several people, only for them to make a u turn once they find out about the business I am into. The police are equally not left out. Few months back the police at Karu rounded all of us up, and accused us of being behind the spate of accidents that occurred along the expressway. They said we were using fetish means. They instructed us to move from our present location into the main Kugbo market. The battle



DONATUS standing by one of his caskets

to peacefully carry out our trade is a daily affair,' he enthuses.

**T**oday, despite the challenge he and others engaged in his trade encounter, through business Donatus says that he has been able to construct his own abode at Angwagede, and does not rely on others for support. He notes that 'the challenges against people like us are numerous, but people like me will not be discouraged. Of course, I have lost many friends as a result of the trade, but I am proud of what I do, and even when others look down on me I carry my head up. Some don't even want to have anything to do with you, once they know you make caskets for sale. At least I can provide for my needs which is more than I can say about some other people.'

“ Few months back the police at Karu rounded all of us up, and accused us of being behind the spate of accidents that occurred along the expressway. They said we were using fetish means.

## Northern Business

# Kankara Kaolin: Katsina's neglected 'goldmine'

Global demand for kaolin is forecast to grow nearly 2 percent per year to 25 million metric tons in 2013. In general, kaolin demand in advanced economies is projected to recover from the declines of the 2003-2008 periods, according to a December 2009 report.

The kaolin market is projected to grow 2 percent per year to more than \$3.5 billion in 2013. This mineral is in abundance in Kankara Local Government of Katsina state but has unfortunately remained untapped.

From Lawal Ibrahim, Katsina

KAOLIN is one of the major natural resources that abound in Katsina state. It is hugely deposited in thousands square metres scattered in many local government areas of the state. Kaolin is a fine white clay used in the making of porcelain, ceramics, medicines etc.

It is known to be deposited in huge commercial quantity at Kankara local government area and its environs.

Researches conducted by various mining experts have certified Kankara kaolin as one of the best and cleanest mineral resources that lies beneath Kankara soil. For instance, its marl as well as limestone substances constitute over 40% of the ingredients required for the formation of chemical fertilizer, while clay of porcelain inside the kaolin will be a good raw material in the production of plates, cups and other clay related products.

Since the creation of Katsina state in 1987, successive military and civilian administrations had declared their intentions to explore the kaolin and utilise its resources for the economic development of the state. In some instances, public funds were committed for the purpose except in early 90s when the efforts finally metamorphosed into the creation of the famous Kankara fertilizer blending and processing plant essentially to buy kaolin from

the thousands of local miners in the area and processed to meet the economic needs of the state and beyond.

Checks conducted by Daily Trust in the area revealed that, despite all the pronouncement and public resources committed into the Kankara kaolin, the mineral still lies beneath the ground untapped.

While the multi-million naira processing plant has gone moribund, lying useless at the mercy of snakes and other reptiles that have taken over the factory, the thousands of local kaolin miners working at the excavation sites is left with no available markets to sell the extracted kaolin.

Despite the hard labour these local miners put into extracting the kaolin often day and night, there is hardly a good bargain and market for their effort. A local miner Ibrahim Sani Kankara told this reporter that, many of his friends got killed by landmines in the process of extracting the kaolin.

It is the same fate that local dealers suffer. Although, they have made effort to establish a cottage industry with little mechanical touch and packaging, their economic climate remains uncertain due to non availability of markets for their products except for a few ones in Funtua, Kaduna and Kano whose demands are usually less than the production capacity of the over 70 of such cottage industries scattered



MORIBUND Kankara fertilizer blending and Kaolin processing plant taken over by snakes and lizards.

around Kankara and its environs.

Daily Trust gathered that, apart from about fifteen local miners that works for the dealers in different mining lots granted by the certifying federal ministry of commerce and industries, each of all the 70 cottage industries has no less than 40 youths running three shifts daily in the factory.

The excavation sites are mostly inherited businesses done at families' farm lands. Ibrahim Dan-Marke Manager who supervises some of the mining farms owned by his father told this reporter that, most of them work because they have no better option. He said they continually are finding it difficult to feed their families despite the long hours of hard work at the pits. A local miner hardly makes N500 per day, he said.

He said, they are often at the mercies of the middlemen, who exploit them at will while the cleanest Kaolin that could take a whole day to produce a sack goes for as little as N200 per bag.

The lower quality only attracts N100 per bag, whereas the farm owner goes with N50 to N30 commission for each of a kaolin bag extracted from his farm. In spite all these, he said there's low patronage and poor markets for their products all around the country.

He said: "over the years, they have been coming here with big cars, they promised to help us with tools and the likes to improve on our job but they never do. So, just forget them, we are used to tales of government officials."

Danturai who described their situation as a classical case of "monkey dey work, baboon dey chop" said majority of the miners would prefer to quit for other jobs had they any option. Daily Trust correspondent observed the tedious process Kaolin extraction from the soil which forces the miners to develop

voracious appetite for food.

Alhaji Ali Danliti, one of the owners of Kaolin cottage processing factory, and the owner of Babankande General Enterprises, a local blending industry, told this reporter that, in spite of the lack of power that makes them resort to the use of diesel to operate their crushing and moulding machines, often they complete all the expensive processing and yet stay with heap of their packaged products with no available markets to sell their finished products.

Alhaji Danliti who said his factory workers takes only three days to produce a trailer worth of packaged kaolin and limestone conducted this reporter round a heap of finished product which he said can make no less than seven trailers but have laid idle in his company for over three months. With sufficient patronage he said, the production level of his workforce can generate a trailer in barely two days.

Underlining the significance of Kaolin mining in job creation in the area, Alhaji Abdullahi Jariri, owner of Danmarke Enterprises said "as dealers, we usually have our mining lots (pits) licensed by the federal ministry of commerce and industries. In every lot, you have about 15 people working for you and you pay them. When it is extracted, it's brought to this industry. Here I have about 50 workers running three shifts, some crushing, granulating and up to loading."

He said, that is the main reason whenever the markets seize in the area, prevalence of crime such as stealing and house breaking usually becomes rampant because the youth who largely works and earn a living in the industry get thrown out of their daily means of livelihood. Without work, no dealer will ever pay them a dime.

Just like the local miners, the dealers themselves have no definite prices for their commodities as they

are also left with middlemen mainly from three companies stationed in Funtua, Kano and Kaduna who patronize their products through designated agents in Kankara and environs (who serve as middlemen), often they are the ones who collected the local purchase order (LPOs) from the companies and split to the factories in a piece meal with the highest cost of N210, 000 per trailer load.

Most of the dealers who spoke to our correspondent appealed to the state and federal government to help open ways of exporting their materials which they said is in high commercial quantity and can compete favourably with similar products in the international markets.

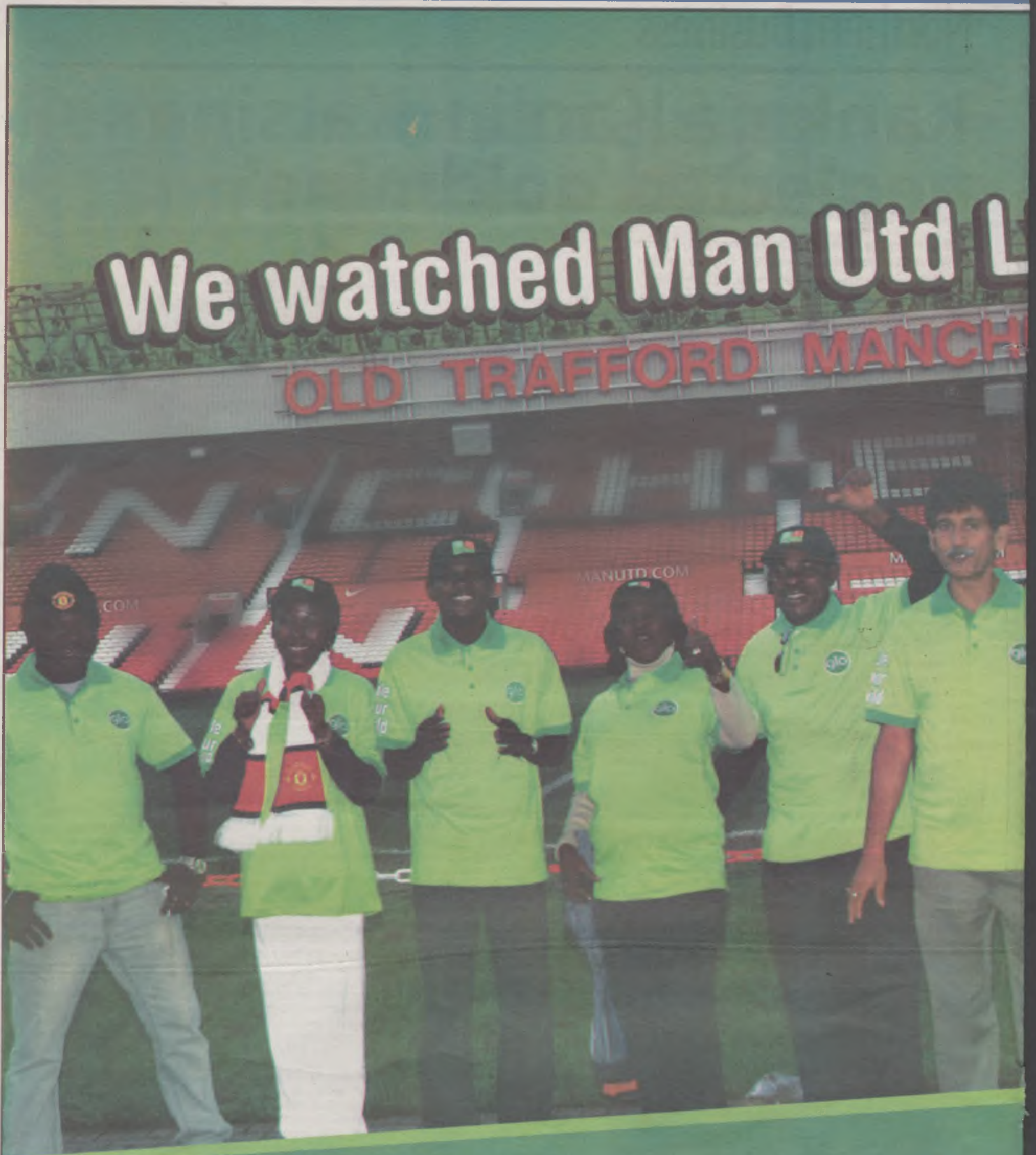
However, the Special adviser to the Katsina State governor on Resources Development, Engr. Musa Natshuni told Daily Trust that the government was not unaware of their plight and that is what necessitated the recent establishment of four fertilizer blending plants in Batsari, Safana, Bakori, and Mai'adua local government areas of the state to utilise their products in fertilizer making. This is in addition to chalk and paint making industries established in all the 34 local government areas of the state.

He said, the government's main challenges were that of standardization of their product and the relocation of the miners to a proposed mining village for which a committee has already been set up to identify a location for their layout in order to find a suitable means of helping their businesses with tools and amenities.

"Right now, their quality is not consistent. There is no use of correct adhesive, they use different things sometimes where they are supposed to use gum Arabic in binding the marl, there is poor packaging with old bags, no proper weighing and many of them have no proper mining title," he pointed out.



LOCAL miners in one of the dug pit.



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# Business/Finance

## Regional bank requires N15bn capital – CBN

By Idris Ahmed

ANY bank that wishes to operate as regional bank in Nigeria must have a minimum capital base of N15 billion, according to the Central Bank of Nigeria.

The bank so registered must operate in a "minimum of five and a maximum of 10 contiguous states" and must have "regional" in its name, CBN said in its guideline for the reforming of the universal banking system.

Copies of circulars of the guideline have been sent to all banks. The circular was issued by the CBN's Acting Director of Banking Supervision, J. O. AJEWOLE.

According to the guideline, national banks with branch network restricted to Nigeria will operate with a minimum capital of N25 billion and international bank with offshore branches must have a minimum capital of N100



SANUSI Lamido Sanusi

billion. All these are in line with the CBN's reforms which sought to unbundled the universal banking

model introduced by CBN former governor Chukwuma Soludo in 2005.

CBN said that the universal banking model would be removed so that banks can either set up a holding company if they intend to carry on with non-banking activities like insurance, mortgage and capital market services or divest the non-core activities to focus on core banking services.

These measures were announced last month by the CBN's Director of Banking Supervision Samuel Oni.

The new regime becomes operational in 12-15 months depending on the desire of the

banks.

Banks willing to divest from non-core banking activities will get 12 months to tidy up. Others which desire to carry on and set up a holding firm will get 15 months transition time to migrate from universal banking.

CBN has already opened discussion with other regulators to see what forbearances/clarifications that can be obtained given the costs that may accrue in the course of transition.

These costs include multiple taxes, re-organisation costs and stamp duties.

CBN said the adoption of the Holding Company model

becomes necessary when a licenced bank decides to expand into other type(s) of banking or other financial services and also where a shareholder owns/controls a minimum of 20 per cent of one bank and another financial services entity.

Economists said the new policy would help strengthening banking system.

Top Fasua, an Economist and a banker for several years said he has always advocated for the system.

He advised CBN to employ more hands to be able to regulate many banks that would come up. "CBN should develop capacity to regulate them", Fasua said.

### Guideline tips

Banking Model	Minimum capital base	Coverage
Regional/Specialised bank	N15 billion	Within 5 to 10 states
National bank	N25billion	All over Nigeria
International bank	N100billion	overseas

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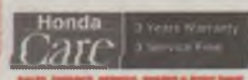
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01-8520202, 01-8520222, 01-8520207,  
01-8520203

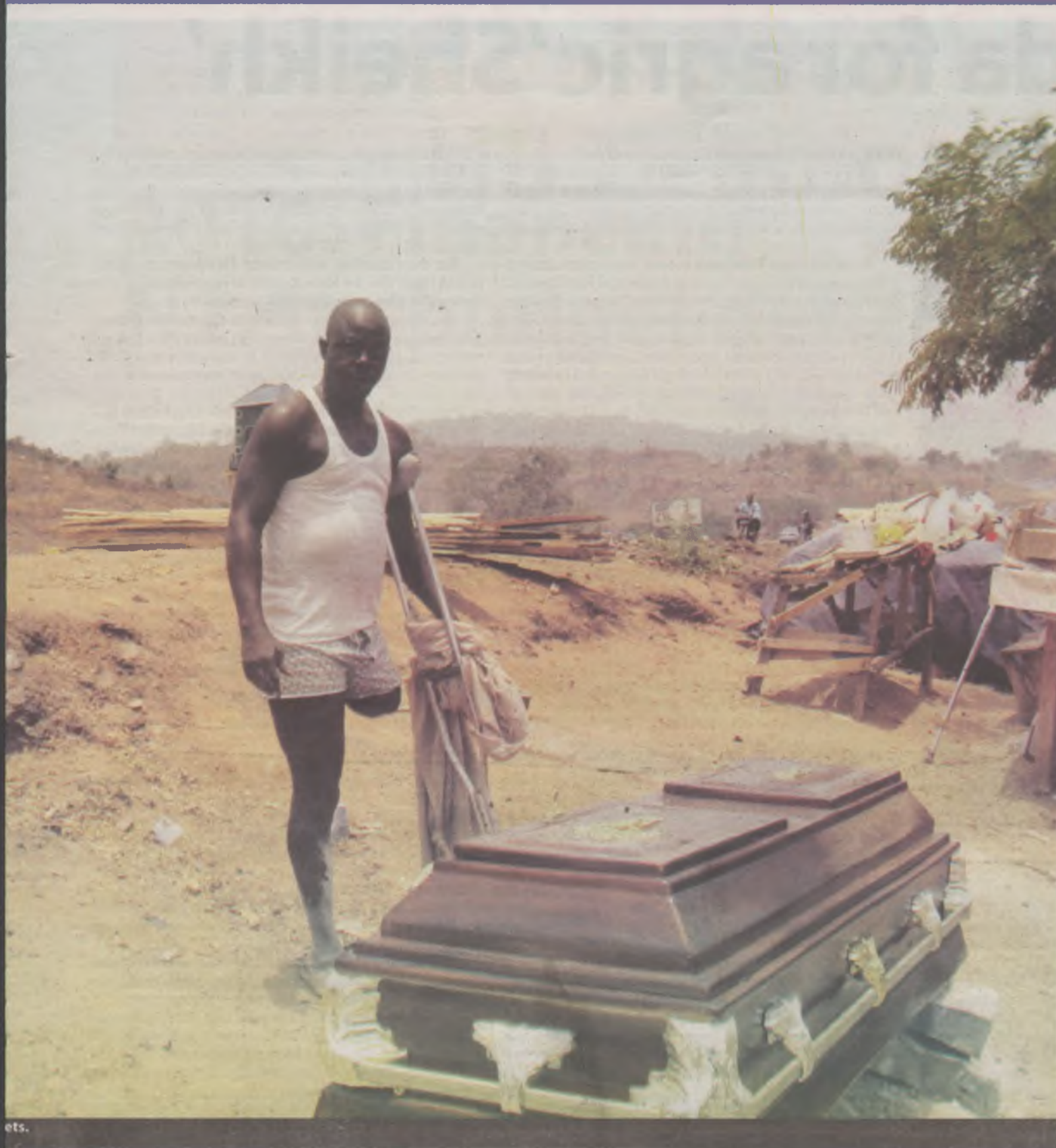
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It is believed that this is one of the prerequisites needed if one is to live long. Also rivalry, amongst them leads to many of them going the fetish way in order to thrive in the business. But really to me casket making is just like any other vocation, and the undue superstition attached to it is unnecessary. Investigations reveal also that many members of the public usually shy away from discussing such issues like casket making, and eventuality of death for every mortal. To them it is an issue that should be kept out of public discourse. Ezekiel Talabi, a media practitioner based in Abuja, says that he is not comfortable discussing such issues, as it always reminds him of the stark reality of death. 'Death is a reality for every man, I quite agree, but I really do not like discussing such issues like casket making or other related issues. It gives me the creeps. When death comes, then it comes, but I don't think it is a topic that I am comfortable discussing,' he retorts.

But Sunday Ayodele, a public affairs commentator, believes that avoiding the discourse of death is puerile. He adds that the stigma attached to makers of caskets is callous. 'Rather, these people should be encouraged. Not only them but diggers of graves. They are the ones taking up the dirtier end of the stick. They are engaged in a profession that is as essential as the medical profession, and any other trade you can think of. I can begin to think of the hardship mankind will face, if all casket makers and related professionals decide to down tools. It would be catastrophic. We should not look down on these people. That is wicked. They are humans like us and should be treated like decent ones, at that. The same respect we accord professionals, like doctors, who strive to save lives should also be given to them, as they are the ones who ensure that man has a befitting burial, and rest after death. But in our society-stigma and discrimination is always the order of the day, in virtually every sector of human life...'

That particularly keeps me amused is the fact that people that look down on our kind of trade, would one day require our services whether they accept the fact or not.'

engaged in the trade. But today it appears that less and less people are willing to engage in the trade. For instance, it is believed by many that

unless you are fortified spiritually, you may not live long if you are a coffin maker. Many of them have also been swayed by this line of think-

ing. Most coffin makers are believed to have an already constructed casket in their homes which would be used to bury them when they die.

In Abuja, casket making appears to be a trade that attracts just a few. Apart from a visible group of such artisans which can be found in places like Karmo and Gwagwa, and maybe places like the Nyanya-araraba expressway, not many are willing to engage in the trade. Patrick Saiyon, a carpenter who works at the Kugbo market, attributes it to the stigma and undue superstition that is attached to the profession. He thuses: 'I used to be a casket maker when I initially came into Abuja. When it was just like any other trade, people hardly looked down on those

“What particularly keeps me amused is the fact that people that look down on our kind of trade would one day require our services whether they accept the fact or not.”

## Business/Agric

## Agenda for agric 'Sheikh'



PROFESSOR Sheikh Ahmed Abdullah

By Jibrin Abubakar

THE new minister of agriculture Professor Sheikh Ahmed Abdullahi is gradually coming to term with the scope of his assignment. But insiders would have intimated him of the enormous task ahead.

The agricultural sector is the major source of livelihood for more than 70 per cent of Nigerians. Yet, it is the most denigrated sector in the country. Rating agencies say the sector, despite its seemingly laudable programmes, has not lived up to the expectations of Nigerians.

The nagging questions on the lips of tax payers are: Does Professor Abdullah have the will to rewrite the history of agriculture in Nigeria? Is he going to tread the path his predecessor trod? What meaningful changes can he bring in 12 months? Would he continue with the yearly controversial fertilizer distribution ritual?

Yet, there is some sense of optimism that Professor Abdullah command among Nigerians given his academic pedigree while at the Ahmadu Bello University Zaria where he made his mark as a teacher and administrator.

Observers say he has a very short time to quickly review the extant agric policies and huge contracts running into billions, which may include the construction of food reserve silos in states. In this regard, he may also find himself treating petitions and attending to court cases bordering on contract saga.

Apart from its growing budgetary allocation from seven per cent in 2008 to 12 per cent in 2009, various special intervention funds had also been injected into the sector without positive results.

Observers say the low performance of the sector and the enormous funds being pumped into it accounted for its paltry 3.7 per cent budgetary allocation this year. (i.e. recurrent N34.4bn and capital 49.9bn).

According to the former Minister of Finance Mansur Muhtar, more than N400 billion was injected into the sector in 2009 alone. Perhaps the most infamous and fund guzzling programme of the Yar'adua-Jonathan agricultural policies is the N200 billion commercial agriculture credit scheme.

The Yar'adua government has also earmarked three per cent (N300bn) of the Natural Resource Development Fund for the development of the agric sector.

Last month, Acting President Goodluck Jonathan said government was setting aside another N242 billion to stimulate agriculture growth. This is apart from the controversial N200bn

that was lodged in some banks for about a year now.

They say the new minister would have to harmonise the country's myriad agric policies for some of them are already in conflict, while antiquated ones are still cropping up. They say Nigeria's agricultural sector cannot develop without an adequate policy.

The minister may wish to choose from the country's litany of policies, some of which are: National Accelerated Food Production Project (NAFPP) from 1970 to 1974; Operation Feed the Nation (OFN) of 1976; Green Revolution Programme (GRP) of 1980; Directorate for Food, Road and Rural Infrastructure (DFRRI) of 1986; National Agricultural Land Development Authority (NALDA) of 1992; National Accelerated Industrial Crops Production Programme (NAICPP) of 1996; Agriculture Development Programme (ADP); National Seed Service Programme (NSS); the establishment of the Federal Agriculture Coordinating Unit (FACU), Agriculture Credit Guarantee Scheme (ACGS), the Nigerian Agricultural Corporation and Rural Development Bank (NACRDB) and the recently launched contentious N200bn Commercial Agric Credit Scheme, among others.

Setting agenda for the new minister, the Executive Director of the Admiral Environmental Care Limited Mr. Shedrack Madlion told Daily Trust in a phone interview that the new minister "must as a matter of urgency work out modality for enhanced production."

He urged the minister to re-introduce the Sardauna scheme of Buhu guarantee output subsidy where farmers have the assurance that their farm produce will be bought by the government. Mr. Madlion said the Sardauna policy is what advanced nations are currently using to boost farming in their countries.

He said: "America subsidises outputs and not inputs like fertilizer subsidy as we do. They subsidise outputs to the tune of \$1 billion in every farming season. The farmers don't sell to the marketers, government buys from them at good prices and then sell to the market. They don't want to discourage the farmers from producing. In Nigeria farmers are discouraged. This is the kind of subsidy late Sardauna Ahmadu Bello introduced but was abandoned later in the 1980s."

He described the annual fertilizer subsidy as a "complete fraud" which must be stopped.

According to him, "Sardauna set up the marketing boards. He set up the Wakilin noma and Wakilin dabbobi extension officers. We have what he called the Buhu guarantee scheme. We have what he called one community one product. This gave room to every community to produce what it has advantage over. These policies are still there. They only need to be greased. It was the Sardauna's principle that Murtala Nyako used to build his farms; it was the Sardauna's principle that brought about green revolution that became Otta farms today. So these are histories that we can trace."

They say he would have a hard nut to crack by shattering the big time farmers' cabal cornering government funds to the sector. Professor Sheikh Abdullah must be ready to break eggs if he must make omelettes.

He said the new minister should try and revive the 147 dams constructed by the late Sardauna.

He said the new minister should probe the profits made by banks from the N200 billion Commercial Agric Credit fund kept in two banks.

Daily Trust reporter says more than N50 billion was spent on the purchase of 500,000 tonnes of fertilizer for the 2009 crop season. There are also programmes like the proposed N57.5 billion Agricultural Commodity Exchange Market. There is also the 150 million dollars World Bank assisted Commercial Agriculture Development Project (CADDP), but the beneficiaries are big-time farmers.

In a similar vein, the Rice Importers Millers and Distributors Association of Nigeria [RIMDAN] has asked the new government to ban importation of all rice products into the country.

The News Agency of Nigeria had reported that Dr Abdullahi Adamu, President, All Farmers Association of Nigeria (AFAN), is worried that Nigeria still imports food in spite of the huge investments in the agriculture sector.

"It is time for government to review the agricultural policy and strategies to ensure development, efficiency, effectiveness and food for all. For every one of the government's agricultural initiatives to be meaningful, it must embrace the right to food security, civil rights, good governance and implementation," Adamu said.

But the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) fears that the food situation in Nigeria could worsen since soils are becoming poor and degraded.

According to Mr. Ako Amadi, its Governance/Natural Resource Advisor, there is the need for reduction in pressure on the soil. He stressed the need to reposition agricultural research institutes to make them more responsive to emerging challenges.

Prof. Peter Okuneye of the Department of Agriculture Economics and Farm Management, University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, said though the sector has positively increased yield in the last decade, the performance could still be improved upon.

Okuneye said there is a need for a review of the strategies for agricultural development in Nigeria to ensure efficiency and effectiveness.

He said that the policies and programmes enunciated over the years, especially those funded by the donor agencies and development partners, have little positive impact, giving the ways they are usually formulated and implemented.

Dr Bridget Obi, Executive Director, Children of Farmers Club, Anambra State, is equally sad that many Nigerians are yet to see the gains of the investments in the agriculture sector.

"More than 35 per cent of the population are suffering from malnutrition because they cannot attain the required calories level," she says.

For Alhaji Wodi Abubakar, President, Rice Farmers Association, farmers could only get value for their effort if it's focused on adding value to farm yields.

But for policies to succeed, Sen. Tawa Wada, Chairman, Senate Committee on Agriculture, has stressed that government must be sensitive to the needs of the small-scale farmers.

Arguing in the same vein, Mrs Jumai Mohammed, a member of "Voices for Food Security Campaign (VFSC)" – an NGO – alleges that government has not made farming attractive for small-scale farmers.

"This year alone, farmers are faced with series of challenges ranging from land insecurity to the lack of soft loans, grants and implements like tractors.

"The small-scale farmer is also faced with the dearth of quality seeds, fertilizer and agro chemicals," says Mohammed, who is also a small-scale farmer in Nasarawa State.

Mr. Tunde Arosanyin, Chairman, Kogi State All Farmers Association of Nigeria (ALFAN), believes that agricultural growth is only possible with adequate supervision.

"If all the projects, policies and initiatives are well imple-

mented and supervised, there will be a significant difference in the agricultural sector of the economy," Arosanyin said.

Also, Mrs Mabel Ewanshiha, an Agriculture Programme Officer in Edo State, says government initiatives on the 2009 budget did not succeed because those who should implement were not carried along.

"There is the need to dialogue with farmers so as to gauge all peculiarities before a programme can succeed in a given area. In 2010, government should consider bottom-to-top approach in its agricultural revolution, instead of top-to-bottom as the later has proved a failure over the years," she said.

This is but a tip of the iceberg, the Nigeria's agric sector is like a big ship in a big ocean, sailing without bearing because of policy inconsistency. Now that the captain of the 'ship' is an administrator and a 'sheikh', there are higher expectations. Observers' optimism is not without a clause. They say he would have a hard nut to crack by shattering the big time farmers' cabal cornering government funds to the sector. Professor Sheikh Abdullah must be ready to break eggs if he must make omelettes.

# Business

## 'What finance, petroleum ministers should do'



MR. Segun Aganga  
Finance Minister

From Kayode Ekundayo, Chris Agabi, Mohammed Shosanya Lagos

WITH the appointments of Mr. Segun Aganga as the new Minister of finance, and Mrs. Diezani Allison-Madueke as Petroleum Minister, experts have asked them to focus on how the nation power sector will work as well as infrastructural development.

According to the Chief Executive Officer, Fresh Field

Asset management Limited, Abuja and former Spring Bank Regional Director, North Abdul-Rasheed Abubakar, the biggest enemies to the economic growth of Nigeria are infrastructure and power. "The biggest issue in the economy today is not finance but power and infrastructure thus, he should work with the relevant ministries to deliver on power and infrastructure."

He said the new finance minister should look at opportunities to stimulate the economy.

He said the new finance minister to look "huge debts owed local contractors and pay them so money can be introduced into the economy again."

Beyond that Abubakar noted that the new minister must work with the ministry of power and works, housing and urban development.

According, Mr. Chuka Uzo, a banker also told Daily Trust that the new finance minister should eschew sycophants and use his intuition to fashion appropriate policies that can

create wealth in Nigeria.

According to him, "his policies should be home grown rather than importing certain economic and financial principles abroad that does not fit our environment."

Yinka Fasuyi, chief consultant, Supreme management consultants said. "I think it was a right decision. My expectations are that the new Minister of finance should support government's policies so that the dividend of democracy can get to the people."

Employment generation through good fiscal and monetary policy should be paramount as well as food security and infrastructural development as well as appropriate financial allocation.

He said the pedigree of the new minister at global level would further strengthened investors' confident in the nation's economy. Fasuyi said the new minister should not only allocate fund, he should put in place appropriate machinery that would be used to monitor how funds allocated are being used.

Also Frank Ogiemien, a stockbrokers with Pathfinder Investment said the appointment if Aganga would further boost the stock market.

"Going by the positive upward movement in the market in recent time, the market will continue to go up as the confidence of the investors will be sustained as a result of the appointment. You know the new finance minister has a global knowledge of the economy and his coming back to Nigeria will further strengthen the capital market."

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

"Petroleum will remain the engine that drives the national economy and the next 12-14 months is criti-

cal. Nigeria needs to reform the industry and the Minister must not allow the ongoing reform of the oil and gas sector to derail. The fate of the PIB in Nigerian is similar to the Health Bill that just became law in the US Congress. It may not be perfect bill, but it has so much good in it to allow it to fail. I will encourage the Minister to work hard to get it passed under her watch. It is a legacy worth pursuing."

The Managing Director of Eterna Oil Plc Alhaji Ibrahim Boyi advised the new Minister of Energy, Mrs Allison Madueke to maintain continuity in the policy she met on ground.

He said this in necessary in view of the short time to the expiration of the tenure of the administration and the quantum of reforms in the sector which are ongoing.

He admitted that the task before the Minister could be challenging but this can be surmounted if she maintains some level of continuity.

President of PENGAS-SAN, Babatunde Ogun said



DIEZANI Allison-Madueke,  
Petroleum Minister

the appointment of the minister is a welcome development based on her training and her upstream background.

He said the minister would be able to use her wealth of experience to provide the required leadership, promote good corporate governance that is transparent and devoid of corruption.

He advised that the Petroleum Industry Bill should be reviewed to meet international best practice standard.

## JOB VACANCIES

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates and indigenes of Bauchi and Sokoto States for the under listed positions in a USAID funded project.

PROJECT: Nigeria Northern Education Initiative (NEI)

**Background:**  
NEI is a USAID-funded project whose aim is to strengthen state and local government capacity to deliver basic education services by addressing key issues in the management, sustainability, and oversight of basic education. The project will also increase the access of orphans and vulnerable children to basic education and services such as health information and counseling in Nigeria's two northern states of Bauchi and Sokoto.

**JOB TITLES/ POSITIONS**

1. Office Manager – Bauchi
2. Office Manager – Sokoto
3. Administrative Assistant – Bauchi
4. Administrative Assistant – Sokoto
5. Database Manager, Sokoto

**POSITION SUMMARY: OFFICE MANAGERS (BAUCHI AND SOKOTO)**

The Office Managers will be responsible for organizing and coordinating office operations in order to ensure organizational effectiveness and efficiency.

**Reporting & Supervision:**

The Office Managers will report to the Deputy Chief of Party in their respective states.

**Primary Responsibilities:**

1. Organize office operations
2. Monitor and record long distance phone calls
3. Prepare time sheets
4. Control correspondences
5. Review and approve supply requisitions
6. Maintain office equipment
7. Assign and monitor clerical and secretarial functions
8. Maintain office records
9. Ensure filing systems are maintained and up to date
10. Ensure protection and security of files and records
11. Ensure effective transfer of files and records
12. Transfer and dispose records according to retention

13. schedules and policies
13. Ensure personnel files are up to date and secure
14. Maintain and replenish inventory
15. Check stock to determine inventory levels
16. Anticipate needed supplies
17. Verify receipt of supply
18. Perform other related duties as required
19. Or related fields such as social sciences

**Educational and professional qualifications**

- i) Bachelor's degree/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Business Administration/Secretarial Studies or related fields such as Social Sciences with at least 3 years cognate experience
- ii) Thorough knowledge of MS office application, including power point and Excel
- iii) Good English communication skills (oral and written) and fluent in Hausa Language.
- iv) Working knowledge of USAID funded projects and/ or other donors.
- v) Required good interpersonal skills, flexibility in work and a team player attitude.
- vi) Evidence of NYSC discharge certificate

**POSITION SUMMARY: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS**

The Administrative Assistants in both states will be responsible for providing administrative support to the Bauchi and Sokoto offices respectively. Duties will include managing day-to-day operational matters, maintaining the physical plant and the logistics of the vehicle pool; coordinating human resources, travel, general clerical, and other policies within the office; basic accounting; reception duties (including answering phone and maintaining the conference room and equipment); coordination of travel in the field; and support close-out of program activities.

**Reporting & Supervision:**

The Administrative Assistants in Bauchi and Sokoto states will report directly to the Deputy Chief of Party in the state Offices respectively.

**Primary Responsibilities:**

1. Manage all day-to-day operational issues in the Bauchi office
2. Answer telephones and transfer to appropriate staff member
3. Meet and greet clients and visitors

4. Oversee the completion of HR forms, including time sheets, leave requests, etc.
5. Monitor and record long distance phone calls
6. Perform administrative duties, including ordering and maintaining office supplies
7. Perform basic accounting
8. Maintain hard copy and electronic filing system
9. Manage postal services
10. Setup and coordinate meetings and conferences
11. Maintain and distribute NEI calendar and meeting schedule
12. Managing travel logistics and project vehicles and drivers
13. Coordinate security recommendations, as needed
14. Perform other duties as assigned

**Educational and professional qualifications**

- i) Bachelor's degree/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Business Administration/Secretarial Studies with at least 1 year cognate experience
- ii) Thorough knowledge of MS office application, including power point and Excel
- iii) Good English communication skills (oral and written) and fluent in Hausa Language.
- iv) Working knowledge of USAID funded projects and/ or other donors.
- v) Required good interpersonal skills, flexibility in work and a team player attitude.
- vi) Evidence of NYSC discharge certificate

**POSITION SUMMARY: DATABASE MANAGER, SOKOTO**

The Database Manager will be responsible for managing a data base system that captures data that supports the activities of the NEI project. This involves actions such as coding, data entry, checking consistency of data, ensuring all data sets are collected and entered, creating, exporting and delivering various reports according to the needs of the project. The Database Manager has the primary responsibility for ensuring the integrity of the computer based information for the project.

**Reporting & Supervision:**

The Database Manager will report directly to the Senior M&E Advisor in the Sokoto Office.

**Primary Responsibilities:**

1. Develop and maintain relevant data sets to support reporting and informational needs of the project

2. Develop strategies for data acquisition, as well as archive management and recovery
3. Ensure computer security, protection, and back-up of data
4. Assist the Senior M&E Advisor to ensure smooth and accurate data collection
5. Support project staff and subcontracted organizations to ensure accurate data gathering and subsequent entry, including maintaining, updating, and communicating data protocols
6. Create and produce reports from the database as requested by the Senior M&E Advisor and COP for preparing M&E reports
7. Train project staff in the use of the database
8. Assist the Senior M&E Advisor to insure that the project complies with all reporting requirements and deliverables under the USAID Order
9. Perform other duties as assigned

**Educational and professional qualifications**

- i) Bachelor's degree/Higher National Diploma (HND) in Data Management or related fields with at least 3 years cognate experience.
- ii) Thorough knowledge of Excel
- iii) Working knowledge of USAID funded projects and/ or other donors.
- iv) Required good interpersonal skills, flexibility in work and a team player attitude.
- v) Evidence of NYSC discharge certificate

**METHOD OF APPLICATION**

1. Applicants should send their Curriculum Vitae (CV) with an application letter as a single file addressed to

The Chief of Party, Northern Education Initiative (NEI) within 10 days of this publication through the e-mails below.

- For Bauchi positions, send to: [bauchineivacancies@yahoo.com](mailto:bauchineivacancies@yahoo.com) and
- For Sokoto positions, send to: [sokotoneivacancies@yahoo.com](mailto:sokotoneivacancies@yahoo.com)

2. Positions applied for and location should be indicated in the Subject column of the mail. e.g. Office Manager, Sokoto when applying.

**ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CONTACTED**

# Business/Finance



## Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE)

Monday, April 12, 2010

COMPANY Name	No of Deals	Quot. (N)	Quantity Traded	Value of Shares (N)
<b>2ND-TIER SECURITIES</b>				
CAPITAL OIL PLC	22	0.52	2,397,422	1,246,659.44
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	22		2,397,422	1,246,659.44
<b>AGRICULTURE</b>				
FTN COCOA PROC. PLC	74	1.23	4,467,135	5,262,713.67
LIVESTOCK FEEDS PLC	21	0.86	1,159,313	997,009.18
OKITIPUPA OIL PALM PLC	1	6.21	127,260	790,284.60
OKOMU OIL PALM COY PLC	1	21.62	1,000	20,540.00
PRESCO PLC	30	7.12	1,004,533	6,885,455.28
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	127		6,759,241	13,956,002.73
<b>AIR SERVICES</b>				
AIRL/SERV. AND LOG. PLC	11	3.20	664,372	2,125,990.40
<b>NIG. AV. HAND. COY PLC</b>	304	14.02	8,081,535	112,109,900.24
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	305		8,745,907	114,235,890.64
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TYRE</b>				
DN TYRE & RUBBER PLC	12	0.50	238,367	119,183.50
R. T. BRISCOE (NIG.) PLC	39	6.57	1,357,025	8,905,404.22
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	51		1,595,392	9,024,587.72
<b>BANKING</b>				
ACCESS BANK PLC	253	10.80	9,095,162	97,725,016.25
AFRIBANK NIGERIA PLC	109	3.15	9,199,279	28,399,318.17
DIAMOND BANK PLC	128	9.97	11,106,726	109,479,359.32
ECOBANK NIGERIA PLC	63	6.83	961,135	6,593,752.10
F/CITY MON. BANK PLC	76	9.32	4,685,371	43,876,011.10
FIDELITY BANK PLC	248	3.15	20,402,862	66,895,099.78
FIRST BANK OF NIG. PLC	940	17.06	19,830,849	343,820,206.59
FINBANK PLC	112	0.75	13,973,968	10,340,311.11
GTBANK PLC	655	22.90	19,368,777	447,285,855.18
STANBIC IBTC BANK PLC	56	11.75	5,251,846	61,588,761.86
INTERCONT. BANK PLC	103	2.16	4,751,719	10,326,328.68
OCEANIC BANK INT. PLC	215	2.20	15,324,825	33,467,588.44
BANK PHB PLC	110	1.81	18,409,186	35,501,618.87
SKYE BANK PLC	158	8.04	8,891,768	71,615,617.41
SPRING BANK PLC	23	1.08	1,307,362	1,400,973.38
STERLING BANK PLC	92	2.63	6,550,812	17,450,176.67
<b>UNT. BANK FOR AFR. PLC</b>	312	16.84	27,689,234	463,956,782.42
UNION BANK OF NIG. PLC	283	6.52	17,791,758	115,820,726.62
UNITYBANK PLC	42	1.14	5,936,470	6,543,811.14
WEMA BANK PLC	84	1.26	6,298,698	7,817,243.14
ZENITH BANK PLC	599	18.88	56,018,286	1,077,486,387.64
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	4,661		282,846,093	3,057,390,945.87
<b>BUILDING MATERIALS</b>				
ASHAKA CEMENT PLC	213	26.11	4,436,439	119,622,270.95
BENUE CEMENT COY PLC	80	66.80	1,519,173	99,948,426.25
CEM. CO. OF N/NIG. PLC	108	24.47	2,271,998	57,193,945.53
LAFARGE WAPCO PLC	52	43.98	2,977,302	130,941,741.96
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	453		11,204,912	407,706,384.69
<b>CHEMICAL &amp; PAINTS</b>				
BERGER PAINTS NIG. PLC	3	6.87	84,725	582,060.75
CHEM. & ALL. PROD. PLC	7	29.67	19,252	572,534.43
DN MEYER PLC	10	3.21	419,982	1,348,142.22
PREMIER PAINTS PLC	1	13.40	375	4,773.75
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	21		524,334	2,507,511.15
<b>CONGLOMERATES</b>				
A. G. LEVENTIS (NIG.) PLC	19	4.86	204,520	978,207.47
CHELLARAMS PLC	2	13.43	10,000	127,600.00
PZ CUSSENS NIG. PLC	78	32.90	2,359,930	75,032,860.02
TRANS. CORP. OF NIG. PLC	52	0.54	9,103,267	4,896,402.04
UAC OF NIGERIA PLC	75	54.70	773,736	42,515,956.51
UNILEVER NIGERIA PLC	93	27.25	1,067,931	29,251,982.23
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	319		13,519,384	152,803,008.27
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>				
COSTAIN (WA) PLC	44	8.25	2,020,227	16,666,872.75
JULIUS BERGER NIG. PLC	117	46.17	3,056,951	139,223,831.47
<b>MULTIVERSE RES. PLC</b>	8	0.50	143,000	71,500.00
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	169		5,220,178	155,962,204.22
<b>FOOD/BEV. &amp; TOBACCO</b>				
7-UP BOTTLING CO. PLC	10	37.18	83,471	3,103,451.78
BIG TREAT PLC	14	1.28	2,817,389	3,606,257.92
CADBURY NIGERIA PLC	119	19.40	3,894,579	73,972,895.99
DANGOTE FLOUR MILLS PLC	260	23.68	2,485,990	58,727,352.90
DANGOTE SUGAR REF. PLC	155	19.85	5,719,165	114,439,009.59
FLOUR MILLS NIGERIA PLC	149	76.49	6,505,840	502,296,377.00
HON/WELL FLOUR MILL PLC	78	8.97	1,932,609	17,072,889.24
NAT. SALT COY NIGERIA PLC	143	10.97	6,258,755	66,219,991.88
NIG/BOTTLING COY PLC	34	37.48	153,707	5,855,815.70
NESTLE NIGERIA PLC	7	297.78	67,711	20,158,794.90
N/NIGERIA FLOUR MILLS PLC	24	39.24	109,699	4,304,588.76
TANTALIZERS PLC	22	1.47	1,479,154	2,174,356.38
<b>UNION DICON SALT PLC</b>	1	4.91	2,500	12,275.00
UTC NIGERIA PLC	8	0.89	59,848	55,658.64
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	1,034		31,570,417	871,999,715.68
<b>HEALTHCARE</b>				
EVANS MEDICAL PLC	64	1.57	3,001,584	5,159,491.59
FIDSON HEALTHCARE PLC	64	3.69	4,719,499	16,733,343.65
GLAXOS. CONS. NIG. PLC	16	28.01	229,893	6,364,915.96
MAY & BAKER NIGERIA PLC	53	7.42	1,382,964	10,253,777.78
NEIMETH INT. PHARM. PLC	14	2.23	236,973	528,449.79
UN/DIAG. & CLIN. SERV. PLC	20	0.94	1,946,636	1,828,241.48

SECTOR Totals	231	11,517,549	40,868,220.25
<b>HOTEL &amp; TOURISM</b>			
IKEJA HOTEL PLC	5	2.74	67,051
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	5		192,436.37
<b>IND/DOMESTIC PROD.</b>			
ALUMACO PLC	1	9.02	50,000
B. O. C. GASES NIGERIA PLC	5	10.20	25,268
NIG. ENAMELWARE PLC	1	47.70	1,000
FIRST ALUMINIUM NIG. PLC	5	0.52	37,540
VITAFOAM NIGERIA PLC	25	6.76	1,213,726
VONO PRODUCTS PLC	5	0.58	21,264
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	42		1,348,798
<b>INF. &amp; COMM. TECHN.</b>			
CHAMS PLC	18	0.97	12,941,500
MASS TEL. INNOV. NIG. PLC	9	0.50	80,030,500
STARCOMMS PLC	41	2.71	1,952,000
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	68		94,924,000
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
AIICO INSURANCE PLC	5,224	1.63	145,376,542
CONTINENTAL REINS. PLC	17	0.95	7,416,950
C/STONE INS. CO. PLC	52	0.66	10,087,300
CUST. & ALLIED INSUR. PLC	34	3.75	5,489,255
EQUITY ASSURANCE PLC	31	0.50	3,576,300
G/NIGERIA INS. COY PLC	4	0.50	105,000
GOLDLINK INSURANCE PLC	63	1.00	6,569,030
GUAR/TRUST ASSUR. PLC	52	3.20	4,882,465
GUINEA INSURANCE PLC	8	0.50	250,020
CONS. HALLMARK INS. PLC	60	0.52	6,702,105
INT. ENERGY INS. COY PLC	32	0.70	5,641,994
LASACO ASSURANCE PLC	147	0.59	64,109,369
L/UNION & ROCK INS. PLC	6	0.59	626,000
LINKAGE ASSURANCE PLC	1	0.50	500
MUT/BENEFITS ASS. PLC	129	0.60	98,888,402
N.E.M. INSUR. CO. (NIG.) PLC	22	0.74	1,875,417
NIGER INSURANCE CO. PLC	6	0.93	356,036
OASIS INSURANCE PLC	1	0.93	2,000
PRESTIGE ASSURANCE PLC	3	3.94	50,287
REG. ALL. INS. COY PLC	3	0.50	660,000
SOV. TRUST INSUR. PLC	9	0.50	1,453,000
STACO INSURANCE PLC	74	0.54	35,541,704
STAND. ALLIANCE INS. PLC	98	0.58	17,166,223
UNIC INSURANCE PLC	10	0.95	740,852
UNITY KAPITAL ASS. PLC	7	0.58	1,700,000
<b>UNIVERSAL INS. COY PLC</b>	8	0.50	1,983,864
INTERC. WAPIC INSUR. PLC	14	0.87	140,600
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	6,115		421,391,215
<b>MARITIME</b>			
JAP/OIL & MAR. SERV. PLC	140	1.99	4,263,575
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	140		4,263,575
<b>MEDIA</b>			
DAAR COMM. PLC	14	1.51	300,220
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	14		300,220
<b>MORTGAGE COMPANIES</b>			
ASO SAVINGS & LOAND PLC	18	0.61	6,341,900
RES/SAVINGS & LOANS PLC	6	0.50	1,503,000
UN/HOM. SAV. & LOANS PLC	40	0.99	2,729,771
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	64		10,574,671
<b>OTHER FINANCIAL INST.</b>			
CRUSADER NIGERIA PLC	11	0.97	713,564
ROYAL EXCHANGE PLC	7	0.66	63,104
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	18		776,668
<b>PACKAGING</b>			
NIG. BAG MAN. COY PLC	620	3.79	3,063,409
BETA GLASS CO. PLC	19	16.41	466,600
POLY PROD. (NIG.) PLC	1	3.82	50,000
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	640		3,580,009
<b>PETROLEUM(MARKETING)</b>			
AFRICAN PETROLEUM PLC	52	41.33	243,939
BECO PETR.PROD. PLC	27	1.65	741,325
MRS OIL NIGERIA PLC	10	69.79	20,390
CONOIL PLC	43	44.00	297,797
ETERNA OIL & GAS PLC	46	8.00	249,164
MOBIL OIL NIGERIA PLC	19	124.60	72,138
OANDO PLC	154	105.00	3,509,555
TOTAL NIGERIA PLC 13	159.75	64.578	10,316,335.50
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	364		5,198,886
<b>PRINTING &amp; PUBLISHING</b>			
LONGMAN NIGERIA PLC	7	8.29	86,250
UNIVERSITY PRESS PLC	23	7.99	457,319
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	30		543,569
<b>REAL ESTATE</b>			
UACN PROP. DEV. CO. PLC	24	25.01	238,270
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	24		238,270
<b>ROAD TRANSPORTATION</b>			
ASSOCIATED BUS COY PLC	13	1.18	140,480
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	13		140,480
<b>THE FOREIGN LISTINGS</b>			
ECOBANK TRANS. INCORP.	27	20.00	675,862
<b>SECTOR Totals</b>	27		675,862
<b>OVERALL Totals</b>	15,310		932,596,441

What is income stock?

A security with a solid record of dividend payments and which offers a dividend yield higher than the average common stock.

Google.com

### GAINERS

NESTLE	14.18
TOTAL	7.60
GUINNESS	7.00
MOBIL	5.93

### LOSERS

CCNN	1.28
UNILEVER	1.19
UAC-PROP	0.99
FIRSTBANK	0.89

# DIGEST

## Tens of thousands of British women warned their breast implants could explode

NEARLY fifty thousands women in the UK have been warned by health chiefs that their breast implants could explode.

The best-selling silicone implant made by the French firm Poly Implant Prothese (PIP), are thought to be twice as likely to rupture.

A government health agency is urging women with this type of implant to contact their plastic surgeons to consider having the implants removed.

They run the risk of developing toxic shock syndrome or gangrene if the implants explode.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has also ordered cosmetic surgeons to stop using these implants.

It follows a nation-wide ban in France of the best-selling implant after it found the implants had been filled with a silicone gel with a composition different from that approved since 2001.

They are now carrying out urgent testing to see if the unapproved material is safe.

Dr Susanne Ludgate, from the MHRA, said: 'Clinicians should not implant these devices and

they should quarantine any stock.

'Patients who have concerns about their PIP silicone gel-filled breast implants should contact their breast implant surgeon.'

Plastic surgery is booming in Britain after models like Katie Price and Danielle Lloyd had much publicised boob jobs.

Plastic surgeon Mr Dalvi Humzah said: 'In recent years we've seen an increase in women suffering from ruptures and in many cases these have involved these PIP implants.'

'I'd advise them to stay calm and not panic at this stage. It's currently unclear what the dangers are to patients who've had these implants, as we have to wait for the French government to reach a conclusion.'

'The problem we have is that our Government scrapped the national breast implant register.'

'Obviously a lot of patients could have had these implants since 2001 and moved away, changed jobs or anything. So it's important that the message gets out about this.'

Ninety per cent of the implants manufactured by PIP were

exported, with an estimated 66 countries receiving them.

The British Association of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons says it is not the first time it has heard of problems with the French products.

Former president Douglas McGeorge claimed there had been previous fears about the safety of the implants, which were often popular with some clinics because

**“They run the risk of developing toxic shock syndrome or gangrene if the implants explode**

they were a 'cheaper' option.

It is thought that Poly Implant Prothese has gone into liquidation. Its website is no longer online.



AROUND 45,000 women in the UK have been warned their silicone gel implants could be at risk of rupturing

## Council to ban the word 'obesity' - so fat children don't get offended



THE word 'obese' could be banned in case it offends fat children

IN an age of widespread political correctness almost any term can be deemed to offend someone at some time.

But one council has been condemned after it announced it would consider banning the word 'obese' because it could offend fat children.

Town hall bosses want to replace it with the phrase 'unhealthy weight' so children are not stigmatised. The move has caused fury among parents and anti-obesity campaigners who have branded the scheme 'preposterous and laughable.'

But health campaigners say they are concerned it will lead to the issue of obese children not being taken seriously enough.

The proposal was made by a group of 90 schoolchildren taking part in the Liverpool Schools' Parliament when the council asked them to come up with a variety of ideas as part of its Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP). Now Liverpool Council will formally consider the proposal to drop the word from all local authority schemes and strategies aimed at improving the health of children.

Tam Fry of the obesity prevention charity the Child Growth Foundation, said: 'If you're obese you're obese. I can see where the children are coming from and the word carries a stigmatisation but unfortunately some times schoolchildren have to be taught the realities of life.'

Mr Fry, whose charity campaign for more measures to combat obesity in children, said: 'If you have a problem, particularly when it's as serious as this, it needs addressing.'

One Merseyside father said: 'My two children are normal weight and being an overweight child does have a stigma - but that is the whole point.'

'Eating unhealthy food and not taking part in physical activity should be stigmatised so that children live a healthy, active life.'

'What next? Are we going to destigmatise the idea that they don't do their school work so they can just play video games instead?'

A mother said: 'My 12-year-old daughter is tackling her own slight weight problem by improving her diet, joining a gym and taking part in sports at school and her main motivation for her drive to be slimmer and healthier is that she is not seen as fat by her school friends.'

Liverpool Council will consider the plans as part of scheme to examine the key priorities and ways to improve the lives of young people over the next two years. Explaining the group's recommendation, Jeff Dunn, co-ordinator of the Liverpool Schools' Parliament, said: 'The idea is that obesity has a negative connotation behind it. They felt unhealthy weight is more positive and a better way to promote it. The term 'obese' would turn people off, particularly young people.'

A Liverpool council spokesman said: 'All the young people's recommendations will be considered by the council with a view to include them in the delivery of the Children and Young People's Plan.'

Other recommendations include appointing classmates and city sport stars as 'food heroes' to promote healthy living within schools.

### Sign Language



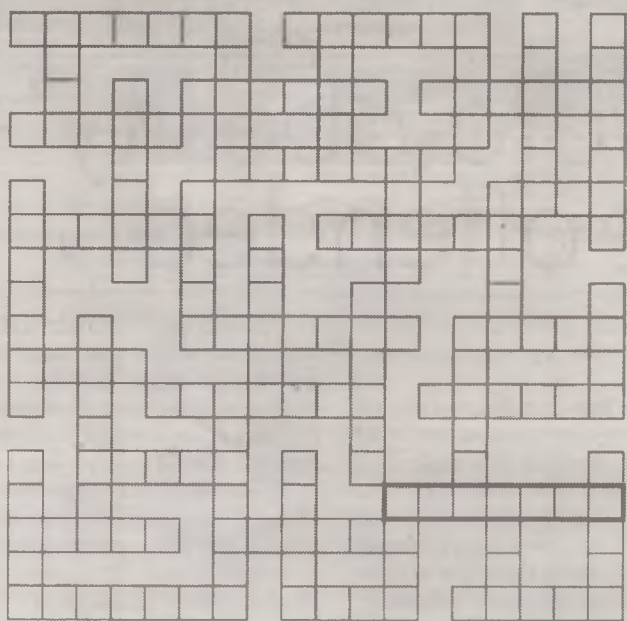
Is it an abbreviation or something? Well, you better STOP.  
Photo location: Castelnuovodel Garda, by Gian Luigi Nava  
Culled from www.signspotting.com

## KRISS KROSS

2

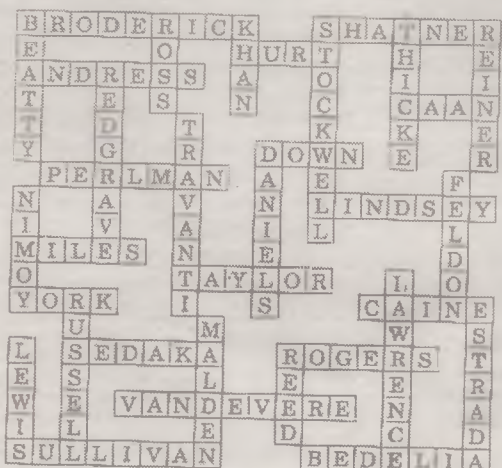
Puzzles that do not have a word or phrase inserted will have a heavily outlined area; if you need help starting this puzzle, turn to page 130 and you will find the entry that goes into the outlined area.

- |                  |                  |                  |                  |         |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|---------|
| <b>4 Letters</b> | <b>5 Letters</b> | Sassy            | Choose           | Flosses |
| Adds             | Apple            | Skill            | Collie           | Offered |
| Cook             | Asset            | Snood            | Corral           | Recalls |
| Eddy             | Banns            | Swiss            | Dollop           | Redress |
| Eels             | Booth            | <b>6 Letters</b> | Groove           | Scallop |
| Ella             | Cello            | Addled           | Madder           | Sleeper |
| Heed             | Crass            | Allots           | Mitten           | Smooths |
| Hook             | Llano            | Assume           | Stooge           | Stosses |
| Seek             | Pools            | Ballad           | <b>7 Letters</b> | Thrills |
| Toll             |                  | Doorman          |                  |         |



### SOLUTION TO KRISS KROSS

1



# 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.

126

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

### Solution to Sudoku 125

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

## News Extra

# ANC's Julius Malema lashes out at 'misbehaving' BBC journalist

Furious youth leader ejects reporter from Johannesburg press conference calling him a 'bloody agent' with 'that white tendency'



ANC youth leader Julius Malema

A firebrand South African youth leader on Thursday threw a BBC journalist out of a press conference, accusing him of "white tendency" and calling him a "bastard", "bloody agent" and "small boy".

Julius Malema, president of the youth wing of the African National Congress, exploded in rage when Jonah Fisher, a white Briton, interrupted him at the ANC's headquarters in Johannesburg.

The row began when Malema, who has just returned from Zimbabwe, praised Robert Mugabe's Zanu-PF party and poured scorn on the "Mickey Mouse" opposition. He mocked exiles linked to the Movement for Democratic Change, led by Zimbabwe's prime minister, Morgan Tsvangirai, for using offices in Sandton, a wealthy suburb of Johannesburg.

"They can insult us here from air conditioned offices of Sandton," Malema told journalists at Luthuli House. "We are unshaken. They must stop shouting at us. They must go and fight for their battle in Zimbabwe and win ... why are they speaking in Sandton and not Mashonaland or Matabeleland?"

South African President Jacob Zuma at the weekend said he spoke to Malema earlier last week about his verbal abuse of a BBC journalist, his defiance of ANC policy on Zimbabwe and his performance of a song from the anti-apartheid era that could be deemed hate speech.



PRESIDENT Jacob Zuma

As Malema went on, Fisher interjected: "You live in Sandton." Evidently stung, Malema replied: "Let me tell you, this is a building of a revolutionary party and you know nothing about the revolution."

Fisher pressed: "So they're not welcome in Sandton but you are?" Malema snapped: "Here you behave or else you jump."

This prompted laughter from Fisher and others. "Don't laugh," Malema growled.

Fisher commented that the situation had become a "joke".

Malema then erupted, asking for a security guard to eject Fisher and telling him: "If you're not going to behave, you're [sic] going to call security to take you out. This is not a newsroom, this is a revolutionary house and you don't come here with that tendency."

"Don't come here with that white tendency. Not here. You can do it somewhere else. Not here. If you've got a tendency of undermining blacks, even where you work, you are in the wrong place. Here you are in

the wrong place."

Fisher responded: "That's rubbish. That's absolute rubbish."

Malema continued: "You can go out. Rubbish is what you have covered in that trouser. That is rubbish. You are a small boy, you can't do anything."

Collecting his dictaphone and walking out, Fisher said: "I didn't come here to be insulted."

Malema bellowed after him: "Go out. Go out. Bastard! Go out. You bloody agent!"

Later, asked to explain why he had ejected the BBC journalist, Malema said: "This is Luthuli

House. This is the headquarters of a revolutionary party which has liberated the people of South Africa. It's not a playground. Here you come, you restrain yourself, you behave in a manner that is befitting of being the headquarters of the African National Congress. It's not a beer hall here.

"You don't howl here. Especially when we speak, you behave like you are in an American press conference? It's not America. It's Africa. You must behave in an African way. You are in Rome, you do what the Romans do ... if you feel offended by the removal of this gentleman, you are most welcome to walk."

The opposition Democratic Alliance said the incident proved that Malema was "South Africa's Mugabe".

Mpowele Swathe, shadow minister of rural development, said: "Malema's hysterical, conspiracy theory-laden attack on the BBC is painfully reminiscent of the frequent claims by Mugabe that he is the victim of 'malicious propaganda by external forces'."

"His actions, in throwing the journalist out of the press conference, are no different to Mugabe's censorship of the press in Zimbabwe, and his banning of outlets like the BBC from reporting there."

Malema announced that he would heed the ANC's call for restraint and stop singing the apartheid era song that has the words "Shoot the Boer", an incitement seen by some people as causing the recent murder of the white supremacist Eugene Terreblanche.

South African President Jacob Zuma at the weekend said he spoke to Malema earlier last week about his verbal abuse of a BBC journalist, his defiance of ANC policy on Zimbabwe and his performance of a song from the anti-apartheid era that could be deemed hate speech.

The telephone discussion apparently took place Thursday, soon after Malema expelled the journalist from an ANC Youth League news conference. The next day, Malema defended his own behavior and called on the journalist to apologise for interrupting him.

"The manner in which a BBC journalist was treated at an ANC Youth League press-conference is regrettable and unacceptable, regardless of any alleged provocation on his part," Zuma said.

Culled from guardian.co.uk

## News Extra

**A**t least eleven people were killed yesterday and thirty others seriously injured after an Italian train slammed into a landslide leaving one carriage balanced precariously over a river.

Rescuers described the scene as 'horrific' as they scrambled through the mangled wreckage of the carriages, pulling dead and injured passengers free to rush them to hospital.

Officials said that they could not rule out other victims in the crash, which involved a regional train and took place at Tarres near Merano in northern Italy.

Firefighters were frantically trying to secure the front carriage of the two-coach train to stop it falling into the River Adige.

Amazingly, it was being kept upright by two trees which had been dragged down by the landslide.

**T**he train line runs between the Adige river and mountains. Thomas Widmann, a transport official in Bolzano, the biggest city nearby, said the landslide was caused by an irrigation pipe that burst open, sending rocks, debris and water down onto the oncoming train at around at 9:30 a.m.

Florian Schrofenneger, a local railway spokesman in the area, said: 'It appears that at least eleven people have been killed and thirty others injured.'

'It is a high possibility that there will be other victims. The situation is very difficult, it is a horrific scene with one carriage balanced on the edge over the River Adige.'

**C**A mechanical failure has been ruled out and it looks as if it hit a landslide. The train was very busy at the time as it was a local commuter service.'

The accident happened at around 9am this morning local



MUD and debris from the landslide can be seen on the hill above the tracks, where the wreckage of the train lies with the front carriage dangling out over the River Adige

# Landslide derailed train in Italy

## ... 11 reported dead and 20 injured

time and the train - which was running on a picturesque mountain line that had only opened five years ago - had been due

to arrive at Merano 45 minutes later. A fleet of ambulances was used to ferry the injured to local hospitals and a nearby road was

shut to traffic to enable emergency vehicles to have easier access. It is the second major rail accident in Italy in less than a

year - last June thirty people were killed after a freight train carrying inflammable gas derailed at Viareggio.



RESCUERS can be seen clambering inside the front of the carriage, which appears to have been torn open by the impact of the crash into the landslide. The train was filled with busy commuters



THE carriage is being propped up by the two trees to the left of the rescuer dressed in red - the only things stopping it from plummeting to the River Adige below

## News Extra

# Police probe Terreblanche sexual assault on farm workers

South African police are investigating allegations that the white supremacist Eugene Terreblanche was killed after attempting to sexually assault two male workers on his farm.

A lawyer for one of the two suspects was quoted on Sunday as saying that the two accused men acted in self-defence after Terreblanche plied them with alcohol and made sexual advances.

Puna Moroko, attorney for 28-year-old Chris Mahlangu, told South Africa's Sunday Times newspaper: "My instructions from my client are that there was some sodomy going on and it sparked the murder of Mr Terreblanche. This is going to form part of our defence during trial."

Moroko added that Terreblanche had plied both workers with alcohol and tried to have sex "with one or both" of them.

"It is in the court record that Mr Terreblanche bought my client 18 Savannas (cider) and the other accused, who is still a minor, 13 Savannas before driving them to his farm. Mr Terreblanche bought himself a bottle of Smirnoff [vodka] at the same liquor store."

Police confirmed that a sexual

- Lawyer cites self-defence after Terreblanche sexual assault
- White supremacist plied workers with alcohol, say allegations



**WHITE supremacist Eugene Terreblanche who was killed on his farm on 3 April. Lawyers have made allegations that the AWB leader plied the suspects with alcohol and made sexual advances before his death**

link was among many allegations being investigated for the killing.

"We are not going to focus on one thing," said Musa Zondi, of the Hawks investigative unit. "We will investigate all pertinent facts

that have a bearing on the matter."

Attorney Zola Majavu, acting for the 15-year-old accused, would not comment on the sexual allegations, but said his client "has undergone all the necessary

tests that I need to prove his case".

He added: "I have consulted with my client and I am satisfied that something shocking happened on that day. I will disclose fully what my client told me hap-

pened during trial."

Terreblanche was hacked and battered to death on 3 April and found with his trousers around his knees, exposing his genitals.

Police had earlier said a pay dispute had led to the killing.

General Jan Mabula, head of the Hawks in the North West Province, told the City Press newspaper the suspects' clothes were to be examined as part of checks into whether there was a sexual link.

Terreblanche's far-right Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) has rejected any suggestion of a homosexual link to the murder of its leader, who was one of the most vocal proponents of keeping South Africa's races apart.

The funeral of the AWB leader was held last Friday amid tight security.

When the two farm workers appeared in court last Tuesday, there were tense scenes outside as AWB supporters and black groups were forced apart by police after insults and racially charged songs.

*Culled from guardian.co.uk*

## Foreign workers 'to face English tests'

English tests will be made compulsory for all public sector migrant workers, under manifesto pledges scheduled to be announced by Gordon Brown yesterday. All workers in contact

with the public - such as nurses, community support officers, social workers and call centre staff - will have to pass a test to get a job.

At present, the requirement covers only doctors from outside Europe, police officers and teach-

ers. The Labour proposals are designed to dispel widespread concern among voters about dealing with public sector workers who do not have a strong grasp of English.

There was an outcry last year when a German doctor who spoke

little English killed a patient with a massive overdose of morphine during his first out-of-hours shift for the NHS.

Mr Brown, who will be speaking in the West Midlands, will try to shift the focus of the election from the economy to domestic affairs.

He is expected to use the speech to pledge his party's desire to crack down on immigration, a theme believed to form a big part of Labour's manifesto.

A senior Labour source said: "Some public sector workers in public-facing roles are not proficient in English - including in areas where guidance already exists that they should be. We need to change that."

Mr Brown is expected to say: "We understand people's concerns about immigration - about whether it will undermine their wages or job prospects or put pressure on public services and housing. We will act."

Labour's new policy document says current English language

requirements that apply only to non-EU public workers will be extended 'to ensure all employees who have contact with the public have an appropriate level of... competence'.

It forms part of their manifesto A Future Fair For All.

The issues around immigration are set to become a key battle ground. High levels of net immigration are continuing at around 200,000 a year.

The Government currently employs what it calls the Australian 'points based' immigration system, whereby potential immigrants can qualify for entry based only on strict criteria and starting from an annual limit of immigration.

But the UK Government's system differs from that in Australia because it does not limit the numbers of immigrants and so it is not seen as tough.

Last week it emerged that virtually every extra job created since Labour came to power in 1997 has gone to a foreign worker.



**GORDON Brown speaks to local residents at Edgware in the constituency of Hendon in north London Sunday ahead of yesterday's manifesto launch**



**THE PRESIDENCY  
BUREAU OF PUBLIC PROCUREMENT (BPP)**

**CALLING ON MINISTRIES,  
DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES (MDAs)**

The Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP) hereby announces the 2010 stakeholders' sectoral capacity building workshop on Public Procurement Act, 2007. The objective of the workshop is to review the provisions of the Public Procurement Act as it affects the preparation of tender documents and prequalification of bidders for Goods, Works and Services and to discuss the implementation challenges of contractor **PRE-QUALIFICATION**. At the workshop, critical issues relating to pre-qualification of contractors, consultants, procurement efficiency and corruption prevention in respective Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) will be discussed. The workshop schedule is as follows:

- **April 13th:** Federal Capital Territory (FCT)- Departments and Agencies
- **April 15th :** Ministry of Petroleum Resources- Departments and Agencies
- **April 19th :** Federal Ministry of Health-Departments and Agencies
- **April 20th :** Federal Ministry of Education-Departments and Agencies
- **April 22nd :** Federal Ministry of Environment-Departments and Agencies
- **April 26th:** Federal Ministry of Police Affairs-Departments and Agencies. Ministry of Internal Affairs-Departments and Agencies.

Venue of all workshops is at: **NEW STATE HOUSE AUDITORIUM, IBRAHIM TAIWO STREET, STATE HOUSE, ABUJA.** Time is: **9.00AM** daily.

**All enquiries to: [info@bpp.gov.ng](mailto:info@bpp.gov.ng), or send a text to: 08138377013**

**SIGNED**

**Dr. Abiodun Adeniyi,  
Bureau of Public Procurement (BPP).**

# ENVIRONMENT environment@dailytrust.com HOTLINE: 07041632079



THIS is Ogba road near Berger junction Lagos, where refuse and vehicles compete for space

## Pollution: NESREA reads riot act to telecom coys

By Mustapha Suleiman

TELECOMMUNICATION operators involved in illegal shipment of hazardous products and wastes, dealers in endangered species, and industries without effective plan for effluent discharges, will soon face the full wrath of the law.

This warning was handed down by the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA), in line with its mandate to curb environmental degradation.

A statement signed by NESREA's Director of Press, Mr. Sule A Oyofe, stated that the agency has already shut down two operating base stations of known telecommunication giants and also confiscated products made from endangered species within the Federal Capital City, Abuja so as to discourage dealers in endangered species.

It stated that recently the agency issued a three months ultimatum to telecommunication operators to shape up or face the wrath of the law and to submit the inventory and audit of their mast/base stations nationwide, declared at a recent consultative forum with telecom operators organised by NESREA.

## Oil spill, obstacle to food security, say fishermen

FISHERMEN and fish pond operators in Akwa Ibom have listed frequent oil spills from the Qua Iboe oil fields as an insurmountable obstacle to food security in the state.

Chief Inyang Ekong, Secretary, Akwa Ibom chapter of Artisan Fishermen Association of Nigeria (AFAN), made the assertion in an interview in Eket, Akwa Ibom.

Ekong also said that delays in the payment of compensation claims by Mobil Producing Nigeria had thrown many of his members out of business. He said, "Oil spills are inevitable and part of oil exploration, but what is disturbing us is the frequency at which they occur in the Qua Iboe oil fields."

Ekong appealed to the federal and Akwa Ibom governments to come to the aid of fishermen by taking steps to reduce the frequency of oil spills to a minimum.

He said, "The regulators are handicapped by the lack of facilities to discharge their functions, as they relied on the same oil companies they are regulating to provide them with logistics."

Meanwhile, the major oil firms operating in the offshore of Akwa Ibom coastline have all denied responsibility for the March 24, oil spill.

The operators are Mobil Producing Nigeria, Total Exploration and Production, Addax Petroleum and Afren Energy, an indigenous oil firm.

The denial has compelled NOSDRA officials to commence investigations to uncover the source of the crude discharge. Ekong said that the fishermen in the area now required fishing boats with outboard engines to enable them undertake deep sea fishing for greater catch.

He explained that this would enable the fishermen avoid the contaminated areas, but regretted that they could not afford the cost of the fishing boats.

He also explained that crude oil leakages into the Atlantic made it impossible for fish to reproduce, a situation that has led to fish scarcity. (NAN)

# Blackmail over climate change deal

DEVELOPING nations claim they are being offered cash to sign up to climate change deal

Rich countries have threatened to cut vital aid to the developing nations if they do not back the deal agreed at the UN climate summit in Copenhagen, it has emerged.

The pressure on poor countries to support the US, EU and UK-brokered Copenhagen accord came as 190 countries resumed UN climate talks in Bonn in an atmosphere of mutual suspicion.

"The pressure to back the west has been intense," said a senior African diplomat. "It was done at a very high level and nothing was written down. It was made very clear by the EU, UK, France and the US that if they did not back them then they would suffer."

According to other African climate diplomats, threats to cut aid were accompanied by promises of financial support for countries that complied.

"There was definite strong-

arming of countries. A lot were left in no doubt that there would be repercussions if they did not associate themselves with the accord," said Saleemul Huq, of the International Institute for Environment and Development, in London.

Although the accord is not legally binding and was not adopted by the UN, more than 112 countries have so far "associated" with it. They include 14 African countries that depend on aid from the EU, UK and France.

## Anti-Tobacco Bill: Adedibu should resign now, says ERA

By Nasir Imam

FOR telling Nigerians that the National Tobacco Control Bill currently before the National Assembly is dead, Senator Kamoruadeen Adedibu representing Oyo West Senatorial district should quit office, the Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN) has said.

Adedibu who was recently at Iseyin, Oyo North Senatorial District to present the keys of a tractor to a farmer as part of the Farmers' Tractor Scheme of British American Tobacco Iseyin Agronomy (BATIA), had for telling Nigerians the aim of the bill was to close down tobacco companies in the country.

But ERA/FoEN in a statement issued in Lagos, signed by Philip

Jakpor, Media Officer, ERA/FoEN, flayed the remark by the senator, describing it as "baseless and misleading" and intended to deceive his Constituency and rubbish the Senate.

"This is extremely disappointing of a Senator. That Adedibu who was at the public hearing still continues to feed the public lies that the bill will close down the tobacco industry shows that he did not read the contents of bill and therefore is not competent to comment on it," said Programme Manager of ERA/FoEN, Akinbode Oluwafemi.

Oluwafemi argued that "The Senator has shown utter disregard for one of the most important life saving bills calling to question his competence to stand in the hallowed

chamber of the Nigerian Senate. How come Senator Adedibu is daily wishing Nigeria more deaths from tobacco smoking?"

Oluwafemi added that "at a time he said the jobs of 400,000 people was on line because of the bill. Now he is saying 600,000. Where is he getting these spurious figures from? Let him show Nigerians where he obtained the figures."

Tobacco currently kills 5.4 million people and if current trend continues it will kill about 8 million by 2015 according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). Also a survey conducted in Lagos in 2006 reveals that two persons die daily as a result of a tobacco related disease in Lagos hospitals.

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## Environment



environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

# Noise control institute to confer April 19

THE 159th meeting of the Acoustical Society of America (ASA) will convene jointly with NOISE-CON 2010, the 26th annual conference of the Institute of Noise Control Engineering (INCE-USA) April 19-23, 2010 at the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel, Baltimore, MD.

During the meeting, the world's foremost experts in acoustics will report on research that draws from scien-

tific disciplines as diverse as medicine, music, psychology, engineering, speech communication, noise control, and marine biology.

Highlights of meeting talks include voice analysis: detecting emotional state, acoustics and sports: measuring crowd noise, neuroscience: hearing through noise, musical acoustics: the physics of banjos, building acous-

tics: green buildings and acoustic ecology: census by sound.

Other topics include classroom acoustics: improving the learning environment, medicine: portable ultrasound, engineering: measuring turbulence, neuroscience: the voice and the brain, animal acoustics: how bats forage for food, and medicine: antifungal ultrasound.

## Niger acquires 75 earth moving equipment

From Ayegba Israel Ebije, Minna

THE Niger State government has acquired 75 earth moving machines at the total cost of N4 billion, to be distributed to the 25 local government areas of the state for infrastructural development.

The Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Barrister Abdullahi Bazwa Wuse, who made the disclosure in Minna yesterday, told Daily Trust that the idea to purchase the heavy equipment was conceived by the council chairmen, adding that the fund was also sourced by them.

He confirmed that already fifty earth moving equipment which he said includes, bulldozers, pane loaders and graders have already been supplied, saying that the total consignment will soon be completed.

The commissioner, who explained that the N4 billion originally earmarked for the purchase may be subjected to an upward review, stated that rate of foreign exchange has stepped up and high import duty imposed.

"Each local government is expected to have a pane loader, bulldozer and an earth mover, meaning that each council will have three of the equipment each when the whole consignment is supplied", he said.

He however disclosed that the equipment are expected to be used for road construction projects, construction of housing projects and for sanitary purposes in the various councils across the state. He said that the moves by the local government chairmen was to get their councils equipped for development projects without having to spend so much money only to borrow heavy equipment.



FEVERED by hopes of striking it rich, illegal miners claw sacks of money —stone gold ore—from the Pra River in Ghana

## How we can stop global warming

By Mustapha Suleiman

GLOBAL warming is an environmental hazard, usually characterized by rising average temperature of planet Earth, owing to natural as well as anthropogenic causes.

A major concern for the world, global warming is getting worse by the day. Many people are left wondering how we can stop global warming from getting worse, when the eminent authorities are not able to do anything. If you are concerned about the planet, here are some solutions to stop global warming which you can implement at the grass root level.

**Use Environment Friendly Electrical Appliances**

You can replace electrical appliances like your refrigerator, which emits greenhouse gases with environment friendly appliances.

In fact, replacing a regular incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent light bulb, popularly referred to as CFL, can help in saving 60 percent energy and avoid the release of 300 lbs of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere each year.

**Reduce the Use of Vehicles**

You can reduce the use of vehicle, which is one of the major sources of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Instead, you can resort to walking, cycling or use of public transport as the means of conveyance. Apart from helping us to curb global warming, this will also prove to be beneficial for our health.

**Drive efficiently**

If you can't avoid or reduce the use of vehicle, you can still do your bit to save the planet by driving efficiently. Following simple tips for efficient driving, such as turning ignition off on red lights or avoid-

ing frequent acceleration and braking, can ensure that you use less fuel, and thus cause less pollution.

**Plant More Trees**

Among the several ways to help stop global warming is planting trees. Trees are essential as they tend to absorb carbon dioxide and help in maintaining the required balance in the atmosphere. It helps in absorbing carbon dioxide; trees also help by giving out oxygen and attracting rain bearing clouds.

**Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**

Implementing the three R's i.e. reduce, reuse and recycle, are one of the easiest options among various global warming solutions at the individual level. For instance, reducing the use of paper will save a number of trees, which will in turn absorb carbon dioxide and help in reducing the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

## Oil firms flare 127bn cubic feet of gas qrtly –NNPC

OIL companies operating in the country have flared an average of 127.19 Billion Standard Cubic Feet (BSCF) of Gas per quarter, the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), has said.

The latest edition of NNPC's quarterly Petroleum Information obtained on Sunday in Eket, said 32 percent of associated gas produced was flared, while 267.08 BSCF of gas was utilised in the past quarter under review.

Under the Joint Venture Funding Category, Mobil Producing Nigeria, flared 40.98 BSCF out of its total gas production of 116.65 BSCF, followed by Total Exploration and Production that flared 18.90 BSCF out of its production of 77.14 BSCF of gas.

In the Production Sharing Contract category, Addax flared 10.32 BSCF, representing 71.14 percent of its gas production put at 13.03 BSCF.

It was followed by Esso, an affiliate of Mobil Produc-

ing which flared 9.73 BSCF, 46.67 percent out of its gas production of 20.85 BSCF of gas.

The Quarterly indicated that total gas production in the industry stood at 394.28 BSCF out of which 267.08 BSCF was utilised in the country in the last quarter.

The country produced a total of 329,100 metric tons of Natural Gas Liquids from Mobil's gas to liquid condensate plant out of which 49 percent or 161,260 metric tons accrued to NNPC as its joint venture share. (NAN)

Environment



environment@dailytrust.com

HOTLINE: 07041632079

# FG tasks ecological fund contractors

By Mustapha Suleiman

MINISTER of Environment Mr. John Odey has called on the contractors handling various ecological fund projects across the nation to expedite actions on the projects otherwise they will be revoked.

Odey was speaking when he paid a familiarization visit to ecological fund office in Abuja on Thursday.

He said the visit is to strengthen the ministry's partnership with ecological fund office and to request ecological fund office to strengthen its department of monitoring and evaluation and also scale up the sensi-

zation programme on environmental issues.

The minister stressed that it is important for the office to do so because of the key role it plays in trying to ameliorate some of the impacts of environmental challenges.

"Let thank you for the collaboration with the ministry of environment over the year s. This visit is to reassure the ecological fund office that I will expect more from you and will be able to give more time to all the projects so that the ministry, ecological office and the gentlemen of the press will be able to supervise some of your projects, but the attitudes of the contractors of ecological fund

office in the past should change and it can only change if the monitoring and evaluation units live up to their own challenges, the task will be up to them."

Speaking further he said, "this is the only arm of government that when projects are awarded you have 100 percent of the fund available and there is no reason why contractors should not perform. There is no reason whatsoever that we should not embark on projects variation in terms of cost because proper costing is done and at the same time from the day of award of contracts 100 percent of funds are set aside both for the contractors and the consultants," he said.

## Rainstorm damages PHCN equipment

CUSTOMERS in the Ado-Ekiti Business District of the PHCN have been thrown into blackout following the damage done to its 33KV line by rainstorm at the weekend.

The Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN) said on Wednesday that 14 electricity poles in the district were damaged.

Mr Oarhe Egbotokhai, the Public Affairs Officer of the district, said in Ado-Ekiti that more than 20 electricity cross-arms and other ancillary equipment were also damaged by the strong wind that accompanied the rain.

He explained that some trees in Iyin-Ekiti fell on the poles that supplied electricity to Ekiti State from the Ilesa 33KV Service Statton in Osun.

"The blackout being experienced in Ado-Ekiti is not a deliberate action, but is due to a major breakdown caused to our 33KV line from Ilesa to Ado-Ekiti by a heavy storm.

"A total of 14 poles and more than 20 cross-arms as well as other equipment have been lost to the heavy wind between April 1 and April 5," he said.

The spokesman said a team of engineers, led by the district's Business Manager, Mr Patrick Okhiria, had begun immediate repair of the equipment.

Egbotokhai expressed regret over the inconvenience caused by the blackout to PHCN customers and commended them for their understanding. (NAN)



GREEN Machine: Ferrari's new patrol-electric car can switch between zero-emissions electric power, petrol power, or a mix of the two, cutting emissions of carbon dioxide and boosting fuel consumption

## 'Adudu farmers don't rely on rainfall'

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

FARMERS in Adudu community of Obi local government area of Nasarawa State do not rely on rainfall for cropping, said their traditional ruler, Alhaji Mohammed Abdullahi who said farming in the area is an all season venture.

"People in my domain that is Hausas, Fulanis, Angas, Jukuns, Tivs and all, don not rely on the rainy season for farming. We farm all year round, using irrigation. We are big farmers, not small farmers who rely on the rains, and rest after the rains," said the tradi-

tional ruler in a chat with Daily Trust.

He called on the state government to give priority to farmers in Adudu in terms of provision of fertilizer, saying the area has contributed well to Governor Aliyu Akwe Doma's agricultural development programme especially in terms of food security and generation of export crops including Pepa Yam which the government exported last year to London in UK.

Governor Doma unveiled Pepe Yam in London in 2009, flagging off a new phase in the development of the sector in the state. The governor followed this up with the

launching of a N530 million loan scheme called Badakoshi (Hausa for feed well) for 456 farmers and farmer groups across the state. The scheme which is planned to run for five years - 2009 - 2014 is aimed at providing the platform for accelerated and coordinated growth in the agricultural sector and to consolidate the state's position as a leading producer of food in the country. T

The traditional ruler called these "good incentives", and urged the people of the state to copy from Adudu farmers whose venture he said, has attracted huge investment to the state.

## Every state benefitted from ecological fund projects – Perm Sec

By Mustapha Suleiman

THE recent claim by Abia state government that with over 2,000 gully erosion in the state, it has not received monies from the Ecological Fund in the past two years has been debunked by the Permanent Secretary of Ecological Fund office, Mrs. Ibukun Odunsote.

Speaking to reporters when the Minister of Environment Mr. John Odey paid a familiarization visit to Ecological Fund office in Abuja on Thursday, she explained

that her office is into the control of natural disasters like soil erosion, desertification and flood control with projects to ameliorate these disasters in all the states of the federation without exception.

"There is no state that has not at any time benefited from the funds that are available through the office. It is very untrue because the facts are on the table. In fact the south east states have so much of ecological fund when it comes to soil erosion because they are hard hit with this. What they could say that they don't have is money being

dole out to them. The project are defined in a way that the projects are undertaken, but it is not that we will give money to the states as they already have their own portion of the federal allocation that goes for ecological issues. They had that already and that is quite different from funds that come through ecological fund office through the federal. The federal funds are made available to all states and because it is limited it has to be prioritised and that priority if you want to have a look at them, every state is represented," she said.

# HEALTH REPORT

## Immunisation : Oyo surpasses 2.6m target



MRS. Modupeola Oyesiji, the Oyo State coordinator of the PHCDA briefing Dr. Monday Famakin and other health workers at Ibadan North West Local government during the March immunisation days.

By Ruby Leo and Yemi Bamidele In Ibadan

**T**HE March 2010 National Immunization Plus Days (NIPDs) Campaign has come and gone but its echoes have continued to reverberate all over Oyo State where, from all indications, the stakeholders have taken the issue with all the deserved seriousness.

For the entire five days allotted the immunization exercise, most of the officials deployed to cover the exercise dutifully committed themselves to seeing that most children especially those under five were vaccinated against various childhood diseases.

Daily Trust who were on ground to cover the exercise observed that vaccinators were all over the place moving from house to house performing the national health assignment.

Impressed at the number of children reached and immunized at the end of the exercise the commissioner for Health, Dr. Isaac Babalola Owolabi declared at the end of the exercise that "it has been a grand success all over."

Dr. Owolabi, in his assessment of the week-long immunization exercise pointedly told trust that the immunization exercise was successful in virtually all the Local Government areas of Oyo State, judging by the field reports.

According to the Commissioner, who claimed to have personally monitored the exercise in some Local Government areas,

the outcome was "highly encouraging" with the target figure of 2.6million met.

His words, "We have been meeting and occasionally surpassing the target here in Oyo state," even as he commended nursing mothers all over the state for turning out in their large numbers with their wards to have them immunized.

The Commissioner who monitored the exercise alongside the State Director of the Primary Health Care (PHC) and Disease Control, Dr. Olayemisi Iyiola, explained that the effectiveness of the exercise all over the state has been gauged through even deployment of independent monitors and supervisors to assess the work of the vaccinators with a view to ensuring that each household within the community is reached.

Apart from this, he added that external monitors were given unfettered access to all the communities.

Of particular interest to the Health Commissioner were some four Local Government Areas of the State, namely Akinyele, Ibadan South West, Saki West and Surulere Local Government Areas which had been identified as the high risk Local Governments in the state as at the beginning of the year.

Speaking on the strategies put in place to tackle these difficult terrains, Owolabi revealed that a lot of logistics including extra vaccinators and independent moni-

tors as well as community and religious leaders were deployed to the local government areas, for necessary support to ensure total access and universal coverage of all children under five.

As at the end of the exercise, he said, "responses from these areas have been very good."

The only major complaint from the people, according to the commissioner, has been agitations over the frequency of the immunization exercise which they feared might have negative effect on the children.

But he was quick to state that the field workers always assure them that it would not have any negative effect on the children.

The Commissioner further explained that even though the instances of rejection were noticeable in some areas based on religious reasons, such instances were quickly resolved through the intervention of community leaders.

Oyo State Coordinator of the National Primary Health Care Development Agency, Dr. (Mrs.) Modupeola Oyesiji as well as the State Coordinator of the World Health Organization (WHO), Dr. Omolaso Omosehin were all over the place monitoring and supervising the effectiveness of the immunization exercise in the various Local Government Areas of the state, with particular focus on the high risk LGAs.

Daily Trust who visited one of the high risk areas, namely Akinyele with one of its wards,

Gbose Alawaye where most mothers brought out their wards to be vaccinated.

Team seven with its leader Adetunji Adegunde told trust that this particular ward were very cooperative during the exercise as only a handful of non compliances were reported, according to him, some fanatical religions stopped their members from receiving the vaccines, but such cases were easily resolved by prominent political persons respected in the region.

He explained that such non compliances were immediately reported to their supervisors who later revisit the houses, churches or quaranic schools as the case may be.

The Medical Officer for Health for Ibadan South West Local Government Area who doubles as the PHC Coordinator for the Council, Dr. (Mrs.) Omobola Olaniyan expressed delight that the target figure of 166,944 children in the local government area was met as at the end of the exercise.

For effectiveness in the area, she said, 12 independent supervisors from the WHO, 4 independent monitors, 66 Local Government supervisors as well as 502 vaccinators, recorders and community leaders were utilized all over the council area.

Dr. Olaniyan revealed that the only locality within the Local Government area where instances of rejection were recorded was in Foko where some nursing mothers told the vaccinators that they had been using local herbs for their babies thinking that additional immunization might have adverse effect on such babies.

But their fears were allayed with the persuasion of the field workers comprising community leaders, and they later obliged.

The PHC Coordinator also hailed the local schools and churches for their cooperation and response to the exercise.

In the Ibadan North West Local Government Area, which is one of the urban local councils of Oyo State, located in the heart of Ibadan, the target population, according to the Medical Officer of Health in charge, Dr. Monday Famakin is 74,000.

The polio and measles vaccines including BCG, DPT, etc. were distributed to the vaccinators in batches while the transit teams move from house to house, markets, and so on.

There were also health facilities which served as fixed posts and outreach centres.

Dr. Famakin maintained that there was strict supervision of the exercise in the Local Government

area by qualified health workers adding that there was no report of people deliberately wasting the vaccines to avoid being blamed for not being effective.

According to him, in cases where target was not met, special teams were sent to churches, mosques and markets, to vaccinate those who might have been missed during the course of the exercise.

He also gave kudos to the traditional rulers and social mobilization committees for creating awareness and drumming support for the programme through out the 33 Local Government areas of the state.

Dr. Famakin was especially pleased with the kind of reception they received from the nursing mothers in most of the Local Government area, since most of them were prepared to receive vaccinators as early as 8 o'clock in the morning.

Dr. Famakin however called on the federal government to embrace routine immunization as well as getting qualified manpower for the exercise, saying that immunization plus days were heavily dependent on foreign partner funds, which he said was not good for the health of the Nigerian child.

According to him, if states do not take ownership of the programme, this would spell doom for the country once the foreign counterpart redraw their support and funding.

Ibadan North Local Government Area with 12 Wards was another interesting council area in Oyo state as far as the immunization exercise was concerned.

With the target population of 231,644, every logistics was put on ground to ensure the success of the exercise.

The Medical Officer of Health, Dr. (Mrs.) Olukorede Ikwunne stated that the exercise took off smoothly and rather well especially when the commencement day, was not an Environmental Sanitation Day when human and vehicular movement was usually prohibited.

Dr. Ikwunne noted that nursing mothers at Agodi, Basorun, Bodija, Ashi, Oke Itunu as well as Sango, eagerly trooped out to present their children and wards to the vaccinators.

According to her, there were "isolated cases of rejection especially at Ago-Tapa."

But with the active involvement of traditional rulers and religious leaders, the cases were resolved while the affected nursing mothers were tutored on the benefits of the exercise.

## CITY NEWS



HOTLINES: 0803-3493-462 & 0703-8927-513  
email: citynews@dailytrust.com

## Student jailed for giving false information

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A student of Princely International University, USA E-learning centre was recently sentenced to 100 days imprisonment for giving false information to mislead a public servant as well as attempting to commit an offence.

The accused, Samuel Akuwanne of Block 1, flat 33, Abacha Barracks, Abuja, committed the offence on the March 31 and was arraigned for offences contrary to Sections 140 and 95 of the Penal Code Law.

Prosecutor Philips Akogbu told the court that on the said date, one Naomi Tawo, a female police officer on counter duty at Asokoro Police Station arrested the accused between the hours of 0600 and 1800 for deceitfully and falsely trying to smuggle bread with a telephone and charger to detainees in the cell.

He said the accused wanted to facilitate the escape of some detainees from police cell and was arrested in the process, adding that he wrote a confession statement to that effect, admitting the offence.

When the charge was read to the accused, he pleaded guilty and Magistrate Ahmed Ielah sought to know why he should not be convicted.

The accused responded that he has an aged mother to look after and begged the court to be lenient with him.

The magistrate sentenced him to 100 days imprisonment or to pay N4,000 as fine option.

# One dies, 3 injured in Abaji protest

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

ONE person died, while three others sustained serious injuries on Sunday morning during a protest by supporters of the Action Congress (AC) over the Abaji council's result announced by the Independent National Electoral Commission in the area.

City News learnt that the dead and injured were crushed by

a Volkswagen Jetta car, whose driver lost control on sighting mobile policemen shooting tear gas into the air to disperse the protesters.

An eyewitness said the three youths were among the protesters on the highway when the driver crushed them.

Confirming the incident, AC Abaji Chairman, Alhaji Mohammed Angulu Bello, lamented that three party members were

knocked down when a driver had a brake failure.

He said the victims were immediately rushed to Abaji General Hospital, where one of them died few minutes later at the hospital and the corpse taken to his relatives for burial.

Meanwhile, business/economic activities were paralyzed at the council as a result of the protest as many shops, including supermarkets, provision stores, restaurants

and chemists were closed.

Our reporter who went round the council area yesterday observed few persons moving around the town, while only few commercial cyclists operated.

At 7 to 9 pm Sunday, plain clothes detectives were drafted into Abaji town and the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Mr. Adepegba Adetoye, informed journalists that the situation has been put under control.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH



AN Action Congress member being treated in a hospital at Abaji... Saturday.

## Mother tells court of raped daughter's pregnancy

By Romoke W. Ahmad

THE mother of a teenage girl, who was allegedly raped few months ago by certain persons at Area 'A' Nyanya, Abuja, has told a magistrate court that the girl is five months pregnant.

The mother, who first reported the case to the police, said she was not aware of the rape until she discovered that her daughter was pregnant.

Prosecutor Silas Nanpan told the court that the girl's mother came to Nyanya Police Station on March 5 to report that on March 3 she discovered that her daughter is pregnant and has had sexual intercourse with one Nathaniel.

He said the incidence resulted in

pregnancy, which is now five months and three weeks.

The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge but informed the court that he will take care of the girl's pregnancy as well as take responsibility of the baby after delivery.

Our reporter gathered that the man's family intends to meet the girl's parents in order to settle the problem and finalise arrangement for her marriage to their son.

Chief Magistrate Shuaib Ahmed granted the accused bail in the sum of N300, 000 with one surety in like sum, who must be a civil servant of not below grade level 08 in the civil service.

The case was adjourned to April 4 for further hearing.

## Father, son remanded over corps members' assault

By Romoke W. Ahmad

A 51-year-old father and his 21-year-old son were on Friday arraigned before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly causing grievous hurt to two brothers, who are corps members.

The father, Ebenebe Samuel and his son, Ebenebe Ifesinachi both of Area 'D' block 2/43 Nyanya, Abuja, were accused of committing the offences on April 4.

Prosecutor Silas Nanpan

told the court said on the said date, one Ranti Bello of the same address came to Nyanya Police Station to report that the accused persons used baseball bats to hit his two brothers, Rasaki and Akeem on their heads, adding that they sustained serious injuries.

"The victims are admitted at the National Hospital, Abuja and they could not give statements as at the time the complainant reported the case to the police but during police investigation, the accused confessed

to the act," the prosecutor said.

The prosecutor said the offences are contrary to Sections 79 and 245 of the Penal Code Law.

Having listening to the charges, the accused persons pleaded not guilty, while the prosecutor asked for an adjournment for the case to be heard.

Chief Magistrate Shuaib Ahmed ordered that the accused persons be remanded in prisons custody and adjourned the case to April 19 for hearing.

## Police arrest 20 over Abaji's protest

By Misbahu Bashir & Ogechi Ohalee

THE police in Abuja have arrested 20 persons for blocking the Abuja-Lokoja highway at Abaji over results released by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) on the council polls held in the area.

FCT Police Spokesman, Mr Jimoh Moshood, a superintendent, said the suspects were arrested after Action Congress (AC) supporters in Abaji town, prevented vehicles from moving on the Abuja-Lokoja road.

He said the police swiftly intervened and cleared the road, adding that the FCT Police Commissioner, John Haruna, has ordered an investigation into the matter.

Mr Jimoh advised party supporters not to violate the law but seek redress in a law court.

In another development, the Abaji Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chairman, Alhaji Idris Gana, has called on members of the AC in the council to produce evidence that last Saturday's election was rigged.

He said each of the five political parties that contested for the election had delegates and agents that monitored polling units with security men as well as electoral observers.

The chairman said the process adopted made the election transparent in order to make each party to be well represented and fully satisfied with the outcome of the election.

"The PDP scored 6,130 votes and was declared winner for scoring the highest votes, of which the whole political observers that came from Garki witnessed," he said.

The council chairman described the AC's protest as baseless, adding that their leaders mislead their youths to go on rampage at the highway, in which a truck lost control and killed one of them, while two others seriously injured."

He said the PDP won eight councillor seats, while AC won only two councillor seats and praised INEC for ensuring a level playing ground.

# Bricklayers jailed for assaulting woman

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

AN Abuja magistrate court Friday jailed two bricklayers for assaulting and inflicting injuries on one Habiba Siama without provocation.

Umaru Adamu and Ali Abubakar, both 27 years old and resident of NEPA Quarters, Jayi District, Abuja, assaulted the woman on April 8.

Prosecutor Alhassan Abdul had earlier told the court that on April 8, Habiba Siama of NEPA Quarters, Jayi District, Abuja, complained to the police that the accused persons jointly assaulted her.

"The accused persons inflicted injuries on the complainant's neck, left eye and other parts of her body and committed offences punishable under Sections 79 and

265 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor said.

He further stated that after the assault, the complainant discovered that her cell phones valued at N7,500 and N13,000 were missing, adding that during police investigations, the accused persons confessed to the offences.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they pleaded guilty and begged the court for

mercy, promising not to commit any crime again.

Following their guilty pleas, the prosecutor asked the court to try the accused persons summarily under Section 157 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

In her ruling, Magistrate Hadiza Dodo convicted the accused persons and sentenced each of them to 30 days imprisonment or to pay N2,000 as fine.

PIC: ABUBAKAR SADIQ ISAH



MOBILE policemen clearing the Abuja-Lokoja road on Saturday.

## Vigilantes to visit new FCT minister

By Abubakar Yakubu

SENIOR officials of the Vigilante Group of Nigeria (VGN) will soon visit the new minister of the Federal Capital Territory to intimate him of their operations in rural community.

This was disclosed at the weekend by the group's national Public Relations Officer, Alhaji Aminu Abubakar Sule, who said vigilantes have been complimenting as well as supplementing the efforts

of the police in rural areas.

The spokesman said vigilantes recently apprehended two of the robbers that attacked a former governor of Kano State, which led to his death.

"The suspects were immediately handed over to the police that led to the arrest of others," he disclosed.

He called on government to formalise the operation of the group, adding that in advanced countries informal policing activities are recognised.

## NCWD donates equipment to Abuja centres

By Akor Ojoma

THE National Centre for Women Development (NCWD) Friday donated various equipment to Women Development Centres in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) in order to activate centres and empower womenfolk.

Equipment donated were meant for dress making (sewing and knitting), catering, hair dressing, bead making and power generating sets.

While presenting the equipment, Director-General of the centre, Hajiya Fatima Larai Hassan, said workshops have earlier been held to develop the capacities of heads of departments, women development officers, heads of selected Women Development Centres (WDCs) and instructors of such centres.

She said the distribution of training equipment to the WDCs is the final activity in the activation process.

Fatima called on the recipi-

ents to judiciously utilize the equipment so that women in the communities where they are located could benefit from the trainings to be conducted at the centres.

Secretary of the Social Development Secretariat of the FCT Administration, Hajiya Habiba Kalgo, who received the equipment on behalf of the WDCs, thanked the centre for all its efforts in empowering women and promised to use the equipment judiciously.

# JOB VACANCIES



Since 1971, Family Health International (FHI) has been at the forefront of public health research and intervention programs in the developing countries. In collaboration with national governments, local communities and leading research institutions, FHI delivers services and conducts research in HIV/AIDS, other infectious diseases and reproductive health to improve the lives and well-being of some of the world's most vulnerable populations. In Nigeria, FHI is engaged in providing public health services and implementing programs in HIV/AIDS, TB, reproductive health, malaria, and health systems strengthening in partnership with the Government of Nigeria. To strengthen our operations in the country, we are seeking qualified candidates for the following positions:

Position title	No. Required	Location(s)
<b>Medical Services Department</b>		
Clinical Services Officer	1	Edo Zone
<b>Monitoring and Evaluation Department</b>		
Monitoring and Evaluation Officer (Health Informatics)	1	Country Office Abuja
<b>Communications and Knowledge Management Department</b>		
Strategic Behavior Communication Officer	1	Sokoto Zone

#### Clinical Services Officer

With the Senior Medical Services Officer, the Clinical Services Officer will provide technical and programmatic support to implement high quality care and support activities with primary focus on clinical management of HIV/AIDS and prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV/AIDS (PMTCT) at the zonal and state levels.

#### Key Responsibilities

- Provide day to day technical and programmatic support related to clinical management of HIV/AIDS at the facility level, guided by strategies and approaches related to the implementation programs
- With the Senior Medical Service Officer, coordinate the implementation of components related to clinical management of HIV/AIDS and PMTCT at the facility level
- Provide technical assistance in HIV/AIDS clinical management capacity building and PMTCT at the facility level
- Contribute to the development of lessons learned from programs and projects related to clinical management of HIV/AIDS and PMTCT and apply these lessons to modify existing programs and improve the design of new programs
- Assist in strengthening a system of reporting on program progress against stated objectives and monitoring and evaluation frameworks
- Contribute to the development of program strategies, sub-project documents, work plans and budgets
- Assist in the provision of programmatic assistance to local partners in programming HIV/AIDS/STI activities
- Remain informed on current programs in the field of clinical management of HIV/AIDS and related development by reviewing current literature and staying alert to any implication of such experience and research to project implementation

#### Minimum Requirements

- MBBS/MD with 1-3 years experience in clinical care
- Sound understanding of HIV/AIDS with provision of antiretroviral therapy in resource-constrained settings
- 3-5 years experience following postgraduate degree in public health is desirable
- Familiarity with the Nigerian public sector health system, NGOs and CBOs will be an advantage

#### Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Health Informatics

The Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Health Informatics, under the supervision of the Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer Health Informatics and the Associate Director M&E, will assist in the development, implementation, supervision and data use of all FHI's electronic information systems at the facility, zonal and country office levels.

#### Electronic Information System Tool Development and Implementation

- Help provide technical support for the design and content development for electronic information systems (LAMIS, KidMAP, referral database, PDA applications and any other FHI software or database tools) used for M&E
- Assist the software programming team in developing actual logic statements for the coding of M&E indicators and software business rules where necessary
- Ensure that all software development is done according to already established standards and procedures
- Ensure that all software and database tools developed meet the intended reporting and data output requirements for both internal use and donors/GoN
- Conduct assessments of health informatics environments, synthesize pertinent information, identify implications for planning and development, and provide recommendations to FHI management
- Coordinate and supervise the deployment of the developed M&E software and database tools to new sites as identified by FHI management
- Develop standard operating procedures, user manuals and data management procedure documents for all of FHI's electronic information systems
- Ensure proper coordination of electronic information systems planning, development and implementation between the Ministry of Health departments, units and appropriate external organizations
- Prepare timely progress and periodic reports on information systems tool development and implementation

#### Data Use: Analysis and Reporting

- Analyze all data collected in FHI's electronic information systems for M&E and provide feedback in the form of data analysis meetings, abstracts, technical reports and peer-reviewed journal articles in collaboration with M&E Department staff as well as with staff of other departments

#### Minimum Requirements

- MD with advanced degree in public health, epidemiology, health information management or medicine (strong background in epidemiology, biostatistics or M&E)
- 3-5 years experience in HIV/AIDS and/or TB programs in developing countries
- Experience working at the national level on health programs
- Knowledge and experience with data collection and utilization
- Ability to analyze and assess needs related to health information systems and training
- High attention to detail
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Experience working with local partners, including local NGOs and CBOs and knowledge of the local context
- Familiarity with USAID programs is preferred

#### Strategic Behavior Communication Officer

Under the direction of the Senior Program Officer (SPO)/Senior Strategic Behavior Communication Advisor, the SBC Officer will coordinate all Strategic Behavior and Corporate Communications (SB&CC) activities of the zonal office with particular emphasis on abstinence/be faithful/other prevention and corporate image making activities.

#### Key Responsibilities

- Work with the Senior Strategic Behavior Communication Advisor (SBCA) to coordinate the development of SBC/CC/IEC/media materials for the zonal program
- Work closely with local implementing agencies to design and deliver communications interventions that facilitate behavior change amongst target groups across focal states
- Provide technical assistance to sub-projects on their strategic behavior and corporate communications activities
- Supervise the production of print and electronic media materials with all FHI partners at the zonal level
- Facilitate SBC and corporate communication-related capacity building activities at the zonal level by working with the SPO/SSBCA to coordinate appropriate SBC technical assistance for zonal program activities, NGOs and other zonal allies
- Coordinate the development of communications materials and participate in their review and comment on print and electronic media materials including scripts, posters, leaflets, and video/audio recordings
- Work with relevant stakeholders in HIV/AIDS/STI/TB prevention, care, support and treatment by working towards increasing knowledge and creating demand for HIV counseling and testing, treatment services and products using different activities and strategies

#### Minimum Requirements

- Bachelors degree or higher diploma in health communication/promotion, mass communication, social work, public relations, advertising, media, broadcasting, English, journalism, languages and linguistics or behavioral science with demonstrated ability to manage SBC activities in a large, complex health-related project
- Or general arts, public health, management, marketing, environmental, natural or social sciences with at least 3 years experience in health communication/promotion, public relations, journalism, advertising, media, broadcasting or marketing in a similar setting
- At least 5 years post-NYSC work experience
- A masters degree with 3 years experience will be considered
- Professional membership of relevant professional bodies such as APCON, NIPR and NIM will be an advantage

#### Method of Application

Interested candidates should forward their suitability statement (application) and resume (CV) as a single MS Word document within 10 days from the date of this publication to:

[Medservicesjobs@ghain.org](mailto:Medservicesjobs@ghain.org) for Medical Services Department vacancy  
[MandEjobs@ghain.org](mailto:MandEjobs@ghain.org) for Monitoring and Evaluation Department vacancy  
[Commsjobs@ghain.org](mailto:Commsjobs@ghain.org) for Communication and Knowledge Management Department vacancy

Only applications sent electronically (i.e. by e-mail) with the job title and location clearly indicated as the subject of the mail will be considered, and only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Please do NOT send more than one application. Failure to follow these instructions will lead to automatic disqualification.

**DISCLAIMER:** Family Health International (FHI) does not test/interview candidates for a fee and all our tests/interviews are conducted in the country office Abuja or our zonal offices.



## Nigerian Institution of Civil Engineers

(A Division of Nigerian Society of Engineers)

in collaboration with

 **Techgrade Consulting**

Presents A 3-Day Workshop on

# MANAGING CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTS

### ABOUT THE WORKSHOP

Management of civil engineering contracts involves pre-contract and post-contract activities required to ensure that construction and maintenance contracts run smoothly without being bedeviled by claims, cost overruns, disputes, shoddy works, etc. Through effective contract management, clients, contractors and consultants will clearly understand their rights, responsibilities and obligations and which will enable them to be proactive in playing their respective roles in the planning and execution of the contract. The result will then be a successful project!

This practical workshop has been packaged to assist clients, contractors and consultants involved in all types of construction and maintenance projects to understand their roles in managing the contracts and the do's and don'ts of good contract management. This will enable them to run contracts successfully and avoid incidents of cost overrun, poor quality, disputes, delays, abandonment and other contractual relationship killers.

### TOPICS OF TOPICS

1. Understanding FIDIC and FMW Conditions of Contract
2. Estimating and Tendering for Civil Engineering Contracts
3. Risks to Clients and Contractors and How to Identify & Manage them
4. Preventing and Managing Variations in Civil Engineering Contracts
5. Main Causes of Claims in Civil Engineering Contracts
6. Causes of Failed Construction Contracts - Client's Perspective
7. Causes of Failed Construction Contracts - Contractor's Perspective
8. Methods of Managing Disputes in Civil Engineering Contracts
9. Management of Contracts for Road Construction and Maintenance
10. Management of Contracts for Water and Sanitation Projects
11. Planning and Managing Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Contracts

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

- Civil Engineers and related professionals in government's MDA's
- Contractors
- Consultants
- Directors of Works/Physical Planning
- Academic Staff in civil engineering related disciplines
- etc.

### FACILITATORS

Engr Dr Obi Daramola, Engr Prof J O Aribisala,  
Engr Barr Tope Oribuyaku, Engr Gabriel Ojo,  
Engr Dr T M Olatunji, Dr O S Oyediran and Engr P O Ale.

**DATE:** Wed. 21<sup>st</sup> - Fri. 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2010

**VENUE:** Royal Birds Motel, Ijapo Estate, Akure

**FEE:** N50,000 for NICE/NSE Members, N52,000 for others

For registration, please contact: **08033469413, 08035674831,**  
**08033019241, 08054890243, 08034885989**  
or e-mail: **icenigerian@yahoo.com, or techgradecon@yahoo.com**

# Man accused of impersonating NFA, FIFA officials

By Romoke W. Ahmad & Bunmi Omolehin

A 45-year-old man, Prince Bani Yakubu, was last week arraigned before an Abuja Upper Area Court for allegedly impersonating NFA and FIFA officials.

Prosecutor Sani Yakubu informed the court that one Bilyaminu Adolore and 14 others, who are members of the Young Footballer Club reported to the police criminal investigation bureau office in Abuja that sometimes in 2005 to 2006, the accused person

falsely impersonated NFA and FIFA officials.

He said the accused posed as a representative of some foreign football bodies in Nigeria and collected the sum of N250,000 as well as N500,000 from each of the club members that wanted to travel to foreign countries for gainful football engagements.

The complainant said the accused collected the club members' money and gave them fake visas and other travelling documents, adding that they later discovered they were duped of about N4.5 mil-

lion, which the accused turned to his own private use.

He said the accused committed offences contrary to Sections 179, 324 and 364 of the Panel Code Law.

The accused person pleaded not guilty to the charges and requested for bail, which was objected to by the prosecutor.

Presiding Judge, Umar Kagarko, ordered that the accused be remanded in police custody until his bail application is heard on April 12.

The case was adjourned to May 25 for hearing.

# Two charged over N2.2m fraud

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

THE police last week arraigned a man and a woman before an Abuja magistrate court for allegedly defrauding one Mr. Sola Obatoki of N2.2 million.

Amos Aigbuko of 1st Avenue Efab Estate, Abuja and Miss. Divine Agbukor of No E 93, Apo Resettlement Quarters, Abuja, were accused of jointly collecting the money in 2009.

Police prosecutor Yusuf Auta, an assistant superintendent, told the court that on October 22, 2009, one Barrister Adoga Ukong, on behalf of his client (Mr. Sola Obatoki),

petitioned the Assistant Inspector-General of Police (AIG), Zone 7, Abuja, over the incident.

"The accused collaborated with other persons, namely, Hamzat Jubril, Aku Auguhe and Adams Aloga Isa (who are at large) and they paraded themselves as land vendors within the FCT," the prosecutor said.

According to him, N2.2 million was collected from the complainant under false pretence of selling a plot of land located at Apo to him and the land documents presented were later discovered to be faked.

He said the offences committed are punishable under Sections 79,

312 and 322 of the Penal Code Law.

When the charges were read to the accused persons, they denied them and their counsel, A.S. Eluko, made an oral application for their bail.

Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N200,000 with a reliable surety in like sum.

He also ruled that the surety must be a civil servant of not below grade level 12 and must swear to an affidavit to produce the accused in court on the adjourned date.

The case was adjourned to May 5 for further mention.

# Sales boys deny stealing mistress' goods

By Hussein Yahaya & Ibraheem A. Fatai

FIVE sales boys recently in court denied stealing goods belonging to their mistress, Mrs. T.O. Akinlawon.

Idris George, Emmanuel Ojee, Abdulwasii Salami, Olalekan Abehera and Andrew Israel were accused of committing the offence on March 30.

Prosecutor Emmanuel Hosseini had earlier told the court that on March 30, Mrs. T.O. Akinlawon of

Wuse 2, Abuja, reported to the police that the accused persons stole different items from her supermarket.

"The accused persons, all staff of the supermarket, stole various items valued at N630,000 and committed an offence punishable under Section 289 of the Penal Code Law," the prosecutor said.

He narrated further that the accused persons conspired with the manager of the supermarket, who is at large, to commit the crime.

When the charge was read to the accused persons, they pleaded not guilty and their leading counsel, N.E.O. Ngene, applied for their bail, which was objected to by the prosecutor.

Chief Magistrate Ademuyiwa Oyeyipo granted each of the accused persons bail in the sum of N100,000 with a reasonable surety in like sum, who must reside within the court's jurisdiction.

The case was adjourned to May 4 for hearing.



**Invitation for Bids (IFB)**

**BAUCHI STATE COMMUNITY BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Credit number: 3654UNI

IFB Title: Procurement of Computers and Accessories

IFB Number: BS/CBUDP/NCB/10/2

Issuance Date: APRIL 13TH, 2010

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received credit from the International

Development Association toward the cost of NIGERIA COMMUNITY BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for Procurement of Computers and Accessories - BS/CBUDP/NCB/10/1

2 The BAUCHI STATE COMMUNITY BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of the following:

Lot No.	Description of Goods	Quantity	DELIVERY LOCATION
Lot 1	Procurement of Computers and Accessories	Desktop Computers =46, UPS = 46, Surge Protectors = 46, LaserJet Printers =31, Laptop Computers=4	PIU Secretariat, Adjacent to UNICEF Zonal Office, BSUDB Office Complex, No.10 Mohammed Bello Kirfi Road, Bauchi, Nigeria, and other locations within Bauchi Metropolis.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and

IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from BAUCHI STATE COMMUNITY BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, at the address given below and inspect the Bidding Documents from 11:00am to 4:00pm Mondays to Thursdays, except on public holidays.

5. Qualifications requirements include: Evidence of previous Supply (Sale) of Similar Goods Proposed for the last Five (5) years. Last Three (3) years Audited Financial Statement to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and Adequate working capital.

A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall not be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

6. A complete set of Bidding Documents in English language may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Fifteen Thousand Naira (N15,000.00) Only. The method of payment will be Cash or Bank Draft in Favour of BAUCHI STATE COMMUNITY BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT. The Bidding Documents will be collected by the representative of the Bidder or send by courier services on request.

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 10:30 a.m on MAY 11TH

2010. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend in person at the address below at 10:30 a.m on MAY 11TH 2010. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security or Certified Bank Draft of at least 2% of bid price or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.

8. The address (es) referred to above is (are):  
Attn: Engr. Jibrin Isa Garba  
Project Coordinator,  
BAUCHI STATE COMMUNITY BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT  
PIU Secretariat,  
Adjacent to LMCEF Zonal Office,  
BSUDB Office Complex,  
No. 10 Mohammed Bello Kirfi Road,  
Bauchi, Nigeria  
E-mail: [bauchincbudp@yahoo.com](mailto:bauchincbudp@yahoo.com)



**Invitation for Bids (IFB)**

**BAUCHI STATE COMMUNITY BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT**

Credit/Number: 3654UNI

IFB Title: Procurement of Office and Classroom Furniture

IFB Number: B&/CBUDP/NCB/10/1

Issuance Date: APRIL 13TH, 2010

1. The Federal Government of Nigeria has received credit from the International Development Association toward the cost of NIGERIA COMMUNITY BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, and it is intend to apply part of the proceeds of this credit to payments under the Contract for Procurement of Office and Classroom Furniture BS/CBUDP/NCB/10/1

2 The BAUCHI STATE COMMUNITY BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT now invites sealed bids from eligible and qualified bidders for the Procurement of the following:

Lot No	Description of Goods	Quantity	DELIVERY LOCATION
Lot1	Procurement of Office and Classroom Furniture	Assorted	PIU Secretariat, Adjacent to UNICEF Zonal Office, BSUDB Office Complex, No.10 Mohammed Bello Kirfi Road, Bauchi, Nigeria, and other locations within Bauchi Metropolis.

3. Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding (NCB) procedures specified in the World Bank's Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, and is open to all bidders from Eligible Source Countries as defined in the Guidelines.

4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from BAUCHI STATE COMMUNITY BASED URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROJECT, at the address given below and inspect the Bidding Documents from 11:00am to 4:00pm Mondays to Thursdays, except on public holidays.

5. Qualifications requirements include: Evidence of previous Supply (Sale) of Similar Goods Proposed for the last Five (5) years.

Last Three (3) years Audited Financial Statement to demonstrate the financial capability of the Bidder in terms of Profitability and Adequate working capital.

A margin of preference for certain goods manufactured domestically shall not be applied. Additional details are provided in the Bidding Documents.

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Project Coordinator,  
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PIU Secretariat,  
Adjacent to UMCEF Zonal Office,  
BSUDB Office Complex,  
No. 10 Mohammed Bello Kirfi Road,  
Bauchi, Nigeria  
E-mail: [bauchincbudp@yahoo.com](mailto:bauchincbudp@yahoo.com)

## Inside Politics

# Plateau: Sango's guber campaign begins

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

FORMER minister of sports Chief Damishi Sango, whose ambition to govern Plateau State dates back to 2003, has revived his campaign machinery set for the 2011 gubernatorial race.

The campaign, which kicked off via text

messages last week, is being coordinated by former student union leader Comrade Ashu Yakubu.

Yakubu, when contacted, said youths in the state met and discussed the state's problems and resolved that it would not be in the interest of peace to allow the present leadership to remain in office after 2011.

He said the state needed Sango to steer its affairs so as to achieve the desired changes.

Yakubu said the youths were planning a meeting with PDP national chairman Vincent Ogbulafor to impress it upon him on the need to have the right governorship candidate, so that the party does not waste resources on the "wrong candidate."

He said the campaign group has so far sent more than 2,000 text messages to people, in a bid to convince them on the desirability of having Sango as the next governor of the state.

The former minister did not answer calls made to seek for his comments on the development.



GOVERNOR Muazu Aliyu with Senator Zaynab Kure during the endorsement of the governor for second term by a group of Niger State women in Minna yesterday. With them (middle) is wife of the governor, Hajiya Jummai Aliyu.

## 'ANPP happy with Albishir's defection'

From Lawan Danjuma Adamu, Kano

THE All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) is happy with last week's exit of its Yobe governorship hopeful Usman Albishir, a special adviser to Governor Ibrahim Gaidam, Lawal Shetima Ali, has said.

Speaking with newsmen in Kano, Ali said

Albishir's defection to PDP would "save the party further embarrassment".

Ali said the party has heaved a sigh of relief having "off-loaded part of its burden in the exit of Senator Usman Albishir," who he said had remained an unhappy person since he lost his case at the Supreme Court in February.

He said since the case was decided in favour of the governor, "the spirit of Senator Usman Albishir has left ANPP; therefore it is not surprising that he has decamped to the rival PDP in the state."

"I think it would be better for him to leave the scene completely because I am sure what pushed him out of ANPP will still make

him leave PDP," he said.

He said Albishir was leaving the party alone as his supporters had long pledged their loyalty and commitment to Gaidam's government.

The special adviser also said Albishir's exit would now reinforce unity in the Yobe chapter of the ANPP and position the party for the 2011 race.

## Nasarawa gets first female guber aspirant

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

HAIJIYA Rekiya Shuaibu Mohammed has joined the 2011 governorship race in Nasarawa State on the platform of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), the first woman to do so since the state was created 14 years ago.

Hajiya Rekiya, formerly a PDP woman leader for the North Central, said she was standing for governor to engender development and to close the gap in gender representation in the state.

She was a supporter for Governor Aliyu Doma until he became governor in 2007, and has since then become an opposition politician within the ranks of the ruling party in the state.

Hajiya Rekiya told *Daily Trust* that she was dissatisfied with Doma's administration, alleging "non performance, lack of vision, insensitivity to the plight of Nasarawa people, bad governance and all that."

She said her aspiration for the governorship was borne out of the desire to save the state from what she called "the grip of non performance, promising she will build on the foundation laid by the earlier administrations."

She said women worked for Doma's emergence as governor "with nothing to show for our pains and sweat in this administration."

"It is sad and we cannot fold our arms and watch. It is why I decided to come out to save Nasarawa people from this insensitivity," she added.

## Atiku's return to PDP is ok, says Niger gov

From Nahimah Ajikanle Nurudeen, Lagos

NIGER State Governor Muazu Babangida Aliyu on Sunday said that the return of former Vice President Atiku Abubakar to the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was acceptable.

Aliyu said this while speaking with journalists at the Murtala Muhammed Airport in Lagos on his way to Minna.

The former vice president last week announced his decision to return to the PDP from the Action Con-

gress (AC), and that most of his supporters were going along with him.

"Now that the law allows for people to move from one political party to the other; if anybody feels he can go to a particular place, fine," Aliyu said.

The governor said Atiku's return to the PDP would strengthen the party.

Until the National Assembly made a legislation to outlaw defections from one party to the other, there was nothing wrong for politicians to switch parties, he added.

## Civil society groups flay U.S. over Iwu

By Abbas Jimoh

A coalition of 41 civil society groups from the North on Sunday condemned the U.S. for saying chairman of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Prof Maurice Iwu should not be reappointed for another term.

The groups described the call as another form of neo-colonialism, saying Nigeria as a sovereignty country should be allowed to decide its affairs.

Chairman of Northern Patriotic Front (NPF), Alhaji Ali Abacha, who presented the position of the groups to newsmen

in Abuja, said Nigeria reserved the right to accept or reject such advice.

"It is in view of this sovereignty and the right to self determination that we, the 41 coalition of civil society groups condemn, in very strong term, the 'Iwu must go' statement credited to Johnnie Carson, a senior U.S. official.

"It is wrong for U.S. to be interfering in the internal affairs of Nigeria, Mr. Carson's open affront to Nigeria's sovereignty is condemnable, the U.S. authority should stop him and apologise to Nigerians," Abacha said.

## 'Sidi still Sokoto CNPP chairman'

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

CHAIRMAN of the Conference of Nigeria Political Parties (CNPP) Alhaji Balarabe Musa said yesterday Alhaji Sidi Abba remained chairman of the conference in Sokoto State despite his purported removal by some leaders.

Chairman of the Alliance for Democracy (AD) in the state, who is also CNPP treasurer, Alhaji Mujitaba Aminu, earlier told the BBC Hausa that Sidi had been removed as chairman over allegations of misconduct and inclusion of

He said Sidi had been replaced with Ahmad Chiroma Tangaza, after a meeting of the state leadership and that the CNPP national leadership endorsed the actions.

But reacting to these, CNPP chairman Balarabe Musa said in an interview with the BBC Hausa that the CNPP in Sokoto has been under the Sidi's leadership and there was no correspondence with the national leadership on his removal.

## SPORT

Adebayor retires  
from international  
football

Page 56



# We'll neutralise Messi at World Cup –Ogunjobi

By Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

THE Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) has started looking for an antidote to neutralize the attacking prowess of Argentine super star, Lionel Messi, when the Super Eagles confront the South American at the World Cup finals on June 12.

The NFF Chairman of Technical Committee, Chief Taiwo Ogunjobi told Trustsports that Lars Lagerback has been mandated to come out with a formula that will ensure that the World Footballer of the Year is kept at bay during the tie.

"Messi is in fantastic form at the moment and we shall make sure that with checkmate him so that he does not disgraced us at the competition," he explained

"I believe Lagerback is up to the task and will sure deliver at the World Cup," he added.

He said that the world has seen a different Messi from the one seen at Holland during the FIFA U-20 World Cup and at the Beijing Olympics.

Ogunjobi disclosed that coach has promised to work on the team when they go into close camping with a month to the World Cup.

"We at the NFF will ensure that he get all the necessary tools he needs to work with so that there won't be any room for complain," he quipped.

The former Shooting Stars boss said that the NFF would not meddle in the selection of players by Lagerback.

"He will be free to pick and decide on those he feels merits a shirt at the competition," he added.

He assured that a number of warm up matches had been lined up for the team to keep the players busy and in form before the World Cup. "I am assuring you that we will not disappoint Nigerians," he concluded.



FILE photo: Argentine star Lionel Messi, left, challenged by Olympic Eagles midfielder Sani Kaita during the final match of the Beijing Olympic soccer tournament. The NFF has started searching for ways to neutralise the Barcelona striker.

## Ndanusa is best man for NOC job –Lawson

By Adeolu Johnson, Lagos

A former sports administrator, Chief Folarin Lawson, has described the immediate past chairman of the National Sports Commission, Engineer, Sani Ndanusa, as the best man for the Nigeria Olympic Commission (NOC) job.

Lawson said Ndanusa being a former minister who has been to many international sports events has what it takes to oversee the affairs of NOC and as such should be allowed to bring his wealth of experience to the body.

Chief Lawson also said that Ndanusa being a former minister stands a chance of liaising with

the new Sports Minister, Ibrahim Isa Bio, to work out a formula through which the NOC could become more vibrant.

He admonished those who accused Ndanusa of planning to use his position as a Minister to install himself as the NOC boss to do away with sentiments and deal with facts by stop maligning his personality.

The Abeokuta high Chief challenged the moral right the outgoing NOC President Gumel has to contest for a third term when in the real sense of it he has become a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Treasurer of ANOCA.

He said it was the same Ndanusa that supported him to get these positions while in office

as the Sports Minister.

He disclosed that Ndanusa who has been in Nigeria Tennis Federation and also an eminent member of the Confederation of African Tennis (CAT) for over 10 years is more than qualified to vie for the position.

The NOC election is tentatively fixed for May 4.

## ADAMAWA STATE COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (AD-CSDA)



### EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



The Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria has received a credit/loan from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the Community and Social Development Project (CSDP). The objective of the CSDP is to increase access of people (in rural communities) in the state to improved social and natural resource infrastructure services in a sustainable manner through the provision of grant support to communities. The project will be implemented over a five year period. It is intended that part of the proceeds of the Credit will be applied to eligible payments for services of the following in the Adamawa State Community and Social Development Agency:

(1) **Assistant Project Accountant**

**Responsibilities**

- Assist in preparing budget and work plan for the SA
- Assist to maintain the SA assets database
- Assist to prepare monthly/quarterly reports in accordance with accounting reporting requirements
- Manage and control of inventory and stores of the Agency

**Qualification and Experience:** A University degree or HND in Accounting or related field with at least five years post qualification experience, membership of professional association such as ANAN, ICAN, ACCA and knowledge of computer based accounting packages and experience in donor-funded or rural development project is an added advantage. Computer literacy is compulsory.

(2) **Internal Auditor**

**Responsibilities**

- Ensure compliance of the agency to laid down financial and administrative guidelines and procedures.
- Develop and monitor the implementation of annual audit plans of SA.
- Liaise with the finance and administration manager to ensure that audit (internal and external) recommendations are complied with.
- Ensure that safeguard procedures for the prevention of financial mis-management

**Qualification and Experience:** At least University degree or HND in Accounting or related field with at least five years post qualification experience, membership of professional association such as ANAN, ICAN, ACCA and a very good knowledge of computer based accounting packages is essential and experience in a donor-funded or rural development project audit will be an added advantage. Computer literacy is compulsory.

(3) **Secretary to General Manager**

**Responsibilities**

- Support the General Manager as Confidential Secretary;
- Provide secretarial assistance e.g prepare all letters, memoranda and any requisite document for the GM
- Organize itineraries, meetings and related schedules
- Maintain adequate filing system for mails and correspondences of the GM
- Ensure the safety of all facilities, documents etc in the GM's office.

**Qualification and Experience:** A University degree or HND in Secretarial Administration, with at least seven years post qualification experience, computer skills in presentations, internet and Microsoft packages is compulsory. Experience in donor-funded or rural development project will be an added advantage. He/she should have very good inter personal skills as compulsory in addition to having good command of English both in written and oral.

(4) **Account Clerks (2)**

**Responsibilities**

- Assist in keeping of records and petty cash and other financial matters that will be assigned to him or her from time to time

**Qualification and Experience:** A Diploma in Accounting with at least two years post qualification experience. Knowledge of computer packages is an advantage.

(5) **Office Assistant (3)**

**Responsibilities**

- Perform all clerical activities of the SAs as may be assigned by the GM

**Qualification and Experience:** Candidate must at least possess a SSC/WASC with English at credit level. Working knowledge of computer and office management will be an added advantage.

(6) **Motor Driver Mechanic (6)**

**Responsibilities**

- Drive personnel and move goods/people between and within communities and within and outside the state.
- Ensure maintenance and safety of the vehicles

**Qualification and Experience:** Candidates should possess at least, primary or SSCE/WASC or Diploma in automobile engineering. They must also have practical Knowledge of the traffic codes and should be Driver/Mechanic with driver's licence group C, D or E and a good driving experience of not less than six years, accident free, possession of driver/ Mechanic trade test II and is an added advantage.

(8) **Dispatch Rider:**

**Responsibilities**

- Carrying and delivering letters, articles and messages;
- Performing general:
- Assisting in carrying out clerical activities;
- Any other duties to be assigned by the SA.

**Qualification and Experience:** Candidate must possess JSSC/SSC/WASC or their equivalent.

A. The Adamawa State Community and Social Development Agency requests for ten (10) copies of Curriculum Vitae from eligible/interested applicants for the above positions. The remuneration is attractive and comparable to what is obtained in the private sectors.

B. All applications must be addressed and delivered to:

**The General Manager,  
Adamawa State Community and Social Development Agency,  
No. 57, Atiku Abubakar Road, PMB 2110, Yola,  
Adamawa State - Nigeria.**

The applications should be submitted in ten (10) copies to the above mentioned address not later than two (2) weeks from the date of this advertisement. Applicants are expected to clearly mark on the envelope "EXPRESSION OF INTEREST" for the post of .....

C. Interested applicants may obtain further information from the office of the General Manager, Adamawa State Community and Social Development Agency located at the above mentioned address.

SIGNED  
GENERAL MANAGER



## BORNO STATE GOVERNMENT MINISTRY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT & CHIEFTAINCY AFFAIRS

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

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

#### TENDER DOCUMENTS

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

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

#### TENDER CLOSING DATE

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

#### TENDER OPENING:

All Contractors/Suppliers that have submitted their bidding documents should come for the opening at the office of the Permanent Secretary on 13<sup>th</sup> April, 2010 by 2:00pm prompt.

Signed:

**Hajiya Yabawa Lawan Wabi** mni  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy  
Affairs,  
Maiduguri, Borno State.

# NPL election crisis and FIFA's intervention

By Orkula Shaagee

WORLD football governing body, FIFA has waded into the protracted wrangling between the Nigeria Premier League (NPL) and some members of the Nigerian football family over their disqualification from contesting election into the NPL board.

FIFA in a memo to the Nigeria Football Federation dated April 1 and signed by its Secretary General, Jerome Valcke empowered the NFF to sanction any member that refuses to settle disagreements out of court.

The memo followed to an earlier letter to it by the Nigeria Football Federation dated March 23, 2010.

The memo addressed to NFF General Secretary Bolaji Ojo-Oba reads in parts: "As you are aware, according to FIFA Statutes any recourse to ordinary courts of law is prohibited (art 64, par. 2 of the FIFA Statutes) and that FIFA member associations must ensure that their own members comply with the Statutes (art. 13, par. 1 (d) of the FIFA Statutes. As a consequence, we request the Nigeria Football Federation (NFF) to ask for immediate withdrawal of the claims and in case of non compliance by claimants, to take sanctions against them.

"We remind you that if the NFF does not comply, FIFA could have act according to art. 13, part. 2 of the FIFA Statutes which states that violation of obligations by any member may lead to sanctions.

"We hope that the NFF will be able to solve the problem rapidly and we thank you to keep us



SANI Lulu, NFF boss

informed about the development of the situation".

Moment after receiving the memo via fax, the NFF set machineries in motion, by first inviting Nnaji to a meeting of its disciplinary committee in Abuja, after which the former NPL board member was sanctioned.

The Federation announced in a statement after the meeting, which Nnaji failed to attend that he (Nnaji) is suspended from all football matters in this country indefinitely.

And following his refusal to

appear before the NFF Disciplinary Committee on Tuesday, April 6, the NFF decided to take further action and ban the former NPL Board Member.

Before the FIFA directive, Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Premier League, Al-Hassan Saleh Yakmut told reporters in Abuja that urged those that went to court to withdraw their cases or face sanctions according to NPL, NFF, WAFU, CAF and FIFA statutes.

Similarly, 24 hours before the NFF directive, a Federal High Court

in Enugu struck out the case brought before it by Barrister Ray Nnaji.

Justice Kafarati declared that the case brought before his court was purely football matter and therefore should not have come before him at all, as the litigant ought to have employed internal dispute resolution mechanism of the Nigeria Football Federation and the Nigeria Premier League.

Nnaji had gone to court challenging his disqualification from the election of the Nigeria Premier League. Eventually, he was found to have submitted his form late and also failed to get a second endorsement for his candidature, which was prescribed in the electoral guidelines.

There are strict regulations in FIFA, CAF, WAFU, NFF and other football Statutes that disputes within the football family are to be resolved using internal dispute resolution mechanism, and not to be taken to ordinary court of law.

The Nigeria Football Federation was represented at the court by Barristers A. U. Mustapha and Okey Obi while Ray Nnaji represented himself.

As it is, aggrieved members of the football family have no option that to tow the part of resolving their wrangling within the football family without seeking the third party to settle them.

Many people are of the opinion that the FIFA and the Enugu Federal High Court decisions have further empowered those at the Glass House to stamp their authority.

How the wrangling would affect the football administration in Nigeria remains unknown and only time will tell.

## Suswam: Team work is the key

By David Ngobua

SUPER Eagle Team B defender Terna Suswam has attributed his team's five star performances at the on going West Africa Union, WAFU, Nations Championship in Ogun State to serious team work and complete understanding among members of the team.

In the opening match of the Championship last Friday at the MKO Abiola Stadium Abeokuta, Eagles Team B coached by former international Daniel Amokachi pummeled neighbours Squirrels of Benin Republic 4-0.

Speaking to Trustsports on phone yesterday, Suswam who is an integral member of the team said having stayed together for some time now, the players have been able to build the necessary understanding.

He explained that part of the reasons why they lost the 2011 CHAN ticket to Republic of Niger was lack of understanding which was a result of the short time they had to stay together before the qualifiers against Menas of Niger.

Suswam said had it been they were given the opportunity to play together for some time before the qualifiers; they wouldn't have had any problem beating Niger Republic.

"We are doing well presently because we have been able to build the necessary understanding. We have stayed together for a long time and now we understand one another. Even when we could not qualify for the 2011 CHAN, the team was not disbanded. We stayed back in Abuja and continued to train together. Today, we have a better understanding," he explained.

## Ghana maul Liberia 3-0

BLACK Stars of Ghana yesterday went through to the semi-final of the on-going WAFU Nations Cup after walloping Lone Stars of Liberia 3-0 at the Gateway International Stadium, Ijebu-Ode in Ogun.

Afun Samuel of Ghana scored the first two goals in the 60th and 73rd minutes.

He finished the Liberian goalkeeper, Swen Saylee, at the 85th minute, as the ball slipped off his hands, paving the way for Samuel's hat-trick.

Herbert Addo, Ghana's Coach, said that the match was energy-sapping, as both sides were eager to outdo each other and score.

He said that he was proud of his boys for the victory.

"Though we created many chances for the Lone Stars which they failed to use, we also missed many goals but I am impressed with my boys' performance," he said.

Addo promised to work on his team before their next match against Burkina Faso.

"The match against Burkina Faso will be a cracker because the Burkinabes too are very strong, but I am confident that we will beat them," Addo said.

## WAFU CUP

### Okpako optimistic as Eagles face Senegal today

NIGERIA'S chances of qualifying for the final of the WAFU Cup are bright, the skipper of the team, Solomon Okpako, said on Monday in Abeokuta.

Okpako said with God's support and the players' determination, they would secure a berth in the final.

The home-based Super Eagles are through to the semi-final after recording their second victory in the championship with a 5-0 whitewash of Guinea.

They had earlier beaten Benin 4-0 to take their total haul to nine goals without conceding any.

"I believe that with God, vigorous training and dedication we will make it to the final and lift the cup," said Okpako.

The Eagles play their last group game against Senegal on Tuesday.

In a related development, Guinea's coach, Coly Koivoqui, said the Eagles had been improv-

ing with each game in the tournament, attributing the performance to the technical depth of team coach Daniel Amokachi.

"I congratulate Amokachi for redefining the Eagles; they are the best team in this tournament," the Guinean coach said.

However, Amokachi refused to take credit for the team's outing, saying the players were responsible for the brilliant performance.

He said the players could be transformed through regular exposure to international tournaments as many of them were experienced.

"Some of them are well polished. I believe if they are given the opportunity by exposing them to international competitions they will excel," he said.

Okpako scored two of Nigeria's five goals, while Reuben Gabriel, Bartholomew and Musa Ahmed scored a goal apiece against Guinea.



SUPER Eagles Team B striker Ahmed Musa scored a beautiful goal against Guinea.

# Pele to Messi: You won't be a legend unless you score 1,000 goals like me!

PELE has a simple riposte to those who are lauding Lionel Messi as the greatest player that football has ever seen: Come back when the Argentine genius has scored a thousand goals.

Diego Maradona has for decades vied with Pele in the debate about who is the best, but the iconic Argentina No 10 has tipped Messi to surpass his genius and end the debate once and for all.

However, Brazil's three-time World Cup winner is not ready to hand over his title of 'The King' just yet to the Barcelona star, or anyone else.

They are always trying to compare someone to Pele,' said the 69-year-old. 'But I always joke with my Argentine firends that they must first choose who is the best player from Argentina.

'Then, when one of them scores a thousand goals, then we can start talking.'

Pele's record of 1,280 goals in 1,363 games includes a raft of performances in dubious exhibition games, but such goalscoring is unlikely to be seen again.

Following four against Arsenal last week, Messi was on target as Barcelona beat Real Madrid 2-0 in Saturday's El Clasico. It took his senior career tally to 133 goals, which



MESSIAH... Barca star celebrates his goal against Real Madrid in the El Clasico'

includes 42 this season for club and country.

Despite bullishly defending his own status, Pele is an admirer of Messi and recalls how three years ago he tipped 'The Flea' to win the world player of the year.

'Messi did not win (in 2007), but I remember that I said to him, 'you'll be the next'', said Pele. 'It took a little longer, but he eventually won. He's a great player.

'He plays very well for Barcelona, but has failed to show his talent with the Argentina team. Maybe he can at the World Cup. Let's wait and see.'



MAKING a point... Pele scored 1,280 goals in 1,363 games and won the World Cup thrice.

## Portsmouth plead for Europa League ticket

PORTSMOUTH will plead to the FA in a desperate bid for a ticket into Europe.

The cash-strapped club did not apply for next season's UEFA licence, meaning they are denied entrance to the Europa League despite reaching the FA Cup final.

Under normal circumstances, Pompey would be guaranteed a spot in the competition as their final opponents Chelsea are certain to qualify for the Champions League instead.

Defeat at Wembley would mean they would still reach the Europa League, although they are currently blocked from doing so.

However, Portsmouth are set to launch an appeal to the FA to see if they can be granted a retrospective licence.

'It will be an uphill struggle in terms of making the appeal but nonetheless we will try,' said Pompey administrator Andrew Andronikou.

After going into administration in March, the club were unable to file their accounts - a key part of the process of receiving a licence from UEFA.

Andronikou confirmed Pompey will be speaking to French club Lens over allowing Aruna Dindane to play in the final without triggering a £4million payment that comes with his 22nd appearance for Pompey.

'Under his contract there was bullet payment after his 22nd appearance, he has played 21 games and we are looking to have a meeting with Lens to negotiate,' Andronikou added.

'I'm sure they will see it is in the interest of the club, themselves and the player for there to be a compromise,' Sky Sports News.

## Galliani blames Calciopoli for Italian decline

AC Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani said on Monday that Italy will lose a Champions League spot to Germany as a direct result of the infamous 2006 Calciopoli match-fixing scandal.

'One of the effects of the Calciopoli is to have reverberations on the UEFA index for Italy and from now on it's practically

certain that Germany will overtake us,' said Galliani.

'We have less than a 0.5-point advantage on Germany (at the beginning of the season), and it's now certain that from 2012 we're going to lose a Champions League team and even maybe in 2011.'

The UEFA index is calculated on the performance of clubs in each country in European competitions dur-

ing the past five seasons and determines the number of teams each country can enter for the Champions League and Europa League.

The top three in the current index—England, Spain and Italy—are allowed four teams in the money-spinning Champions League.

Galliani said that the Calciopoli scandal resulted in the disappearance of some

of the strongest teams in Italy, such as Juventus, who were relegated, and their replacement by teams without the same ambitions.

'With all the respect that I have for Chievo it is obvious that they couldn't have the same objectives as Juve,' said Galliani.

'Germany are overtaking us for two reasons—one is the Calciopoli, the other

is the 2006 World Cup (in Germany), which allowed new stadiums to be built. That had a positive effect with new players and more competitive teams.'

He added: 'If France win the right to host Euro 2016 (for which Italy are also bidding) we will also be overtaken by them.'

Several other teams were punished for trying to rig

matches in the Calciopoli scandal after a number of telephone conversations between club, league and refereeing officials were intercepted and published.

Juventus were relegated to Serie B and stripped of their last two titles while AC Milan, Lazio, Fiorentina and Reggina were all handed point penalties for the next season.

# Emotions run high as Mickelson wins U.S. Masters

By Mark Lamport-Stokes (Reuters)

A week that began with Tiger Woods making his highly anticipated return to competition ended on Sunday when Phil Mickelson wrapped up an emotional three-shot victory at the U.S. Masters.

The American left-hander birdied four of the last seven holes to win his fourth major title, and a third Green Jacket, in front of huge galleries that included his wife Amy and three children.

A stroke behind pacesetter Briton Lee Westwood overnight, Mickelson fired a flawless five-under-par 67 in the year's opening major to post a 16-under total of 272 at a sun-splashed Augusta National.

Cheered on by the crowds as he walked up the 18th fairway, the popular world number three put the seal on a heart-warming win with a 10-foot birdie putt at the last.

He thrust both arms skywards in triumph before hugging his caddie Jim Mackay and he then walked off the green to embrace his wife, who was diagnosed with breast cancer last year.

"This has been a very special day and a very special week," a beaming Mickelson said after being helped into the Green Jacket by 2009 champion Angel Cabrera of Argentina.

"To have Amy and my kids here to share it with, I can't put into words. It just feels incredible, especially given what we've been through in the last year."

"To be able to share this kind of joy means a lot to us," added the American, who was dressed entirely in black with a pink ribbon stitched on to his cap to promote breast cancer awareness.

Westwood, who had been seeking his maiden major title and Britain's first since Paul Lawrie won the 1999 British Open, finished in second after carding a 71.

American Anthony Kim closed with a sparkling 65 to finish third at 12 under, a stroke in front of world number one Woods and KJ Choi of South Korea, who



HAT-trick... Last year's winner Angel Cabrera gives Mickelson his third green jacket.

returned matching 69s.

"I am a little bit disappointed because I came so close to winning the tournament," said Westwood, who had tied for third in his two previous majors and trailed Mickelson by one at the turn. "I didn't get off to a fast enough start today."

"Phil hit some good shots around Amen Corner and they are not easy shots that he has pulled off there so he is a deserving winner."

Mickelson, who won his first two Masters crowns in 2004 and 2006, effectively wrapped up the title with back-to-back birdies from the par-three 12th, where he rolled in a curling 14-footer.

He narrowly missed an eagle from just three feet at the par-five 13th, after hitting a stunning blow with a six-iron from 207 yards through a four-foot gap between two pine trees, before holing out from a similar distance coming back.

That put him two strokes

clear before he picked up another shot at the par-five 15th, where he reached the green in two and two-putted, to tighten his grip on a third Green Jacket.

"When I get here to Augusta, I get very relaxed and feel very comfortable," said Mickelson, whose fourth major title puts him one ahead of Ernie Els, Vijay Singh and Padraig Harrington and behind only Woods in the modern era.

Kim began another calm, sunny day at Augusta seven strokes off the pace but he surged into contention with a sizzling birdie-birdie-eagle-birdie run from the 13th.

Choi, aiming to become only the second Asian male to win a major after compatriot at Yang Yong-eun last year's PGA Championship, briefly joined Mickelson in a share of the lead before slipping back with bogeys on 13 and 14.

Four-times champion Woods,

playing his first event in nearly five months following startling revelations at the end of last year about his serial philandering, endured a roller-coaster day.

He started out poorly with three bogeys in the first five holes before holing out from the fairway to eagle the seventh and then recording birdies at eight and nine.

After mixing bogeys at the 11th and 14th with a birdie at the 13th, he collected another eagle when he coaxed in a 15-footer at the par-five 15th before signing off with a six-foot birdie putt at the last.

"I finished fourth, not what I wanted," said Woods, who came under intense scrutiny from the fans and media all week. "I wanted to win this tournament."

"As the week went on, I kept hitting the ball worse."

Asked when he was likely to return to the PGA Tour, he replied: "I'm going to take a little time off and kind of re-evaluate things."



NADAL

## Nadal happy with form heading into Monte Carlo

RAFA Nadal believes he is close to hitting the form to end his 11-month title drought, no coincidence given his recent record at the Monte Carlo Masters.

The world number three bids for a record sixth consecutive win in Monte Carlo, happy with his performances so far this year after an injury-hit start.

A recurring knee injury forced Nadal to retire from his Australian Open quarter-final against Andy Murray in January but he has since reached the semi-finals of the Indian Wells and Miami Masters tournaments.

"I have played well in all the tournaments this year. I haven't won yet, but I was in contention all the time," Nadal told a news conference after a light training session at the Monte Carlo country club on Monday.

"In Indian Wells, I was playing a very good tournament. I played a terrible match in the semi-final, but I played the rest of the matches at a very high level. And in Miami, too, I played well."

The Spaniard, a six-times grand slam winner, said his mindset this year was different to the second half of 2009.

"Last year, the last six months, if I didn't have bad results with semi-finals, one final in Shanghai, quarter-finals in other tournaments... I felt I was not ready to win important tournaments," Nadal said of his injury-blighted season.

"But from the start of the year, I have felt ready."

Back on clay, Nadal senses a first tournament victory since his last in Rome in May 2009.

"I think it's always going to be a little bit more easier on clay for me," he said.

Nadal will start his Monte Carlo Masters campaign with a second-round match against Argentine Eduardo Schwank or Dutchman Thiemo De Bakker.

## Woods not pleased with just contending

By Paul Newberry (Associated Press)

BY most standards, Tiger Woods' comeback would be deemed a success. He contended for a fifth Masters title when some wondered if he'd even make the cut. He took a step toward winning back fans who were appalled by the serial cheating on his wife.

Woods didn't see it that way.

He came back to the Masters to win, not just contend. To him, there was no joy and no relief in tying for fourth in his first tournament in five months, only disappointment and frustration.

"That's not what I wanted," Woods said Sunday after finishing five strokes behind Phil Mickelson. "I wanted to win this tourna-

ment. As the week wore on, I kept hitting the ball worse."

He had vowed to tone down his emotions, try to smile a little more, acknowledge the fans every now and then. But that even temperament quickly faded as the poor shots piled up. He yelled at himself several times, loud enough for the gallery to hear and the television microphones to pick up. He flipped clubs away in anger.

Afterward, Woods got a bit testy when asked if the new Tiger was still a work in progress.

"I think people are making way too much of a big deal about this thing," he said. "I'm not going to be walking there with a lot of pep in my step because I hadn't hit



TIGER Woods during his final round at the Masters on Sunday.

a good shot yet."

Woods did hit some good shots, of course. The best Sunday was an 8-iron that he holed out from the fairway at No. 7 for an

eagle. He followed with back-to-back birdies and made the turn just three strokes out of the lead, looking as though he was ready to make a charge.

## THE TUESDAY COLUMN

Sanusi Abubakar

sanusiabubakar@dailytrust.com

## What should be our Diaspora policy?

The sad loss of Kano's most illustrious and best Governor, was to be my subject matter this week. But what more can one add to Mohammed Haruna, Mahmud Jega tributes, or to that exceptional reappraisal by Adamu Adamu? Jibril Ibrahim's piece in *NEXT on Sunday* is also a must read. In their various ways they have brought the colourful and complex legacy of Alhaji Abubakar Rimi to life. May Allah reward them all abundantly, for enlightening us on what Rimi stood for. May Rimi's soul rest in perfect peace.

Indeed the whole of March and the first week of April have been very colourful and eventful. With the Acting President and his people trying to consolidate their hold on the polity, with Yar'adua camp playing selective hide-and-seek, and IBB declaring his presidential candidature, not in Minna but, in Jos when he blamed the crisis in that unfortunate part of Nigeria on the absence of "true federalism" and resource control, there was no shortage of what to write on. Not to be left out, the senators wasted our time and insulted our intelligence with what would go down as the worst ministerial screening in living memory even by banana-republic standard.

Kanti Bello's inept "did-you-cook-for-Turai" non-question probably earned Madam rebranding the sympathies to scale through, because, as a friend said, it was a "bad-belle question". Yes, I must remember to praise Speaker Bankole for his agenda spelling out how the Yoruba "race" can regain its lost glory and pride of place in the world. A pity he couldn't be bothered to spend half the time on how Nigeria could do the same.

Whenever national leaders aspire to racial supremacy, something is not right. I remember in the aftermath of our last census when a group came out to say the Yoruba

must be at least 40 million, with an equal number in the Diaspora, making them the largest ethnic group at 80 million strong. Someone countered, half in jest I think, that the Igbo must be at least that, if not more. And that since they are all over the world trading there must be more of them in the Diaspora making them at least 100 million.

Even before the "we-are-more-in-number-in-elsewhere" controversy, Obasanjo had an informal Diaspora policy and dreams of the return of thousands of professionals, along with billions of dollars in investments. These were to remain just dreams partly because he did not evolve a cohesive approach to the whole issue.

I have opted therefore, to write on this. I suspect not many would have noticed the recent moves to pass the Nigerians in Diaspora Commission Act or INEC's "Diaspora voting" pilot scheme. But, in one of his last desperate attempt to hang on to his job as our election umpire, Maurice Iwu, came up with a bribe to entice Nigerians living abroad, who are very vocal and who, in his calculations, could help secure him another term. As he bows out, I hope the hurried gimmick would be subjected to proper re-appraisal.

Iwu's plan, if indeed we can call it that, is for INEC to conduct pilot "Diaspora voting" in four English speaking countries, including US and Britain, to enable Nigerians living abroad to have the opportunity of participating in the electoral process. He said, "All we need to do is to amend Section 77(2) of the constitution just to remove one clause that says only Nigerians resident in Nigeria can register for an election, not even vote. If we do that, (it) would be okay... We chose Britain and others for the pilot project because these are countries where we have many Nigerians and there would be no language problems"

The Constitution has not been amended yet. Not even the Chair of the House of Representatives' Committee on Diaspora Affairs, Mrs Abike Dabiri-Erewa, can guarantee the necessary amendments can scale through on time for 2011. Even if it could, is anyone seriously suggesting that the same INEC that is yet to update and display the voters' register for the 2011 elections should be burdened with the additional task of "Diaspora voting"?

And before our sleepy, "Ghana must go"-friendly law makers endorse any proposal on Diaspora Commission or Diaspora Voting could they for goodness sake wake up and ask some salient questions? What and who exactly constitutes the Nigerian Diaspora? Is it only those who manage to go to Europe and America? Does the term include Nigerians in other African countries as well? How many are they anyway? When even those of us still living in the country are denied our fundamental rights to those who govern us, what are we pretending to be by claiming to extend franchise to those living abroad? Who exactly is calling the shots on this whole Diaspora affair, and why?

According to Wikipedia, *Diaspora* is Greek for "a scattering [of seeds]", or any movement of a population sharing common national and/or ethnic identity. These refugees may or may not ultimately settle in one geographic location, but the term *Diaspora* refers to any permanently displaced and relocated collective. Thus, people who have moved, migrated, or scattered away from their established or ancestral homeland are said to constitute that homeland's *Diaspora*.

Borrowing from the African Union's definition of the African Diaspora, we could say that the Nigerian Diaspora consists of people of Nigerian origin living outside the country, irrespective of their citizenship and nationality and who are willing to contribute to the development of Nigeria and the building of the Nigerian Federation. It should then be our duty to do all we can to invite and encourage the full participation of this Nigerian Diaspora as an important part of our country, in the building of the Federation.

Seen in this light, I find it quite strange that most of the noise regarding the Nigerian Diaspora focuses only on Europe and North America. The USA has a projected Nigerian population of about a million, and the UK, according to Dalhatu Sarki Tafida, our High Commissioner, has about 3 million Nigerians, said to be the highest outside continental Africa. Yet these figures are dwarfed by the Sudan, for example, with 6 to 7 million Nigerians living in that country, as revealed by our Ambassador, Dahiru Suleiman, in a recent interview with *Daily Trust*. By the time you add those living in Egypt, Central African Republic, Chad, Cameroun, Gabon, Niger, Benin, Togo, Ghana and the rest, you realise that there are at least 20 million to 25 million Nigerians living in other African countries who nobody is talking about. They represent about 88 percent of all Nigerians living out of the country. Is anyone bothered about the one million or more Nigerians living in Saudi Arabia, UAE, and elsewhere in the Middle East? All these other Nigerians have as much rights as those living in Europe and America, never mind which tribe they belong to. Surely we need to reconceptualise this Diaspora issue to make it comprehensive. It is not just those who go to Europe, United States or Canada that are important, or that have something to contribute. We need to look at the proposed Commission, at the Diaspora voting proposal and the issues of dual-citizenship before we pander to sentiments.



Even before the "we-are-more-in-number-in-elsewhere" controversy, Obasanjo had an informal Diaspora policy and dreams of the return of thousands of professionals, along with billions of dollars in investments. These were to remain just dreams partly because he did not evolve a cohesive approach to the whole issue

## SPORTS REPORT



ALEX Ferguson

## Ferguson admits 'title is slipping away'

Alex Ferguson may not quite have waved a white flag and surrendered to Chelsea but the Manchester United manager did acknowledge that the Premier League title is slipping from his team's grasp.

United's disappointing 0-0 draw at Ewood Park yesterday handed the initiative to Carlo

Anelotti's side and, four days after the frustration of a Champions League exit to Bayern Munich, Ferguson could not disguise his disappointment.

"The title is slipping away when you don't get a result in a game like today," said the United manager, who is now dependent on his rivals faltering.



EMMANUEL Adebayor

## Adebayor retires from international football

Manchester City and Togo striker Emmanuel Adebayor retired from international football on Monday, saying he was "still haunted" by the attack on his country's team bus at the African Nations Cup.

"I have weighed up my feelings in the weeks and months since the attack, and I am still haunted by the events which I witnessed on that horrible afternoon on the Togo team bus.

"We were just footballers going to play a football match and represent our country, yet we were attacked by people who wanted to kill us all. It is a moment I will never forget and one I never want to experience again.", Adebayor told his club's website.

The 26-year-old scored 16 goals in 38 appearances for Togo and helped his team reach the 2006 World Cup in Germany.